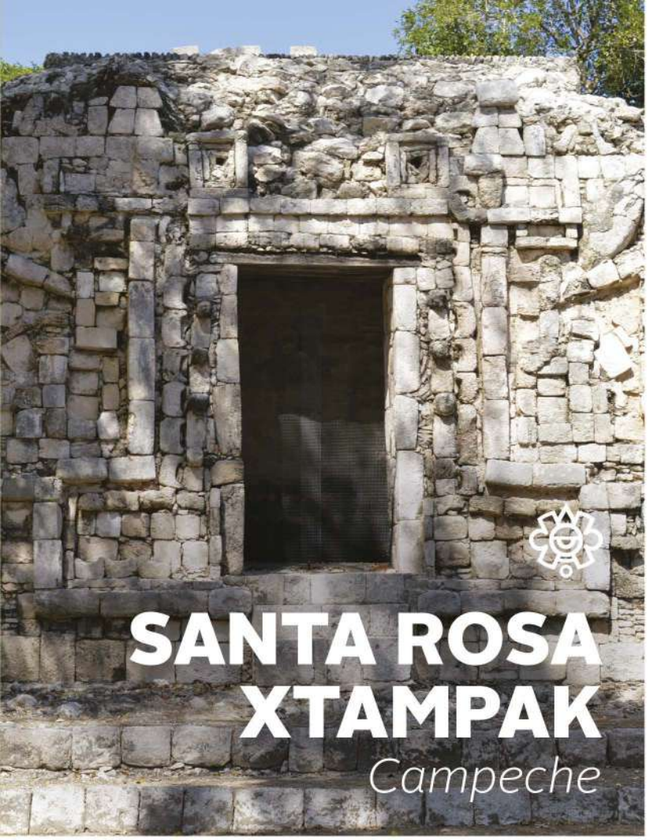


SANTA ROSA XTAMPAK

Campeche

HISTORICAL OVERVIEW

One of the most spectacular sites in the Chenes area, Santa Rosa Xtampak was perhaps the most important regional capital in the area. It is one of the few sites in the region that has stone altars, carved stelae with dates of events, free-standing sculpture, and pyramidal structures suggesting the city's power. Furthermore, in later times, perhaps around AD 900 to 1100, a ***sacbé*** *or road was introduced to join the main architectural groupings and the Palace, which although not the city's largest structure, was remodeled and augmented.*

In sum, everything considered "atypical" for the region has been found in this ancient city. Thus, specialists have regarded it as a regional capital, for it has the essential elements that the small peripheral cities lacked, as subordinate entities under the control and dependent on a capital. Further, the settlement's extension (30 square kilometers or 11.5 square miles) and its sphere of influence has been calculated at 400 square kilometers (154.5 square miles) make Santa Rosa Xtampak one of the most influential centers.

GET READY TO EXPLORE

The Barracks

The rooms of the north, west, and south buildings of what is known as El Cuartel or The Barracks are visible. They have two series of four vaults or rooms separated by a central stair. The exterior decoration features vertical rows of stacked long-nosed god heads contrasting with plain wall surfaces in each group of rooms. Also typical is the architectural elegance of the series of embedded half columns.

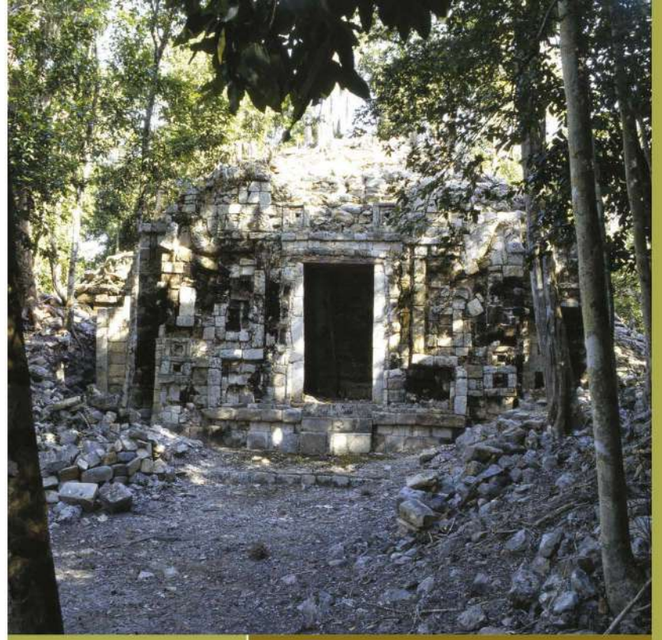
The Red House

Only half of the three rooms of the south corner and the extremely elegant roof comb can be seen. Immediately to the east of this, separated by a narrow 90 cm (almost 3 ft.) passage, is the outer wall of another similar construction.

Building of the Serpent Mouth

The serpent mouth is a clear allusion to the creator god Itzamná, shown as the portal with the sacred monster's gaping jaws framing the door, flanked by the creature's earflares. The elements resembling snouts are actually the feet, suggesting the idea of crouching, with bent legs.





PLACE NAME	"Old walls"
CULTURE	Maya
PERIOD	Late Preclassic
DATE	300–250 BC



MAIN ATTRACTION

The Palace

One of the best designed and built palaces in the Chenes region, it is a remarkable work attesting to the ingenuity and skill of its builders. This impressive building has three stories and a total of forty-four rooms. The ground floor has twenty-seven rooms, the second floor has twelve, including two at the southeast and northeast corners, and the third floor has five.



HOW TO GET THERE

From the city of Campeche, take federal highway 261 northeast toward the community of Hopelchén, which is 87 km (54 miles) from the state capital. From there take federal highway "vía ruinas" (via the ruins) that goes to Yucatán. When you pass Hopelchán, 2 km (1¼ miles) to the north, take the turnoff to the site, going northeast and for about 28 km (17½ miles) to Santa Rosa Xtampak.

ADMISSION

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

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PHOTOGRAPHY

For the use of any device to make videos, visitors must pay the amount set by the Secretary of Finance. Non-professional photography, without the use of tripods, is free of charge.

HOURS

Monday to Sunday from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm

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CULTURA
SECRETARÍA DE CULTURA

INAH

ARCHITECTURE

It is a clear example of Chenes architecture, because it displays the typical and enormous zoomorphic mask that represents Itzamná. It also has elements pertaining to Puuc architecture, common in the Yucatán Peninsula.

WHERE TO SEE IT?

In the Southeast Quadrangle there is a series of rooms with simpler decoration more closely identified with the Puuc style. These details include banded columns, spools, and stepped frets.

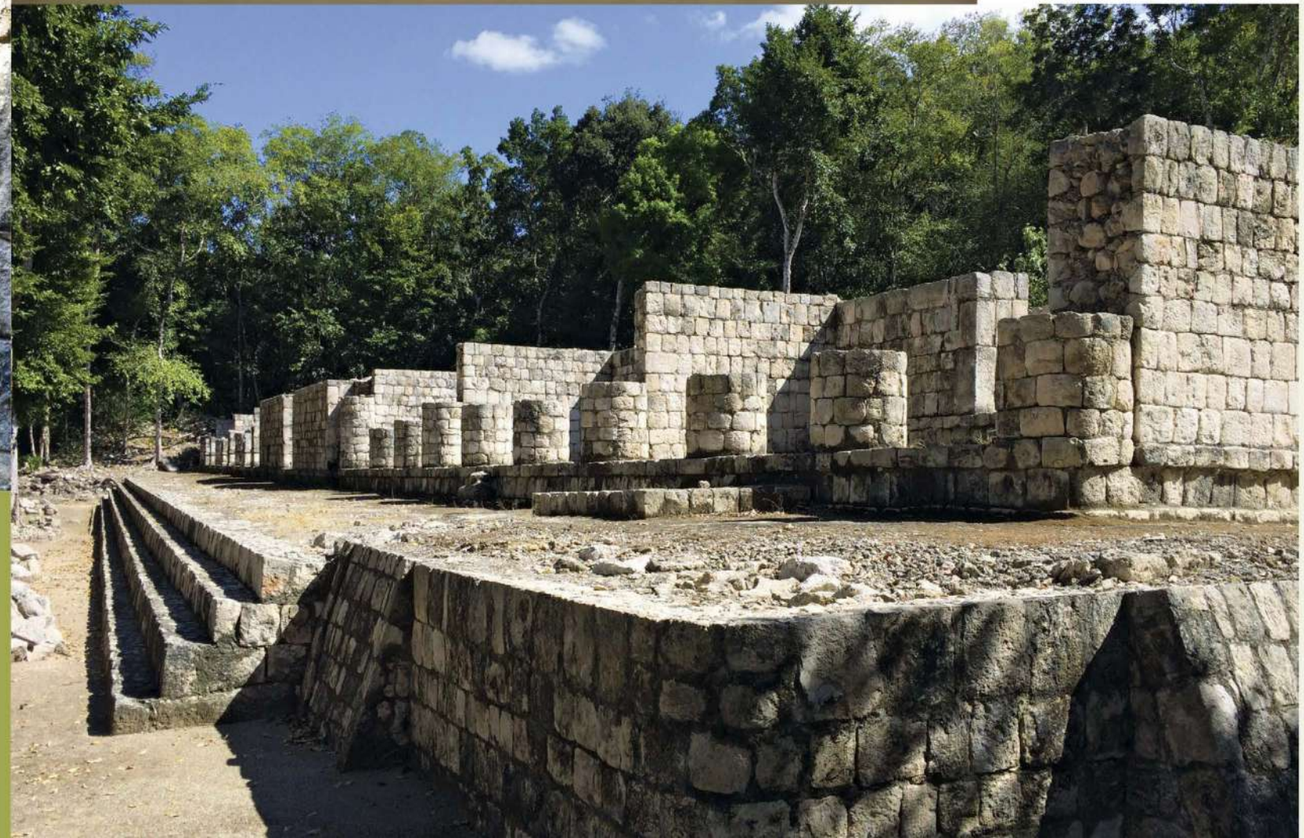


Santa Rosa Xtampak is considered the foremost urban center in the Chenes region. It is believed to have been a regional capital competing with rival capitals that never achieved the hegemony of power and social, political, and economic control of this site.



ESSENTIALS

- A *Building of the Serpent Mouth*
- B *The Barracks*
- C *The Red House*
- D *House of the Stepped Frets*
- E *The Main Palace or Structure II*
- F *South Building*
- G *Southeast Quadrangle*



DID YOU KNOW?

- *John L. Stephens, the U.S. explorer and adventurer, reported in the mid-nineteenth century on the existence of the interesting village of Labphak (a word derived from Yucatec Maya and translated into Spanish as "old walls," clearly referring to this site.)*
- *The ancient inhabitants chose the summit of one of the highest and largest hills in the area to build the main constructions of this Maya settlement.*
- *It was perhaps the leading regional capital in the Chenes area. It is one of the few sites in the region that has altars, stelae carved with dates recording events, free-standing sculpture, pyramidal structures, and sacbes (paved roads).*
- *The principal source of water was from chultunes, bottle-shaped underground deposits.*

SOME FIGURES

8	Eight stelae have been found, one of them probably with an emblem glyph, recording the city's name.
50	It has more than fifty chultunes distributed through its area.
2,300	The building known as The Barracks covers an area of about 2300 square meters (24,757 sq. ft.).
27	The Palace has 27 rooms on the ground floor, 12 on the second, and 5 on the third.

AND DO NOT MISS . . .

- A visit to the church and convent of San Antonio de Padua, which dates to 1667. It houses a remarkable altarpiece in the Baroque style with Solomonic columns.
- This region's cuisine is a rich fusion of pre-Hispanic and Spanish elements, such as corn tamales filled with pork and chicken, known as *pibipollos*, a traditional food for the Day of the Dead; *pibinales* (corn roasted underground). Stews are made with peccary, turkey, and deer, prepared in different ways; all of this accompanied by spicy habanero chile sauce and refreshing sweet beverages made with seasonal fruit or corn dough and cacao *(pozol)*.