

Tikal

Location: Guatemala

Tikal is an ancient Mayan city located in the rainforests of northern Guatemala. The city was one of the largest and most powerful Mayan cities during the Classic Period, which lasted from around 200 to 900 CE. The first known inhabitants of Tikal settled in the area around 700 BCE, and the city continued to grow and flourish for over a thousand years. At its peak, Tikal had a population of up to 100,000 people and was the center of a powerful Mayan empire that controlled much of the surrounding region. The city was known for its impressive architecture, including towering pyramids, expansive plazas, and intricately carved stone monuments. These structures were built using local limestone and were adorned with intricate carvings and sculptures that depicted Mayan deities and rulers. Tikal's decline began in the 10th century CE, and the city was eventually abandoned in the 11th century as the Mayan civilization collapsed. The city was rediscovered by European explorers in the 19th century and has since been extensively studied by archaeologists. Today, Tikal is a popular tourist destination and a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The city's impressive ruins, which include dozens of

pyramids, temples, and other structures, offer a fascinating glimpse into the history and culture of the ancient Maya.