



## TRIP ITINERARY

**MEXICO: COPPER CANYON**

**TYPE: ALL-MOUNTAIN**

**BEST OF THE SIERRAS AND CANYONS – 9 DAYS, 8 NIGHTS**

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## TRIP DETAILS

*Bigger views than the Grand Canyon, an interesting culture and big rides in a varied landscape. Ride and explore with local pioneers.*

## 2008 DATES

*Saturday March 1 to Sunday March 9, 2008*

*Saturday November 8 to Sunday 16, 2008*

**LAND COST** \$2295 Canadian

**JOINING IN** Chihuahua City, Mexico

## ITINERARY

The following is a general outline for Mexico Copper Canyon trip.

### **DAY 1, (MARCH 1 / NOVEMBER 8) – ARRIVE IN CHIHUAHUA CITY**

Welcome to Mexico! Upon arrival we'll unpack our bikes and spend a night in Chihuahua City.

### **DAY 2, (MARCH 2 / NOVEMBER 9) – TRANSFER AND RIDE CREEL**

Following breakfast, we drive 3 hours into the high Sierra Tarahumara leaving the deserts below and arriving in Creel just in time for an afternoon ride of local singletrack of La Onza and Cristo Rey. Tonight we stay in our hotel and cabins in Creel. Today's ride: 2-4 hr ride; 20+ km (12 + miles), 95% singletrack, 5% dirt roads. Of course you could ride more if you wanted.

### **DAY 3, (MARCH 3 / NOVEMBER 10) – RIDE CREEL**

Today we can choose from an innumerable number of singletrack loops, from high mesas on top of the continental divide, to the Valley of the Monks slickrock and spires, Arecko Lake and Spanish missions. You can choose to ride big, medium or little. Tonight we stay in our hotel and cabins in Creel. Today's ride: 3-6 hr ride; 35+ km (21+ miles); 85% singletrack, 15% dirt roads). Of course you could ride more if you wanted.

### **DAY 4, (MARCH 4 / NOVEMBER 11) - RIDE CREEL**

We'll venture to a new zone today on double and singletrack to the Tararecua Canyon Overlook with optional extension through local rancho Basirecota. Again, you can choose to ride big, medium or little. Tonight we stay in our hotel and cabins in Creel. Today's ride: 3-6 hr ride, 40+ km (25+ miles); 50% 2 track, 40% singletrack, 10% pavement. Of course you could ride more if you wanted.

**DAY 5, (MARCH 5 / NOVEMBER 12) – TRANSFER AND RIDE THE CANYONS**

This morning we drive 2 hrs through upper reaches of Cusarare and Urique Canyons to reach the Batopilas road turnoff at La Casita. Our ride rolls on a rough dirt road for a few hours passing rural Tarahumara villages until we reach the Batopilas Canyon rim at Quirare where we'll have a picnic lunch. From there it's a short out and back ride on La Estrella Trail along canyon rim with views of Batopilas river far below. Then we drop 1750 meters to an abandoned mining settlement of La Bufa where we stay in open air porches, tents and bunkrooms. Expect hearty food, fresh bread and a great setting from American ex-pats Sherry and David Mendoza. Today's ride: 4-6 hr ride, 40+ km (25+ miles); 85% dirt road, 15% single track.

**DAY 6, (MARCH 6 / NOVEMBER 13) – RIDE LA BUFA TO BATOPILAS**

This morning it's a rolling descent to the 17<sup>th</sup> Century mining town of Batopilas with a few chances for a swim along the route as we follow the Batopilas River. This morning's ride: 25 km (15 miles), 2-3 hr ride, 100% dirt road. This afternoon we ride to Lost Cathedral of Satevo. Tonight we stay in Batopilas at the hotel Real de las Minas. This afternoons ride: 14 km round trip (9 miles), 1.5 – 2 hrs ride, 100% dirt road.

**DAY 7, (MARCH 7 / NOVEMBER 14) – RIDE OUT OF THE CANYON**

Riders have the opportunity to take on grand challenge of pedaling out of the canyon, which if completed delivers 2500 meters (8202 feet) of climbing and 850 meters (2788 feet) of downhill over 65 km (40 miles). We'll leave early to beat the heat. Vehicles will depart Batopilas a little later and pick up stragglers if they need it. Once we've regained the pavement at La Casita, it's a 1.5 hr drive to Cusarare where we overnight in the rustic luxury of the Copper Canyon Lodge.

**DAY 8, (MARCH 8 / NOVEMBER 15) – RIDE CUSARARE/CREEL, TRANSFER TO CHIHUAHUA CITY**

After a morning ride in Cusarare/Creel areas with visits to the Cusarare waterfall and mission centre we'll jump in the trucks and transfer 3 hours to Chihuahua City. This mornings ride: 2 hr ride, 25 km (15 miles), singletrack. After taking apart the bikes we'll go for an evening walk about city with opportunities to visit Poncho Villa museum, State Government Palace, Cathedral followed by final banquet feast. Chance to catch an evening disco too if you're feeling frisky. Overnight Chihuahua City.

**DAY 9, (MARCH 9 / NOVEMBER 16) – FLY HOME**

Today we drive you to the Chihuahua City International Airport for your flight home.

\* During the whole trip, the total elevation ranges from 2200-2800 meters. (7217 feet to 9186 feet)

## DETAILS

### LAND COST

\$2295 Canadian

A single supplement is available: \$275 Canadian

### WHAT'S INCLUDED?

- Expert Leadership
- Accommodation in hotels and cabins
- All meals except two dinners
- Airport pick-up / drop-off
- All transportation
- Detailed pre-departure information
- Big Mountain t-shirt

### GROUP SIZE: 6-12

### WHAT'S NOT INCLUDED?

Airfare; personal travel and medical insurance; tipping to guides; airport taxes and excess baggage charges (if any); your bike and related equipment needed to ride; personal items like drinks and snacks. Alcohol is not included.

### ACTIVITY LEVEL

The **technical ability** required for Copper Canyon is rated as 'intermediate and above.' In other words, we ride a combination of double track and singletrack. Some sections are technical though so if you don't feel comfortable, talk to us before signing up. For **fitness level**, participants must be fit to very fit. All participants must train accordingly to fully enjoy this trip.

### BIKE AND EQUIPMENT

The perfect bike for this trip is mid weight to light weight dual suspension with disk brakes. A hard-tail would also suffice. All participants are required to have their **bikes in excellent working order** before the trip begins. We will send you a detailed list of required equipment and clothing before departure.

### LODGING AND FOOD

In Copper Canyon we will stay in hotels each night. We are confident that you'll be happy with the properties that we've chosen. We believe in choosing comfortable accommodation with character, close to singletrack, with views unparalleled. We make sure that everyone is well fed. The area is not renowned for its cuisine but we can count on great quantities of fresh and hearty fare: plenty of eggs, tortillas, some local fruits, guacamole, chips, local cheese, beef, tacos, enchiladas, burritos, rice and bean – oh yes, beans are on every plate. Please let us know if you have special diet needs.

**CLIMATE**

We'll be heading to Copper Canyon during a great time of the year where the temperature is perfect for riding. Expect the temperature to dip down to 15 celcius (60 f) at night, cool mornings and days that be as hot as 25 celcius (77 f) and even hotter at the bottom of the canyons. The area is very arid and rain is very rare.

**THE NEXT STEP**

Call us toll free at 1-866-894-0220, or email at [info@ridebig.com](mailto:info@ridebig.com) to confirm that there is space on this trip. Then, fill out our secure online registration form on our website. Make sure that you have read and understand our Terms and Conditions and Waiver. Upon booking, we will send you detailed pre-departure information to make sure that you are well prepared for the adventure ahead.

**WHY BIG MOUNTAIN IS YOUR CHOICE**

Big Mountain Bike Adventures is the pioneer for performance XC, all-mountain, DH and freeride mountain biking adventures. We know that to find the very best trails, you have to ride with locals. All of our trips are designed in part by local riders and often guided with local riders and professional Big Mountain guides. We aim to provide safe, quality trips and the best customer service to our participants.

**REFERENCES**

We'll be happy to provide you with references of satisfied past travellers.

**QUESTIONS**

Feel free to call us at 1.866.894.0220 or email [info@ridebig.com](mailto:info@ridebig.com) if you have any questions. We are here to help!

**CONTACT US**

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