

The annual migration of North America's monarch butterfly is a unique and amazing phenomenon. The monarch is the only butterfly known to make a two-way migration as birds do. Unlike other butterflies that can overwinter as larvae, pupae, or even as adults in some species, monarchs cannot survive the cold winters of northern climates. Using environmental cues, the monarchs know when it is time to travel south for the winter. Monarchs use a combination of air currents and thermals to travel long distances.

Monarchs in Eastern North America have a second home in the Sierra Madre Mountains of Mexico. Monarchs in Western North America overwinter in California.



Researchers are still investigating what directional aids monarchs use to find their overwintering location. It appears to be a combination of directional aids such as the magnetic pull of the earth and the position of the sun among others, not one in particular.

Courtesy: US Forest Service

[https://www.fs.fed.us/wildflowers/pollinators/Monarch\\_Butterfly/migration/index.shtml](https://www.fs.fed.us/wildflowers/pollinators/Monarch_Butterfly/migration/index.shtml)



EPICA President Art Gould releases a tagged monarch on Assateague Island as it wings its way to Mexico!