

NORTHWEST CHIHUAHUA TRIP ITINERARY

Trip Dates: November 11-14, 2019 or January 13-16, 2020

Northwest Chihuahua, Mexico. This four-day trip includes the United Nations World Heritage site of Paquimé, the most important archaeological site in northwest Mexico and the American Southwest., the pottery village of Mata Ortiz, the Mormon settlements of Colonia Juarez and Colonia Dublan, and a side excursion to the cliff dwelling of Olla Cave in the Sierra Madre Occidental. This non-tourist part of Mexico offers a rich cultural mix of Mexicans, Mormons, and Mennonites and the spectacular landscape of the Chihuahuan Desert. Group size 10.

Cost: \$ 650.00 double occupancy; \$720.00 single occupancy
(includes all transportation, tours, hotel in Mexico, entrance fees, and tips)

Day 01—Depart Catalina Inn, Catalina, Arizona at 6:00 a.m., we follow the scenic route to the border via Tombstone and Bisbee, with bathroom/refreshment stops at Benson and Douglas. After obtaining tourist cards and our vehicle permit at Agua Prieta we follow Mexican Highway 2 over a spectacular mountain pass in the northern Sierra Madre Occidental. We will pass through the historic town of Janos, once a refuge for Apache Indians, and continue on to the great archaeological site of Paquimé. After touring the museum and ruins we will check into our hotel in Nuevo Casas Grandes where we will have dinner.

Hotel Hacienda—011-52-636-694-1046

Day 02—Breakfast in the Hotel Hacienda followed by a tour of the Mormon community of Colonia Juarez, and a discussion of Mormon settlement patterns and the agricultural economy of this part of Chihuahua. The rest of the day will be spent in the pottery village of Mata Ortiz, visiting the homes of many artists to learn how the pots are made, painted, and fired. This is a wonderful opportunity to buy beautiful ceramics directly from the potters who made them. If time permits we will visit the Hacienda San Diego, an estate of the cattle and land baron Luis Terrazas, which played role in the Mexican Revolution of 1910.

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Day 03—After breakfast in the Hotel Hacienda we will ascend the Sierra Madre Occidental via a new, paved highway, stopping along the way for beautiful views of the valley of the Rio Palanganas. We will leave the paved highway for 1-mile access road to Olla Cave, one of dozens of cliff dwellings in this part of the Sierra Madre. This site is particularly unique because of the large adobe structure used by the prehistoric inhabitants to store grain. The visit involves a 100 yard walk over bedrock.

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Day 04—After breakfast and check-out of the hotel, we will tour one of the most beautiful neighborhoods of Colonia Dublan and then begin our return journey to the border at Agua Prieta, with a rest stop in Janos. Arrival time at Catalina Inn is approximately 5:00 p.m.

For additional information, contact our tour operator JOHN BEZY
520-825-2451; johnbezyinc@earthlink.net