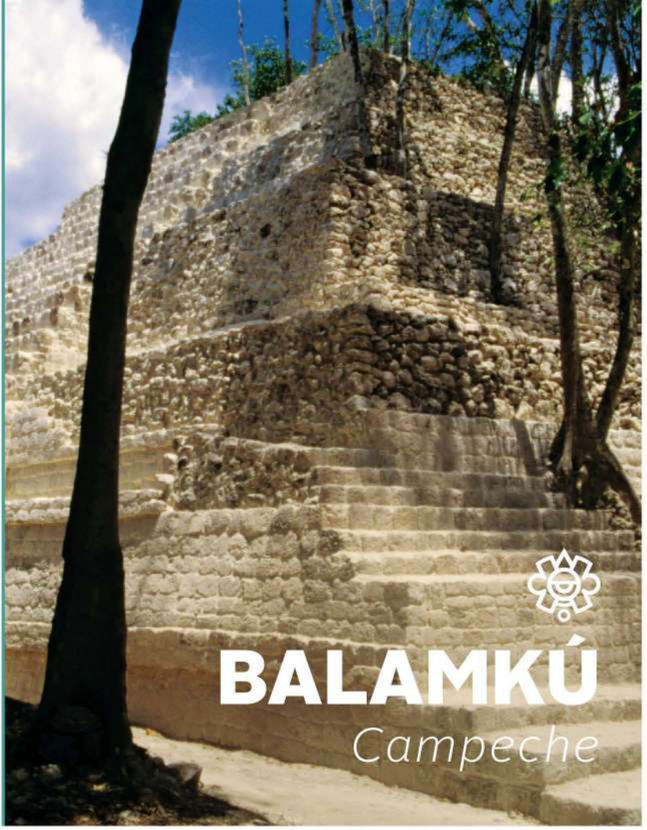


BALAMKÚ
Campeche

BRIEF HISTORICAL REVIEW

*A molded and painted **stucco frieze** is preserved in Balamkú, which was unique in the Mayan area and was elaborated at the beginning of our time. Four scenes of ascension interchanged with jaguars are displayed on the frieze. Each one comprises an animal with the head turned back, sitting on the frontal slit of a **Monster of the Earth** mask; over its mouth is a king upon his throne. In addition to illustrating the opposing and complementary aspects of the underworld at length, the set shows that the dynastic cycle is matched with the solar cycle. In this conception, the accession to the throne is illustrated by the king coming out of the jaws of the terrestrial monster, just like the sun comes out of the mouth of the Earth; the king's death is seen like a sunset, when he falls down on the mouth of the Terrestrial Monster.*



TOPOPNYM	The name of the place means "Temple of the Jaguar", toponym given to the site in the 20th century.
CULTURE	Mayan
PERIOD	Middle Preclassic, Terminal Classic
TIMESPAN	600 B.C. to A.D. 1000

GETTING THERE

It is located just 3 km northwest of the Nuevo Conhuás community, located at the Km 95 level of 186 federal highway that connects Escárcega with Xpujil and Chetumal.

SERVICES

Site museum, multipurpose room, refreshment, restrooms, luggage storage.

ADMISSIONS

In accordance with the provisions of the Federal Law of Rights: Free entrance for children under 13, students and teachers with current ID cards, senior citizens, retirees and pensioners, as well as workers and researchers of INAH.

PHOTOGRAPHS

The use of any video-shooting device must be paid in accordance with the authorized provisions of the Ministry of Finance; taking non-professional photographs, without a tripod, has no cost.

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CULTURA
SECRETARÍA DE CULTURA

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DISCOVER IT YOURSELF

The South Group

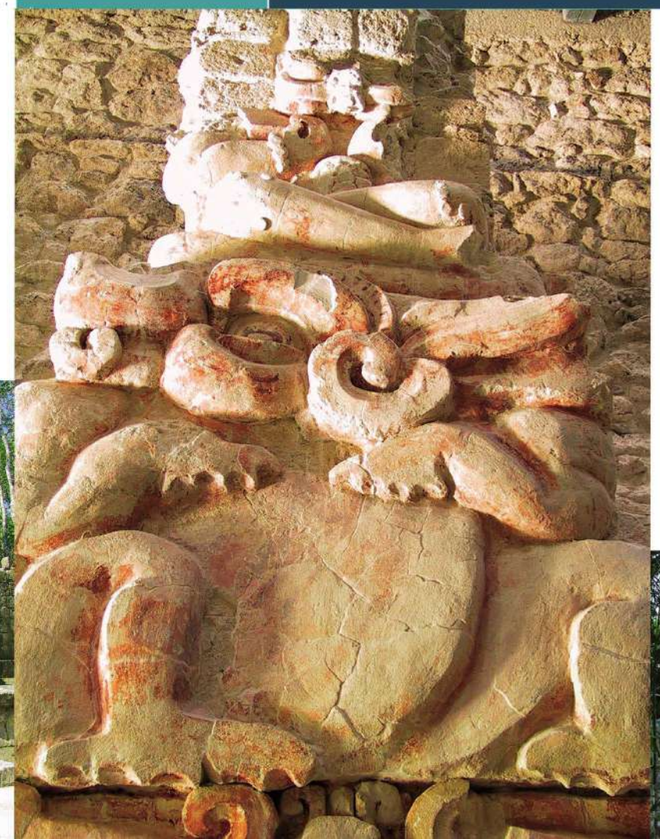
It is comprised of 13 structures with different sizes and purposes, distributed in such a way that they surround four civic-ceremonial squares, nevertheless, it is necessary to state that more than six or seven of these constructions never worked at the same time.

Central Group

There is a considerable increase in the volume of the structures, there are several squares, being three in total. A number of buildings surround it, many of them monumental. However, the exploration and restoration works of this architectural set have been performed the most around square B.







OUTSTANDING STRUCTURE

Sub-structure I of the Central Group

Sub-structure I of the Central Group: It is a palace built on a rectangular base with rounded corners and edges and a tucked stairway. A striking frieze is located at the top, in an excellent state of preservation. It is 16.60 meters long, 1.80 high and 2.50 meters more that belong to the turrets with seated characters that surpass the level of the ceiling. The decoration represents the underworld at the bottom of the frieze to the level of the roof of the palace; the underworld from the roof level to the head of the characters; and the celestial level is displayed by the image of the deity Kinich Ahau preserved in the headdress of one of the seated lords.



ARCHITECTURE

A Chenes architectural style is observed at the site, since some of its buildings seem to represent a very old zoomorphic cover. Likewise, other buildings refer to the Río Bec architecture.

WHERE TO SEE THE CHENES AND RÍO BEC ARCHITECTURE?
At the top of the highest building of the South Group, a Chenes style temple can be seen. In Structures D5-1 to the west, D5-2 to the south and D5-3 to the west of Plaza D, within the South Group, you can see traces of the Río Bec style.





MUST-SEE

- 1 CENTRAL GROUP
- A Structure I
- B Structure IV-A
- C Structure IV-B
- D Plaza A
- E Plaza B
- 2 SOUTHERN GROUP
- F Structure D5-1
- G Structure D5-2
- H Structure D5-3
- I Structure D5-4
- J Structure D5-6
- K Structure D5-7
- L Structure D5-8
- M Structure D5-5
- N Structure D5-10
- O Structure D5-11
- P Plaza A
- Q Plaza B
- R Plaza C
- S Plaza D

Although considered a modest size site, the excellent patterned stucco frieze found in a substructure of the Central Group clearly shows the great sculptural and artistic mastery of the ancient Mayans of Balamkú.



DID YOU KNOW...?

- *This pre-Hispanic site was officially reported by archaeologist Florentino García Cruz in 1990, when he was commissioned to deal with a looting complaint in an archaeological site unknown at that time.*
- *It displays a surprising frieze of modeled stucco that represents the terrestrial world, as well as the celestial level through the image of the deity Kinich Ahau, character preserved on the headdress of one of the seated lords.*

SOME FIGURES

The frieze measures 16.60 meters long by 1.80 meters high, plus 2.50 meters corresponding to the turrets with seated characters that surpass the level of the ceiling.

245 It is 245 km from Campeche.

25 It was just discovered 25 years ago by a campechano archaeologist.

6,332 It was visited by 6,332 people in 2014, the majority (906) in December.

YOU CAN'T MISS...

- Very near Balamkú, departing from Escárcega towards Xpuhil, is "The volcano of the bats" cave, where thousands of bats of the region dwell.
- Adjacent to the archaeological zone is the Nuevo Conhúas village, where a group of women has organized to create handicrafts from wood and textiles, many of the from the Maya villages of Camino Real.
- The typical gastronomy in beef and pork stews.