

MEXICO'S COPPER CANYON

October 2025

WELLS GRAY TOURS
a world to experience



Copper Canyon

Experience one of the world's most spectacular train journeys!

Excite your senses with this wonderful tour of Mexico's Copper Canyon, full of cultural riches and activities. We start our journey in Mazatlán and drive north along the coastal plain to the charming village of El Fuerte. We board the Chihuahua Al Pacifico Railroad's first-class train for the awesome all-day trip into the canyon through 86 tunnels and over 39 bridges. Stay at Divisadero Barrancas, perched on the rim of Copper Canyon, and gaze over 2,000 metres down into one of the world's deepest canyons. A visit with the local Tarahumara people, a walk to 30-metre high Cusarare Falls, a ride on the aerial tramway with magnificent views, and a walk across the hanging bridge and glass floor are all thrilling experiences.



INTERNATIONAL



GROUP SIZE



ACTIVITY LEVEL

▶ Departure from:

- 📍 **BC Interior:** October 30, 2025 - 14 days
- 📍 **Vancouver Island:** October 30, 2025 - 14 days
- 📍 **Lower Mainland:** October 31, 2025 - 12 days

▶ Fares per person

- 📍 from **\$9,245** double/twin, **\$10,155** single*
- *Pricing details for all departures provided on page 2.*

▶ Early Booking Bonus

- \$200** discount on first 8 seats; **\$100** on next 4.

▶ Earn 182 Experience Points



Providing Quality Packaged Travel Since 1972

Your specific departure point will be confirmed at the time of booking. Passengers travelling from the BC Interior, Vancouver Island & Lower Mainland regions will begin and end the tour as follows:

I BC Interior: We fly from Kelowna to Vancouver on Thursday, October 30 and stay overnight at the Fairmont Hotel YVR, conveniently located in the airport. We fly to Mazatlán the following morning. We fly from Mazatlán to Vancouver on Tuesday, November 11 and overnight at the Fairmont YVR again. We fly to Kelowna on Wednesday, November 12 and travel home. Transportation is provided from your pickup point on the day of departure, and back again when we return.

V Vancouver Island: We fly from Victoria, Nanaimo, or Comox to Vancouver on Thursday, October 30 and stay overnight at the Fairmont Hotel YVR, conveniently located in the airport. We fly to Mazatlán the following morning. We fly from Mazatlán to Vancouver on Tuesday, November 11 and overnight at the Fairmont YVR again. We fly home on Wednesday, November 12.

Departure from Victoria: For passengers in the Greater Victoria Area, transportation is provided from your pickup point on the day of departure and back when we return. Home pickup may be offered in the Greater Victoria Area depending on the number of people booked and coach size. The decision is made about 2 weeks before departure and you will be contacted about your pickup point and time.

Departure from Up-Island: Transportation to/from Nanaimo or Comox Airport is not provided. Please note that while we always prioritize convenient connections for our clients, sometimes it is not possible given the airline schedule and availability. You will be contacted regarding your schedule after final payment. Please request departure from Nanaimo or Comox at the time of booking.

L Lower Mainland: We fly from Vancouver to Mazatlán on Friday, October 31. We fly from Mazatlán to Vancouver on Tuesday, November 11. Home pickup for clients in the Greater Vancouver Area may be arranged at the time of booking.

Departure from Abbotsford or Chilliwack: No transportation is provided to/from Vancouver Airport.

FARES PER PERSON

	Departure Point	Fares per Person	Notes
I	BC Interior	\$9,590 double/twin \$10,860 single	
V	Vancouver Island	\$9,690 double/twin \$10,960 single	• Please add 0.3% GST.
L	Lower Mainland	\$9,245 double/twin \$10,155 single	

WHAT'S INCLUDED

▶ Meals

- **32 total:** 11 breakfasts, 10 lunches, 11 dinners

▶ Transportation

- Transportation to Kelowna, Vancouver, or Victoria Airport from the BC Interior, Greater Vancouver, or Greater Victoria Areas
- **I V** Flights from Kelowna, Victoria, Nanaimo, or Comox to Vancouver
- Flight from Vancouver to Mazatlán, Mexico & return
- Current air transport taxes & security fees
- 1 checked bag per person
- Transfer from Mazatlán airport to hotel
- Coach transportation in Mexico for 7 days
- Transfer from El Fuerte hotel to train station
- First class ticket on Chihuahua al Pacifico Railroad El Chepe Express train from El Fuerte to Divisadero
- Transfer from Creel hotel to train station
- First class rail ticket on El Chepe Express from Creel to El Fuerte
- Transfer from El Fuerte train station to hotel
- Transfer from Mazatlán hotel to airport

▶ Knowledgeable Wells Gray tour director

▶ Accommodation

- **I V** 13 nights of accommodation & hotel taxes
- **I** 11 nights of accommodation & hotel taxes
- Luggage handling at most hotels

▶ Key Highlights

- Locally-guided tour of Mazatlán
- Immaculate Conception Basilica
- Malecon cliff divers
- Las Labradas archaeological site
- Mayo Village cultural tour
- Teleferico Aerial Tram into Copper Canyon
- Hanging bridge and glass floor
- Walking tour along rim of Copper Canyon
- Tarahumara family visit (if possible)
- Guided walk of Tarahumara territory & Cusarare Falls
- Walking tour of historic El Fuerte
- Topolobampo Bay cruise for wildlife viewing

Attractions are subject to change. Please see Tour Policies for more information.

▶ Guides & Gratuities

- Bilingual Mexican guide
- Gratuities for guide & drivers in Mexico



Activity Level 3

High Activity: You are an active traveller who wants to explore wherever you go. You don't mind a mix of full days, early morning starts, and some late nights. You can walk longer distances, up to 4 km without difficulty which may be over uneven ground,

beaches/shorelines, cobblestone streets, or at higher elevations; and stand for prolonged periods during walking tours. You can climb several flights of stairs easily and unassisted, can handle altitudes up to 2,800 metres or 9,000 feet with no health issues, and can handle your own luggage in airports or at hotels where luggage handling may not be available.

This tour is not appropriate for people with walkers, wheelchairs, or other mobility assistance devices. You may bring walking poles. Additionally, this tour is not appropriate for those who have cognitive impairments such as memory loss or confusion, difficulty expressing thoughts, repeating questions, or getting lost. The tour director, Mexican guide, and drivers 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.

Please read the Activity Level 3 declaration attached to this brochure. By paying the tour deposit, you agree that you are capable of travelling on an Activity Level 3 tour.



Tour Size 25

This tour is limited to 25 participants, making it a more intimate travel experience.



ITINERARY

Thursday, October 30

Passengers from the BC Interior and Vancouver Island fly to Vancouver and stay overnight at the Fairmont Hotel, conveniently located in the USA departures area. Get acquainted with your fellow travellers during a welcome reception.

Accommodation:   Fairmont YVR Hotel

Friday, October 31

Passengers from the Lower Mainland join us at the airport. Our flight to Mazatlán departs this morning. **Welcome to Mexico!** After clearing immigration, we meet our Mexican guide and driver. We stay two nights at the Emporio Resort in **Mazatlán**, located beside the beautiful sandy Pacific beach.

Meals included: Dinner
Accommodation: Emporio Resort Mazatlán

Saturday, November 1

A sightseeing tour around **Mazatlán** includes the Immaculate Conception Basilica, Aquarium, El Faro Lighthouse, Shrimp House, Plaza Machado with its beach mansions, and the daring **cliff divers** at Malecon. The afternoon is free to enjoy our hotel and the beach.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Accommodation: Emporio Resort Mazatlán

Sunday, November 2

We drive north along the coastal plain, nick-named 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 visit the **Las Labradas archeological site** where ancient drawings or petroglyphs have been chiseled on volcanic rocks. They date to about 4,000 years ago, and this is the only petroglyph site in a beachside location in the Americas. We also visit a **Mayo village** to delve into regional indigenous culture, ceremonies, medicine, and daily life. We stay overnight in the village of El Fuerte, founded by the Spaniards in 1564.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Accommodation: Posada del Hidalgo

Monday, November 3

We board the **Chihuahua Al Pacifico Railroad**, riding on the first-class El Chepe Express train. Thrill to the engineering wonders of this amazing railroad during our six-hour journey high into the Sierra Madre. Planning and construction of the railroad took 90 years and it opened to traffic between Los Mochis and Chihuahua in 1961. After leaving El Fuerte, 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 at the rim of **Copper Canyon (Barranca del Cobre)** and we leave the train on arrival about 4 pm. We stay two nights at the

ITINERARY continued

Monday, November 3 continued

Hotel Mirador which literally perches on the edge of the cliffs. Thrill to the stunning views from your balcony or take a stroll along the precipice where the rock walls drop over 2,000 metres from the hotel to the river. It's the finest hotel among several near Divisadero.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: Hotel Mirador

Tuesday, November 4

Five times larger than the Grand Canyon and 1½ times deeper, Copper Canyon slices into the Sierra Madre to form a vast wilderness that has never been penetrated by roads. The indigenous people in this rugged canyon are the **Tarahumara** (also known as Rarámuri) who inhabit caves along the canyon walls. Today, we experience Copper Canyon in several ways. We ride the remarkable **Teleferico Aerial Tram** nearly 1,000 metres down from the rim. The cablecar is up to 200 metres above the ground and the 4.3 km trip from upper to lower stations is one of the longest in the world with no supporting towers. Back at the top, thrill to the **hanging bridge and glass floor**. If you are under age 65, you can buy an exciting ride on the zip lines (one is over 2 km long). This afternoon, you may want to browse the bargains in the Tarahumara craft shops. We hope to arrange a visit with a Tarahumara family, but this is often a last-minute opportunity.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: Hotel Mirador

Wednesday, November 5

The morning is leisure time. We leave Divisadero by motorcoach after lunch and drive through the Oteros Canyon to the town of **Creel** (pronounced cree-EL). It was founded in 1907 as a logging town, and for many years it was the final stop westbound on the railway from Chihuahua. It is inhabited mostly by indigenous people of the Rarámuri ethnic group, and the use of their native language is widespread. Today, Creel is a gateway to Copper Canyon and tourism is most important for the economy. We stay two nights here.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: Mision San Antonio Hotel

Thursday, November 6

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

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: Mision San Antonio Hotel



ITINERARY continued

Friday, November 7

We board the **El Chepe Express** train in Creel for the return journey down the western slope of the Sierra Madre. The trip takes 7½ hours with views of the canyons and foothills in the opposite direction. We disembark at **El Fuerte** and stay overnight.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: Posada del Hidalgo

Saturday, November 8

A walking tour around El Fuerte in the morning includes the picturesque square bounded by the cathedral and a 200-year old hacienda, now the city hall. In the afternoon, we drive to **Los Mochis**, located a few miles inland from the Sea of Cortez.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: Best Western Hotel

Sunday, November 9

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. Sea lions and many kinds of birds can also be spotted. The afternoon is free time to enjoy shopping and bargain-hunting in the nearby bazaars.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: Best Western Hotel

Monday, November 10

We drive to Mazatlán along the coastal freeway. A farewell dinner is a chance to reminisce with fellow travellers about our memorable experiences in Copper Canyon.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: Holiday Inn Beach Resort

Tuesday, November 11

The morning is leisure time. Then, we fly to Vancouver. Passengers from Vancouver return home.

Meals included: Breakfast

Accommodation:  Fairmont YVR Hotel

Wednesday, November 12

Passengers from the BC Interior and Vancouver Island travel home.





Wells Gray Group 2024

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 in the media. 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 2025 itinerary stays west of the Sierra Madre where travel is much safer. The El Chepe Express train was introduced in 2019, serving primarily tourists instead of locals. After two years experimenting with train schedules, the company set up times to allow all daylight travel in both directions. The scenery in Copper Canyon and Urique Canyon is awesome, and the train ride is among the world's most spectacular. Major attractions such as the aerial tram down into Copper Canyon, the hanging bridge, and glass floor are thrilling experiences. Come and enjoy this amazing region!

TOUR NOTES & POLICIES

Documentation: A passport is required for this tour and must be valid until you return to Canada. 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 Mazatlán Airport. Don't lose this card as there is a fine to replace it. The Mexico tourism tax is normally included in your airline ticket.

Currency & Expenses: Two currencies are used on this tour, the US dollar and Mexican peso. In cities and towns, the US dollar is used extensively in hotels, shops, and restaurants. Visa and Mastercard are accepted most places, but ATMs are common and you will need a 4-digit PIN. Markets generally accept either currency. Purchases from the Tarahumara are typically in pesos. As of February 2025, the exchange rate is approximately \$1 CAD = 14 pesos. Gratuities have been included for all meals, the Mexican guide, local guides, and drivers.

Itinerary and Fare Changes: Our many suppliers may notify us about changes to the itinerary prior to departure and sometimes during the tour. We do our best to substitute a similar service if something cancels, but occasionally the only alternative is to provide a

refund for the missed activity. Please note that if we are forced to cancel a tour component due to an issue beyond our control, the current penalties still apply if you choose to cancel the entire tour. Hotels named were confirmed by the Mexican tour operator in early 2025, but changes are possible. Fuel surcharges and changes to taxes, currency exchange rates, or other tour costs can occur at any time, therefore Wells Gray Tours reserves the right to increase fares due to such changes up to departure.

Tour Director and 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: Holiday Inn Mazatlan and Fairmont YVR are the only first-class hotels on this tour. Other hotels are rated as 3 or 3+ stars and are generally the best available. Some are in unique or historic buildings. Hotel Mirador is the best hotel in the Copper Canyon region, but this is still a remote tourist area. If any Mexican hotels are changed, substitute accommodation will be of similar quality.

TOUR POLICIES

Flight seating: We are unable to take requests for window or aisle seating on the planes. The airline will not accept them, as group seating is assigned as a block. If this is important to you, we suggest you take the “No Flight” option with a fare reduction of \$1,200 and book your own flights which allow seat selection.

Flight delays due to weather: In the event flights are delayed or cancelled by airlines due to weather, there may be additional costs to you. Wells Gray Tours Ltd. will not pay for hotel rooms and meals during the delay. Most travel insurance policies cover expenses incurred for weather delays.

Food Allergies: You must notify us no later than at final payment if you have a food allergy. This tour goes to some remote places where restaurants may not be able to satisfy all food allergies. An allergy causes medical distress, a preference does not. For some allergies, please consider bringing your own snacks or food items so you are not dependent on what restaurants are able to serve.

Payments: A deposit of \$800 per person is requested at the time of booking and balance is due July 29, 2025. By paying the deposit, you agree to the [Terms & Conditions](#), Activity Level 3 Declaration, and Cancellation Policy outlined. Payments can be made by online banking or cheque (1.5% discount on tour fare), or by Visa or Mastercard (\$5,000 limit per person on credit cards).

Early booking bonus: Receive a \$200 discount on the first 8 seats and \$100 on the next 4 seats for booking early with deposit. The discount is not offered after July 29, 2025.

Cancellation Policy: Up to June 27, 2025, the cancellation charge is \$100 per person. From June 28 to July 29, the cancellation charge is \$300 per person. From July 30 to August 28, the cancellation charge is 40% of the tour fare. From August 29 to September 26, the cancellation charge is 80% of the tour fare. After September 26, there is no refund.

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. Medical questionnaire is not needed. Please contact us for details. If you have your own travel insurance, please read the policy carefully to be sure that you are adequately covered for medical, cancellation, interruption, and luggage.

Photo Credits: Manuel Jurado (Copper Canyon), Adobe Stock (El Chepe Train), Rachel Komori (Mazatlán), and tour director Jill (Wells Gray Group on Hanging Bridge 2024, Topolobampo Bay, Wells Gray Group 2024).

Experience Points or E-points: This tour earns 182 e-points. Each time you travel on a Wells Gray tour, you earn e-points that are added to your account after the tour returns. One e-point equals \$1. Redeem your earned points on select tours or accumulate enough points to earn a free tour! Redemptions offered until July 29, 2025.

Consumer Protection BC Licences: Kamloops 178, Vernon 655, Kelowna 588, Penticton 924, Victoria 65842

WE PLAN.
YOU PACK.
NO WORRIES!

www.wellsgraytours.com

1-800-667-9552



Offices are open weekdays from 9 am to 4 pm. Book an appointment or walk-in and visit us. _____

KAMLOOPS

Head Office
250 Lansdowne St.
Kamloops, BC
V2C 1X7
250-374-0831

KELOWNA

2575 Richter St.
Kelowna, BC
V1Y 2R1
250-762-3435

VERNON

3206 35th St.
Vernon, BC
V1T 6B7
250-545-9197

PENTICTON

159 Wade Ave East
Penticton, BC
V2A 8B6
250-493-1255

VICTORIA

102-736 Broughton St.
Victoria, BC
V8W 1E1
250-590-7889

Mexico's Copper Canyon — October 2025

This tour is rated "Activity Level 3" by the tour planners at Wells Gray Tours, using our new activity scale with 4 levels. This rating means there is a lot of activity as described here:



High Activity: You are an active traveller who wants to explore wherever you go. You don't mind a mix of full days, early morning starts, and some late nights. You can walk longer distances, up to 4 km without difficulty which may be over uneven

ground, beaches/shorelines, cobblestone streets, or at higher elevations; and stand for prolonged periods during walking tours. You can climb several flights of stairs easily and unassisted, can handle altitudes up to 2,800 metres or 9,000 feet with no health issues, and can handle your own luggage in airports or at hotels where luggage handling may not be available. This tour is not appropriate for people with walkers, wheelchairs, or other mobility assistance devices. You may bring walking poles. Additionally, this tour is not appropriate for those who have cognitive impairments such as memory loss or confusion, difficulty expressing thoughts, repeating questions, or getting lost.

Since a few people who are not capable of doing these activities can hold up the entire group, Wells Gray Tours expects everybody booking a tour with "Activity Level 3" to be reasonably fit physically and mentally. By paying the deposit, you agree that you have read this Activity Level 3 Declaration and the statements are true.

- I want to travel on a Wells Gray tour with a rating of "Activity Level 3" on the new scale with 4 levels.
- I have read the brochure with the full itinerary and description of the activities that are typical on this tour.
- I understand that this is the second highest activity level that a Wells Gray tour can be rated.
- I am confident that I can participate in tour activities at this level, and I will not hold up or delay the other members of the tour.
- I do not require the use of a wheelchair, walker, or other mobility assistance device.
- I have no cognitive impairment such as memory loss or confusion, difficulty expressing thoughts, repeating questions, or getting lost.
- If my physical or cognitive condition changes between booking and departure date such that I can no longer do this level of activity, I will notify the Wells Gray office or agent. The specified penalties will apply for cancelling and travel insurance may cover this.
- If I am not capable of keeping up with the group or require ongoing assistance, I understand that the Wells Gray tour director has the right to stop me from participating in some activities or some days of the tour. In extreme situations, I acknowledge that I may be required to leave the tour and travel home at my own expense, and that travel insurance will probably not cover me. There will be no refund for unused tour services.

This statement has been implemented by Wells Gray Tours to maintain high quality itineraries, accurate timing, and the enjoyment of all tour participants.