

# Chichen Itza

**Chichén Itzá**[[nb 1]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chichen_Itza" \l "cite_note-1) (often spelled *Chichen Itza* in English and traditional Yucatec Maya) [Yucatec Maya pronunciation](https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/transcoded/a/a7/Chichen-itza_pronunciaci%C3%B3n.ogg/Chichen-itza_pronunciaci%C3%B3n.ogg.mp3)[ⓘ](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Chichen-itza_pronunciaci%C3%B3n.ogg) was a large [pre-Columbian](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pre-Columbian) [city built by the Maya people](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Maya_city) of the [Terminal Classic](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mesoamerican_chronology) period. The [archeological site](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Archeological_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).[[1]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chichen_Itza#cite_note-2)

Chichén Itzá 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 (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).

Chichén Itzá 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) literature.[[2]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chichen_Itza#cite_note-SharerTraxler06p562-3) 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.[[3]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chichen_Itza#cite_note-Miller99p26-4)

The ruins of Chichén Itzá 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.[[nb 2]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chichen_Itza#cite_note-5)

Chichén Itzá is one of the most visited archeological sites in Mexico with over 2.6 million tourists in 2017

## **History**

The layout of Chichén Itzá site core developed during its earlier phase of occupation, between 750 and 900 AD.[[19]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chichen_Itza#cite_note-CobosPalma0405p531-22) Its final layout was developed after 900 AD, and the 10th century saw the rise of the city as a regional capital controlling the area from central Yucatán to the north coast, with its power extending down the east and west coasts of the peninsula.[[20]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chichen_Itza#cite_note-23) The earliest [hieroglyphic](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Maya_script) date discovered at Chichen Itza is equivalent to 832 AD, while the last known date was recorded in the Osario temple in 998.