

COPPER CANYON

MEXICO & PHOENIX JOURNEY

ROCS

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11 days
from
€2949

2016 ESCORTED TOUR 13 OCT - 23 OCT



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COPPER CANYON - MEXICO & PHOENIX JOURNEY

VISITING: **PHOENIX, NOGALES, SAN CARLOS, LOS ALAMOS, EL FUERTE, COPPER CANYON, POSADAS BARRANCAS, GUERRERO, CASAS GRANDES**

DAY 1 - MALTA -PHOENIX

Flight Malta to Phoenix. Upon arrival transfer to the 3* Radisson Hotel Phoenix Airport. Tonight, an orientation by your Tour Manager introduces you to the exciting program that awaits you in Mexico. After a Welcome Drink with your fellow passengers, the remainder of the evening is at leisure.

DAY 2 - PHOENIX - NOGALES - SAN CARLOS

Depart early in the morning from Arizona and cross the border at Nogales into Mexico. Traveling south, a drive through the long stretches of flat scrub in the arid Sonoran Desert with its unusual organ-pipe cacti. Linger in the small town of Santa Ana, highlighted by a beautiful church built in the early 1900s. Enjoy your first Mexican lunch before traveling on to cosmopolitan Hermosillo. View the lovely colonial Cathedral and the Government Palace, decorated with multicolored murals portraying the history of the Sonoran region. Arrive in San Carlos, a fishing village and resort community perched on the Sea of Cortez, known for its crystal-clear warm waters and beautiful sunsets. Check in at the 3* Marinaterra Hotel & Spa. Tonight, a festive Mexican-style Reception followed by a welcome dinner together with your fellow travellers.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner.

DAY 3 - SEA OF CORTEZ CRUISE

Board a private boat this morning for a scenic cruise on the shimmering Sea of Cortez; a highlight of the day! Conditions permitting, you may see turtles, pelicans, dolphins, or even sea lions. Afterwards, continue to Mirador, a popular viewpoint over Gulf of California where you can view the beautiful terrain of the region. Return to the hotel for lunch. The afternoon is yours to relax at the pool, sunbathe on the beach, or shop to your heart's content.

Optional: San Carlos Dinner with entertainment
Meals: Breakfast, Lunch.

DAY 4 - PEARL FARM - ALAMOS

Today, a fascinating tour of the Guaymas Pearl Farm, the first cultured pearl farm in the Americas, and an ongoing research facility of pearl producing oysters. Here learn about the specialized art of pearl oyster farming, grading and quality selection. Then, an opportunity to view the finished products of pearls in all shapes, sizes and colors. Next, travel through the rich farmlands of the Sierra Madre mountains to the quaint old silver town of Alamos. Check in at the 3* Casa De Los Tesoros hotel. This charming city's cobblestone streets are lined with beautiful Spanish colonial buildings. Dinner tonight is highlighted by a music and dance cultural presentation by costumed performers.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner.

DAY 5 - LOS ALAMOS - EL FUERTE - COPPER CANYON

A morning stroll in the streets of Los Alamos with a local guide who introduces you to the history of this colonial city, a designated National Monument. Its elaborate mansions, restored to their original glory, date back to a bygone era when the silver mines here were among the richest in the world. After lunch, journey into the foothills of the Sierra Madre Mountains to picturesque El Fuerte, often referred to as the "Gateway to the Copper Canyon". Check in at

the 4* Posada Del Hidalgo hotel. The afternoon is at leisure to explore this beautiful small city with its attractive central plaza studded with palm trees. In the evening, a performance of traditional folk and native dances followed by a dinner of local favourites.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner.

DAY 6 - COPPER CANYON - POSADAS BARRANCAS

In the early morning, board a railcar and begin the astonishing journey on the Chihuahua al Pacifico Railroad, considered one of the most dramatic railway journeys in the Western Hemisphere. The "train ride in the sky" takes you into the Copper Canyon, four times the size of the Grand Canyon. The rail line, an engineering marvel, took almost 100 years to build in this very difficult and rugged terrain. Ascend from sea level to almost 7,500 feet, passing through numerous tunnels and over spectacular soaring bridges with awe-inspiring views. Arrive in Posada Barrancas, on the rim of the Copper Canyon, your home for the next two days, check in at the 3* Mirador hotel. In the afternoon, meet the reclusive Tarahumara Indians, a semi-nomadic tribe, whose way of life has changed little in over a thousand years; their ancestors lived for generations in the canyon's caves. Learn about their natural remedies from a local medicine woman and view the tribe's unique baskets and striking crafts. Dinner together at the hotel.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner.

DAY 7 - COPPER CANYON

Join the interesting discussion this morning on the interpretation of the unique Tarahumara Indian arts and crafts with a local expert. Then, get ready for your visit to the rim of the Copper Canyon. Embark on an Aerial Tramway that takes you across the canyon, descending almost 4,500 feet into the centre to experience its grandeur; a truly breath taking experience. The rest of the day is spent exploring this dramatic area, one of the greatest undiscovered natural treasures of North America. Hear about the geological forces that created the seven individual canyons, collectively known as the Copper Canyon or Barrancas del Cobre. Share stories of today's fabulous adventure tonight at dinner.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner.

DAY 8 - NUEVO CASAS GRANDES

Depart Posadas Barrancas to the village of Guerrero, where you stop for lunch. The area is rich in culinary resources. Then, travel on to the bustling city of Nuevo Casas Grandes. Check in at the 3* Hacienda hotel. Here, enjoy the afternoon demonstration of Mata Ortiz Pottery, one of the finest and most innovative ceramics in the world. The entire pueblo of Mata Ortiz creates outstanding handmade, coiled pots or ollas, following centuries old methods along with contemporary works of art. The on-site gallery showcases the best in handmade Mata Ortiz pottery. Farewell Dinner in Nuevo Casas Grandes on your last night in Mexico with your newfound friends and Tour Manager.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner.

DAY 9 - RIUNS OF PAQUIME

Today, an early morning departure for a visit to Mexico's famous Archaeological Site of

Paquime, undoubtedly the most important ruins in Northern Mexico, designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site. During the 14th to 15th centuries the city was a major trading center, before the Spanish conquest of Mexico. View the maze-like adobe remnants and the ceremonial mounds in a broad valley with panoramas to distant mountains. Walk by the House of the Cross, believed to be a temple and observatory, and the House of the Serpent, where animals were raised. The site's impressive Museo de las Culturas del Norte displays important relics that tell the story of Paquime. Drive through parts of the Chihuahua Desert, the largest in North America. Your adventure in Mexico ends with lunch in Agua Prieta before you re-enter the USA through Douglas, Arizona. Check in at the 3* Hilton Garden Inn Scottsdale Old Town hotel.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch.

DAY 10 - PHOENIX

Transfer to the airport for your departure flight back to Malta.

Meals: Breakfast.

DAY 11 - MALTA

Arrival in Malta.



PACKAGE PRICE PER PERSON

BOOK	BEFORE 31 ST MAR	AFTER 31 ST MAR
TRIPLE SHARING	€ 2949	€ 3149
TWIN SHARING	€ 2989	€ 3189

OUR PACKAGE INCLUDES

- ✓ RETURN FLIGHTS MALTA/ PHOENIX/MALTA
- ✓ 9 NIGHTS ACCOMMODATION
- ✓ 2 NIGHTS PHOENIX/SCOTTSDALE
- ✓ 2 NIGHTS SAN CARLOS
- ✓ 1 NIGHT ALAMOS
- ✓ 1 NIGHT EL FUERTE
- ✓ 2 NIGHTS POSADAS BARRANCAS
- ✓ 1 NIGHT NUEVO CASAS GRANDES
- ✓ HOTEL PORTERAGE
- ✓ AIRLINE TAXES AND CHARGES
- ✓ ALL TRANSFERS
- ✓ 22 MEALS -9 BREAKFASTS, 7 LUNCHESES, 6 DINNERS
- ✓ SIGHTSEEING AS PER ITINERARY IN MODERN AIR-CONDITIONED MOTOR COACH
- ✓ SERVICES OF ENGLISH-SPEAKING TOUR MANAGER THROUGHOUT
- ✓ SERVICES OF ENGLISH-SPEAKING LOCAL GUIDES
- ✓ ENTRANCE FEES PER ITINERARY

OPTIONAL EXCURSIONS

OPTIONAL: SAN CARLOS DINNER WITH ENTERTAINMENT €39 PP

VISA REQUIRED