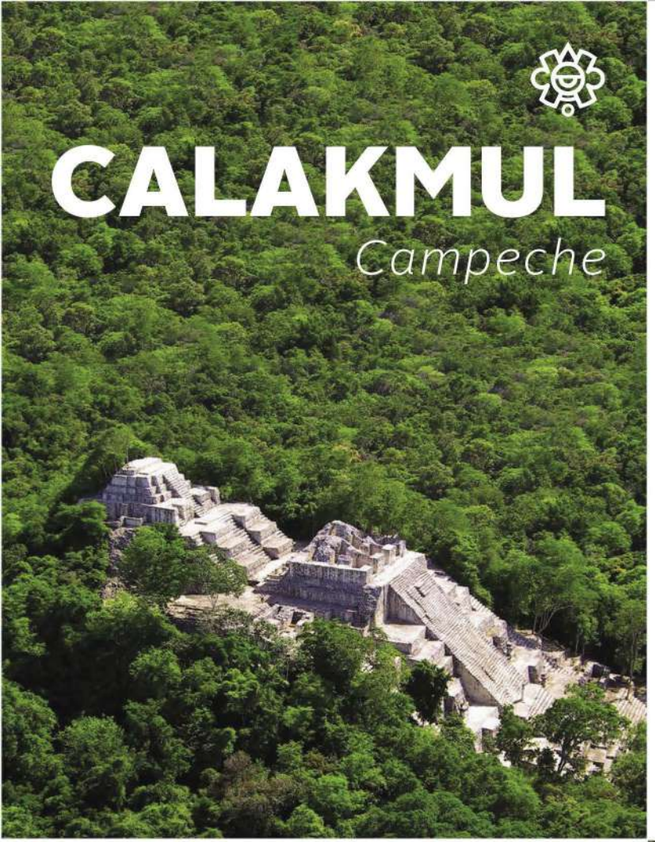


CALAKMUL
Campeche

BRIEF HISTORICAL REVIEW

This was one of the greatest and most important cities in the region. It settled a sociopolitical network of unmatched scope. After AD 695, due to its defeat at the hands of Tikal, it had a political reorientation towards the north, where the new rulers built relationships with other sites of the area known as Río Bec (River Bec). In spite of its decrease in political power, the city experienced urban growth, since most of the relics we observe today come from this period.

*During the period that would cover AD 1007 to AD 1618, this center was mainly engaged in **pilgrimage activities**. Due to the presence of **offerings**, such as effigy-censer, it is possible to prove human activity in the Petén campechano region until the Late Postclassic and even during the Historical period.*

*It was the residence of the powerful **Kan dynasty**, represented by a serpent's head.*



*To date, about twelve rulers have been identified in more than **80 engravings** known at archaeological sites in Mexico and Guatemala.*

*The latest record we have in its engravings is located in the **stela 61** (AD 909), with a reference to the ruler Aj Tok.*

TOPONYM	"Two adjoining mounds"
CULTURE	Mayan
PERIOD	Middle Preclassic-Terminal Classic
TIMESPAN	390 BC – AD 1000

GETTING THERE

It is located 300 km south of the city of San Francisco de Campeche, on the Campeche - Champotón highway (60 km). Then take the Champotón - Villahermosa section to the town of Escárcega (80 km), which heads west along the Escárcega - Chetumal road to the access road for the Calakmul Biosphere Reserve, located at km 96, at the exit of the Conhuas Ejido.

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.

OPENING HOURS

Monday to Sunday, from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

PHOTOGRAPHS

A professional license is required for professional cameras and tripods.
The use of video cameras is paid in accordance with the Federal Law of Rights.

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CULTURA
SECRETARÍA DE CULTURA

INAH

DISCOVER IT YOURSELF

Central Plaza

It is the backbone of the city and comprises of six structures arranged around it. Most were built during the Late Classic and Terminal Classic.





The Great Acropolis

Located to the northeast of the Great Plaza, this unit is of great importance, since the Calakmul elite inhabited it. Structure XV houses three tombs, one with a bundle and grave goods. Funerary bundles were a burial technique in Calakmul.

Chik Naab' Acropolis

Substructure 1-4 is located here, which preserves mural painting on the bodies depicted. With a 16-color palette, it reflects the refinement and quality of the Calakmul painters, through transparencies, shades and folds.

Calakmul is part of UNESCO'S World Heritage and it was recently granted the appointment of Mixed Heritage, since it is located within the Biosphere Reserve of the same name.



Structure II

This is the most important structure onsite. Sub-structure II-c is located inside, with a central staircase flanked by figureheads and a magnificent frieze that frames the entrance to a ceremonial enclosure. It is one of the most impressive buildings in the Mayan world.

It used to be 60 meters high. It was the main construction, the sacred mountain that was joined by eight stelae and nine tombs. One of them is that of Yuknoom Yich´aak K´ahnk´, best known as Garra de Jaguar (Jaguar Claw), the king who ruled between AD 685 and 695 AD. His mortuary offering was discovered in 1997 and it is displayed it in the Museum of Mayan Archeology, at Fort San Miguel of Campeche city.

ARCHITECTURE

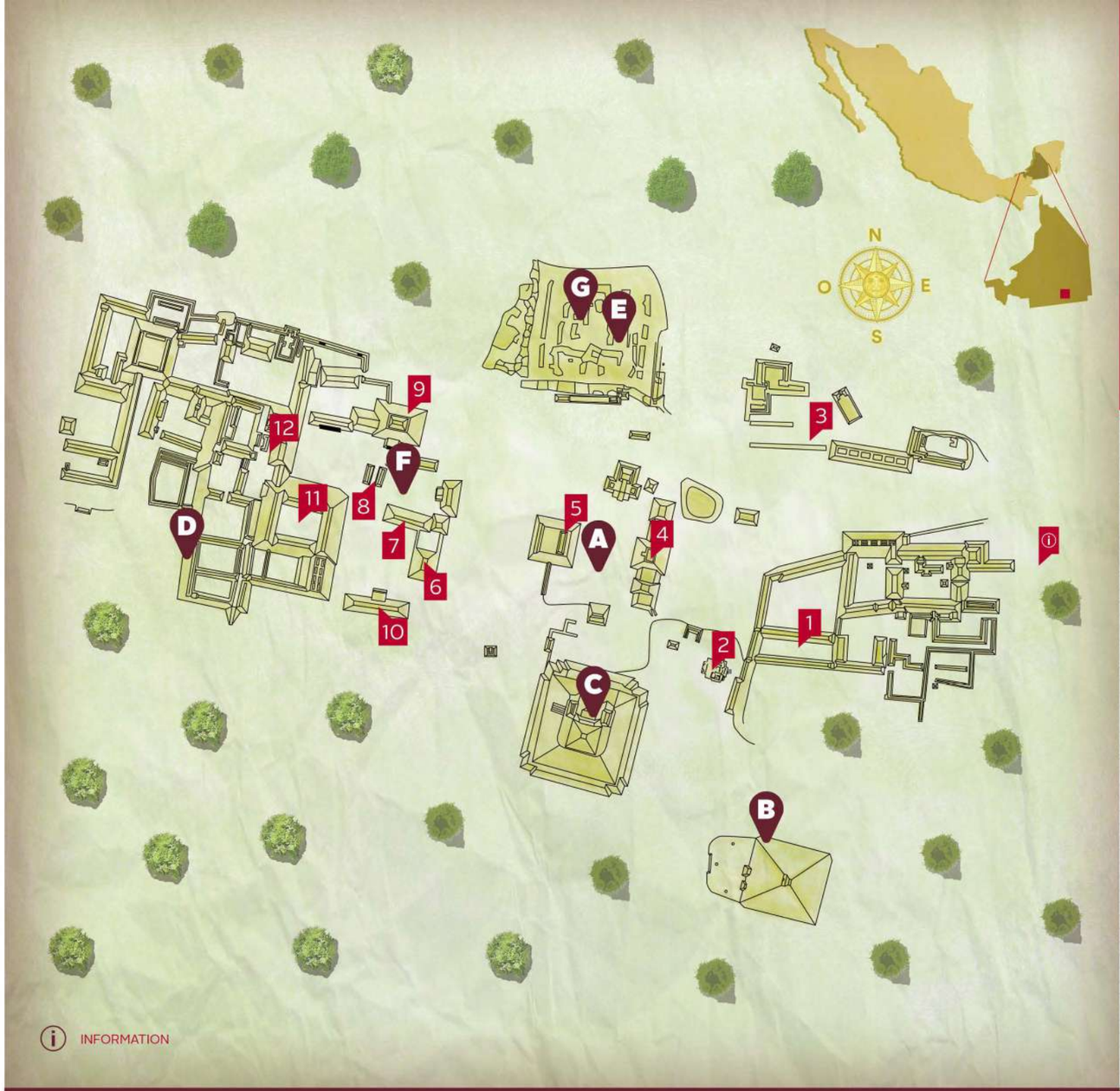
Former cities like this, unlike cities now a days, tried to keep their development in harmony with the environment. Evidence has been found of an uninterrupted architectural sequence of about twelve centuries (400 B.C. to AD 800).

The site's architecture stands out for its voluminous, Petén-distinctive bases, crowned with buildings of one or several rooms roofed with stone vaults. Elements carved in stone, some modeled in stucco, as well as murals or only red and white paintings, were applied on the buildings to decorate the façades.The main building material was limestone.

When remodeling a building, it was customary for the Mayans to take advantage of the previous one for the new construction.



WHERE TO SEE THE STELAE?
Calakmul is the site with the highest number of stelae in the Maya area. They are located at the bottom of the buildings or on the bases.



MUST-SEE

- A *Central Plaza*
- B *Structure I*
- C *Structure II*
- D *The Great Acropolis*
- E *Chik Naab´ Acropolis*
- F *Ball Game*
- G *Mural painting at the Chik Naab´ Acropolis*

1 Small Acropolis
2 Structure III
3 Chan Chi´Ich Residential Area
4 Structure IV
5 Structure VI
6 Structure XV
7 Structure X
8 Structure XI
9 Structure XIII
10 Structure XII
11 Structure XVI
12 Structure XX

DID YOU KNOW...?

- *This ancient Mayan city is located within the Calakmul Biosphere Reserve, the second largest in the Americas.*
- *In 2002 it was appointed by UNESCO as World Heritage and in 2014 as Joint Heritage.*
- *It was the power center of the Kaan Kingdom, which kept a broad network of allied and subordinate states during the Early Classic period*

SOME FIGURES

20x3.5 The frieze of Structure II's Substructure II-c is 20 meters long and 3.5 meters high.

21 There are 21 buildings exposed to date.

120 It has the largest number of stelae in the region, with a total of 120.

60 The main base, Structure II, was 60 meters high at some point.

YOU CAN'T MISS...

- Take some time to visit the Calakmul Museum of Nature and Archeology, located at km 20 of the road that crosses the jungle to reach the archaeological zone. It has everything: prehistory, diversity and archaeological discoveries.
- Ask for the tours to the rural communities, where you can learn about chewing gum production.

