

Sonoran River Missions

March 10th – 13th, 2023

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In this lush, green & picturesque country, the Jesuits & Franciscans built many churches. In pre-Hispanic times, the Opata Peoples were the first settlers. You will get acquainted with the blend of these cultures and the lifestyle of the people who developed the ranches.

7:00 Departing Green Valley, a 3 1/2 hr drive, taking the route through Sierra Vista, crossing at Naco. Following the new divided highway to Cananea, south to the mission in Arizpe, built in the 17th century with the altar of the **Virgin Loreto**, where Captain Juan de Anza, founder of San Francisco, was the first governor. It is a beautiful drive following the Sonoran River to Banamichi where the rocks, mountains, river & vegetation form a contrast of incredible colors.

Hotel Los Arcos (www.losarcossonora.com), owned & built 12 yrs ago by Tom & Lynn Matthews from Colorado, is modern with a lovely interior courtyard & restaurant. After lunch & enjoying this relaxing ambiance, enjoy a leisurely walk to Nuestra Senora de Loreto, founded in 1639. You will find this community friendly & safe as our guide, Beto, leads us through the history of this lovely town.



Sat: A visit to a Bacanora distillery for a tasting, demonstration & lunch, a Sonoran culinary experience beginning with the art of tortilla making.



Sun: A picnic at a National park & recreational area with the Thermal waters, a natural hot springs, said to have “healing powers”. They are very clean, enclosed pools. Be sure to bring a swimsuit & towel. There are restrooms, showers & walking trails.

Along the Sonoran River we visit the missions: Aconchi, built by the Jesuits in 1639, unique to the "Black Christ" & Baviacora, the largest. On returning to the Nogales border, we stop at Cucuerpe, ruins of the first mission here by Father Kino. Also to Magdalena & the crypt of Father Kino's bones. A lovely small city with pride in their culture & history.



Cost: \$ 525 dbl, \$650/Sgl. \$100 deposit confirms your reservation. Balance due by Feb 1, 2023. No refunds after that date. Includes: 3 nights Lodging, Transportation, Picnic Lunch at Hot Springs, Martin Ranch Lunch & Tours with demonstrations

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Payment Methods: Checks to Tours by Sierra, P.O. Box 912, Green Valley, AZ 85622. or Zelle. (Credit Cards & PayPal add 3%).

Home pick-up available in Green Valley.

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