



# Monarch Butterfly



Code of Conduct for Tourists  
Visiting the Monarch Butterfly  
Sanctuaries

Welcome to Mexico, the land where nature tells stories as magical as its traditions. Every year, we welcome the arrival of the **monarch butterfly**, a symbol of transformation, resilience, and the cycle of life. As our guest, we invite you to experience this natural wonder respectfully. Please follow these guidelines to help preserve the monarch's journey and honor the ecosystems and communities that protect them.

### **Respect for the Monarch Butterfly**

The monarch butterfly is a protected species. Do not approach, handle, or capture butterflies, as this can disrupt their behavior and affect their life cycle. Avoid any actions that may cause them stress.

### **Stay on Marked Trails**

To prevent damage to the ecosystem, follow only the designated trails and routes. Do not walk off the marked paths, as this can harm vegetation and disturb local wildlife.

### **Do Not Take Local Flora or Fauna**

Do not take or collect local species, whether they are butterflies, plants, fungi, or any other natural elements. Everything in the sanctuary is vital to the ecosystem and should remain intact.

### **Maintain Silence and Respect for the Environment**

Avoid making loud noises that could disturb wildlife. Remember, the sanctuary is a refuge for wildlife, and your silence will contribute to a more peaceful and natural experience for everyone.

### **No Flash Photography**

Flash photography can disrupt animal behavior and damage their environment. Please take photographs without using a flash to avoid causing distress.

### **No Food or Alcoholic Beverages**

To preserve the health of the ecosystem, eating food, drinking alcoholic beverages, or consuming any other substances is prohibited within the sanctuary. This also helps avoid attracting animals and keeps the area clean.

### **No Pets**

To protect local wildlife and prevent disturbances to the sanctuary's animals, pets are not allowed on the premises.

### **No Smoking or Campfires**

Smoking and lighting campfires are strictly prohibited in the sanctuary to protect the environment from fire hazards and to prevent pollution. Help keep the area safe and clean by refraining from these activities.

### **Respect and Appreciate Guides and Local Communities**

Show gratitude and respect to the guides who accompany you on your tour, as they are the stewards of the sanctuary and deeply understand its importance. Also, recognize and support the local communities working hard to preserve this invaluable natural and cultural resource.

**Here are some recommendations to make the most of your trip:**

### **1. Choose the Right Time to Visit** 🦋

The best time to see the Monarch butterflies is from late November to early March, with January and February being peak months when the colonies are most active.

### **2. Plan Your Visit to the Sanctuaries**

The most popular sanctuaries are:

- **El Rosario Sanctuary (Michoacán): The largest and most accessible sanctuary.**
- Sierra Chincua Sanctuary (Michoacán): Offers beautiful hiking trails.
- Piedra Herrada Sanctuary (State of Mexico): Closest to Mexico City and great for day trips.

### **3. Respect the Environment** 🌱

These sanctuaries are fragile ecosystems. Follow these sustainable practices:

- Stay on designated trails.
- Avoid loud noises or sudden movements to not disturb the butterflies.
- Do not touch or pick up butterflies, even if they seem still.

### **4. Prepare for the Trek** 🥾

- Wear comfortable hiking shoes; some trails can be steep.
- Bring a hat, sunscreen, and a reusable water bottle.
- Dress in layers as mornings can be cold, but it warms up during the day.

### **5. Hire a Local Guide**

Many sanctuaries require or recommend hiring a guide. This supports the local economy and ensures you get the best experience.

### **6. Be Mindful of Altitude**

The sanctuaries are located at high altitudes (up to 10,000 feet). If you're not used to the elevation, take it slow to avoid altitude sickness.

### **7. Support Local Communities** 🛍️

Buy food, crafts, and souvenirs from local vendors to support the surrounding indigenous communities.

### **8. Book Accommodations Nearby** 🏠

Stay in eco-friendly lodges or small family-run accommodations in nearby towns such as Angangueo, Tlalpujahua, or Valle de Bravo. This reduces travel time to the sanctuaries.

### **9. Check Weather Conditions** ☁️

Weather can be unpredictable in the mountains, so check the forecast and plan accordingly.

### **10. Learn About the Butterflies**

Before your trip, read up on the Monarch butterfly migration and its importance. Many sanctuaries also have information centers.

### **11. Visit Nearby Attractions**

- **Angangueo: A charming Pueblo Mágico with colonial architecture.**
- **Tlalpujahua: Known for its Christmas ornaments and beautiful views.**
- **Valle de Bravo: A lakeside town with outdoor activities.**

This once-in-a-lifetime experience can be deeply enriching when approached with care and respect for nature and local cultures. 😊