Magical Places Tours Mexico Monarch Country Tour 2026 February 12 - 17, 2026

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

We begin our tour with a visit to **Mexico City's 'Zócalo' and historic center,** followed the next day with an excursion out of the city to **Teotihuacan** to climb the Pyramid of the Sun, and then do a tour of the world-famous **National Museum of Anthropology** depicting Mexico's pre-Columbian history. On Days 3 and 4 we are in '**Monarch Country'** (3 hours to the west) to visit 'El Rosario', the largest of the Monarch's overwintering sanctuaries where we witness millions of Monarch butterflies and meet the local folks who care for their forest habitat. It's an experience of amazing nature and wonderful food!

LAND PACKAGE – Itinerary.

≈ MEXICO CITY

February 12 – Thursday [Optional "Early Day" in Mexico City, with activities described on page 2]

February 13 - Friday [Day 1]

1:15 pm - We meet our local guide Alex Ramirez in the International Arrivals area of the Mexico City airport. 2:15 pm - We leave for a City Tour of the **Historic District** and major sights around the **Zócalo**, including the Metropolitan Cathedral and excavated site of the Aztec 'Templo Mayor', followed by check-in at our 4-star hotel. 7:30 pm <u>Welcome dinner</u> with live music and authentic Mexican cuisine. / Stay at Hotel Casa Blanca

February 14 - Saturday [Day 2]

7:30 am <u>Breakfast</u> / 8:30 am. Leave to visit the **Pyramids of Teotihuacan** led by guide Alexander Ramirez. 2:00 pm. <u>Main meal (*la comida*)</u> / followed by a tour of the famous **National Museum of Anthropology** highlighting Mexico's pre-colonial civilizations of Mesoamerica / / Evening: Free / Stay at Hotel Casa Blanca.

≈ MONARCH COUNTRY

February 15 - Sunday [Day 3]

<u>Breakfast</u> / Departure for '**Monarch Country**' (a 2-1/2 hour trip). 11:00 am: Visit to the '**El Rosario' Monarch Sanctuary** with a local guide. 2:30 pm <u>Home-style meal (*Ia comida*)</u> served by local women of 'El Rosário' Evening: Free / Stay at Hotel Villa Monarca.

February 16 – Monday [Day 4]

Breakfast. / Visit to a Monarch 'Sister School'

11:30 am - Visit to the magical gold mining town of Angangueo (or an *optional* second day at El Rosario) 12:30 pm - Lunch in Angangueo

2:30 pm - Guided tour at the Sustainable Agricultural Training Center of our local partner **Alternare** to see the 'best practices' local farmers are being taught to sustain the lands of the Monarch Butterfly Biosphere Reserve. 7:00 pm. <u>Farewell Dinner</u> / / Stay at Hotel Villa Monarca.

February 17 – Tuesday [Departure day, except for those opting for the 2-day extension] <u>Breakfast</u> & early departure for Mexico City / Arrive at Mexico City International Airport by 10:15 am.

4-DAY LAND PACKAGE (arrival 2/12) - \$1,775 per person (double occupancy)/ \$200 Single Sup. **5-DAY LAND PACKAGE (arrival 2/13)** - \$1,950 per person (double occupancy)/ \$240 Single Sup.

Deposit. To hold your place, a deposit of \$300 is required. Limited spaces: 14. Note: Please make your check payable to <u>Natural Partners</u> 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 a flight that arrives <u>no later</u> <u>than 1:00 pm</u> on Friday, February 13, 2026. Note: Most participants prefer to arrive the day before and avail themselves of the activities of the 'Early Day' option (see below).

Our 4-day LAND PACKAGE includes:

- **Hotels:** 2 nights in Mexico City + 2 nights in Monarch Country.
- **Meals:** Breakfast <u>plus</u> the main meal of the day (as <u>underlined</u> 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; the National Museum of Anthropology; and to 'El Rosario'.

ADD-ON OPTIONS:

Early day (optional - arriving Thursday, February 12) – To enjoy more of cosmopolitan Mexico City, you can come a day early. We will do a late-afternoon walking tour to family-friendly Alameda Park and the *Palacio de Bellas Artes* before having dinner together. Then, Friday morning, we tour the world-famous Chapultepec Park and the 'Castle' overlooking the Park, now the 'National Museum'.

Trip Extension: Instead of flying back on the 17th, we can arrange one or more additional days. Please consult us about customized options, if you are interested extending your stay in Mexico.



Upper photo - Arrival of our first tour group in 2012 at the entrance of El Rosario Monarch Sanctuary. Lower photo - Students at Sister School "Leona Vicario" near the Monarch Butterfly Biosphere Reserve. For more information, contact William Dent at williamdentjr@gmail.com or text at (202) 487-5343.

Magical Places Tours PHOTO GALLERY

Monarch Country



Monarchs by the millions at the Monarch Butterfly Biosphere Reserve



Breakfast at the Hotel Villa Monarca



On the trial to a Monarch 'colonia' with millions of butterlfies



This fellow (led by his owner) can help you up the mountainside close to the Monarch colonia.

Mexico City



The iconic Palacio de Bellas Artes theater / Home to the Ballet Folklorico de México.



Welcome dinner at historic Café Tacuba



Rooftop terrazzo of the former Presidential Palace overlooking the downtown Mexico City,



Teotihuacan archeological site with the Pyramid of the Moon in the background



Mexican muralism -One of the dramatic murals to see by Diego Rivera and David Alfaro Siqueiros



National Museum of Anthropology – The civilizations of Meso-America / a top 10 world museum