



MEXICO

Mystical Migration of the Monarchs

January 22 – 28, 2023

With Sara Lewis, Professor of Biology



MONARCH BUTTERFLY

One of the most amazing phenomena in nature is the annual migration of millions of monarch butterflies (*Danaus plexippus*) southward from their breeding grounds in the United States and Canada to overwintering sites high in the mountains of southern Mexico. Hundreds of millions of monarchs fly along the Gulf Coast, or across the Gulf of Mexico, to eventually reach the belt of high volcanic mountains that stretches across the southern end of the central Mexican plateau. At about a dozen isolated places within the high-altitude forests of this zone, monarchs pass the winter in aggregations that can exceed 2 billion individual butterflies. Stand amid the fir-covered mountains and witness this awe-inspiring spectacle firsthand as the monarchs flutter, dip, and swoop overhead.

Dear Alumni, Parents, and Friends of Tufts University,

We invite you to join us to experience a spectacular natural phenomenon unlike any other: hundreds of millions of monarch butterflies at their overwintering grounds in the mountains of southern Mexico.

With three full days at sanctuaries within the Monarch Butterfly Biosphere Reserve, you will have the opportunity to see monarchs in staggering quantities: on the roosts in the early morning, in flight at midday, feeding on wildflowers, and watering at streams. You'll also spend time in the colonial town of Angangueo and the massive ancient Teotihuacán complex, exploring Mexico's rich history and culture.


You won't want to miss this unforgettable learning adventure. We expect our limited space will fill up quickly. Please make your reservation as soon as possible to guarantee your spot!


Warm regards,



Mary Ann R. Hunt
Associate Director
Tufts Travel-Learn Program
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TUFTS TRAVEL-LEARN RESERVATION FORM

Mystical Migration of the Monarchs | January 22 – 28, 2023

Enclosed is my/our deposit for \$_____ (\$500 per person) for _____ person/people on the tour listed above. I/we understand the final payment is due at least 95 days prior to departure. Payment may be made by American Express, Discover, MasterCard, or VISA or by personal check. Please make check payable to Holbrook Travel, Inc. and mail deposit check to: Holbrook Travel, 3540 NW 13th Street, Gainesville Florida, 32609. For questions please call toll free 800.451.7111 or email travel@holbrooktravel.com.

Full Passport Name _____ DOB _____ Gender _____

E-mail _____ Tufts Class Year _____

Full Passport Name _____ DOB _____ Gender _____

E-mail _____ Tufts Class Year _____

Badge Name(s) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Primary Ph. (_____) _____ Cell Ph. (_____) _____

Please book my/our air from _____. I/we request an air upgrade to _____.

☐ I will share a room with _____.

☐ I request a single room (limited availability). ☐ Y ☐ N

Note: The undersigned has read the schedule of activities for the above-referenced tour, and agrees that their signature below represents their acceptance of the General Terms and Conditions.

Signature _____ Date _____

Signature _____ Date _____

Method of Payment ☐ Check ☐ American Express ☐ Discover ☐ MasterCard ☐ VISA

Account # _____ Security Code _____ Exp. Date _____

Name of Cardholder _____

Signature _____

Final invoicing will be sent by our tour operator, Holbrook Travel, Inc. The balance of the program price must be paid to Holbrook Travel. Final payment is due 95 days prior to departure (check or credit card).



TUFTS UNIVERSITY LECTURER

Sara Lewis

Professor of Biology



Sara Lewis is an ecologist and professor of Biology at Tufts University. She has spent the past 30 years studying insect behavior,

ecology, and evolution, and teaches popular courses in statistics and science communication. In addition to writing numerous scientific articles, Lewis has given a TED talk and has written popular articles for *Scientific American*, *Undark*, *CNN*, *The Guardian*, and *Natural History*. Her work has been featured in the *New York Times*, *Wall Street Journal*, *Washington Post*, and *BBC*, along with numerous radio shows. She is also the author of *Silent Sparks: The Wondrous World of Fireflies*, a highly accessible and entertaining journey into the luminous lives of these cherished insects.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- Hike or ride horseback to three different monarch reserves in Michoacán, where millions of individual monarch butterflies gather.
- Photograph the dramatic colors of the butterflies as they hang in clusters from the trees, drink from streams, feed on wildflowers, and soar in the air above.
- Visit the pyramids at Teotihuacán, one of the most architecturally significant Mesoamerican sites of pre-Columbian times.
- Spend time exploring colonial Angangueo, which was once a mining town but now derives most of its livelihood from butterfly ecotourism and agriculture.

Tufts lecturer's participation cannot be guaranteed and is contingent on a minimum number of paying travelers

PHOTOS BY IAN SEGEBARTH AND PELIN KARACA

ACTIVITY LEVEL: 4 | MODERATE-STRENUOUS

Participants should be able to ascend or descend **100 or more stairs consecutively**, plus walk for **at least 5 hours** over some steep slopes, uneven, and potentially slippery surfaces without difficulty. Physical activities typically last for **5 or more hours at a time**.

Please see the "Activity Details" section for further information.

ITINERARY

BLD = BREAKFAST, LUNCH, DINNER



MONARCH MIGRATION



JANUARY 22 – MEXICO CITY

Upon arrival in Mexico City, you will be met at the airport and transferred to your hotel on the Zócalo, in the heart of the historic city center. This evening, meet in the hotel lobby at 7 pm for a program orientation and welcome dinner. Check-in starts at 3 pm. *Overnight at Zócalo Central Hotel. (D)*

JANUARY 23 – ANGANGUEO

Begin today with a short exploration of Mexico City during a brief walking tour of the Zócalo, Cathedral, Templo Mayor, and National Palace. A boxed lunch will be provided. Depart for the colonial town of Angangueo, high in the mountains in the state of Michoacán, about 100 miles west of Mexico City. Check in at Hotel Don Bruno. After settling in, enjoy a delicious Mexican dinner and then gather for a briefing to help prepare for the next day. (Elevation at Hotel Don Bruno is 8,460 feet. Please note that it can get cold at night and in the early morning, and most rooms do not have heat. It

is recommended that you bring warm sleeping clothes.) *Overnight at Hotel Don Bruno. (BLD)*

JANUARY 24 – ANGANGUEO

This morning, visit Sierra Chincua Monarch Butterfly Sanctuary. This is one of several nearby monarch sites and is more isolated than El Rosario, which will be visited tomorrow. The journey starts with a hike up the mountain to about 10,000 feet. Horses are available to rent for a portion of the trail. The cost is about 100 Mexican pesos, payable in cash only. Some walking will be required, but it can be done at your own pace and with stops and rest as needed. Once at the site, you have the day to enjoy and photograph the spectacular colony with a boxed lunch to be eaten at your leisure. Please note that restrooms are located at



the bottom of the mountain and not in the reserve. You will have a short time to buy souvenirs at the craft market at the bottom of the mountain. If time permits, visit the Alternare Center, which has more than 20 years of experience working with rural communities with the goal of helping conserve butterfly habitat. They also teach sustainable farming techniques, the construction of adobe houses, wood-saving stoves, and water conservation practices. Later this afternoon, take a walking tour through the town of Angangueo with your guide. Founded in 1792, the town served as a main mining center, providing wealth for the area. Today the town derives its income from butterfly tourism and agriculture. As you explore the cobblestone streets, your guide will share sites of interest and the importance of butterfly conservation to the town. Dinner is at the hotel. *Overnight at Hotel Don Bruno. (BLD)*

JANUARY 25 – JUNGPEO

Early this morning, check out of the hotel and visit the monarch sanctuary of El Rosario, the largest overwintering site. The colony normally contains well over 100 million adult monarchs. An excellent trail system winds through the fir-covered slopes on which the colony is located. Additionally, there is a nearby stream where the butterflies may fly at midday to drink water. At this time of year, they may take flight for an hour or more for water, nectar, etc., before returning to their roost on the tree limbs or trunks. The hike to reach the colony may again reach up to 10,000 feet and will require hiking up the mountain. The hike is at your own pace, and birding can be done along the way. A portion of the hike can again be done by horseback rental. Once at the site, the day will be spent enjoying the colony with a boxed lunch, to be eaten at your leisure. Restrooms are located at the bottom of the mountain and not in the reserve. In the late afternoon, continue on to the hotel. After dinner, gather for a briefing on Cerro Pelón and what to expect in the morning. *Overnight at Hotel Agua Blanca. (BLD)*

JANUARY 26 – JUNGPEO

After breakfast, visit the Cerro Pelón reserve. Though local residents had known about the monarchs' wintering sites for centuries, in 1975 a team of researchers under the direction of Canadian

entomologist Fred Urquhart encountered Cerro Pelón, and it became the first confirmed site described to the broader scientific community. This visit will be a little more challenging than the previous days, with a steeper hike and altitudes starting at about 10,400 feet. Horses will be available for rent for the beginning portion of the hike and may be required due to trail conditions. Depending on the location of the colony, a 30-minute steep uphill hike may be required after the horse ride. Cerro Pelón is the least-known monarch reserve, and because of the rougher conditions is also the least visited, making it a more intimate experience. As on the previous days, you will take a boxed lunch and there will be no restrooms in the reserve. Those who choose not to visit Cerro Pelón will be able to enjoy the hotel and the surrounding areas. Return to the hotel for dinner. *Overnight at Hotel Agua Blanca. (BLD)*

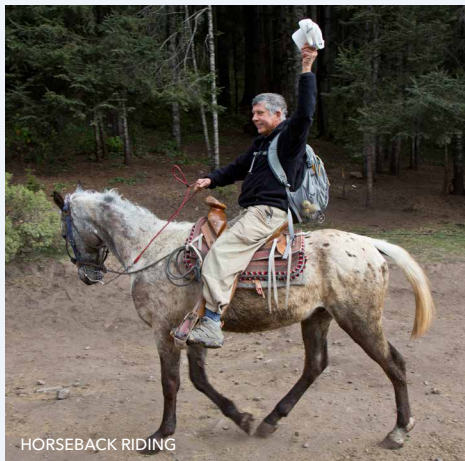


JANUARY 27 – MEXICO CITY

Depart for the Mexico City area and the pyramids at San Juan Teotihuacán. We'll have the afternoon to explore this world-famous archaeological site, which covers 32 square miles and contains many structures, including two large pyramids. The Pyramid of the Sun, at a height of more than 200 feet, is one of the largest known pre-Columbian structures in the Americas. After time to explore the ruins on your own, we return to our hotel on the Zócalo for a farewell dinner. *Overnight at Zócalo Central Hotel. (BLD)*

JANUARY 28 – DEPART

Breakfast will be included depending on your departure time. Airport shuttle service transfers are included and will be coordinated based on flight times. Check-out time at 12 pm. *(B)*



HORSEBACK RIDING

WHAT TO EXPECT

ACTIVITY DETAILS:

This is an active adventure in high-altitude conditions (over 10,000 feet). Participants should be in good health and able to hike for a distance of 2-3 miles to the colony site and then back the same way (could be around 5 miles of hiking in one day). Typically, the hike takes between one and two hours, but the colony site varies throughout the season, so hiking times and distances may vary.

ADDITIONAL NOTES:

Please note that during site visits, the days entail walking around the butterfly sites on your own and photographing and watching butterflies. Please be prepared to be independent during butterfly watching. Bathroom access is at the base of the mountain and can be reached by walking or renting a horse. There are also vendors at the base selling food, beverages, and local crafts. Dressing in layers is important due to weather at mountain elevations.



SIERRA CHINCÚA SANCTUARY

SAMPLE ACCOMMODATION



HOTEL DON BRUNO

Nestled amid the mountains of Mexico, Hotel Don Bruno offers an ideal location for access to the nearby butterfly sanctuaries in the Monarch Butterfly Biosphere Reserve. While its quaint exteriors, surrounding scenery, and courtyard garden are a picturesque backdrop for rest and relaxation, the nearby colonial town of Angangueo beckons visitors to explore.

PRICING

\$3,175 per person

Price is based on double occupancy with 10 participants. Single occupancy offered at additional cost of \$375 per person.

Your price includes:

- 6 nights' accommodations
- 17 meals (6 breakfasts, 5 lunches, 6 dinners)
- Non-alcoholic beverages with meals
- Sightseeing and activities as described, including entrance fees
- Holbrook Travel tour guide
- Private motorcoach or minibus transportation throughout your trip
- Luggage handling, one bag per person
- Most gratuities
- Carbon offset
- Departure tax

Price does not include: international airfare, trip cancellation insurance, gratuities for housekeeping, drinks purchased on own, horse rental, or items of a personal nature.

Holbrook Travel can assist with making your flight arrangements upon request. Trip cancellation insurance is strongly recommended and will be sent to you by Tufts University Travel-Learn with your reservation confirmation.

GENERAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS

Please read this information carefully, as payment of a deposit represents your acceptance of the following Terms and Conditions.

Not Included in Your Tour Price International airfare from your departure city; costs of passports and visas; personal expenses such as beverages, laundry, room service, and meals not specified; communications charges; optional house rentals; and trip cancellation insurance. Additional baggage fees levied directly by the airline(s) may apply and are subject to change at any time. You should confirm directly with your airline(s) prior to departure.

International Air Transportation Estimated airfare: **\$579 from Boston to Mexico City**. Holbrook Travel offers group airfare and ticketing. Group transfers between the airport and hotel are included in your program cost. A note about online airfare: Occasionally, you may be able to find airfares online that are listed at a lower cost. In general, individual fares lack the flexibility of group airfare and often require immediate purchase. You will receive your preliminary air schedule approximately 2 1/2 months prior to departure. Please note that seat assignments on your international flight are usually done at airport check-in. Holbrook Travel is unable to guarantee any seat assignments. Due to the nature of tour operator tickets, other restrictions apply, including but not limited to: frequent flyer mileage accrual, stopovers, alternate travel dates, upgrades, and airline taxes and departure fees. If you prefer to make your own travel arrangements, booking the tour "Land Only" is available. We recommend that if you choose to make your own airline reservations, you do not purchase non-refundable tickets or those with high penalties for changes. If you choose to make your own air arrangements, Tufts Alumni Association and Holbrook Travel, Inc. shall not have any liability for any loss resulting from cancellation of this tour or changes in this tour.

Cancellations, Changes and Refunds If you must cancel your tour, the effective date of cancellation will be upon our receipt of your notification. All cancellations need to be submitted in writing to Tufts University Travel-Learn. Refunds for cancellations are subject to the following per person charges: **Cancel 95 days or more before departure: \$100 charge; Cancel 95-0 days before departure: no refund.** Please note that we will not refund the cost of any unused portion of your tour package. We will not charge a fee for any changes made to your reservation outside of 95 days before departure. From 94 to 30 days before departure, if you make any changes to your reservation, a \$100 per person administrative fee will apply, in addition to any fees or penalties imposed by airlines, hotels, or other third parties. Changes are subject to availability and cannot be guaranteed. If your reservation changes from double occupancy to single occupancy for any reason, you will be charged the single supplement. No changes to your reservation can be made within 30 days of departure. Trip cancellation insurance is available from Tufts University Travel-Learn and information will be sent after you reserve. If due to unforeseen circumstances Holbrook Travel cancels your tour, you will receive a complete refund of all payments you have made to us.

Health and Medical Issues We welcome all travelers, but request that you be in good health to participate on a Holbrook Travel tour. All of our tours involve a reasonable amount of walking (typically two to three miles per day). You must be able to get on and off motorcoaches on your own. We regret that we cannot provide individual assistance; in such cases you must be accompanied by a companion who will assist you. Please note that our itineraries cannot accommodate wheelchairs. We reserve the right to remove anyone whose physical condition or behavior, in our opinion, compromises the operation of the tour or detracts from the enjoyment or safety of the other tour members. In that event, Tufts Alumni Association and Holbrook Travel assume no financial responsibility for any unused portion of the tour. For the convenience of the majority of our travelers, Holbrook Travel has a **No Smoking policy** on all tour buses. We will arrange sufficient rest stops so those who wish to smoke may do so.

Required Information Upon reservation you must provide your full name as it appears on your passport, date of birth, and gender (for details, please visit faa.gov). In the event an airline ticket is issued with incorrect information you have provided, or if you use a different passport than originally cited, you will be responsible for charges associated with the ticket's reissue. A passport valid for at least six months after the completion of your tour is required for U.S. citizens on this tour.

Responsibility The liability of Tufts Alumni Association (TAA), as sponsor, and Holbrook Travel Inc., as tour operator, is strictly limited. TAA and Holbrook Travel, Inc. purchase transportation, hotel accommodations, restaurant and other services from independent suppliers not under our control. We serve only as agents for these suppliers in securing tour arrangements, and therefore will not accept responsibility for wrongful, negligent, or arbitrary acts or omissions of these independent contractors, their employees, agents, servants or representatives. TAA and Holbrook Travel, Inc. are not liable for injury, damage, loss, accident, or delay that may be caused by events not within our control, including without limitation, acts of terrorism, war, strikes, the defect of any vehicle, or the negligence or default of any third party. All coupons, receipts, and tickets issued are subject to the terms and conditions specified by the air carriers, cruise line, and other independent suppliers. We will make every effort to operate our tours as planned, but we reserve the right to make itinerary changes as necessary. If unforeseen circumstances require us to change a hotel, we will select alternative accommodations of the same or better quality and may change due to factors such as government regulations, water levels, or weather conditions. The services of any IATA and ALC carrier may be used in connection with these tours. The participant understands that if he/she books special low cost airfares with penalties, and cancels the reservation, he/she is responsible for any penalties incurred from the airline.