

PAMACHI BACKPACK

Logistics: Meet at the Urique Canyon rim. Arrive by train at Posada Barrancas; or by bus or driving in Areponapuchi (between Creel and San Rafael). This is a 9 day trip counting the guesthouse stay before and after the hike.

Duration: 7 days

Length: 39 mile loop hike

Elevation change: Appr 5000 ft (1700m) X 4 = 20,000 ft.

Difficulty: Strenuous, including river fords & boulder hopping, some route finding

Expectations: Urique River, Tarahumaran indians, spectacular Copper Canyon scenery, tropical vegetation, rare bird species including Trogon

Day 1: Descend to Urique River (7 miles, descend 5000 ft, 8 hrs) Leaving largest pine conifer forest in Mexico, passing Apachean-Madrean woodland (with over 200 species of scrub oak alone), passing semi arid desert zone, to semi-tropical riparian habitat, where we camp beside the river.

Day 2: Follow Rio Urique upstream to Pamachi trailhead (6 miles, ascend 300 ft, at least 3 river crossings, 7 hrs). Camp at Playa Laja

Day 3: Climb Arroyo (5 miles, ascend appr 4500 ft, 6 hrs). Climb route along arroyo to our campsite by a spring just below Mesa Rohuerachi.

Day 4: Ascend 500 ft, 5 miles, 6 hrs. Climb to mesa, good level trail along rolling hills to Pamachi for lunch. Continue on good trail along rolling hills to camp on flowing creek near Tip-off.

Day 5: Descend exposed ridge to Urique River (5 miles, 5000 ft, 5 hrs). Camp along Rio Urique.

Day 6: Ascend to Tarahumaran rancho Tejisuchi (3 miles, 2000 ft, 4 hrs) Short day of uphill hiking with a lunch stop at an undeveloped hot spring.

Day 7: Ascend to canyon rim (ascend 3000 ft, 8 miles, 8 hours). Long day of steep uphill hiking with lunch at a saddle. Less steep hiking after lunch to guesthouse.