



TULUM TORTUGAS





TULUM

THE FORTIFIED CITY

Its original name was 'Zamá' which means sunrise in Mayan language. The name Tulum is more recent and it translates to wall.

Thanks to its unique location in front of the Caribbean Sea, this is one of the most visited archaeological sites in México. This city has an actual extension of 664.32 acres and it's located inside the only natural protected area from Cancún to Tulum.

THE HIGHLIGHTS



DESCENDING GOD'S TEMPLE

The singularity of this building relies in its tilted doors and walls since this is not a regular characteristic of the passing of time, experts think it was built that way for a unknown reason. The figure upper apart in the temple is the descendent god, present at almost every building in the city.

TEMPLE OF FRESCOES

The general appearance of this building and its decorations indicate a place of veneration. This temple maintains remains of mural paintings called frescos (hence its name) with representations of different deities, snakes and offerings such as flowers, fruits and corn cobs.



THE WIND TEMPLE

The rounded base temples such as this one are often associated with air deities since its cylindrical shape offers less resistance to air currents. It's located on the northwest corner of the city in front of the sea and there are stories about this place making a whistle-like sound whenever a hurricane was arriving the shores , warning the people to prepare, all thanks to a hole specially designed inside the building.





THE CASTLE

Located behind the sea, 12 meters above the beach, stands the largest building at this site. It is situated on a cliff with a cave that represents the underworld, while the castle represents the upper planes. The temple has three entrances, two vaulted chambers, and a lintel supported by two columns in the shape of serpents, with their heads serving as the column bases.

Its ideal location for ocean observation made it the lighthouse or house of illumination of this city, serving as a guide for friendly navigators who knew the secret passage through the coral reef barrier that protects the coast. This was the reason the Spanish could not reach Tulum.

THE DESCENDING GOD

This deity has been found in almost every building at the site, yet its identity remains unknown. Some authors associate it with the setting sun, others with Venus, rain, lightning, a swallow god (worshipped in Cozumel), and also with a bee god, 'Ah Muzen Kab'. It is depicted with the head facing forward, arms hanging or holding something, and legs bent upwards in a position as if descending from the sky.





AKUMAL

LAND OF TURTLES

Its name means in Maya "land of turtles," and it's an important habitat for these marine animals, which can be observed while snorkeling or diving. During the nesting season, turtles come out onto the beach to lay their eggs, which is a unique spectacle.

SNORKELING IN AKUMAL

Akumal boasts a spectacular bay with crystal-clear turquoise waters where you can immerse yourself to see turtles and snorkel around its coral reef. Due to being home to numerous turtle specimens, the areas designated for viewing them are marked by buoys. In addition to turtles, you can also spot stingrays, starfish, schools of fish, sea urchins, and more.



One of the particularities of the coral reefs in Akumal is that they run parallel to the coast. This allows turtles to easily pass through the coral barrier to lay their eggs and feed, while predators are unable to breach the barrier.

This unique setup makes Akumal a super safe natural refuge for various species of sea turtles.





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