

COPPER CANYON, MEXICO

Day 3 – Urique Canyon.

We'll have a full day to explore Urique Canyon, as we make an ecological transect by bus and foot. We first ascend through the Sierra Madre pine-oak forest, pausing to peer across awesome cliffs to the floor of Urique Canyon, judged by many to be the deepest and most spectacular. On the descent to Urique village, the pine-oak forest gradually gives way to Sinaloan thorn scrub with giant cacti, Kapok, and Tree Morning Glory. The cliffs consist of thick layers of volcanic ash deposited in cataclysmic eruptions. The remote hamlet of Urique, nestled in the canyon bottom 6,000 feet below the rim, embodies the quiet isolation of rural Mexico of years past.

Day 4 – Cerocahui and Copper Canyon.

Spend the morning walking through pine-oak forest beneath towering rhyolite spires. Visit the Jesuit mission and boarding schools established for the children of the Tarahumara who live in remote ranchos. Our afternoon train trip is to Aeroponapuchi, mountain home to Tarahumaras. It will take us through the last of the tropical vegetation and into the Maderan conifer forest. The hotel is a few minutes walk from an expansive vista overlooking the junction of three canyons: Barrancas Urique, Copper, and Tararecua. After lunch take a walk below the barranca rim, where we may see how the Tarahumara farm and see handicrafts including baskets meticulously woven from pine needles, and dolls and animal figures carved from pine bark. *Mansion Tarahumara (1 night).*

Day 5 – Divisadero & Creel.

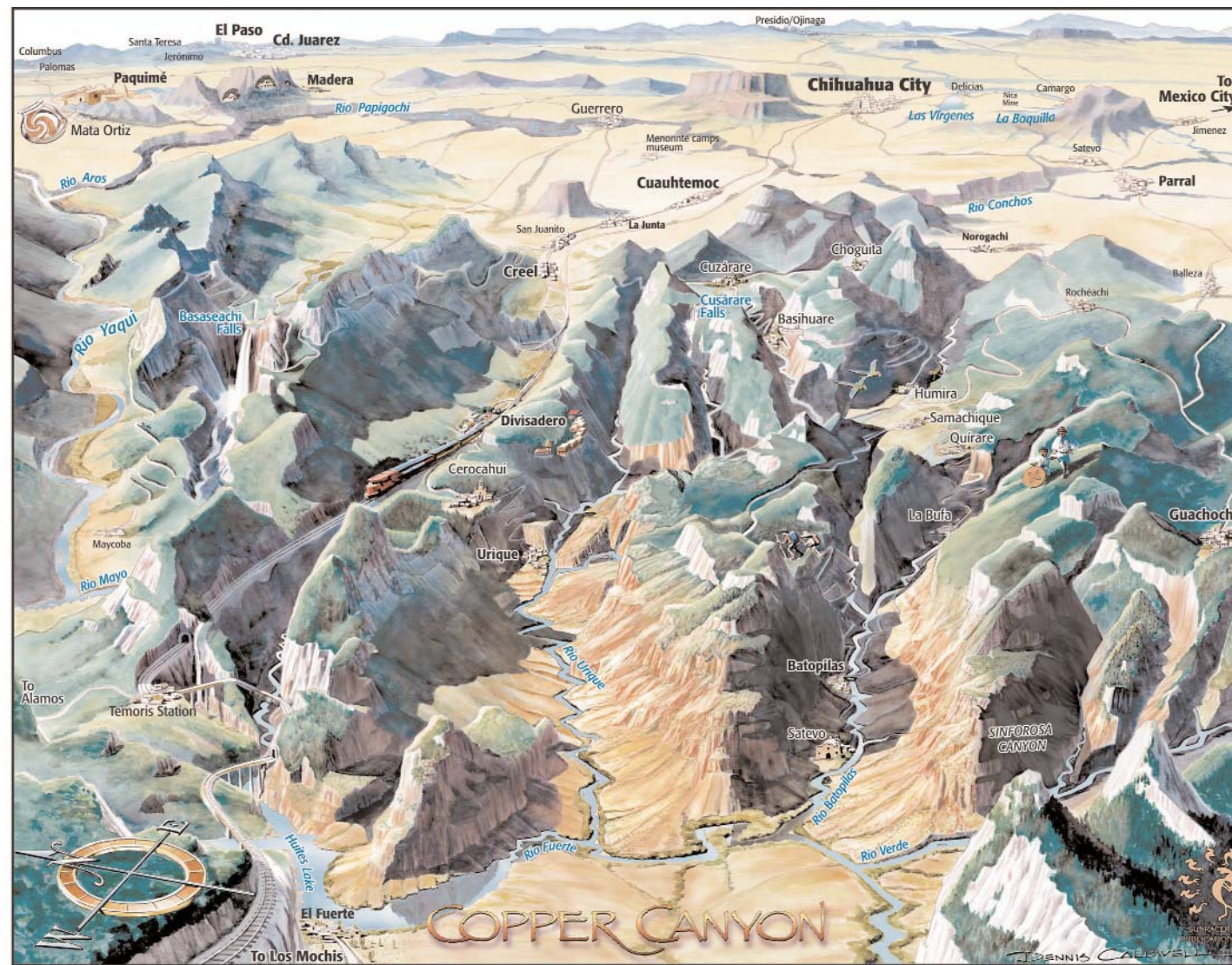
Optional early morning walk. If not too busy in their fields, local Tarahumara may demonstrate a traditional dance, as well as their ball game of "arahipa," which involves kicking a hardwood ball miles through the countryside. We will stop along the way to Creel at overlooks, including the spectacular view from Divisadero to enjoy the scenery, diverse habitats, and the Tarahumara crafts people. The route passes through green mountain valleys as we approach Creel, where many Tarahumara come to trade. Optional walk along a stream winding past Tarahumara homesteads. We will stay at the *Best Western* in Creel or *Cascada Inn* (2 nights).

Day 6 – Cusarare, or "Place of Eagles."

We'll have a full day to explore this area of natural and cultural fascination. A two mile walk downstream to the Cusarare Waterfall will take us through forests rich in pines and oaks, where we will look for butterflies and bees pollinating the colorful flowers and birds in the treetops. The site of the waterfall (*which only flows during the summer rainy season*) marks the start of the Cusarare Barranca. Enjoy a picnic lunch and keep a lookout for raucous flocks of Thick-billed Parrots, an endangered species that finds a refuge in Copper Canyon. In the afternoon visit the exotic Cusarare Mission, where local people practice a brand of Catholicism developed during the absence of Jesuits following their expulsion from Mexico in 1767.

Days 7/8 – Chihuahua to Home.

Travel over the Sierra Madre, with short stops for natural history exploration. Afternoon arrival in Chihuahua. Here we will visit Pancho Villa's home, now a museum honoring Villa and his role in the Mexican Revolution. Farewell dinner and folkloric dances. *Quality Hotel.* On Day 8, fly to Tucson for the end of the expedition.



COSTS & CONDITIONS

Expedition Fee: \$2,595 per person twin share for 8 days plus air fare of approximately \$395 per person plus tax from Tucson, Arizona.

Questions: Please call **Betchart Expeditions Inc.**, (800) 252-4910 or (408) 252-4910. Fax: (408) 252-1444.

What to Expect: This expedition is planned for travel enthusiasts who would enjoy exploring outstanding pre-historic and contemporary Tarahumara Indian culture and scenic natural areas in Mexico's Copper Canyon. Travel is by Chihuahua al Pacifico train, school bus, and motorcoach. There will be walks of 1 to 2 miles. Temperatures will range from the low 60s to the low 90s during the day and may be in the 50s during the night. The elevation will range from sea level to a train ride that reaches 8,071 feet. Most hotels and walking locations will be between 4,500 and 6,500 feet (or less). Please consult your physician if you have any concerns. (No smoking in vehicles, during lectures, or meals.)

Expedition Fee Includes: Land transportation by train, school bus, and motorcoach; accommodations in first class hotels and lodges based on double occupancy of a twin-bedded room with bath; all meals; entrance fees; tips; baggage handling; leadership, administration.

Expedition Fee Does Not Include: Air fare (quoted separately); gratuity to leaders; personal items such as laundry, phone calls, alcoholic beverages, snacks, personal insurance; or foreign airport departure tax.

Air Fare & Airline Ticketing: Air fare quoted is based on a group fare from Tucson to Los Mochis and from Chihuahua to Tucson as of July 15, 2006. Group flights and ticketing will be handled by Betchart Expeditions Inc. AIR FARES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

Accommodations: Are based on double occupancy of a twin-bedded room with bath in first class hotels and lodges. Limited single accommodations are available for \$395 except no singles are available at Paraiso del Oso. Paraiso del Oso and Cusarare Lodge are rustic and in rural settings. Cusarare Lodge has kerosene lamps. If you do not have a roommate, or we cannot assign one, you must pay the extra cost of a single.

Reservations, Deposits & Payments: To reserve a place on this expedition, please complete the reservation form with your check for \$500 payable to *Betchart Expeditions Inc. Trust Account*. Then please mail to: **Betchart Expeditions Inc., 17050 Montebello Road, Cupertino, CA 95014-5435.** The maximum enrollment is 26. The balance is due 60 days before departure (January 24, 2007).

Cancellations & Refunds: The initial deposit for the expedition is refundable up to 60 days before departure less a handling fee of \$100 per person. There will be no refund for any cancellation after the 60-day period unless your place can be resold, then only the \$100 handling fee will be withheld. There are no refunds for unused meals, accommodations, or other expedition features.

RESPONSIBILITY

Betchart Expeditions Inc., the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), and Sigma Xi, the Scientific Research Society act only as agents for the passenger with respect to transportation and hotels, and exercise every care possible. However, we can assume no liability for injury, damage, delay, loss, accident or irregularity in connection with the services of any airplane, ship, motorcoach, or any other conveyance used in carrying out the arrangements of the tour. We cannot accept any responsibility for losses or additional expenses due to delay or changes in air or other services, sickness, weather, strike, war, quarantine, terrorism, acts of God, or other causes beyond our control. All such losses or expenses will have to be borne by the passenger, as tour rates provide for arrangements only for the time stated. We reserve the right to substitute another leader of similar expertise or to cancel any tour prior to departure, in which case the entire payment will be refunded with no further obligation on our part. The right is also reserved to decline to accept or retain any person as a member of the tour. No refund will be made for the unused portion of any tour unless arrangements are made in sufficient time to avoid penalties. The price of the program is based on current tariffs and rates, and is subject to change. Any tariff, exchange rate, or fuel increases will be passed on to participants. Baggage is carried at the owner's risk entirely. It is understood that the air ticket when issued shall constitute the sole contract between the passenger and the airline concerned. The airlines concerned are not to be held responsible for any act, omission, or event during the time passengers are not on board their plane or conveyance.

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 On the web: betchartexpeditions.com CST# 2036304-40

RESERVATIONS #972

Yes! I/we want to join the **Mexico's Copper Canyon Expedition, March 24-31, 2007**, offered by **AAAS Travels & Sigma Xi Expeditions**. Please reserve _____ space(s). As a deposit, I/we enclose a check for \$_____ (\$500 per person) payable to *Betchart Expeditions Inc. Trust Account*.

Name(s) _____ Age _____
 _____ Age _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Phone: Home (____) _____
 Work (____) _____
 Email Address _____
 Membership: AAAS Sigma Xi ACS Planetary Society
 Accommodations Preference:
 Twin Single Twin Share with a friend *or* assign a roommate
 Nonsmoker Smoker
 Signature _____ Date _____
 Signature _____ Date _____

**Please Mail To: Copper Canyon Expedition,
 Betchart Expeditions Inc.
 17050 Montebello Road, Cupertino, CA 95014-5435**

**AAAS Travels
& Sigma Xi Expeditions**

BETCHART EXPEDITIONS Inc.
17050 Montebello Road, Cupertino, CA 95014-5435

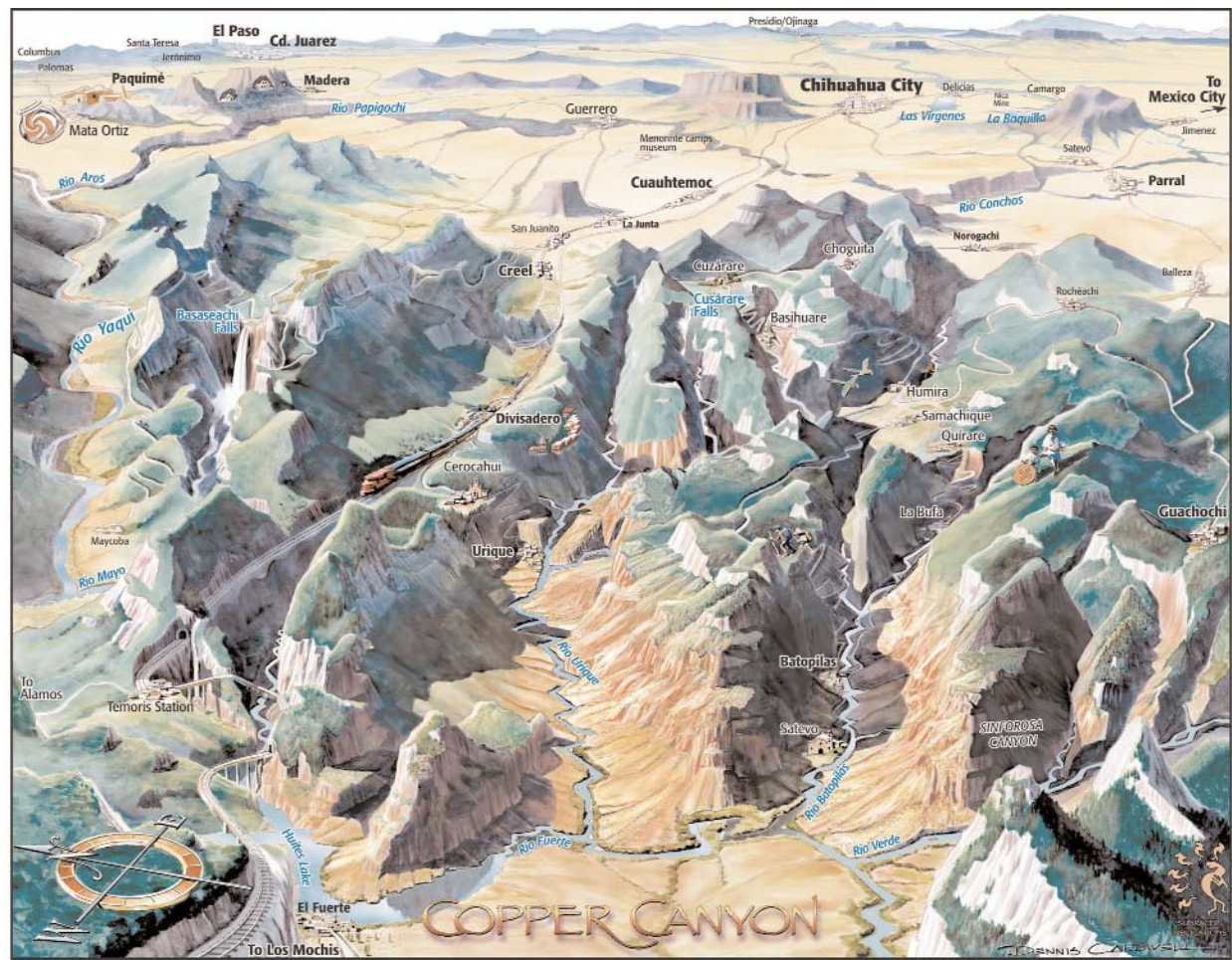
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TIME VALUE



Explore Copper Canyon, Mexico!



**COPPER CANYON,
MEXICO**

March 24-31, 2007

Dear Friends:

In Spring 2007, we will again explore Copper Canyon, or Barranca del Cobre, on a memorable train adventure that will bring you dramatic scenery, natural history and Tarahumara Indians.

This expedition offers a unique combination of history of early explorers, contemporary Tarahumara Indian life, and the distinctive natural and geological heritage of the region.

Copper Canyon is one of the world's biggest canyon systems. The striking volcanic scenery, bridges, tunnels, and villages are seen from the "train in the sky" and on walks. Today, 50,000 Tarahumara Indians live here much as their ancestors did. Wildlife is a unique blend of northern species at their southern range and tropical species at their northern limit.

The itinerary includes:

• **Copper Canyon Complex – Copper, Urique, & Tararecua Canyons** – these rugged canyons are deeper and larger than the Grand Canyon of Arizona. Volcanic cliffs rise above forested slopes. The headwaters rise at 9,000 feet and end at sea level over a distance of less than 150 miles.

• **Urique Canyon** – one of the deepest canyons, Urique Canyon is filled with sub-tropical thorn-forest along its bottom and temperate oak and pine forests along its upper slopes and rims.

• **Tarahumara Indians** – the largest group of native people in northern Mexico, the Tarahumara live much as they have for the past 400 years. Many Tarahumara are seasonally nomadic, living in the canyon bottoms during winter, and moving up to mountain plateaus for the summer. They are superb mountaineers, traversing a 5,000 foot deep canyon in a day to visit relatives or a market on the other rim. Tarahumara men and women are known the world over for their phenomenal endurance in foot-races of over 200 miles across mountainous terrain.

• **Chihuahua al Pacifico Train** – completed in 1961 with 408 miles of track, 85 tunnels, and 37 bridges, the train provides a panoramic view of the canyon scenery. The first class, Fiat-built train and track system is one of the engineering feats of the world.

We hope you will join us this year to share the wonders of Copper Canyon!

Sincerely,

Bob Nansen

Robert Nansen,
Naturalist
For AAAS Travels
& Sigma Xi Expeditions



ITINERARY

Day 1 – Tucson to Los Mochis, Mexico.

Depart from Tucson for Los Mochis, Mexico, situated just inland from the Sea of Cortez. Meet your Mexican guide and transfer to the colonial town of El Fuerte. Founded in 1564 by the conquistador Francisco de Ibarra, El Fuerte is an hour from Los Mochis. The El Fuerte Valley is agriculturally rich, producing many winter vegetables for North America, as well as sugar cane, corn and fruit. Enjoy a tropical drink, dinner, and trip orientation. *Posada del Hidalgo*.

Day 2 – El Fuerte to Bahuichivo.

Early breakfast and transfer to El Fuerte train station, to begin our adventure on the Chihuahua al Pacifico "train in the sky." Today's ride is a spectacular introduction to the Copper Canyon complex, a system of steep-sided gorges or "barrancas" which cut through the heart of the mountains of northwestern Mexico. This region is also home to 50,000 Tarahumara Indians. The Tarahumara call themselves "Raramuri," meaning foot runner, for their non-stop races which exceed the length of several marathons. The train passes waterfalls, switch-backs up mountain sides, and cuts through a mile-long tunnel before we disembark at Bahuichivo, a short distance from the mountain town of Cerocahui. Afternoon walk along scenic Cerocahui Canyon with picturesque oaks, pines, wildflowers and a mix of tropical and temperate birds. The stream is located at the base of a high cliff with pines dotting the narrow meadow. *Hotel Paraiso del Oso* (2 nights).