

COPPER CANYON, MEXICO

April 10-17, 2017
An Easter Adventure!

Dear Travelers:

In 2017, we will explore Copper Canyon, or Barranca del Cobre, on a memorable train adventure that will bring you dramatic scenery, natural history and Tarahumara Indians on one of the most unique adventures in the Americas!

This Easter expedition offers a unique combination of history of early explorers, contemporary Tarahumara Indian life, and the distinctive natural heritage of the region, plus a special opportunity to be in Copper Canyon at the time of the Tarahumara Indian Easter celebrations.

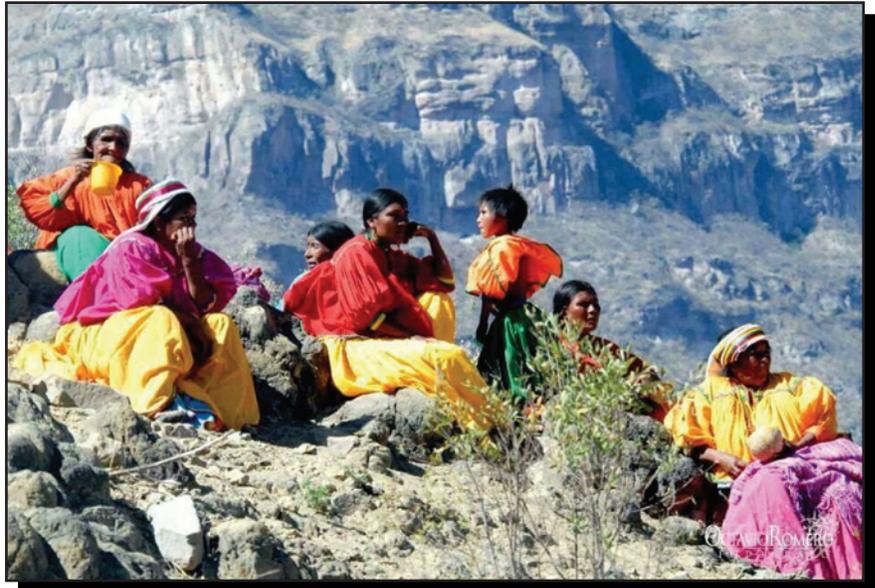
The striking volcanic scenery, bridges, tunnels, and villages will be seen from the "train in the sky" and on the new tram!

The itinerary includes:

- **Tarahumara Easter Festivities** – the largest group of native people in northern Mexico, the Tarahumara live much as they have for the past 400 years. Easter brings fascinating dances celebrating the conflict between good and evil, wrestling matches, vigorous drum beating, and more! Eventually, a colorful effigy of Judas is burned, and devils are rounded up and herded into church.

- **Copper Canyon Complex—Copper, Urique, and Tararecua Canyons**—these rugged canyons are the largest and deepest canyon complex in Mexico. The headwaters rise at 9,000 feet and end at sea level over a distance of less than 150 miles. We will explore the Canyon Complex by train, bus, and the newly constructed **Copper Canyon Tram** which descends a couple thousand feet into the Canyon. See the deep **Urique Canyon** from a dramatic overlook.

- **Chihuahua al Pacifico Train** – completed in 1961 with 408 miles of track, 85 tunnels, and 37 bridges, the train provides a panoramic view of the canyon scenery. The first class, Fiat-built



train and track system is one of the engineering feats of the world.

We hope you will join us this year to discover the wonders of Copper Canyon on this special Easter adventure!

Sincerely,



Margaret M. Betchart
President, Betchart Expeditions Inc.
For AAAS Travels, Sigma Xi Expeditions,
& The Planetary Society

ITINERARY

Day 1 Fly to Los Mochis, Mexico

Depart the USA via Mexico City to Los Mochis, Mexico, situated just inland from the Sea of Cortez. Meet your guide and transfer to the colonial town of El Fuerte, an hour from Los Mochis. Enjoy a welcome dinner. *La Posada del Hidalgo Hotel*.

Day 2 El Fuerte to Bahuichivo

Transfer to El Fuerte train station, to begin our adventure on the Chihuahua al Pacifico "train in the sky." Today's ride is a spectacular introduction to the Copper Canyon complex, a system of steep-sided gorges or "barrancas" which cut through the heart of the mountains of north-western Mexico. This region is also home to 50,000 Tarahumara Indians. The Tarahumara call themselves "Raramuri," meaning foot runner, for their non-stop races which exceed the length of several marathons.



The train passes waterfalls, switch-backs up mountain sides, and cuts through a mile-long tunnel before we disembark at Bahuichivo Station, near the mountain town of Cerocahui.

We will have an afternoon visit to the town and orphanage and walk along the river to look for birds. *Hotel Mission Cerocahui (2 nights)*.

Day 3 Urique Canyon Overlook

Today, we will explore along the rim of the Urique Canyon, one of the deepest and most spectacular canyons. Stop at the overlook of Urique Canyon and see the Tarahumara Cave. In the canyon, the pine-oak forest gradually gives way to Sinaloan thorn scrub with giant cacti, kapok, and tree morning glory. The cliffs consist of thick layers of volcanic ash deposited in cataclysmic eruptions. A remote hamlet, Urique, is nestled in the canyon bottom, 6,000 feet below us, in the quiet isolation of rural Mexico of years past.

Day 4 Cerocahui - Bahuichivo - Copper Canyon

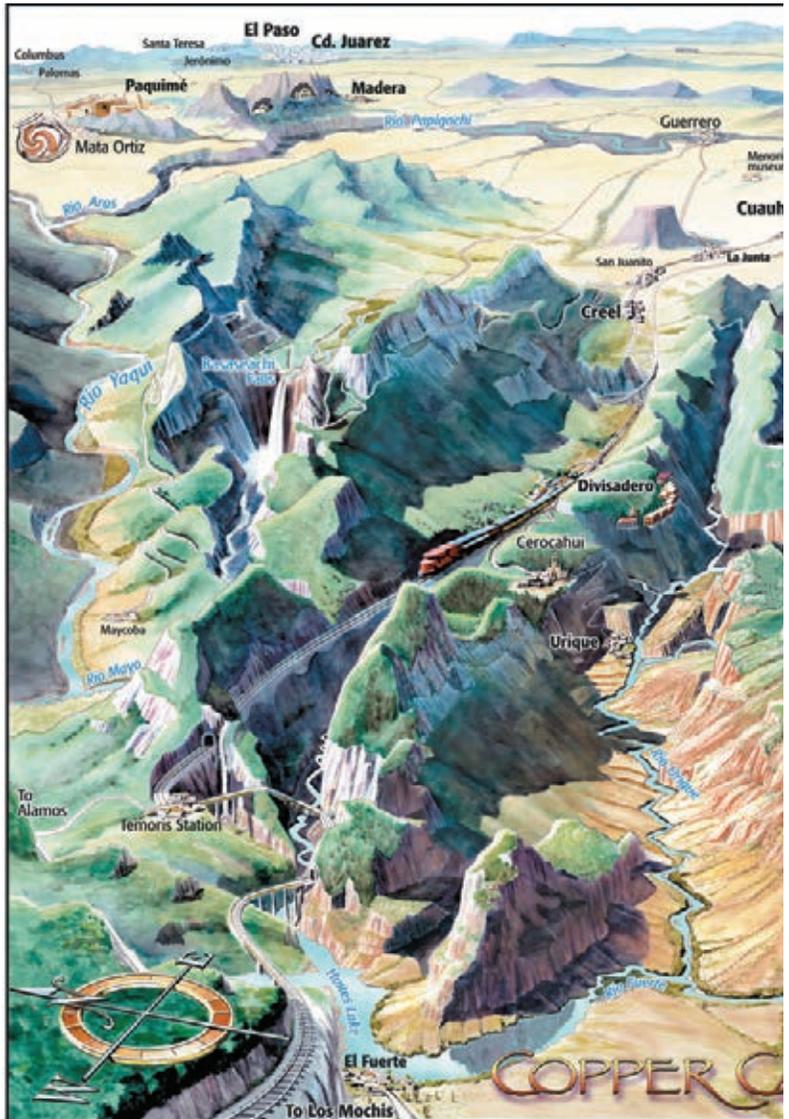
This morning, we will visit the Jesuit mission and boarding schools in Cerocahui established for the children of the Tarahumara who live in remote ranchos. A short mid-day trip on the train will take us through the last of the tropical vegetation and into the Maderan conifer forest. At Posada Station we'll meet the bus for *Posada Barrancas Mirador Hotel*.

We will be at an expansive view overlooking the junction of three canyons: Barrancas Urique, Copper, and Tararecua. After lunch, we will take a walk below the barranca rim, where we may see how the Tarahumara farm and see handicrafts including baskets meticulously woven from pine needles and dolls and animal figures carved from pine bark.

Day 5 Copper Canyon Tram - Creel & Easter Festivities

This morning, we'll depart by coach for Divisadero and the Copper Canyon Tram. We will take the Tram part way down into the canyon - a descent of a couple of thousand feet! We will then continue our coach drive past Copper Canyon overlooks and through green mountain valleys to

COPPER CANYON



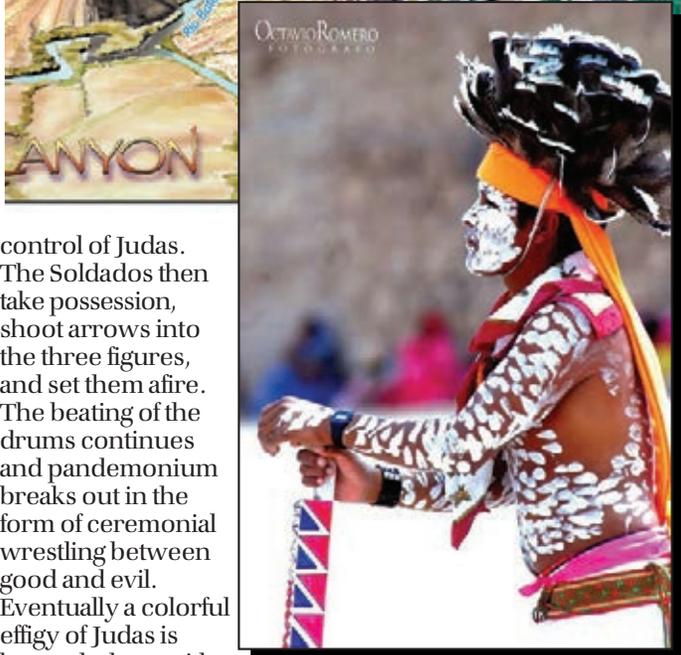
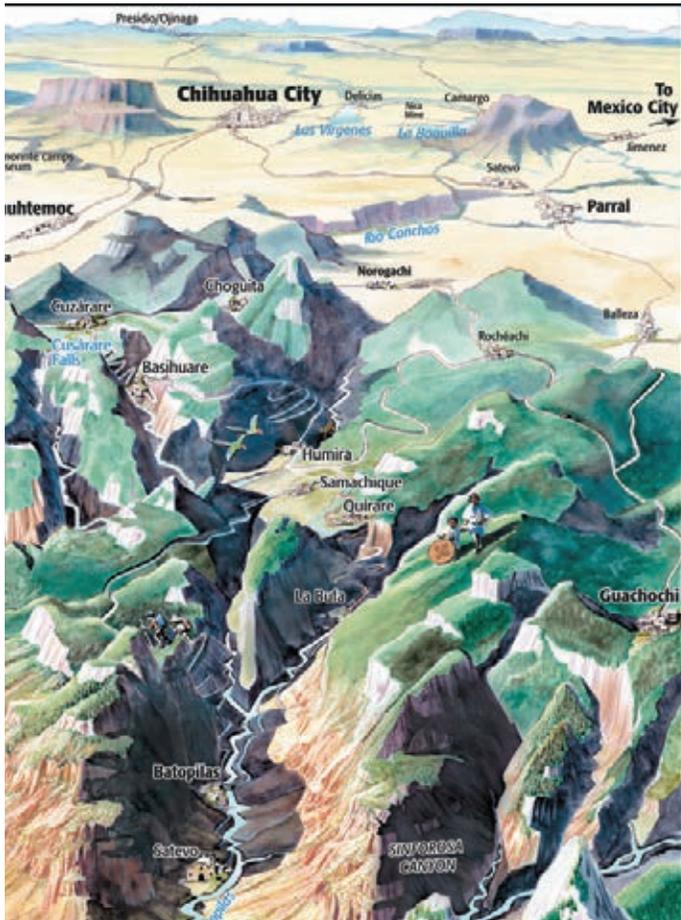
Creel. We will stop at Arareko Lake and visit the San Ignacio Mission Church, the Valley of the Mushrooms and Frogs.

Semana Santa (Easter) is a very important festival time for the Tarahumara and we will see Easter activities in the afternoon and this evening. Indian festivities happen outside the San Ignacio Mission Church. Pharisees and Soldados (soldiers) have captains that lead them. "Tenaches" carry the saint's images and "pascolders" dance with ankle bells to the sound of violins and flutes. Indian ladies pray with the priest for, God willing, a good rainy season and good harvest season for the corn. *La Quinta Mission Hotel, Creel (2 nights)*.

Day 6 Creel - Cusarare & Tarahumara Festivities

Today we will have a combination of sightseeing in Cusarare, a typical Tarahumara Indian village, and seeing the conclusion of the Easter celebration where the raramuris finally defeat the "Spanish Judas Evil" and burn its remains. The Soldados and Pharisees will engage in wrestling matches, battling symbolically for

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control of Judas. The Soldados then take possession, shoot arrows into the three figures, and set them afire. The beating of the drums continues and pandemonium breaks out in the form of ceremonial wrestling between good and evil. Eventually a colorful effigy of Judas is burned, along with other symbols of evil. Devils are rounded up and herded into the church to be cleansed and returned to society as normal people.

After the dramatic activities, we will return to Creel to explore the town, the Tarahumara Museum, and more!

Days 7/8 To Chihuahua & Home

Travel over the Sierra Madre to Cuauhtemoc where the Mennonite settled in the 1920's. See their fields and have a bite of lunch. Continue to Chihuahua. Have a late afternoon visit to Pancho Villa's home and other sites. Farewell dinner! *Chihuahua Hotel.*

LEADERSHIP

Leading this expedition will be **Juan Leon and Cathy Waterman**. Juan has lived and worked in the area of the Copper Canyon all of his life. For the last 20 years, he has been leading educational groups through the canyon and sharing his love of Mexico and of the history and customs of the Tarahumara people with visitors from around the world, including several Betchart groups. Cathy has taken hundreds of people to Copper Canyon to expose them to the geologic wonders, dramatic scenery, quiet streams, and little visited corners of the canyon. She and Juan look forward to sharing their knowledge, enthusiasm, and appreciation of Copper Canyon with you!



Responsibility: Betchart Expeditions Inc., the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), Sigma Xi, the Scientific Research Society, American Chemical Society (ACS), and The Planetary Society act only as agents for the passenger with respect to transportation and hotels, and exercise every care possible. Please contact us for a complete statement of responsibility.

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Photos courtesy of Tauyna DeYoung, Octavio Romero, and Carlos Saenz.

CST# 2036304-40

RESERVATIONS #1456-BEI

Yes! I/We want to join the **Copper Canyon Expedition, April 10-17, 2017**. Please reserve ___ space(s). As a deposit, I/we enclose a check for \$ _____ (\$500 per person) payable to Betchart Expeditions Inc. Trust Account.

Name(s) _____ Age _____

_____ Age _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone: Home (_____) _____

Work (_____) _____

Email Address _____

Citizenship: ___ USA ___ Canada Other: _____

Membership (please circle):

AAAS Sigma Xi ACS Planetary Society

Accommodations Preference:

___ Twin ___ Single ___ Twin Share ___ with a friend or

___ Nonsmoker ___ Smoker ___ assign roommate

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

**Mail To: Copper Canyon 2017
Betchart Expeditions Inc.
17050 Montebello Road
Cupertino, CA 95014-5345**



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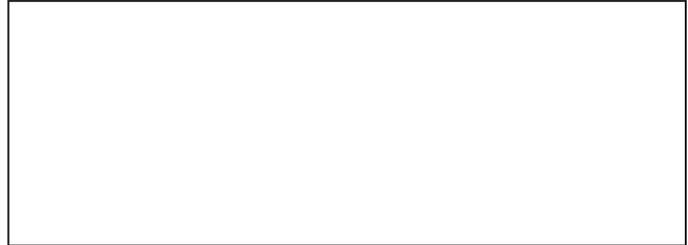
For Members & Friends of AAAS, Sigma Xi, ACS & Planetary Society
17050 Montebello Road, Cupertino, CA 95014-5435



FIRST CLASS



An Easter Adventure!
Explore Copper Canyon, Mexico
April 10-17, 2017



COSTS & CONDITIONS

Expedition Fee: \$3,195 per person twin share for 8 days plus air fare to Los Mochis, Mexico with return from Chihuahua.

Questions? Please call **Marisa Eide, (800) 252-4910** or **(408) 252-4910**, Fax: (408) 252-1444

What to Expect: This expedition is planned for travel enthusiasts who would enjoy exploring Copper Canyon at Easter, learning about prehistoric and contemporary Tarahumara Indian culture and scenic natural areas in Mexico's Copper Canyon. Travel is by Chihuahua al Pacifico train on three days and by motorcoach from Divsadero to Creel and Chihuahua. There will be walks of 1 to 2 miles. Temperatures will range from the low 60's to the low 90's during the day and may be in the 50's during the night. The elevation will range from sea level to 8,000 feet. Most hotels and walking locations will be between 4,500 and 6,500 feet (or less). Please consult your physician if you have any concerns. (No smoking in vehicles, during lectures, or meals.)

Expedition Fee Includes: Land transportation by train, aerial tram, school bus, and motorcoach; accommodations in first class hotels and lodges based on double occupancy of a twin-bedded room with bath; all meals; entrance fees; tips; baggage handling; leadership, administration.

Expedition Fee Does Not Include: Air fare (quoted separately); gratuity to leaders; personal items such as laundry, phone calls, beverages at meals, alcoholic beverages, snacks, personal insurance; or foreign airport departure tax.

Air Fare & Airline Ticketing: Airline flights to Los Mochis will be via Mexico City or other gateways with a return from Chihuahua. Flights and ticketing will be handled by Betchart Expeditions Inc., phone **Taunya at (800) 252-4910**. AIR FARES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

Accommodations: Are based on double occupancy of a twin-bedded room with bath in first class hotels and lodges. Limited single accommodations are available for \$495.



Reservations, Deposits & Payments:

To reserve a place on this expedition, please complete the reservation form along with your check for \$500 payable to *Betchart Expeditions Inc. Trust Account*. Then please mail to:

Copper Canyon 2017
Betchart Expeditions Inc.
17050 Montebello Road
Cupertino, CA 95014-5345

The balance is due 90 days before departure (January 15, 2017).

Cancellations & Refunds:

The initial deposit for the expedition is refundable up to 90 days before departure less a handling fee of \$100 per person. There will be no refund for any cancellation after the 90-day period unless your place can be resold, then only the \$100 handling fee will be withheld. There are no refunds for unused meals, accommodations, or other expedition features.