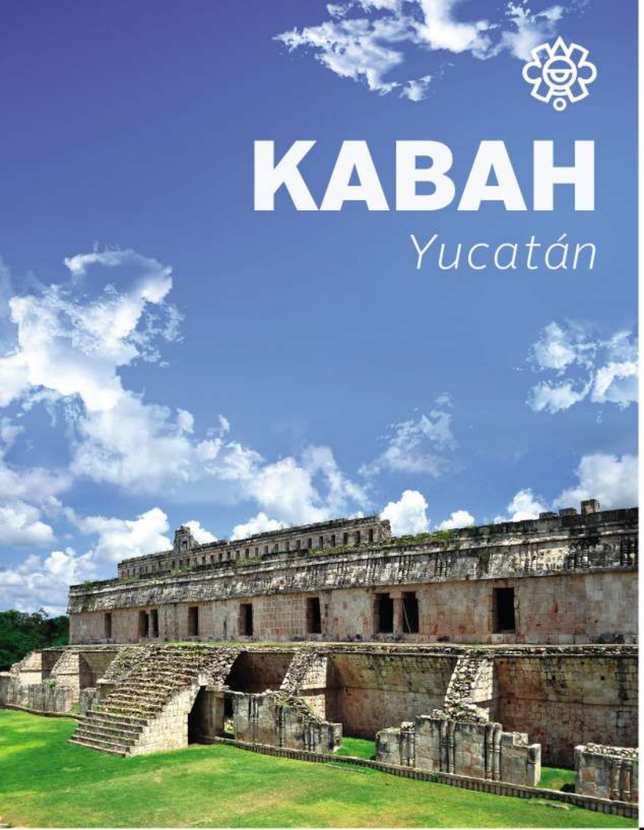


KABAH

Yucatán

BRIEF HISTORICAL REVIEW

The earliest occupation evidence of Kabah dates back to 400 B.C. By that time, the site must have been a small community of hunter-gatherers. The later years are a mystery, and it is until 400 A.D. when, under the canons of ***Petén*** *traditions, the first examples of monumental architecture are erected. These are located in the Central Group and they are distinguished by a predominance of solid facades and a supernatural scale that confered the buildings a scenic purpose, rather than daily use.*

Between A.D. 750 and 900, Kabah reached its full glory along with the city of Uxmal. At that time, the city extended until reaching a radius of approximately 2 km and two of the three main groups are built: East and Northwest.



We can appreciate in them the proof of the design patterns and space organization which define ***the Puuc region****. Also during this period, the Eastern Group becomes a palatial group that besides being the residence of the ruling lineage, served as the civic and religious activity center.*

Evidence of ***ending rituals*** *indicates that, sometime around A.D. 950, the ruling Kabah dynasty left the site.*

TOPONYM	"Lord of the Strong or Powerful Hand"
CULTURE	Mayan
PERIOD	Early Classic / Terminal
TIMESPAN	500- 300 B.C. TO A.D. 1100

GETTING THERE

From Merida, take the road 261 towards Campeche. The archaeological zone is located at Km 101.

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.

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CULTURA
SECRETARÍA DE CULTURA

INAH

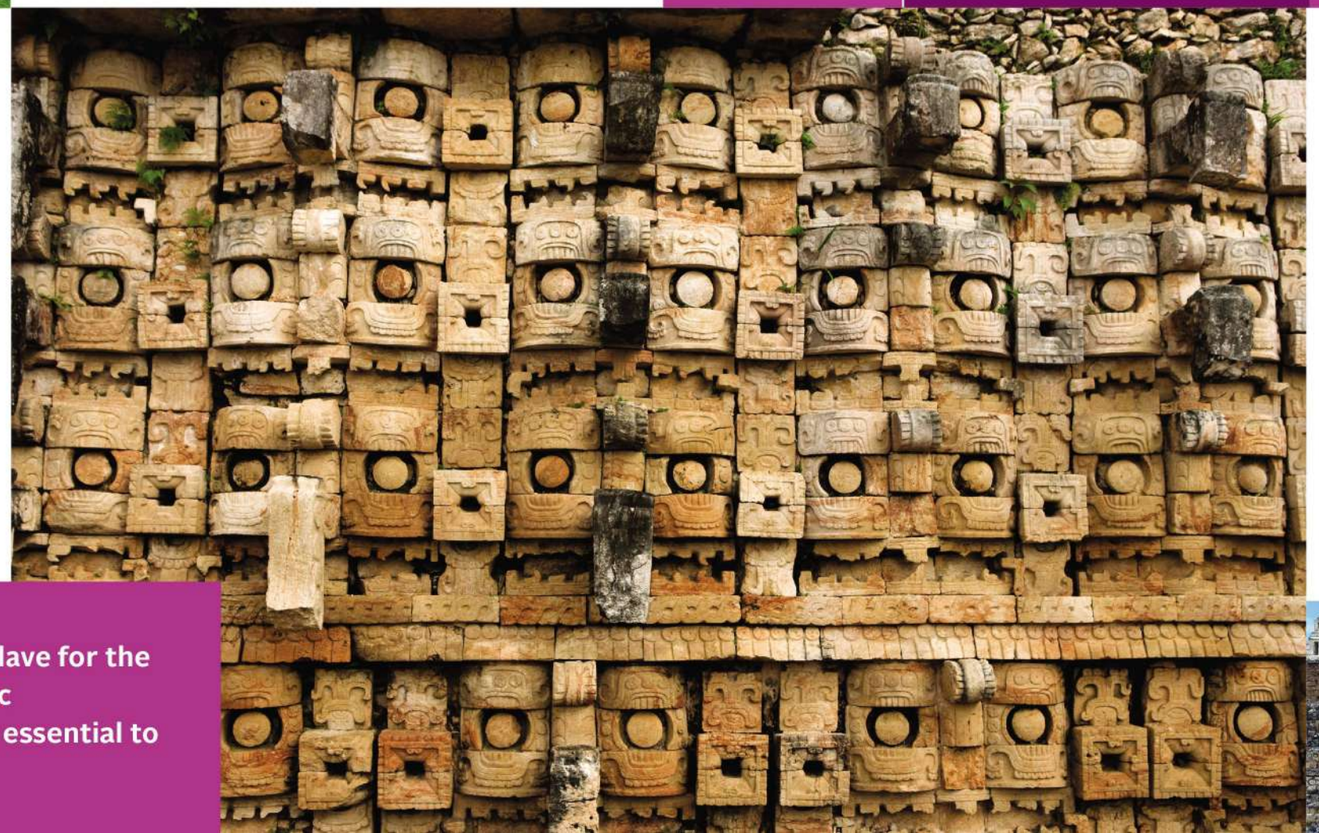
DISCOVER IT YOURSELF

The Hieroglyphic Altar

When climbing the stairs of the great base, the first element that catches our eye is the incredible, facade of the Codz Pop full of masks. Therefore, it is easy to overlook the small **quadrangular structure** that lies on the center of this plaza. A more detailed observation will reveal the presence of an altar covered on its four sides with **hieroglyphic writing**, which is very rare in the region.

The meaning of these hieroglyphs remains a mystery, since they were dynamited in the late nineteenth century, thus losing the order of the reading elements. However, two glyphs have been identified which associate Kabah with the ruler of Uxmal known as **Lord Chaak**.

The Kabah Nature Reserve was a crucial enclave for the control of the Santa Elena Valley. Its majestic architecture makes this World Heritage Site essential to know and preserve.



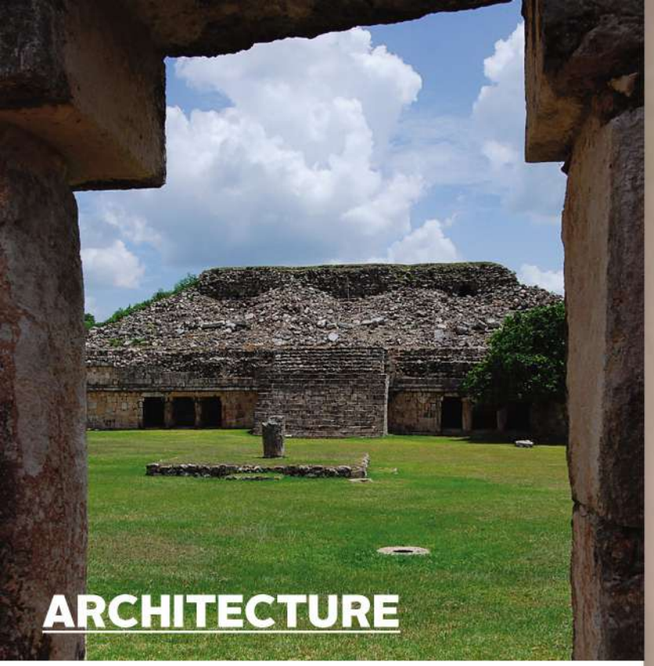
OUTSTANDING STRUCTURE

Codz Pop

This building was the core of ceremonial activity during the city's heyday. Its hierarchy is marked by its central position, its individual base and a battlement that doubled its height. Its decoration has hundreds of Chaak masks that covered the four sides during the first moment of its history. It must have served as a House of Spells, where the priests communicated with the gods. Later, the Mayans built a new wing with thirteen more enclosures. The central element is the lattices that create a framework which has been construed as a large mat, symbol of political power. **Seven representations** of the same character (King of Kabah) lie on this element.

Due to these items, it has been sugested that this part of the building must have served as a Popol Nah or Council House.





ARCHITECTURE

It seems that in this city, Mayan architects preferred to group their constructions in sets separated by enormous platforms on which open spaces and buildings were organized. One aspect that must be emphasized is that the three main groups of the settlement were built using the highest parts of the land. This use of the topography makes the stairs play a very important role on the site organization, since through them, the Maya managed to give the architectural spaces a public or restricted nature.

As in other places in the region, its buildings are made of stone mosaics whose pieces shaped repetitive speeches with which the ruling classes legitimized their power. The masks of Chaak, god of the rain, the lattices and, in the later periods, the anthropomorphic sculptures, are specially noticeable.



MUST-SEE

- A *Codz Pop*
- B *Palace*
- C *The Arc*

1 South Pyramid
2 Sacbé 2
3 Quadrangle
4 Teocalli
5 Building of the Columns
6 House of the Royal
7 Badge The Great
8 Pyramid Early Group
9 Group of the Viewpoint
10 Red Hands Building
11 Sacbé to Uxmal



WHICH IS THE BEST VIEWPOINT?
From the main entrance of the archaeological site you can see the Codz Pop, the Palace and the Teocalli.



DID YOU KNOW...?

- *There is a sacbé (stone road) that connects Kabah with Uxmal.*
- *Many of the stones in the Building of the Columns were used to build the Santa Ana Hacienda.*
- *There's a legend that claims the Dwarf who ruled Uxmal was from Kabah.*
- *Kabah is the original name of the site and is mentioned in the book of Chilam Balam of Chumayel, written in the 16th century.*
- *Although corn was the main source of food throughout Mesoamerica, its inhabitants did not consume tortillas, but rather prepared corn as atole, tamales and pozole.*

SOME FIGURES

18,000 The sacbé that unites this city with Uxmal is approximately 18,000 meters long.

446 Experts estimate that Codz Pop had 446 Chaak masks in its 4 facades during its last construction period.

1,600 It was continuously occupied for 1600 years.

100,000 More than 100,000 ceramic fragments have been found from vessels used to prepare, store and serve food to the royal family.

34 The masks representing the god of rain comprise 34 assembled pieces.

YOU CAN'T MISS...

- While walking the Puuc route, do not miss the chance to visit the town of Santa Elena. One of the main attractions of this village is its 16th century church, where you will find a museum that holds the only mummies ever found in the region.
- Los Ceibos pottery workshop, located in Muna, makes excellent crafts and reproductions of archaeological pieces, and its owners have helped recover the pre-Columbian tradition of polychrome vessels.