



## Copper Canyon and Casas Grandes

Located in Sierra Tarahumara, the Copper Canyon is home to unique cultural and natural marvels. Visit picturesque towns with colonial missions and architecture. Travel off the beaten track to isolated places in search of breathtaking views. Meet the secluded Tarahumara native Indians, whose lives are practically untouched by modern civilization. Board the famous “train ride in the sky” to climb steep canyon walls and cross ravines at 7500 feet. Discover Mata Ortiz, home to well-known potters who revived a 500-year-old art. Learn about the Paquime, who left their footprints in a city of over 4000 rooms that today is a UNESCO site.

### About your leader:

**Bradford Hollingsworth, Ph.D.**, is the Museum's curator of herpetology. Hollingsworth serves on the editorial board of *Herpetological Natural History* and is an associate editor for *Herpetological Review*. His interests include the evolution and biogeography of the herpetofauna of Baja California.

**Dates:** Sunday, November 1, 2009; 10 AM to  
Monday, November 9, 2009; 7:30 PM

**Cost:** Member \$2300; Nonmember \$2400; Single supplement \$500;  
Deposit \$300

### DAY 1 San Diego, Los Mochis, and El Fuerte

Depart from the Mission Brewery Airport Parking lot at 1765 Hancock Street (619.296.7275) at 7 AM and transfer to the Tijuana airport to board the flight to Los Mochis. Travel by private transportation to the charming mining town of El Fuerte. In the historic colonial hotel covered with tropical vegetation, savor the local catch of the day for our welcome dinner. Hotel: Posada del Hidalgo (phone number 011.52.698.893.1194). Meals: lunch in Tijuana; welcome dinner.

### DAY 2 El Fuerte and Bahuichivo

Early in the morning, board the train in El Fuerte for what has been described as the most spectacular train ride in the world. The Chihuahua-Pacifico railroad line is a major engineering feat, passing through 85 tunnels and 37 bridges. Stop in Bahuichivo for an overnight in Cerocahui, a Tarahumara mission town. From there take an excursion to Cerro Gallego, where standing at an altitude of 7500 feet above the Urique Canyon, you'll take in breathtaking views. There are about 50,000 Tarahumara Indians living throughout the Copper Canyon who are still faithful to their native traditions. In their colorful dresses, some of the women quietly gather in the tourist areas throughout the Sierra and offer their crafts as they make them. Hotel: Hotel Misión (phone number 011.52.635.456.5294). Meals: breakfast on train; lunch and dinner at hotel.

### **DAY 3      Bahuichivo and Divisadero**

After breakfast, take a walk to visit a Tarahumara boarding school and to a small canyon with a waterfall. Return to Bahuichivo and board the train to reach Divisadero where we're welcomed by a colorful array of dresses and crafts. The hotel for the night is on a cliff at an altitude of 7200 feet with a spectacular view over three canyons: Copper, Urique, and Tararequa. Walks along the rim of the canyon are scenic and lead to caves inhabited by Tarahumara Indians. Hotel: El Mirador (phone number 011.52.635.578.3020); Meals: breakfast and dinner at hotel; picnic lunch.

### **DAY 4      Divisadero**

Spend the day enjoying the magnificent view, taking pleasant walks, relaxing and seeing the Tarahumaras demonstrating traditional dances games. Hotel: El Mirador (phone number 011.52.635.578.3020); Meals: breakfast, lunch and dinner at hotel.

### **DAY 5      Divisadero to Creel**

Take a short ride into Creel, a cozy lumber town nestled in the mountains. It is the most important center in the Sierra Tarahumara both for tourism and for trade among the local Indians. Spend the day exploring the many attractions around Creel, an area rich in natural and cultural attractions. The nearby San Ignacio and Cusarare Missions, where a unique version of Catholicism is practiced, are located in the midst of Tarahumara cave dwellings; enter one of them. The valleys are filled with strange attractive rock formations. Surrounded by rich pine and oak forests, view tranquil Lake Arareko and walk to the 100-foot Cusarare waterfall. Tarahumara Indians can be seen living and working throughout the area. Hotel: The Lodge at Creel (phone number 011.52.635.456.0071). Meals: breakfast and dinner at hotel; picnic lunch.

### **DAY 6      Creel and Basaseachic**

Continue the trip to Basaseachic National Park—a spectacular canyon where the famous 806-foot Basaseachi Fall is located. In the afternoon, view the fall from different angles, including an optional walk to the base. Hotel: El Rincón de Basaseachi in Basaseachic National Park (phone number 011.52.625.457.3074). Meals: breakfast and dinner at hotel; picnic lunch.

### **DAY 7      Basaseachic to Casas Grandes**

Driving northward stop to learn about local history in the Guerrero Community Museum, and then continue to Casas Grandes with a stop for lunch. End the day with a typical Chihuahua *carne asada* dinner in the patio of the Paquimé style *posada* (hotel). Hotel: Posada Guacamaya (phone number 011.52.636.692.4144). Meals: breakfast and dinner at hotel; lunch along the road.

### **DAY 8      Casas Grandes, Mata Ortiz, and Casas Grandes**

In an all-day excursion, visit the town of Mata Ortiz, where famous potters—including Juan Quezada—live. Visit some of the potters' homes and see them at work. On the way, stop to look at a turn-of-the-century hacienda and a Mormon colony. Hotel: Posada

Guacamaya (phone number 011.52.636.692.4144). Meals: breakfast at hotel; lunch in Mata Ortíz; farewell dinner.

**DAY 9 Casas Grandes and El Paso**

Paquimé was the center of the Mogollon culture. The four-story, architecturally advanced adobe city of 3000 rooms was believed to link the cultures of North America and Central Mexico. Spend the morning exploring the site. Visit the recently built Museum of Northern Cultures. That afternoon, drive to El Paso for the return flight to San Diego. Meals: breakfast at hotel; lunch in El Paso.

**Cost includes:**

All escorts, all transportation (including airfare to and from San Diego), meals, entrance and excursion fees, all hotel accommodations, tips for meals, hotels and bell boys, and medical-emergency travel insurance.

**Cost does not include:**

Fee for Mexican tourist card (\$20–\$25, valid for six months); we will provide the card to you. Tips for guides, drivers, and special-excursion staff.

**Note:**

Passport required.

**To register, call 619.255.0203 or visit [www.sdnhm.org/register](http://www.sdnhm.org/register).**