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 east of the Rocky Mountains to overwintering sites 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 fir forests of this zone, Monarchs pass the winter in aggregations that exceed two billion individual butterflies. Throughout periods of sunshine, millions of butterflies will take flight from the roosts and sail to nearby stream banks to drink, then soar again into the air and eventually return that afternoon to their original roost on the surrounding trees. You will have the opportunity to see them packed in the countless millions on the roosts in the early morning, as well as in flight at midday, feeding on wildflowers (which amazingly bloom throughout the year at these elevations in Mexico), and watering at streams.

THE BEAUTY OF THEIR RUSTLING WINGS clearly audible at times of mass flight, the sprinkling of orange Monarch scales drifting down through the green fir tree boughs, and sheer magnitude of the numbers seen, all combine to make this one of the most amazing experiences imaginable. Bring your best photographic equipment to record this miracle for your friends and relatives to marvel at when you return home!

Meet your leaders

Dr. Thomas C. Emmel is the founding director of the McGuire Center for Lepidoptera and Biodiversity, and professor emeritus of zoology and entomology at the University of Florida. Authoring over 400 scientific publications and 35 books, it’s astounding that he has had time to travel to over 45 countries on the hundreds of scientific and ecotourism expeditions that he has led throughout his career. Well-known as an international expert on tropical ecology, population biology, and Lepidoptera (butterflies and moths), he also has a strong passion for research, teaching, and the merits of conservation through ecotourism.

Ian K. Segebarth is a member of the Holbrook Travel team in product development. An avid naturalist, photographer, scuba instructor, and adventurer, Ian holds a bachelor’s degree in environmental science from the University of Florida. Since then he has traveled extensively and led trips to more than 28 countries including South and Central America, Africa, Indonesia, Papua New Guinea, and Antarctica. Ian loves to share his passion for natural history and is happy to provide photography advice during his travels.

ENROLL TODAY!
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800-451-7111
After breakfast, we will ascend into the mountains again to approximately 10,000 feet elevation to visit Sierra Chincua, one of several nearby Monarch sites that are more isolated than El Rosario.

With a simple picnic lunch on hand, we will have all day to enjoy and photograph the spectacular Monarchs. Horses will be available as an option to ride instead of walk over part of the trail to today’s site. This day is normally the most spectacular and moving experience among the Monarchs that you could possibly imagine.

We will return to the Hotel Don Bruno for dinner and overnight. Dr. Emmel will host another evening lecture and discussion on the Monarchs, their biology, ecology, and conservation.

Overnight at Hotel Don Bruno. (BLD)

### SIERRA CHINCUA MONARCH SITE

Located on a high mountain slope near Angangueo lies the Monarch site of El Rosario. Here we will visit our first Monarch colony and the one most generally accessible to the public. This large overwintering colony normally contains well over 100 million adult Monarchs and has an excellent trail system winding 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.

We will have a simple picnic lunch as we enjoy 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 water, nectar, etc., before returning to their roost on the tree limbs or trunks.

In the late afternoon, we will return from the mountains to the picturesque colonial town of Angangueo. You will be free to enjoy the hotel gardens, walk and photograph the interesting scenes and people in this beautiful little town, or relax in this peaceful setting.

Dr. Emmel will give an evening lecture on the Monarchs, with emphasis on their migration, orientation, and navigation abilities.

Overnight at Hotel Don Bruno. (BLD)

### MEXICO CITY/DEPARTURE

This morning you will be transferred to the airport for your flight home. Breakfast will be included depending on your departure time. Please note that you should plan on arriving at the airport three hours prior to your flight time.

More information

**LAND COST:**  
$1,550 per person (double occupancy)

**Included:**  
- Accommodations (double occupancy), in-country transportation, meals and activities as listed in the itinerary.

**Not included:**  
- Items of a personal nature, flights, gratuities, beverages.

**ESTIMATED AIRFARE COST:**  
$500-700 (round-trip)

**THE FINE PRINT:**  
A completed enrollment form and $500 deposit are required to hold your space on the trip. Non-refundable final payments are due in full 95 days prior to departure. Travel/trip cancellation insurance is strongly recommended. For more information, contact Travel Insured at 800-243-3174 or visit travelinsured.com. Holbrook Travel's agency number is 15849.

**ACTIVITY LEVEL:**  
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.

**MEALS:**  
A picnic lunch typically consists of peanut butter and jelly sandwiches and trail mix. If you have any food allergies, please be sure to note them clearly on your enrollment form.

**CONTACT INFORMATION:**  
If you have questions about the physical activity level or any other aspects of the trip, please contact Lisa Palmese-Graubard at Holbrook Travel at 800-451-7111 x339 or lisa@holbrooktravel.com.