

Beyond the Border



The 2016 trip offers everything a great Mexican vacation should: beautiful vistas, cultural diversity, good food, and a leisurely schedule. Join us for some fun in the Baja sun, a little whale-watching, the magnificent Tarahumara country at Copper Canyon, picturesque colonial plazas, the upscale luxury at Hacienda de los Santos, and much more. Our days in Mexico flow at a leisurely pace, with three- and four-night stays between flying days, allowing for bonus, free time activities—perhaps the world's longest zipline at Copper Canyon, or maybe just a siesta or two.

FEBRUARY 28 – MARCH 12, 2016

Itinerary

Trip Highlights:

Tour Length:
13 nights

Starts/Ends:
Tucson, AZ (KTUS)

Approx. Flight Distance:
1100 nm

Highlights:
Diverse Mexican flying, fine hotels, Baja overland tour for whale watching in Bahía Magdalena, first-class train tickets to Copper Canyon, two days/nights canyonside, Tarahumara Indian country, numerous meals, and full participation in Hacienda de los Santos' *Reunión de Pilotos* week in beautiful Alamos, Sonora.

Sunday, 2/28

Arrive Tucson, AZ (TUS) by 1:00 pm. Transfer to the DoubleTree Hotel Tucson Airport. Afternoon briefing including a review of required Mexican documentation and procedures. Welcome Dinner at local restaurant. D

Monday, 2/29

Breakfast at hotel, then transfer to airport for the group departure *Beyond the Border*, overflying the Sonoran desert, the Sea of Cortés, and the Baja Peninsula en route to Loreto. After arrival procedures and paperwork, transfer to Hotel La Misión for check-in, a stroll along the boardwalk, and dinner. B/D

Tuesday, 3/1

Breakfast at hotel, then we'll bus to Bahía Magdalena for a fabulous whale-watching experience. The gray whales love the warm Baja waters and make the annual migration from Alaska for mating and calving. We'll see (and touch!) the cows as they introduce their new offspring to the world of the lagoon. Tour includes ground transportation, snacks and water, 2-hour whale-watching experience, and a seafood lunch. B/L/D

Wednesday, 3/2

Breakfast included at hotel, then you have a free day to hang around Loreto poolside, go sport fishing, or perhaps snorkeling off Coronado Island with a local outfitter. We will gather to compare the day's activities over dinner and a margarita. B/D

over...

FEATURED

HOTELS :

DoubleTree Tucson Airport * Tucson, Arizona, USA
Hotel La Misión * Loreto, Baja California Sur, MEXICO
Hotel Torres del Fuerte * El Fuerte, Sinaloa, MEXICO
Posada Divisadero Barrancas * Copper Canyon, Chihuahua, MEXICO
Hacienda de los Santos * Alamos, Sonora, MEXICO

Itinerary – cont.

Thursday, 3/3

After breakfast, we'll transfer to the airport and fly back to Mainland Mexico, after another spectacular Sea of Cortés overflight. We'll land at the quaint colonial town of El Fuerte. Taxis will whisk us from the airport to our hotel, where we'll check-in, then have some leisure time to wander the plazas and shops around town. Group dinner at a local restaurant. B/D

Friday, 3/4

Breakfast at the hotel, then transfer to the train station. It's "all aboard" the *Ferrocarril Chihuahua al Pacífico*, or *Chepe*, for short. It's a fun, scenic ride through the remote countryside of the Sierra Madres. We'll be climbing about 7000' in elevation up to the rim of the Copper Canyon--taller, wider, and more extensive than the Grand Canyon of the Colorado. We'll settle in for two nights at Hotel Divisadero Barrancas and enjoy the incredible view, the lively marketplace, and the colorful Tarahumara Indians making their crafts. B/L/D

Saturday, 3/5

Breakfast at the hotel, then enjoy a free day to explore Copper Canyon as you wish: by horseback, by mountain bike, on foot, or along the world's longest zipline at the Copper Canyon Adventure Park. There are plenty of activities to keep you dazed and amazed at the majestic landscape. B/L/D

Sunday, 3/6

After a leisurely morning, we'll re-board the Chepe and return by rail to El Fuerte, arriving approximately 8:00 pm and transfer back to our El Fuerte hotel upon arrival. You can dine on the train, in town, or at the hotel at your leisure. B/L

Monday thru Thursday, 3/7 – 3/10

After breakfast and airport transfer, enjoy the short but sweet flight to Alamos, with a deviation to overfly some of the spectacular Copper Canyon country we just visited. It will be a busy (and fun) time in Alamos, as we've timed our stay with the semi-annual *Reunión de Pilotos* put on by the Hacienda de los Santos. GA pilots from all over North America descend on Alamos twice each year in order to enjoy a few days of sun, fun, live music, spa treatments and camaraderie at this deluxe resort nestled right in the middle of this magical colonial pueblo. All meals included.

Friday, 3/11

After breakfast and airport transfers, we'll make our way back to the Alamos airport, then launch for home, with a brief stop in Ciudad Obregón for fuel and to complete the Mexican check-out procedures. Once we are back in the good 'ol USA, we'll complete customs and immigration, then return to our Tucson airport accommodations at the DoubleTree. Farewell Dinner and slideshow. B/D

Saturday, 3/12

Transfer as required to the airport for departures home. B



****Itinerary Subject to Change****