

UXMAL

CHOCOSTORY

03

Uxmal, one of the most beautiful cities of the Puuc style, a testament to the ingenuity and grandeur of the Mayan civilization.



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Choco-Story, the museum where cacao tells its story.

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UXMAL
CHOCO-STORY





It has been part of the UNESCO World Heritage program since 1996.

Its etymology has not yet been explained; however, the traditional interpretation of its meaning is "Built three times."

It once covered an area of 12 km² and had a population of around 20,000 inhabitants.



HIGHLIGHTS OF UXMAL

THE NUNNERY QUADRANGLE

It is a complex made up of four palaces located on different levels surrounding a courtyard. Its name was given by the colonizers due to its resemblance to ancient convents. The Quadrangle rests on a rectangular platform over four meters high and 100 meters on each side.

EL PALOMAR

This structure features very prominent crests that resemble a dovecote, hence its name. The crests are made up of nine stepped triangles resting on a row of about 40 pillars resembling niches. The surfaces of the crests also have carved figures.





PYRAMID OF THE MAGICIAN

ChatGPT Plus

Majestic and enigmatic, the Pyramid of the Magician is the most imposing icon of the ancient Mayan city of Uxmal, a UNESCO World Heritage site. Standing 35 meters tall with its unusual oval base, it is one of the most unique structures in the Mayan world.

Built in five stages between the 6th and 10th centuries, it combines various architectural styles, including Puuc and Chenes, recognizable by the masks of the god Chaac, representations of Mayan huts, and elaborate stone decorations.

Legend has it that this pyramid was built in a single night by a dwarf with magical powers, born from an egg and destined to rule Uxmal—hence its name: the Pyramid of the Magician.

More than an architectural masterpiece, this temple is a symbol of wisdom, mystery, and spiritual connection—a place where history and mythology intertwine to reveal the grandeur of the Mayan civilization.



THE LEGEND OF THE PYRAMID OF THE MAGICIAN

Legend has it that a sorceress found an egg and kept it safe in her home. One morning, she discovered the shell broken, and from it emerged a boy, whom she raised as her own child. The boy did not grow much in size but spoke and acted like an adult. The sorceress was convinced that her son was destined to become a great ruler and encouraged him to challenge the current governor to take his position.

The governor, thinking the boy was clever, accepted the challenge. To claim the governor's position, the boy had to complete three tasks. The first was to build a long, straight road of white stones. Unable to do it alone, the boy sought advice from his mother, who told him to ask the governor to place the first stone. With great effort, the governor placed the first large stone, then the boy placed the second, and a magical spell completed the *sacbé*, the road that connects Uxmal to Kabah.

Furious, the governor set an impossible task for the boy: to build the tallest house in the city in a single day, promising to spare his life if he succeeded. Crying himself to sleep, the boy awoke atop the tallest pyramid in Uxmal, once again saved by his mother's magic.

With no other choice, the governor challenged the boy to a *cocoyol* (palm fruit) duel, where each would strike the other on the head—the one who survived would become governor. The sorceress rubbed her son's head, protecting him before the battle. The clever governor started first but soon realized the *cocoyols* did not harm the boy. After the third *cocoyol* strike, the governor died from his own blows. Thus, the boy fulfilled his mother's prophecy and was proclaimed ruler of the city of Uxmal.

CHOCO-STORY
THE CHOCOLATE MUSEUM

CHOCO-STORY

CHOCOLATE MUSEUM

Choco-Story brings to life the history of the ancient cacao: from its origin, distribution, and uses around the world, to showcasing the traditional Mayan methods of preparation.



The Maya used the cacao pod to create a traditional drink known as “Chokoj Ha.” The word cacao comes from the Nahuatl term *cacahoaatl* or *cacahuatl*, meaning “bitter juice” or “chocolate.” In turn, “chocolate” derives from the Mayan word “chocol,” meaning “hot,” and “ha,” meaning “water,” forming this ancient beverage that symbolized abundance, power, and lineage, and was used in marriage and religious ceremonies.

Cacao, considered the food of the gods, also played a crucial role in the economy of the Mayan people. Through barter, cacao beans were used as currency for many years. At Choco-Story, you’ll have the opportunity to become a chocolatier for a day—discovering and enjoying the cultivation techniques, cacao bean varieties, and the fascinating journey of chocolate through history and its origins.

In its exhibition halls, you can admire Mayan codices and artifacts related to cacao, as well as ancient tools and processes used to prepare the beans.

The museum is located in a traditional Mayan house, where you can experience how a middle-class Mayan family lived—observe their everyday clothing and learn about their funerary rituals.



GET IN TO THE
MAYAN
WORLD

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unforgettable memories with your family and
friends.

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journey and hope it was as enjoyable for you as it
was for us.

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