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## MEXICO'S COPPER CANYON

### DAY 1 – BUS JOURNEY TO SAN CARLOS

Trip begins at La Playa de Oro RV Park (Calle Mariano Matamoros, El Mirador 83550). Board the bus at 6:45am. 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 4:30pm. Dinner will be at the hotel with wonderful views of the beaches and peaks of the Tetras de Cobra.

**HOTEL:** Marinaterra

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

### DAY 2 – BUS JOURNEY TO ALAMOS

Breakfast is at 7am with departure at 8am to the magic town of Alamos, Sonora. A planned stop at an award-winning Pearl Farm and store offers the opportunity to learn about natural pearls and purchase wonderful handmade pearl jewelry. In Navojoa, lunch will be hosted by a local family in their beautiful home, Casa Torres.

This small charming and traditional colonial town known as the "City of Gates" was in 1824 the capital of El Estado Occidente (a state that combined Sonora and Sinaloa). Alamos retains its colonial charm and tranquility, with its cobblestone streets among beautiful colonial buildings, including restored classic missions designed by Andalusian architects. The hotel is a meticulous Spanish Colonial mansion located in the heart of Alamos. Arrive around 4:30pm in Alamos.

**HOTEL:** Hacienda de los Santos

**MEALS:** B at Marinaterra, L in Navojoa, D in Alamos

### DAY 3 – BUS JOURNEY TO EL FUERTE

Enjoy a later breakfast today at 8am. A tour of Alamos is on the schedule today. A short 3-hour bus ride take travelers to the picturesque colonial town of El Fuerte. Arrive in El Fuerte around 3pm. After lunch, guests will gather at the pool area and be treated to a lively show featuring El Zorro.

**HOTEL:** Posada del Hidalgo

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

### DAY 5 – TRAIN RIDE 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. 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 – TOUR TO 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.

**HOTEL:** Mirador on the Rim

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

#### **DAY 7 – DAY ON THE RIM – TOUR TO CREEL**

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.

After the park, transfer to the frontier lumbering town of Creel just in time for lunch (not included). In Creel you will visit the lake, a mission and the rock formations. Return to Hotel Mirador in time for dinner.

**HOTEL:** Mirador on the Rim

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

#### **DAY 8 – BUS JOURNEY TO CASAS GRANDES**

Breakfast buffet is at 7:00am. At 8:00am, board the bus for a 321-mile journey to Casas Grandes. Travel through the towns of Creel, Bocoyna, and Guerrero. In the Chihuahuan Desert, lunch is provided at the town of Cuauhtémoc. Arrive at Hotel Hacienda around 6:30pm. A pottery demonstration is provided at Casa del Nopal where potters use early firing techniques similar to the pottery art of Mata Ortiz. After the demonstration, dinner is served at Casa del Nopal. And guests are invited to see and shop for these beautiful pottery pieces, before returning to the hotel for an overnight.

**HOTEL:** Hacienda

**MEALS:** B at Hotel Mirador, L in Cuauhtémoc, D in Casas Grandes

#### **DAY 9 – BUS JOURNEY TO AGUA PRIETA**

After breakfast at 7am, head to the Paquimé ruins. The Paquimé Ruins, excavated in 1958-61 are mute evidence of a thriving commercial center that reached its peak during the years from 1210-1261 A.D. Lunch will be provided in Mata Ortiz. Arrive in Agua Prieta, Sonora at around 7pm.

**HOTEL:** Plaza

**MEALS:** B at Hotel Hacienda, L in Casas Grandes, D in Agua Prieta

#### **DAY 10 – BUS JOURNEY TO PUERTO PEÑASCO**

Breakfast is at 7am, depart to Puerto Peñasco at 8:00am. Lunch is provided in Caborca, Sonora. Arrive at around 4pm.

**HOTEL:** NONE

**MEALS:** B in Agua Prieta, L in Caborca