



COPPER MOON
TRAVELS

SACRED LANDSCAPES – An Enchanted Journey

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TOUR ITINERARY

DATES: February 14-20, 2027

NIGHTS/DAYS: 6 Nights / 7 Days

DAY ONE: SUNDAY FEBRUARY 14, 2027 - BIENVENIDOS

HOTEL LOCATION: ZITACUARO, MICHOACAN

AFTERNOON:

We will pick you up from your hotel by 1:00 PM for our departure to Rancho San Cayetano, which is a lovely property just outside of Zitacuaro. The property features an outdoor pool, restaurant, small gift shop and lovely appointed rooms and cottages.

Dr. Jaramillo will meet us at Rancho San Cayetano by 4:30 PM to get set-up for a fascinating lecture about Monarch Butterflies. We will start at 5 PM, so please be at the restaurant early to order a beverage before our lecture begins.

EVENING:

Dinner is scheduled for 6:30 PM. We will order our meals before the lecture begins to give the kitchen time to prepare. We can continue our discussion with Dr. Jaramillo through dinner.

MEALS:

All meals are separate

DAY TWO: MONDAY FEBRUARY 15, 2027 – JOURNEY TO THE SKY

HOTEL LOCATION: ZITACUARO, MICHAOCAN

MORNING:

Please meet for breakfast by 8 AM and be prepared to depart by 9:00 AM. We will commute about one hour before meeting our Mazahua guides, who will take us in four-wheel drive vehicles that can handle the dirt road into the private reserve. Each vehicle fits 4 guests inside, or you may ride in the back with your guides. The road is bumpy and takes about an hour.

AFTERNOON:

We will bring bag lunches today that you can enjoy at your leisure. We will need to hike for anywhere from 20 to 45 mins, depending on where the colony is. As they move throughout the season, we cannot predict this part of our day. Please be prepared to hike at high altitude and bring a walking stick if you have trouble with balance, hips or knees. We may have the opportunity to hike down the mountainsides off the trail, depending on where the colony is located. We will move slowly and carefully, but if you do have trouble with mobility, you may want to wait at the top. You will still be able to view the monarchs, but may not be able to get as close as those who can descend into the forest.

When we leave the reserve, we will head to a wonderful Mazahua Cultural Centre where the women are cooking us traditional foods to try. It is delicious and beautifully prepared. We can also enjoy browsing through the textiles while we are enjoying our late (second) lunch!

EVENING:

Some guests may not require dinner after a bag lunch following by the Mazahua cuisine at around 4-4:30 PM. We will enjoy a lovely evening of leisure to visit and relax.

MEALS:

Breakfast, Lunch and Mazahua Cooking Included. Dinner is separate.

DAY THREE: TUESDAY FEBRUARY 16, 2027 – SACRED MIGRATION

HOTEL LOCATION: ZITACUARO, MICHOACAN

MORNING:

As the monarchs have been moving in recent years, we will wait until November to announce what reserve we will visit today. This past season, the Monarchs landed in yet another reserve that is closed to the public, but our Mazahua guides can take us. If this opportunity returns for the next season, we will be thrilled to bring you here for another close encounter experience with very few other visitors.

AFTERNOON:

We will bring a bag lunch for everyone to enjoy at leisure and should return to our resort at around 5:00 PM.

EVENING:

This evening we will have dinner at 7 PM.

MEALS:

Breakfast and Lunch Included

**DAY FOUR: WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 17, 2027 – TOLTEC WARRIORS
HOTEL LOCATION: GRUTAS DE TOLANTONGO, HIDALGO****MORNING:**

Please have your luggage by the lobby for 7:45 AM. We will load the van before breakfast and depart at 9:00 AM for Tollan-Xicocotitlan. Arriving at 11 AM, we will visit the site first, which takes approximately 2 hours. Before departing, we will have about ½ hour to visit the small museum. Tollan-Xicocotitlan was the Toltec Capital and is an impressive city.

AFTERNOON:

Departing by 2:00 PM, we should arrive at our destination at around 4:30 PM. Guests need to be prepared to wait about 20 mins while we check in, due to the way the resort is organized. Your guides will head down to get the room keys. Once we return to the van, the guards will open the lower parking lot so we can unload. We will have a bag-lunch today for you to enjoy at leisure.

EVENING:

This evening we will have dinner at the restaurant and enjoy the pools until they close at 11 PM.

MEALS:

Breakfast and Lunch included.

**DAY FIVE: THURSDAY FEBRUARY 18, 2027 – A CAVE AND A WATERFALL
HOTEL LOCATION: GRUTAS DE TOLANTONGO, HIDALGO****MORNING:**

This morning we will meet for breakfast at 8:00 AM, then pile into the van for a day adventure out at the Cave of Tolantongo! There are lockers near the park entrance, but we recommend just keeping it simple. We can purchase water socks and waterproof cases for our cell phones near the entrance. Hats and towels must be left on the fence by the cave entrance. Please do not bring your cameras, as there is nowhere safe to leave them by the cave. If you want to run back to the

entrance and purchase a locker, you could bring your camera to take some photos, then return to join the group. If you are using a smart phone, the plastic cases work surprisingly well! As we will be gone for the bulk of the day, please pack a day-pack to leave in the van with anything you may want for comfort.

AFTERNOON:

This afternoon your hosts will prepare a picnic for you down by the river. Guests can swim in the pools, read a book, or just relax. We will rent chairs and tables for our meal. If you would like to bring beer or wine for the cooler, we will have ice. We will return to the hotel at around 4:30 or 5:00 PM.

EVENING:

This evening we will meet for dinner at 7 PM and enjoy relaxing in the pools this evening.

MEALS:

Breakfast and Picnic are included

DAY SIX: FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2027 – CARNE ASADA TRADITION

HOTEL LOCATION: GRUTAS DE TOLANTONGO, HIDALGO

MORNING: We will have breakfast this morning at 8:00 AM, departing by 9:00 AM for an area across the river called La Gloria. For those who do not wish to climb up, there is a lovely waterfall pool not far from the bridge. Guests can enjoy soaking in the pool by the waterfall or swim in the river. Others who decide to hike up will find more pools and a more tranquil swimming area. As La Gloria costs another \$150 MXN (included), many tourists tend to stay on the Tolantongo side.

AFTERNOON: Free time to enjoy La Gloria or return to the Cave, which is walking distance from La Gloria bridge. There are restaurants to find tortas and cold drinks.

EVENING: This evening your hosts are preparing a Carne Asada Feast for everyone. We will rent tables and chairs by the river, so you can still swim or relax while we are cooking. We will enjoy a nice bonfire this evening and return to the hotel at 8:00 so everyone still has time to enjoy the beautiful pools for one last tranquil evening.

MEALS:

Breakfast and Dinner included.

DAY SEVEN: SATURDAY FEBRUARY 20, 2027 – HOME SWEET HOME

HOTEL LOCATION: N/A

MORNING:

Please have your luggage ready before breakfast. We will meet at 8:00 AM. In order to get our luggage back up the hill, we will need to haul it all. If you are not strong enough, the guides will help you, so it may take us longer than usual to check-out.

As you are all flying tomorrow, we can leave Tolantongo after check-out at Noon, if anyone would like some morning swimming. We will await instruction from your group regarding our departure time for Mexico City. Upon arriving in the city, we will drop you at your hotel before we depart for home. We can assist you with booking your transport to the airport through the hotel concierge.

MEALS:

Breakfast Included.

EXTRA NOTES:

If you are planning to spend some extra time in Mexico City before or after our tour, please let us know if you would like to book any day tours. Our colleague Mariana Puga is a wonderful guide, specializing in archaeology tours for Teotihuacan and Templo Mayor, Taco & Food tours in the city, and for those who really love archaeology, she could also take you out to Xochicalco, which is an important UNESCO protected site about 3 hours from the city (near Cuernavaca). Please message me for additional info on Xochicalco if you are interested – it is a long day trip, but manageable with enough time to properly explore the ancient city and visit the museum. Please let me know if there are any other questions or points of interest you would like to explore!

TRAVEL HOME SAFELY AND PLEASE JOIN US AGAIN!