EDZNÁ

Campeche



BRIEF HISTORICAL REVIEW

Itzá is the name of origin of a lineage of Chontals that settled on the site. By extension, the settlers of other nearby settlements referred to the inhabitants of this ancient Mayan city as "itzáes." This is the origin of the site's name: Ytzná / Edzná: "House of the itzáes."

The pre-Columbian settlement had an average extension of 25 square kilometers (9.65 square miles). The first evidence of human presence dates back to 600 BC. A small community grew, developed and shaped a centralized government, just before the beginning of the present era. An efficient system for collecting, storing and disposing of rain water was placed; production was concentrated, large buildings were erected and the surrounding villages were dominated. It became a powerful ***regional capital*** *of the peninsular west between the years 400 and 1000 AD, during the following four centuries it lost political and economic strength and the site was abandoned by 1450 AD.*



As in other parts of the Mayan world, their first buildings were lined with large blocks of limestone, cut evenly, covered with thick flattened stucco and painted deep red. Many façades were decorated with the faces of gods, mythical animals and symbols. The motifs were modelled stucco (similarly to plaster) and were painted in varied colors. All these elements are considered characteristic of Petén architecture.

TOPONYM	"House of the itzáes"
CULTURE	Maya
PERIOD	Preclassic, Classic and Postclassic
TIMESPAN	600 BC - 1450 AD

GETTING THERE

The site is 55 kilometers (approximately 34 miles) southeast of Campeche. The road leading to the archaeological site passes by Chiná, Pocyaxum, Nohacal and Tixmucuy. Going from Champotón you should detour at Haltunchen and continue eastwards.

ADMISSION

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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OPENING HOURS

Monday to Sunday, from 9am to 5pm.

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CULTURA
SECRETARÍA DE CULTURA

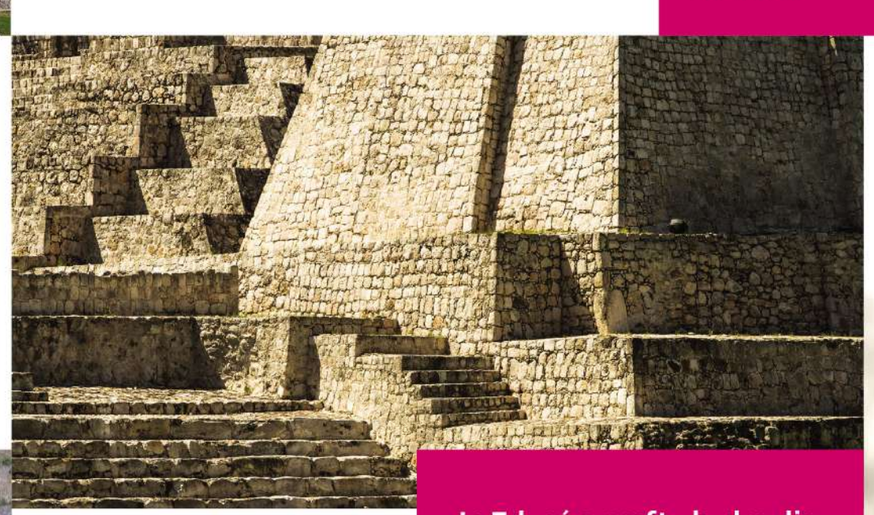
INAH

DISCOVER IT YOURSELF

Temple of the Masks

A Petén-style (250 - 600 AD) building. It has the best examples of stucco modelling, depicting the solar deity in his daily journey through the sky. The east side shows the invocation of sunrise and in the western sector, that of the sunset. In both cases the Sun has been humanized with adornments that denote social relevance.





Nohochná La casa grande (The big house)

At the top there are four long galleries with multiple entrances formed by thick pilasters. Its wide staircase must have been used on special occasions (as is done today) to witness events held in the Main Plaza.

In Edzná a crafty hydraulic system was built to capture, store and distribute rainwater; channels, several kilometers long, were established for this purpose.

OUTSTANDING STRUCTURE

Edificio de los Cinco Pisos (Pyramid of the Five Floors, E5P)

It owes its name to the five levels visible on its west side, all of them with vaulted rooms. Its base measures 60 meters (196.8 feet) per side and reaches a height of 31.50 meters (103.3 feet). The original temple was partially demolished to build the current one with its battlement. The west façade corresponds to the 9th century of our era and was the last one that was added to the basement. At the base we see blocks with hieroglyphs. The north side shows Petén-style architecture that was covered with wide convex slopes during the Terminal Classic (800-1200 AD).



ARCHITECTURE

The earliest architectural typology is called Petén. Out of it, derived other building styles, such as Chenes and Puuc, also present on the site. Later, works of the Terminal Classic were also built. In later times Post-classical constructions were also erected.

A good example of Puuc architecture is the Plataforma de los Cuchillos (Deck of Knives), another is the ballcourt. The Chenes imprint can be seen in the first level of E5P, as well as in the building to its southwest. Terminal Classic properties have basement with sloped walls, entrances formed by multiple columns and circular buildings. These can be seen in the Patio of the Ambassadors, Building 425 and Building 512.



WHERE CAN I SEE PETÉN ARCHITECTURE?

Petén buildings can be seen in the west stairs of the Great Acropolis, several sections of Nohochná, Templo de los Mascarones, Little Acropolis and the Old Witch Complex

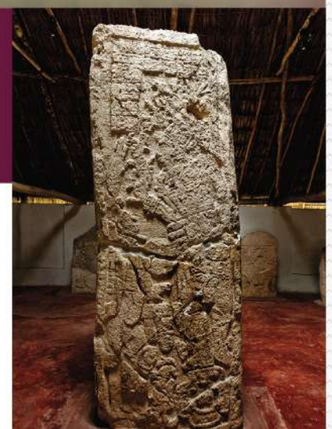




MUST-SEE

- A *Pyramid of the Five Floors*
- B *The Nohochná*
- C *The Templo de los Mascarones*

1 Main Square
2 North Temple
3 Solar Platform
4 Little Acropolis
5 Deck of Knives
6 Patio of the Ambassadors
Ballcourt
7 South Temple
8 Building 501
9 Building 512
10



DID YOU KNOW...?

- *It was discovered in 1906, but the news were lost due to the events of the Revolution.*
- *In 1927, Nazario Quintana Bello produced Edzná's first official report of existence.*
- *Maize, squash, amaranth, nopal, cassava and chile are some of the crops detected as present there before our era.*
- *Specialists have noted that it was here that calendars used during the Classic period were adjusted to the north and south of the Maya area.*

SOME KEY NUMBERS

60,000 — 60,000 inhabitants may have occupied Edzná in the Late Classic.

33 — 33 stelae have been discovered.

53,851 — 53,851 people visited in 2012.

10 — 10 rulers, including one woman, have been identified through the analysis of hieroglyphic inscriptions.

7.5 — 7.5 hectares (18.5 acres) of the ancient city are open to the public.

YOU CAN'T MISS...

- Just 60 kilometers (approximately 37.2 miles) away is the city of Campeche, a city of great beauty and history. Its Historical Center is one of the most perfectly designed and colorful of the country, and at every step, the city reminds you of its proximity to the sea and its stories of pirates. Do not miss its fortifications, all different and interesting. The main park, its kiosk, the Cathedral, the Museo de Arte Sacro, the Portales Revolución, on Calle 10, will tell you their secrets, while you have delicious hot chocolate or enjoy the local gastronomy. The city, founded in 1540, was declared a World Heritage Site by Unesco, December 1999.
- You can continue your adventure in the South Mayan Archaeological Circuit, that apart from Edzná, includes: Xpuhil, Hormiguero, Chicanná, Becán, Calakmul and Balamkú.