



### Day 1 - Bienvenidos! Arrival in México City

**Welcome to Mexico!** An Explora Latin America representative will greet you at the airport. It is a 20-30 minute ride to hotel Balcón de Zócalo (<https://balcondelzocalo.com/en/>) which is located in the heart of Mexico City's **historic center**. We'll have a **welcome meeting at 5 pm** to get to know one another, and go over key information about the trip. We then have our first meal together in the former Aztec Empire.



### Day 2 - El Rosario Reserve

We'll have an early start and travel on a private van (3-5 hrs drive) to the **first Monarch Butterfly Sanctuary, El Rosario**. El Rosario is known for the largest population of Monarchs, which gather at an altitude of 10,000 - 11,000 ft. Horses help us to get closer to the area. We'll then hike around 20 minutes to arrive at the butterfly clusters. After we've enjoyed an afternoon visit at the reserve, we'll drive to our rustic but charming hotel, Cumbre Monarca (<https://www.ranchocumbremonarca.com/>), which is approximately 15 minutes away from El Rosario Reserve.



### Day 3 - Sierra Chincua Reserve

After breakfast, we start our day-trip to visit the second reserve, **Sierra Chincua** and the butterfly town of **Angangueo**. It is about an hours drive to Sierra Chincua, where we get to mingle with the monarchs a second time. This reserve is more remote and, for a long time, was used only for research purposes. With some luck and sunshine, we will observe the Monarchs flying—something that makes the entire experience very special. Horses will support us up the mountain and bring us closer to the butterfly clusters. As in El Rosario, we will walk the last stretch. After our visit, you have time for shopping at the stalls of the local vendors and enjoy some delicious, freshly prepared traditional cuisine before we tour the colorful and vibrant streets of Angangueo. We will again spend the night at Cumbre Monarca where can share stories and laughs around the bonfire.



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## Day 4 - El Rosario & Valle de Bravo

Today we enjoy a morning visit to **El Rosario**. This time it is all about enjoying the moment in nature and seeing the butterfly clusters in different light. After lunch we travel to Valle de Bravo (approx. 3 hr drive). This picturesque town is a very popular weekend destination for Mexicans and it has a lot to offer: a colonial center, shopping, restaurants, mountain biking, boat tours on the lake, 360 degree viewpoints and much more. We spend the night in Hotel Mesón de Leyendas (<https://mesondeleyendas.com/>), which is close to the main square and the perfect place to relax after the days in the mountains.



## Day 5 - Piedra Herrada

Start the day with a delicious breakfast in the garden. We'll head out to visit the third monarch reserve, **Piedra Herrada**, and another chance to admire the beauty of nature and the show of the butterflies. Marvel one more time with the incredible journey they had to endure in order to survive the winter. As in the two previous reserves, there are horses to help you trek part of the mountain. After our visit with the butterflies, we drive back to Valle de Bravo where you can enjoy the afternoon in the picturesque colonial town. Get your souvenirs, indulge with a massage, visit a waterfall, take a boat ride or just enjoy a good coffee with the view of the main plaza and let the experience sink in. We will spend another night in Mesón de Leyendas.



## Day 6 - Mexico City - Cosmovital in Toluca

Enjoy breakfast before we leave Valle de Bravo and travel back to Mexico City. We visit the **Jardín Botánico Cosmovital in Toluca** on our way. Experience the jaw dropping stained glass windows of the world famous Cosmovital, a botanical garden which has almost an acre of impressive stained glass windows. This place is dazzling for art and plant lovers alike. After this pleasant stopover, we continue our journey to Mexico City where we have our **farewell dinner**. We spend the night in Balcón de Zócalo.

## Day 7 - Departure Day

Time to say goodbye and take the memories of an unique experience with you. We are sure you will remember the last seven days for a lifetime.