

Mexico Monarch Country Trip 2023 February 17-21, 2023

We look forward to taking you to Mexico's Monarch Country to see one of nature's great wonders!

We begin our four days together in **Mexico City's historic center**, followed the next day by an excursion to **Teotihuacan** to climb the Pyramid of the Sun, and then do a tour of the famous **National Museum of Anthropology** depicting the rich pre-Columbian civilizations of Mesoamerica. We spend Days 3 and 4 in **Monarch Country** where we visit 'El Rosario', overwintering sanctuary of millions of Monarchs; and connect with nature and local people. It will be an experience of amazing nature and wonderful food!

LAND PACKAGE – Itinerary

MEXICO CITY

Feb. 16 – Thursday [see Early Day under **ADD-ON OPTIONS** described below]

Feb. 17 – Friday [Day 1]

1:15 pm - We are met in the International Arrivals area by our local guide Alex Ramirez

2:15 pm - We leave for a City Tour of the **Historic District** and major sites around the **Zócalo**, including the Metropolitan Cathedral, (Aztec) Templo Mayor and Palacio Nacional, followed by check-in at our 4-star hotel.

7:30 pm - **Welcome dinner** with live music and authentic Mexican cuisine. / Stay at Hotel Casa Blanca

Feb. 18 – Saturday [Day 2]

7:30 am - Breakfast

8:30 am - Excursion to **Pyramids of Teotihuacan** led by guide Alexander Ramirez.

2:00 pm - Main meal (la comida) / Tour of the famous **National Museum of Anthropology** highlighting Mexico's amazing pre-colonial civilizations of Mesoamerica

Evening: Free / Stay at Hotel Casa Blanca.



MONARCH COUNTRY



Arrival of our first tour group in 2012 at the entrance of El Rosario Monarch Sanctuary



Students at our sister school "Leona Vicario"

Feb. 19 – Sunday [Day 3]

Breakfast / Early departure from Mexico City for 'Monarch Country' (a 2-hour trip).

10:00 am - Visit of a Monarch Sister School / light breakfast

11:30 am - Visit to the 'El Rosario' Monarch Sanctuary with a local guide.

2:30 pm - Home-style meal (la comida) served by local women of 'El Rosario'

Evening: Free / Overnight lodging at Hotel Villa Monarca.

Feb. 20 – Monday [Day 4]

Breakfast / Visit to a local Monarch Sister School

11:00 am - Visit the magical gold mining town of Angangueo (or if group prefers, return to El Rosario)

12:30 pm - Lunch in Angangueo

2:30 - Guided tour at partner **Alternare's** Sustainable Agricultural Training Center that works with the communities that own the lands of the Monarch Butterfly Biosphere Reserve.

7:00 pm - Farewell Dinner / Overnight lodging at Hotel Villa Monarca.

Feb. 21 – Tuesday [Departure day, except for those opting for the 2-day extension]

Breakfast & early departure for Mexico City / Arrive at Mexico City International Airport by 10:15 am

MAIN LAND PACKAGE PRICING

4-DAY [main] LAND PACKAGE (arrival 2/17)

- \$1,425 per person (double occupancy)/ \$200 Single Sup.

5-DAY [main] LAND PACKAGE (arrival 2/16)

- \$1,625 per person (double occupancy)/ \$250 Single Sup.

Deposit: To hold your place, a deposit of \$300 is required. Limited spaces: 16.

Note: Please make your check payable to Natural Partners and mail to:

William Dent, 4740 Connecticut Ave NW Suite #1012, Washington, DC 20008-5637.

Air travel: Each trip participant will book his/her own airline reservations. For the 4-day LAND PACKAGE your flight should arrive no later than 1:00 pm on Friday, Feb. 17, 2023. You may wish to consider arriving the day before. Let us know.

Our 4-day LAND PACKAGE includes:

- **Hotels:** 2 nights in Mexico City + 2 nights in Monarch Country.
- **Meals:** Breakfast plus the main meal of the day (as underlined in the itinerary above).
- **Tour services:** Alexander Ramirez Cruz (Friday - Saturday) / William Dent (entire tour)
- **Transportation:** Private Mercedes mini-bus including round trip to "Monarch Country".
- **Admission fees** to Teotihuacan archeological site; the National Museum of Anthropology; and to the 'El Rosario' Monarch Butterfly Sanctuary.

ADD-ON OPTIONS:

Early day (arriving Thursday, Feb. 16) – To see more of cosmopolitan, fun Mexico City, you may wish to come a day early. We do a walking tour Thursday evening to Alameda Park and the *Palacio de Bellas Artes* before having dinner together. Friday morning, we tour the world-famous Chapultepec Park and tour the 'Castle' overlooking the Park, now the 'National Museum'.

Two-day Monarch Festival: Instead of returning to Mexico City early on February 21st, participants may stay in 'Monarch Country' for two more days to enjoy the colorful **National Monarch Festival** (February 21-23) and visit local historical sites in and around the town of Zitácuaro, Mexico's "First Capital". By staying two more days, you will get to see the opening of the Festival with traditional local folk dancing. The following day is the colorful Monarch-themed parade with the participation of hundreds of local school children. The complete extension itinerary is described below.

Monarch Festival Extension Itinerary:

Feb. 21 – Tuesday

10:00 am - **National Monarch Festival – 10th Year:** Opening ceremony, with

- Traditional folk dancing by the colorful "Raíces Otomies" Dance Company & others
- Brief presentations of students and local authorities

1:30 pm - Lunch (*La Comida*, main meal of the day) at La Hacienda Restaurant

3:30 pm - Guided tour of the historic sites of Zitácuaro, including city hall with historic murals

6:00 pm - Social Hour, followed by optional light dinner (*la cena*) in Zitácuaro

Return to Hotel Villa Monarca

Feb. 22 – Wednesday

7:30 am - Breakfast

9:00 am - Excursion to the San Felipe pre-Columbian archeological site

11:30 am - Visit to the City's 'Mirador' with a commanding view of the Valley

1:30 pm - Lunch (*La Comida*, main meal of the day) at Casa de Memo restaurant

4:00 pm - Festival Parade

Return to Hotel Villa Monarca

7:00 pm - Social hour, followed by optional light dinner (*la cena*) at the hotel

Feb. 23 – Thursday

6:15 am - Breakfast

7:15 am - Return trip to Mexico City (direct taxi to the Airport in Mexico City)

TWO-DAY EXTENSION PRICING: \$475

Two-day Extension package includes:

- **Hotel** (2 nights)
- **Breakfast and 'La Comida'** (main meal of the day)
- **Local transportation** (small van or VW Kombi) to event sites
- **Local guide and interpreter**

Not included:

- Light dinner (*La cena*), snack, and beverages.
- Return transportation options to Mexico City

For more information, contact **William Dent** at williamdentjr@gmail.com or text at (202) 487-5343.