

SACRED MIGRATION MONARCH BUTTERFLY TOUR

Emergency Contact:

Please leave contact information for your family or friends in case they need to reach you for an emergency.

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DATES: January 30 – February 6, 2025

NIGHTS/DAYS: 7 Nights / 8 Days

AIRPORTS: Fly into Guadalajara Airport and home from Mexico City

International Airport

PRICE: \$46,000 MXN (Approximately \$2700 USD)

SINGLE SUPPLEMENT: \$8300 MXN (Approximately \$500 US)

VIP DISCOUNT: If you sign up for 2 (or more) select tours within 1 year, we offer a discount of 10 % on your 2nd tour. Applicable tours are 7 nights or more, which includes our Sacred Migration, Birds of the Maya Empire series, Cultural Odyssey Dia de Muertos Tour, and Into the Lands of the Raramuri in the Copper Canyon. **Please Note:** Single Supplement portions are not discounted, as this charge is reflective of what we are charged for your room.

DETAILED ITINERARY:

Day One. Thursday January 30, 2025 (Tlaquepaque)

Arrive at the Guadalajara Airport today and head to our hotel by taxi. We will enjoy our welcome dinner at a fabulous restaurant to get acquainted.

Dinner included

Day Two. Friday January 31, 2025 (Zamora)

This morning we will have breakfast and head to Tonala to learn about the exquisite and highly collectible Petatillo ceramics. After lunch, transfer to the city of Zamora, where exists the towering gothic church of Our Lady of Guadalupe.

All meals included

Day Three: Saturday February 1, 2025 (Uruapan)

This morning we will enjoy select sites in Zamora before departing for lunch with an indigenous Pùrepecha family in San Jose de Gracia, where they fashion iconic ceramic vessels that are a cross between pineapples and pinecones. Learn the history behind this tradition, shop and eat. Our

next stop is a ceramic collective in the small town of Patamban where artists produce high quality ceramics with an Asian influence. Looking for Sushi dishes with a Mexican spin? The ceramics of this studio are colourful, high-fired and collectible. Last but least, we will spend some time in the conservative yet devilish town of Ocumicho, where artisans produce whimsical and comical sculptures that often feature Lucifer himself. Between the religious allegories, buses driven by Beelzebub, or erotic couples hidden under the shelter of a chicken, the ceramics of this town are hysterical and unforgettable. We will then drive to our hotel in Uruapan for dinner.

All meals included

Day Four: Sunday February 2, 2025 (Uruapan)

This morning we begin at a special weaving studio, where rebozos are woven on backstrap looms resemble fine lace. We then move to Paracho for a vibrant textile market, and the village of San Felipe de los Herreros, where artisans cut threads of cotton to create a grid, which they embellish with intricate embroidery. Our last stop is in Angahuan, where we will enjoy a traditional lunch with a family of weavers. The artists will show us their various woven garments and offer a weaving demonstration to show us their backstrap loom techniques. Following lunch, we head to San Juan Parangaricutiro by horseback to visit a colonial church that was devoured by a volcano in the 1940's. Paricutin Volcano is on the CNN list of world wonders, as it was the first time a volcano was recorded and witnessed from birth to eruption. We will retreat to our hotel for a relaxing dinner and short but interesting lecture about invasive bird species in Mexico.

All meals and entrance fees included. Horseback riding separate (Cost is approximately \$350 MXN)

Day Five: Monday February 3, 2025 (Jungapeo)

This morning we will meet for breakfast at 7 AM before heading into the National Forest by 8 AM with PhD Candidate & ornithologist Adrian Ceja Madrigal to do some bird watching alongside the spring-fed Cupatitzio River. We will depart by 10 AM for our next home in the Zitacuaro region. Our commute will take about 4 hours, so please consider bringing snacks and water bottle for the drive. (We will stop for bathroom breaks). Upon arriving in Jungapeo, we will relax and visit,

This PM, Trecia Neal will present *Invite a Monarch to Lunch*, which is a fascinating lecture about Monarch biology and habitats.

All meals, bird watching and lecture included

Day Six: Tuesday February 4, 2025 (Jungapeo)

This morning we will enjoy a leisurely breakfast. Guests who are up early will have time to soak in the beautiful mineral pools here, which are temperate but healing. We will depart the resort at 11:00 AM for the El Rosario Monarch Butterfly Reserve. Arriving at Noon, it takes about 30 minutes to reach the colony, where we will have time to bask in the wonderment of the most warrior-like Methuselah Monarchs of this phenomenal migration. We will enjoy lunch before returning to the resort, where we will have just enough time to shower off the dust and sink into those beautiful medicinal waters for a late-afternoon respite.

All meals and entrance fees included

Day Seven: Wednesday February 5, 2025 (Jungapeo)

This morning we will enjoy breakfast and some leisure time before departing at 11:00 AM for the Cerro Pelon Monarch Butterfly Reserve.

Today requires horseback riding, as the terrain is long, steep and thick with dust or mud, depending. We will bring a picnic lunch today, as this reserve is more remote and wild than the other reserves. Relish in the tranquility of observing monarchs in very small numbers, with a scientist who can offer expert insights and knowledge about this endangered migration.

All meals, entrance fees and horseback riding included

Day Eight: Thursday February 6, 2025

This morning we will depart Jungapeo by 8 AM for the International Airport in Mexico City. Arriving around Noon, we recommend flying at or after 3:30 PM to allow yourselves enough time for check-in, as CDMX Airport requires 3 hours. We wish you a safe journey home, unless you are following us to Yucatan for our *Birds of the Maya Empire Part One:* Flamingos of Mayab bird watching extravaganza!

Breakfast and bag-lunch included.