

SAFARI GUIDEBOOK

LUXURY CONSERVATION MEXICO SAFARI

REWILD
SAFARISSM



**PREPARED FOR THE
OKLAHOMA CITY ZOO**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

4 - Preface

5 - Mexico Facts

Section 1: Before Departure

7 - Before Departure

8 - Passport

9 - What to Bring

13 - Money

14 - Health

Section 2: On Safari

20 - Health

22 - Communications

24 - Safari Ethics and Etiquette



Be prepared for your safari adventure to
Michoacan, Mexico with this personal guidebook.



A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT & FOUNDER

Thank you for traveling with Rewild Safaris! We have created this Safari Guidebook to assist you as you prepare for your Mexican adventure. Furthermore, you will receive additional information specific to the countries you will visit. Knowing what to expect and being completely prepared are two of the most important factors that will enable you to thoroughly enjoy your explorations of Mexico.

Please take the time to review your Safari Guide now and be sure to let us know if you have any questions. Then, a couple of weeks before your departure, we suggest you review this again to make sure you are fully prepared for your safari.

Again, thank you. I look forward to assisting you as you prepare to explore Mexico and her amazing wildlife destinations.

Tom LaRock
President and Founder
Rewild Safaris

PREFACE

This Safari Guide contains all the information you will need before going on your safari. It is divided into two sections:

Section One: *Before Departure* contains important information that you will need before you leave. Please read it now for this reason.

Section Two: *On Safari* contains details and reference materials that will help you during your safari. Please make sure you review it before your safari departs.

Please contact us if you have any questions.



MEXICO FACTS

About Mexico

In the heart of Mexico, Michoacán is a region of stunning natural beauty and cultural richness. Known for its lush forests, colonial towns, and vibrant traditions, it's also home to one of the world's most extraordinary natural events—the Monarch butterfly migration.

Visiting multiple sanctuaries, guests will witness millions of Monarch butterflies clustering on trees in breathtaking displays. With each sanctuary offering unique perspectives on this magical phenomenon, the journey is a perfect blend of Mexico's cultural heritage and awe-inspiring natural wonders.

Time Zone

Mexico City and Michoacán operate on Central Standard Time (CST), which is UTC -6:00. Unlike some regions, they do not observe daylight saving time, meaning the time zone remains consistent throughout the year.

Languages

The official language of Mexico is Spanish. English is also widely spoken, especially in tourist areas and major cities, making it easier for visitors to communicate.

Seasons & Climate

In February, Michoacán and Mexico City enjoy mild and pleasant weather, making it an ideal time to explore. **Daytime temperatures typically range from the 70s to low 80s°F (21°C to 27°C)**, providing comfortable conditions for sightseeing and outdoor activities.

In the evenings, temperatures can cool down, especially in high-altitude areas like Mexico City or Michoacán's mountainous regions, where the mercury may drop by up to 20°F (11°C). February falls within the dry season, meaning you can expect clear skies and minimal rainfall, perfect for experiencing the natural and cultural wonders of these regions.

SECTION 1

BEFORE DEPARTURE



BEFORE DEPARTURE

Please read this entire guide before your departure.

It contains important information to help you prepare for your safari. We recommend you bring this safari guide with you on safari.



Get a Passport (or Check your Passport)

If you already have one, make sure it will remain valid for at least six months **after the date of your return** from your safari. If it doesn't, please get a new passport now. We suggest that you have at least two blank pages in your passport. Send us a copy of the picture page of your passport to inquiry@rewildsafaris.com as soon as you have a valid passport.



Talk to a Medical Professional/Travel Health Clinic

This safari guidebook provides you with important information on the various precautions you may choose to take, but it is ultimately up to you to consult with your own medical professionals to determine your personal precautionary health measures.



Book International Flights To/From Home

Rewild Safaris does not make international flight arrangements. Please consult your landing page for options for assistance with these flight arrangements.



Send Us a Copy of Your International Air Confirmations *(as soon as you receive them)*

We need to provide your flights details to our team in Mexico to coordinate all your arrangements. Send to inquiry@rewildsafaris.com

PASSPORT

Please visit the U.S. State Department's website for complete information.
http://travel.state.gov/passport/passport_1738.html

You may use a professional passport/visa service to assist you with any passport-related transaction. An additional fee will be charged by the passport/visa service. You may use any service you wish. We have found The Travel Documents Company (<https://www.traveldocs.com/>) to be highly effective in providing personalized assistance with passport and visa services.

Loss or theft of a valid passport is a serious matter and should be reported in writing immediately to Passport Services, Department of State, Washington, D.C., or to the nearest passport agency. If you are abroad, it should be reported to the nearest U.S. consulate or embassy. We strongly suggest you make a photocopy of your passport and carry the photocopy with you, separate from your passport. In case of loss, this will help expedite the paperwork for obtaining a new one.

In addition, we require that you provide Rewild Safaris with a copy of the photo page of your passport, so we may book your hotel and transportation reservation in Mexico.



WHAT TO BRING



Documents

Before your departure, we will provide you with additional information that will help you on safari. Take this safari guide and other information with you. **DO NOT put any important documents in the luggage that you check through.** Always keep these items with you in your carry-on luggage. **And don't forget your passport!**

Important: Anyone travelling with children under 18 years will need to present an **unabridged birth certificate** at port of entry.



Luggage

Most people tend to take too much clothing and gear on safari. Pack as light as possible. The size limitations are required so that all bags can easily fit into your tour vehicle.

Keep one carry-on bag (we recommend a backpack) in your possession as your day bag at all times with important items such as medications, tickets, passport, etc.

International airlines have varying weight allowances for your checked luggage and may charge an extra fee for more than one checked piece of luggage. Please check with your airline for their allowance. Please check with all your international airlines now to determine if your carry-on luggage meets their specific requirements.

We strongly recommend you consider securing your checked baggage with locks approved by the U.S. Transportation Safety Administration (TSA). Additional details are available at this TSA website: <http://www.tsa.gov/travel/travel-tips>.

We recommend you place tracking device, such as an Apple AirTag, in your checked luggage so you can track the location if the baggage is misplaced.

WHAT TO BRING

(Continued)



Clothing

Once again, travel light but come prepared with the right essentials for your trip to Michoacán in February. **February falls within the dry season**, offering warm, sunny days and cooler mornings and evenings, particularly in higher elevations.

Daytime Weather: Expect pleasant temperatures ranging from 75-85°F (24-29°C), perfect for outdoor activities and exploring.

Cooler Mornings and Evenings: Temperatures can drop by 10-20°F (5-11°C), so pack a sweater, light jacket, and/or fleece as well as gloves, warm hat and gloves for added warmth during these times.

Pack lightweight, moisture-wicking clothing for the daytime and comfortable layers for cooler moments. This balance will ensure you're ready to enjoy all that Michoacán has to offer, from exploring its cultural treasures to experiencing the awe-inspiring Monarch butterfly sanctuaries.



Footwear

Comfort is key. A good pair of hiking boots is suggested for your excursions. Waterproof shoes or boots are useful for wet conditions. Women should wear low-heeled shoes rather than high heels, as the terrain can be uneven, and it is easy to turn an ankle.



Headwear

We strongly recommend a wide-brimmed, soft cloth hat for protection from the sun and wind. It can be easily folded and stored in a pocket or bag and is less likely to blow off than a stiffer-brimmed hat.

WHAT TO BRING

(Continued)



Camera

Virtually everyone who wishes to take photographs on their safari uses a digital camera, mobile phone or tablet. Most people find that a digital camera with a zoom lens rated between 70 and 300mm allows them the greatest flexibility in taking wildlife photos. The zoom feature is handy for framing your photo, and the longer focal length will bring your subjects closer to you.

Digital cameras store their image files on memory cards. It's easy to fill up a card when using a digital camera, so we suggest you bring more than one. Some travelers bring a dedicated hard drive to store image files, allowing the cards to be reused throughout the safari.



Bring Binoculars

Everyone who goes on a wildlife safari should have his or her own pair of binoculars. If you don't already have some, purchasing a good pair of binoculars is a wise investment. Binoculars are an essential tool for seeing birds and smaller animals and watching animals' behaviors at a distance. Choosing the right binoculars can seem a confusing challenge. Most of our travelers have found binoculars ranging in size from 7 x 35 to 10 x 50 useful on safari.



Electrical Outlets

The electrical system in Mexico operates on 120V, 60Hz, the same as in the United States. The plug types are Type A (two flat parallel pins) and Type B (two flat pins with a grounding pin).

There's no need to pack a hair dryer, as most accommodations in Mexico provide them.



Bring a Rain/Windproof Jacket

While February typically falls within the dry season, a light, packable rain jacket is still a versatile addition to your packing list. It can keep you comfortable during cooler mornings, unexpected light rain, or mist in forested areas near the Monarch butterfly sanctuaries. A rain jacket also works well as a windbreaker, ensuring you are prepared for varying weather conditions during your trip.

CHECKLIST

Clothing

- ☐ 3 long sleeve shirts for butterfly treks – long-sleeved is ideal for sun protection and warmth
- ☐ 2 - 3 shirts for city tours, evenings, and international flights
- ☐ 3 comfortable hiking pants for butterfly treks
- ☐ 2 - 3 shorts or pants for city tours, evenings, and international flights
- ☐ Sweater/fleece (insulation layer: early mornings/evenings can be chilly!)
- ☐ Undergarments
- ☐ Socks
- ☐ Belt
- ☐ Warm Sleepwear
- ☐ Warm hat/beanie and gloves
- ☐ Windbreaker/Rain Jacket/Poncho
- ☐ Wide soft-brimmed hat (for sun protection) Lightweight neck gaiter (provides sun, wind, and/or dust protection)
- ☐ Hiking boots

Miscellaneous Items

- ☐ Hiking Poles - Optional (Walking sticks will be provided at all of the butterfly sanctuaries for those travelers who require them. If you are bringing poles, make sure they fit in your checked baggage, as you generally will not be allowed to carry them on the plane.)
- ☐ Portable external battery to charge your phone
- ☐ Charging cables
- ☐ Toiletries
- ☐ Insect repellent
- ☐ Small flashlight or headlamp
- ☐ Double-wall water bottle
- ☐ Binoculars
- ☐ Sunscreen and lip balm (A minimum SPF of 30 is recommended)
- ☐ Sunglasses
- ☐ Medications
- ☐ Basic first-aid kit (band-aids, antiseptic ointment, aspirin, etc.)
- ☐ Hydration tablets or powder

MONEY

Currency & Credit Cards

In Michoacan, US dollars are widely accepted in tourist hubs, but bring newer, crisp bills (issued after 2006) as older or damaged ones may not be accepted.

Payment Tips:

- Credit cards: VISA and MasterCard are commonly accepted; American Express less so. Inform your bank of travel dates to avoid issues, and check for foreign transaction fees.
- Cash: Ideal for smaller towns, markets, and tips. While US dollars are widely used, carrying Mexican pesos is helpful for smaller transactions.
- Traveler's checks: Rarely accepted—avoid using them.

Other Notes:

- Use official ATMs to withdraw cash safely and avoid high fees.
- Keep money and valuables secure at all times, using a money belt or portable safe when needed.

Tipping

Tipping is appreciated in Michoacan, especially in tourism-focused areas. While optional, it shows gratitude for excellent service.

Tipping Guidelines:

Guides and Trip Leaders: \$20 USD per traveler per day

Drivers: \$10 USD per traveler per day

Restaurants: Gratuity is usually not included. Tip 10-15% for good service, up to 20% for exceptional service.

Hotels:

- Bellboys: \$1-\$2 USD per bag
- Housekeeping: \$1-\$2 USD per night
- Concierge: \$5-\$10 USD for special services

HEALTH

General Health Considerations

Before you leave for an extended vacation, especially to an international destination, we recommend you consult your physician and a professional travel clinic. **Make the doctor's appointment at least eight weeks before your departure.** You may need some prescriptions, inoculations (some of which need to be taken well before your departure), and perhaps some special advice that relates to your own physical condition. You should get a physical examination if you haven't had one recently. Discuss your itinerary and describe your planned activities with your doctor if you have any questions about your fitness.

Let us know if you have any medical conditions requiring special care or medications.

In addition to getting specific inoculations and drugs, it is also a good idea to bring along some general medicines. A broad-spectrum antibiotic is advisable. Be aware that some antibiotics (like tetracycline) can cause hypersensitivity to the sun. Diarrhea medicine is also advisable, as is medication for itches or rashes.

If you have any special condition or allergy that might require attention overseas, have your physician write a letter describing the nature of the condition and the treatment - send a copy to us and carry the letter with you. If you need medical care away from home, your temporary physician can treat you more efficiently and effectively.

If you have severe allergies that require an Epi-pen, please be sure to bring them.

Medical Insurance

Any additional expenses resulting from medical conditions or emergencies are your responsibility. Please review the details of your travel insurance coverage and check with your insurance agent to ensure you are adequately covered while travelling overseas.

HEALTH

(Continued)

Health Precautions for Mexico

There are certain health precautions that you should take for your visit. It is beyond the scope of this publication to advise you of precisely what you need as requirements change, and they vary among individuals. It is up to each traveler to consult their physician for specific advice.

You will be traveling in a part of the world where medical care is not well developed. You will often be far from any medical facility or doctor, and it could take several hours to get help. Although emergency medical evacuation service is available in Mexico, it is sometimes not possible to contact them immediately. Although simple first aid may be available and there are some simple medical facilities in parks and reserves, your guides, drivers, and other personnel cannot be relied upon for any but the most basic first aid.

Inoculations

You may need to get certain inoculations before you leave. Requirements vary from country to country. Please consult your physician or a professional travel clinic about your personal needs.

You'll find the CDC's recommendations here: <http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/destinations/list.htm>.

CPAP Machine

If you use a CPAP machine, please know that all accommodations provide 24-hour electrical service, except in the unlikely event of a disruption from the utility providers.

SAFETY

General Risks of Travel

We make every effort to assure you a safe, healthy, and rewarding journey. Any travel, however, involves some risk. Whether you make your own arrangements or go with a group, the new and wonderful things that travel offers can be dangerous. Although such risks can be greatly minimized and will not pose a serious threat to you, no one can guarantee you the same level of safety or health that you might enjoy at home. Health and safety standards vary widely worldwide, and we have little control over local conditions or practices.



TRAVELLING TO/FROM HOME

Flight Information

Rewild Safaris does not make international flight arrangements.

Once you have confirmed your international flight arrangements, please provide us with a copy of your flight confirmation by send it to inquiry@rewildsafaris.com. We need this so our Rewild Safaris team can meet you when you arrive in Mexico.

Consider arriving at your initial destination a day or two earlier than called for in your itinerary. The most important reason is to prevent a delayed or cancelled flight from causing you to arrive in Mexico after the planned start of your safari. Should this happen, we will arrange for you to catch up with the group. However, you may incur additional costs if you cannot start your safari on the day designated in your itinerary. While travel insurance may cover additional expenses, travelling early is the best way to ensure this does not happen.

Flying Departure Times

Minimum check-in time for domestic flights is 2 hours; regional and international flights is 3 hours. This applies in North America and abroad.

Returning Home

If you will be flying to your hometown upon your return, allow at least 2 1/2 to 3 hours between your international and domestic flights. Upon returning to the United States, you must proceed through immigration, retrieve your baggage and go through customs. If you have nothing to declare, go through one of the green lines.

SUGGESTED READING

This list and its descriptions reflect our opinions on some of the best books about Mexico and its wildlife. It is by no means a complete list of our favorites.

Field Guides

- **"A Swift Guide to Butterflies of Mexico and Central America"** by Jeffrey Glassberg
A comprehensive guide to identifying the butterflies you may encounter, including Monarchs, during your safari.
- **"Butterflies of Mexico: A Field Guide"** by Richard A. Holland
A user-friendly guide focusing on butterflies in Mexico, perfect for understanding the Monarch migration and other species.



SECTION 2

ON SAFARI



HEALTH

Travel Fatigue

Air travel experts and experienced travelers have techniques for combating travel fatigue. Here are some things you should do to reduce travel fatigue:

- Get plenty of **rest the day before you leave.**
- **HYDRATE! Avoid alcohol during the flight and drink plenty of other liquids.**
- **Eat lightly during the flight.**
- Exercise. You can **get up and stretch and walk about while on the plane.** Roll your feet, rotate your head, and contract and relax your leg muscles.
- **Stretch out** if there are some unoccupied seats. Take off or loosen your shoes.
- **Use earplugs and an eye mask to sleep during your flight.** You may ask your flight attendant to let you rest when they offer meals or other services.

Digestive Disorders

Stomach and intestinal upsets are common complaints wherever people travel. They range from mild discomfort to diarrhea and vomiting. The vast majority are harmless and quickly pass.

Some digestive upset is inevitable for many people. Readjustment of the body clock and exposure to new flora and minerals in the water cause part of it.

According to one study, the biggest cause of traveler's stomach upset is overindulgence in rich foods and alcohol, not bacteria in the water supply. Depending on the destination, there may be health hazards from drinking the local water or eating certain foods.

Traveler's Diarrhea

Traveler's diarrhea is a common malady throughout the world. When it occurs, there are two things you can do: stop it with medications or let it run its course. Several medications can usually stop it.

HEALTH

(Continued)

Food & Water in Mexico

Michoacán and Mexico City are culinary havens, offering rich and flavorful dishes that showcase the best of Mexican cuisine. In Michoacán, specialties like corundas, carnitas, and enchiladas placeras stand out. In Mexico City, iconic dishes such as tacos al pastor, tlacoyos, and vibrant street foods highlight the city's dynamic food scene.

It's important to note that **tap water is not recommended for drinking in either Michoacán or Mexico City. To stay safe and hydrated, stick to bottled water.**

Avoid Dehydration

During your flight, drink plenty of liquids and avoid alcohol. After you arrive, continue to drink lots of liquids. Hydration tablets mixed with bottled water may quickly help you feel refreshed if you feel dehydrated.

Sun

Don't underestimate the effects of the intense sun. It feels good, but its effects quickly accumulate. Sunburn and sun poisoning can result, and both can cause real discomfort and illness.

Wear a wide-brimmed hat and use sunscreen with a minimum SPF of 30 whenever you are exposed to the direct rays of the sun.

Smoking

Smoking is prohibited in enclosed areas and most public spaces in Mexico, including restaurants, hotels, and public transportation. Smoking is only allowed in designated smoking areas, typically found outside buildings and in specific outdoor locations. Always look for and adhere to posted signs indicating where smoking is permitted.

HEALTH

(Continued)

Emergency Medical Care

Should you become seriously ill or injured, you may need to leave the safari. This may mean hospitalization or taking an early flight home. You may consider purchasing travel insurance to cover any such medical emergencies. Rewild Safaris can provide you with a reference to our preferred Travel insurance provider to provide you with a quote for travel insurance at your request.

Medical emergencies are extremely rare, but rest assured that, in such emergency cases, Rewild Safaris and our teams in Mexico will provide all the assistance we can to help you obtain the best treatment and appropriate transport back home. Be advised, however, that medical treatment and evacuation may mean that you'll have extra expenses. Please consult your insurance professional to determine if your health coverage is adequate for your situation.

Post-Travel Health

Some diseases may not manifest themselves immediately. If you become ill after returning home, tell your doctor where you have travelled. Most people who acquire viral, bacterial, or parasitic infections abroad become ill within six weeks after returning home. However, some diseases may not manifest immediately. Tell your physician where you have travelled within the past 12 months.

COMMUNICATIONS

Mobile Devices

Mobile phones generally work well in most areas of Michoacan, particularly in towns and tourist destinations. However, service can be unreliable in remote or rural areas. Check with your mobile provider about international plans before your trip to avoid unexpected charges.

Wi-Fi is available at most hotels. While convenient, service may be limited in speed or availability, especially in remote locations, and bandwidth is often restricted.

We recommend using WhatsApp for easier communication, as it works well on both Wi-Fi and mobile networks. You'll receive emergency contact numbers before your trip, which will work via call or WhatsApp. Share these details with family and friends so they can reach you directly if needed. For reliable contact in remote areas, calling direct Mexican numbers is the best option.



SAFARI ETHICS & ETIQUETTE

Adhering to the following guidelines will help everyone enjoy their safari to the fullest.

- Preserve local resources as much as possible. If your hotel has a policy in place to minimize laundering towels and sheets, please try to support it.
- Remember to turn off lights and air conditioning when you leave your room.
- Do not encourage your guide to stray from the roads in locations where it is not permitted.
- Please do not ask your guide to approach any wildlife so close that it may be frightened or harassed. Guides must follow certain rules and regulations to protect the environment, wildlife and travelers.
- Do not crowd animals. If you see several vehicles near an animal already, your guide may suggest waiting or moving to another location.
- Do not disturb animals in any way. Please do not make loud sounds or throw anything to attract an animal's attention.
- Do not discard litter of any kind. Besides being unsightly, litter can choke or poison animals, including birds.
- Do not pick, cut, or destroy any vegetation or remove any object from the parks and reserves, particularly bones, feathers, or other animal trophies.
- Avoid abrupt movements or loud talking that can startle or scare away wildlife.
- Never feed animals, including birds.
- Watch that everyone has finished taking their photos before making any movements in your vehicle.
- Even the slightest movement can cause a photo to be out of focus.
- Many people consider having their picture taken without their approval to be highly offensive. Please do not photograph people, including from within your vehicle, without obtaining the subject's necessary permission first.
- Conserve water whenever possible. It is one of Mexico's most precious resources.