Mystical Migration of the Monarchs

February 6 – 12, 2022

With Sara Lewis, Professor of Biology

MEXICO

OFFICE OF ALUMNI RELATIONS
80 GEORGE STREET, SUITE 100-3
MEDFORD, MA 02155

Belgium & Holland
Bruges to Amsterdam Aboard Magnifique III
May 3–11, 2019

CRUISE HIGHLIGHTS
aboard the new Magnifique III, an intimate Dutch-style boutique riverboat with 20 comfortable cabins

DISCOVER the hidden gems of Bruges, a UNESCO World Heritage Site
TASTE artisanal cheeses at the world-famous Gouda market
ADMIRE works by Rubens, Michelangelo, Anthony van Dyck, Hans Memling, the van Eyck brothers, and other masters
EXPERIENCE the Low Countries as the locals do, on optional cycling tours along gentle, even terrain

TRAVELING WITH YOU
Lewis Edgers is Professor Emeritus of Civil and Environmental Engineering at Tufts University. A professional engineer and Fellow of the American Society of Civil Engineers, Professor Edgers is especially concerned with the relationship between people and their environment, natural hazards, and energy systems. On this program he will examine Dutch experiences with land reclamation, ocean storm barriers, and resiliency responses to climate change. Professor Edgers earned his BS in Civil Engineering from Tufts and his M.S. and Ph.D from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He has lived in Norway for extensive periods since 1980.

Janie Vanpée, Professor of French Studies at Smith College, was born in Belgium and has a B.A. from Smith and Ph.D from Yale. She has been a member of the Smith College French department since 1985 and the comparative literature program since 1987. Professor Vanpée's scholarly work focuses on problems of representation in 18th-century literature. Lately, she has moved in the direction of the digital humanities. Professor Vanpée is deeply committed to Smith's international outreach and has twice directed the JYA program in Paris. As the Elizabeth Mugar Eveillard '69 Faculty Director of the Lewis Global Studies Center for the past three years, she has been involved in the Center's signature programs.
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.
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
go.tufts.edu/travel_learn

E-mail: travel-learn@tufts.edu

@tuftsalumni #TuftsTravelLearn

TUFTS TRAVEL-LEARN RESERVATION FORM

Mystical Migration of the Monarchs | February 6 – 12, 2022

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 ___________________________________________ 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 _____________

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).
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: 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.*
FEBRUARY 6 - 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)

FEBRUARY 7 - 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)

FEBRUARY 8 - 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)**

**February 9 - Zitácuaro**

Early this morning, check out of the hotel and visit the monarch sanctuary of El Rosario. This large overwintering 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 your accommodations near Zitácuaro. After dinner, gather for a briefing on Cerro Pelón and what to expect in the morning. Dinner is at the hotel. 

**overnight at Rancho San Cayetano or similar. (BLD)**

**February 10 - Zitácuaro**

After breakfast, visit the Cerro Pelón reserve. 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 enjoy the hotel and the surrounding areas. A short walk takes you to the market in Zitácuaro and to Coatepec de Morelos, which is home to the 16th century church Iglesia de San Pancho. If you wish to venture further, you can visit the archaeological site at San Felipe Los Alzati (45 minutes from the hotel). Return to the lodge for dinner. 

**overnight at Rancho San Cayetano or similar. (BLD)**

**February 11 - Mexico City**

Depart for the Mexico City area and the pyramids at San Juan Teotihuacán. After a delicious lunch near the pyramids, you’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, return to your hotel on the Zócalo for a farewell dinner. 

**overnight at Zócalo Central Hotel. (BLD)**

**February 12 - Mexico City/Depart**

Breakfast will be included depending on your departure time. Airport shuttle service transfers are included and will be coordinated based on flight times. Note: 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)
**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.

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**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.

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**PRICING**

**$3,385 per person**

Price is based on double occupancy with 10 participants. Single occupancy offered at additional cost of $490 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.
We will journey from the medieval city of Bruges in Belgium to the Dutch capital of Amsterdam. For this special opportunity, we will travel aboard the new CRUISE Magnifique III, an intimate Dutch-style boutique riverboat with 20 comfortable cabins. We will experience a tremendous amount of sailing along the picturesque meandering waterways of the Low Countries. For this special opportunity, we will travel aboard the new CRUISE Magnifique III, an intimate Dutch-style boutique riverboat with 20 comfortable cabins. We will experience a tremendous amount of sailing along the picturesque meandering waterways of the Low Countries.

Tufts Alumni Association is delighted that Lewis Edgers, Professor Emeritus from the MIT, will be traveling with us. A native of Belgium and Professor of French Studies at Smith College, Lewis Edgers earned his BS in Civil Engineering from the University of Ghent, a Master of Science from Colorado State University, and a Ph.D from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Also traveling with us aboard Magnifique III is one of Lewis Edgers’ former students, Janie Vanpée, Associate Professor of French at Tufts University. Born in Belgium, Janie Vanpée has a B.A. from Smith and Ph.D from Yale. Her research focuses on the representation in 18th-century literature. Lately, she has moved in the direction of the digital humanities. Professor Vanpée is a member of the Smith College French department and has served as its chair for the past three years. Janie Vanpée has been involved in the Lewis Global Studies Center’s signature programs.

Lewis Edgers is especially concerned with the relationship between climate change and infrastructure. With land reclamation, ocean storm barriers, and resiliency programs underwritten by the federal government, Edgers is convinced that the transition to a sustainable future is a necessary goal. Lewis Edgers has also been a leader in the field of cycling tours along gentle, even terrain.

In the Netherlands, wander historic Dordrecht, stopping to see Jan van Eyck’s Annunciation, Memling’s Adoration of the Magi, and other paintings in the St. Laureinskerk. Visit the 18th-century Dutch East India Company House, the oldest in the world. In Antwerp, we will visit the Rubens House, containing the painter’s most famous works. In the Low Countries, see the mighty ramparts of the medieval city. Antwerp is a bustling industrial city with some of the most exquisite buildings; and Antwerp, where you will visit the Rubens House, containing many of his masterpieces. West Flanders contains some of the most splendid Flemish art. Memling, the van Eyck brothers, and other masters are said to have been influenced by the work of the Low Countries painters.

In Belgium, observe the capital of Europe’s nuclear power generation. See the city of Brussels, the capital of Belgium. Visit the city’s famous art and antiques dealers. Emblematic of the baroque, is the Fontaine des Quatre-Parties-du-Monde, an allegory of the four continents. The fountain is covered with 700 statues of animals and gods of the four continents. Visit the historic city of Bruges, known for its spectacular medieval buildings; and Antwerp, where you will visit the Rubens House, containing many of his masterpieces. West Flanders contains some of the most splendid Flemish art. Memling, the van Eyck brothers, and other masters are said to have been influenced by the work of the Low Countries painters.