The Patagonia Museum
Tour to Mexico’s Banamichi and Rio Sonora
February 18 to February 20, 2020

Please join us for a leisurely and flexible 3 day, 2 night tour by South of the Border Tours motor coach through historic areas surrounding the Sonora River in Mexico. Overnight stays are in the best hotels in Banamichi (Opata word for “where the river turns”). Two expert guides: Bill Steen and Deni Seymour will explain the history of this area. The P.D. Ronstadt & The Company will accompany us on our tour providing musical entertainment as we go. Museum staff will accompany our guides to assist with arrangements as the trip progresses.

We depart from Patagonia, 317 Mckeown Avenue, at 8 am Tuesday, February 18 and return Thursday late afternoon, February 20. From Patagonia we proceed to Nogales, stopping in the Magdalena church plaza and Cucurpe for lunch. We then arrive at Banamichi where we stay, enjoying most of our meals at La Posada del Rio Sonora, the former residence of General Padilla. Wednesday morning we explore the local towns on the Rio Sonora and visit a local ranch for lunch. Wednesday evening we enjoy local entertainment by Danza Xunutzi at an open air plaza. On Thursday, we depart Banamichi for Arizpe, Sonora’s first capitol, and then proceed to Bacoachi for lunch, returning to Patagonia via Naco.

Price ($600, double occupancy, museum member) includes transportation via USA licensed motor coach, meals, meal gratuities and lodging for one person. Additional beverages will be your responsibility. There is a $50 nonmember fee and a $250 single occupant surcharge due to the limited lodging available.

There are 24 seats available for this tour with double occupancy at the hotels in Banamichi. Full payment secures your seat on a first come first served basis.

You will need a current passport to enter Mexico and return to the United States.

Some extended walking on uneven surfaces may be required. For additional information contact German Quiroga at 520-343-5641 or german@thepatagoniamuseum.org
Our Guides

Dr. Deni Seymour is an internationally recognized scholar on protohistoric and historic Native American and Spanish colonial archaeology and ethnohistory. For over 30 years she has studied the ancestral Apache, Sobaipuri-O’odham, and lesser-known mobile groups (Jano, Jocome, Manso, Suma, and Jumano) who were present at the same time in the American Southwest. She has excavated two Spanish-period presidios (Santa Cruz de Terrenate and Tubac), numerous Kino-period mission sites, and several indigenous sites of the period. She works with indigenous groups in reconnecting with their heritage, tackles Coronado and Niza expedition archaeology, and is rewriting the history of the pre-Spanish and colonial period southern Southwest. She has published extensively on these groups and this period, with more than 100 publications in refereed journals, edited volumes, and popular venues, and has served as guest editor for journals. She has also authored seven books.

She received her doctorate and MA degrees in Anthropology from the University of Arizona in 1990 and her BAs with honors in both Anthropology and Environmental Studies from the University of California, Santa Cruz in 1980. She has taught, was employed by a number of state and federal agencies, and has worked for a number of cultural resource management firms, including one she founded and directed. Now she is a full-time research archaeologist affiliated with two academic institutions and the nonprofit research group Jornada Research Institute and she serves on the boards of two non-profit organizations.

Bill Steen has worked as a photojournalist, primarily in the southwestern United States and northern Mexico. His photographs have appeared in a number of books and newspapers including the New York Times. He has traveled extensively throughout the Rio Sonora region, his photographs of the area span a period of more than 25 years. He and his wife Athena operate a non-profit organization called The Canelo Project which is dedicated to “connecting people, culture and nature.” Together they have pushed books on vernacular, natural and straw bale building.

For additional information:


Suggested Reading:

Borderman: Memoirs of Federico Jose Maria Ronstadt edited by Edward F. Ronstadt

Beliefs and Holy Places by James S. Griffith

The Opatas: In Search of a Sonoran People by David A. Yetman

Sonora by Ignaz Pfefferkorn

Where the Dove Calls by Thomas E. Sheridan

Rudo Ensayo by Juan Nentvig

Unknown Arizona and Sonora, 1693-1721 by Juan Mateo Mange