

Barrancas del cobre

Hunter Tolbert



This series of photos was taken while I served as a missionary for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints in Chihuahua, Mexico. After receiving a spur-of-the-moment assignment, a group of fellow missionaries and I traveled for more than 13 hours in taxis, busses, a rented van, and finally on foot to reach the ultra-remote region of Batopilas in the Barrancas del Cobre area. There, with a camera I'd never used before, I was able to take photos for two days of this rare glimpse into the reclusive culture of the Tarahumara. This indigenous community carves out a living at the rim of a 6,000-foot-deep canyon and its people are truly remarkable at thriving in such harsh and remote desert conditions. At first many of them were frightened by my camera but after letting them examine it closely and see the photos on the screen, I was able to capture them in a much more candid way. It wasn't until after we made the long trek back that I looked through the photos for the first time and realized that I had captured something truly special. Now years and thousands of photos later they are still some of my favorite images and memories.











