



Mexico City & Copper Canyon

Mexico City is the densely populated, high-altitude capital of Mexico. It's known for its Templo Mayor (a 13th-century Aztec temple), the baroque Catedral Metropolitana de México of the Spanish conquistadors and the Palacio Nacional, which houses historic murals by Diego Rivera. All of these are situated in and around the Plaza de la Constitución, the massive main square also known as the Zócalo.

Copper Canyon, in northern Mexico, is a series of massive canyons in the Sierra Madre Occidental mountains. Popular for hiking, it gets its name from the copper-green hue of the canyon walls. The famous Chepe (Ferrocarril Barrancas del Cobre) train connects the region via over 80 tunnels and nearly 40 bridges. Divisadero, a photo stop on the line, offers views into Urique Canyon.

Day 1: Arrival in Mexico City

Mexico City lies in the heart of Central Mexico and is the capital of Mexico and the oldest capital city in the Americas. It is one of the largest cities in the world with over 20 million inhabitants (in the greater metropolitan area) and has a rich history and colourful culture.



On arrival into Mexico City you will be met and transferred to your hotel.

Arrive Anytime. Flight is not included

Overnight in a Standard Room at Best Western Hotel Majestic (or similar)

Day 2: Half Day Mexico City tour including Museum of Anthropology

We will explore magnificent Mexico City, built on top of the ruins of the Aztec capital of Tenochtitlan. Our first stop is the Zocalo (main square), one of the largest public squares in the world. We will visit the Catedral Metropolitana – the largest church in Latin America and the Palacio Nacional, which hosts Diego Rivera's murals depicting the history of Mexico. We continue to a handicraft market, where we will have time for some browsing. We then drive along the famous boulevard Paseo de la Reforma, built during the short-lived reign of Emperor Maximilian to connect the main square and his castle in Chapultepec.



Day 2 continued...

Our last stop is the Museum of Anthropology, where we will have time to explore the treasures of the Aztec culture. Please note that this tour operates from Tuesday to Saturday.

(B)

Overnight in a Standard Room at Best Western Hotel Majestic (or similar)

Day 3: Full Day Teotihuacan Pyramids & Guadalupe Shrine

This morning we will pick you up from your hotel at 8.40am approximately. After collecting some other passengers we will drive to the impressive archaeological site of Teotihuacan, located 50km northeast of Mexico City. On the way we make a stop at the Plaza de las Tres Culturas, where three cultures converge: Aztec, Spanish, and contemporary Mexican. We continue to the Basilica de Guadalupe, Latin America's most revered religious shrine. It is here where the Virgin of Guadalupe is said to have appeared before an Indian named Juan Diego in 1531, and an image of her was miraculously emblazoned on his cloak.



We will have time to explore the New Basilica de Guadalupe (the Old Basilica, built in 1700, is slowly sinking) and to see Juan Diego's cloak. We then drive for another hour to Teotihuacan, one of the most impressive cities of the ancient world, held sacred by the Aztecs. We will explore its temples, palaces and pyramids, including the Quetzalpapalotl Palace Complex, the Temple of the Feathered Conches, the Pyramid of the Moon, and the immense Pyramid of the Sun, ranked among the biggest in the world.

(B)

Overnight in a Standard Room at Best Western Hotel Majestic (or similar)

Day 4: Mexico City to El Fuerte

Transfer from your hotel to Mexico City Airport for your outward flight to Los Mochis

Flight Included

5 Day Copper Canyon Railroad Trip :

Explore the Copper Canyon Railroad Trip, one of the world's most scenic rail journeys and explore towns off the beaten path.

A fantastic adventure experiencing the awesome canyons of Northern Mexico.

Perfect for travellers wanting to combine the world famous Chihuahua al Pacifico train journey from the Sea Cortes up into the Sierra Tarahumara, with visits to local villages and towns very much off the beaten path.

The rail journey aboard the Ferrocarril Chihuahua al Pacifico whisks you over 36 bridges and through 87 tunnels along its 655km length. Connecting the mountainous arid interior of northern Mexico with the Pacific coast, the railway line passes through landscapes that include sheer canyon walls, waterfalls and high desert plains – have your camera ready!

About the train: Every train has 2 or 3 passenger cars with 64 seats, dining car with meals at la carte and bar. All the cars have air conditioning and heating system, reclining seats and ecological toilets

Day 4 continued...

Arrive at Los Mochis Airport and transfer to your hotel in El Fuerte.

This afternoon you will have time to discover this charming town with its colonial architecture including the Palace and Museum.

Arrival El Fuerte

El Fuerte was founded in 1564 by the Spanish conquistador Don Francisco de Ibarra, the first explorer of the nearby Copper Canyon. In 1610 a fort was built to ward off the fierce Zuaque and Tehueco indians. For three centuries El Fuerte was the most important commercial and agricultural center of the vast northern region of Mexico. It became a major trading post for silver miners and gold seekers from the Urique and Batopilas mines located in the Copper Canyon



(B)

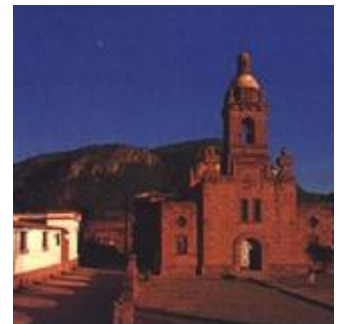
Overnight in a Standard Room at Posada del Hidalgo (or similar).

Day 5: Travel To Posada Barrancas, Copper Canyon

All aboard the Copper Canyon train!

This railroad marvel took almost 90 years and 90 million dollars to complete. The Copper Canyon railway is a stunning piece of engineering achievement. Opened after decades of construction in 1961, the railway was designed to connect the Pacific Ocean with Mexico's central desert territory and Chihuahua.

Transfer to El Fuerte train station (shared transfer with Spanish Speaking driver) for a first class ticket on the Copper Canyon/ Chepe train.



Train journey from El Fuerte to Posada Barrancas, enjoying the beautiful landscapes along the way.

Transfer from Posada Barrancas train station to your hotel for the night. (shared service)

Dinner is included at your hotel tonight

(B/D)

Overnight in a Standard Room at Posada Mirador Hotel (or similar).

Day 6: Tour Copper Canyon Cable Car + Outlook Points

Breakfast at your hotel this morning, followed by a shared tour:

Copper Canyon cable car with outlook points (Divisadero) and the balancing rock (Piedra Volada)

Approx. duration: 2 hours 30 minutes

We will drive 45km to the Divisadero outlook point, for an awesome view into the precipitous depths of Copper Canyon. The Tarahumara Indians display their beautiful handicrafts here. We continue to the famous Piedra, Volada (balancing rock). If you are brave you can stand on this wobbly rock for an unforgettable photo.



Day 6 continued...

The Sierra Tarahumara's Adventure Park offers spectacular natural scenery allowing you to enjoy the 3rd largest cable car in the world being as well one of the deepest canyon systems in the world.

After your tour, enjoy lunch before your transfer to Posada Barrancas train station.

First class ticket on the Copper Canyon train for your train journey from Posada Barrancas to Creel. Upon arrival, shared transfer to your hotel in Creel (shared transfer)

This afternoon enjoy a shared tour of the local area:

Half-day Arareko Lake, Tarahumara caves, Mushroom valley and San Ignacio Mission
shared tour/Driver only

We will drive 5km to Lago Arareco, an enchanting lake nestled between pine forests and fanciful rock formations. We visit the weird mushroom-shaped rocks of the Valle de los Hongos, and the Jesuit mission of San Ignacio. On the way back we will see caves inhabited by Tarahumara Indians

(B/L)

Overnight in a Standard Room at Posada Mirador Hotel (or similar)

Day 7: Travel To Chihuahua

After breakfast

Full day tour, (private service) departing from your hotel in Chihuahua, visiting Mennonite communities en-route to your hotel in Creel.

Approx. duration: 6 hours

We will drive to Cuauhtemoc, an area of Mennonite farming villages, located 1.5h west of Chihuahua. Founded by Dutchman Menno Simonis in the 16th century, the Mennonites maintain a code of beliefs that, from the start, put it at odds with several governments in the world: members take no oaths of loyalty other than to God and they eschew military service.

Persecuted for their beliefs, they moved from Germany to Russia to Canada, and thousands settled in the tolerant, post-revolutionary Mexico of the 1920s. Often blond and blue-eyed, the Mennonites stand out from their Mexican neighbours and have remained culturally distinct, many only speaking their own dialect of old German. We will visit some Mennonite villages with their pitched-roofed wooden houses

Drop off at your hotel in Chihuahua

The ghosts of two Mexican heroes, Pancho Villa and Father Miguel Hidalgo seem to haunt the streets of Chihuahua. Set among rugged hills in a semidesert landscape, it owes its foundation to the rich veins of silver discovered nearby in the colonial period. The city's aqueduct dates from that era.

(B)

Overnight in a Standard Room at Quality Inn Chihuahua San Francisco (or similar)



Day 8: Departure Chihuahua

Transfer from your hotel to Chihuahua Airport for your departing flight.

Depart any time. Flight is not included

(B)

Services End



Included: Accommodation, daily breakfast, other meals where stated (B = Breakfast, L = Lunch, D= Dinner), tours with professional English speaking guide on a shared service basis unless otherwise stated, airport transfers where stated, most entrance fees and local taxes (some exclusions apply).

Excluded: Any meals not mentioned in the above itinerary. Travel Insurance and tips. Any flights or services not mentioned in this itinerary.

Please Note: This itinerary and/or hotels quoted within this itinerary may change due to local operating conditions or availability at the time of booking. Please see our terms and conditions for more details. Please note that all flights are non-refundable and non-changeable unless advised otherwise. Viva Expeditions accepts no responsibility for flight delays and subsequent delays on tours.

Please be aware that many of our products are operated in US Dollars and therefore subject to currency fluctuations. Viva Expeditions will do its utmost to avoid passing on any additional charges however if there is a significant change in exchange rates then we will be required to add a currency surcharge without warning. If you would like to remove this currency risk you do have the option of paying in full at the time of booking.

Final payment on bookings are generally due 95 days prior to departure.

Hotel Information

Best Western Hotel Majestic

Standard Category Accommodation

Located in the heart of Mexico City, the Best Western Majestic is the perfect place to visit and experience the history of the city in each one of its 7 floors with outer balconies and the lobby where the quarry, carved wood, bronze and Talavera are combined in a unique style.

The hotel offers extensive Junior and Master suites, with incredible views to the Zocalo or Madero street as well as interior room with a stunning view onto the hotels patio.



The Best Western Majestic offers the unique experience of staying in a historical hotel that is located in the downtown area of Mexico City with excellent services and personal attention.

Posada del Hidalgo

Location: Downtown of this charming city. Features: 54 beautiful rooms, pool, Mexican restaurant with terrace and bar. It is a beautiful colonial mansion with a spacious and breath-taking garden, inner patios - one with a fountain.



Posada Mirador Hotel

Location: On the rim of Copper Canyon. Features: 62 beautifully decorated rooms with private terrace and breathtaking views over the canyon, restaurant and bar.

The hotel is poised like an eagle's nest at the canyon's edge, and its architecture and design reflects the Tarahumara Indian influence and culture.



Quality Inn Chihuahua San Francisco

Standard Category Accommodation

With all the comfort and facilities of a great hotel the Quality Inn Chihuahua offers guests a personalized service for the leisure or business traveler that seeks privacy, and a luxurious and classy "home away from home". Located in the heart of Chihuahua's downtown area (right next to the beautiful Cathedral), this hotel is literally surrounded by Chihuahua's most important historical, financial and commercial areas also with convenient access to the business center.



Pre-booking Advice

Please click on the below link which includes some detailed information on common destinations. Please read this information prior to approving your quote with your sales consultant as the items mentioned in this document can be difficult (and/or expensive) to change after your booking is confirmed.

[Itinerary Planning Advice](#)

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