

Visiting the Sierra de Manantlán Biosphere Reserve and the LTER site Las Joyas Research Station, Jalisco.

Coordinator and Information:

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Description and objectives:

Visit the Sierra de Manantlán Biosphere Reserve and the LTER site Las Joyas Research Station. Learn about faunal and vegetational transitions along altitudinal gradients, forest succession in subtropical montane forests, vertebrate dynamics along successional gradients, biosphere reserve management in developing countries, local governance in natural resource management, linking nature conservation and rural development. For more information search key words on web: Manantlán, Ayuquila, Las Joyas. Those signing up will be sent technical publications (PDF) on the Sierra de Manantlán conservation project.

Number of participants:

Minimum of 10 and maximum of: 25. The trip will be cancelled if less than 10 participants sign up.

General itinerary:

Friday, 20 July

8:00 A.M. Leave Morelia (meeting site to be announced)
13:00 P.M. Lunch at Tecolotlan (Tecolotlan: owl, tlan: place of)
16:00 P.M. arrive at the University of Guadalajara, South Coast Campus (CUCSUR), and initiate drive up to Las Joyas Research Station in the back of pick-up trucks. See vegetation along altitudinal gradient (tropical deciduous forest, tropical sub-deciduous forest, pine-oak forest, cloud forest). See old hacienda, and discuss the Mexican Ejido system of land tenure that emerged from the Mexican Revolution.

Saturday, 21 July

All day at Las Joyas, hike along environmental education trail, visit burned forests, see different research projects, discuss forestry in subtropical montane forests of Mexico, see panoramic view of indigenous community of Cuzalapa.

Sunday, 22 July

7:30 A.M. Breakfast
8:30 A.M. Initiate drive down to Autlán
10:30 A.M. Arrive to Autlán and depart to Tlaquepaque-Guadalajara
14:00 P.M. Arrive to Tlaquepaque, internationally famous craft center; lunch and shopping at artisans stores at your own expense. (Casa Fuerte Restaurant of gourmet Mexican food recommended, approx. \$25 USD per plate)
17:00 P.M. depart for Morelia
20:30 P.M. arrive to Morelia

Cost:

A total cost of \$210 USD covers three days and two nights. Any profits will go directly towards the field station management and biodiversity monitoring projects. Fees cover:

1. Round trip by bus from Morelia, Michoacan, to Autlán, Jalisco, (7 hours one way),
2. Round trip on the back of pick up truck (dirt road in forest) from Autlán to LJRS (2.0 hrs one way), Sierra de Manantlán Biosphere Reserve;
3. two nights lodging at LJRS dormitory (bunk beds in room with three other participants, private room not available);
4. Meals (Friday: box snack on bus, lunch at Te colotlán, dinner at LJRS; Saturday: breakfast, lunch, dinner and fruit snacks at LJRS; Sunday: breakfast at LJRS). Expert field guides, side trip to internationally famous Tlaquepaque artisans market in the Gualajara Metropolitan Area.

Form of payment: To register and pay for the trip please contact Dr. Eduardo Santana Castellón at these two email addresses esantana@cucsur.udg.mx; mabio@prodigy.net.mx and he will provide the bank account information where you should do a direct bank transfer and then email to Dr. Santana a scanned copy of your deposit slip. Any cancellation will have a cost of \$40 USD. Cancellations after June 22 will have total deduction of \$110 USD to allow the payment of bus and room and board reservations that cannot be cancelled. Registration and payment may be still possible at Morelia, but subject to availability. Please consider that paying in advance will help us to sense the feasibility of the trip.

Special Requirements: You will be visiting the Sierra de Manantlán during the rainy season so you will be getting wet. Mean precipitation in July is 375 mm, and mean temperature is 18C. Bring raingear and a change of clothes and shoes, not much though as you will only spend two nights away from your hotel. A sweater for cool mornings and nights will be useful. Be prepared for rustic conditions (wood cabins, with no electricity or running water, latrines, and showers with firewood boilers). Bring flashlight and personal toiletry, as well as camera & binoculars.

Trip guides:

Dr. Eduardo Santana Castellón (Vertebrate ecologist-birds and Conservationist), Dr. Ramón Cuevas Guzmán (Plant taxonomist and ecologist), Dr. Luis Ignacio Iñiguez Dávalos (Vertebrate ecologist-mammals), M.Sc. Sarahy Contreras Martínez (ornithologist); M.Sc. Enrique Jardel Peláez (forester & plant ecologist, pending confirmation)

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