

Chapter 148 - These Indians do not live in teepees!



The Tarahumara Indians live within the holes of these rocks.

From POB..."12/04- (Day 338) At Creel. 6 AM Temperature was 55 heated degrees. Bud told me the outside temperature was 41 degrees, which is because of a cloud cover with a light rain. One month and 1823 miles ago, we departed Oaxaca. The new engine now has 2,446 miles and has really been put to the test. I am thankful that it has run just fine. **Today was maybe the best day of the trip!** All day long there was a gentle, cold, and steady rain. The first rain since leaving Oaxaca. But that was not what made this day so special. At 10:00 AM, Bud and I took the Bronco and went to an area called San Ignacio de Arareko. It is where the Tarahumara Indians live in rock caves. For a small fee, they allowed us into their home in the holes of the large rocks. They are such a shy, yet gentle people with great dignity. It was absolutely unique and intriguing seeing how they live amongst these huge rocks with the most basic of items. After visiting the Tarahumara Indian homes, we drove to the Valley of the Mushrooms, where the eroded rocks do look like mushrooms. Then on to the Valley of the Frogs where the eroded rocks do look like frogs. Shortly after, we came upon their most basic rock church built in 1744, and looking like it might collapse at any moment. We proceeded on to the Valley of the Monkeys where the eroded rocks do not look at all like monkeys. They should have called it the Valley of the Stovepipes, or Chimneys, because the rocks were tall and narrow spires. Then we took a wrong road (the map makers got us again) and went VERY DOWN into a long canyon! We stopped at a small house to ask for directions and the six guys and one old woman there were higher than kites! They offered to share their marijuana and tequila with us, but we said "No gracias," turned around, and started back up the mountain, a distance of about three miles. It was four-wheel drive all the way back up! It had been raining, so the very rocky road was also quite slippery. What a challenge! **I'm not sure that I have had a more moving and emotional day on this trip!** If any of you know of charitable groups who do not know what to do with their money, refer them to the Tarahumara Indians of Chihuahua State in Mexico. Their poverty and dignity made for a moving and emotional experience. A truly unique and extraordinary people! Back to town for a nice meal, siesta, and happy hour in Bud's rig. The afternoon high temperature was 52 degrees. Brrrr!"