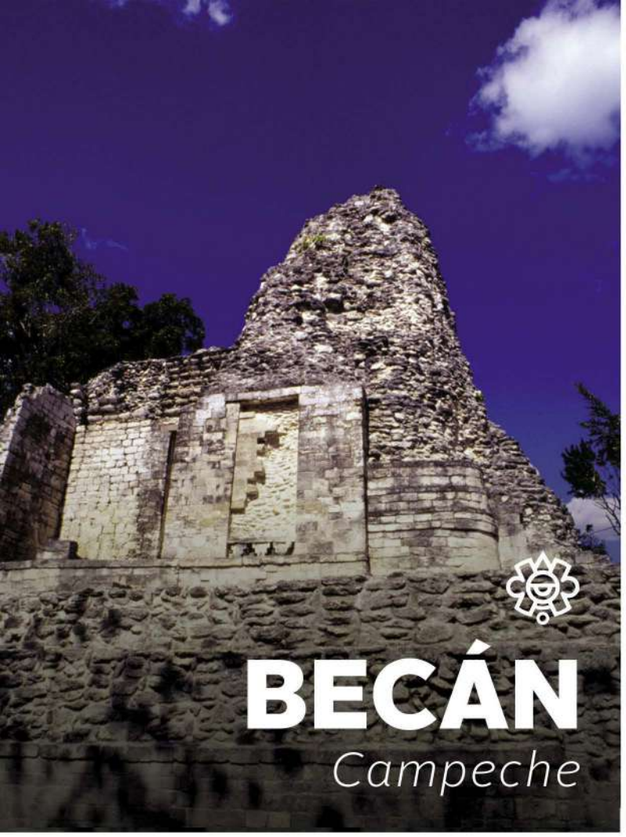


BECÁN
Campeche

DISCOVER IT YOURSELF

Structure VIII

Is a stepped pyramid basement, with a long palace of eight rooms, and two high lateral towers. Inside, there is a passageway that connects to ten vaulted chambers.



BRIEF HISTORICAL REVIEW

*The site is located south of Campeche, near the center of the **Yucatan Peninsula**, in the archaeological region known as **Río Bec**. Its architecture is characterized by palaces with several rooms and wide interior benches, with tall and narrow towers on the sides. The towers have nonfunctional stairs and false shrines at the top –symbolizing sacred mountains. The facades usually display large zoomorphic mascarons, squared panels and symbolic vegetation motifs or cascades of stylized masks.*

Becán is a site of unique importance due to its strategic location between the Gulf of Mexico and the Caribbean Sea. Its main buildings were surrounded by a moat and a parapet built during the first centuries of our era. Seven small bridges gave access to the monumental constructions and the majority of the population was settled on its outskirts.



Structure X

It limits the west side of the city core. It is an architectural group that includes a tall building with an integral zoomorphic facade and battlement. It is surrounded by three square courtyards that comprised a 70 room housing complex. The central section contains a palace of 22 vaulted rooms with banquettes, niches and curtain walls. In later times it was buried to incorporate the stepped platforms, the staircase and the upper building.

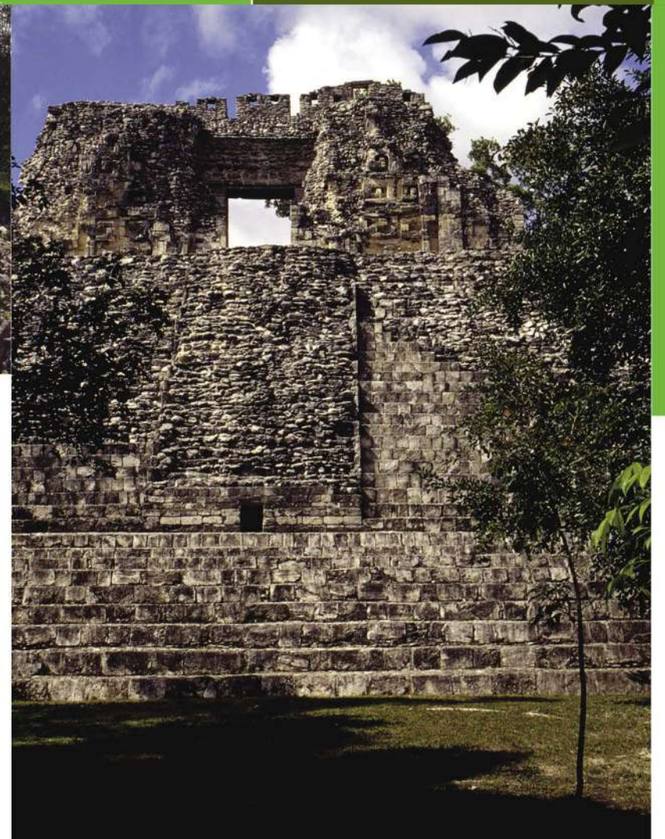
Structure XI

The Ballcourt is located just southwest of Structure X. The axis of the court runs north-south.



*Seemingly, the moat was first used to drain excess rain water and later it was possible to use it for defensive purposes. The sheer amount and quality of buildings in Becán have led to the belief that it functioned as a **regional capital**, that is, it was the seat of a powerful religious, political and economic entity on which smaller settlements depended.*

TOPONYM	"Path of the snake" or "Cavity left by the running of the water"
CULTURE	Maya
PERIOD	Late Preclassic to Early Postclassic
DATE	250 BC – 1400 AD



Becán is considered the regional capital and seat of the Río Bec architectural style. The quality of its palaces and its tropical forest surroundings, make it one of the most beautiful cities of the Mayan lands.

OUTSTANDING STRUCTURE

Structure IX

The tallest building in Becán, with a height of 42 meters (137.79 miles) .Archaeological excavations identified three architectural phases. Beginning in the Late Preclassic, with four large stepped bodies, unique access through the south and a shrine at the top. There were stucco masks that fused human and feline features. A second constructive moment, during the Classic, spurred a new upper shrine where 15 pots found were considered to be of great archaeological value due to their chronological, epigraphic and symbolic content.

GETTING THERE

It is located just north of federal highway 186; 8 kilometers (4.9 miles) west of Xpuhil. It can be reached from Escárcega (150 kilometers – 93.2 miles) or from Chetumal (130 kilometers – 80.7 miles). The trip from Campeche is about 300 kilometers (186.41 miles).

OPENING HOURS

Monday to Sunday, 8am to 5pm.

ADMISSIONS

The cost of admission is the one established by the Federal Law of Rights. Free admission for children under 13 years of age, students and teachers with valid credential, senior citizens, retirees, pensioners, disabled, as well as workers and researchers of the INAH.

PHOTOGRAPHY

A permit is required for professional cameras and tripod use. The use of video cameras costs is the one established by the Federal Law of Rights.

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CULTURA
SECRETARÍA DE CULTURA

INAH



ARCHITECTURE

In this site there are monumental constructions that combine two architectural styles: Río Bec and Chenes. The first is characterized by slender twin towers, impossible stairs and false shrines at the top. Chenes, in turn, shows profuse facade decoration, with a large mask of stone mosaic and stucco depicting Itzamná, a powerful terrestrial deity.



DID YOU KNOW...?

- *The first reports of Becán were made by Maurice de Perigny (1909) and Raymond Merwin (1913).*
- *From 1969 to 1971 several Tulane University archaeologists worked on the site, including Joseph Ball, Prentice Thomas, David Webster and David Potter, led by Wyllys Andrews IV.*
- *The heart of the city was demarcated by the excavation of a moat and the construction of a parapet that encloses nearly 25 hectares (61.7 acres).*
- *The moat is 16 meters (52.4 feet) wide by 2.50 meters (8.2 feet) deep, while the parapet is 3.60 meters (11.8 feet) high in some sections.*
- *Restoration work has been led by Mexican archaeologists such as Román Piña Chán, Ricardo Bueno Cano, Luz Evelia Campaña and Vicente Suárez Aguilar.*



MUST-SEE

A *Structure VIII*	1 Central Plaza
B *Structure IX*	2 West Plaza
C *Structure X*	3 intermediate Plaza
	4 East Plaza
	5 Structure I
	6 Structure II
	7 Structure III
	8 Structure IV

WHERE CAN I SEE RÍO BEC AND CHENES ARCHITECTURE?
Río Bec architecture can be seen in Structure IX and Chenes in Structure X.



SOME KEY NUMBERS

1909 The site is known since 1909.

70 Structure X was once comprised of 70 rooms.

1999 The sculpted stucco mask displayed on the site was found in 1999.

120 It is the origin site of more than 120 objects that are exhibited in museums and temporary exhibitions today.

16,466 It had 16,466 visitors this past year, with a particularly high number of visitors in April (1,864).

YOU CAN'T MISS...

- The site is located 2 kilometers (1.2 miles) from the village of Valentín Gómez Farías, where you can do activities such as bird watching and zip line.
- The archaeological site of Xpuhil, which is part of the southern archaeological route, is located 8 kilometers (4.97 miles) to the east. Also, there is the town of Xpujil, where you can taste some typical tamales or the traditional cheese empanadas.