

# ARQUEOLOGY

Witness History

Chiapas, México



Chiapas of Heart

## ◆ PRE-HISPANIC CITY AND NATIONAL PARK OF PALENQUE



### A prominent testimony of the Mayan culture ingenuity

This Cultural World Heritage, immense in the evergreen jungles, was the capital of the reign of the Lakam-há. The plenty of archeological, architectonic, pictorial and written vestiges, among others, have made Palenque the ideal place for researchers to decode the Maya scripts and its cosmological and dynastic stories.

It is also a city full of monuments, a milestone for the quality of its architecture and the originality of its constructions, highlighting the Palace and the Temple of Inscriptions which contains the tomb of Pakal. Its site museum has one of the best collections of the Mayan art of the world.

*It is located at 8 km from the city of Palenque.*

## ◆ YAXCHILÁN



### A city hidden in the Lacandon Jungle

It is a marvelous evergreen high jungle scenario, seat of the warrior-kings Bird Jaguar and Shield Jaguar. The development of Yaxchilán was between 350 and 810 AD. This city has a great extension, standing out the Great Plaza, the Great Acropolis, the small Acropolis and the Southern Acropolis. The quality of its sculptures, such as stelae and lintels, are exceptional. Arriving at this place is an adventure because visitors have a boat ride through the Usumacinta River.

*It is located at 173 km from the city of Palenque.*



## ◆ BONAMPAK



### **A site with mural paintings in an extraordinary state of preservation**

Bonampak is a ceremonial center erected in the heart of the jungle. Its peak occurred during the kingdom of Knot-Eye Jaguar, who took the Bonampak throne in 743 AD, being this captured in stelae, lintels and wall paintings which are still preserved.

About the constructions, the Great Plaza and the Acropolis stand out. The wall paintings from the Temple of the Paintings narrate wars, dynastic stories and celebrations; and they are in an extraordinary state of preservation.

*It is located at 156 km from the city of Palenque.*

## ◆ TONINÁ



### **The highest Acropolis of Mesoamerica**

Toniná is a sacred space formed by a seven-platform artificial mountain, erected on a calcareous hill that dominates a vast valley. Toniná has its peak during the end of the VI century AD, which was a military power as were mentioned by prisoners in plenty representations on stucco and stone.

The most important king of this place was Tzotz Choj, "Bat-Tiger"; and the last inscription of the Mayas from the Classic period was written here in 909 AD. It has a splendid Site Museum.

*It is located at 10 km from the city of Ocosingo.*

## ◆ CHINKULTIC



### **The best place to look at the Comitán plains and the lakes of Lagunas de Montebello**

*On a serie of limestone hills and surrounded by the Azul cenote and Chanujabab and Tepancuapan lakes, there are erected the four main nucleus of this Maya site, where were venerated aquatic and solar deities. It stands out the one called Acropolis, which formed by five structures and placed on a hill.*

*It is at 42 km from the city of Comitán de Domínguez.*

## ◆ TENAM PUENTE



### **An Maya Acropolis in the middle of the woods with abundant bromelias**

*It is located on a serie of limestone hills, at an altitude between 1600 and 1700 meters, in the southern border of the Mayan area. The main period of activity was between the Classic period and Preclassic period (during 300 and 1200 of our time). For having a strategic location in the route between the Highlands of Chiapas (Los Altos) and Guatemala, it had access to important commercial networks, as displayed by the objects from distant lands such as alabaster glasses, seashells and metals.*

*It is located at 13 km from the city of Comitán de Domínguez.*



## ◆ LAGARTERO



### **A paradise combining nature and archeology**

As being the tributary of the upper Grijalva, the Lagartero River produces a vast quantity of clear ponds and small cascades. Among the bodies of water, there are still the vestiges of a Mayan city, whose inhabitants cleverly made use of this aquatic environment to create canals which are thought to be used for watering and protection.

*It is located at 68 km from the city of Comitán de Domínguez.*

## ◆ IZAPA



### **In the convergence between the Mixe-Zoque and Maya people, stelaes narrate the myths of the Popol Vuh**

The location and planification of its ceremonial center have several astronomical references, leading some archeologist to think that Izapa had an important role in the making of the Mesoamerican calendars and, particularly, of the Maya calendar. The position of its axis, which is slightly turned away from north, and its alignment with the Tacaná Volcano have made the conclusion that the best structures and pyramids for astronomical observation coincide with the sunset of the winter solstice in the North hemisphere. Its early development, before Teotihuacan's and the big Mayan cities', has made it important to know the history of Mesoamerica.

*It is located at 12 km from the city of Tapachula de Córdova y Ordóñez.*

## ◆ IGLESIA VIEJA

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### **An enigmatic archeological site on the Chiapas coast**

It is one of the biggest archeological sites on the coast, whose megalithic constructions are approximately 1800 years old, probably coming from a Mixe-Zoque culture. The area is formed by diverse sectors, among which are located the main plaza, the altar of the four faces, the altar of "El Sapodrilo" (which is a figure with the shape of a toad but teeth of a crocodile) and the ceremonial center; this one is located on the highest part of the mountain, having an extension of more than 300 m<sup>2</sup>.

*It is located at 6 km from the city of Tonalá.*

## ◆ CHIAPA DE CORZO

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### **The oldest capital in the center of Chiapas**

The discoveries have allowed to connect Chiapa with faraway regions, such as the Olmec zone and the highlands of Guatemala. From here, it comes the stela discovered in 1961, which registered the oldest date known in Mesoamerica (36 AD), and that is preserved at the Museo Regional de Chiapas, in Tuxtla Gutiérrez.

*It is located at 17 km east from the city of Tuxtla Gutiérrez*



Tabasco

Veracruz



Republic of Guatemala

Oaxaca

Z.A. Palenque

Palenque International Airport

PALENQUE

Z.A. Tonala

Cascadas de Agua Azul Flora and Fauna Protection Area

Z.A. Tonala

Santa Flora and Fauna Protection Area

Z.A. Yaxchilan

Z.A. Bonampak

Lagunas de Montebello Biosphere Reserve

Martha Aurora Sanchez Biosphere Reserve

SAN CRISTÓBAL DE LAS CASAS

Z.A. Chiapa de Corzo

CHIAPA DE CORZO

TUXTLA GUTIERREZ

Angel Albino Corzo International Airport

COMITÁN DE DOMÍNGUEZ

Z.A. Chunchucmil

Z.A. Sanam Pueblo

Lagunas de Montebello National Park

Z.A. Lagartero

Z.A. Tonalá Vieja

TONALÁ

La Selva Negra Biosphere Reserve

La Parícutación Forest Protection Area

Dr. Simón Bolívar Biosphere Reserve

TAPACHULA DE CORDERO Y ORDÓÑEZ

Z.A. Tapachula

puerto chiapas





**TO VISIT CHIAPAS IS TO DECODE THE MYSTERIES OF THE ANCIENT  
CIVILIZATIONS AND TO ENCOUNTER THE IMPRESSIVE TESTIMONIES  
OF THE PAST.**



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SECRETARÍA  
DE TURISMO  
GOBIERNO DE CHIAPAS