

UXMAL
KABAH

03

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



05

Kabah, a majestic city in the Puuc Region, a symbol of Mayan art and devotion.

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UXMAL
KABAH



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

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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.

KABAH

Kabah is one of the few settlements that has preserved its pre-Hispanic name, which is mentioned in the Chilam Balam of Chumayel and means “the powerful hand.”



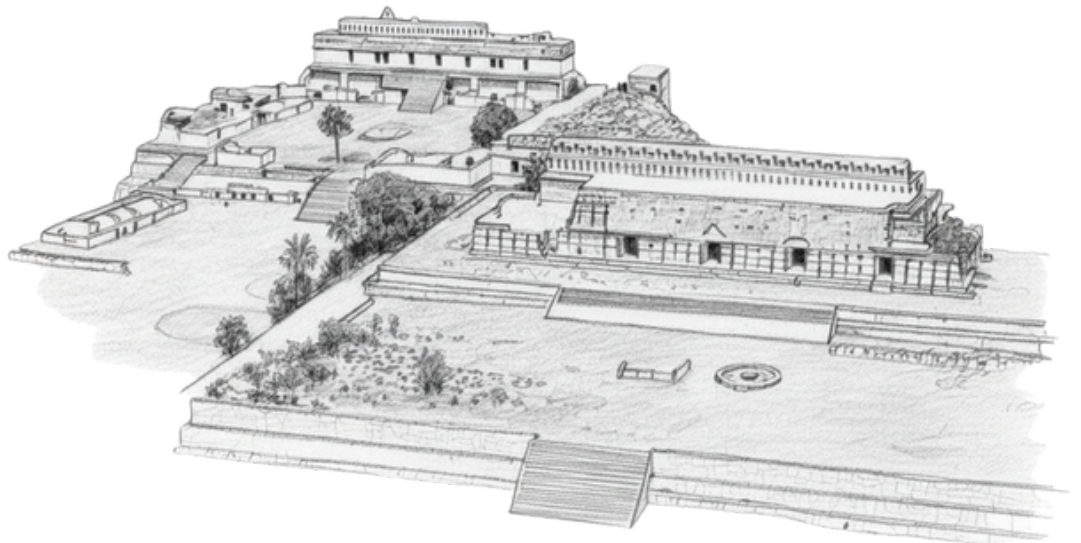


KABAH

Located in the Puuc Region of the Yucatán Peninsula, Kabah is one of the most important Maya sites, even mentioned in the Chilam Balam of Chumayel. Its history dates back to the Early Classic period, though it reached its peak between 600 and 1000 A.D.

Kabah stands out for its combination of Puuc, Petén, and Chenes architectural styles, reflecting the cultural exchange of the time. Its most emblematic building is the Codz Poop, famous for its impressive façade adorned with over 250 masks of the rain and fertility god Chaac.

In front of this majestic structure lies a plaza with hieroglyphic inscriptions that mention the emblems of Uxmal and Kabah, a testament to the political and religious connection between these two Maya cities.



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