

Mexico's Copper Canyon by Private Train

Experience one of the most remarkable rail trips in the world when you travel through Mexico's remote Copper Canyon aboard a private luxury train. Travel over a railway that was 90 years in the making, looping around bluffs, soaring over gorges, and plunging into tunnels as it climbs into the Sierra Madre mountains bordering the vast, scenic canyon region. Observe the treasures of the Sierra Madre from glass-domed viewing cars. In this compelling region of Mexico tour a colonial town established by Spanish Conquistadors, and the cave dwellings of the primitive Tarahumara Indians.



2008 Day-by-Day Itinerary

Day 1: Welcome to Tucson

Mexico's travel experience begins at the Westin La Paloma Resort & Spa at 6:00 p.m. Your transfer is included from Tucson International Airport to your hotel, which is set among natural rock formations and desert gardens in the foothills of the Santa Catalina Mountains. Get refreshed with a dip in the pool before the welcome reception and dinner.

Meals: Dinner

Lodging: The Westin La Paloma Resort & Spa, Tucson, Arizona

Day 2: Head south of the border

Tour Tucson, then travel to San Xavier del Bac Mission, built in the 18th century with a blend of Spanish, Moorish, and Mexican architecture. Following lunch in historic Tubac, cross the Mexican border to Nogales and board the Sierra Madre Express where your Mexico travel adventure continues by rail. The entire train is reserved exclusively for guests. Meet the crew and relax in the comfortable lounge cars. Travel overnight in rail cars that have been specially adapted for the Copper Canyon excursion.

Meals: Breakfast, lunch, dinner

Lodging: Aboard the Sierra Madre Express

Day 3: Discover colonial El Fuerte

See traditional dancing at a Mexican village, and then travel to historic El Fuerte for a day of activities and overnight lodging. Founded in 1564 by Spanish Conquistadors, this town became an important trading post for silver and gold miners in the Sierra Madres, and is now renowned for its colonial architecture. Take a river float trip and visit the town's museum. Enjoy the ambiance of your hotel, the Grande Dame of El Fuerte's mansions, built in 1890 for a powerful alcalde, or mayor.

Meals: Breakfast, lunch, dinner

Lodging: Posada del Hidalgo, El Fuerte, Sinaloa, Mexico

Day 4: Copper Canyon adventure

Wonder at the scenery from an open-air observation deck or a special glass-domed rail car as you follow the route of the Chihuahua-Pacific Railroad. Built over 90 years and completed in 1961, it's an engineering marvel, winding around rock bluffs, passing through 83 tunnels, and crossing over 35 trestles spanning deep gorges. This epic journey takes you from sea level to an 8,000-foot elevation in the Sierra Madre mountains. It borders Copper Canyon, which is deeper and four times larger than the Grand Canyon. Arrive in Divisadero, and stroll to the canyon rim for a long-distance canyon view. Enjoy a family-style dinner at your hotel overlooking the solitude of the canyon.

Meals: Breakfast, lunch, dinner

Lodging: Posada Barrancas Mirador, Divisadero, Chihuahua, Mexico

Day 5: The Tarahumara in Creel

Deep within this isolated canyon region of Mexico travel to the town of Creel for a chance to meet the reclusive Tarahumara people, who still reside in warm caves deep in the canyon as their ancestors have done for centuries. Visit some of their dwellings, and see their traditional handicraft work. Watch the sun set over the eroded landscape from your hotel balcony, which stands near the highest point of the canyon.

Meals: Breakfast, lunch, dinner

Lodging: Posada Barrancas Mirador, Divisadero, Chihuahua, Mexico

Day 6: Copper Canyon by rail

Spend the early morning at the canyon rim visiting with local Tarahumara. Then journey on the Sierra Madre Express, descending through canyons where the rock colours appear to change with the angle of the sun. Overnight in rail cars as the train winds its way through the foothills.

Meals: Breakfast, lunch, dinner

Lodging: Aboard the Sierra Madre Express

Day 7: Return to Tucson

Your Mexico travel experience comes to a conclusion as Sierra Madre Express pulls into the station at Magdalena in the morning. Bid farewell to the train crew, clear customs, and travel back to Tucson. Enjoy the afternoon at the resort, and a farewell reception and dinner.

Meals: Breakfast, lunch, dinner

Lodging: The Westin La Paloma Resort & Spa, Tucson, Arizona

Day 8: Rail adventure adios

Tour ends in Tucson, Arizona. Your transfer from the hotel to Tucson International Airport is included on this Mexico travel adventure.

Meals: Breakfast

This Mexico travel experience is one of the world's most remarkable train trips – don't miss it!

Price on request

Airfare is additional - We can book your air to and from Juneau for travel originating in the U.S., subject to availability; inquire at booking for special airfares that may be available.