

# COPPER CANYON, MEXICO,

April 10-17, 2014

Including the Total Lunar Eclipse  
April 14-15, 2014!

Dear Friends:

In 2014, 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, including the Total Lunar Eclipse over Copper Canyon!

This expedition offers a unique combination of history of early explorers, contemporary Tarahumara Indian life, and the distinctive natural heritage of the region.

Copper Canyon is one of the world's biggest canyon systems. The striking volcanic scenery, bridges, tunnels, and villages are seen from the "train in the sky" and on walks. Today, 50,000 Tarahumara Indians live here much as their ancestors did. Wildlife is a unique blend of northern species at their southern range and tropical species at their northern limit.

The itinerary includes:

- **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 several thousand feet to the Canyon floor.

- **Urique Canyon** — one of the deepest canyons. We will explore Urique Canyon by bus and foot including lunch in Urique village.

- **Tarahumara Indians** — the largest group of native people in northern Mexico, the Tarahumara live much as they have for the past 400 years. Many Tarahumara are seasonally nomadic, living in the canyon bottoms during winter, and moving up to mountain plateaus for the summer. They are superb mountaineers, traversing a 5,000 foot deep canyon in a day to visit relatives or a market on the other rim. Tarahumara men and women are known the world over for their phenomenal endurance foot-races of over 200 miles across mountainous terrain.



- **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 share the wonders of Copper Canyon and the Total Lunar Eclipse!

Sincerely,

Margaret M. Betchart  
President, Betchart Expeditions Inc.

## ITINERARY

### Day 1 – Phoenix to Los Mochis, Mexico

Depart Phoenix for Los Mochis, Mexico, situated just inland from the Sea of Cortez. Meet your Mexican guide and transfer to the colonial town of El Fuerte. Founded in 1564 by the conquistador Francisco de Ibarra, El Fuerte is an hour from Los Mochis. The El Fuerte Valley is agriculturally rich, producing many winter vegetables for North America, as well as sugar cane, corn and fruit. Enjoy a tropical drink, dinner, and trip orientation. *La Choza Hotel (2 nights)*.

### Day 2 – El Fuerte & Mayo Indians

After a tropical breakfast we will depart for a Mayo Indian village along the shore of El Fuerte River. Many Mayo still grow crops of corn, squash, beans, tobacco and maguey from which they make mescal. The Mayo people still speak the Cahita language, using Spanish only for commerce. We'll enjoy a folkloric group, then return to El Fuerte for lunch. El Fuerte was an important Spanish settlement throughout the colonial period. For three centuries, it was the major commercial and trading center on the Spanish mule trail between Guadalajara and the southern United States. Visit the regional museum and take a tranquil walk along the river looking at tropical thorn forest vegetation and colorful birds. The distinctive magpie jay is raucous along with diminutive hummingbirds, and soaring hawks.

### Day 3 – 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 northwestern 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.

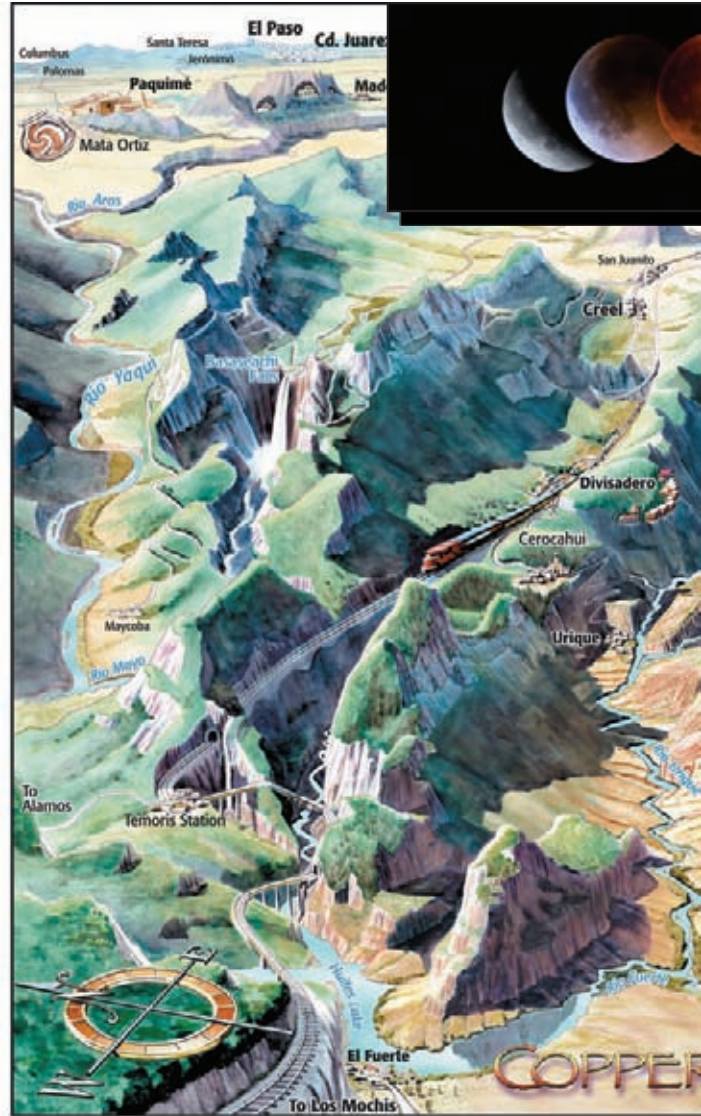
The train passes waterfalls, switch-backs up mountain sides, and cuts through a mile-long tunnel before we disembark at Bahuichivo, near the mountain town of Cerocahui. Afternoon walk along scenic Cerocahui Canyon with picturesque oaks, pines, wildflowers and a mix of tropical and temperate birds. *Hotel Paraiso del Oso (2 nights)*.

## TOTAL LUNAR ECLIPSE

April 14-15, 2014

A Lunar Eclipse occurs when the Sun, Earth, and Moon align in what is known as "syzygy." A Total Lunar Eclipse can only occur the night of a full moon and can last a few hours. A lunar eclipse is so colorful and enjoyable because of the filtering and refracting effect of the Earth's atmosphere. During the phases of the Eclipse the Moon can take on a range of colors from smoky gray, to a rosy pink, to a golden copper, to a bright orange. The color you experience depends on how much atmospheric dust and high elevation clouds are between you and the filtered rays of the Sun. The volcanic eruptions near Mexico City could have a dramatic effect on the color seen during this Eclipse.

# COPPER CANYON



### Day 4 – Urique Canyon

We will have a full day to explore Urique Canyon, as we make an ecological transect by bus and foot. We first ascend through the Sierra Madre pine-oak forest, pausing to peer across awesome cliffs to the floor of Urique Canyon, judged by many to be the deepest and most spectacular. On the descent to Urique village, 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. The remote hamlet of Urique, nestled in the canyon bottom 6,000 feet below the rim, embodies the quiet isolation of rural Mexico of years past.

### Day 5 – Cerocahui & Total Lunar Eclipse

Spend the morning walking through pine-oak forest beneath towering rhyolite spires. Visit the Jesuit mission and boarding schools established for the children of the Tarahumara who live in remote ranchos. Our afternoon train trip will take us through the last of the tropical vegetation and into the Maderan conifer forest. The hotel is a few minutes walk from an expansive vista overlooking the junction of three canyons: Barrancas Urique, Copper, and Tararecua. After lunch take a walk below the barranca

# YON, MEXICO



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. This evening, we will see the Total Lunar Eclipse in all its glory! Depending on atmospheric conditions, the Moon surface may be gray, rosy or golden in color. In Mexico, the Lunar Eclipse begins on April 14 and will continue into the early hours on April 15. *Mansion Tarahumara.*

### Day 6 – Copper Canyon Tram

If not too busy in their fields, local Tarahumara may demonstrate a traditional dance, as well as their ball game of "arahipa," which involves kicking a hardwood ball miles through the countryside. We will stop along the way at Divisadero to take the new Copper Canyon Tram to the

canyon floor—a descent of several thousand feet! Continue through green mountain valleys to Creel, where many Tarahumara come to trade. *Best Western Creel Lodge.*

### Days 7/8 – Chihuahua to Home

Travel over the Sierra Madre to Cuauhtemoc. Enjoy lunch prepared by a Mennonite family. Afternoon arrival in Chihuahua. Farewell dinner and folkloric dances. *Palacio del Sol Hotel.* On Day 8, fly to Phoenix for the end of the expedition.



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CST# 2036304-40

**RESERVATIONS** #1329

**Yes!** I/We want to join the **Copper Canyon Lunar Eclipse Expedition, April 10-17, 2014.** 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 \_\_\_\_\_

Membership (please circle):

AAAS    Sigma Xi    ACS    Planetary Society

Accommodations Preference:

\_\_\_ Twin    \_\_\_ Single    \_\_\_ Share (with a friend)  
 \_\_\_ Share (assign a roommate)  
 \_\_\_ Nonsmoker    \_\_\_ Smoker

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

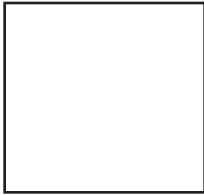
**Mail To: Copper Canyon Lunar Eclipse 2014  
 Betchart Expeditions Inc.  
 17050 Montebello Road  
 Cupertino, CA 95014-5345**



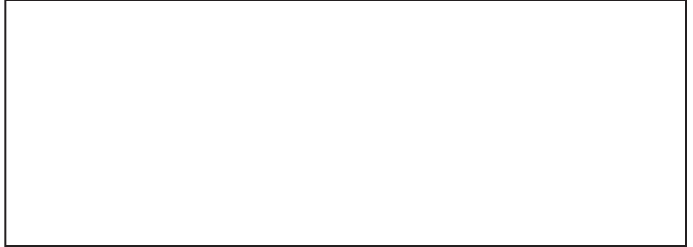
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**FIRST CLASS**



*See the Total Lunar Eclipse!  
Explore Copper Canyon, Mexico  
April 10-17, 2014*

## COSTS & CONDITIONS

**Expedition Fee:** \$2,995 per person twin share for 8 days plus air fare of approximately \$725 per person plus tax from Phoenix, Arizona.

**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 seeing the Total Eclipse of the Moon over Copper Canyon, learning about prehistoric and contemporary Tarahumara Indian culture and scenic natural areas in Mexico's Copper Canyon. Travel is by Chihuahua al Pacifico train, school bus, and motorcoach. 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 a train ride that reaches 8,071 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:** Air fare quoted is based on a group fare from Phoenix to Los Mochis and from Chihuahua to Phoenix as of June 3, 2013. Group flights and ticketing will be handled by Betchart Expeditions Inc. **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. Paraiso del Oso is rustic and in a rural setting. If you do not have a roommate, or we cannot assign one, you must pay the extra cost of a single.

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

**Betchart Expeditions Inc.  
17050 Montebello Road  
Cupertino, CA 95014-5435**

The balance is due 60 days before departure (Feb. 10, 2014).

**Cancellations & Refunds:** The initial deposit for the expedition is refundable up to 60 days before departure less a handling fee of \$100 per person. There will be no refund for any cancellation after the 60-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.