**Chichen Itza** ([/tʃiːˈtʃɛn iːˈtsɑː/](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Help:IPA_for_English), [Spanish](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Spanish_language): *Chichén Itzá* [[tʃiˈtʃen iˈtsa]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Help:IPA_for_Spanish), *[tchee-](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:Pronunciation_respelling_key" \o "Wikipedia:Pronunciation respelling key)****[tchen](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:Pronunciation_respelling_key" \o "Wikipedia:Pronunciation respelling key)*** *[eet-](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:Pronunciation_respelling_key" \o "Wikipedia:Pronunciation respelling key)****[sa](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:Pronunciation_respelling_key" \o "Wikipedia:Pronunciation respelling key)***, often with the emphasis reversed in English to [/ˈtʃiːtʃɛn ˈiːtsə/](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Help:IPA_for_English) ***[chee](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:Pronunciation_respelling_key" \o "Wikipedia:Pronunciation respelling key)****[-chen](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:Pronunciation_respelling_key" \o "Wikipedia:Pronunciation respelling key)*[***eet****-suh*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:Pronunciation_respelling_key) from [Yucatec Maya](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yucatec_Maya_language): *Chi'ch'èen Ìitsha'* [[tɕʰiʔtɕʼèːn ìːtsʰaʔ]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Help:IPA_for_Mayan); "at the mouth of the well of the [Itza](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Itza) people") was a large [pre-Columbian](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pre-Columbian) [city](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Maya_city) built by the [Maya people](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Maya_people) of the Terminal Classic period. The [archaeological site](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Archaeological_site) is located in [Tinúm Municipality](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tin%C3%BAm_Municipality" \o "Tinúm Municipality), [Yucatán State](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yucat%C3%A1n_(state)), [Mexico](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mexico).

Chichen Itza was a major focal point in the Northern [Maya Lowlands](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Maya_Lowlands) from the [Late Classic](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mesoamerican_chronology) (c. AD 600–900) through the [Terminal Classic](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mesoamerican_chronology) (c. AD 800–900) and into the early portion of the [Postclassic](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mesoamerican_chronology" \o "Mesoamerican chronology) period (c. AD 900–1200). The site exhibits a multitude of [architectural](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Maya_architecture) styles, reminiscent of styles seen in central Mexico and of the [Puuc](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Puuc" \o "Puuc) and Chenes styles of the Northern Maya lowlands. The presence of central Mexican styles was once thought to have been representative of direct migration or even conquest from central Mexico, but most contemporary interpretations view the presence of these non-Maya styles more as the result of [cultural diffusion](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cultural_diffusion).

Chichen Itza was one of the largest Maya cities and it was likely to have been one of the mythical great cities, or *[Tollans](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tollan" \o "Tollan)*, referred to in later [Mesoamerican](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mesoamerica" \o "Mesoamerica)literature. The city may have had the most diverse population in the Maya world, a factor that could have contributed to the variety of architectural styles at the site.

The ruins of Chichen Itza are federal property, and the site’s stewardship is maintained by Mexico’s *[Instituto Nacional de Antropología e Historia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Instituto_Nacional_de_Antropolog%C3%ADa_e_Historia" \o "Instituto Nacional de Antropología e Historia)* (National Institute of Anthropology and History). The land under the monuments had been privately owned until 29 March 2010, when it was purchased by the state of Yucatán.

Chichen Itza is one of the most visited archaeological sites in Mexico; an estimated 1.4 million tourists visit the ruins every year.