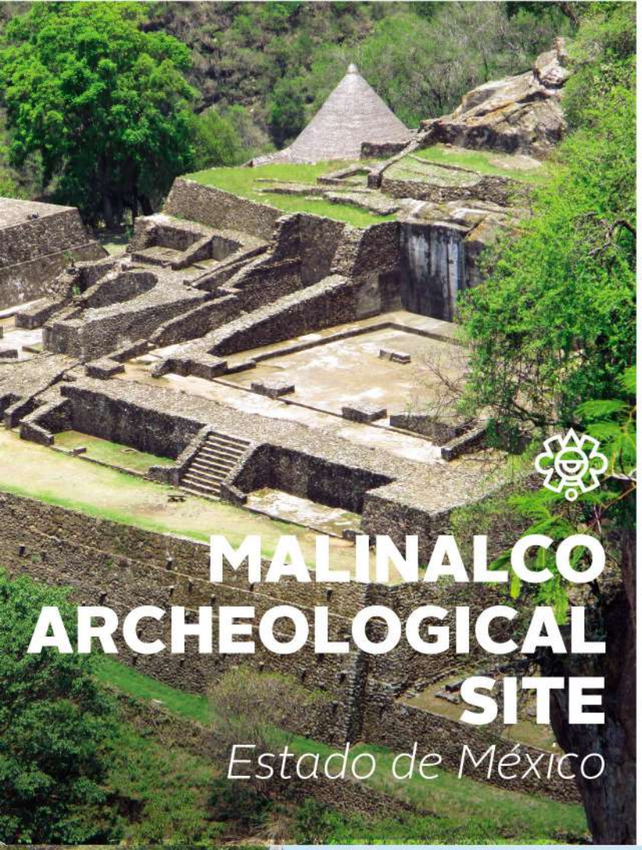


MALINALCO ARCHEOLOGICAL SITE

Estado de México



DISCOVER IT YOURSELF

Structure I

Known as the ***Cuauhcalli*** or "House of the Sun." One of a kind, magnificently carved directly into the rock.

Structure II

Comprised of two bodies with a staircase facing the west side. It was most likely dedicated to the god Tláloc.

BRIEF HISTORICAL REVIEW

*Also known as **Cerro de los Ídolos (Hill of the Idols)**, this outstanding site from the Late Postclassic period preserves remains of pre-Columbian ceremonial constructions and military structures, typical of Mexica architecture.*

*According to archaeologist José García Payón, the construction of the site is dated at the 15th and early 16th centuries and was built under Aztec rule, during the governments of Ahuítzotl and Moctezuma II. Also, he claims, Malinalco was part of the **Matlatzinca** and **Ocuilteca** area.*

Three sectors of vestiges of the time of the Mexica conquest integrate the site: El Cuauhtinchan; La Cañada or Rincon de San Miguel and the Upper Section.

*In this architectural group of vestiges is most notable the **Cuauhcalli** or "Casa del Sol" ("House of the Sun"), the main building and a magnificent structure carved into the rock. There is a hypothesis that the temple was used for the initiation and preparation of the Mexica military elite: the eagle and ocelot warriors.*

Structure III

Tzinacalli "House where the burners are." Comprised of two rooms with square spaces delimited inside by vertically placed carved rocks. In this section, remains of a mural painting with depictions of warriors in procession were found.

Structure IV

Temple of the Sun. Semi-monolithic east facing rectangular floor enclosure. Attached to it are two bases separated by a central stairway that gives access to the structure.

Possibly its interior was used to perform ceremonies, which the attendants could observe from the seats carved on the rock, found on three of its sides.





TOPONYM	Place where Malinalxóchitl is worshiped
CULTURE	Matlatzinca and Aztec
PERIOD	Late Postclassic
TIMESPAN	The construction of Cuauhcalli begins in 1503 and is interrupted by the Spanish conquest

GETTING THERE

It is located 99 kilometers (approximately 61.5 miles) from Mexico City, follow the Toluca highway up to La Marquesa, then head to Tenango del Valle. On the village of Jajalpa there is detour towards Malinalco. From the city of Toluca it is 70 kilometers (approximately 43.4 miles) away, following the road to Tenango del Valle and from there on via Jajalpa.

OPENING HOURS

Tuesday to Sunday, from 10am to 5pm.

SERVICES

Cloakroom
Restroom

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

For the use of any recording device there is a fee authorized by the Ministry of Finance. The taking of non-professional photographs, without a tripod, has no cost.

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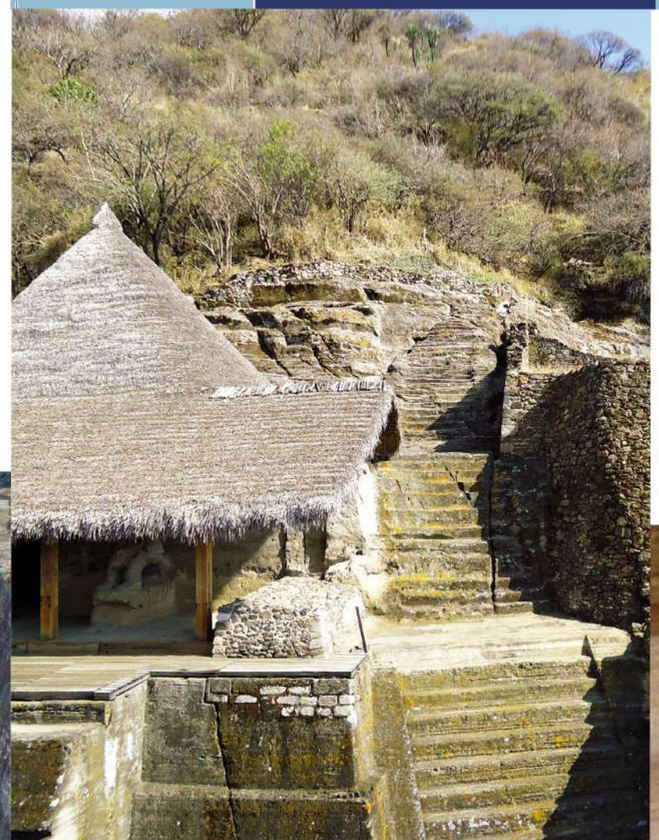
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CULTURA
SECRETARÍA DE CULTURA

INAH



OUTSTADING STRUCTURE

El Cuauhcalli

"House of the Sun." Carved on the rock, on the sides of the staircase, are the remains of two ocelots and in the centre are visible the vestiges of what could have been a standard bearer. The door of the building depicts the open jaws of a snake with a carpet-shaped forked tongue lying on the floor; the head, eyes and fangs of the reptile can be seen carved into the walls. To the sides, there are two sculpted pedestals, depicting a *huéhuetl* or jaguar and a snake with scales in the form of an arrowhead. In the interior of the temple there is an eagle, sculpted in stone, at the base of which there is a small hollow, there is also a bench with carved sculptures depicting two eagles and an ocelot.



ARCHITECTURE

The construction system, with a wrought technique directly into the rock wrought technique and masonry buildings, is characteristic of Mexica architecture. The Cuauhcalli is comprised of two bodies in slope and its stairway is bound by two rafters that end in the form of a cube.

The area open the public known as Cuauhtinchan sits on platforms on which lie pyramidal and circular bases. It is built on a terrace sheltered by a high wall that encloses it on its eastern and southern sides, and from where you can see the Malinalco valley.

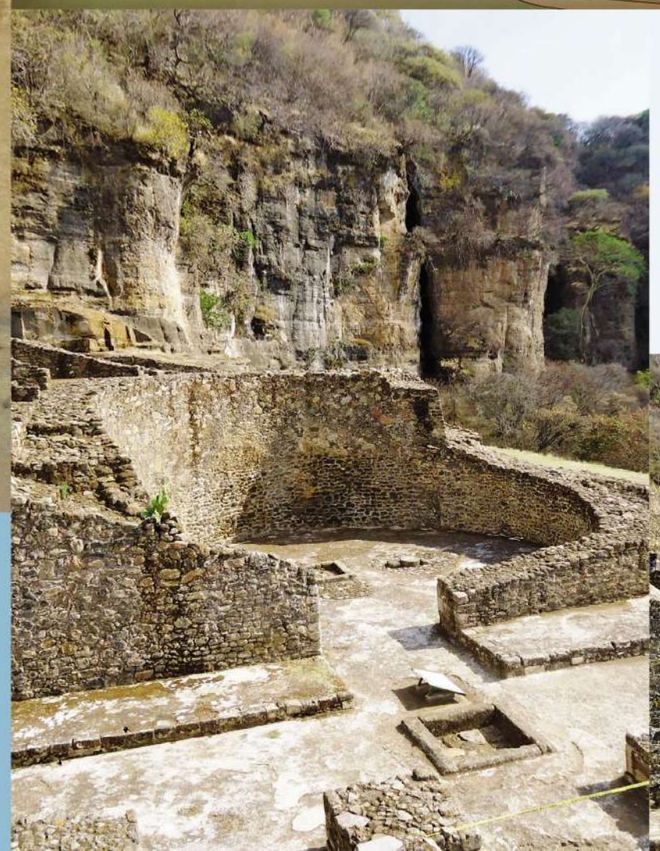


Due to its monolithic character, the Cuauhcalli is often compared to temples such as Ellora in southern India, the city of Petra and the monolithic temples of Abu-Simbel from Egyptian culture.



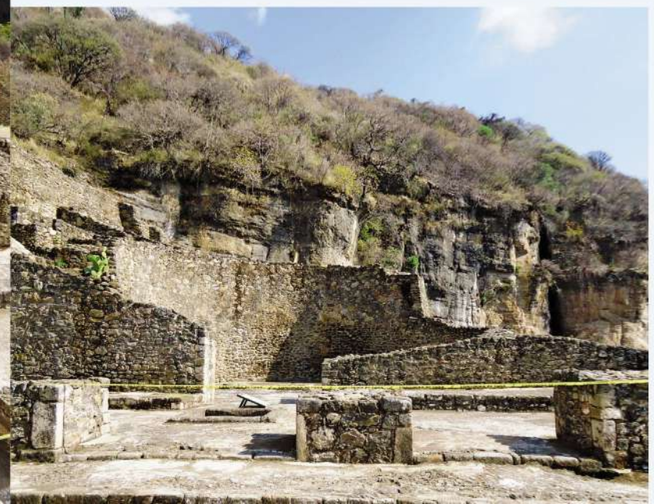
MUST-SEE

- A *Structure I or Cuauhcalli*
- B *Structure II*
- C *Structure III or Tzinacalli*
- D *Structure IV or Temple of the Sun*



YOU CAN'T MISS...

- Malinalco is a great tourist attraction that goes beyond the archaeological site, with sights such as the Museo Universitario Dr. Luis Mario Schneider and the 16th century ex Convent and The Temple of the Holy Saviour. There are trout farms, another excellent choice to appreciate all this Pueblo Mágico has to offer.



DID YOU KNOW...?

- *Malinalco is one of the few archaeological sites open to the public with structures carved directly into the rock.*
- *From the Structure IV, astronomical markers can be identified in the landscape.*
- *The Cuauhcalli is thought to be dedicated to initiation ceremonies of the elite military orders of the Mexicas: eagle warriors and ocelot warriors.*
- *Among the archaeological evidence found on the site there are some of the tools used to sculpt the Cuauhcalli, such as chisels, hammerstones, plummet and smoothers.*
- *The access road allows you to enjoy the unique landscape and vegetation of Malinalco.*



SOME KEY NUMBERS

2ª	Second most visited archaeological site in the State of Mexico.
426	426 steps to access the site.
175 000	Receives an average of 175,000 visitors per year.
1936	On March 23, 1936 started the first excavations by the archaeologist José García Payón.
1501	Its construction began in the year IX calli (1501 of our era).