

Sonora Desert 3 day tour

Day 1. History. Mission Churches of Kino

8:00 a.m. Departure from Hermosillo (or pick up in Nogales)

10:00 a.m. breakfast in Santa Ana

11:00 a.m. Route of Kino, starting in Magdalena, stops at the missions of San Ignacio de Caborica, Tubutama, Oquitoa, Pitiquito and Caborca

3:00 p.m. Lunch Caborca (included)

4:30 p.m. Departure to Rocky Point

7:00 p.m. Arrival to the hotel

Day 2. The Great Altar Desert and El Pinacate

7:00 a.m. Breakfast included

8:00 Tour to the dunes of the Great Altar Desert, 2 hours walk

12:00 p.m. Stop at Schuck Toak, visitor's centre of "El Pinacate"

2:00 p.m. Arrival to the Natural Reserve of El Pinacate

3:00 p.m. Visit to the main craters of the reserve "El Elegante" and "Cerro Colorado"

5:00 p.m. Departure from "El Pinacate"

6:00 p.m. Stop at Sonoyta for Dinner (included)

8:30 p.m. Arrival to the hotel in Caborca

Day 3. Archeology. "La Proveedora"

7:00 a.m. Departure to La Proveedora, 3 hour tour at the archeological site (lunch box included)

12:00 p.m. Stop at Santa Ana for lunch (not included)

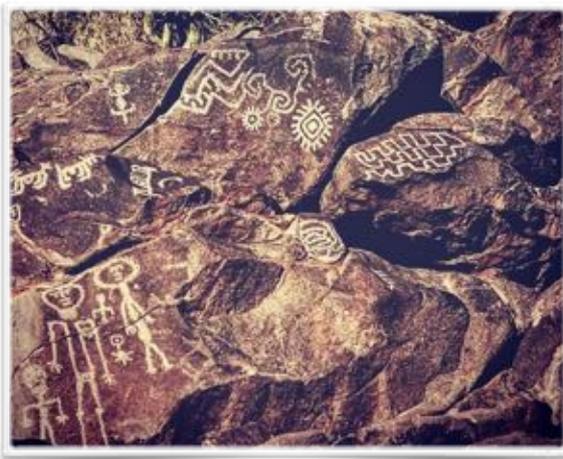
2:00 p.m. Arrival to Hermosillo

Description of the sites

Day 1. Kino's route of the Mission Churches
Lodging. Rocky Point
Meals. Breakfast, Lunch
Magdalena de Kino is located 2 hour drive north of Hermosillo, we visit the mausoleum of one of the most important missionaries in history, father Kino who established permanent missions in the isolated region of the Sonoran Desert. He was the only jesuit priest capable to develop successful establishments to spread the borders of the Spanish Empire. We visit some of the towns he founded at the end of the XVII century, San Ignacio de Caborica, Tubtama, Oquitoa, Pitiquito and Caborca. It is a fascinating tour where the legend of Kino melts with the architecture heritage of this old towns. Along with the cacti and a beautiful sky, we cross the Sonoran Desert to arrive in the beach town of Rocky Point.



Día 2. Gran Desierto de Altar
Hospedaje. Lodging Caborca
Meals. Breakfast, lunch box
<p>Early in the morning we drive to the Great Altar Desert, only 15 minutes from Rocky Point. This is the largest dunes system in North America, some of them are 200m or 650 ft tall. To see and climb some of this dunes, we walk for about 3 miles surrounded by impressive landscapes that combine the volcanic shield of El Pinacate in the distance, the lava rocks nearby and the white mountains of the "Sierra Blanca" in the horizon. We take a couple of hours walking in the sand, so it is advice to wait for the group at visitor's centre if you don't feel physically capable. Also after the walk we have time to visit the Visitor's Centre of El Pinacate Schuk Toak, this is the largest sustainable public building in Mexico, with excellent displays about the importance of this protected natural area in the Sonoran Desert.</p> <p>In the afternoon we visit El Pinacate, one of the most impressive natural monuments in the world, located in the middle of the beautiful Sonoran Desert. The ecosystem in this protected area is unique in the whole planet, it has 10 huge craters and 400 lava outflows in the volcanic shield. Violent explosions and lava rivers left their footprint and created landscapes out of this world in the middle of the Desert.</p> <p>The tour in the natural park takes about 3 hours, we take an unpaved road of 72 km (45 miles) along the way we make several stops to see the natural formations, flora and fauna, as well as 2 main vantage points, the craters "El Elegante" and Cerro Colorado. El Elegante is the biggest crater of the area, with about a mile diameter, and more than 3 miles circumference. El Colorado it's particularly beautiful because of its shape and red color.</p> <p>The access to El Pinacate is only possible with appropriate vehicles such as vans, busses are not allowed in the reserve. After the visit, we drive a couple of hours to the city of Caborca.</p>



Day 4. La Proveedora

Lodging. Hermosillo

Meals: breakfast, lunch

La Proveedora is one of the most important archeological sites and less known in Mexico, along the hills nearby Caborca, the ancient tribes of the desert engraved more than 6,000 petroglyphs, the meaning of these symbols still mysterious, but they represent an outstanding heritage in the Sonoran Desert. This archeological site is located in a prive ranch, and its visit requires authorization of the community.

Services included

Transportation in a 18 passangers van

Guided tours

Entrance fee to the places described

Meals described in the itinerary

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Price per person		
<i>Double occupancy</i>	<i>\$250 USD</i>	<i>\$3,950 MxPesos</i>
<i>Single occupancy</i>	<i>\$290 USD</i>	<i>\$4,730 MxPesos</i>

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