

# TULUM CENOTE



RIVIERA





# 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.





# CENOTE MARIPOSA



Cenotes were sacred places for the Maya culture, not only serving as their main water source but also believed to be portals to the underworld. These bodies of water are undoubtedly mystical places.

Cenote Mariposa is a semi-open cenote; its vault has collapsed over most of the area, but there is still a roofed part resembling a cavern. Its depth varies from 30 cm to 6 meters due to different rock formations on the floor. Wearing a life jacket is mandatory for safety reasons.

In this cenote, you can find Toh birds, also known as "clock birds." These birds nest in cenotes or very close to them. They have a distinctive tail composed of two turquoise feathers that they move from side to side. Bats can also be observed in the roofed area of the cenote, along with dragonflies and various types of fish.

Besides swimming and observing the flora and fauna, you can have fun on the swings at this cenote. If you get tired of swimming, you can relax in hammocks under the shade of trees and listen to the birds singing.

Remember to take a shower before entering the cenote to remove creams and oils from your body and avoid contaminating the water.





# CENOTE CHEN-HA

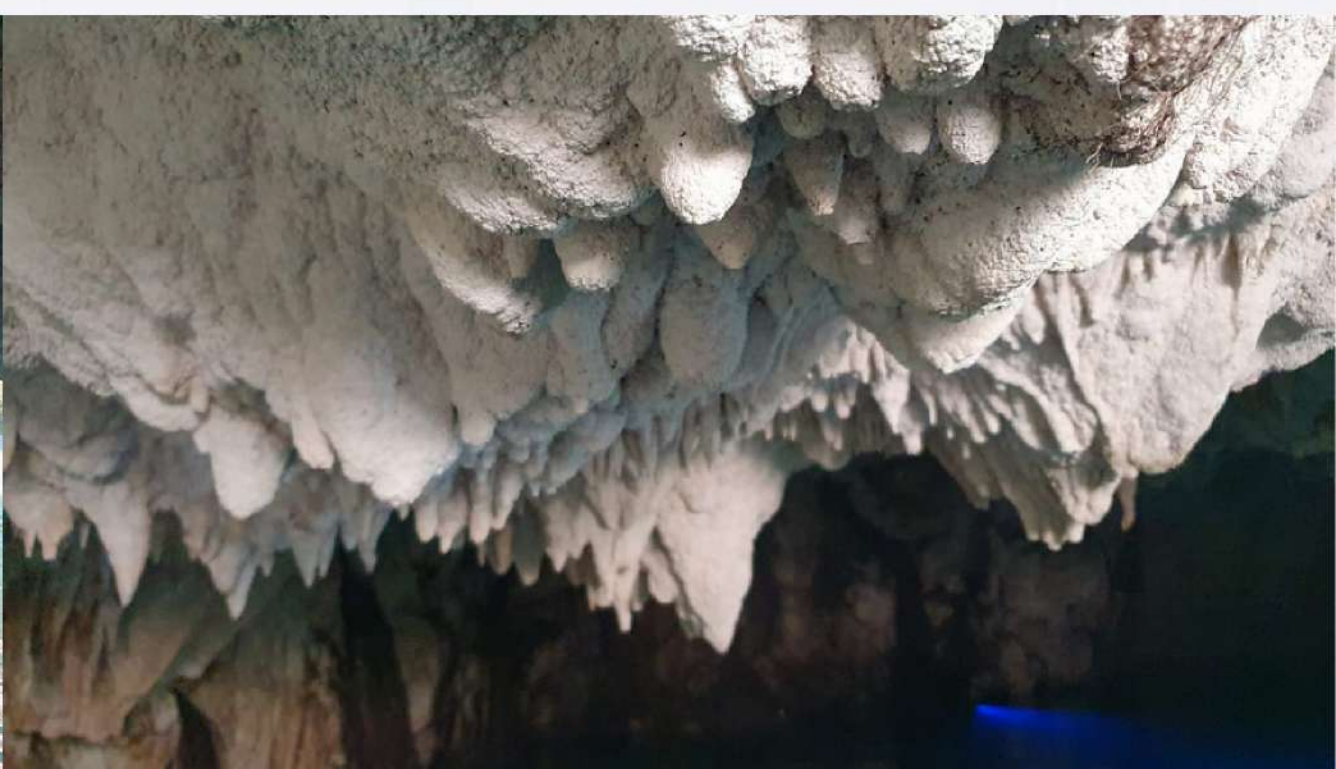


There are various types of cenotes, and in addition to swimming in the semi-open cenote, you can also experience swimming in a cave cenote. Both cenotes are connected by an underground river whose entrance can be seen underwater in this cenote.

Cenote ChenHa is still mostly closed, with only a small opening of natural light illuminating its crystalline waters in addition to the cenote entrance. The cave ceiling is filled with stalactites, formed by mineral deposits separating from the water as it filters through the limestone.

Experts estimate that it takes between 4,000 and 5,000 years for just 2.5 cm of stalactite to form, which is why it's important to avoid touching them to preserve them.

The depth of this cenote varies from 2 to 6 meters, and it's also possible to observe stalagmite formations on the cave floor.



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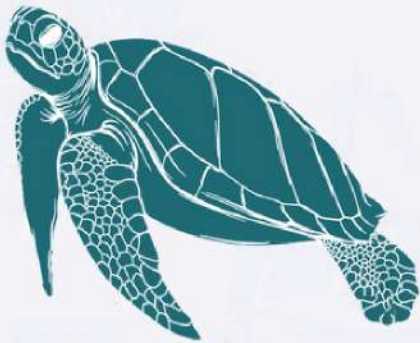
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CAPS



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The artisanal salt from Las Coloradas, Yucatán, is a unique product that combines tradition, quality, and natural beauty, making it a true treasure of the region.



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