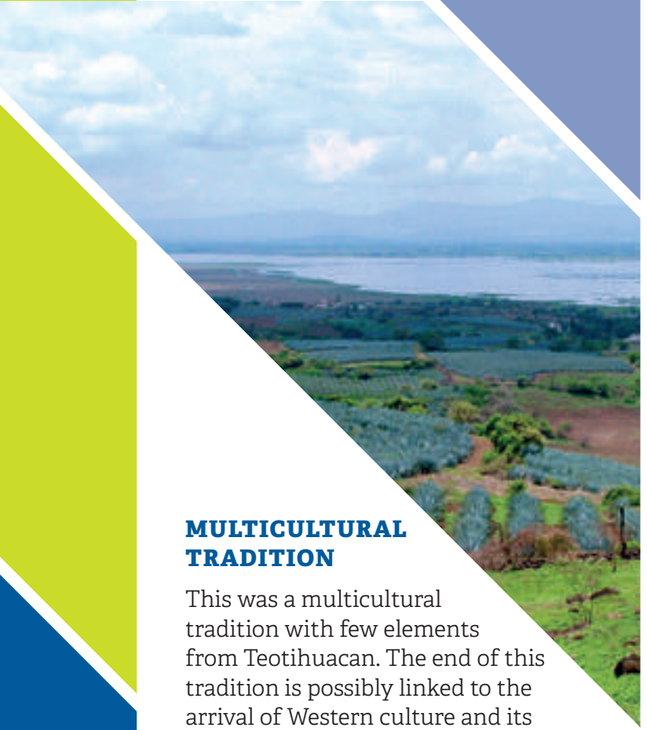


MULTICULTURAL TRADITION

This was a multicultural tradition with few elements from Teotihuacan. The end of this tradition is possibly linked to the arrival of Western culture and its technologies such as metallurgy and bows and arrows.

THE WESTERN GAMES

Teuchitlán culture constructed a complex society that settled in the valleys of Tequila, in the center of Jalisco, with its main center being in the Guachimontones. Ceremonial centers throughout the region include ball courts and distinctive circular temples, which appear frequently after 100 B.C.

More than 50 ball courts spanning Pre-Classic to Classic periods have been reported over more than three decades of surface reconnaissance in Jalisco, which tells us that the Mesoamerican ball game was important in this region from early times.

The oldest ball court in the region is Ball Court 1 in the Guachimontones.



Location
It lies 1 km to the northeast of the town of Teuchitlán, Jalisco.

Information
From the city of Guadalajara, take Federal Highway 15 (Guadalajara-Nogales). To the west, where it crosses Federal Highway 70, take the exit for Tala, and on State Highway 27, take the exit for Teuchitlán. The site is 1 km to the northeast.

Discount for students and teachers.
Free admission for children under 13.
Free admission for senior citizens.

Opening Hours
Tuesday to Saturday from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Maximum capacity of 60 people at the same time.

Tel. 333 613 1075

direccion.jal@inah.gob.mx

CULTURA SECRETARÍA DE CULTURA | INAH



SETTING

The heart of Teuchitlán's tradition was developed in the lakeside zone of the highlands and in the valleys bordering the volcano of Tequila, in the center-west of the current state of Jalisco. We can see its cultural influence along the length of the Lerma River, the south of Zacatecas, throughout the Bajío, and in the coastal zones of Nayarit and Colima.



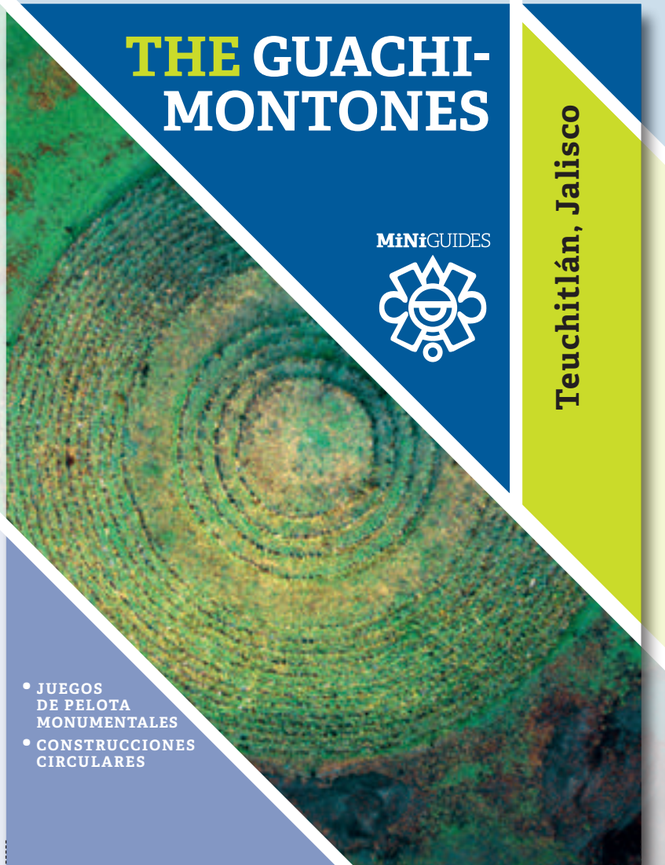
EL OPEÑO STYLE

The Guachimontones was the first great population center in the west of Mexico. Its initial phase included the construction of shaft tombs in the "El Opeño" style (subterranean chambers covered by vaults, excavated in the subsoil and accessed by ladders) and it developed at the same time as other Mesoamerican groups.

THE GUACHIMONTONES

MiNiGUIDES

Teuchitlán, Jalisco



- JUEGOS DE PELOTA MONUMENTALES
- CONSTRUCCIONES CIRCULARES

ONE OF A KIND

This site covers 20 hectares of buildings with two monumental ball courts and five external plazas. The area is surrounded by a group of residential complexes that consist of 40 circular constructions with attached ball courts. There were three types of housing units: residential and ceremonial areas for the elite, residences for people with high status, and those inhabited by people with lower status. Although there was a dispersed pattern of settlement with a ceremonial center at its core, the distribution of land and architecture shows elements of urban planning.

It is also known by the name of Teuchitlán due to its proximity to the municipal capital of the same name.

YOUR ARCHEOLOGICAL SITE MINI GUIDE

An Impressive Site

One of the most important sites in Western Mesoamerica lies 90 minutes from Guadalajara, near to the Tequila volcano. It has an impressive urban layout, original architecture of stepped conical structures, and elevated circular platforms.



Cultural Landscape

Unlike the large pyramids, these structures are circular, which not only tells us about one site and a single form of architecture, but about an entire cultural landscape that includes complex sites, workshops, chinampas (raised beds for farming), neighborhoods, and constructions for war.

Language

Its discoverer Phil Weigand proposed that the language spoken could have been Totorame, a variant of the Cora language.

Structures

There are three remarkable structures on the site: El Guachimontón, La Iguana, and El Azquelite.



Ball Courts

You can also see the remains of ball courts on the site, which has one of the largest ball courts in Mesoamerica, at a length of 111 meters. It is worth noting that the walls do not have any goals, so perhaps movable goals or markers on the floor were used.



Mural by Michoacán painter and watercolorist Jorge Monroy.

Circle 4

This is the only one of its kind, as its central altar is not round but square, making it the only Guachimontón to have a quadrangular central altar. It has not yet been fully explored, as there are sections lying underground.



Guachimontones Interpretive Center

You can appreciate the site's history from the moment you enter the zone. The museum area houses the mural by Jorge Monroy, as well as several pieces, scale models, and maps that explain the site.





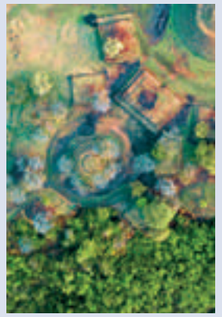
El Guachimontón or Circle 1

This has a span of 125 meters in diameter with 12 rectangular platforms, of which only five have been excavated. In the center stands an altar that measures approximately 50 meters in diameter. The courtyard surrounding it measures 23 meters around the altar.

La Iguana or Circle 2

This is the only structure that has been fully excavated. It has a diameter of 115 meters and 13 steps in concentric circles that go up to a small landing. The upper part has an altar with four steps.





El Azquelite or Circle 3

This has a diameter of 115 meters. In the center is an altar with a diameter of 38.5 meters and a height of 10 meters, which has 13 steps in concentric circles and an upper altar. It is possible that the pole for the "volador" ritual was erected in this place.

DID YOU KNOW...?

- Teuchitlán comes from the Nahuatl word "teoztitlán" ("place dedicated to the divine" or "place dedicated to the god Tenoch").
- Guachimontones is a more recent term that combines the Nahuatl words "cuautli" (tree) and "chinamitli" (wall) with the Spanish word "montón" (mound).

IMPORTANT DATES

300 B.C. TO 450/500 A.D.
Late Formative to Classic Period.



200 A.D.
Stage of splendor, during the Late Pre-Classic Period.



1970
Discovery of the ruins by American archeologist and anthropologist Phil Weigand.



1974
Weigand and Mountjoy formally map the Guachimontones for the first time.

1996
Excavations begin.

2004
Declared Cultural Heritage of Humanity by UNESCO.

2020
The 2020 Phoenix Award is presented to the Interpretive Center and Archeological Zone of Guachimontones for preservation of the environment.

