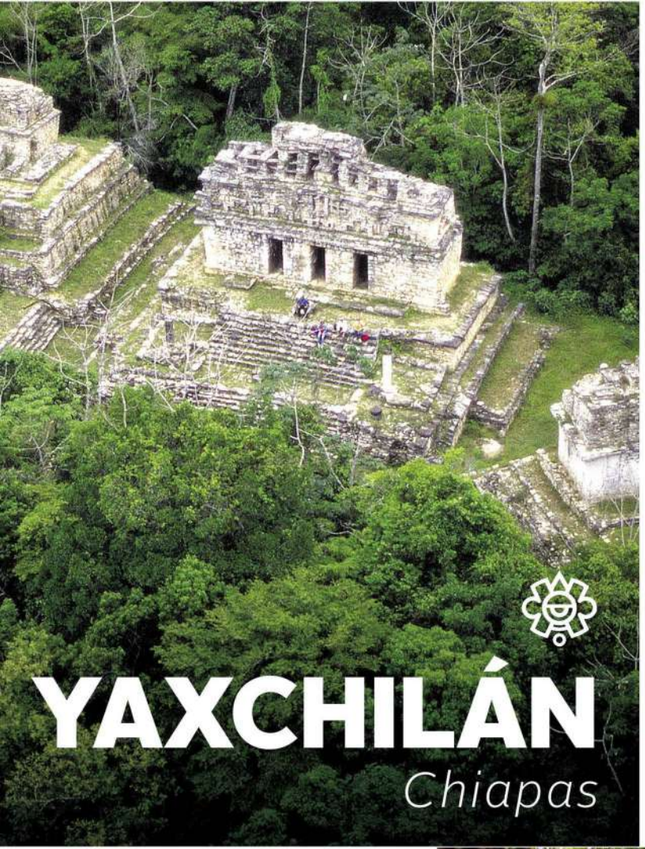


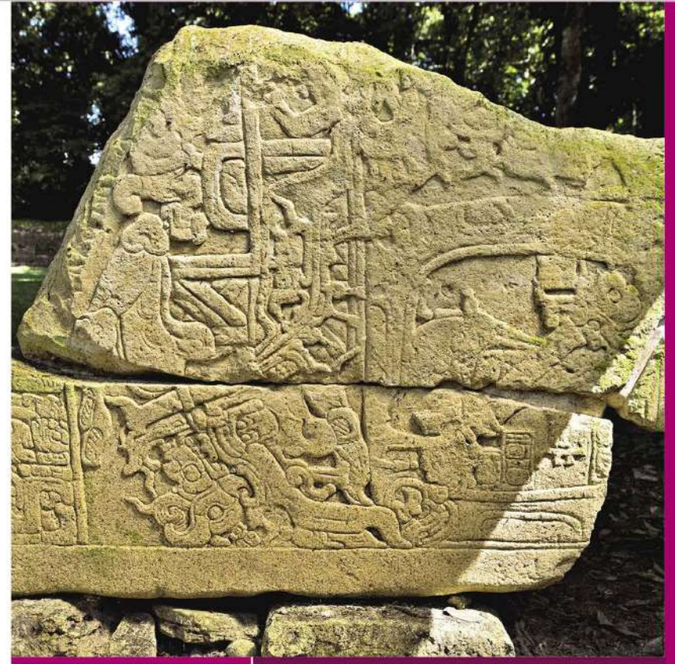
YAXCHILÁN

Chiapas

BRIEF HISTORICAL REVIEW

The site was built by the Maya who inhabited the middle region of the Usumacinta River, achieving a harmonious coexistence between the ancient city and tropical forests. The urban architectural design of the Yaxchilán's core was adapted to the natural terrain, to the river and to the hills, so that the Great Acrópolis stretches along the west bank of the river. They built two Acropolis on the south and west hills, respectively.

The site stands out for its more than 120 monuments with inscriptions of extraordinary artistic quality such as stelae, lintels, shrines, steps and thrones, which have provided rich information on the dynastic history of the Classical period (250 - 900 AD). The most prominent rulers were Shield-Jaguar I (681 - 742 AD) and Bird-Jaguar IV "the Great" (752 - 770 AD), who built the great majority of the buildings now open to the public. Furthermore, they extended the power of the site across the Usumacinta region through warfare and marriage alliances.



TOPONYM	"Green Stone"
CULTURE	Maya
PERIOD	Classic
TIMESPAN	250 - 900 AD

GETTING THERE

From the city of Palenque, Chiapas, there is a paved road towards Frontera Corozal where they offer motorboat services. The trip to Yaxchilán takes 1 hour through the Usumacinta River.

OPENING HOURS

Monday to Sunday,
8am to 5pm.

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

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.

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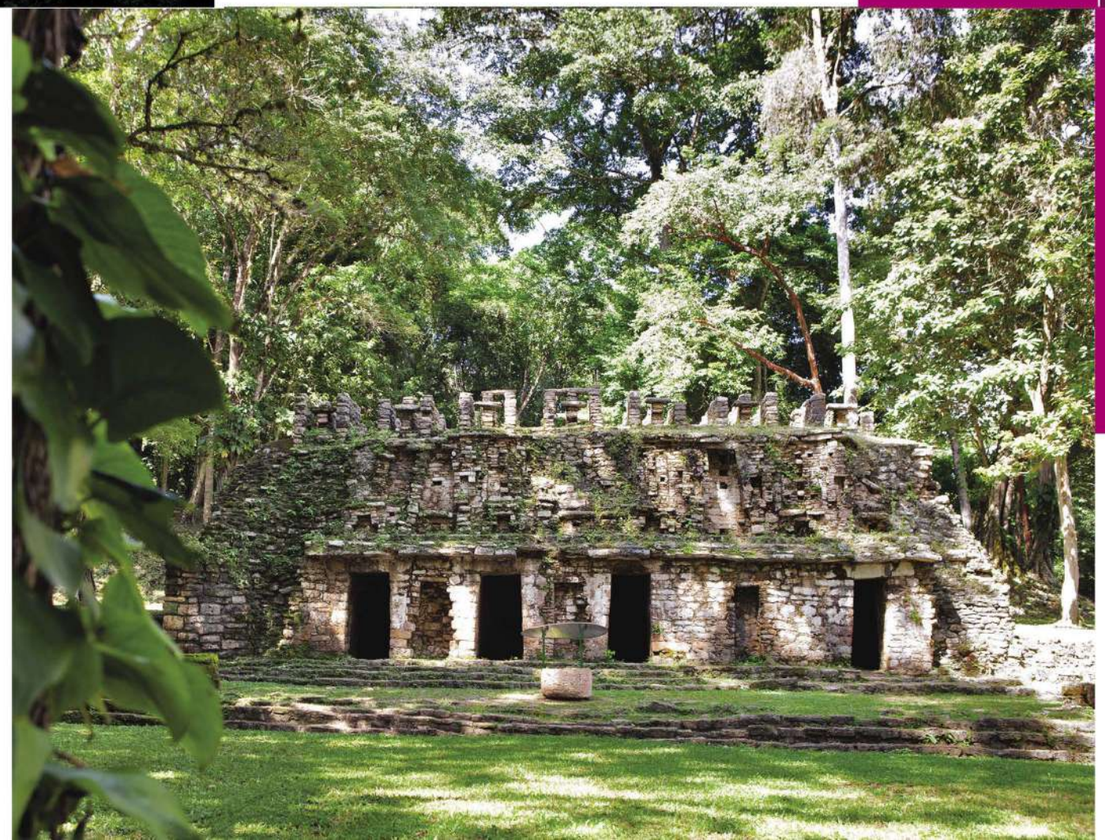
CULTURA
SECRETARÍA DE CULTURA

INAH

DISCOVER IT YOURSELF

The Great Acropolis

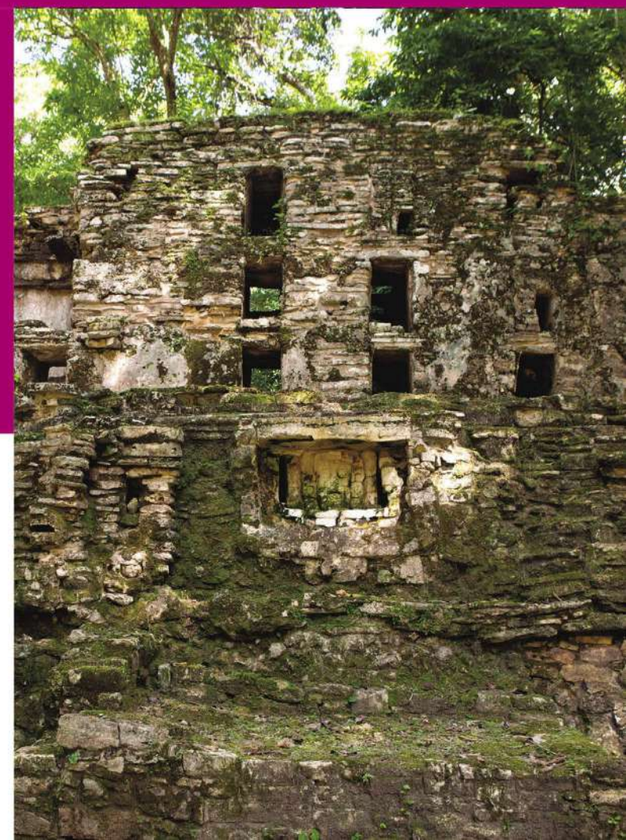
Structure 19, also known as "The Labyrinth" is named after its complex distribution of subterranean pillars. Currently, it functions as an entrance to the Great Acropolis.
In the first section there is **Structure 17**, reserved for ritual use and associated to the ballgame, and **Structure 14**, comporising of two platforms that form the I-shaped ballcourt. In the second and third sections there is a series of constructions, where **Structure 6** stands out for preserving battlements and a stucco mascaron. Inside **Structure 21** you can see stela 35, which depicts the mother of Bird-Jaguar IV. On the wall you can appreciate the stucco relief of four women and a man sitting on a stool, which is decorated with snake heads with the figure of Tláloc.



Yaxchilán has the largest number of carved lintels in the Mayan region.

The West Acropolis

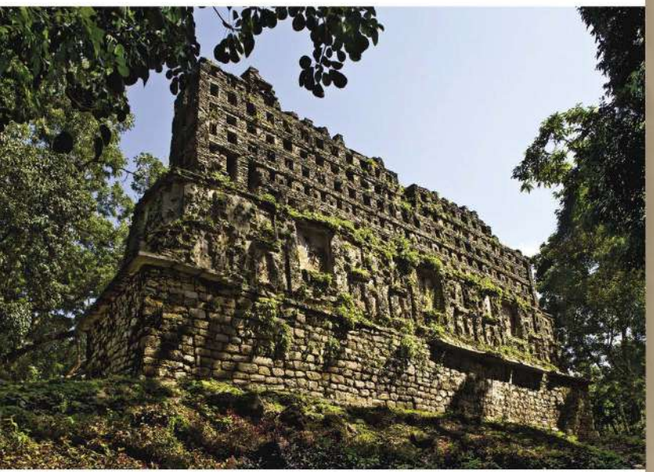
This Acropolis is an architectural complex built on a hill that served as a residential complex or palace.
Worth noting are **Structure 44**, built by Shield -Jaguar I, whose numerous military victories were portrayed on its lintels and steps; and **Structure 42**, dating from Bird-Jaguar IV goverment, whose figure appears on the central lintel along his subordinates.



OUTSTANDING STRUCTURE

Structure 33

Structure 33, the most emblematic of Yaxchilán, is associated with numerous monuments; thirteen steps carved with scenes of the ritual ballgame; three carved lintels at each entrance; and a freestanding sculpture that lies inside.
It preserves a great roof comb with the remains of a modelled sculpture. All the monuments are about ruler Bird-Jaguar IV, who ordered the construction of this building.



ARCHITECTURE

The site in general shows the Usumacinta style. The structures are built on low basements, are of rectangular plan with one or two spaces between pillars divided by buttresses and with attached benches.
The lintels placed in the entrances are often carved. The battlements are formed by stoned walls with decoration modelled in stucco.

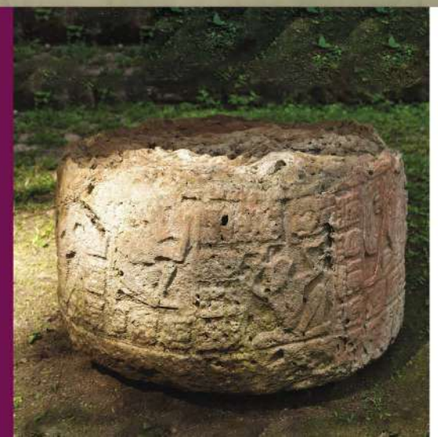




MUST-SEE

- A *The Great Acropolis*
- B *Building 33*
- C *The West Acropolis*

1 Structure 19 or "The Labyrinth"
2 Structure 17
3 Structure 14
4 Structure 6
5 Structure 21
6 Structure 44
7 Structure 42
8 Small Acropolis
9 Great Acropolis
10 Southern Temples



DID YOU KNOW...?

- *The sculpture of Bird-Jaguar IV sitting, found on Structure 33, was beheaded in the 19th century and the Lacandons believe that when the head returns to its original position, celestial jaguars will swallow all living beings and end with the world.*
- *Stela 35, located inside Structure 21, has an open space where the original remnants of coal used by the pre-Columbian Maya still remain.*
- *The stone piling, built on the bank of the river, is preserved in full despite the intense river currents. It could be the base for a bridge or dock.*
- *Structure 19 known as "The Labyrinth" has a series of underground corridors that lead to small rooms and it is not known where one of these still sealed corridors leads.*

SOME KEY NUMBERS

42 — 42 intervened structures.	59 — 59 lintels.
35 — 35 stelae.	5 — 5 hieroglyphic stairs.

YOU CAN'T MISS...

- Even if you are in Chiapas, the closest sights are on the neighboring state of Tabasco. 149 kilometers (92 miles) away is Tenosique, interesting to visit during its carnival which begins on January 20, feast of San Sebastián. During those days most of its inhabitants paint their bodies as tigers, who are sent by the evil god "Pochó" to eradicate humanity; while the "cojóes" wear wooden masks and hats. Imagine over a thousand of them together fighting with the tigers and dancing! It is quite the spectacle.
- Obviously, if you are in the area, you must visit the archaeological sites of Bonampak and Palenque. The latter is 290 kilometers (around 180 miles away). From there, you can go on to the city of Villahermosa to rest and then visit the famous La Venta Park-Museum or the Tabasco 2000 Planetarium, one of the best in the country.