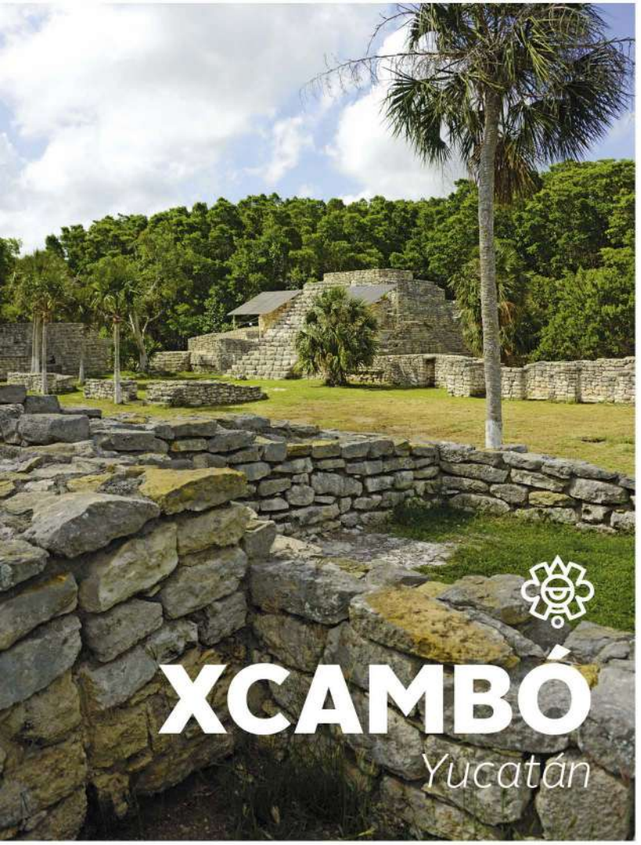


XCAMBÓ
Yucatán

BRIEF HISTORICAL REVIEW

*The residents of Xcambó settled in a **petén**, the largest of the region, with numerous useful features: soil, drinking water and buildings materials. The site was erected as a commercial port during the Early Classic period (c.350 - 550 AD). Its functions were the administration of salt flats and marine products, as well as being the reception center for local, regional and supra-regional goods.*

*The presence of white roads or **sakbe** **`oob** in Xcambó in this period seems to point at strong contacts with its contemporary sites like **Misnay**, **Ucí** and **Izamal**.*

*The **ciénaga** must have been one of the points of communication and contact with the port, which is demonstrated by the existence of a dock for the loading and unloading of goods.*



TOPONYM	"Celestial Crocodile" or "Place where bartering takes place"
CULTURE	Maya
PERIOD	Early Classic and Late Classic
TIMESPAN	c. 350 - 550 AD and c. 550 - 700 AD

GETTING THERE

The archaeological site of Xcambó is located in the north coast of Yucatán, south of the Progreso - Telchac coastal highway, on the road that goes to Dzemul. From this road, to the west, starts a road that leads for 800 meters (0.4 miles) to the center of the site.

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.

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PHOTOGRAPHY

A permit is required for professional cameras and tripod use. The use of video cameras costs is the one established by the Federal Law of Rights.

OPENING HOURS

Monday to Sunday,
9am to 5pm.

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CULTURA
SECRETARÍA DE CULTURA

INAH

DISCOVER IT YOURSELF

Main Plaza

The central plaza comprised 11 large buildings with the best wrought stone, and a peculiar arrangement of the buildings that make these stand out among others. Civic, religious and administrative activities that governed the life of the community took place here.

There are nine buildings that sorround the plaza on its four sides and two small platforms toward the center-south of the square. Associated with the buildings within the plaza are two important elements: small springs known as "ojos de agua dulce" ("freshwater springs").

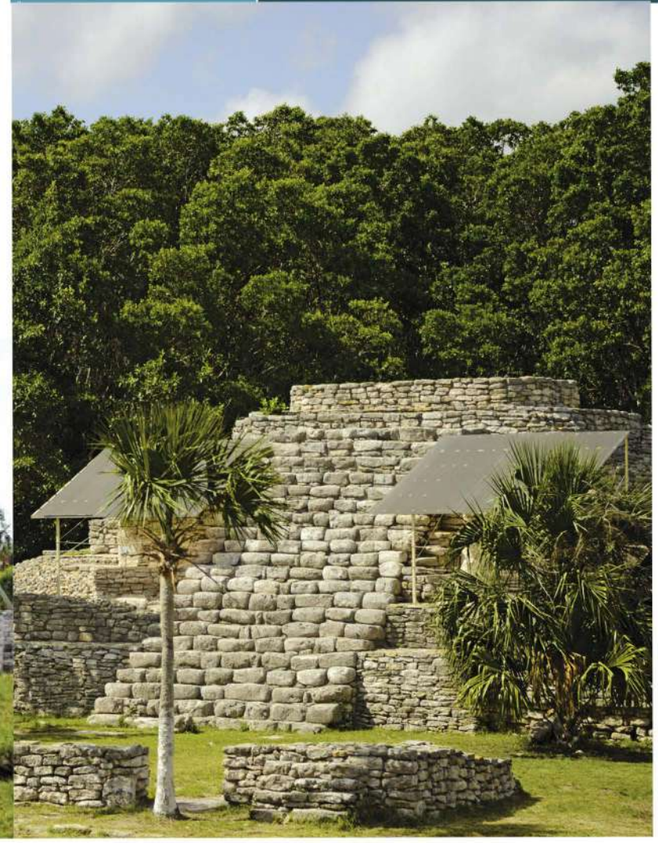
East Plaza

To the east of the Main Plaza, at a distance of 250 meters (about 820.2 feet) three public structures are erected, their layout forms a small open square from which extends a *sakbe* (white pre-Columbian road) towards a residence located 110 meters (360.8 feet) away and which seems to define the boundaries of the site.

Steam bath

Structure NE-24 or "Steam Bath" has a wide bench all around its interior walls, above it, directly across from the entrance a kind of pool was built to be used as an oven to boil the water. In front of the room was a portico with a roof made of perishable materials. These baths were used by the ruling class, such as priests and high ranking merchants. A similar bath was located in the East Plaza.





OUTSTADING STRUCTURE

Pirámide de los Mascarones (Pyramid of the Mascarons)

Building NE-23 or the "Pyramid of the Mascarons" displays features from at least three constructive periods and several remodelings. In its final phase it was entirely covered by several stepped bodies made of rough blocks of different sizes, and only one staircase made of megalithic blocks was built on the main facade. On the third body of its east side and close to the mask a cist was embedded; on the third body of the west side of the main facade the remains of three high ranking individuals were found, one of them had incrustations of obsidian in its incisors and as offerings they had high quality imported pottery.

The large plastered and painted masks represented the Celestial Monster, composed of opposing Venus and the Sun. As the morning star Venus guides the Sun out of the Underworld, it travels alongside it at sunset. The route and its direction is implied by the position of the mascarons in the temple. This same design is present in its contemporary sites like Izamal, Acanceh and Dzibilchaltún.

ARCHITECTURE

In Xcambó the most outstanding features have been identified as similar to those that characterize the constructions of the sites of the Early Classic in the north of Yucatán.

On the Late Classic period the site became uniform with the use of architecture based on coarse rectangular blocks and flat slabs of coarse woodwork, later to be placed on a dry joint and / or united with mortar. It was necessary to apply thick flattened stucco to all wall imperfections, in a similar way as was solved in the Postclassic.

WHERE CAN I SEE THESE OUTSTANDING ARCHITECTURAL ELEMENTS?

From all the buildings of the Main Plaza and the East Plaza you can see features of Petén style and megalithic style or Izamaleño in perfect harmony.



MUST-SEE

- A *Main Plaza*
- B *East Plaza*
- C *Housing complex NE-7*

1 Water Spring
2 Entrance





Xcambó is the only archaeological site of the region with a singular physiognomy –as it is a commercial port. This allows for a complete view of all its components: public buildings, domestic buildings and road system.

DID YOU KNOW...?

- *It was the main and largest commercial port on the north coast during the Classic Period.*
- *More than 600 burials were found and hundreds of pots were recovered, many of them of foreign origin.*
- *Even after it was abandoned, it remained a place of worship throughout the Postclassic period.*





YOU CAN'T MISS...

- Enjoy the beaches of Uaymitún and Telchac, among others of the north coast. Gastronomy includes ceviches, cazón empanadas, among a variety of seafood. Also, try typical sweets like the papayitas stuffed with coconut, the coconut cremitas and the merenguitos.

SOME KEY NUMBERS

It has 2 important plazas, 2 white roads, 1 interior path or *sak be* and 1 dock.

1 It is located in a *petén* that was totally covered by a thick stratum of stones and dirt, in order to avoid the flooding of the buildings.