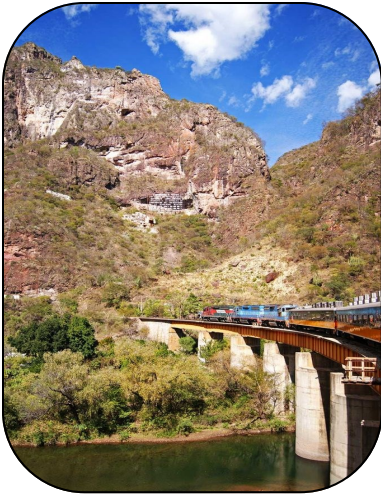


MEXICO'S COPPER CANYON

October 25, 2019 - 13 Days



a world to experience



Fares Per Person:

\$5320 double/twin

\$6220 single

\$5120 triple

- > This tour is limited to 25 people. Early booking recommended!
- > Please add 0.3% GST.
- > **Early Bookers:** \$150 discount on first 8 seats; \$75 on next 4 seats
- > **Experience Points:** Earn 126 points from this tour.
Redeem **126 points** if you book by **July 16**.



tour
a more intimate travel experience

Includes

- Transportation to/from Victoria Airport
- Flight from Victoria via Calgary to Mazatlan
- Current air transport taxes, security fees and airline luggage fees
- 12 nights of accommodation & hotel taxes
- Transfer from Mazatlan airport to hotel
- Coach transportation in Mexico for 7 days
- Locally-guided tour of Los Mochis
- Topolobampo Bay cruise for wildlife viewing
- Transfer from Los Mochis hotel to train station
- First class ticket on Chihuahua al Pacifico Railroad from Los Mochis to Divisadero
- Guided walk of Tarahumara Indian land and Cusarare Falls
- Tarahumara school visit
- Teleferico Aerial Tram into Copper Canyon
- Walk on the Hanging Bridge
- Glass bottom overlook of Copper Canyon
- Walking tour along rim of Copper Canyon
- Transfer from Creel hotel to train station
- First class rail ticket from Creel to El Fuerte
- Walking tour of historic El Fuerte
- Half-day sightseeing tour of Mazatlan
- Malecon cliff divers
- Mazatlan Cathedral
- Transfer from Mazatlan hotel to airport
- Flight from Mazatlan to Victoria
- Wells Gray tour director throughout tour
- Bilingual Mexican guide
- Gratuities for Mexican guide and drivers
- Luggage handling at hotels
- **33 meals:** 11 breakfasts, 10 lunches, 12 dinners

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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 2019 itinerary stays west of the Sierra Madre where travel is much safer. Another change for 2019 is that the tour flies into and out of Mazatlan, giving time to add Los Mochis to the itinerary.

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!

Tour Director & Guide: A Wells Gray tour director is with you throughout the tour. A bilingual Mexican guide accompanies you on all the days in Mexico. The Mexican guide provides commentary about scenery and culture and assists with translation at the various stops.

Accommodation: The two hotels in Mazatlan and the Calgary Marriott are the only first-class hotels on this 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 region as this is still a remote tourist area. Hotels named in the itinerary could change, but substitute accommodation will be of similar quality.

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, stairs, 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 and from Mazatlan; request a cart or wheelchair at check-in if this could be an issue for you. The coaches cannot carry a scooter. 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. If you are not capable of keeping up with the group or require frequent assistance, the tour director may stop you from participating in some activities or some days of the tour. In extreme situations, you may be required to leave the tour and travel home at your own expense; travel insurance will probably not cover you.

Itinerary

Friday, October 25:

Meals: D

A transfer is provided to Victoria Airport. We fly to Calgary and stay overnight at the Marriott Hotel in the airport. Get acquainted with your fellow travellers during a welcome dinner.

Saturday, October 26:

Meals: D

We fly on Westjet non-stop to Mazatlan. **Welcome to Mexico!** After clearing immigration, we meet our Mexican guide and driver. We stay overnight at the Holiday Inn in Mazatlan, located beside the beautiful sandy Pacific beach.

Sunday, October 27:

Meals: B,L,D

We drive north 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 Culiacan and Guasave. We stay two nights in **Los Mochis** at the downtown Santa Anita Hotel and there's time to enjoy shopping and bargain-hunting in the numerous nearby bazaars.

Monday, October 28:*Meals: B,L,D*

Los Mochis is located on the west coast of mainland Mexico, a few miles inland from the Sea of Cortez. Sugar beets are one of the important crops here. This morning, we take a cruise on **Topolobampo Bay**, the largest and deepest natural harbour on this coast. The bay is home to many dolphins and they invariably leap and play close to the boat. This is followed by a sightseeing drive around Los Mochis.

Tuesday, October 29:*Meals: B,L,D*

We board the **Chihuahua Al Pacifico Railroad** and thrill to its engineering wonders during our ride in the first class "Chepe Regional" 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 Los Mochis to Divisadero takes six hours. After crossing the coastal plains, the train begins to climb 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 we leave the train on arrival about 2 pm. 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. We stay two nights at the Hotel Divisadero Barrancas which literally perches on the edge of the cliffs. During our stay, we may be able to visit a Tarahumara family.

Wednesday, October 30:*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. If you are under age 65, buy an exciting ride on the zip lines (one is over 2 km long). A visit is planned to a Tarahumara school where the children perform dances and races (subject to change). Don't miss the amazing bargains on Tarahumara crafts.

Thursday, October 31:*Meals: B,L,D*

We leave Divisadero by motorcoach and drive through the Oteros Canyon to the lumber town of **Creel** (pronounced cree-EL). We stay two nights at the Quinta Mision Hotel.

Friday, November 1:*Meals: B,L,D*

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. An optional walk to 30-metre high **Cusarare Falls** is offered as well.

Saturday, November 2:*Meals: B,L,D*

We board the train in Creel for the return journey down the western slope of the Sierra Madre. The trip takes nine hours with views of the canyons and foothills in the opposite direction. We disembark at **El Fuerte** and stay two nights at Hotel Torres, an enchanting centuries old building with a tree-filled courtyard.

Sunday, November 3:*Meals: B,L,D*

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. We also visit a **Mayo village** to learn about this regional indigenous culture and daily living. The afternoon is leisure time.

Monday, November 4:*Meals: B,L,D*

We drive to Mazatlan along the coastal freeway and stay two nights at the splendid **El Cid Resort**. This is one of the finest hotels in Mazatlan, located in the El Cid Marina area, about 10 minutes by taxi to downtown. The resort is right beside the ocean with a sandy beach in front.

Tuesday, November 5:*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.

Wednesday, November 6:*Meals: B*

The morning is at leisure and we leave the resort about noon for the Mazatlan airport. We fly on Westjet to Calgary, then continue to Victoria. A transfer is provided to your pickup point.



Tour Policies

Payments: A deposit of \$600 per person is requested at the time of booking and the balance is due July 16, 2019. By paying the deposit, you agree to the Terms & Conditions, Activity Level and Cancellation Policy outlined.

Cancellation Policy: Up to June 14, your tour payments will be refunded less an administrative charge of \$100 per person. From June 15 to July 16, the cancellation charge is \$300 per person. From July 17 to August 16, the cancellation charge is 40% of the tour fare. From August 17 to September 16, the cancellation charge is 80% of the tour fare. After September 16, 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.

Home pickups may be offered in Greater Victoria, depending on the number of people booked and coach size. Decision is made about 2 weeks before departure and you will be contacted about your pickup point and time.

Photo Credit: Copper Canyon Travel

e-points: This tour earns 126 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 16.

Consumer Protection BC Licence: #65842