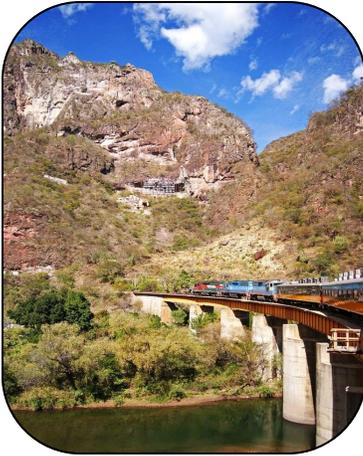


MEXICO'S COPPER CANYON

October 15, 2018 - 14 Days



a world to experience



Fares Per Person:

\$4825 double/twin

\$5515 single

\$4705 triple



tour
a more intimate travel experience

- > Tour exempt from GST.
- > **Early Bookers:** \$250 discount on first 8 seats; \$125 on next 4
- > **Experience Points:** Earn 118 points from this tour.
Redeem **118 points** if you book by **July 11**.

* HIGHLIGHTS *

“Pueblo Magico” town of Alamos

El Fuerte

Chihuahua Al Pacifico Railroad (1st class train)

Creel

Hotel Divisadero (on Copper Canyon Rim)

Cerocahui Village

Urique Canyon

Barranca Del Cobre

Inn at Mazatlan, an oceanfront resort

Kamloops > 250-374-0831
Kelowna > 250-762-3435
www.wellsgraytours.com

Penticton > 250-493-1255
Vernon > 250-545-9197
Toll Free > **800-667-9552**



Includes

- Coach transportation to Seattle Airport
- 13 nights of accommodation & hotel taxes
- Flight on Alaska Airlines from Seattle to Tucson
- Current air transport taxes and security fees
- Coach transportation in Tucson for 1 day
- Arizona - Sonora Desert Museum
- Coach transportation in Mexico for 6 days
- Walking tour of Alamos colonial town
- Walking tour of historic El Fuerte
- First class ticket on Chihuahua al Pacifico Railroad from El Fuerte to Creel and return
- Guided walk of Tarahumara Indian land and Cusarare Falls
- Tarahumara Indian Museum
- Teleferico Aerial Tram into Copper Canyon
- Walk on the Hanging Bridge
- Glass bottom overlook of Copper Canyon
- Walking tour along rim of Copper Canyon
- Sightseeing tour to Cerro el Gallego Lookout
- Half-day sightseeing tour of Mazatlan
- Malecon cliff divers
- Mazatlan Cathedral
- Casa Machado Museum and Aquarium
- Transfer from Mazatlan hotel to airport
- Flight on Westjet from Mazatlan to Kelowna
- Wells Gray tour director throughout tour
- Bilingual Mexican guide from Tucson to Mazatlan
- Gratuities for Mexican guide and drivers
- Luggage handling at hotels and on Westjet
- **35 meals:** 13 breakfasts, 11 lunches, 11 dinners

Tour Notes

Travelling in Mexico: In the last ten years, you have probably seen stories in the media about the dangers of travelling in Mexico. The Mexican government has made heroic efforts to counteract this bad press and salvage their vital tourism industry by showing that Mexico is as safe to travel in as many foreign countries. Tourism has rebounded, but many people still pay attention to what they see on TV and in newspapers.

Mexico still has some dangerous places to visit, but so do many countries including Canada and the USA. This tour was redesigned in 2014 from previous Copper Canyon tours to avoid Chihuahua and Juarez, and the 2018 itinerary stays west of the Sierra Madre where travel is much safer. This change allowed the addition of the colonial village of Alamos.

The scenery in Copper Canyon and Urique Canyon is awesome, and the train ride is among the world's most spectacular. The newly-opened attractions of the aerial tram down into Copper Canyon, the hanging bridge, and glass floor are thrilling experiences. Come and enjoy this amazing region of Mexico!

Tour Director & Guide: A Wells Gray tour director is with you throughout the tour. A bilingual Mexican guide accompanies you from Tucson to Mazatlan. The Mexican guide provides commentary about scenery and culture and assists with translation at the various stops.

Accommodation: The Inn at Mazatlan is the only first-class hotel on the tour. Other hotels are rated as 3 or 3+ stars. Many are in unique or historic buildings. Don't expect fancy hotels in the Copper Canyon area as this is still a remote tourist area. Hotels named in the itinerary could change, but substitute accommodation will be of similar quality.

Airline baggage fee is not included for Alaska Airlines as it must be paid individually at the airport. The fee is included for the Westjet flight.

Documentation: A passport is required for this tour. A tourist card is also required for Canadian citizens visiting Mexico. It is issued on arrival and must be kept throughout your visit and surrendered when you leave Mexico at Mazatlan Airport.

Tour 25: This is a Tour 25 departure, meaning capacity of this tour is limited to 25 participants, a more intimate travel experience.

Important Tour Information will be available at final payment and contains suggestions about clothing, weather, food and drink, tipping, extra money needed, and Mexican exchange.

 **Activity Level:** Moderate activity including short distances to walk, steps and uneven walkways, sidewalks and trails. Cobblestone streets are common in historic towns. A few hotels have no elevator and there are stairs to access your room. Walking tours are arranged in some historic towns where coach transportation is impossible. Seeing everything mentioned in this itinerary requires active participation. There can be longer walks in the airports while travelling to Tucson and home from Mazatlan; request a cart or wheelchair in advance if this could be an issue for you. If you are not able to participate in Activity Level 2, Wells Gray Tours recommends that you bring a companion to assist you. The tour director, Mexican guide, and driver have many responsibilities, so please do not expect them, or your fellow travellers, to provide ongoing assistance.

Itinerary

Monday, October 15:

Meals: L

We travel via the Coquihalla Highway, cross the border, and follow I-5 south to Seattle. We stay overnight at the Quality Inn in Renton near the Seattle airport.

Tuesday, October 16:

Meals: B,D

We fly from Seattle on Alaska Airlines non-stop to **Tucson**, arriving in late morning. We drive to the Arizona - Sonora Desert Museum which has superb exhibits about the flora and fauna of southern Arizona. Our overnight accommodation is at the Desert Diamond Hotel & Casino. Meet your Mexican guide, then enjoy a welcome dinner.

Wednesday, October 17:

Meals: B,L,D

Welcome to Mexico! We cross the Mexican border at Nogales and drive south on Interstate 15. We stay overnight at Hotel Fiesta Americana in **Hermosillo**.

Thursday, October 18:

Meals: B,L,D

We continue along the coastal freeway through the vast agricultural lands of Sonora State, known for tomatoes, potatoes, corn, sugar cane, and wheat. At Navojoa, we take a side road into the mountains to reach **Alamos**. Founded in the late 17th century following discoveries of silver in the region, it was named by the conquistador Coronado and became the capital of the surrounding region. Alamos is Mexico's northernmost 'Silver City' but fortunately it has not succumbed to large-scale commercialism and has retained the charm of earlier times. Alamos was named a "**Pueblo Magico**" in 2005, a designation given by the Tourism Ministry to towns that offer a 'magical' experience by reason of their natural beauty, cultural riches, and historical relevance. A walking tour of the historic town centre is offered this afternoon. We stay tonight at Casa de Los Tesoros, a 200-year old hotel in the centre of town.

Friday, October 19:

Meals: B,D

It is a short drive to quaint **El Fuerte** near the base of the Sierra Madre. We stay overnight at Hotel la Chozza, an enchanting hotel built around a plant-filled courtyard and pool. El Fuerte was founded by the Spaniards in 1564 and is full of historic buildings. A walking tour includes the picturesque square bounded by the cathedral and a 200-year old hacienda, now the city hall.

Saturday, October 20:

Meals: B,L,D

We board the **Chihuahua Al Pacifico Railroad** and thrill to its engineering wonders during our ride in the first class "Ferromex" coach. Planning and construction of this amazing railroad took 90 years and it opened to traffic between Los Mochis and Chihuahua in 1961. Today's journey from El Fuerte to Creel takes eight hours. The train first climbs steadily along the canyon of the Rio Fuerte. Once into the Sierra Madre, it corkscrews higher and higher, hugging steep mountainsides and squeezing through narrow gorges. At the Temoris switchbacks, three levels of track are visible at the same time. In all, there are 86 tunnels ranging up to a kilometre long and 39 bridges of which the highest is 100 metres. Divisadero station is perched right on the rim of **Copper Canyon** (Barranca del Cobre) and the train makes a short stop so you can admire the spectacular view with sheer cliffs dropping over 2,000 metres to the river. Five times larger than the Grand Canyon and 1½ times deeper, Copper Canyon slices into the Sierra Madre to form a wilderness that has never been penetrated by roads. The native people in the canyon are the shy and primitive **Tarahumara Indians** who inhabit caves along the canyon walls. Back on the train, the remaining journey to the lumber town of **Creel** (pronounced cree-EL) takes 1½ hours, arriving about 4 pm. We stay two nights at the Best Western Hotel.

Sunday, October 21:

Meals: B,L

During a tour around the Creel area, we view a Tarahumara cave dwelling, visit the **Jesuit Mission** of San Ignacio and the Boarding School, and admire nature's handiwork on the weird balancing rocks of Mushroom Valley. The Mission Store stocks English language books about the Tarahumaras and Copper Canyon. A walk to 30-metre high **Cusarare Falls** is offered as well.

Monday, October 22:

Meals: B,L,D

In late morning, we board the train for the short ride back to **Divisadero**. We stay two nights at the Hotel Divisadero which literally perches on the edge of the cliffs. This afternoon, we enjoy a walk along the rim to several viewpoints. We may be able to view a demonstration foot race by the Tarahumaras who are renowned for their speed and endurance. Don't miss the amazing bargains on Tarahumara crafts. A video show about the Indians and the geology of Copper Canyon is offered this afternoon.

Tuesday, October 23*Meals: B,L,D*

We ride the remarkable **Teleferico Aerial Tram** nearly 1,000 metres down into Copper Canyon. Built in 2010, the cablecar is sometimes 200 metres above the ground and the 4.3 kilometre trip from upper to lower stations is one of the longest in the world with no supporting towers. Later, you can thrill to the **hanging bridge** and the glass-bottom floor, or buy an exciting ride on the zip lines (one is over 2 km long).

Wednesday, October 24:*Meals: B,L,D*

The morning is free time to return to favourite viewpoints or experience some more thrills of Copper Canyon. At 1 pm, we board the train for a 1½-hour trip to Bahuichivo, then we drive a few kilometres to the Hotel Misión in the quaint mountain village of **Cerocahui**. A Jesuit mission was established here in the late 17th century.

Thursday, October 25:*Meals: B,L,D*

We drive to the **Cerro el Gallego Lookout**, one of Mexico's most awesome viewpoints. From an elevation of nearly 2,300 metres, we look down into the **Urique Canyon**, deepest of the complex of gorges comprising Copper Canyon. Stops are also made at an old Tarahumara church, a rancho, and Virgencita Spring. After we get on the train at 2:30, it is a four-hour trip out of the canyons and into the foothills of the Sierra Madre. We stay overnight again at Hotel la Choza in El Fuerte.

Friday, October 26:*Meals: B,L,D*

We drive south along the coastal plain, nicknamed the "Bread Basket of Mexico" because of the fertile farmlands growing corn, wheat, sorghum, beans, oats, chile peppers, tomatoes, and many other crops. We cross the Tropic of Cancer and pass through cities such as Los Mochis and Culiacan during the 400-kilometre drive to Mazatlan. We stay two nights at the **Inn at Mazatlan Resort**. This is one of the finest hotels in Mazatlan, located in the El Cid Marina area, about 10 minutes taxi to downtown. The resort is right beside the ocean with a sandy beach in front.

Saturday, October 27:*Meals: B,L,D*

A sightseeing tour around **Mazatlan** includes the Cathedral, Aquarium, El Faro Lighthouse, Shrimp House, Casa Machado Museum, and the daring **cliff divers** at Malecon. The afternoon is free time to enjoy our hotel and the beach. A farewell dinner is a chance to reminisce with fellow travellers about our memorable experiences in Copper Canyon.

Sunday, October 28:*Meals: B*

The morning is at leisure and we leave the resort about noon for the Mazatlan airport. We fly on Westjet non-stop to Calgary, then continue to Kelowna. Transfers are provided to home cities.

Tour Policies

Payments: A deposit of \$600 per person is requested at the time of booking and the balance is due July 11, 2018.

Discounts: Early bookers receive \$250 discount on first 8 seats and \$125 on next 4 seats for booking early with deposit. The discount is not offered after July 11.

Cancellation Policy: Up to June 11, your tour payments will be refunded less an administrative charge of \$50 per person. From June 12 to July 11, the cancellation charge is \$300 per person. From July 12 to August 10, the cancellation charge is 40% of the tour fare. From August 11 to September 11, the cancellation charge is 80% of the tour fare. After September 11, there is no refund.

Fare Changes: Changes to taxes or currency exchange rates and surcharges from airlines and other tour suppliers can occur at any time and are beyond the control of Wells Gray Tours, therefore Wells Gray Tours reserves the right to increase fares due to such changes up until the time of departure.

Travel Insurance: A Comprehensive Insurance policy is available through Wells Gray Tours and coverage is provided by Travel Guard. Policies purchased at deposit include a waiver of the pre-existing condition clause for medical and cancellation claims, otherwise policies can be purchased no later than at final payment. Please contact us for details.

Photo Credit: Copper Canyon Tours

e-points: This tour earns 118 e-points. Each time you travel on a Wells Gray tour, you earn Experience Points, or e-points. One e-point equals \$1. Redeem your points on select tours or accumulate enough points to earn a free tour! Redemptions offered until July 11.

Consumer Protection BC Licences: Kamloops 178, Vernon 655, Kelowna 588, Penticton 924