



COPPER MOON
TRAVELS

INTO THE LANDS OF THE RARAMURI – An Immersive Semana Santa Observation

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IMPORTANT FLIGHT INFORMATION

FROM MEXICO CITY:

There is a Volaris flight that departs Mexico City at 6:05 AM arriving at 7:25 AM in Los Mochis. Please book this flight if you are flying on Sunday March 28, 2027.

FROM GUADALAJARA:

There is a Volaris flight that departs Guadalajara City at 7:14 AM arriving at 7:51 AM in Los Mochis. Please book this flight if you are flying on Sunday March 28, 2027

Tijuana, Mexicali and Monterrey Airports also have direct flights to Los Mochis.

If you are unable to arrive by 8:00 AM on March 28, 2027, please arrive one day early. Your guides will already be in Los Mochis, so we can meet for dinner if you are here on time. Please ask us for assistance with your hotels if you would like to stay where we are.

DEPARTING FLIGHT FROM CHIHUAHUA CITY:

Please book whatever flight makes the most sense for you. You can fly home at anytime on March 31, 2027. Keep in mind, most restaurants do not open for breakfast in Mexico until 8:00 AM, so if you have an early flight, you may want to pick up a yogurt and snacks for the morning.

TOUR ITINERARY

DATES: March 21- 31, 2027

NIGHTS/DAYS: 10 Nights / 11 Days

DAY ONE: SUNDAY MARCH 21, 2027 – MAYO-YOREME BEGINNINGS

HOTEL LOCATION: EL FUERTE, SINALOA

MORNING:

Welcome to Los Mochis and entrance of Mexico's iconic Copper Canyon. Please be at the airport this morning by 8:00 AM. If you are staying in Los Mochis on Saturday March 27, 2027 we will pick you up this morning before departing for the airport to pick up the rest of the guests. We will have breakfast at Pan Springs, a popular local breakfast and brunch spot featuring eggs Benedict Norteños, fresh orange juice, cinnamon rolls and more. From there, we are off to visit some local indigenous communities to observe some of their rituals and traditions that commence today, being Domingo de Ramos, which marks the start of Semena Santa.

AFTERNOON:

This afternoon we will observe cultural rituals before heading to our quaint hotel in El Fuerte for Check-In. We are working with our driver to confirm our lunch plans, but will make sure we get lunch.

EVENING:

Dinner is scheduled for 6:30 PM with some comical entertainment. This evening, rest and relax early as we will have an early start tomorrow.

ABOUT DOMINGO DE RAMOS IN THIS REGION:

Among the Mayo-Yoreme people of northern Sinaloa and southern Sonora, **Domingo de Ramos (Palm Sunday)** marks the formal beginning of Holy Week and the start of some of the most important ceremonies in their annual ritual calendar. Rather than being solely a Catholic observance, it is a unique blend of Indigenous Yoreme beliefs and Christian traditions that developed over centuries. During this period, ceremonial centers become the focus of community life as families, dancers, musicians, and traditional authorities gather to begin the reenactment of the Passion of Christ through a distinctly Yoreme worldview.

One of the most striking features of Domingo de Ramos is the appearance of the **Fariseos** (also called **Judíos** or **Chapayekas**), masked ceremonial participants who represent disorder, temptation, and the forces opposed to Christ. Wearing handcrafted masks made from leather or wood and adorned with tenábaris (ankle rattles made from butterfly cocoons), they process through the community accompanied by drums, rattles, and traditional music. Their role is not simply theatrical; they symbolize the eternal struggle between chaos and order, a concept deeply rooted in Yoreme spirituality.

Throughout Holy Week, ceremonies continue with processions, dances, prayers, and communal gatherings. Traditional performances such as the **Pascola and Venado** (Deer) dances help maintain the balance between the spiritual and natural worlds. The ceremonies culminate on Holy Saturday when the Fariseos remove, burn, or discard their masks, symbolizing purification, renewal, and the triumph of good over evil. For the Mayo-Yoreme, Domingo de Ramos is therefore much more than the blessing of palms—it is the opening chapter of a sacred cycle that preserves cultural identity, ancestral knowledge, and community cohesion.

MEALS:

Breakfast & Lunch included. Dinner is separate

DAY TWO: MONDAY MARCH 22, 2027 – THE LEGENDARY CHEPE EXPRESS HOTEL LOCATION: CANYON RIM, CHIHUAHUA

MORNING:

This morning, please have your luggage in the lobby by 7:30 AM, as we will load the van before having breakfast. We will depart the hotel by 8:30 AM for the train station, boarding with First Class Tickets for access to the open-air caboose and restaurant car.

The Chepe Express is Mexico's premier passenger train journey, traveling through the spectacular Copper Canyon region between Los Mochis, Sinaloa, and Creel, Chihuahua. Following a historic rail route completed in 1961, the train crosses dozens of bridges and tunnels while traversing dramatic canyons, mountains, rivers, and pine forests of the Sierra Madre Occidental. The modern Chepe Express offers panoramic windows, comfortable seating, dining services, and access to some of northern Mexico's most stunning landscapes, making it one of the world's great scenic railway experiences and an important gateway to the culture of the Indigenous Rarámuri (Tarahumara) people.

AFTERNOON:

Lunch on the train is included. We will spend the majority of the day enjoying the fabulous views, as we traverse the Sierra Tarahumara, including some great engineering feats along the way. We will arrive at the train station at approximately 4:15 PM. We will be required to wait for about 20 mins while the train unloads luggage. From there, we will board a bus to our hotel, which overlooks the canyon rim with breathtaking views, sunsets and a magical morning sunrise.

EVENING:

Our dinner reservation is at the hotel, so guests can relax in your rooms or hotel lobby, which features a bar and a beautiful patio filled with hummingbird feeders and lovely views.

MEALS:

All meals are included. Drinks are separate. Please bring cash for your drinks, as they will only issue one bill for our group.

DAY THREE: TUESDAY MARCH 23, 2027 – CULTURE IN POWERFUL LANDSCAPES**HOTEL LOCATION: CANYON RIM, CHIHUAHUA****MORNING:**

We will request the restaurant has coffee for sunrise for those who would like to run down early for a hot cup to enjoy as the sun appears from behind the canyon walls. We will meet for breakfast at 8:30 AM, departing for the Divisadero Adventure Park by 9:30 AM. The Adventure Park features a tram car that goes across the canyon, and an awesome zip-line for the adventurous adrenaline-rush lovers. There is a colourful handicraft market here, with the famous pine needle baskets and vibrant traditional skirts and blouses worn by Raramuri women.

AFTERNOON:

We will have lunch at the Adventure Park before enjoying a lovely hike along the canyon rim. For those who struggle with hills, this is the perfect hike for you, as it's flat and even ground. We will hike to the old train station to enjoy the fantastic scenery, concluding with another small market before we board the bus and head back to the resort.

This afternoon, enjoy a fun basket-weaving class with the local Raramuri women. It is very difficult but instructive as to how these baskets are held together. Our last group didn't manage to weave anything, but we sure enjoyed a lot of laughs with our teachers. This is a fun activity that gives-back to the local women, many of whom walk for 2.5 hours each way, every day, to sell their baskets here.

EVENING:

Our dinner reservation is in the hotel, so we can relax and enjoy another lovely evening visiting. Our guide is always eager to hike in the vicinity, so those who love to hike can do so with a guide who knows the way.

MEALS:

Breakfast and Dinner Included. Lunch is separate.

DAY FOUR: WEDNESDAY MARCH 24, 2027

HOTEL LOCATION: CANYON RIM, CHIHUAHUA

MORNING:

Please have your luggage ready by 7:30 AM so we can ask the hotel staff to bring them to the van while we have breakfast. We would like to depart by 8:15 AM this morning, as we have a longer day today. We are heading to a small Raramuri community this morning to visit their mission and observe any rituals that may be taking place.

AFTERNOON:

Upon arriving in the village, we will talk to the community leaders to gain permission to observe any of the rituals taking place today. The Raramuri are not tied to time-schedules as we are used to in our culture, as they respond intuitively to how they feel. This means it is impossible to guarantee that we will be present during any dances today, but we will have the chance to visit the mission and learn about their community. We are bringing a bag lunch for today, so you can eat in the van at leisure.

We will depart for our eco-resort no later than 2:30 PM. The commute will take about 2 hours, and we will need to settle-in before dark. The resort is rustic and primitive, but the views are hands-down the very best in all of the Copper Canyon. We would like you to enjoy the magical sunset and sunrise, as this place is filled with magic.

EVENING:

For those who like trout, the resort has their own trout farm, which is on-site with a waterfall-fed stream that flows through it, keeping it fresh and pristine. The kitchen staff will catch your trout and cook it fresh, served with homemade blue corn tortillas and delicious salsas. This evening we will enjoy exploring the kitchen, as it features a pre-Hispanic granary and several mortar and pestles and other ancient artefacts that were found right here on the property. Due to the rustic nature of this resort, we will only stay here for one night.

MEALS:

All meals are included. Drinks are separate. We will organize a trip to a liquor store while staying at the Canyon Rim so you can bring some supplies, as this resort is very remote.

DAY FIVE: THURSDAY MARCH 25, 2027 – THE AMAZING DESCENT WITH A VIEW HOTEL LOCATION: BATOPILAS, CHIHUAHUA

MORNING:

This morning we will enjoy a leisurely breakfast and departure so guests have time to hike down to the waterfall and take in the mesmerizing views. This will give the staff time to bring our luggage up to the van. We will depart at 11:00 AM.

AFTERNOON:

Most of our afternoon will be spent commuting to Batopilas. We will make a short stop at a wonderful look-out point where artisans will be selling beadwork and other handicrafts. We will have a box lunch today, consisting of Mennonite cheese, salami, bread and some other treats.

EVENING:

We will check into our lovely hotel in Batopilas before heading to Restaurant Carolina for dinner.

MEALS:

All Meals Included. Drinks are separate.

**DAY SIX: FRIDAY MARCH 26, 2027 – RITUAL DANCES OF THE RARAMURI
HOTEL LOCATION: BATOPILAS, CHIHUAHUA****MORNING:**

We will meet this morning at 8:00 AM for breakfast at Restaurant Maria Meche before we head out for a walking tour of Batopilas. Nestled deep within the Copper Canyon region of the Sierra Madre Occidental in the state of Chihuahua, Batopilas was founded in 1708 after Spanish explorer José de la Cruz discovered exceptionally rich silver deposits in the area. The town quickly grew into one of the most important silver-mining centers in colonial Mexico, attracting investors, miners, and merchants from around the world. During the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, its mines produced enormous wealth, and at its peak Batopilas was among the most prosperous mining communities in North America. In the late 1800s, American entrepreneur Alexander Robey Shepherd modernized the town, introducing infrastructure and helping make it one of the first communities in Mexico to have electricity. Although the mining boom eventually declined, Batopilas retains its historic haciendas, colonial architecture, and mining heritage, and today it is celebrated as a Pueblo Mágico and one of the most fascinating destinations in the Copper Canyon region.

AFTERNOON:

At around 2:30 PM, we will depart Batopilas for a nearby church where the Raramuri will be gathering for traditional protocols related to Semana Santa rituals. The traditional blessings that precede these observations include blessing instruments that will be used, gifts that are brought as offerings, offering tesquina (a corn-based beer-like beverage) to honoured guests and so-on. We will stay here to observe for a couple of hours.

PHOTOGRAPHS: When we observed this ceremony for the first time, the Raramuri authorities only permitted the guides to take a few photographs and some short film but prohibited guests from taking any photos or video with cell phones or cameras. We will be sure to make sure we share what photos we do take with you, as this protocol must be respected.

EVENING:

We will return to Restaurant Maria Mecha this evening for dinner at 7:00 PM.

MEALS:

Breakfast Included and Dinner Included

**DAY SEVEN: SATURDAY MARCH 27, 2027 – DANCE OF GOOD VS EVIL
HOTEL LOCATION: BATOPILAS, CHIHUAHUA**

MORNING:

This morning we will have breakfast at 8:00 AM at Maria Meche before returning to the Raramuri church, where we will spend a few hours witnessing more of their unique ceremonies. Timing will depend on how the community is feeling, but in general, the visuals and rituals are very interesting.

AFTERNOON:

We are leaving this afternoon free, due to the timing of ceremonies in this region. Depending on what is happening, guests may choose to stay at the church site or return to Batopilas for some down-time.

EVENING:

We are leaving dinner open, as Batopilas only has two real options, as of our last visit. This also gives guests the opportunity to live life on your own terms this afternoon.

MEALS:

Breakfast is included. All other meals are separate.

**DAY EIGHT: SUNDAY MARCH 28, 2027 – CUSARARE MISSION HOTEL
LOCATION: CREEL, CHIHUAHUA**

MORNING:

This morning, please bring your luggage to the lobby by 7:45 AM so we can load the van and say farewell to our hosts. We will head to Restaurant Maria Mecha one last time for their amazing offerings before we depart Batopilas.

AFTERNOON:

We will stop at the Cusarare Ejido this afternoon, on our way to Creel. Upon arriving in Creel, we can check in and enjoy a walking tour of the small, charming village. We will have a bag lunch today to enjoy during our commute.

EVENING:

This evening we will have dinner at 7 PM.

MEALS:

Breakfast & Lunch Included.

DAY NINE: MONDAY MARCH 29, 2027 – JESUITS & THE MARK THEY MADE**HOTEL LOCATION: CREEL, CHIHUAHUA****MORNING:**

This morning we will have breakfast at 8:00 AM before departing for an old Mission with significant importance. The Sigochochi Mission, located in the highlands of the Sierra Tarahumara in Chihuahua, was established by Jesuit missionaries during the seventeenth century as part of their efforts to evangelize and work alongside the Indigenous Rarámuri (Tarahumara) people. The mission became an important religious, cultural, and community center, serving scattered mountain settlements throughout the region. Like many Jesuit missions in the Sierra Madre, it combined European religious traditions with local Indigenous influences and played a key role in education, agriculture, and community life. Today, the mission church remains a significant landmark, reflecting the enduring legacy of the Jesuit presence in the Copper Canyon region and the resilience of Rarámuri culture, which continues to thrive in the surrounding communities. We will visit this interesting site this morning.

AFTERNOON:

This afternoon we will enjoy a relaxing canoe ride on Lake Arareko, complete with a nice picnic by the lakeside.

EVENING:

This evening marks the final supper for our group, unless everyone decides to join us for our 3 night extension to visit Casas Grandes in Northern Chihuahua. We hope you will, as you will probably only be in this area once in a lifetime, and the offerings of Casas Grandes region are profoundly interesting. (Please check our 13 Nights Copper Canyon tour to read about the extra 3 nights).

MEALS:

Breakfast and Lunch included.

DAY TEN: TUESDAY MARCH 30, 2027 – BOUND FOR CHIHUAHUA CITY**HOTEL LOCATION: CHIHUAHUA CITY, CHIHUAHUA****MORNING:**

Please have your luggage ready by 7:45 AM. We will help get your luggage to the van, before having breakfast and bidding farewell to this powerful region. This is where our group will split into two groups – those of you are heading to Chihuahua City, while the rest of the group

continues to Madera and Casas Grandes in northern Chihuahua to further explore the states history and archaeology.

AFTERNOON:

The Mennonites of Cuauhtémoc, Chihuahua, arrived in Mexico in 1922, when thousands of conservative Mennonite families migrated from Manitoba and Saskatchewan, Canada, seeking to preserve their religious traditions, German-language schools, and exemption from military service. They purchased large tracts of land in the Bustillos Valley near present-day Cuauhtémoc and established the Manitoba and Swift Current colonies, transforming the region into one of Mexico's most productive agricultural areas.

Over the past century, the Mennonites have become an important part of Chihuahua's cultural and economic life, known for their farming, dairy production, and famous Mennonite cheese. While many communities have maintained their traditional language (Plautdietsch), religion, and customs, others have become more integrated into Mexican society. Today, Cuauhtémoc is often described as a place where Mennonite, Mestizo, and Rarámuri cultures coexist, making it one of the most distinctive cultural regions in northern Mexico.

Your group will visit a Mennonite farm today and enjoy a homecooked meal for lunch. From there, commute to the city of Chihuahua!

EVENING:

Check into your hotel and head for dinner at The Great American Steak House, which is a Chihuahua City restaurant famed for incredible beef and fabulous service.

MEALS:

Breakfast and lunch Included. Dinner is separate.

DAY ELEVEN: WEDNESDAY, MARCH 31, 2027 – HOME SWEET HOME

HOTEL LOCATION: N/A

MORNING:

The hotel will arrange a taxi to take you to the airport this morning. Once we know who is flying home today, we can put you in touch so you can commute together, if possible.

MEALS:

All meals are separate

WE HOPE YOU ENJOY THIS JOURNEY AND WILL JOIN US AGAIN!