



MEXICO

Mystical Migration of the Monarchs

March 7 – 12, 2020

With Michael Romero, 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 which 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 an spectacular natural phenomenon unlike any other: hundreds of millions of Monarch butterflies at their overwintering grounds in the mountains of southern Mexico.

With two 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

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Enclosed is my/our deposit for \$_____ (\$500 per person) for _____ person/people on the tour listed below. 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).



PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- Hike or ride horseback to two 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



TUFTS UNIVERSITY LECTURER

Michael Romero

Professor of Biology

Dr. Romero received his PhD from Stanford and has been teaching in the Tufts Biology Department for over 20 years. He recently received an award for outstanding mentoring of undergraduate and graduate research students from the White House and the National Science Foundation. His research focuses on stress in wild animals, with both laboratory and field components, and on how understanding stress can help in the conservation of those species. On this departure Professor Romero will discuss how climate change causes stress in animals and how understanding animals' responses to stress will inform conservation efforts.

ACTIVITY LEVEL: 5 | 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



MARCH 7 - MEXICO CITY

Upon arrival in Mexico City, you will be met in the airport and transferred to your hotel, situated in the historic district on the Zócalo. The Zócalo is the largest plaza in Latin America and is surrounded by the presidential palace, Metropolitan Cathedral, Aztec Temple Mayor, historical architecture, and many restaurants. This afternoon, attend a program orientation at 5:30 pm, then depart for a welcome dinner at a local restaurant. Check in starts at 3:00 pm. *Overnight at Zócalo Central Hotel. (D)*

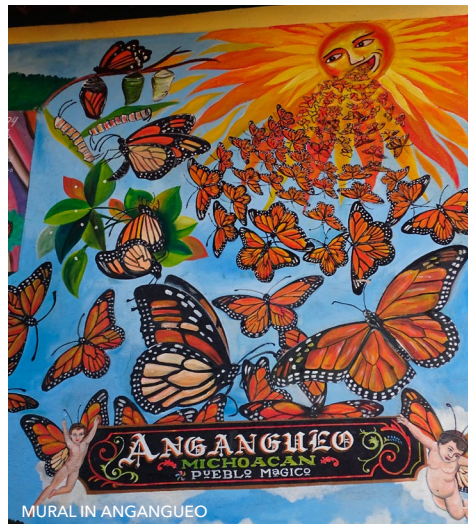
MARCH 8 - ANGANGUEO

This morning we depart for the picturesque colonial town of Angangueo, located high in the mountains in the state of Michoacán, about 100 miles west of Mexico City. Upon arrival in Angangueo, check in at Hotel Don Bruno and have lunch there. This afternoon take a walking tour through town with our local guide. Founded in 1792, Angangueo served as a main mining center providing wealth for the area. Today the town derives its income

from butterfly tourism and agriculture. As we explore the cobblestone streets, our guide will share sites of interest and the importance of butterfly conservation to the town. After dinner at the hotel, gather for a briefing to prepare for the next day. *Overnight at Hotel Don Bruno. (BLD)*

MARCH 9 - ANGANGUEO

After breakfast, ascend into the mountains to approximately 10,000-ft. elevation to visit Sierra Chincua Butterfly Sanctuary, one of several nearby Monarch sites. The day will start with a hike up to the reserve entrance. Horses are available for rent as an option for this portion (\$5 U.S. dollars/100 Mexican pesos, cash only). Once at the entrance to the reserve, continue up the mountain on foot until you reach the site where the butterflies are



roosting. The hike is uphill but you will be able to walk at your own pace and stop and rest as needed. Spend the remainder of the afternoon walking around the butterfly site on your own, photographing and watching butterflies independently. A boxed lunch will be provided to eat at leisure. Please note that 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 crafts. Here we will meet with a local family to enjoy a typical Mexican snack and learn about their lifestyle. You can also join the family to cook a local recipe together. Sierra Chincua is typically shaded so remember to dress in layers due to high elevations. In the late afternoon, return to Hotel Don Bruno for dinner and an evening briefing. *Overnight at Hotel Don Bruno. (BLD)*



MARCH 10 – ANGANGUEO

Today, visit El Rosario Reserve, the largest sanctuary in the Monarch Butterfly Biosphere Reserve and most generally accessible to the public. This large overwintering colony normally contains well over 100 million adult Monarchs. Hike or ride horseback on an excellent trail system winding through the fir-covered slopes on which the colony is located. (Trail horses are available for rent to ride up the mountain.) There is also a nearby stream where the butterflies may fly at midday to drink water. Have a simple picnic lunch while enjoying this spectacular phenomenon and watch the butterflies go through their daily cycle of activities. At this time of year, they may take flight for an hour or more to secure water and/or nectar before returning to their roost on tree limbs or trunks. Please be prepared to be

independent again today during butterfly observation. In the late afternoon, return from the mountains by walking trails back to Angangueo. In the evening, have some free time to enjoy the hotel gardens, walk around the town, or just relax. *Overnight at Hotel Don Bruno. (BLD)*

MARCH 11 – MEXICO CITY

After breakfast, depart for the Mexico City area and San Juan Teotihuacán. After a delicious lunch, 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 structures created in the pre-Columbian Americas and the third largest ancient pyramid in the world today. At its peak, the city was also one of the most populated in the world, with at least 125,000 residents. After time to explore the ruins on your own, return to the hotel for a farewell dinner. *Overnight at Zócalo Central Hotel. (BLD)*



MARCH 12 – MEXICO CITY/DEPART

This morning you will be transferred to the airport for your flight home. Breakfast will be included depending on your departure time. Please schedule your return flights with the understanding that you need to be at the airport three hours ahead of your scheduled departure flight time. As an example, a 7:00 am departure from Mexico City means that you will need to wake up at 3:30 am to get to the airport by 4:00 am. Airport transfers for early morning departures are completely accommodated, but please be aware of the three-hour check-in time for your own planning preferences. Hotel check-out is at 12:00pm. (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

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

\$2,850 per person

Price is based on double occupancy with 10 participants. Single occupancy offered at additional cost of \$350 per person.

Your price includes:

- 5 nights' accommodations
- 14 meals (5 breakfasts, 4 lunches, 5 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
- Gratuities for local guides and drivers
- Carbon offset
- Departure tax

Price does not include: international airfare, trip cancellation insurance, gratuities for maids, drinks purchased on own, 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, gratuities to your Holbrook Travel Tour Guide which are at your discretion (suggested gratuities \$10-\$15 per guest, per day), 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: **\$425 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 2½ 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 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: \$200 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 may not 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 isa.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 AIC 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.