



JOIN US
 for an exploration of
 nature and culture

DATES: Feb 3 - 15
COST: \$2900+air

CONTACT:
markabonta@yahoo.com

*Monarchs and
 Macaws
 MEXICO 2023*

- + Monarch Butterfly Biosphere Reserve
- + Sierra Gorda Biosphere Reserve + Military Macaws
- + Surrealist Xilitla
- + Birding + Hiking + Photography
- + Cycads + Waterfalls
- + Giant Sinkholes
- + San Miguel de Allende + Guanajuato + Queretaro
- + Leader: Dr. Mark Bonta



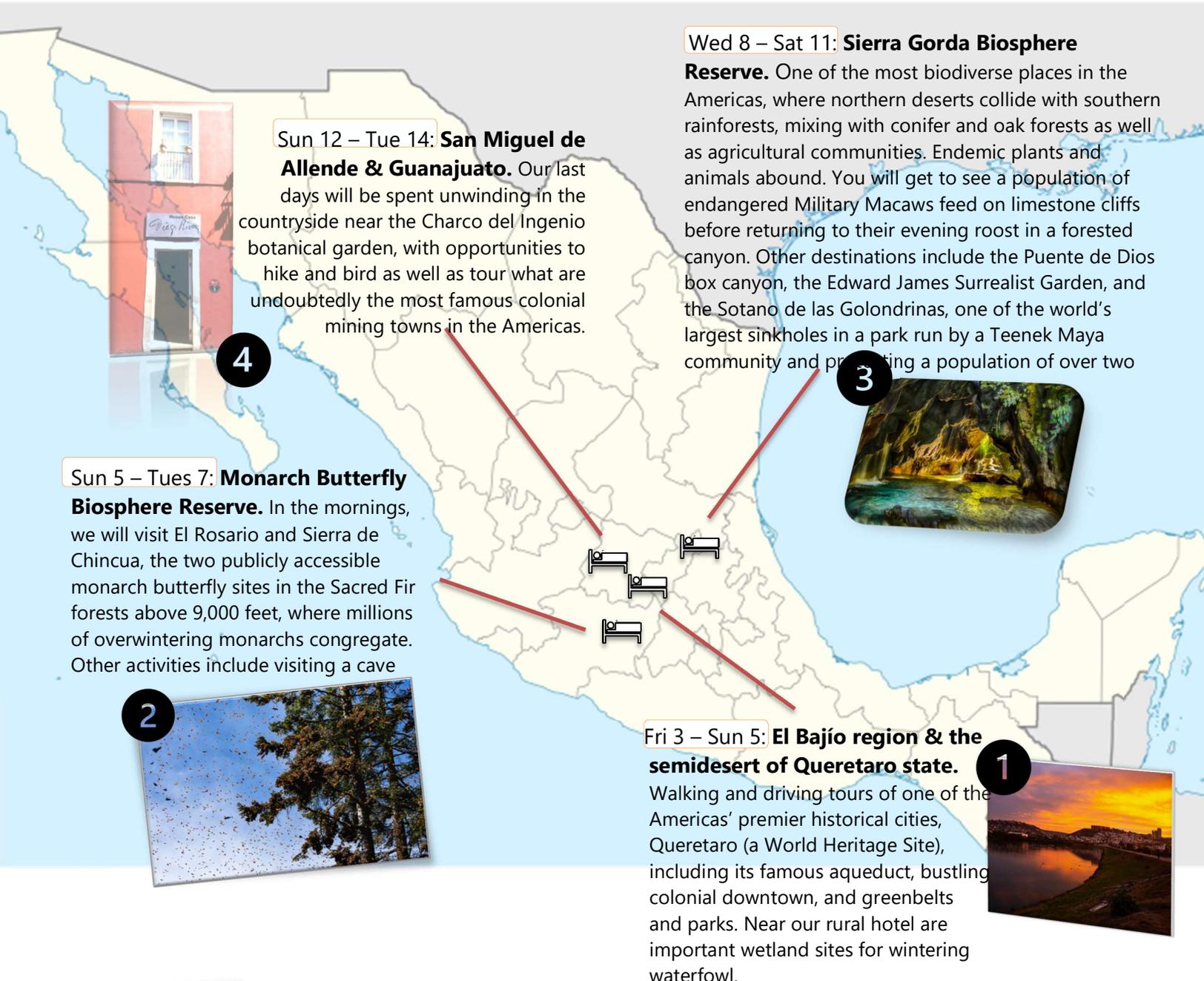
**ORNITOFILIA
 ADVENTURES**



ITINERARY

Fri 3 Feb: **Arrival to Queretaro Intercontinental Airport** ~ Wed 15 Feb: **Departure from QRO**

Accommodations will be in rural hotels and lodges with green areas to relax and explore. We will stay in each place two or three nights, allowing travelers the choice to participate in scheduled activities or just relax at home base. Morning and late afternoon birding and nature walks will be scheduled, as well as day trips to different places of interest.



Wed 8 – Sat 11: **Sierra Gorda Biosphere Reserve.**

One of the most biodiverse places in the Americas, where northern deserts collide with southern rainforests, mixing with conifer and oak forests as well as agricultural communities. Endemic plants and animals abound. You will get to see a population of endangered Military Macaws feed on limestone cliffs before returning to their evening roost in a forested canyon. Other destinations include the Puente de Dios box canyon, the Edward James Surrealist Garden, and the Sotano de las Golondrinas, one of the world's largest sinkholes in a park run by a Teenek Maya community and providing a population of over two



Fri 3 – Sun 5: **El Bajío region & the semidesert of Queretaro state.**

Walking and driving tours of one of the Americas' premier historical cities, Queretaro (a World Heritage Site), including its famous aqueduct, bustling colonial downtown, and greenbelts and parks. Near our rural hotel are important wetland sites for wintering waterfowl.



Sun 5 – Tues 7: **Monarch Butterfly Biosphere Reserve.**

In the mornings, we will visit El Rosario and Sierra de Chincua, the two publicly accessible monarch butterfly sites in the Sacred Fir forests above 9,000 feet, where millions of overwintering monarchs congregate. Other activities include visiting a cave



Sun 12 – Tue 14: **San Miguel de Allende & Guanajuato.**

Our last days will be spent unwinding in the countryside near the Charco del Ingenio botanical garden, with opportunities to hike and bird as well as tour what are undoubtedly the most famous colonial mining towns in the Americas.



The ORNITOFILIA team is fluent in Spanish and English. Dr. Mark Bonta is an American geographer, conservationist, and birder whose research has been featured in prominent venues including the New York Times and National Geographic. Dr. Paola Jaramillo is a Mexican anesthesiologist. They reside in central Pennsylvania.