

# Fiesta Mexicana

February is a great time to head to sunny Mexico where colonial history, lovely lodging, spectacular scenery and sanctuaries for wintering gray whales and Monarch butterflies await you. See the itinerary below for details.



FEBRUARY 16 - 26, 2014

## Itinerary

### Tour Features:

Tour Length: 10 nights/11 days

Starts: Sierra Vista, AZ (FHU)

Ends: Brownsville, TX (BRO)

Approx. Flight Distance: 1630 nm  
(FHU - BRO)

Highlights include overland trip across the Baja, 2-hour whale excursion in Bahía Magdalena, flight across Sea of Cortez, hike around Mexico's version of Crater Lake at Santa María de Oro, 4-wheel drive excursion to Volcán Parícutín and Templo San Juan Parangaricutiro, historic walking tour of Morelia, and day excursion to one of Mexico's Monarch butterfly sanctuaries.

#### Sunday, 2/16

Arrive Sierra Vista, AZ (FHU) by midday. Transfer to Sierra Suites Hotel. Afternoon Tour and Pilot briefing at 3:00 pm. Welcome Dinner at La Casita Mexican Restaurant. D

#### Monday, 2/17

Breakfast buffet at hotel, transfer to airport for the international flight to Loreto, Baja California Sur. After completing arrival procedures and documents, transfer to Hotel La Misión for two-night stay in luxury, ocean-view room. Free time to explore the pool, the beach or the city, followed by group dinner at hotel. B/D

#### Tuesday, 2/18

Breakfast at hotel. Day trip by land to Bahía Magdalena to enjoy the gray whales. Tour includes ground transportation, snacks and water, two-hour whale watching tour, and a seafood lunch. Arrive back at hotel late afternoon. Dinner on own. B/L

#### Wednesday, 2/19

Breakfast at hotel. Transfer to airport for departures across the Sea of Cortez to Tepic, the capital of the state of Nayarit, founded in 1524 by a nephew of Hernán Cortés. After arrival procedures, transfer to Santa María Resort, located in the forested highlands 40 kms outside Tepic. B/D

### FEATURED HOTELS

Sierra Suites \* Sierra Vista, AZ \* [www.sierravistasuites.com](http://www.sierravistasuites.com)  
 La Misión Loreto \* Loreto, Baja California Sur \* [www.lamisionloreto.com](http://www.lamisionloreto.com)  
 Santa María Resort \* Santa María de Oro, Nayarit \* [www.tau-boutique.com](http://www.tau-boutique.com)  
 Mansión de Cupatitzio \* Uruapán, Michoacán \* [www.mansiondelcupatitzio.com](http://www.mansiondelcupatitzio.com)  
 Hotel Casa Grande \* Morelia, Michoacán \* [www.casagrandemorelia.com](http://www.casagrandemorelia.com)  
 Courtyard by Marriott \* Brownsville, TX \* [www.marriott.com](http://www.marriott.com)



## Itinerary – cont.

### Thursday, 2/20

Breakfast at hotel. Free day to walk or bike the trails, or take a kayak across the lake. Bicycles and kayaks are provided free of charge to resort guests. Others may wish to visit the nearby village of Santa María de Oro to wander the market, photograph one of Mexico's oldest churches, and maybe catch a glimpse of the colorful Huichol native people, whose territory surrounds this area. B/D

### Friday, 2/21

Breakfast at hotel. Transfer to airport for departure to Uruapán in the state of Michoacán—the avocado capital of the world. Transfer to Hotel Mansión del Cupatitzio, named for the raging river and urban National Park of the same name. Free time to explore the lush vegetation, walking paths and waterfalls before dinner at Terraza de Trucha—or Trout Terrace—where you can (and should) eat fresh, local trout and maybe even wash it down with an avocado shake! We also hope to sneak in a visit to Fábrica San Pedro, a 19<sup>th</sup>-century textile factory still producing hand-loomed and hand-dyed linens of cotton and wool. B/D

### Saturday, 2/22

Breakfast at hotel. We will board 4-wheel drive vehicles to visit Volcán Parícutín and the Templo San Juan Parangaricutiro, originally built in the 17<sup>th</sup> century and now completely surrounded—and all but buried by—the 9-year volcanic eruption that began in 1943. The story of the “world's youngest volcano” and its surrounding villages is unforgettable, and this tour will get you up-close and personal to this historic event and its people. B/L/D

### Sunday, 2/23

Breakfast at hotel. Transfer to airport for the short flight to Morelia, the capital of Michoacán. After arrival procedures we will check in to the Hotel Casa Grande, a lovely boutique hotel housed in a restored 17<sup>th</sup>-century historic building, right in the historic center of Morelia. Walking tour of historic Morelia with English-speaking guide. B/D

### Monday, 2/24

Breakfast at hotel. Today is all about butterflies as we visit one of the sanctuaries that harbor the majestic Monarchs wintering over in the Mexican highlands. We will learn about one of the most complex migration patterns on earth and have a chance to see the butterfly-laden fir trees and the carpets of orange along the paths of this incredible reserve area. For those who do not wish to walk, horses are available for hire to traverse the sanctuary. This will be an all-day and unforgettable excursion! Tour includes transportation, entrance to the sanctuary and guide fees. Horse ride is optional. B/L/D

### Tuesday, 2/25

Breakfast at hotel. Transfer to airport for the international flight to Brownsville. After arrival procedures, transfer to Courtyard by Marriott. Farewell dinner at local restaurant. B/D

### Wednesday, 2/26

Breakfast at hotel. Shuttle to airport for departures at your leisure. B



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