Join us for UTEP’s fifth unforgettable scenic journey to Mexico’s legendary Copper Canyon by motor coach and rail - expanded to include the steepest part of the rail line, lovely colonial El Fuerte within 100 Km of the Sea of Cortez, and an additional night at a second canyon site.

Larger and deeper than the Grand Canyon of Arizona, enjoy many breathtaking panoramic views as we follow the rail line (rated in the top ten best train trips in the world) from heights reaching a little over 7800 feet to nearly sea-level. Experiencing changing climates and stunning locations in the camaraderie of our UTEP family, we find easy hiking and unique birds in the beautiful pine forests, unbelievable grandeur in the Sierra Madre, indigenous Tarahumara crafting their handiwork, and prized Colonial Spanish architecture in lovely El Fuerte.

During this unusual opportunity, we sense Mexico’s past, present and future through our exploration of museums, historical sites, and wonders of nature – all supplemented with educational materials and talks given by our UTEP professor and local guides. A priceless experience for nature lovers, history buffs, and train enthusiasts!

Day 1, Saturday
July 29, 2006
Ciudad Chihuahua - 1 Night
A 9:00am departure from UTEP by motor coach takes us across the border to Cd. Juarez where we process through Mexican Customs and Immigration. A passport valid six months beyond this trip and official photo ID (driver’s license) or a copy of an official birth certificate plus an official photo ID is required for U.S. citizens - others must consult the appropriate embassy or consulate. A stop half-way to Cd. Chihuahua is made for late breakfast or early lunch. Arrival around 2:30pm lets us visit the State and Revolutionary Museums before check-in to the beautiful Palacio del Sol Hotel, centrally located near the zocalo and cathedral. Meals on your own.

Day 2, Sunday
July 30, 2006
Cerocahui - 1 Night
Depart Cd. Chihuahua by train at 6:00am for Cerocahui where we stay at the comfortable Hotel Mision located near the rim of the Canyon. Arrival mid-afternoon allows time for a leisurely walk or bird-watching before the included dinner.

Day 3, Monday
July 31, 2006
El Fuerte - 2 Nights
A tour to the look-out point for Urique Canyon takes us to view the deepest part of the canyon. The rest of the day is at leisure until 3:00pm when we board the train to El Fuerte, descending over the steepest portion of the rail line to the coastal plain. Breakfast and lunch included.

Day 4, Tuesday
August 1, 2006
Enjoy a walking tour around the center of El Fuerte with our Tour Educator before spending the rest of the day at leisure - perhaps poolside or shopping. Meals on your own.

Day 5, Wednesday
August 2, 2006
Posadas Barrancas Mirador - 2 Nights
Early morning departure for the canyon rim gives us yet another perspective of one of the most famous train rides in the world. Passing through innumerable tunnels and over high trestles, we arrive at Posadas Barrancas Mirador just in time for late lunch. With the Mirador as our home for two nights, there is ample time for easy hiking along the canyon rim, bird watching, and watching the Tarahumara weave their handicrafts. Lunch and dinner included.

Day 6, Thursday
August 3, 2006
Opt for a guided hike down into the canyon, horseback riding, tour of the area, or just relax and enjoy the natural beauty of our surroundings. Breakfast, lunch and dinner included.

Day 7, Friday
August 4, 2006
Palacio del Sol - 1 Night
Following breakfast, time is available for a short walk around the canyon lookout areas and viewing a Tarahumara dance and games demonstration. Our motor coach picks us up for a mid-morning departure to Creel where we have time to explore one of the last frontier towns in Mexico. As you walk the interesting streets, you can shop at Father Ver Planken’s mission store, visit a couple of museums, and have lunch if you like. Motor coach back to Cd. Chihuahua and overnight again at the Palacio del Sol; approximate arrival is 7:00pm. Breakfast included.

Day 8, Saturday
August 5, 2006
Depart by motor coach for El Paso following a tour of the residential and business sectors of Cd. Chihuahua and Government Palace. Arrival time is approximately 5:00pm depending upon traffic and time processing through US Immigration & Customs. A rest stop will be made again for a late lunch. Meals on your own.

ABOUT OUR TRIP EDUCATOR
Robert H. Schmidt, Jr., Ph.D.

Robert H. Schmidt, Jr., Ph.D. has more than thirty-five years teaching at the university level and leading educational groups to Northern Mexico and the Sierra Madre Occidental. Rob, a physical geographer is currently Professor Emeritus, Department of Geological Sciences, University of Texas at El Paso. Widely published and traveled, he officially mapped most of the Sierra Madre Occidental, and was first to accurately measure Basaseachi Falls. An exhibit of Rob’s photos giving more than a thirty year perspective of the Chihuahuan Desert, opened the Chihuahuan Project: Faces and Places of the Chihuahuan Desert at Chamizal National Memorial in April, 2003 and later exhibited at the Centennial Museum, University of Texas at El Paso. This project, funded by the National Park Service, National Endowment for the Humanities and other supporters is scheduled to be shown throughout the western U.S. and Mexico. Rob’s intimate knowledge of the area that we will visit, makes him indispensable to understanding this region and its people.
CHIHUAHUA and the COPPER CANYON:
From El Paso to El Fuerte
A Small Group Experience

Sponsored by
The Alumni Association
University of Texas at El Paso

Trip Educator
Robert H. Schmidt, Jr., Ph.D.

July 29 - August 5, 2006
Saturday - Saturday