

## 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!

Photos by Ian Segebarth, Peilin Karaca, and Dain Van Schoyck

## Meet your leader



### Jaret Daniels

Jaret Daniels, Ph.D. is Associate Professor of Entomology at the University of Florida and the Director of the McGuire Center for Lepidoptera and Biodiversity

at the Florida Museum of Natural History. Dr. Daniels received a B.S. from Saint John's University in Minnesota and Ph.D. from the University of Florida. An entomologist by training, he specializes in the ecology and conservation of at-risk butterflies and other native insect pollinators. Some of his current work in collaboration with the Disney Wildlife Conservation Fund, Florida Department of Transportation, and the Duke Energy Foundation focuses on issues surrounding determining best management practices for native pollinators. He has authored more than 50 scientific papers, popular articles, and books dealing with butterflies, wildlife landscaping, and native plants, including his most recent book, "Butterfly Conservation in North America: Efforts to Help Save Our Charismatic Microfauna."



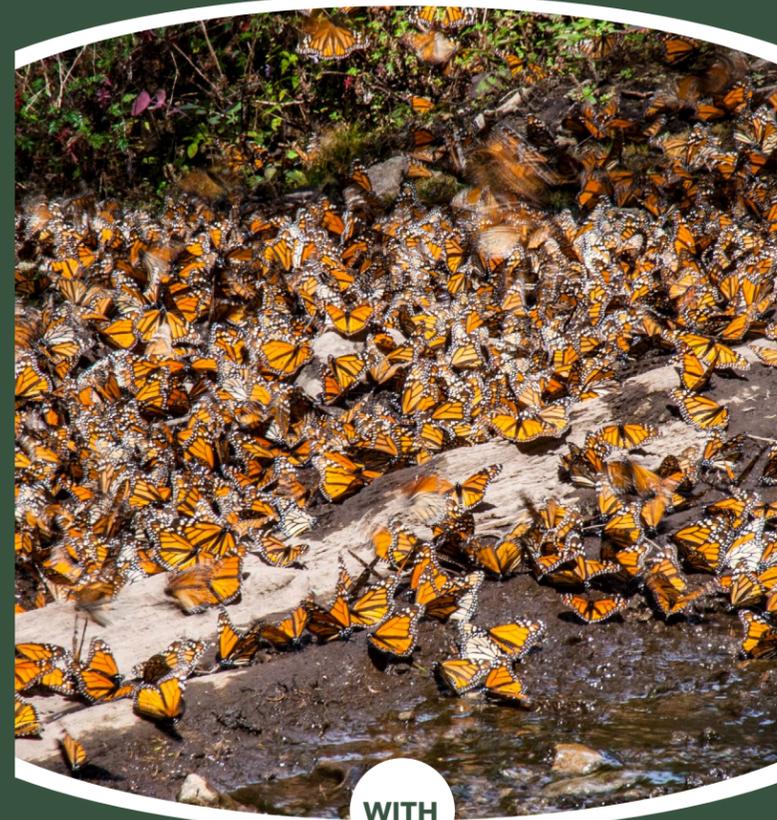
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## MIGRATION OF THE MONARCH BUTTERFLIES IN MEXICO February 18-23, 2020



WITH

FLORIDA MUSEUM OF  
NATURAL HISTORY

led by **Jaret Daniels**

*Director of the McGuire Center for Lepidoptera and Biodiversity*





## 2020 Itinerary

*Subject to change*

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### MEXICO CITY

FEB  
18

Upon arrival in Mexico City you will be met in the airport and transferred to your hotel, situated in the historic district on the Zócalo. The Zócalo is the largest plaza in Latin America and is surrounded by the presidential palace, Metropolitana Cathedral, Aztec 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 3:00 pm. *Overnight at Zócalo Central Hotel. (D)*



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### ANGANGUEO

FEB  
19

Begin today with a short exploration of Mexico City, with a boxed lunch provided. Then, depart for the colonial town of Angangueo, located high in the mountains in the state of Michoacán, about 100 miles west of Mexico City. Check in at Hotel Don Bruno. During the drive, Dr. Daniels will discuss Monarch biology, ecology, and conservation, and how to prepare for the coming days. After dinner, receive a brief orientation lecture on the Monarch sites and our activities over the next several days. Please note that it can get cold at night and in the early morning so it is recommended that you bring warm sleeping clothes. *Overnight at Hotel Don Bruno. (BLD)*

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### ANGANGUEO

FEB  
20



Today visit El Rosario Reserve, the first Monarch colony and the one most generally accessible to the public. The journey begins with a hike up to the site. Or, if you prefer, you can rent a horse (around \$5 U.S. or 100 Mexican pesos). 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. Have a simple picnic lunch while enjoying 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 secure water, nectar, etc., before returning to their roost on the tree limbs or trunks. Please be prepared to be independent today during butterfly watching. In the late afternoon, return from the mountains to the picturesque colonial town of Angangueo. You will have free time to enjoy the hotel gardens, walk and photograph the interesting scenes and people in this beautiful town, or to just

relax. This evening, Dr. Daniels will be available to answer questions, discuss the Monarch migration and what to expect tomorrow. *Overnight at Hotel Don Bruno. (BLD)*

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### ANGANGUEO

FEB  
21

After breakfast, ascend into the mountains to approximately 10,000 feet elevation to visit Sierra Chincua, one of several nearby Monarch sites. The day will start with a hike up to the reserve entrance. Horses are available for rent as an option for this portion (around \$5 U.S. or 100 Mexican pesos). Once at the entrance to the reserve, continue up the mountain on foot until you reach the site where the butterflies are roosting. The hike is uphill but you will be able to walk at your own pace and stop and rest as needed. The remainder of the afternoon entails walking around the butterfly site on your own and photographing and watching butterflies independently. A boxed lunch will be provided to eat at leisure. 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. The site is typically shaded so remember to dress in layers due to high elevations. Late in the afternoon, return to Hotel Don Bruno for dinner. *Overnight at Hotel Don Bruno. (BLD)*



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### MEXICO CITY

FEB  
22

After breakfast, depart for the Mexico City area and the pyramids at San Juan Teotihuacán. After a delicious lunch at a local restaurant 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 structures created in the pre-Columbian New World. After time to explore the ruins on your own, return to your hotel located on the Zócalo for a farewell dinner. *Overnight at Zócalo Central Hotel. (BLD)*

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### MEXICO CITY / DEPART

FEB  
23

This morning you will be transferred 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. This goes for the flight to Mexico as well as on the way back. Please pay careful attention when you book your return flight, as 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 am. If you choose to make an early morning booking there is no problem in terms of getting you to the airport on time, but we want you to be aware of the three-hour check-in time. (B)

## More information

### LAND COST:

**\$1,790** per person (double occupancy)

#### **Includes:**

Accommodations (double occupancy), in-country transportation\*, meals and activities as listed in the itinerary, most gratuities except for main guide and driver, and carbon offset.

\*Please note that airport transfers are included only on February 18 and 23. If you plan to arrive before the start of the program or stay later, you will need to pay for a private transfer.

#### **Not included:**

Items of a personal nature, flights, gratuities, alcoholic beverages, trail horse rental (approximately \$5 each way), or gratuities for main guide and driver.

### ESTIMATED AIRFARE COST:

**\$625** (round-trip from Gainesville)

Holbrook can assist with your flight arrangements from the airport of your choice if desired.

### THE FINE PRINT:

Price is based on double occupancy; for a single room add \$375 per person. A completed enrollment form and \$200 deposit are required by Oct. 21, 2019 to hold your space on the trip. This deposit is refundable minus a \$100 cancellation fee until Nov. 15, 2019, at which time final non-refundable payment is due.

### TRAVEL PROTECTION:

Holbrook Travel purchases Travel Protection on behalf of all participants traveling in 2018 or beyond. These plans help provide coverage once the trip has departed and offer benefits for Baggage/ Personal Effects, Accident & Sickness Medical Expenses, Emergency Evacuation and more. Visit [holbrooktravel.com/travelprotection](http://holbrooktravel.com/travelprotection) for more details. Optional additional coverage is available in the form of the Group Deluxe Plan, which offers benefits for Trip Cancellation/ Interruption, in addition to many other insurance benefits and non-insurance assistance services. If interested in this optional plan, we can provide you with rates and plan details.

### 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.

### 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.

### 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](mailto:lisa@holbrooktravel.com).