

# KINGDOM OF THE MONARCHS

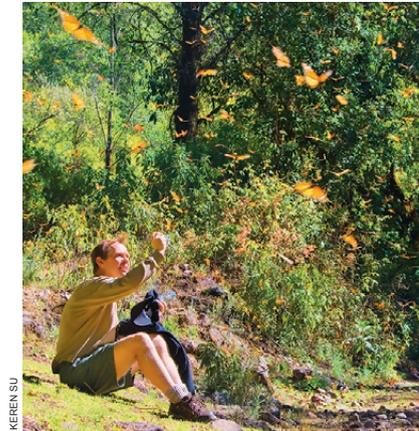
February 25–March 2, 2018



**PARTNERS  
IN CONSERVATION**

## Kingdom of the Monarchs

Mexico | February 25–March 2, 2018



Join us in Mexico to experience one of the most astounding natural events on Earth, featuring an unlikely creature: the delicate monarch butterfly. Every year, at the end of the summer, millions of monarchs take flight on a remarkable 2,500-mile journey, from Northeast United States and Southeast Canada to their ancestral wintering grounds in the volcanic mountains of central

Mexico. Journey with WWF communications expert and Mexico native Mónica Echeverría to her homeland's Monarch Butterfly Biosphere Reserve for a unique chance to get up close to these amazing creatures. Immerse yourself in the monarchs' fascinating world and learn directly from WWF experts and local communities about how together we are protecting monarch butterflies.

### HIGHLIGHTS

- Travel with monarch butterfly experts from WWF-Mexico and Mónica Echeverría, WWF's communication expert for Latin America.
- Enjoy a welcome dinner and presentation hosted by local WWF representatives in Mexico City.
- Meet and talk to local communities working at the conservation project Las Novias del Sol, a WWF supported tree nursery.
- Journey—on horseback and on foot—to remote forest groves where millions of brilliant-hued monarchs congregate for the winter.
- Explore traditional Mexican mountain villages, visit an authentic market, and see firsthand how butterfly conservation and sustainable travel benefit local people.

For reservations and additional information, please contact Court Whelan at Natural Habitat Adventures at 888-993-8687, (Int'l) 303-449-3711 or courtw@nathab.com.

As a **Partner in Conservation**, you're invited on an exclusive adventure to explore WWF's work to protect the monarch butterfly, a beautiful illustration of nature's delicate balance.

This special journey is led by WWF experts and offers an opportunity to discover the wildlife and ecosystems we protect; meet community members whose lives are being improved because of our work; and immerse yourself in the worlds of our field staff and partners on the ground.

Come explore the best of the natural world and see how together we are making a difference for our planet.



KEITH ALEXANDER

## A Message From Mónica

Journey with me to some of the most beautiful and lesser-traveled regions of my homeland, Mexico, for a rare and exhilarating look at monarch butterflies in their winter habitat. Visiting the monarch's enclave year after year has been one of the greatest thrills of my 16-year career with WWF. As Communications Deputy Director, unveiling the wonders of the butterflies' world and sharing the uplifting story of WWF's work to protect them with reporters, scientists and others from around the world has been my great privilege. I am so excited for the opportunity to convey my intimate knowledge of these majestic creatures, their amazing journey, and the unique culture and scenery of my home country to WWF's closest supporters. Please join me for this special travel experience.

## ITINERARY

**Day 1: Mexico City, Mexico** Our monarch butterfly journey begins upon arrival in Mexico City, where we transfer to our hotel in the upscale Polanco district downtown.

Be the guest of honor this evening at a welcome dinner and presentation hosted by local WWF representatives.

**Day 2 and 3: Angangueo/El Rosario and Chincua Butterfly Sanctuaries** From Mexico City, we drive into the Central Highlands, past dramatic vistas including the snow-capped volcano Nevado de Toluca towering over the pine forests. In a few hours, we arrive in the mountain village of Angangueo, where we enjoy a traditional lunch before checking into our rustic local inn. The next day-and-a-half will offer panoramic views of the countryside as we journey into the hills to El Rosario and Chincua butterfly sanctuaries. Mounting up on horseback, we



ascend through the forest to the monarchs' kingdom—the only place in the world where you can hear butterflies' wings gently rustling as they fly.

**Day 4: WWF Project Visit** Eduardo Rendon Salinas, head of WWF-Mexico's Monarch Butterfly Program, will join us for our morning excursion to the El Rosario Monarch Butterfly Reserve, where he has worked for some 20 years. The largest of the monarch sanctuaries in the region, El Rosario spans 138,379 acres and offers an unparalleled



COURT WHELAN

opportunity to view great numbers of monarchs in one location. It is also a World Heritage Site. Observe the butterflies' fascinating winter behavior as they hang on the large fir trees and watch as Eduardo demonstrates how WWF



JOEL SARTORE

surveys Mexico's annual butterfly population by tagging and counting the monarchs.

After lunch, we will travel just over an hour's drive to Donato Guerra, one of the local communities. Here, WWF is helping to keep the forest intact and discourage logging by establishing alternative business ventures like sustainable mushroom



MONICA ECHEVERRÍA

production and tree nurseries. Once again we will see WWF's work up close and meet locals at Las Novias del Sol, the largest of 13 tree nurseries that together produce around 1.5 million native trees each year to support local reforestation efforts. While WWF forest engineers help with the work of growing trees, the program also creates a number of local jobs. Later, we travel to a vacation resort in the hamlet of Avandaro, or “dream place” in the Tarascan Indian language.

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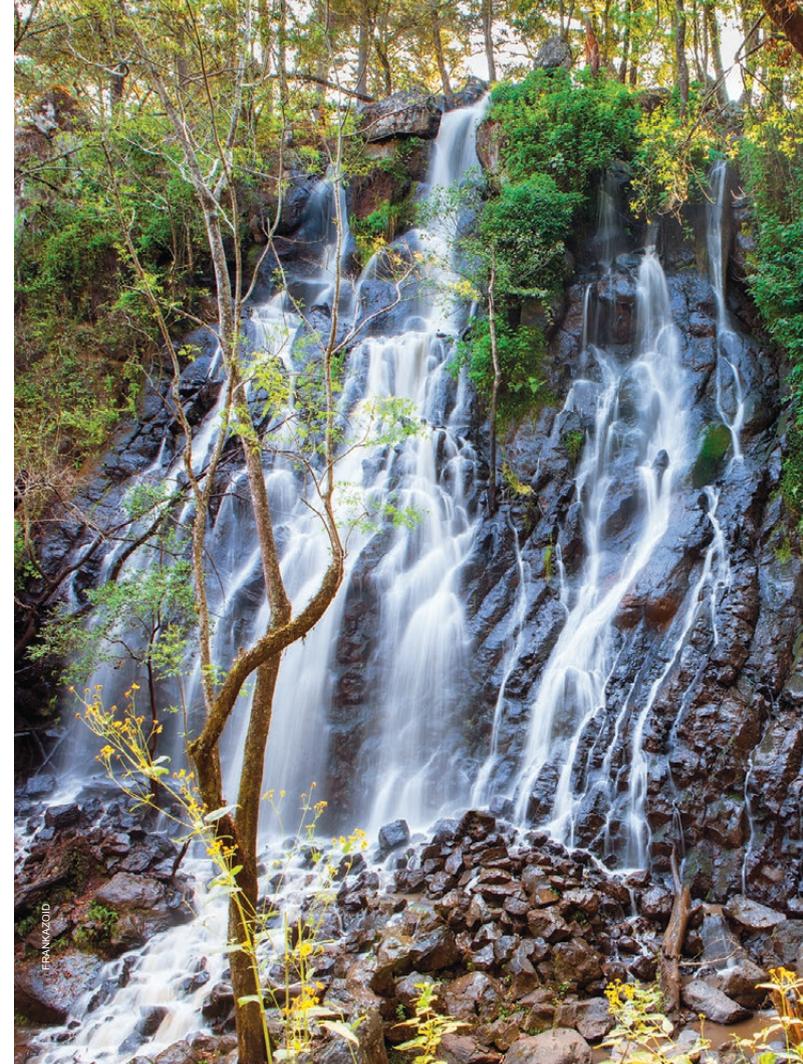
**Day 5 and 6: Valle de Bravo/Toluca/Mexico City** We will begin the day with a scenic hike along a waterfall, before driving to the charming colonial resort town of Valle de Bravo. Enjoy lunch overlooking a tranquil lake and a stroll through the town center's lively markets. In the afternoon, we will begin our return journey to Mexico City, stopping at the ancient city of Toluca to visit Cosmovital Botanical Garden, where 500 plant species glow in the colorful light streaming through 71 elaborate stained-glass panels. Say farewell over a Mexican feast, before returning to the capital this evening for a late check-in to our hotel.



HEMIS / AWL

for flights home. Or, choose to remain in Mexico City for the optional extension trip to Teotihuacán, an archaeological site famous for its pyramids.

After breakfast on the final day, our monarch butterfly tour concludes with a transfer to the airport



FRANKAZOID

## Reservation Information & Trip Details

**Dates:** February 25–March 2, 2018

**Price:** \$3095 per person, based on double occupancy.  
(Dates and price may change slightly and will be confirmed by May 2017)

**Group size:** Limited to 14 guests.

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### About WWF & Natural Habitat Adventures

WWF is partnering with Natural Habitat Adventures of Boulder, Colorado for this adventure. For more than a decade, WWF has partnered with Natural Habitat Adventures to take travelers to view nature's greatest sights. WWF selected Natural Habitat Adventures as its partner because of its long-standing commitment to conservation and the exceptional quality of its adventures. Natural Habitat Adventures has donated more than \$2 million to WWF and will continue to give 1% of gross sales plus \$100,000 annually through 2023 in support of WWF's mission.



One doesn't see anything  
unless one sees its beauty.  
—Oscar Wilde



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