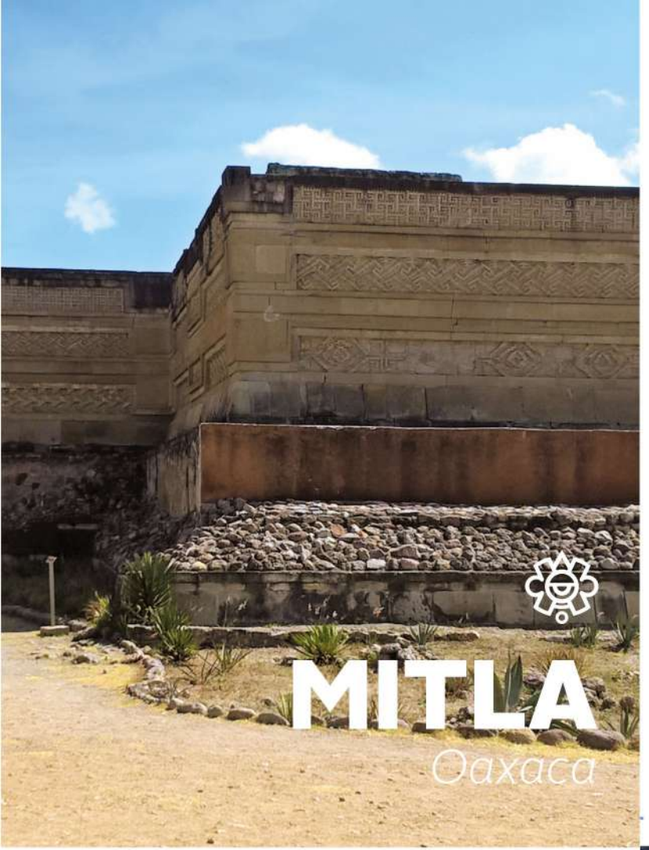


BRIEF HISTORICAL REVIEW

*This pre-Columbian city was inhabited by the **Zapotecs**. Its peak and expansion took place between 950 and 1521 AD. As Monte Albán diminishead as a center of power, Mitla became a very important settlement that served as the capital for the Zapotecs of the valley. Its architecture is based on finely carved stone blocks. It is worth mentioning that the palaces are built and arranged so that no mortar was used to glue materials it together, they are just accurately assembled.*

*Mitla comprises five groups of monumental architecture, of which the following stand out: **Northern Group**, **Group of the Columns**, **el Adobe o el Calvario Group**, **Arroyo Group** and **South Group**. Two of these resemble the Monte Albán building style: El Calvario or Adobe Group and South Group, for the replicate the traditional plazas, surrounded by palaces on platforms.*



TOPONYM	Mitla or Mictlan meaning "place of dead" in Nahuatl, in Zapotec Lyobaa "resting place" and in Mixtec Ñuu Ndiyi "place of the dead."
CULTURE	Zapotec
PERIOD	Late Postclassic
TIMESPAN	950 to 1521 AD

GETTING THERE

From the capital of Oaxaca, by Pan-American Highway (Number 190) to Tehuantepec, taking the detour at kilometer 39, towards the north. After 4 kilometers (2.4 miles) you will reach the town of Mitla, where you will find the archaeological site, along Morelos street and then calle 5 de febrero, later Reforma.
If travelling by public transport, buses depart from the City of Oaxaca to Mitla, however, these only stop at the entrance of the village.

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.

OPENING HOURS

Monday to Sunday, 8am to 4pm.

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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CULTURA
SECRETARÍA DE CULTURA

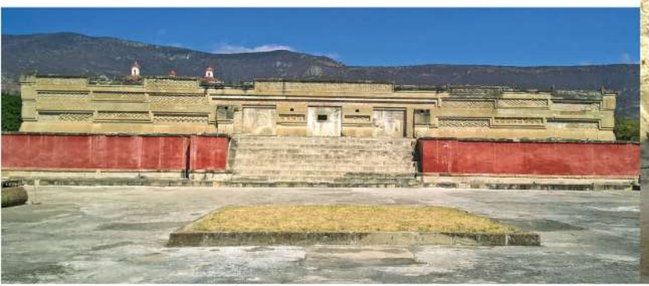
INAH

DISCOVER IT YOURSELF

South Group and Adobe Group are ceremonial complexes with central plazas and surrounding mounds. Arroyo, the Columns and the Iglesia Groups are residential palace type complexes built around square courtyards.

The Church Group

This group consists of a quadrangular court surrounded by palace- like buildings that are characterized by their carved stone mosaics with varied geometric designs. Codice-type pictorial documents of the ancient inhabitants of Mitla were found in these buildings. The group was named "de la Iglesia" ("of the Church") due to the Catholic church of St. Paul the Apostle, built by the Dominican friars on the ruins of the temple.





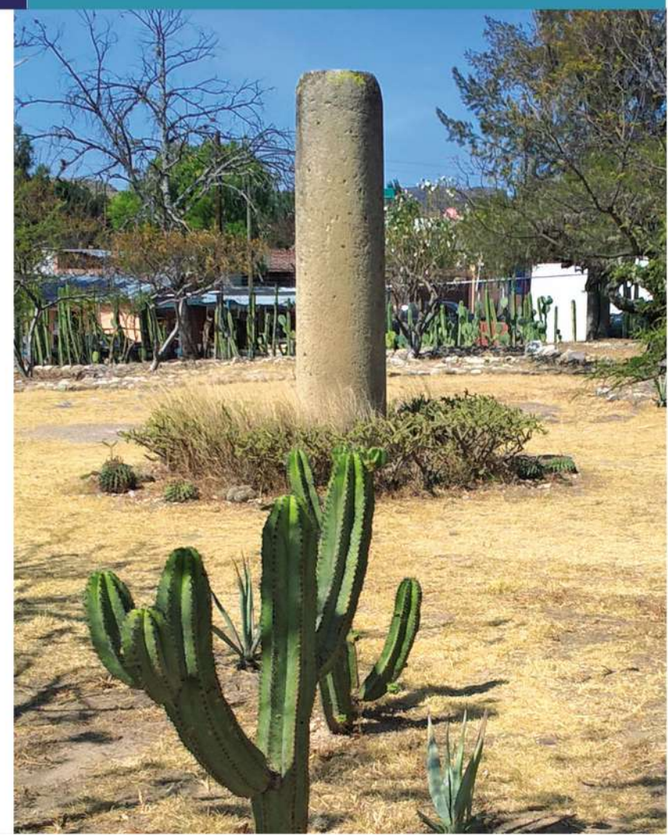
OUTSTANDING STRUCTURE

Group of the Columns

It has two plazas, one to the north and one the south. The northern complex contains the Hall of Columns, a large chamber with huge monolithic columns that once held the roof and which gave it its name.

Through a passageway located in this hall you can access the Main Palace, in which we find the Patio de las Grecas, named for its frets made with mosaics of carved stones that form geometric patterns of great complexity. The polished stones are interlocked without any mortar, a trait that make these mosaic walls unique in their kind.

The South Plaza contains palace-like buildings in which cross-shaped tombs of important Zapotec priests and monarchs have been found. The walls of both tombs are decorated with panels and mosaic fretwork. The northern tomb is characterized by a monolithic stone column that supports the roof and which has been named by the locals: "the column of life."



ARCHITECTURE

It is characterized by the use of fretwork, which decorate the main building: the Palace, and one of a kind in Mesoamerica. These frets are arrenged between panels with mosaics formed by them, which in turn, form different geometric patterns. The frets were made in thousands of tablets of polished stone, interlocked without any binding mix.

The technique used to embed, with great precision, carved stones on a stone wall, was perfectly to arrange them together, forming the beautiful mosaic that adorns the walls. The frets were made in superimposed rows or were enclosed in boards by larger smooth stones.





Administrative buildings and the dwellings of high-ranking figures are found in the Northern, Columns and Arroyo Complexes. These elements are part of the great Zapotec architectural tradition begun in Monte Albán.



MUST-SEE

- A *The Church Group*
- B *The Group of Columns*
- C *The Adobe Group or Calvario*
- D *The Arroyo Group*
- E *The South Group*

1 Crafts
2 Parking lot
3 Museum Frissel
4 City Hall
5 Market



YOU CAN´T MISS...

- The gastronomy. Try the mole in their different presentations: black, green, yellow and red; also liver with eggs and segueza. Regarding drinks, there is chocolate water, corn atole, panela atole, chocolate-atole, tejate, pozole, chilacayota water and tepache. In spirits, Mezcal, in addition to its different varieties and flavors, also the famous "cremitas", prepared from fruits or herbs that are cured with mezcal, acquiring the flavor of the fruit or herb. You can try orange cream, coconut, coffee, lemon and nanche, among others.
- Traditional holidays are: January 25, feast of St. Paul the Apostle, also August 15 and 16, feast of St. Peter and St. Paul.

DID YOU KNOW...?

- *Mitla was a Zapotec ceremonial center, only surpassed in the region by Monte Albán.*
- *The facades are adorned with mosaics of polished stone framed by double scapular panels, which have been dated 300 years before the arrival of the Spaniards.*
- *There are 14 fret designs identified so far, these are found in various structures of the complex.*
- *Upon the arrival of the Spaniards, they destroyed temples and used the stones to build the present church of San Pablo, dating from the 16th century.*
- *In the Church Group there are remains of codex type mural painting.*

SOME KEY NUMBERS

6 — From its foundation to the present day, it has not ceased to be inhabited, having been occupied for more than 6 uninterrupted centuries.

The thousands of frets adorn its walls and were assembled without any binder.

The South Complex is the first of the five monumental groups that make up this pre-Columbian city. It was built between 400 and 600 AD.

The state of Oaxaca, where Mitla is located, has seismic activity nearly 365 days a year, therefore, the Zapotecs built wide and low buildings that would not collapse with earthquakes.

The first photographs of Mitla were taken by Désire Charnay in 1857 and published around 1863, making it one of Mexico's first pre-Columbian cities to be photographed.

200,000 — Currently, Mitla receives 200,000 visitors each year, both domestic and foreign.

San Pablo Villa de Mitla (Agencia Municipal de Unión Zapata), Tlacolula de Matamoros and Villa Díaz Ordaz, share one of the two World Heritage Site UNESCO declarations that the State of Oaxaca has, for the Cultural Landscape of the Prehistoric Caves of Yagul-Mitla.