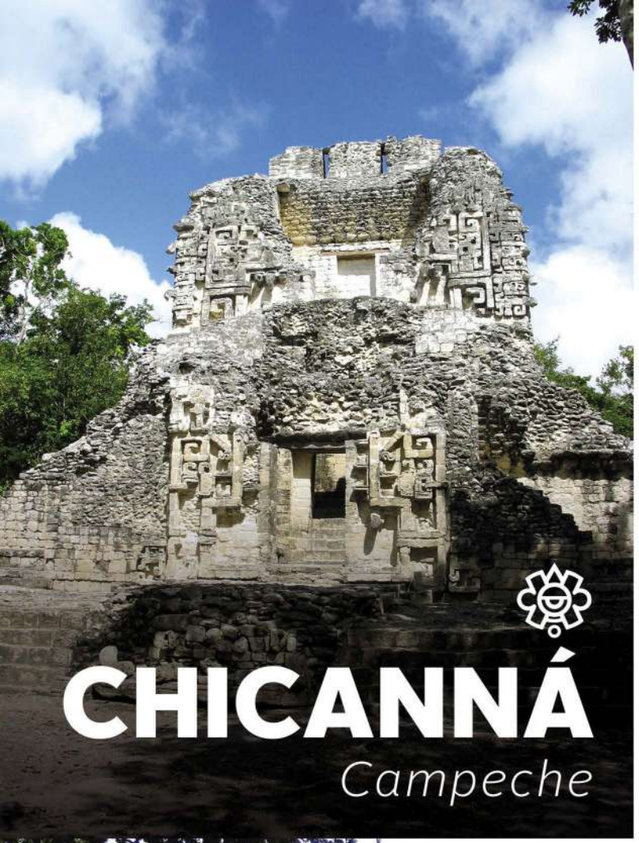


CHICANNÁ
Campeche

BRIEF HISTORICAL REVIEW

This ancient pre-Hispanic settlement is one of the 16 currently open to the public in the state of Campeche. Its earliest occupation is located near the beginning of our time during the Late Preclassic period (300 B.C. - A.D. 250), although its peak dates back to the Late Classic (A.D. 550-700) and the Terminal (A.D. 700-1150) periods, when their last monumental constructions were carried out.

*The nucleus of the settlement is formed by five architectural sets, among which stands the **central or Group A**, whose square is bound by a building located in each cardinal point: Structure I to the west, II to the east, III and IIIA located to the north and IV located to the south. In **Group B**, the presence of Structures VI and VII with different construction stages stands out. Group C presents the buildings X to XIII, XI being one of the oldest of the place. Finally, **Group D** displays the beautifully ornamented, two-level Structure XX.*



TOPONYM	"House of the snake's mouth"
CULTURE	Mayan
PERIOD	Preclassic and Classic
TIMESPAN	300 B.C. - A.D. 1150

GETTING THERE

The archaeological zone of Chicanná is located 143 kilometers to the east of Escárcega, Campeche, by the federal highway 186, Escárcega-Chetumal.

OPENING HOURS

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

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

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.

www.inah.gob.mx
www.difusion.inah.gob.mx
@inah_mx
Instituto Nacional de Antropología e Historia

TEXTS
Archeologist Vicente Suárez Aguilar

TRANSLATION
Violeta Hinojosa Navarro

PRODUCTION
Head of Comunications of the National Office of Broadcasting, INAH

PHOTOGRAPHS
INAH Center Campeche Archive

DESIGN
Latex / Manuel Cózar

CULTURA
SECRETARÍA DE CULTURA

INAH



DISCOVER IT YOURSELF

Structure I

It is an elongated building with two rows of three rooms each and two side enclosures which close the west side of the main Plaza. It is flanked by two large towers with rounded corners that were decorated with frontal masks, and have simulated steps that lead to false temples. Its main facade has three entrances to the sides of which are masks remnants.

Structure VI

It is located southeast of the nucleus. Its main access staircase is located on the central part of this building; there are other smaller stairs to its east side. On its central facade there are waterfalls of masks in profile and vestiges of a zoomorphic mask on its upper part, besides remnants of stonework crowning the ceiling. During the excavations, fragments of anthropomorphic faces and stylized motifs in stucco were recovered with traces of paint, mainly in red color.

Structure XX

To the northwest of the main Plaza, you can see this almost quadrangular floored two-level building, the lower level of which has 11 rooms and the upper one four; several of them have banquettes decorated with rosettes framing human faces. It has an interior stairway which is separated sideways, allowing access to the upper rooms from the outside. The main facade consists of an integral zoomorphic cover at each of the levels; the upper one reaches the ends with cascades of masks in volume, and was crowned by stonewrok. Partial zoomorphic remains are seen on the lateral and posterior facades.



OUTSTANDING STRUCTURE

Structure II

Located on the eastern sector of the central Plaza, it's a building with eight rooms distributed on one level built on a platform. Its central facade is richly decorated with a huge mask representing the Mayan deity Itzamná. Access to this structure is made up of a mouth, on the upper side are the teeth, over which the nose, the eyes with strabismus and the eyebrow of the character can be seen, as well as the earmuffs placed on the sides, giving the impression of a gigantic face with open jaws. The access platform is slightly raised and represents the lower jaw. The sides are decorated with cascades of masks made up of stone mosaic that were covered with stucco and painted with several colors, predominantly deep red. There are still some red-painted glyphs that refer to the Mayan city's ancient rulers lineage.





MUST-SEE

- A *Structure I*
- B *Structure II*
- C *Structure VI*
- D *Structure XX*

1 Structure III
2 Structure X
3 Structure XI

DID YOU KNOW...?

- *Chicanná was discovered in 1969 by Jack D. Eaton during his prospecting work in the area.*
- *Its name is given thanks to the extraordinary facade of Structure II.*
- *The archaeological area was hidden in the jungle although the federal highway was just 300 meters from its buildings.*

SOME FIGURES

12 — 12 buildings are uncovered.

2 — 2 buildings have integral zoomorphic facades.

900 — It was hidden in the jungle for about 900 years.

ARCHITECTURE

The earliest architecture located on the site dates back to the beginnings of the Classical era, and is comprised of simple platforms with little volume, which held rooms made of limestone foundations that once held walls and ceilings of perishable materials.

However, in its heyday the site was characterized by Río Bec architecture of its main buildings from the Late Classic and Terminal period. In them there is a central building flanked by towers equipped with simulated staggered bodies and staircases that lead to templates devoid of practical function. Likewise, the decoration on the facades is profuse as it is made with integral masks placed at the center, or otherwise arranged in cascade on both sides of the accesses. These masks are of Chenes influence and represent the Mayan god creator known as Itzamná.



Chicanná is considered an elitist center of the Río Bec region due to the decorative elegance of its buildings.