

# WOW CLIENTS WITH MEXICO'S WILDLIFE

**M**exico is world famous for its beautiful beaches and well-appointed hotels. But this vast nation is also a natural wonderland, with countless opportunities for travelers to view a surprisingly diverse array of wildlife. Here are a few top places to experience wildlife in Mexico.

## **Baja California Sur**

This scenic peninsula is paradise for nature lovers who keep eyes peeled for frigate birds, pelicans, cormorants, sea lions and more. San Ignacio Lagoon, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, is a hotspot for viewing eastern Pacific gray whales. Peak migration season is February through April.

## **Banderas Bay**

Turtle breeding season, which runs roughly between July and December, is a big deal in Puerto Vallarta, and many hotels offer programs that let guests join in protecting marine turtles. A company called EcoTeach offers an eight-night tour that includes four nights working with a local conservation organization, patrolling the beaches for nesting sea turtles.

## **Mexico, Michoacan**

In late October, millions of Monarch butterflies arrive in the states of Mexico and Michoacan to spend the winter, traveling thousands of miles from the north. There are three sanctuaries in Mexico state, as well as the Monarch Butterfly Biosphere Reserve in Michoacan, a national protected area and nature preserve that covers more than 200 square miles.

## **Yucatan State**

The state of Yucatan is famous for Mayan ruins, but nature lovers will find much to enjoy here too. The 146,000-acre Celestun Biosphere Reserve has pristine mangroves that are home to 300 species of birds, including herons, egrets, pelicans and a sizeable colony of flamingos.

## **Quintana Roo**

Home to Cancun and the Riviera Maya, the state of Quintana Roo offers lots of opportunities to view wildlife. Whale sharks, the largest fish on earth, visit the coastal waters between May and September; tour companies offer guided excursions to snorkel or dive next to these gentle giants. Other tours look for crocodiles, turtles, flamingos and other birds.

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Mexico's biodiversity is vast and varied, making it one of just 12 nations to earn the designation "mega-diverse." Experiencias Xcaret has been celebrating and conserving wildlife for 25 years and continues to care for our most valuable asset: nature.



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