



**DAY 1 – ARRIVE IN PHOENIX**

Travel to Phoenix, Arizona (airfare not included). Transport to hotel is provided by Crowne Plaza's 24-hour shuttle. Hotel rooms will be available at 3:00pm.

**HOTEL:** Crowne Plaza Phx Airport (4300 E. Washington St., (602) 273-7778)

**MEALS:** None

**DAY 2 – BUS JOURNEY TO SAN CARLOS**

Trip begins with breakfast 6:00am. Board the bus at 6:45am for ride through southern Arizona to border of Mexico at Nogales. After checking in through customs, travel to Santa Ana for lunch at Elba's Restaurant, continue travelling through the Sonoran Desert to the Sea of Cortez and the beautiful seaside city of San Carlos.

Arrive around 5:30pm. Dinner will be at the hotel with wonderful views of the beaches and peaks of the Tetras de Cobra.

**HOTEL:** Marinaterra

**MEALS:** B in Phoenix, L at Elba's in Santa Ana, D at Marinaterra

**DAY 3 – BUS JOURNEY TO EL FUERTE**

Breakfast is at 7:00am with departure at 8:00am for the all-day ride to El Fuerte. A possible stop at an award-winning Pearl Farm and store offers the opportunity to learn about natural pearls and purchase wonderful handmade pearl jewelry (closed Sunday).

In Navojoa, lunch will be hosted by a local family in their beautiful home, Casa Torres.

Arrival in El Fuerte will be around 5:00pm. After checking in, guests will gather at the pool area and be treated to a lively show featuring El Zorro.

Dinner will be served at 7:00pm.

**HOTEL:** Posada del Hidalgo

**MEALS:** B at Hotel Marinaterra, L in Navojoa, D at Hotel Posada del Hidalgo.

**DAY 4 – DAY IN EL FUERTE**

El Fuerte was established as a settlement in 1564 as the exploration by Mexico of New Mexico and California began. The fort used then remains today, and the beautiful Hotel Posada del Hidalgo was one of the original haciendas, expanded over time as a hotel preserving the beautiful design of the community. Walking tours this day feature the various uses of trade, mining, and agricultural venture remains. Surrounding El Fuerte villages remain for the Mayo and descendants of the Yaqui Indians. El Fuerte was the first capital of the western state including what is now Sonora, Sinaloa, Arizona, and New Mexico. A visit to the Indian museum is on the schedule.

**HOTEL:** Posada del Hidalgo

**MEALS:** B, L, D at Hotel Posada del Hidalgo

**DAY 5 – TRAIN JOURNEY THROUGH THE CANYON – EL FUERTE TO CEROCAHUI**

Breakfast at Hotel Posada del Hidalgo is at 7:00am. At 7:40am, bus to El Fuerte train station. Board the train at 8:20am. Guide will direct travelers to reserved seats in car, and luggage will be loaded on the train. The train carries local passengers making numerous stops along the way. The trip is a spectacular climb from sea level to almost 8,000ft elevation (our train journey ends in Bahuichivo/Cerocahui at 5,000ft). Views of the rails, tunnels, and rugged terrain remind travelers of the 100 years of construction to prepare for this experience. The Chihuahua al Pacifico Railroad opened in 1961, after years of attempts to establish it were tried and failed. The track goes from Chihuahua to Los Mochis. It is commonly known as El Chepe. The 4-hour portion of the ride on El Chepe ends at Cerocahui and a short van ride delivers travelers to Hotel Misión for lunch, dinner, and overnight.

**HOTEL:** Misión

**MEALS:** B at Hotel Posada del Hidalgo, L&D at Hotel Misión.



#### **DAY 6 - URIQUE CANYON OVERLOOK**

Breakfast at 7:00am at Hotel Misión followed by a van ride to the Urique Canyon Overlook. A spectacular view awaits over the deepest section of the canyon. A perfect occasion for photos and a first opportunity to purchase Tarahumara Indian wares. A short van ride then takes travelers to the beautiful Hotel Mirador, on the rim of the canyon where each room has a private balcony which looks out over the canyon.

An optional wine tasting experience from the Balderrama vineyards available (\$15usd).

**HOTEL:** Mirador on the Rim

**MEALS:** B at Hotel Misión, L & D at Hotel Mirador

#### **DAY 7 - DAY ON THE RIM - DIVISADERO**

Breakfast is at 7:30am at Hotel Mirador. At 9:00am, board the bus for a trip to Adventure Park and walk along the canyon rim. This is a day to experience cultural interaction with numerous Tarahumara Indians and observe their handiwork personally. These wares are also available for purchase.

Two optional experiences are offered at this time. 1) A cable car ride across the canyon chasm and back. 2) A zipline ride across the canyon and cable car return. Both are at addition cost to the traveler. 1) \$30 USD cable car ride. 2) \$50 USD zipline ride.

**HOTEL:** Mirador on the Rim

**MEALS:** B, L, & D at Hotel Mirador

#### **\*DAY 8- EXPRESS TRAIN JOURNEY DIVISADERO TO EL FUERTE AFTERNOON BUS TRANSFER TO CD. OBREGON**

Breakfast buffet is at 7:00am. At 8:00am, travel to the Divisadero train station to ride the new incarnation of the train, known as The Chepe Express. You are riding The Chepe Express (Tourist Class), the 653-kilometer railroad that links the capital of Chihuahua with the Pacific Coast city of Los Mochis, Sinaloa, via the Tarahumara Sierra. Differentiating the six-car Express from other Chihuahua-Pacific (Chepe) trains that have run on the line since its inauguration in 1961 are its luxury reclining seats, a bar and lounge affording panoramic views of the surrounding landscape, a double-story restaurant car, a terrace and wifi internet service. We are scheduled to arrive in El Fuerte at 2:30pm. Travel from El Fuerte Train Station to Cd. Obregon by bus (approximately 3.5hrs).

**HOTEL:** Holiday Inn Express

**MEALS:** B at Hotel Mirador, L on the train, D in Cd. Obregon

#### **\*DAY 9- BUS JOURNEY TO PHOENIX**

Travel homebound this day. Trip begins with breakfast 6:30am. Board the bus at 7:30am for a return ride through southern Arizona to border of Mexico at Nogales. After checking in through customs and immigration on both sides of the border, continue travelling through the Sonoran Desert to Phoenix, Arizona. Arrive at Crowne Plaza Phoenix Airport between 6:30pm-8:30pm.

**HOTEL:** Crowne Plaza Phoenix Airport

**MEALS:** B at Holiday Inn Express, L in Elba in Santa Ana.

#### **DAY 10 - DEPART PHOENIX**

The tour ends after breakfast at Crowne Plaza. Transfer to the Phoenix Sky Harbor Airport by the hotel's courtesy shuttle.

**HOTEL:** NONE

**MEALS:** Breakfast buffet at Crowne Plaza

\*Revised changes begin this day.

\*\*Please note that all noted times are approximate and scheduled to change. \*\*