



MEXICO

The Monarch Migration & Mexico City Parks

with Pacific Horticulture | Escorted by Richard Hayden

January 19 - 24, 2023

PACIFIC
HORTICULTURE

Each year, millions of monarch butterflies (Danaus plexippus) make the journey from North America to Mexico's Sierra Madre Mountains, flying thousands of miles to their winter home. The migration is one of nature's most amazing phenomena. Stand amid the fir-covered mountains and witness this awe-inspiring spectacle firsthand as the monarchs flutter, dip, and swoop overhead. You'll see countless butterflies roosting in the early morning, as well as in flight at midday, feeding on wildflowers, and drinking at streams.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- Hike or ride horseback to two monarch sanctuaries, where millions of individual monarch butterflies hang in clusters from the trees, drink from streams, and swirl in the air above.
- 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 National Museum of Anthropology and History and its impressive collection from Mesoamerican civilizations.
- Explore Chapultepec Park and Alameda Central Park, one of the oldest parks in the Americas.

WHAT'S INCLUDED?

- Expert naturalist guide
- Accommodations
- Entrance fees
- Land transportation
- Meals & beverages
- Carbon offsetting
- All tips/gratuities



ITINERARY

BLD = BREAKFAST, LUNCH, DINNER



JANUARY 19 - MEXICO CITY

Upon arrival in Mexico City, you will be met in the airport and transported to your hotel, situated in the historic district on the Zócalo. The Zócalo is the largest plaza in Latin America, and it is surrounded by the National Palace, Metropolitan Cathedral, Templo Mayor, and many restaurants and historical architecture. This evening, meet in the hotel lobby at 7 pm for a welcome dinner and program orientation. Check-in starts at 3 pm. *Overnight at Zócalo Central Hotel. (D)*

JANUARY 20 - JUNGAPERO

This morning after breakfast, visit the National Museum of Anthropology & History, known as one of the most beautiful and functional museums in the world. It is the home of a valuable collection from the Mesoamerican civilizations, with two floors of exhibit galleries to explore. After your time in the museum, take a short walk in the Chapultepec Park to enjoy the beautiful green space that serves as an oasis for the citizens of Mexico City. After lunch at a local restaurant, depart for Jungapeo, situated in the state of Michoacán at an elevation of approximately 4,400 feet. Check in at Hotel Agua Blanca and, before dinner, have an evening briefing in preparation for tomorrow's visit to the butterfly sanctuary up in the mountains. *Overnight at Hotel Agua Blanca. (BLD)*

JANUARY 21 - JUNGAPERO

After breakfast, ascend into the mountains by walking a trail to approximately 10,000 feet in elevation to visit Sierra Chincua, one of several nearby Monarch sites that is more isolated than El Rosario, which you'll visit tomorrow. With a simple picnic lunch on hand, you'll have the entire day to enjoy and photograph the spectacular Monarchs. Horses will be available to ride as an option instead of walking a

portion of the trail to today's site. (Optional horse rental is \$150-200 Mexican pesos.) At the end of the day, visit the market at the site entrance to purchase monarch crafts and food if desired. Return to the hotel for dinner and an evening briefing to prepare for tomorrow's visit. *Overnight at Hotel Agua Blanca. (BLD)*

JANUARY 22 - JUNGAPERO

Located on a high mountain slope near Anganguero lies the Monarch site of El Rosario. Here we visit our second Monarch colony and the one most generally accessible to the public. The journey begins with a taste of colonial Mexico as you walk along a path through a small market where vendors sell a variety of food and handicrafts. Then, continue on an excellent trail system winding through the fir-covered slopes of the mountain. It is here that this large overwintering colony is located and typically contains well over 100 million adult Monarchs. Additionally, there is a nearby stream where the butterflies may fly at midday to drink water. Trail horses are available for rent to ride up the mountain if needed (for \$150-200 Mexican pesos). Have a simple bagged lunch while enjoying this spectacular phenomenon and watching the butterflies go through their daily cycle of activities. At this time of year, they may take flight for an hour or more to water, nectar, etc., before returning to their roost on tree limbs or trunks. In the late afternoon, return from the mountains to the hotel, free time to enjoy the hotel gardens and mineral pools. This evening briefing to prepare for tomorrow's activities followed by dinner at the hotel. *Overnight at Hotel Agua Blanca. (BLD)*

JANUARY 23 - MEXICO CITY

This morning, depart for Mexico City, where you will have lunch at a restaurant near Alameda Central Park. The park is one of the oldest city parks in the Americas. Although the park was created in 1592 by Viceroy Luis de Velasco, it was at one time the site of an Aztec marketplace. In 2012, the park went through an improvement project, including the planting of many trees and native plants. After lunch, check in to your luxurious boutique hotel located along "Bosque de Chapultepec" (Chapultepec Forest), one of the largest city parks in the Western Hemisphere. You will have leisure time to spend in the park this afternoon, followed by a delicious farewell dinner at an elegant restaurant that has all of the charm of a grand "Old Mexican Inn" and offering outstanding dishes of different regions and culinary institutions. *Overnight at Green Park Hotel. (BLD)*

JANUARY 24 - DEPART

This morning transfer to the airport for your flight home. Breakfast will be included depending on your departure time. Please be aware that you need to be at the airport three hours ahead of your scheduled departure flight time, plus the 30-minute drive to the airport (could be longer if during peak daytime traffic). Check-out time is 12 pm. (B)

MEET YOUR PACIFIC HORTICULTURE ESCORT



Richard Hayden, Pacific Horticulture Board Member

Richard Hayden lives in Los Angeles and works for the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County, where he is the Special Assistant to the President and Project Liaison engaged in the reimagining of the La Brea Tar Pits Museum

and 11-acre landscape. He served as the Garden Director for the Elizabeth F. Gamble Garden, a 2.5-acre public garden in Palo Alto, California from 2017 to 2019. He began his career in public horticulture as the Head Gardener for the Nature Gardens at the Natural History Museum of LAC after enjoying a 25-year career as a Los Angeles-based landscape designer. He is strong proponent and communicator of resilient, organic garden practices including soil health, wildlife habitat, climate appropriate plants, and water conservation. He has a BA in Theatre and Film from the University of Michigan and a certificate in Horticulture and Garden Design from UCLA. Richard is also an ISA-certified arborist.



LAND PRICING

\$2,925 per person

Cost is based on a minimum of 7 participants includes meals, accommodations, and activities as indicated in the itinerary, in-country transportation, full-time guide, all tips/gratuities, bottled water on the bus, carbon offset, departure tax, and donation to Pacific Horticulture.

Does not include international airfare, optional horse rental, or items of a personal nature.

TRAVEL PROTECTION

Holbrook Travel strongly recommends the purchase of travel insurance for medical emergencies while traveling and to protect your investment. Please note the purchase of Cancel for Any Reason Coverage or to exclude pre-existing conditions with Trip Cancellation coverage may require policy purchase within 10-14 days of your initial deposit, depending upon the provider.



IMPORTANT NOTE

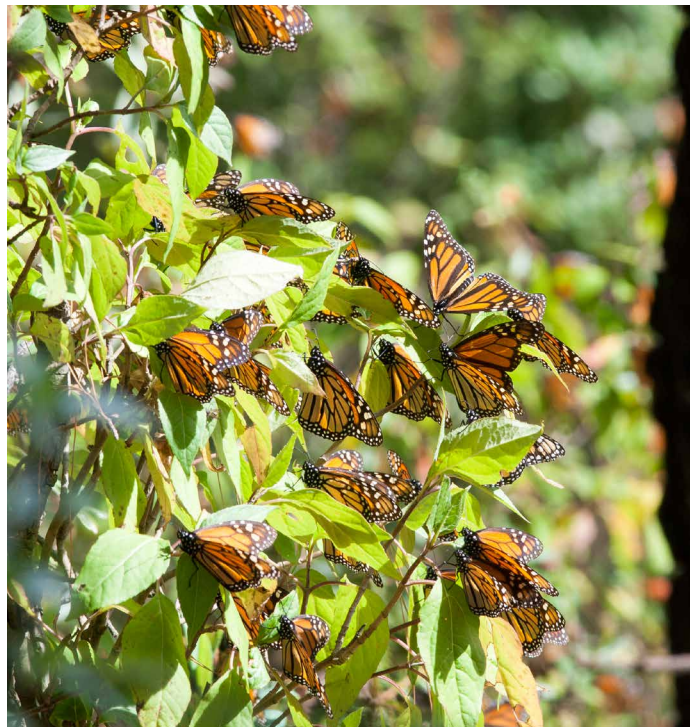
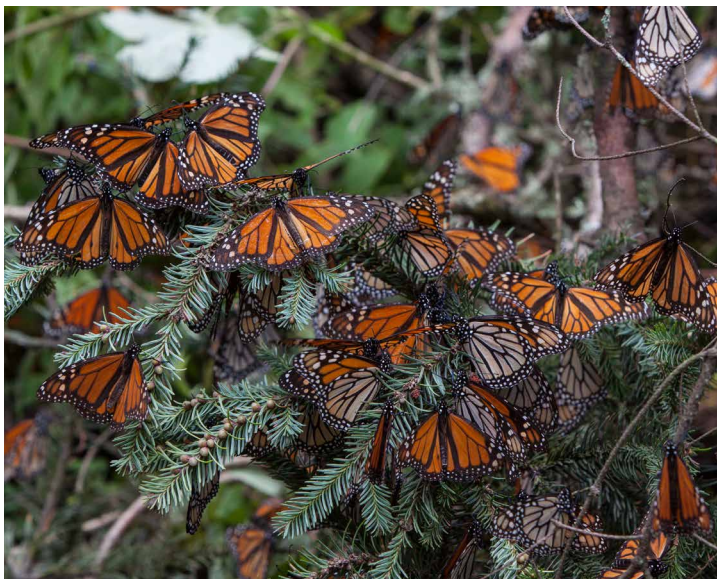
Please note that this program visits the Mexican state of Michoacán, which the U.S. State Department has long designated a Travel Advisory Level 4 due to criminal activity. Mexico City is designated a Level 2. Holbrook has operated programs to view the monarch migration in these locations for many years without incident, and we have strict safety protocols in place for all our destinations. However, it is ultimately up to each traveler to make their own assessment regarding safety and risk. Travelers are advised to visit travel.state.gov for more information.

THE FINE PRINT

Cost is based on double occupancy; single rooms available at an additional \$450 per person. A \$500 per person deposit and enrollment form are required to reserve your space on the trip. This deposit is refundable excluding a \$300 cancellation fee until October 16, 2022 at which time non-refundable final payment is due.



This program includes optional carbon offsetting with ClimateSafe. Learn more at holbrooktravel.com/climatesafe



FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO ENROLL:

Contact Sandy Schmidt at schmidt@holbrooktravel.com or 877-907-5360
or visit holbrook.travel/pacifichorticulture-mx23

PHOTOS BY:

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