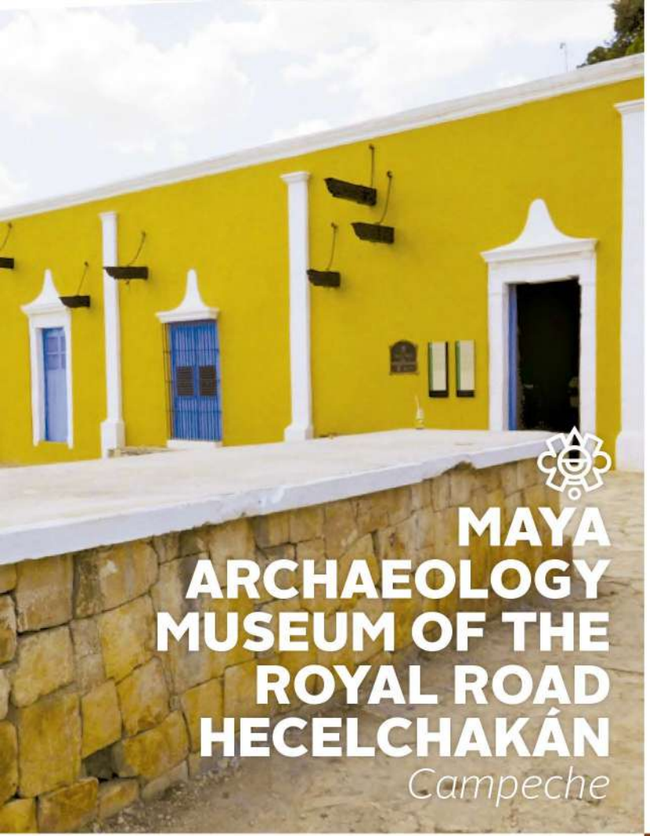


MAYA ARCHAEOLOGY MUSEUM OF THE ROYAL ROAD HECELCHAKÁN

Campeche

/ MAIN ATTRACTION

Articulated figurine

This ceramic piece, from the island of Jaina, represents a female figure. It is composed of five parts: the torso, two arms, and two legs. The extremities are joined to the body with cotton or henequen thread that made it possible to move the figure's limbs.



/ HISTORICAL OVERVIEW

Located in an eighteenth-century viceregal mansion that is part of the main plaza of the municipal capital of Hecelchakán, the museum occupies the building donated by ***General José Ortiz Ávila***, the state governor of Campeche from 1961 to 1967.

This cultural space was opened to the public in 1965. It comprises four sections and a patio with four corridors that display stone sculptures. The permanent collection has a total of ***161 objects***, 43 of which are pieces from diverse archaeological sites and the rest are figurines from the Campeche coast, pottery, and lithic objects. The introduction text offers an explanation of the socioeconomic phenomenon that led the Mayas to build the island of Jaina, which culminated in the Late Classic period (AD 600–800).

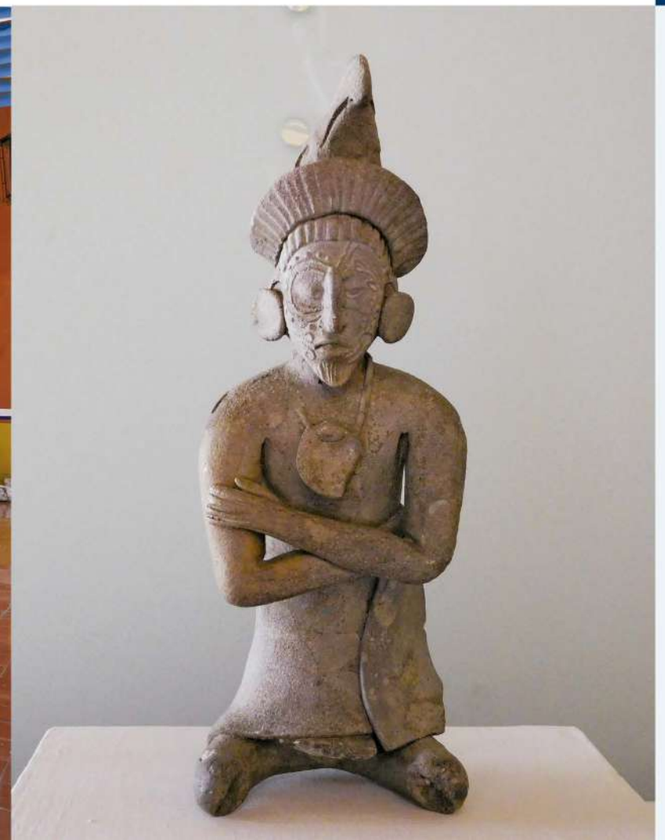
The location and characteristics of the island of Jaina suggest it was an important trading center that thrived in the Classic period.

The island of Jaina, which might have started out as a sandbar, measures 1000 meters long by 700 meters at its widest point. The pre-Hispanic mounds on the island form architectural groups. In the nineteenth century, Jaina sparked the curiosity of travelers and researchers; the earliest of them to visit the island in 1886 was French archaeologist and photographer ***Désirée Charnay***, who made it known worldwide.

So-called Jaina terracotta figurines, a beautiful collection of which is on display in this museum, hold a special appeal for their exquisite craftsmanship, their ingenuity, and their portrayals of individuals evoking Maya life. Some are zoomorphic and others anthropomorphic, or a combination of the two. They are also often associated with music in the form of whistles and rattles, in some cases they retain traces of their original coloring. Female figurines are depicted in activities from daily life, such as preparing maize and using a backstrap loom. Male figurines tend to represent men and priests wearing elaborate, elegant garb, ballplayers, and individuals with diverse physical features. They are generally found associated with mortuary offerings. Therefore, they appear to be important objects, providing information for the research and knowledge of the ancient Maya world.

Between 1940 and 1942 studies were conducted by a noteworthy group of archaeologists: ***Hugo Moedano Koer***, ***Raúl Pavón Abreu***, ***Miguel Ángel Fernández***, and ***Felipe Montemayor***. Starting in 1964 a research project was led by Román Piña Chan. From 1997 to 2005 the excavation and strengthening of buildings was directed by ***Antonio Benavides Castillo***.





/ SERVICES

Parking, restrooms.

/ HOW TO GET THERE

From the city of Campeche, it is 60 kilometers away; take federal highway 180 to Hecelchakán, where you take Calle 20. The site is on one side of the main plaza "Noh Beh."

/ $ ADMISSION

According to the Federal Fees Act, admission is free for children under 13, students and teachers with a valid ID, seniors, retirees, pensioners, and INAH personnel and researchers.

/ HOURS

Monday to Sunday
from 8 am to 5 pm.

/ PHOTOGRAPHY

For the use of any device to make videos, visitors must pay the fee stipulated by the Ministry of Public Finance. Non-professional photography, without the use of tripods, is free of charge.

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/ HIGHLIGHTS

2 — In the eighteenth century the house that belonged to the Ortiz Ávila family was built. It was donated by General José Ortiz Ávila during his administration as governor of the state of Campeche (1961–1967) to turn it into a museum.

2 — In 1965 this museum, also known as the Museum of the Royal Road, was opened to the public.

2,565 — In 2014 it received 3,222 visitors and in 2015, 2,565.

/ COLLECTION

Ceramic figurines from the island of Jaina are a preeminent part of the collection. They represent priests, rulers, warriors, ballgame players, and other figures. The detail in which they were rendered offers valuable information on everyday life in Maya society. In addition, the museum exhibits columns and lintels form the archaeological zone of Xcalumkín, as well as the model showing the moment when Gonzalo Guerrero, a Spanish survivor of a shipwreck, decided in 1519 to stay with his Maya wife and children, becoming the father of mestizaje.

/GALLERIES

- I .Archaeological Background of the Island of Jaina

  This space offers an explanation of the socioeconomic and religious phenomena that led the Mayas to build the island of Jaina, whose peak has been dated to the Late Classic period (AD 600–800).

- II. Figurines from Tombs

  The Jaina figurines come from burials on the island. The display shows manufacturing techniques and materials used to make these objects, spotlighting their artistic quality and interpreting features of ancient Maya society.

- III. Ceramics from Jaina

  As in all Maya cities, Jaina developed different techniques in the production of pottery, such as bowls, cylindrical vessels, and other earthenware vessels, both for daily and ritual use.



ESSENTIALS:

- A *Gallery I. Archaeological Background of the Island of Jaina*
- B *Gallery II. Figurines from Tombs*
- C *Gallery III. Ceramics from Jaina*
- D *Gallery IV. Mestizaje Model*
- E *Patio, Stone sculpture from diverse sites in the region*

1 Access
2 Tickets
3 Cellar
4 Bathroom

- IV. Mestizaje Model

  It shows a representation of the moment when Gonzalo Guerrero, a Spanish survivor of a shipwreck, decided in 1519 to stay with his Maya wife and children in this new land, becoming the father of mestizaje, the blending of the Spanish and indigenous races.

- Patio, Stone sculpture from diverse sites in the region

  In the patio an array of sculptures, such as stelae and columns carved in stone, offer the visitor a vision of the Maya elite, reflected in images of warriors and other important figures. Pieces can be seen from sites such as Xchan, Edzná, Xcalumkín, Itzimté, Nadzcaan, Tunkuyí, and Xcombec.



/ It houses an interesting collection of pieces and objects from Maya cultures found at archaeological sites such as Xcalumkín and the island of Jaina, the source of magnificent terracotta figurines.



