





### Valentín del Valle Góngora theater

The Municipal Theatre is the only one in the Department of Petén, built as a legacy to cultural infrastructure. It is the venue for theatre and public presentations, conferences, concerts, folkloric dances and comedic

presentations. In one way or another it communicates ideas and sentiments to the general public attending the presentations. The theatre was built in 1940 and it is named after the singer-composer Valentin del Valle Góngora (16-12-21 - 17-05-88), the best know national artist of the time.

#### Festivities and celebrations Jan 6 to 15: Tour of the Chatona

and The little horse. May: Spindle of the flower of Aug 21 to Sep 1: Patronal Festival

of the City of Flores, in honor of the Virgin Our Lady of the Remedies and Saint Pablo of

Dec 8: Party of the City Island of

# Dec 7 and 8: Las mesitas (little

#### Tikal **National Park**

The Tikal National Park, in the province of Petén, was created in May 1955 and regulated in September 1957.

In 1979 it was declared World Cultural and Natural Heritage by the UNESCO for its exceptional value by combining extraordinary natural and cultural richness. It occupies an area of 576 km² and is considered one of the most important natural and cultural reserves of the Republic of Guatemala and the world for the great variety of fauna and flora species, as well as th innumerable vestiges of the Maya civilization located there. In 1848, Colonel Modesto Méndez and Ambrosio Tut, Governor and Mayor of Petén, respectively, carried out the first official recognition of the

### The Archaeological site

The mapped area is of 16 square kilometers, where more than 4,000 structures and buildings of various kinds. The first evidence of occupation of the site dates back to around the BC, a period of the Maya history identified as middle Pre-Classic. The last constructions found correspond to the late Classic period, approximately in the year 900 AD. These 1,500 years of consecutive occupation gave the Maya a high cultural, artistic, architectural, urban, mathematic, astronomical, agricultural and commercial development, which has motivated admiration and the international scientific interest.

## Most important squares

1. GRAND SQUARE:

At the epicenter of the entire site and is the most spectacular part of the architectural complex of Tikal, the product of more than a thousand years of constructive activities, is the Grand Square bordered by a row of carved stelae and altars, that contain a big part of the dynastic sequence of Tikal. Immediately to the North rises the set of ceremonial buildings callded North Acropolis, which also functioned as a mausoleum of the governing families. To the south, and against the ceremonial part, stands another complex of structures like palaces, named Central Acropolis, which was a residential and/or administrative quarter. The east side is occupied by Temple I or Grand Jaguar, and a ball game of reduced dimensions, and to the west stands Temple II or Temple of the Masks.

### 2. SQUARE OF THE GREAT PYRAMID OR LOST WORLD:

Located about 300 meters southwest from the Grand Square, it bicomes important because of the presence of the oldest building of Tikal, currently visible, calldes the Great Pyramid or structure 5C-54. It is approximately 35 meters high and is part of a complex of astronomical commemoration, along with structures 5D-84 and 5D-88, located to the east of it. 400 meters to the south of said square is Group 6C-XVI or Group of the Masks.

This square has no restored buildings, but many plain stelae and altars. It has a rest house, toilets and a snack bar for

this area there is a rest house with toilet.

3. SQUARE OF THE SEVEN TEMPLES:

Located immediately to the east of the square of the Great

Pyramid, it is made up of a series of ceremonial buildings of

the late Classic period. These include a three ball game at

the north side of the square, seven temples at the east, and

a magnificent ceremonial building at the south. The west

part of this square is closed by the back of the temples of

the Square of the Great Pyramid. A 5-door palace

corresponding to the early Classic period can be seen here,

which was filled and used as foundation for another building

The road Méndez and Maler converge to this square.

Temple 5D-38 and structure 5D-43 can be seen here, which

is characterized by its style of "slope-board", as well as the

non-restored structures of the market and a ball game. In

### Main Temples

during the late Classic period.

In the Tikal National Park there are six big temples, all of them built during the late Classic period.

Temple of the Grand Jaguar. It closes the Grand Square by

the east and is 45 m high. It was built around 700 AD by the ruling Jasaw Chan K'awiil I (also known as Ah Cacao, Loard A, 682-734), whose tomb (Burial 116) was found inside. A replica of it can be seen at the Sylvanus G. Morley Museum in the Tikal National Park.

Temple of the Masks, closes the Grand Sauare by the West. It is 38 m high. Like the Grand Jaguar Temple, it was built by the ruling Ah Cacao around 700 AD.

Temple of the Great Priest. Located to the west of Temple II, this temple is about 60 m high. Stela 24 and Altar 7 are located in its front part. It was built around the year 810 AD. It has an original lintel carved wood, whose central character wears jaguar skin.

Temple of the Bicephalous Snake. Located to the west of the Grand Plaza. it is 65 m high, being the highest structure in Tikal. It was built around 740 AD by the ruling Yik'in Chan K'awiil (also known as Yaxkin Caan Chac, Lord B, 734-746). The visitor can climb to the base of the crest and have a beautiful view of Tikal. To the south of this temple there is a parking area, a rest house and toilets.

### 10. TEMPLE V:

Located to the south of the Central Acropolis, this temple is 57 m high. According to recent excavations, it was built between 550-650 AD. The north facade is currently restored.

### 11. TEMPLE VI:

Temple of the Inscriptions. It is located at the southern end of the Méndez Roadway. Its crest has the longest hieroglyphic text in Tikal, which mentions the date 766 AD. It was apparently built by the ruling Yik'in Chan K'awiil I and the glyphic inscription was later placed by the ruler Chitam. In front of this temple are Stela 21 and Altar 9.

### Twin Pyramid Complexes

This name is given to groups of four buildings, which are two truncated pyramids with stairways on each side, located to the east and west of the square; to the south there is a structure with nine entrances and to the north the so called Hole of the Stela. Inside this hall this is a stela with its respective altar, which are regularly carved. In front of the pyramid located at the east, there are nine plain stelae with their altars, five of which can be visited. Seven of these complexesare known in Tikal and were built at 20-years intervals to commemorate the end of each Katún (period equivalente to 20 years).

### 12. COMPLEX N:

It is near Temple IV, or Temple of the Inscriptions and was built in 711 AD. (Maya date: 9.14.0.0.0) by the ruling Jasaw Chan K'awiil I. It has replicas of Stela 16 and Altar 5.

### 13. COMPLEX O:

Located to the west of Complex R, it was the only one in the north hall that presents a plain stella and altar. It is considered to have been built in 731 AD. (9.15.0.0.0).

14. COMPLEX P: It is located at the end of the Maudslay Roadway and was built in 751 AD by the ruling Yik'in Chan K'awiil I. It has replicas of Stela 20 and Altar 8. Ir also has five plain stelae

Located to the east of Complex R. It was built in 771 AD (17.0.0.0) by the ruling Yax Nuun Ayiin II (also known as Chitam Lord C). It contains Stela 22 and Altar 10. It also contains nine plain stelae and altars. It is partially restored, which allowis to have a better idea of the constitution of this type of buildings complexes.

It is approximately halfway down to the Maler Roadway. It was built in 790 AD by the ruling Yax Nuun Ayiin II. Stela 19 and Altar 6 are located here.

#### Acropolis

At present, three groups of buildings can be seen in Tikal, which have been called Acropolis.

#### 17. NORTH ACROPOLIS:

It is to the north of the Grand Square. It has various structures of ceremonial character and masks of the structure 5D-33.

#### 18. CENTRAL ACROPOLIS: It is located to the south of the Grand Square. It presents

various residential and administrative structures, buildings with several rooms and leves, such as the Palace of Siyaj Chan K'awill II (also known as Stormy Sky, 411-456), the Maler Palace and the Five-Story Palace. It borders to the south with the so called reservoir or water supply of the

## 19. SOUTH ACROPOLIS:

This area has not yet been investigated. It is located between Temple V and the Square of the Seven Temples.

### Roadways

There are five roadways visible in Tikal. Apparently, they served as processional avenues.

#### 20. MÉNDEZ: It starts at the East Square and goes to Temple IV. It is almost 1 km long.

21. MALER: It joins the north area with the East Square and is 350 m

long. Near the north zone, on the roadway, there is a cave rock from the late Classic period.

It joins Temple IV or Temple of the Bicephalous Squere with

### the north zone. It is almost 750 m long.

22. MAUDSLAY:

It joins Temple IV with the West Square and is almost 250 m

Located in the group 6B-II or Baringer, it is approximately this 100 m long. (It does not appear in the map).

### Other places of interest

This group is on one side of the Méndez Roadway and is made up of various palace-like structures with 29 chambers. The outer wall of the structure 5E-58 is decorated in the form of grooves. The entry to this group is through a vaulted tunnel, whose entrance is the mouth of

## 25. GROUP F:

This group is made up of fou palace-like buildings of the late Classic period, partially consolidated. Nearby is structure 5E-22, one of the two temascal (steam baths) known in Tikal.

### 26. PALACE OF THE WINDOWS:

It is also known as Palace of the Bats. It is formed by a group of structures located to the west of Temple III. The building that gives its name to the group is partially restored and consists of a large number of interconnected

### 27. NORTH ZONE:

The Mudslay and Maler Roadways lead to it. The main buildings are the structures 3D-40 and 3D-43, as well as two small twin temples 3D-41 and 3D-42. On the west side of the platform that holds the structure 3D-43 is the other temascal (steam baths) discovered in Tikal, covered by later constructions. Inside the structure 3D-43 was located the structure known as The Man of Tikal, of the early Classic











**Church Our Lady** 

**Plores** 

According to history, the

island was called Tayazal

and Noh Petén. In honor

of the assistant head of

State, Cirilo Flores it was

changed to Ciudad Flores

Peten, name that it keeps

economic and tourism events.

A variety of situations like fires, rising river water,

construction of restaurants, hotels, handicraft stores

and the its characteristic architecture have given the

Island of Flores a modern look, surrounded by natural

beauty. It offers national and international visitors the

necessary conditions to stay and enjoy the island for

Its infrastructure and tourism attractions make it the

perfect venue to hold special cultural, social,

to date.

a few days.

of the Remedies

& San Pablo del Itzá

Built in honor of the Virgin, Our

Lady of Remedies and of Saint

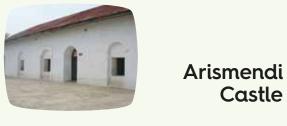
Paul of Itzá, it is the seat of the

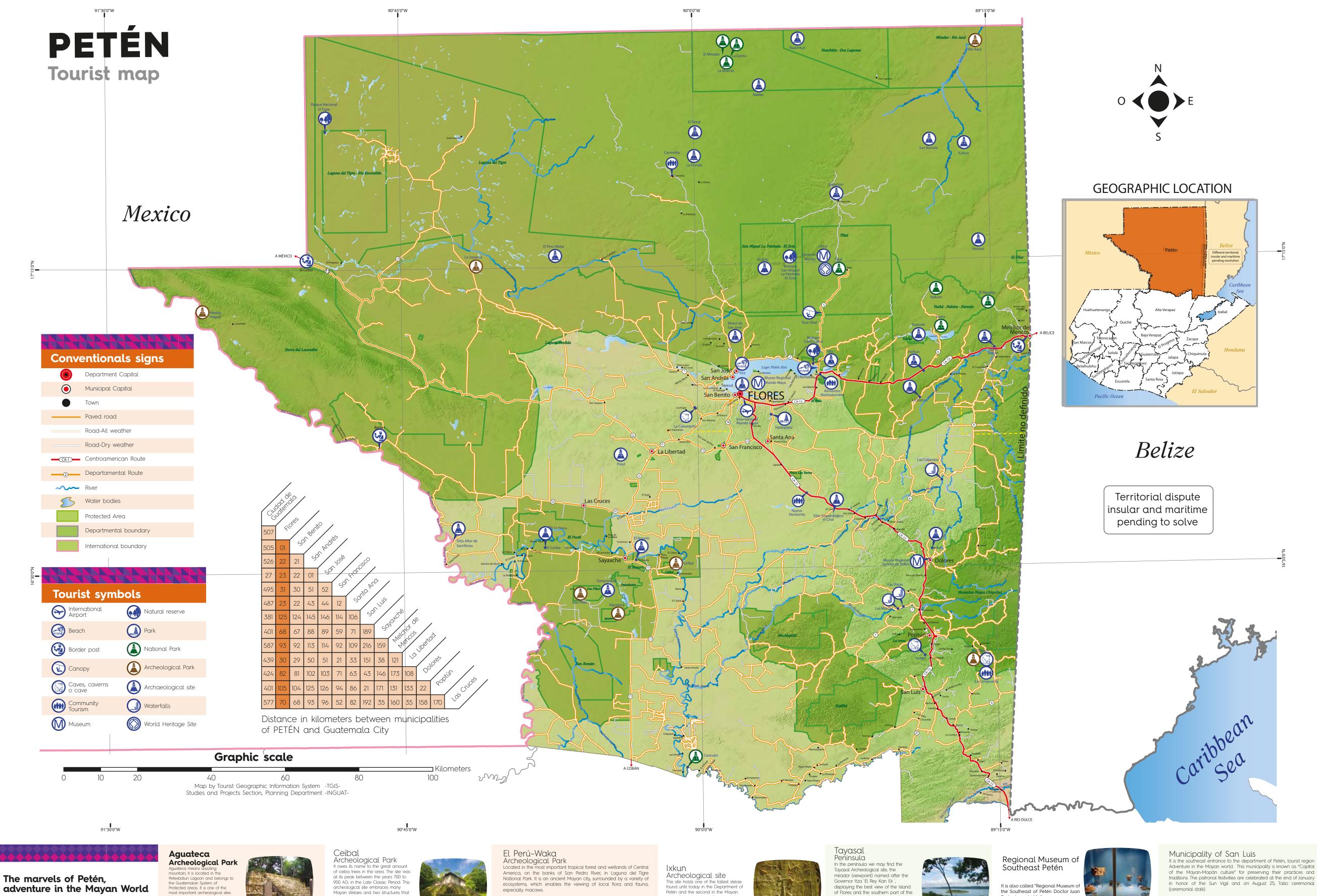
Apostle Vicor of Petén.

The Castle is named after the conquistador Martin de Ursúa and Arismendi of the province of Itza. It was built in 1967 and at one time was used as a jail, known as the Jail of the Remedies

Castle

The Arismendi Castle was named a Historic and Artistic Monument of the Hispanic Period on June 12,1970 by Legislative Decree No. 425.





# The marvels of Petén,

Covering 35,853 square meters, it is the Department with the greatest territorial extension in Guatemala and is considered one of the lungs of the planet for its exuberant vegetation. The capital of the Department is the City of Flores, located approximately 507 km from the capital city, on an island connected to the city of Santa Elena.

The flora and fauna encompass the Mayan biosphere reserve, where endemic species prevail. The Department of Petén possesses the greatest and best sample of the heritage of the Mayan Civilization, with more than 500 archeological sites among which stand out the following: Tikal, El Mirador-Río Azul, Yaxha, Nakum, Naranjo, Ceibal,

Aguateca, Cancuen, Uaxactun, amongst other.

Protected areas. It is one of the most important archeological sites of the Municipality of Sayaxché. Aguateca was populated with approximately 4,500 persons, it was one of the smallest cities initially

occupied around the year 100 AD; it was an important route for communication, commercial exchange and cultural exchange with the archeological sites of Dos Pilas, Tamarindito, Arroyo de Piedra, Ceibal and Cancuen on the river La Pasión.

### Biotope Cerro Cahui Wild life reserve

Petén Itza.

of the Mayan biosphere reserve; it counts with more than 640 hectare f tropical forests, accessible trails for the observation of flora and fauna, and also, the summit of the hill is a good observation point for the spectacular panoramic view of Lake



have already been restored, which

show a pyramidal temple (Structure

points. Stelae 10 in the southern part of

the site shows the Lord of the Ceibal taking possession in front of governors

of great Mayan cities, such as Tikal, Calakmul and Ucanal.

A-3) in which 5 stelae have been

placed according to the cardinal

Naj Tunich caves Known as "Stone house", it compasses the greatest collection of Mayan cave inscriptions and paintings known until today. It is a chamber of hieroglyphs and ceremonial and human figures paintings. Recently, a replica of the original cave paintings was opened for exhibition.

especially macaws.



complexes of great size out stand: the complex of El Tigre that, with its 18 platforms that reach 60 m high, occupy a 5.80 km base where a flanked great pyramid and two smaller pyramids out stand, and the complex of La Danta with a 75 m structure, located on the eastern side, that rises above a hill, for which it is easily noticeable. There are other sites such as: El Tintal, La Florida, La Muralla and Wakna.

### Petén and the second in the Mayan region.It possesses a well preserved forest, natural springs, a cave and Mayan structure mounds.

Municipalities of

San Andrés and San José

customs and language of the Maya Itza' still prevail.

Two sister communities, which preserve their Maya Itzá inherited traditions. San Andrés owns an Outdoors National History Museum

and San José celebrates the tradition of the All Souls' Day, with the

procession of the saint skulls on the days, November 01 and 02 and

the Baile de la Cabeza de Coche (Dance of the pig's head),

celebrated on May 3; it is also worth mentioning that the use of the

of Flores and the southern part of the Lake Petén Itzá; it owns a light blue water beach named El Chechenal and for the year 2012, the opening of the Museum of "Culture of the Mayan World" is foreseen.

Piedras Negras YO'KI'B

Archeological site

played an important part in the

a close relationship with other

Palenque, Bonampak,

and of course, Tikal.

history of the dynasty of the Classic

Mayan World of the lowlands. It had

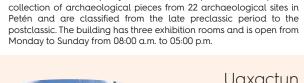
neighboring cities such as: Yaxchilan,

ark on the north bank of Usumacint

city, known to its ancient inhabitants as Yoʻki'b, which means "Great gateway"

It is also called "Regional Museum of the Southeast of Petén Doctor Juan

Pedro Laporte Molina. Located in the Municipality of Dolores, which preserves an important





Uaxactun National Park ates back to the Pre-classic and late sic periods; it owns an astronomical complex comprised by a plaza, a aligned temples where each year nrise is marked as well as equinoxes and solstices. Uaxactun means eight

stones in Maya Itza lenguaje.

Adventure in the Mayan world. This municipality is known as "Capital of the Mayan-Mopán culture" for preserving their practices and traditions. The patronal festivities are celebrated at the end of January in honor of the Sun Vigil and on August 25, Tallo ceremonial

Yaxha-Nakum-Naranjo National Park Located in the Municipalities of Flores and Melchor de Mencos; it was the capital of a vast territory that ruled northeastern Petén, but it also had strong connections with the City of Tikal, Caracol in Belize and Calakmu in Mexico. It encompasses monumenta compounds with pyramidal temples, Acropolis, twin pyramidal complexe

commemorative complexes, Juegos de pelota (ball games), palaces and housing compounds. It was declared a Reserve Area by the Institute of Anthropology and History in the year 1974. Later, in the year 2003, it became a National Park, co-administered by the National Council of Protected Areas of Guatemala -CONAP- and the Office of Cultural and

Natural Heritage of the Ministry of Culture and Sports -MCD-.

