

SALES CATALOGUE

IZAMAL

THE CITY OF THREE CULTURES,
MEXICO'S MAGICAL TOWN





PLAZA ZAMNA

IZAMAL

Maya Community in a Historic City

Izamal, the City of Three Cultures, a Magical Town of Mexico since 2001, are the namesakes necessary to understand the confluence of traditions and customs in the Yucatan. A splendid city dressed in white and yellow colors, it evokes a rich historical past that resonates to this day in life along its streets.

Izamal is a historic city because it teaches us of the greatness of our heritage. As we find ourselves in her streets, the magnificent works of Maya architecture bear silent witnesses of the achievements of this great civilization. It is historic because we learn of the legacy of the evangelization in the land of the Mayab, which are the contributions of the Franciscan missionaries who settled in Izamal, which was once a Maya ceremonial center, and which today is a religious destination for Christian pilgrims from the world over. Izamal is historic because it also reflects the fusion pre-Hispanic and Colonial style that came to define an independent Mexico. Izamal is a single city that tells the story of three eras.

Izamal is a continuity of Maya life, because through the passage of time – in its parks, squares, gardens, streets, pre-Columbian buildings and churches one breathes the everyday life of its people, traditions and customs, a fusion of cultures which reflect the values of the civilization Maya in its sense of space and across the ages.

Walk through Izamal visiting the handicraft workshops; the convent, which boasts the second largest enclosed atrium of the world, enveloped in ancient legends and stories; walk among its streets and you will encounter the past that is as alive as is present.

Izamal, Magical Town of Mexico. Izamal, City of Three Cultures. Izamal, Continuity of Maya Life in a Historic City. It is ours. It is yours. Learn its heritage.



Secretaría de
Fomento Turístico
Gobierno del Estado de Yucatán

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Izamal City Hall 2012 - 2015

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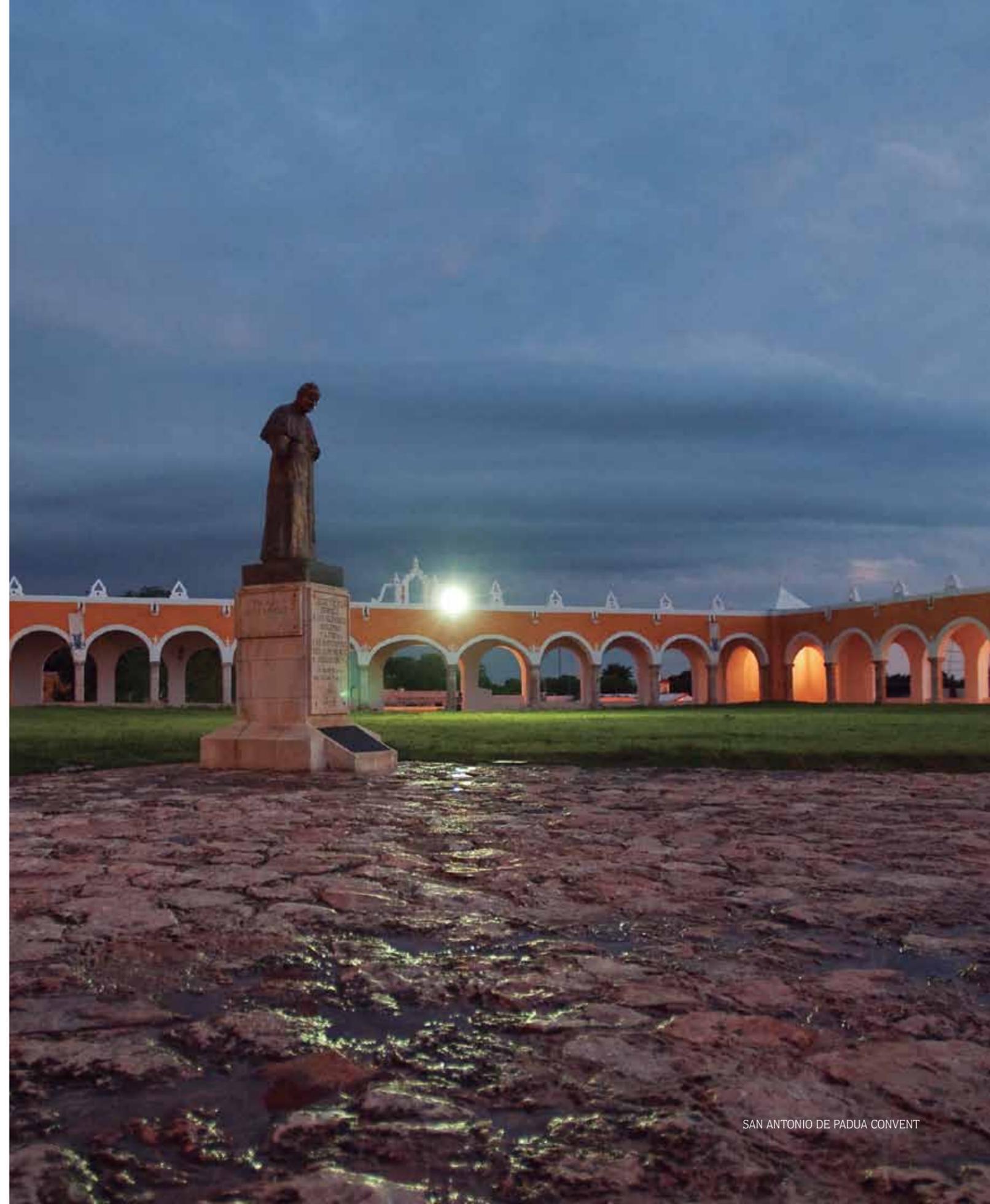
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IZAMAL

A MAGIC TOWN

Izamal is the first city in Mexico to be named a “Magic town” in 2001; it is a beautiful colonial city that was founded in the mid-16th Century on the remains of an ancient Mayan city. The majestic Convent of San Antonio de Padua located here was founded in 1549, built over the Mayan structure known as Papol Chac, “The House Full of Lightning”. The Convent has the largest closed atrium of the Americas, and the second largest in the world after the atrium of St. Peter in the Vatican. Another historic building that should be visited is the Pyramid Kinich Kakmo, which means “The Parrot of Fire, with Face of the Sun” (Guacamaya de Fuego con Rostro Solar), the largest pyramid in terms of surface area on the Yucatan Peninsula and the third largest after the Sun Pyramid in Teotihuacan and Cholula in Puebla. Visit the handicrafts workshops to admire the skills and creativity of our artisans, as well as the chapels located in the different areas of the town. Tour the historic center in a traditional horse-drawn carriage, and stop to taste the delicious Yucatecan cuisine in one of the restaurants or in the market.

Talk and live with the people of the surrounding communities or enjoy a walk along the quiet cobblestoned streets.

Izamal offers visitors different options for lodging from inns to small boutique hotels, as well as restaurants, cafes, a good communication system and transportation to other interesting locations where you can enjoy ecotourism and adventure tourism visiting caves, underground rivers, rural communities and many other places or travel on to other main cities such as Merida, Valladolid or Cancun.



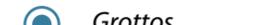
SAN ANTONIO DE PADUA CONVENT



COAT OF ARMS

The Izamal coat of arms was designed by Juan Francisco Peon Ancona, a well-known heraldic expert, the description is as follows: Crest crowned with a ribbon, with the legend "Itzmal Kauil", words that separate three stars with eight points each, with the largest in the middle of the space almost on top of a concave wedge that is turned upwards resembling a crescent moon. The coat of arms represents the classic shape of the ancient royal crests. It is surrounded by a rope made of sisal, with three knots, with the following disposition: a knot towards the right by the middle of the shield, the second is in the upper section under the figure of the half moon, and the third knot is towards the left, exactly at the same level of the knot from the right. The sisal rope appears to overlap at the bottom of the knot. The dominating items from the middle of the coat are in the upper section, a small cloud from which drops three water drops. Right under the water drops are five pyramids with the largest one in the foreground and four in the background.



-  Divided Freeway
-  Freeway
-  Federal Highway
-  Railroad
-  Archaeological Site
-  Zone of Cenotes
-  Grottos



- TOURIST ROUTES**
-  Cenotes Magic Waters
 -  Center
 -  Neighborhoods of Merida
 -  Puuc
 -  Emerald Coast
 -  of the Flamingos
 -  of the Itzaes

GEOGRAPHY OF IZAMAL

Location
 Izamal is located in the north-central region of the state of Yucatan, 72 kilometers east of Merida, capital of the state. To the north you have the towns of Tekal de Venegas, Tepakan and Tekanto and to the south Xocchel, Kantunil and Sudzal, Tunkas is to the east and Hoctun to the west.

Surface Area
 The municipality of Izamal occupies a surface of 275.92 km² on a limestone plain.

Hydrography
 The municipality has no surface water; however the site is dotted with springs of fresh water from underground rivers known as cenotes. In some cases the domes of these cenotes have collapsed, forming sinkholes of water or ponds.

Climate
 The region is classified as warm-sub humid, with a rainy season during the summer that is broken by a mid-summer dry season. The average annual temperature is 27° C.

HISTORY

Izamal, Magic Town, also known as the City of the Three Cultures because of its mixture of Mayan, Spanish and contemporary cultures, it is located 72 km east of the city of Merida in the northern Yucatan peninsula. This village with its exquisite architecture and cobblestoned alleys and streets speaks through its people, its living culture. The name Izamal comes from the words Itzamna or Zamna which means "dew that falls from heaven", referring to the Mayan god of wisdom, considered to be the master and instructor of the ancient inhabitants of this land.

Izamal was the most important ceremonial centre of the entire Mayan region in ancient times, and today it is the oldest city on the Yucatan peninsula.

The first settlement dates back to the 3rd Century AD. Since that time until today the history of Izamal has had a strong link to traditional religion due to its importance as a ceremonial center, since the times of Itzamna.

4th Century AD.

Some historians believe that it was during this century that the ancient Mayan city was founded by the priest **Zamna**.

1823

On October 25th, **Izamal** acquires the status of town.

1916

The town of **Tekal** separates from the municipal jurisdiction of Izamal to form part of the **Municipality of Temax**.

1981

On December 1st it once **again becomes a City**.

2001

Izamal is proclaimed the first "**Magic Town of Mexico**"

300-1900

1901-2000

2000-2012

1841

On December 4th it was raised to the category of city.

1923

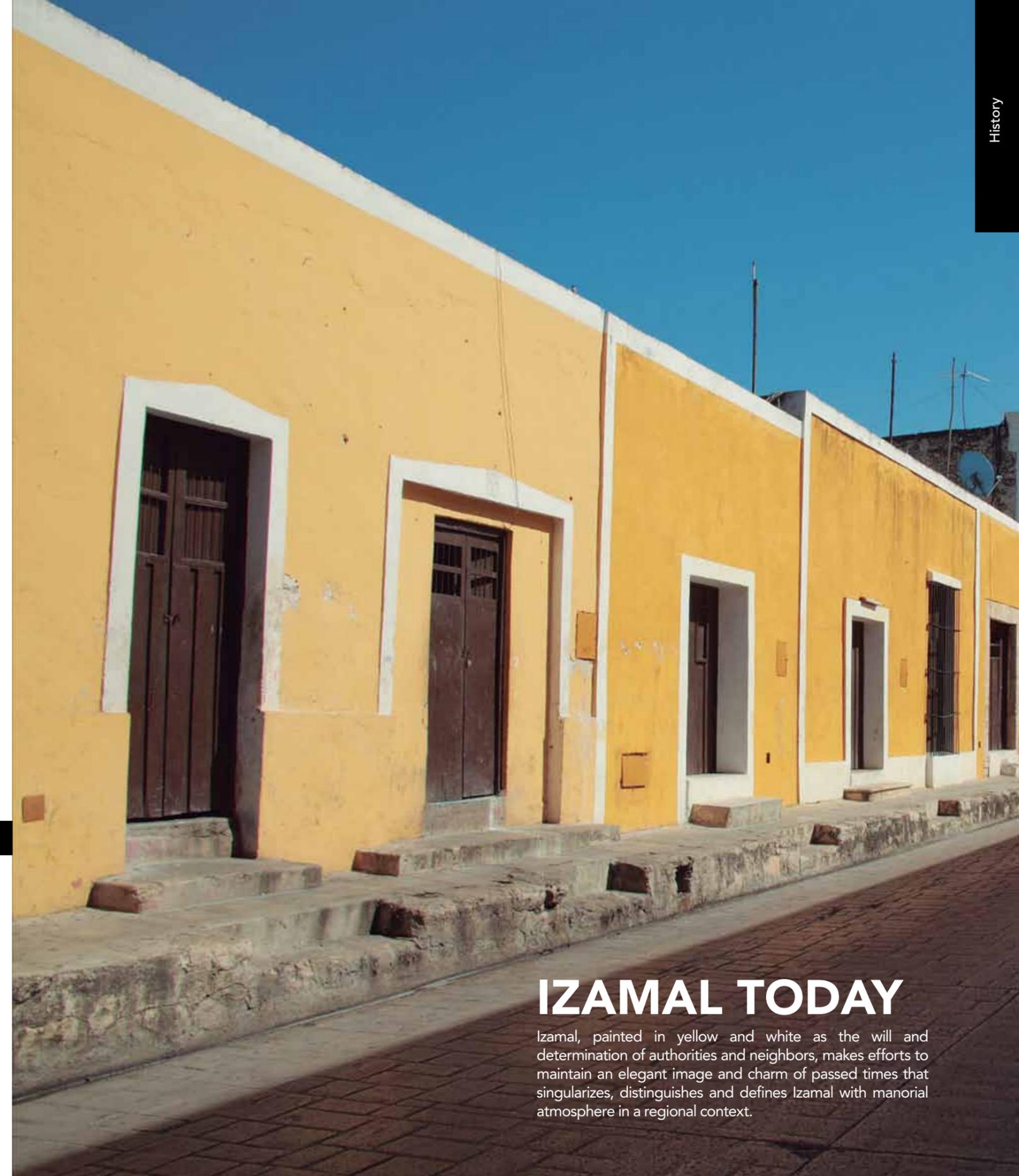
On August 13th the city of **Izamal** becomes a Village.

1912

On April 9th the rural ranch **Tanya** became part of its territory, forming the commissary of **Sitilpech**.

1993

On August 11th there is an historic encounter to the the visit of **Pope John Paul II** to the Franciscan Convent of San Antonio de Padua



IZAMAL TODAY

Izamal, painted in yellow and white as the will and determination of authorities and neighbors, makes efforts to maintain an elegant image and charm of passed times that singularizes, distinguishes and defines Izamal with manorial atmosphere in a regional context.

IZAMAL CENTER

Izamal is a perfect representation by the masters that founded the indigenous villages of Yucatan.

The importance of Izamal within its territory derives not only from the powerful army that it once had or the influence of the centers of worship, but also from the trading role of the region. The Zamna square, also named after the market, is located to the north of the Convent, it is the oldest square and today it only constitutes at the most, one fifth of what existed in past times.

Because of its importance, portals for pilgrims were built at an early stage at the southern part, next to the Convent, and to the east, a great archway entrance with access to the so called Camino Real (Royal road) which communicates Izamal with Merida. In the XVII century a hospice with a chapel to the Divine Master was built in the northeastern corner. Twelve houses of limestone and mortar (ordinary stonework), aimed for officials and important visitors, were built to the west of the square in 1730 by the Governor and Captain General Don Antonio de Figueroa and Silva. The semicircular archways were added in 1816 and it was not until the nineteenth century that the tri-lobular archways were built in the north part of the square. In 1887, the archway to the east was used as a market for grains.

One outstanding characteristic is having three plazas at the boundary of the convent. In addition to the Zamna

square located to the north, we can add the now called Plaza Ancora Crescencio Carillo to the west and the little square called "2nd of April" to the south. The first mentioned was located between four pyramids and it was much smaller than the one already described. It was called "Plaza Menor" or "Plaza of the Indians", however on the western side royal homes were built and the end of the XVIII century these were rebuilt with some arches facing the east by Don Manuel of Antolin, who in 1812 would host the first City Hall, the public jail, the Headquarter of the Guard, the Courthouse and the Royal House of the Indigenous.

From the previous century, throughout the second empire, some hallways were built to the east in front of the Convent, some were tri-lobular archways which were extended to the north and others housed the public market in 1891. It was also used for military purposes. From the beginning of the XIX century the army headquarters were located on the boundaries of this square to the north and south of the City Hall. In 1878 it was divided by a gate into two parks, the "5th of May" and the "Zaragoza", a monument to the heroes from the Caste war and a central hall which connected the access of the Convent and the City Hall. The "2nd of April" small square, located to the south of the convent was also called the "Bull plaza", as they used to have bull and cock fights here.





SAN ANTONIO DE PADUA CONVENT

This is one of the most important and majestic buildings of Mesoamerica. It is located on the plateau of the greatest hill of the city. You can visit it by going up one of the three ramps built on the sides. The main ramp is of one piece and it finishes at the top with a beautiful and single gate that gives access to a rectangular atrium with 75 arches, which covers an area of 7806.43 m², this means, that it is more than half the size of the total grounds of the property. This makes it the largest closed atrium of America, and the second largest closed atrium after the St. Peter's square, in the Vatican.

Inside the temple, there is a beautiful baroque style altar piece, covered with laminated gold. It shows scenes that represent "The Death of Jesus", "The Birth of Jesus", "The Visit of the Holy Virgin to St. Elizabeth", "The Visit of the Archangel to Mary". In the lower section, there are some niches where you may observe images of "St. Lucia", "St. Anthony", "St. Francisco" and "St. Joseph". In the upper section, you can see the representation of "The Crowning of the Virgin as Queen of Heaven" and below there is an image of the Virgin of the Immaculate Conception, a sculpture in wood brought by Father Diego de Landa from Guatemala. It also has a track system that communicates with the dressing room where the faithful believers demonstrate their faith and devotion.

The convent of San Antonio de Padua, is composed by a large atrium with its four Chapels, the Church and Chapel of Indians, and the Convent itself with its Upper and Lower Cloisters. The church has a simple renaissance entrance, although the rest of the façade was modified towards the end of the colonial era.



CITY HALL

Originally it was part of a much larger structure, built over a pre-Hispanic foundation. It was built towards the end of the XVIII century by the Under-delegate of Intendence, Don Manuel Antolin, with money and work from the indigenous. Its formation in the early stages of the nineteenth century was a large structure, the eastern facing part were known as headquarters, to the north was the White Ruled Army Headquarters, two old rooms to the west were used as Court and Royal House of the Indigenous and to the south the Pardos Reglados army headquarters. It has a corridor of rooms running from the north to the south, and others east to west in the northern part. The front gallery originally had 9 semicircular arches, with the exception of the middle one that had a small canopy. One of the arches was removed after some restorations in the seventies.



ZAMNA PLAZA

Plaza Zamna located north of the Franciscan Convent is known as the Main Plaza after the XVI century. On its southeastern side, attached to the convent, you will find an archway for pilgrims, as well as an arch that goes through the 31st street.

In 1898, by municipal agreement, it was given the name of Plaza of Zamna in memory of the original location of the ceremonial center where Zamna founded the city.





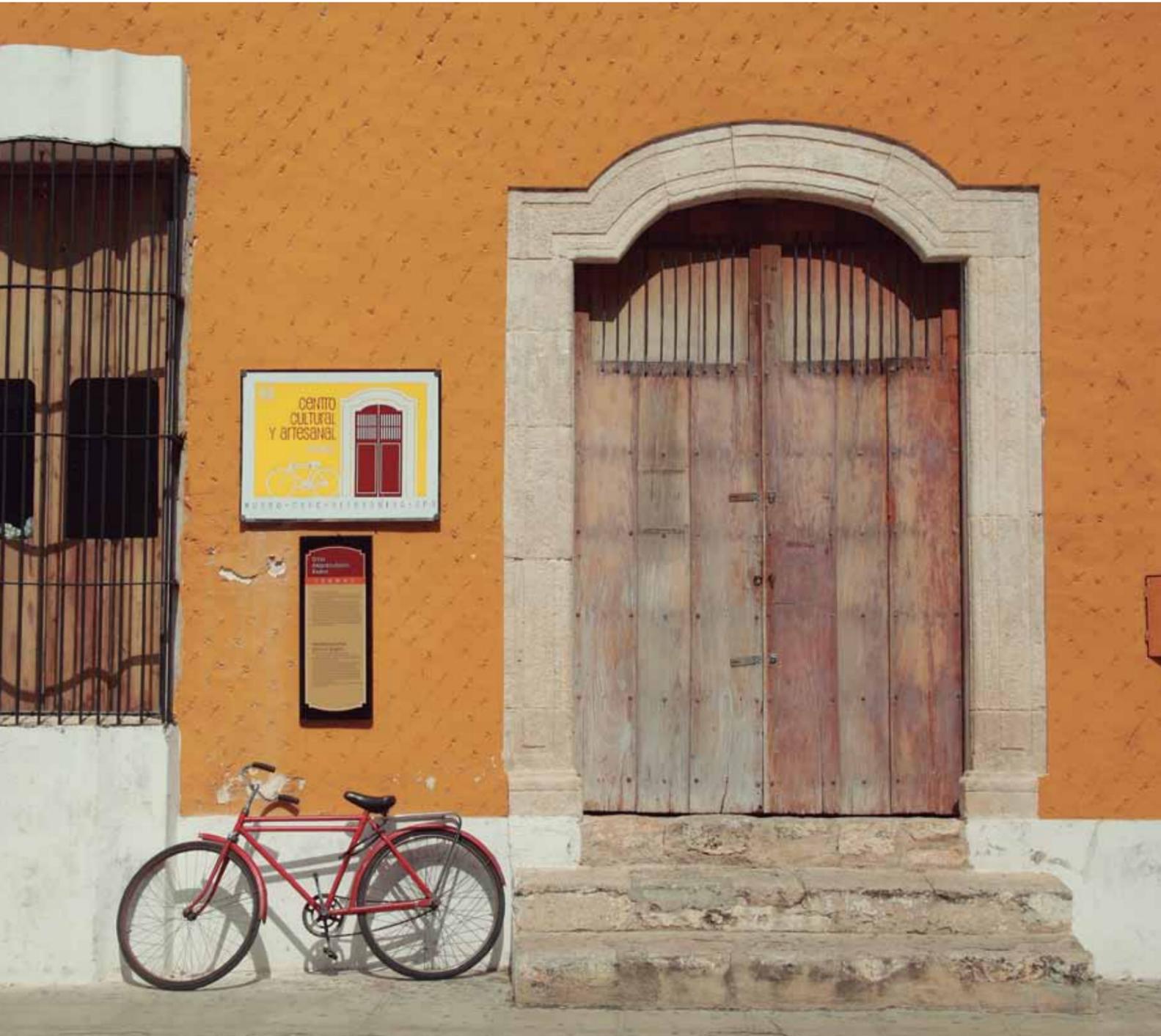
CRESCENCIO CARRILLO AND ANCONA PLAZA

During Mayan times this Plaza located west of the Convent lay right between the buildings known as Hunpictok, Pap-Hol-Chac and Kabul and the structure that was used as a foundation for the city hall.

Since colonial times it was called Plaza Menor or Plaza of Indians, because it is smaller than the main plaza (Plaza Zamna). During old times fairs used to be held here, selling horses, mules, and other working animals.

To the west of this "little square" as they used to call it, were the Royal Houses, that after some restorations nowadays houses the City Hall. Not being able to pay a debt, the indigenous of Izamal decided to sell their "little square" to a private person in 1730. However the governor Figueroa stopped the transaction giving the indigenous of Izamal the resources to pay their debt and ordered that the plaza should always remain as a benefit for the inhabitants and should only be used for public purposes.

To commemorate the agreement of Cadiz, in 1820 it was named "Plaza of the Constitution", as explained on a plaque on one side of the main entrance to the City Hall. In 1878 it was divided in two areas. A park to the north named "5th of May" and a park to the south, "Zaragoza". Running through both parks there was a narrow street that connected the ramp west of the courtyard of the convent with the main arch of the City Hall. Today this plaza is known as "Crescencio Carrillo and Ancona" park.



CULTURAL CENTER

This is an area which includes the following sections: Shop of Mexican handicrafts from old and modern times, a coffee shop and the Sisal Museum and Spa.

HENEQUEN MUSEUM

The visitor will experience the rescue of the henequen haciendas in the Yucatan Peninsula and the process that returned the ruined buildings to its former glory.



HANDICRAFT SHOP

This shop offers the visitor a broad variety of Mexican handicrafts, of contemporary design from 12 rural indigenous communities in the peninsula, who have the advice and collaboration of Mexican designers.

KINICH KAKMO PYRAMID



In honor of a Mayan deity or god, the name is explained as follows: Kin, which means sun; Ich, which means face; Kaak, fire; Moo, macaw. Altogether means: "The Parrot of Fire, with Face of the Sun" (Guacamaya de fuego con rostro solar).

It has been interpreted that the Maya believed that god Kinich descended with the heat of the midday sun, to burn and therefore purify the sacrifices or the offerings delivered at the Mayan pantheon or cemetery, in the shape of a macaw.

The Kinich Kakmo pyramid is located north of the main plaza of the city of Izamal, and is one of the greatest in Mexico, with a volume of 700,000 m³.





TU'UL PYRAMID (THE RABBIT)

This structure is located east of the city, on streets 22 by 33 and 31 in the suburb of Santo Domingo. It is popularly identified as "The Rabbit". It was explored in 1994, when it was determined that it was composed of three building stages, with the earliest being a small rectangular platform of 3 meter of height with vertical walls formed by large carved stones and straight angled corners. The second stage, which completely covered the previous building. The new foundation had two structures with sloped walls. It is important to note out that in none of these stages they used the prong molding, typical of many local buildings in Izamal.

The size and extent are close to 30 meters from east to west and 39 meters north to south. During the third building period the platform grew. The walls had a small sloped side and the

corners were made round. However, the stones are of smaller size than the first two ones and present a better finish, among the debris some carved stones of Puuc style were found, therefore it would not be strange that these constructions that were found on the upper platform, of which there are no longer remains, were of that style.

Although its function is not known, it could have been the foundation of the room of some high important officer from the Mayan era. Even though it is small it is a beautiful place to be able to enjoy a pleasant afternoon, have a chat, enjoy the air, read, be with friends, the family or alone.

It is open to the general public every day from 08.00-17.00.



HABUK PYRAMID

Its name means "Dress of Water", as the combination of names is formed by buk which means dress or to wear, and ha which means water. This structure is located south from the actual main plaza, by 35th and 37th crossing with 26th and 28th street.

This is a structure formed by a 90 meter lengthwise platform on one side and 3.80 meters of height, over which is found a plaza of 30 meters of length by 25 meters width,

enclosed by four buildings.

The first construction stage may be dated from around the Early Classic (250-600 yrs. A.D), and the second, towards the Final Classic (800-1000 A.D). As for the ceramic affiliations from Izamal, these could be dated from the Middle Pre-classic (700-450 B.C).

CHALTUN-HA



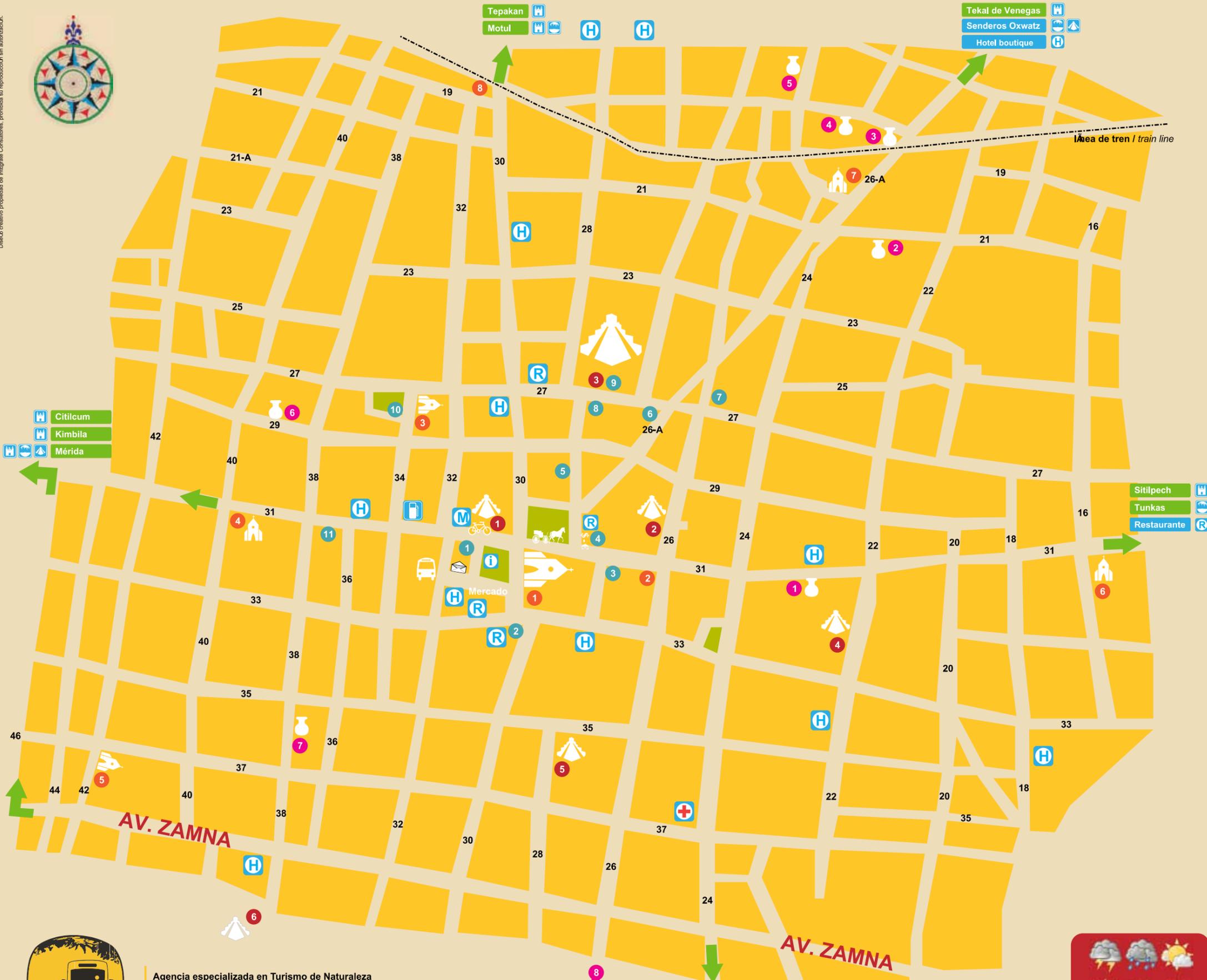
PYRAMID ITZAMATUL



This pyramid is located on the eastern side of the Main Plaza, on 26th street between 29th and 31st. It is the second largest and most important construction after the Kinich Kakmo. It is called Itzamatul, which means "the one who receives or has the grace of heaven". It was a temple dedicated to Zamna. The archaeological data indicates that this building had three stages or construction periods. The first one is a building characterized for holding an almost square foundation, with stepped sections and sloped walls, the corners were rounded, typical for early buildings, with a height slightly taller than 20 meters at street level. Significant changes were made to the building during

the second construction stage, the style was changed as well as the structure, so that the first structure came to be totally covered by the second structure and the façades were completely modified. The last change to the building was when a great platform was built, which covered the first two structures. It is difficult to determine the original dimensions, but it was approximately 129 meters on each side with an average height of 9 m. It was built between year 300 and 600 of our time. It is 22 meters tall.

Entrance is free and it is open to visitors between 8:00 to 17:00.



Rutas Turísticas / *touristic routes*

Ruta de Zamná / *Zamna route*

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1 Pirámide Kabul
<i>Kabul pyramid</i> | 4 Pirámide El Conejo
<i>The rabbit pyramid</i> |
| 2 Pirámide Itzamatul
<i>Itzamatul pyramid</i> | 5 Pirámide Habuk
<i>Habuk pyramid</i> |
| 3 Pirámide Kinich Kakmó
<i>Kinich Kakmo pyramid</i> | 6 Pirámide Chaltún Há
<i>Chaltun Ha pyramid</i> |



Ruta de los Frailes / *Friars route*

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1 Convento Franciscano
<i>Franciscan convent</i> | 5 Capilla de San Román
<i>San Román chapel</i> |
| 2 Centro Bellas Artes
<i>Fine arts center</i> | 6 Capilla de San Juan
<i>San Juan chapel</i> |
| 3 Capilla de los Remedios
<i>Los Remedios chapel</i> | 7 Capilla de San Ildefonso
<i>San Ildefonso chapel</i> |
| 4 Capilla de la Santa Cruz
<i>La Santa Cruz chapel</i> | 8 Antigua estación de tren
<i>Ancient train station</i> |



Ruta de los Artesanos / *Artisans route*

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1 Taller de hojalata y latón
<i>Tinplate and brass workshop</i> | 5 Taller de papel maché
<i>Papier mache workshop</i> |
| 2 Taller talla de madera
<i>Wood carving workshop</i> | 6 Taller de bordado a máquina y herbolaría
<i>Machine embroidery and herbal medicine workshop</i> |
| 3 Taller de miniaturas
<i>Miniatures workshop</i> | 7 Taller de bordado en punto de cruz
<i>Cross-stich workshop</i> |
| 4 Taller hurdido de hamacas
<i>Hurd hammocks workshop</i> | 8 Taller de joyería en espino de henequén
<i>Henequen and cocoyol jewelry workshop</i> |



Ruta de las Leyendas / *Legends route*

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1 Leyenda de la cruz caída
<i>Cross fall legend</i> | 6 Leyenda del venado
<i>Deer legend</i> |
| 2 Leyenda del toro
<i>Bull legend</i> | 7 Leyenda de las 5 calles
<i>Five streets legend</i> |
| 3 Leyenda de la calle nueva
<i>New street legend</i> | 8 Leyenda del juglar triste
<i>Sad bohemian legend</i> |
| 4 Leyenda del arco
<i>Arc legend</i> | 9 Leyenda de la siempre viva
<i>Ever-living legend</i> |
| 5 Leyenda de la Virgen y su hermana
<i>The Virgin and her sister legend</i> | 10 Leyenda de la xtabay de los remedios
<i>Xtabay of the Remedios square legend</i> |
| | 11 Leyenda de la flor de mayo
<i>May flower legend</i> |



Simbología / *simbology*

- | | | | |
|---|--|--|----------------------------|
| Información Turística
<i>Tourist information</i> | Hotel
<i>Hotel</i> | Restaurante
<i>Restaurant</i> | Museo
<i>Museum</i> |
| Gasolinera
<i>Gas station</i> | Hospital
<i>Medical service</i> | Monumento religioso
<i>Religious monunt</i> | Pirámide
<i>Pyramid</i> |
| Estación de autobuses
<i>Bus station</i> | Taller artesanal
<i>Folk art workshop</i> | Oficina postal
<i>Post office</i> | |
| Renta de bicicletas
<i>Rent a bicycle</i> | Paseos en victoria
<i>Carriage tours</i> | Banco
<i>Money exchange</i> | |

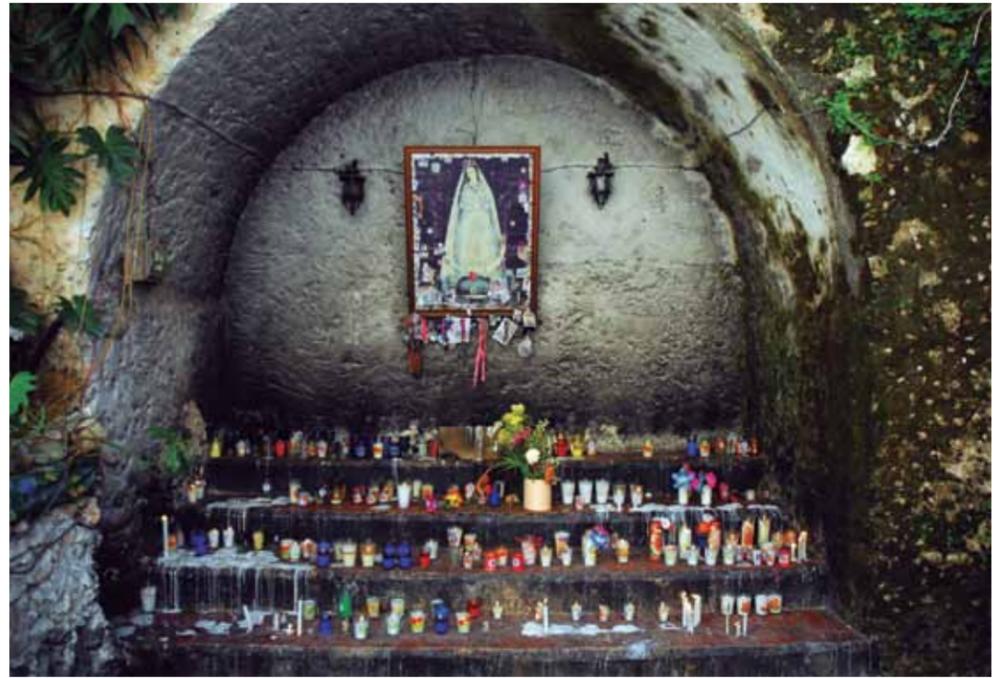
Temperatura media anual: 24-28° C
Average annual weather: 75-82° F



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RELIGIOUS TOURISM

The Franciscan Convent of San Antonio de Padua is of great importance for pilgrimage in Yucatan. A very special and popular worship to the Virgin from Izamal.

During the visit of Pope John Paul II to Yucatan, he crowned the image of the Holy Virgin on the 13th of August 1993, when representatives from the different ethnic groups in Latin America gathered in the atrium of the convent.

The Festival in honor of the Virgin of Izamal begins towards the end of November, it includes bullfights, processions and masses from various fraternities. There are dances and festivities in the streets.

On the evening of December 7th, there is a serenade to honor the Virgin and in the morning of the 8th "Las Mañanitas" (a lullaby song for awakening) is sung, after this, they carry the Virgin in a procession through the streets and she is then returned to the Convent.



CHAPEL OF REMEDIES

It owes its name to the Virgin of the same name. This is a construction which dates back from colonial times and it is the second largest after the convent of San Antonio de Padua. It measures 25 meters of height to the top of the tower and has a nave with a roof made out of logs and there is a chapel inside. Although there is not an official date registry of the construction or consecration, it probably dates from the end of the eighteenth or early nineteenth century.

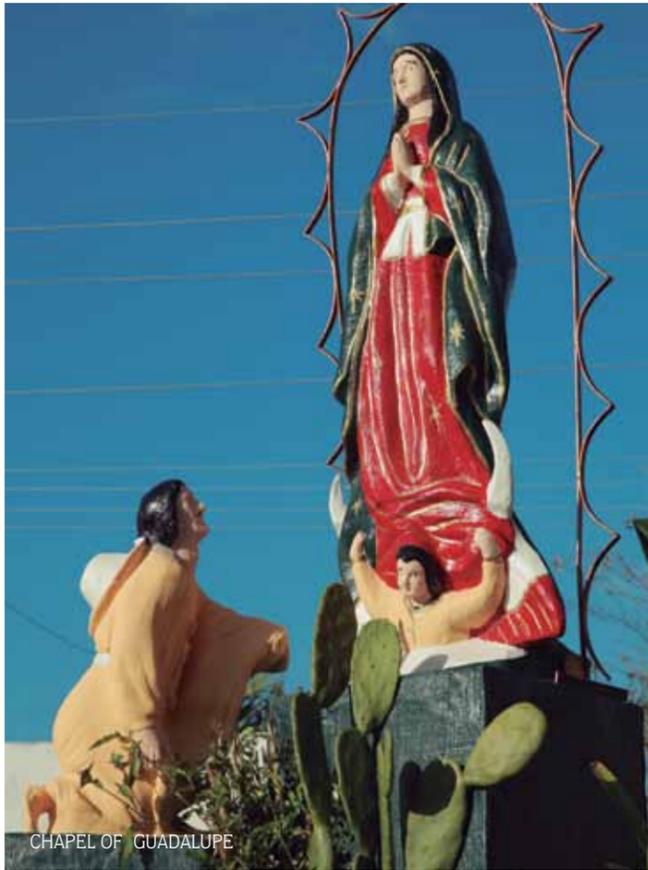
Its architectural style is simple. It has a belfry like most Franciscan constructions from the XVI and XVII centuries, with two divisions that resemble towers to hang the bells from.

The interior has a gothic style altarpiece built in 1898, it was originally in the San Antonio de Padua Convent, until the current one was constructed and the first one was sent to this church.

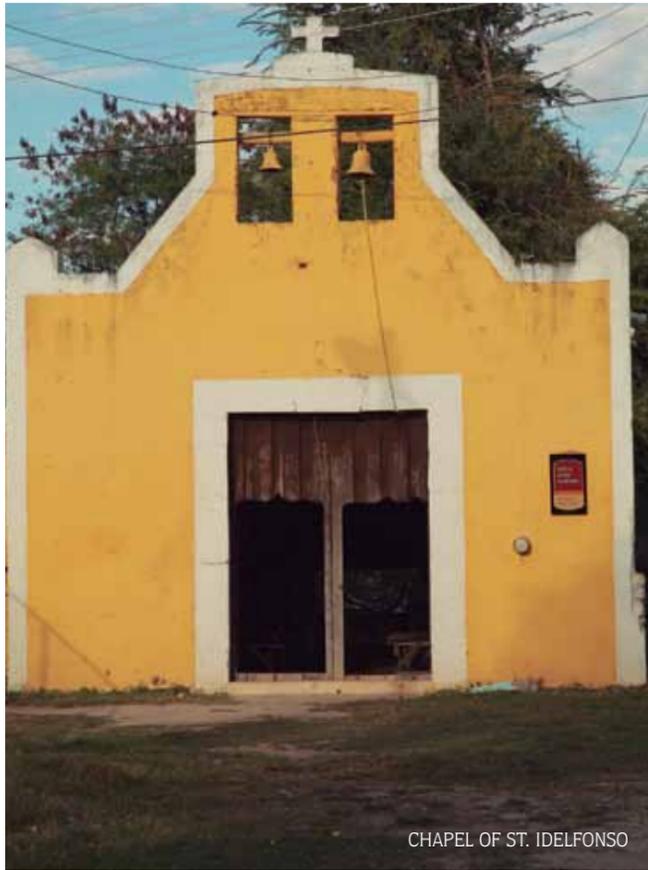


THE CHAPEL OF THE HOLY CROSS

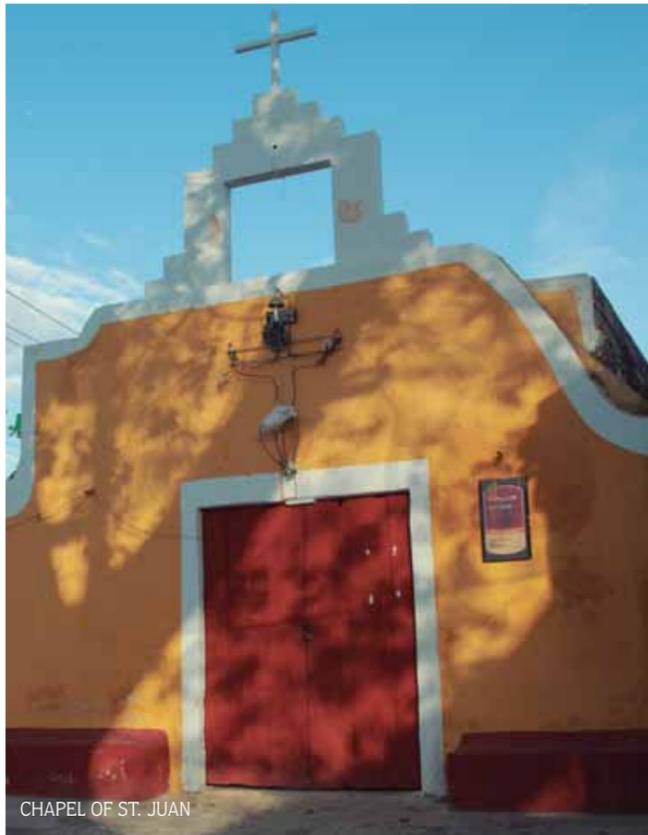
This chapel is located at the Plaza de la Santa Cruz, where its name also comes from. This pleasant corner invites visitors to enjoy its particular architecture, particularly the cannons, the chapel and traditional neighborhood. The cannons that you can find here were sounding performers of the tragic "Caste War" that stained Yucatan with blood in the middle of the XIX century and brothers where confronted against brothers.



CHAPEL OF GUADALUPE



CHAPEL OF ST. IDELFONSO



CHAPEL OF ST. JUAN



CHAPEL OF ST. ROMAN



STATUE OF POPE JOHN PAUL II
INSIDE THE CONVENT

TRADITIONAL FESTIVITIES

Festivity in honor of St. Ildefonso

April 3rd

This festival is held on the 3rd of April in the City of Izamal. The religious activities include the decoration of the chapel of San Ildefonso.

Masses and rosaries are held, and even fireworks are lightened. As for the secular, local dances with typical music are organized, bullfights, a funfair with a wheel of fortune and other types of rides. It is important to mention that the organization of the festival is the responsibility of the fraternities, who also coordinate the social activities, and limit the number of bullfights that will be held during the fair.

Festivity in honor of the Holy Cross

May 3rd.

This is one of the most traditional festivities in Yucatan. It is estimated that there are at least ten celebrations in villages such as: Chicxulub, Maxcanu, Sacalum, Teabo and Tecoh. In Kimbila, a community that belongs to the municipality of Izamal, the festival of the Holy Cross begins on May 1st even though the preparation of the traditional "arepas" (stuffed local bread) begin eight days before. The villagers begin by gathering the utensils and turkeys that are to be used in the preparation of the food and erect a hut in the yard of people of influence in the community.

Festivity of San Roman

September 16th

The popular festival of San Roman, celebrated on September 16th in Izamal is characterized for the popular celebration favored by this community, recreating through dance the authentic Vaqueria (dance where women and men wear the typical garments, and dance folk music), with magnificent bullfights with great animals, that until not long ago were donated or given for free by local people in exchange for the pride to witness the bullfight in a

place of preference, accompanied by relatives and friends, while also being presented with a performance of a dozen thunderous hardcore Jaranera ensemble.

Receiving the Holy Christ from Sitilpech

October 18th

This village is home to one of the most worshipped images of the region, the Christ of Exaltation. The festival lasts ten days and the inhabitants of Sitilpech go in procession to Izamal, carrying on their shoulders the image of Christ. The pilgrims, grouped in fraternities, head for the main temple and make offering of beautiful flower arrangements that are deposited on the altar. They also light dozens of thick, tall wax candles in worship and devotion to Christ.

In the evening traditional Jaranas or typical dances are performed at the Main Square, with the young men and women dressed in their best clothing.

Celebration of the Foundation of Izamal

December 4th

Festival to honor the Immaculate Conception of the Holy Virgin of Izamal

December 8th

This religious festival in honor of Virgin Mary of Izamal, is celebrated from the 1st to the 8th of December. For this festival a great crowd of faithful people are gathered, arriving from a pilgrimage from various locations. The ones who can stay with relatives or friends in the village, the others search for a place to stay in the hallways of the City Hall, in the park or in the hallways of the majestic Colonial Convent. During the day and into the evening, masses and rosaries are held, and in the morning groups of fraternities begin to arrive with their bands of musicians and fireworks, encouraging the curious to come out to see who is arriving. Along the way, people join the procession, and as they arrive altogether to the church they receive the blessing of the crowds.



SOUND & LIGHT SHOW "THE LIGHT OF THE MAYAS"

To really appreciate the charm of Izamal after sunset, since October 2004 a multimedia show called "The Light of the Maya" is offered at the unbeatable setting of the atrium of the Franciscan convent of San Antonio de Padua.

This show is projected onto the arches below the belfry of the Third Order by showing four windows looking at the past and present of the splendor of the Mayan culture. A perfect blend of a historic documentary related to the presence, roots and masterpiece works of the Maya accompanied by musical compositions designed, synchronized and performed for this great performance by musicians and interpreters of the region, with songs performed by children of Mayan origin.

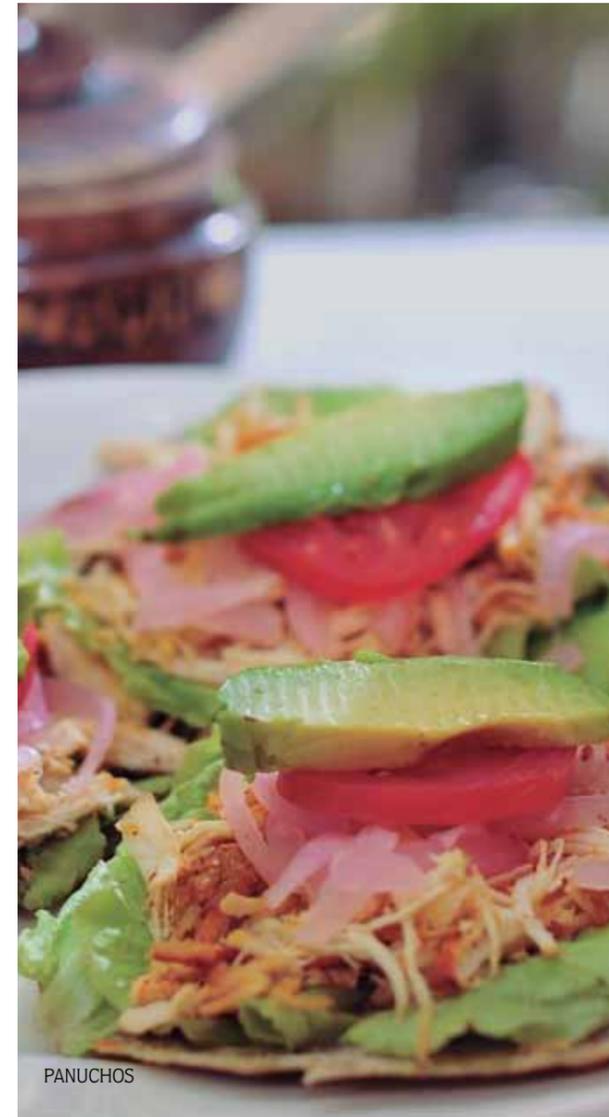
It is a presentation that combines image, sound and a narrative which carry the audience in time towards the past grandeur of the ancient Maya. Without doubt "The Light of the Maya" is an event that you cannot miss.

Show begins Monday through Saturday at 20:30 in the Atrium of San Antonio de Padua Convent.





PAPADZULES



PANUCHOS

GASTRONOMY

Another important tradition of Izamal, is its cuisine, which has all the charm and amazement of Yucatecan food. The market, or a good restaurant are excellent places to tempt the senses with the exquisite mestizo touch from these lands, beans with pork, eggs with chaya, chicken stew, stuffed cheese, salbutes, panuchos, venison, papadzules, sausages, pibil roasted pork (cooked underground), joroches, mucbil chicken, pimes and tamales, are only a few of the dishes that you can enjoy accompanied by xtabentun, balche, locally produced anise drink, pozol or coconut horchata. To finish with a sweet taste in the mouth, there is nothing better than yucca with honey, pumpkin, sweet potato with coconut, cocoyol in syrup, marzipan or pumpkin seeds, local marshmallows, arepas, hawthorn in syrup or sweet circote.



SOPA DE LIMA

HANDICRAFT **PATHWAY**

Located on one side of the City Hall, you can find a place where artisans and craftsmen gather to show their skills and handiwork with special materials, demonstrating the cultural heritage of Izamal as part of the daily economic activity.



MUNICIPAL **MARKET**

The Zamna Market was opened in 1923, for the supply of provisions for the inhabitants of the city, by mid-century it was accompanied by street vendor stalls of various products. Almond trees were planted to bring shadow and concrete benches were set up. The market was in use until 1970 when it was demolished and replaced with a park dedicated to Father Diego de Landa, the park had a statue of the priest on top of a mound of stones, the statue was located in the northeastern corner of the park. The statue remained there until 1985, when it was removed and transferred to the "2nd of April" square.

HANDICRAFT TECHNIQUES TRADITIONAL

The population of Izamal knows how to make dreams with their hands. The jewelry and leather goods are of unrivalled beauty, as well as the manufacturing of woven hammocks of sisal fiber for an unforgettable siesta. Ceramic and pottery from the village of Citilcum are beautifully made. The people of Citilcum and Kimbila are expert craftsmen in woodcarving and leather goods.



HENEQUEN FIBER CRAFTS.

HANDICRAFTSMEN WORKSHOPS

Wood carving Workshop

The workshop is located on street 21 between 22nd and 24th, it is dedicated to the making of wood carved figures, supervised by the owner, Gabriel Perez Rajon. All the pieces are ideas of the owner, who captures his designs on paper that are later carved out of wood. Finally, he paints the pieces, adding color that gives his personal touch.

Cross stitch embroidering Workshop

This handicraft workshop is located on street 38 between streets 35 and 37, it is dedicated to the embroidering of hipiles (traditional dress for ladies), hipilitos (for little girls) and handmade suits used for gala events. The workshop is run by Maria Che Uc and other women from Izamal.

Jewelry made from the thorns from the sisal plant and cocoyol workshop.

The flower of the cocoyol Lol-Tuk is known as a handicrafts workshop with jewelry made entirely by hand with the thorns of sisal and cocoyol, both deeply linked to the Mayan culture. These materials of great beauty are extremely hard and require great skills to handle them. The jewelry demand hard manual work. The thorn is the tip of the leaf of the sisal. The hardness of the materials, the deep brown and black colors of great brilliance makes each item a unique piece. Lol-Tuk has won national competitions in handicraft contests.



COCOYOL CRAFTS.

TOURISTIC ROUTES

Izamal is a dream setting which offers visitors and tourists interesting sites ranging from impressive archaeological sites like Kinich Kakmò (third largest pre-Hispanic structure of Mexico), natural scenery, old sisal haciendas, rich biodiversity and colonial architecture. To add even more value for the visitor, you may also enjoy a rich gastronomy, besides finding restaurants and hotels with excellent service and with the necessary infrastructure to offer activities related to business and meetings.



ARCHAEOLOGICAL ROUTE

This is a trip through time to discover the presence of our Mayan ancestors by visiting monumental pyramids of understated and exquisite architecture: Kinich Kakmo (third largest pre-Hispanic structure in Mexico), Itzamatul, Habuk, Kabul (the rabbit) and Chaltun Ha.

Approximate visit time: 3 hours.



KINICH KAKMO PYRAMID

HANDICRAFTSMEN ROUTE

An interesting program of visits to the different workshops to see the works of master artisans of popular fine art work of Izamal. In each one of the workshops it is possible to work along with the handicraftsmen to create your own piece of popular art and besides and take with you some incredible memories. Some workshops are closer, others further away, but all of them are worth a visit. The visit includes for example workshops for wood, papier mache art, miniature, hammocks, cross stitching embroidery among others. Throughout the route, from workshop to workshop, the experience gets richer and richer. This route can also be used as an educational program for children.

Approximate visit time: 8 hours.



MAYAN ADVENTURE ROUTE

This is a perfect alternative for discovering what nature can offer to the explorer in you. The archaeological park Oxwatz is located only 30 km from the city and offers has fabulous activities such as jungle tours, kayaking in the lagoon, trekking the rural trails, bird watching, Mayan pyramids, cenotes (underground rivers), ethnic cuisine and the option of camping.

Approximate visit time: 8 hrs.



ITZAMATUL PYRAMID

Touristic Routes

HISTORIC CENTER ROUTE

On this tour you will visit the Franciscan Convent of San Antonio de Padua, a monument that dates back to the XVI century and holds the largest closed atrium in Latin-America, and the second largest of the world after the one in St. Peter's Square in the Vatican. A guided visit is worthwhile to fully understand the history that surrounds it and the legends beyond the impressive façade. To begin with, the stones from the arches and columns used to belong to a Mayan temple that was demolished in order to build the convent. It is still possible to identify the drawings and carvings on some of the stones. The Convent, from an architecturally speaking, is spectacular. It is also interesting to visit the small chapels: The Remedies, The Holy Cross, San Juan, San Ildefonso, San Roman and Guadalupe, located in the old quarters of the city. It is also recommended to visit some cultural centers and galleries.

Approximate visit time: 3 hrs.



MAYAN HERITAGE ROUTE

The best places to learn about the customs and traditions of a town or village are the indigenous communities. In Izamal it is possible to visit the small towns of Sitalpech (known for the miraculous image of the Black Christ), Xanaba, Citilcum, Kimbila (great place for buying typical clothing and blankets) and Cuauhtemoc (colorful community where you can visit the homes and share unforgettable experiences with the locals).

Approximate visit time: 8 hrs.



ROUTE

CULTURE AND HISTORIC



PARTE TRASERA DEL CONVENTO

IZAMAL

SOUND & LIGHT SHOW

On this tour you will enjoy a walk through the beautiful cobblestoned streets and yellow painted neighborhoods, including Plaza Zamna, Plaza Crescendo Carrillo and Ancona, the City Hall and the market place. You will enjoy this beautiful colonial city and to finish up this tour, you can admire the Sound and Light show "The Light of the Maya", which takes place at 20:30 at the Franciscan Convent of San Antonio de Padua. Tour available from Monday to Saturday.

Approximate visit time: 7 hrs.



Touristic Routes

TIPS

You may combine the activities from each touristic route to build your own preferred itinerary. Some of the activities require previous reservation. You can learn more and get more information from the Tourism Office.

For the convenience of the visitor, you can also enjoy these routes by mountain bike (additional cost), horse carriage in your own vehicle.

TOURS

IZAMAL

Known as the City of the Three Cultures, Izamal is the essence of the cultural legacy of the Yucatecan people. Here you can find Mayan temples and colonial homes that bring you to the XVI, XVII and XVIII centuries and its people show with pride the fusion of the Maya people. With its buildings painted in yellow and white it resembles the flag of the Holy See, and its monastery in honor of one of the pillars of the Franciscan Order of San Antonio de Padua. Today it is the most important Marian center for the Yucatecan Catholics. The handicrafts and the gastronomy makes it an unforgettable visit.



Designed:
General Public

Duration
7 hours

Days of service
Monday to Sunday

Schedule
Departure: 9:00 hrs.
Return: 16:00 hrs.

Location
In the state of Yucatan
72 km east of the city of
Merida on highway 180.

The Tour includes
Air-conditioned shared or
private transportation,
bilingual guide and horse
carriage.

IZAMAL, SOUND & LIGHT SHOW

An afternoon tour of this beautiful colonial city, followed by the sound and light show.



Designed:
General Public

Duration:
Merida 10 hrs/ Valladolid 3 hrs

Days of Service
Tuesday, Thursday,
Friday and Saturday

Schedule: Merida/Valladolid
Departure: 15:00 hrs.
Return: 21:30 hrs.

Location
72 km east of Merida on
highway 180.

The tour includes
Air-conditioned
transportation, bilingual
guide presenting in English
and Spanish, and entrance
fees.

Designed
General Public

Duration
9 hours

Days of service
Monday to Sunday

Schedule
Departure: **13:00 hrs.**

Location
Homun and Izamal

The Tour includes
Air-conditioned private
transportation, entrance
fees to the archeological
sites, food and water.

Designed for
General Public

Duration
4 days

Days of service
Monday to Sunday

number of participants
40

Schedule
since **9:00 hrs.**

Location
Touristic route of the
archaeological areas
of Yucatan.

The tour includes
Accommodation,
transportation,
guide, entrance fees,
horse carriage ride
and two meals.

SAHUNCAT CENOTE AND IZAMAL "THE LIGHT OF THE MAYA"

At midday we leave for Homun, where we visit the Sahuncat cenote. Afterwards we depart for the Magic Town of Izamal. To begin with we visit the atrium of the convent and afterwards you can enjoy "The Light of the Maya" sound and light show.

CHICHEN ITZA, IZAMAL & YOKDZONOT

This tour begins in Chichen Itza. A multilingual guide explains everything related to this new wonder of the world. After the visit, you can take a break at a remote cenote (freshwater sinkhole), where you can swim. Afterwards you will try a typical Yucatecan meal and finally the tour ends with a horse carriage ride through the beautiful Magic Town of Izamal.

VIVA YUCATAN

This complete tour lasts four days and includes: transfer upon arrival in Merida. On the second day, an excursion to Izamal to visit the Convent in the morning and a meal at a typical restaurant is included. On the third day, transfer and excursion to Chichen Itza with an extension to Cancun and return to the hotel.



Designed
General Public

Duration
12 hours

Days of service
Monday to Sunday

Schedule
Departure: 7:00 hrs.
Return: 19:00 hrs.

Location
Chichen Itza, 40 kilometers
from Valladolid; Izamal, 110
kilometers west of Merida.

The Tour includes
Light breakfast, air-
conditioned luxury
transportation, guided tour
of Chichen Itza, entrance
fee to the cenote, horse
carriage tour and food.

Designed for
General Public

Duration
7 hours.

Days of service
**Tuesday, thursday,
friday and saturday**

Schedule
**Departure: 15:00 hrs.
Return: 21:30 hrs.**

Location
**72 kilometers east of
Merida on highway 180.**

The tour includes
**Air-conditioned
transportation, bilingual
guide presenting in English
and Spanish, and entrance
fees.**

CHICHEN ITZA & IZAMAL

In the afternoon we visit the beautiful colonial city and afterwards we enjoy the sound and light show. In the morning we visit the archaeological site of Chichen Itza. Departure to Izamal. Return to Merida.

HANDICRAFTS & GASTRONOMY WORKSHOPS IN IZAMAL

Unique and characteristic sites of Yucatan are explored; you also share experiences with people from the Mayan communities, learning the techniques required to make the splendid handicrafts from the region.

Designed for
General Public

Duration
1 week

Days of service
Monday to sunday

number of participants
20

Schedule
**According to
itinerary.**

Location
**Izamal in the northeast of
the state of Yucatan, 70 km
from the city of Merida.**

The tour includes
**Transportation,
accommodation in a hotel
in the historic center
of Izamal, handicraft
workshops, meals,
scheduled tours and taxes.**

Designed for
General Public

Duration
8 days

Days of service
Monday to sunday

**Sound and light:
Tuesday, thursday, friday and
saturday**

Schedule
**20:30 summer
19:30 winter**

Location
Holka and Izamal

The tour includes
**Private transportation,
entrance, meals, tourist guide
and the hidden secrets of
water workshop.**

THE WELL OF LIFE AND MAGIC TOWN OF IZAMAL

The conference "The hidden secrets of water" taught by Dr. Masuro a certified instructor consists of the explanation of how to optimize the vibratory resources in oneself to improve physical, mental and spiritual health from the consciousness of water and how it resonates with all the vibrations it receives, whether thoughts, emotions or words. Yucatan has some of the most important natural water springs on this hemisphere. Ancient Mayas knew about this and considered the water found in the cenotes (wells) sacred. The knowledge and education of Dr. Emoto helps to awaken consciousness of the importance of taking care of the quality and conservation of the vital fluid found in these water springs as well as in the sacred cenotes (wells) and in our own body, which contains 70 percent water.

To continue and to live the experience of water, a beautiful cenote is visited, where you can enjoy a refreshing swim and afterwards go to the Magic Town of Izamal, known as the City of the Three Cultures, because of its pre-Hispanic colonial and modern constructions. A ride in a horse drawn carriage is included and afterwards we enjoy dinner at a typical restaurant of the town. To finish the day and to enjoy Izamal to the max, we take you to enjoy the sound and light show "The Light of the Maya" in the atrium of the convent; the show lasts 30 minutes. With the incense burned by the monks, the music, the narrative and the colorful images projected on the arches of the convent, this mystical and amazing civilization is better understood.

Designed for
**Premium Tourism, couples and
groups of up to eight people.**

Duration
4 days

Days of service
**Start any day for the
week**

number of participants
**Eight, in three vehicles
Suburban or Sprinter.**

Schedule
According to flight schedule

Location
**Estado de Yucatan. From
Merida via Izamal, Chichen Itza,
to Valladolid.**

The tour includes
**Private luxury transportation,
petrol, highway tolls,
parking fees, museum
entrances fees and
archaeological sites fees, light
and sound show in
Izamal, accommodation,
breakfast and lunch, bilingual
guide and travel expenses for
the guide.**

A UNIQUE EXPERIENCE YUCATAN

This tour includes a visit to the haciendas Vista Alegre and Teya that dates from the XVII century and are located in Merida. The first one has the most important and prestigious production of traditional rum and tropical fruit liquors. The visit includes seeing the large oak barrels storage deposit, the ceramics area and the distillery. It is still being inhabited by its owners and we have the chance to taste the products after the explanation of the manufacturing process by an engineer of the production plant.

Afterwards, we visit an antique colonial jewel, the award-winning Hacienda Teya that offers the exquisite cuisine of Yucatan and which has received and hosted international renowned visitors such as Queen Sophia of Spain, Hillary Clinton, the duke and duchess from Luxemburg among others. Besides you will have the opportunity to taste the best of the Yucatecan cuisine.

On this tour you will discover archaeological sites, colonial cities and ecological sites of Yucatan. During three nights, the residential Hacienda of San Antonio Millet reminds the visitor of the lifestyle of the Yucatecan landowners of the early XIX century. The package includes meet and greet at the airport, transfer to the hacienda, welcome dinner, two American breakfasts, driver/ guide and vehicle during two days for 8 hrs, for touring Merida, Celestun, Izamal, Chichen Itza and Ek Balam. At the end of the tour you return to your hotel in Cancun or Riviera Maya. You can also enjoy a Mayassage on the third day of your stay.

Designed for
General Public

Duration:
5 days and 4 nights

Days of service
Monday to Sunday

Schedule:
**According to the needs
of the group**

Location
**Merida, Uxmal, Chichen
Itza, Izamal and isla
Holbox in Quintana Roo.**

The tour includes
**Transportation, bilingual guide,
entrance fees, parking fees,
highway tolls, accommodation
with breakfast and meals
according to the itinerary.**

YUCATAN HIGHLIGHTS

This tour that lasts four days includes transfer from the airport of Merida to a boutique hotel or hacienda in Merida. We visit the city and its modern and classic art galleries, the Quinta Montes Molina Museum and the "Palacio Canton" Anthropology Museum on the majestic Paseo de Montejo. The tour continues to the archaeological site of Dzibilchaltun; afterwards we have lunch at the Xcanatun Hacienda followed by a transfer to Izamal to enjoy the sound and light show "The Light of the Maya" in Izamal with an overnight stay at San Jose Cholul Hacienda. On the third day we visit Chichen Itza and have lunch at Hacienda Chichen. Afterwards we travel to Valladolid and stay overnight at Casa Quetzal or similar. During the last day the archaeological site of Ek Balam is visited and we enjoy some ecotourism in a nearby cenote. After lunch at the Meson del Marques in Valladolid, transfer to Merida, Cancun or the Riviera Maya.



NEARBY

TOURIST ATTRACTIONS

Ake

This pre-Hispanic city was built around 1000 yr. A.D. The Palace is one of the architectural highlights. Ake has a great variety of attractions such as the sisal hacienda San Lorenzo Ake (that has flourished for years thanks to the care of its owners). Here you can see the old heavy rusty machinery that still works on the process of clearing the sisal fiber to make ropes as they make the "green gold", the old sacbes (Mayan white roads) and a cavern type cenote or well. It is located 32 km from the city of Merida, following road 80 towards Tixkokob. There is a turn to the right after 25 km. You can visit from Monday through Sunday from 8:00 to 17:00.

Tecoh

In this town you can visit a church and a small convent dedicated to Our Lady of the Assumption. Built with hand carved stones on top of the foundation of a Mayan pyramid, it has an impressive altar piece and a lot of paintings from old times.

Tecoh is located 34 km southeast of Merida.

Acanceh

The main attraction is the Plaza of the Three Cultures, which combines the pre-Hispanic, colonial and contemporary times. There is a church dedicated to Our Lady of the Nativity and the chapel of the Virgin of Guadalupe.

Acanceh is located 26 km southeast of Merida.

Xcambo

This is an archaeological site surrounded by a splendid natural environment and peaceful beaches.

It is located close to Telchac Puerto only 20 min. from Uaymitun, a fishermen's port.

Cuzama

This village is famous in the region because of its cenotes and the peculiar way to visit them. The tour to reach the cenotes is done by riding a "truck", these are small carriages pulled by horses through 7 km of overgrown jungle, which give it a taste of adventure. The main cenotes in this area are called Chelentun, Chacsinic-che and Bolonchoojol.

The cenotes are open to visit from 8:00 to 17:00 hrs.

Sotuta de Peon

One of the very few henequen haciendas that is still in use and has full production. Visiting the facilities is an extraordinary experience where beauty, comfort and adventure are the main points of a glance to the glorious past of the peninsula. The sightseeing is carried out on wooden platforms, pulled by mules, with metal tires (trucks). The first stop is to visit a Mayan hut, a typical and functional construction made out of "paclum", this material is obtained with the mixture of soil and grass, in which a Mayan family takes care of their daily chores. The second part means going underground, down into a cave, to admire the extraordinary beauty of the cenote Dzul-Ha (Lord of Water), where natural sculptures of stone frame a natural spa of spring water, where you can swim.

Sotuta de Peon is located 35 km south of Merida, only 12 minutes from Tecoh.

You can visit from Monday through Saturday from 9:00 to 16.00.

Tunkas

Within the colonial infrastructure of this municipality, the temple of Tunkas stands out. It is located in the center of the village. You can also find several archaeological sites here. There are four cenotes: X'tekdzonot, Mumundzonot, Lukun chan and Chan X'azul, where visitors are allowed to swim in the fresh water or practice cave diving with an expert guide.

Tunkas is located 86 km southwest of Merida.

Dzilam de Bravo

Located north of Izamal, this colorful fishermen's village offers ecotourism boat rides by the locals in order to get to know the main attractions such as: fresh water Springs, the Elepeten cenote, the lagoon where you can go bird watching to discover the different species found in the region and also see lizards in their natural habitat.

You will also find Las Bocas de Dzilam where the sea and the river meet. It is an ideal place for camping and for enjoying the beautiful beaches.

Tourism Office
Streets 30-A by 31 and 31-A, at the City Hall area.
Historic Center. Zip Code 97549, Izamal, Yucatan
Phone (988) 954-1096
pueblomagico_izamal@hotmail.com
luisalcaneosantoyo@gmail.com



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4 STARS

Rinconada del Convento
Calle 33 No. 294 x 28 Colonia Centro C.P. 97540 Izamal. Tel. (988) 9-54-01-51
www.hotelizamal.com
es@hotelizamal.com,
reservaciones@hotelizamal.com

Hotel Romantic Santo Domingo
Calle 18 # tablaje catastral 1037 x 33 y 35 Col. Santo domingo. Tel. 988 967 6136,
www.izamalhotel.com,
turismoelplacer@gmail.com

Eco-hotel Itzamaltun
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macanche@gmail.com

Green River
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www.hotelgreenriver.com
hotel_greenriver68@hotmail.com

San Miguel Arcangel
Calle 31-A No. 308 x 30 y 30-A Colonia Centro C.P. 97540 Izamal. Tel. (988) 9-54-01-09 y 9-54-01-09
www.sanmiguelhotel.com.m
mcontacto@sanmiguelhotel.com.m

0 STARS

Flory
Calle 30 No. 267 x 27 y 29 Colonia Centro C.P. 97540 Izamal. Tel. (988) 9 950562

Los Arcos
Calle 30 No. 260 x 21 y 23 Colonia Centro C.P. 97540 Izamal. Tel. (988) 9-54-02-61

Posada Villa Chica
Calle 11 S/N x 26 y 28 Colonia Yaxche C.P. 97540 Izamal. Tel. (999) 9-58-73-97
posadavillachica@hotmail.com

Posada La Paloma
Calle 31 x 26 y 24 #266-a Col centro
Tel. (988)995-4-11-05
posadalapaloma@hotmail.com

Posada Zamma
Calle 30, bajo los portales, frente a Parque Zamma. Colonia Centro C.P. 97540 Izamal
Tel. (988) 95-4-07-58
posada.zamma@gmail.com

RESTAURANTS

El Toro
Restaurant. Calle 33 No. 303 x 28 y 30 Colonia Centro C.P. 97540 Izamal
Tel. 9889-54-11-69

Los Portales
Restaurant Calle 28 S/N x 31 y 33 Colonia Centro C.P. 97540 Izamal
(988) 9-54-03-02

Kinich
Restaurant. Calle 27 No. 299-A x 28 y 30 Colonia Centro C.P. 97540 Izamal,
(988) 9-54-04-89 ,
www.kinichizamal.com
kinichizamal@gmail.com
contacto@kinichizamal.com

Los Mestizos
Restaurant. Calle 33 No. 301 x 30 y 32 Colonia Centro C.P. 97540 Izamal
(988) 9-54-02-89

Lakin- Ha
Restaurant-Bar. Km 1 carretera Izamal-Sitilpech C.P. 97540 Izamal
(999) 9-09-66-67 --- 045 (999)-157-27-77
www.restaurantlakhina.mex-tl
restaurantlakhina.gmail.com

Restaurante Muul
Restaurant. Calle 28 S/N x 31 Colonia Centro C.P. 97540 Izamal
9889-67-80-06

Tumbel-Íol
Calle 22 # 302 por 31 y 33 cod. Postal 97549. Tel.- 044- 9889-67-00-07

TRAVEL AGENCIES IN MERIDA

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Calle 10 No. 374 C x 37 Diagonal y Circuito Colonias Colonia Pedregales de Tanlun C.P. 97210 Merida (999) 9-25-17-00 y 9-25-17-01 Fax. 9-25-17-01
www.adventures-mexico.com
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