



Adventure Learning Tours

to Mexico, Latin America & Spain

866-780-2813

www.ss-tours.com

email: ss@ss-tours.com

ITINERARY



March 1-7, 2019

MONARCH BUTTERFLY WINTER SANCTUARIES

This enchanting trip offers the wonderful variety of colonial history, and the unique small colorful folk-art villages of Michoacán with centuries-old traditions still alive today **plus** two of the protected sanctuaries of the Monarch Butterflies of El Rosario and Sierra Chincua. The fragile Monarch Butterflies migrate 2500 miles from Canada to the Western Sierra Madre mountain range in central Mexico for the winter. Learn about this epic journey and experience the unique privilege of being in the middle of literally millions of these amazing butterflies in their winter refuges.

This trip is suitable for anyone in good health that is able to walk a lot at high elevations of 9500-11,000 ft. above sea level and has a spirit of adventure to enjoy off-the-beaten-track places.

INCLUDES: 13 meals, 6 nights lodging, all entrance fees, all transfers, day tours as mentioned, and all tips (except for local driver/guide). All hotels are very comfortable and located in the heart of the historic districts.

YOUR ITINERARY

MAR. 1 – ARRIVE IN MORELIA

Morelia is a UNESCO World Heritage Artistic Site. You do not only have to go to Europe to see great 16th-18th century art. Morelia has it in their Mexican mix of European and indigenous cultures. Hotel Virrey de Mendoza one of the old-style grand hotels one occasionally finds in colonial Mexico. This beautifully kept and most impressive hotel is right on the main square. Enjoy the period furniture in the rooms and live piano music in the evenings.

HOTEL Hotel Virrey de Mendoza

MEALS: None

MAR. 2 – FOLK ART VILLAGES TOUR- RETURN TO MORELIA

Today will be a fun day as you get acquainted with the colorful folk-art villages of Patzcuaro; Quiroga, Tzintzuntán, and the Tzintzuntán archeological site. You will admire the hand-loomed fabrics, straw sculptures, hand-carved wooden furniture, and distinctive lacquer ware being crafted in the villages.

HOTEL Hotel Virrey de Mendoza

MEALS: Two meals included

MAR. 3 – PATZCUARO AND ST. CLARA DE COBRE TOUR – RETURN TO MORELIA

Patzcuaro (founded in 1460) is a well-preserved colonial town. Except for its paved streets, little has changed since colonial times. This town has deep Indian roots, with the ancient Tarascan language still frequently heard. The House of the Eleven Patios, housed in a former convent, is the best one-stop shopping on our trip. You will find every type of local artistry for sale here. See the Museum of Popular and Regional Arts, located in the original 1540 San Nicolas College, the oldest education institution in Latin America. Watch the copper process in the village specializing in this craft. Return to Morelia for the evening.

HOTEL: Hotel Virrey de Mendoza

MEALS: Two meals included



Adventure Learning Tours

to Mexico, Latin America & Spain

866-780-2813

www.ss-tours.com

email: ss@ss-tours.com

MAR. 4 - EL ROSARIO MONARCH BUTTERFLY SANCTUARY - OVERNIGHT IN ANGANGUEO

Today is what you came on this trip for! Spending the day visiting the winter refuge of the Monarch Butterfly in the mountains of Michoacán is an awesome experience. You will be here at the prime time to see them before they return to Canada. This is one of the few places in the world where you can hear the soft sound of butterflies flying. This day is well worth the time, effort and expense to be surrounded by their magic beauty. They will personally greet you, resting on your arms and head. El Rosario Monarch Sanctuary is a mile through the parking lot and a difficult and steep mile up into the sanctuary where the butterflies are at 10,000 ft. There is a trailed path with concrete-steps that wind up to the mountain. The uphill mile hike/walk to the colony is mostly paved trail. There are benches along the way for rest. Horses are available for rent part-way.

HOTEL: Hotel Don Bruno

MEALS: Two meals included

MAR. 5 - SIERRA CHINCUA MONARCH BUTTERFLY SANCTUARY-RETURN TO MORELIA

We will visit another Monarch sanctuary for a different experience. Here you can usually find yourself right in the middle of these wonderful, fragile creatures. Sierra Chincua Monarch Butterfly Sanctuary is not as steep as El Rosario. Its part paved trail leading to the butterflies might have challenging ups and downs through mounds and hills. Horses are available for rent part-way.

HOTEL: Hotel Virrey de Mendoza

MEALS: Two meals included

MAR. 6 - MORNING HISTORIC WALKING TOUR OF MORELIA - FREE AFTERNOON

Layer upon layer of fascinating colonial history surrounds you in this interesting city, which has earned the reputation as one of Mexico's most intellectual and artistic centers. Our 2-hour tour includes the state museum, General Morelia's birthplace, the government murals, the conservatory of music and the cathedral. Free time this afternoon.

HOTEL: Hotel Virrey de Mendoza

MEALS: Two meals included

MAR. 7 - DEPART MORELIA

HOTEL: None

MEALS: Breakfast at Hotel

PACKAGE PRICING

DEPARTS	RETURNS	SINGLE	DOUBLE
MARCH 1, 2019	MARCH 7, 2019	\$2645	\$2195

The package price does not include airfare, airport transfers, local guide tips, meals not specified in the itinerary, horse rentals, or trip cancellation insurance or any optional tours.



Adventure Learning Tours

to Mexico, Latin America & Spain

866-780-2813

www.ss-tours.com

email: ss@ss-tours.com

OPTIONAL TOURS (AVAILABLE BEFORE OR AFTER OUR GROUP TOUR)

YOU MAY CHOOSE TO TAKE ONE OR ALL OPTIONS

OPTION 1: PARICUTIN VOLCANO RUINS

Discover the enchanting town of Angahuan, a Purepecha community. This area offers incredible views of the extraordinary volcano and is also where you'll find the San Juan Parangaricutiro Temple, a small but beautiful ruin site that is all that remains of a town that was destroyed by the volcano. It is a 2.5hr drive and requires about a mile walk to the temple ruins. You can rent horses partway. The tour is from 9am to 7pm.

HOTEL: Virrey de Mendoza

MEALS: Breakfast

Package Price: TBA (Double occupancy - minimum 2 travelers required for this tour)
TBA (Single occupancy)

Package Includes: driver/guide, lodging in Morelia, breakfast, and entrance fees.

OPTION 2: JANITZIO ISLAND

Embark for the Island of Janitzio (7,000 ft. elev.) out of the Patzcuaro pier. You will find an array of colorful boats dancing to the rhythm of the waves on your 60-minute round-trip ride to the island. Revel in the landscape among the hunting birds and fishermen releasing their nets. Once on the island, admire the historical murals along the interior walls as you climb the 40-meter spiral staircase inside the statue of Morelos which offers a spectacular view of the island, lake and surroundings from the top.

HOTEL: Virrey de Mendoza

MEALS: Breakfast

Package Price: \$ (Double occupancy - minimum 2 travelers required for this tour)
\$ (Single occupancy)

Package Includes: driver/guide, lodging in Morelia, breakfast, boat ride and entrance fees.