

Archaeological sites

Although the Mayan culture is still alive to this day, there is no doubt that the vestiges of its great pre-Hispanic constructions are one of the most important attractions in Yucatan. All sites are open from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., 365 days a year.

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These two are among the most visited.

Uxmal (pronounced ushmál)

Uxmal is an ancient Mayan city declared a World Heritage Site by UNESCO in 1996, it is located 78 km from Mérida, approximately one hour. Its name comes from "Oxmal" which has been translated as "the thrice built".

The most impressive structure and with a height of more than 35 meters (100 feet) is the "House of the Soothsayer". According to an ancient legend, this pyramid was erected by Itzamná in just one night. In fact, it was erected in five stages and was designed in such a way that its staircase faces east, towards sunset on the summer solstice.

The Convent, another of its great buildings, was baptized by the Spaniards who, when they saw it, evoked a European convent. It was probably used as a school for healers, astrologers, and priests.

The Governor's Palace is an excellent example of stone mosaic work and features very beautiful sculptures of the rain god Chaac, snakes and astrological symbols.

Don't miss the video mapping (light and sound) at night that tells the legend of the dwarf of Uxmal.

Chichen Itza

The Mayan city of [Chichen Itza](#) was declared a World Heritage Site in 1988 and one of the Seven Wonders of the Modern World in 2007. It is also the most famous archaeological site in Yucatan and the most restored by INAH. The symbol of Yucatan and one of the symbols of Mexico is the Castle, where Kukulcan descends every equinox. But there is also the Great Ball Court, the Temple of the Eagles and Jaguars, the

Platform of Venus, the Temple of the Warriors, the Set of a Thousand Columns, the Market, the Steam Bath, the Sacred Cenote, the Ossuary, the Observatory or Caracol, the Ensemble of the Nuns and The Church.

In 2023, Chichén Viejo [opens its doors in a very controlled way](#) , a smaller but no less impressive space. You have access to both with the same ticket. Visit our article for details about Chichén Viejo.

Here are the 17 archaeological sites in Yucatan

The National Institute of Anthropology and History (INAH) of Mexico has enabled 17 archaeological sites to be visited in the state of Yucatan. It is important to mention that, of these, some are temporarily closed to the public. The archaeological sites of Yucatan are:

1. Acanceh (pronounced akankéj)
2. Aké
3. Balamcanché (temporarily closed)
4. Chacmultún
5. Chichen Itza
6. Dzibilchaltun
7. Ek Balam
8. Izamal
9. Kabah
10. Labna
11. Loltún (temporarily closed)
12. Mayapan (temporarily closed)
13. Oxkintok (pronounced oshkintók)
14. Sayil
15. Uxmal (pronounced ushmál)
16. Xcambó (pronounced shcambó)
17. Xlapak