

MEXICO's COPPER CANYON

2024 Total Solar Eclipse

April 1-9, 2024



Dear Friends:

We invite you to join us for this fascinating adventure to Copper Canyon, Mazatlan and Durango, Mexico to see the Total Solar Eclipse April 8, 2024.

We'll have breathtaking views from our lodge and will take the Tram a mile and a half down into Copper Canyon. We'll then depart on the renowned Chihuahua al Pacific Train for the historic town of El Fuerte near the Sea of Cortez.

A flight or drive will take us from Los Mochis to Mazatlan and Molinillos Resort where we will see the Total Solar Eclipse April 8, 2024.

Throughout our journey we will have leadership by an excellent Betchart naturalist.

We hope you'll join us for the lifetime opportunity to explore Copper Canyon and to see the Total Solar Eclipse!



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MOLINILLOS ITINERARY



Days 1/2 USA to Chihuahua

Depart the USA for Chihuahua, Mexico. Transfer to our Hotel. Welcome briefing and social.

Day 2 To Creel & Divisadero

Our adventure will begin this morning as we head for Copper Canyon, passing through a Mennonite community en route. We'll stop for lunch in Creel near the head of the Barranca del Cobre. Arrive Divisidero and check into *our hotel*, which overlooks Copper Canyon. Explore the canyon rim this afternoon and see some of the Tarahumara people. Gather at sunset for a fantastic view of the canyon. B,L,D

Day 3 Copper Canyon Tram

Rise early to see the sun rise over Copper Canyon, and watch the warmth and brightness of the sun extend into the many arms of this immense canyon complex. Then visit the Copper Canyon Adventure Park where an excellent Swiss-built tram ("teleferico") will take us deep into the canyon, passing over Tarahumara farmsteads en route. If you wish, you may sign up to zip-line on the 7-line system from the rim to the Tram's southern base. Ride the teleferico back up! At leisure to explore further this afternoon. B,L,D

Day 4 Divisidero to coastal El Fuerte

We'll depart on "El Chepe," the Copper Canyon train this morning. It winds through forested mountains and deep ravines on scores of bridges en route to the Pueblo Magico of El Fuerte on the coastal lowlands. El Fuerte was founded in 1564 by Spanish explorers, and is a charming historic community, and trading center for northern Mexico. Meet El Zorro at dinner, and enjoy this historic Hotel. B,L,D

Day 5 El Fuerte to Mazatlan

Today we will either drive or fly from El Fuerte south along the coast to the beach community of Mazatlan. We'll



pass through rich agricultural fields on the coastal lowlands. Arrive Mazatlan and check into our *beach-side Hotel*. Enjoy a walk through historic Old Town Mazatlan or stroll along the coastal malecon. B,L

Day 6 Across the Sierra Madre to the Pueblo Magico of Durango

This morning, we will drive on the super-highway completed in 2013 which crosses the Sierra Madre between coastal Mazatlan and Durango. We will cross the elegant 3,600 foot Baluarte suspension bridge which soars 1,300 feet above the river bottom. It was an extraordinary engineering feat, with 115 bridges and 63 tunnels!

Awaiting us will be the stunning colonial city of Durango, founded in 1563. It is filled with important historic buildings in the Centro Historico and has been recognized as a World Heritage Site. *Gobernador Hotel*. B,L

Day 7 Durango to Molinillos Mountain Resort

We will drive to the excellent Molinillos Mountain Resort (2 nights), which is off the beaten track high in the forested Sierra Madre. We can hike, bike, birdwatch, or relax at this wonderful location in anticipation of the Eclipse tomorrow.

We'll have an Eclipse talk before dinner and then spend the evening star gazing in this incredible dark sky location. B,L,D

Day 8 Total Solar Eclipse

Today will be focused on seeing the Total Solar Eclipse. Get tripods set up in the morning, and prepare for the eclipse! Other Betchart travelers may join us at Molinillos, which will add to the fun! We'll have an Eclipse banquet in celebration! B,L,D

Day 9 Durango to Home

We'll return to Durango this morning for flights home this afternoon. B

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Come join this 9-day adventure to Mexico's Copper Canyon, historic El Fuerte and Mazatlan, to see the Total Solar Eclipse April 8, 2024 at a splendid mountain resort between Mazatlan and Durango.

Our adventure will begin in Chihuahua and the charming mountain town of Creel, near the head of Copper Canyon. A scenic drive will take us to Divisidero at 6,700 feet on the rim of the Copper Canyon. The canyon is several times larger than the Grand Canyon. We will take the aerial Tram down to a high point in the Canyon. Zip-liners can zip about to their heart's content on the 7-line system. We will then take the renowned Copper Canyon train to El Fuerte, crossing over 36 bridges and through 86 tunnels en route. A flight or drive will take us to the beach city of Mazatlan and historic Durango. We will see the Total Solar Eclipse high in the forested mountains of the Sierra.

What to Expect: This expedition will be a wonderful adventure including the Total Solar Eclipse April 8, 2024. To see the eclipse, we will stay at the splendid Molinillos Mountain Resort, off the beaten track high in the Sierra Madre (some passengers will stay in historic Durango and come to Molinillos on Eclipse day). There will be opportunities for hiking, horseback riding, biking, and birdwatching, as well as discovering constellations and stars in an excellent Dark Sky location.

There will also be talks on the eclipse and eclipse photography. Weather should be excellent



for the eclipse, but cloud cover could obscure it. The expedition will be a delight for travelers with a sense of adventure. (No smoking during meals or lectures please.)

Costs:

- Per person twin share \$5,995 plus air fare to Chihuahua, with return from Durango (approximately \$795 from Dallas); plus in-tour air fare of approx. \$395 Los Mochis to Mazatlan.
- Single Supplement \$895 additional. (Limited singles available.)

Expedition Fee Includes: Group transfers; exploration by bus, vans, trains, or tram; accommodations in first class hotels; most meals; group park and entrance fees; tips to drivers; leadership by an excellent Betchart naturalist; administration.

Expedition Fee Does Not

Include: International or in-tour air (quoted separately); independent transfers; 2 lunches; tips to guides, and expedition leader; beverages at meals; optional activities at Copper Canyon (zip line, etc.); alcoholic beverages, snacks, sodas, bottled water, internet use, passport, travel insurance or other personal expenses.

Deposit: \$1,000 per person; final payment is due 150 days before departure (November 1, 2023).

Cancellation Penalty: Deposit is refundable less \$250 per person until 150 days before departure. Within 150 days of departure, payments are nonrefundable. Trip cancellation insurance will be offered.



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For Reservations or a Fully Detailed Brochure
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