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Chichen Itza Mayapan The Most Famous Mayan Capitals of the Postclassic Period

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pictures. Includes footnotes and a bibliography for further

reading. Many ancient civilizations have influenced and

inspired people in the 21st century, like the Greeks and the

Romans, but of all the worlds civilizations, none have intrigued

people more than the Mayans, whose culture, astronomy,

language, and mysterious disappearance all continue to

captivate people. At the heart of the fascination is the most

visited and the most spectacular of Late Classic Maya cities:

Chichn Itz. Chichn Itz was inhabited for hundreds of years and

was a very influential center in the later years of Maya

civilization. At its height, Chichn Itz may have had over 30, 000

inhabitants, and with a spectacular pyramid, enormous ball

court, observatory and several temples, the builders of this city

exceeded even those at Uxmal in developing the use of

columns and exterior relief decoration. Of particular interest at

Chichn Itz is the sacred cenote, a sinkhole was a focus for Maya

rituals around water. Because adequate supplies of water,

which rarely collected on the surface of the limestone based

Yucatan, were essential...



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