

Palenque

Chiapas · Mexico

TRAVEL GUIDE

Tripomatic



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Overview

Palenque is a small town in the jungle of Chiapas, close to one of the most beautiful Maya cities. The ruins stand on a forested hill, with temples, palaces and carvings. The town itself is simple, with hotels, restaurants and tour offices.

It suits one to two nights. Many visitors combine the ruins with the waterfalls at Agua Azul and Misol-Ha, and with San Cristóbal de las Casas.

When to visit

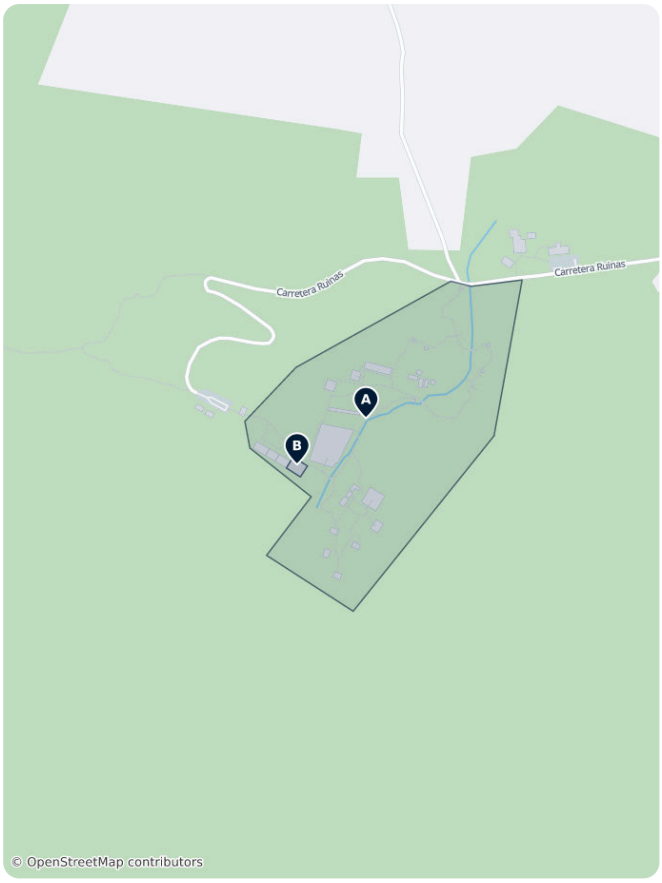
November to March is the driest and coolest time. April to May is very hot. June to October brings heavy rain and high humidity. Visit the ruins early in the morning, when it is cooler and quieter.

MONTH	CONDITIONS	DAY °C avg / max	NIGHT °C avg / min	
January	Good Good for wildlife watching	27° / 32°	18° / 14°	12 rainy days · Muggy, humid air · Calm winds
February	Good Good for wildlife watching	29° / 35°	19° / 15°	Muggy, humid air · Calm winds
March	Fair Fair for wildlife watching	33° / 39°	20° / 17°	Muggy, humid air · Calm winds · UV 10 (Very high) · Up to 11 days above 35°
April	Poor Poor for sightseeing	37° / 42°	23° / 19°	Muggy, humid air · Calm winds · UV 10 (Very high) · Up to 21 days above 35°
May	Poor Poor for sightseeing	37° / 42°	25° / 22°	14 rainy days · Oppressive humidity · Calm winds · UV 10 (Very high) · Up to 21 days above 35°
June	Poor Poor for wildlife watching	33° / 39° Feels like 36°	24° / 22°	23 rainy days · Oppressive humidity · Calm winds · UV 10 (Very high) · Up to 6 days above 35°
July	Poor Poor for wildlife watching	31° / 36° Feels like 35°	23° / 22°	23 rainy days · Oppressive humidity · Calm winds · UV 10 (Very high)
August	Poor Poor for wildlife watching	31° / 35° Feels like 36°	24° / 22°	25 rainy days · Oppressive humidity · Calm winds · UV 11 (Extreme)
September	Poor Poor for wildlife watching	31° / 34° Feels like 35°	24° / 22°	27 rainy days · Oppressive humidity · Calm winds · UV 10 (Very high)
October	Fair Fair for wildlife watching	29° / 32° Feels like 33°	22° / 19°	22 rainy days · Oppressive humidity · Calm winds · UV 8 (Very high)
November	Good Good for wildlife watching	28° / 31°	20° / 17°	15 rainy days · Oppressive humidity · Calm winds
December	Good Good for wildlife watching	27° / 31°	19° / 15°	13 rainy days · Muggy, humid air · Calm winds

Climate data: NASA POWER (MERRA-2) · 1996–2025

Top sights

- A Zona Arqueologica Palenque is a World Heritage Site and a Maya city, set in the jungle.
- B Temple of the Inscriptions is the tallest pyramid at the site, with the tomb of King Pakal inside.
- The Palace is a complex of courtyards and a tower, with carvings and a view over the site.
- Misol-Ha is a 35 m waterfall, close to the road to San Cristóbal.
- Agua Azul is a series of turquoise cascades. Swimming is not always safe, so check signs.
- Roberto Barrios is a quieter set of waterfalls and pools in the jungle.



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Getting there

- **By air**: The nearest large airport is Villahermosa (VSA), about 2.5 hours by road. Palenque has a small airport with limited flights.
- **By bus**: ADO buses run from Villahermosa, San Cristóbal (about 5 to 6 hours), Mérida and Campeche.
- **By road**: Mountain roads to San Cristóbal have many bends and speed bumps.

Country facts

Quick practical facts for Mexico at a glance:

CURRENCY

MXN $

EMERGENCY

911

ELECTRICITY



Type A / Type B
127 V · 60 Hz

LANGUAGES

Spanish

TAP WATER

Not safe to drink

Palenque Essentials

Palenque centers on the UNESCO-listed archaeological site, a 7th-century Maya city-state defined by its sophisticated architecture and hieroglyphic inscriptions. The site features the Temple of the Inscriptions, housing the tomb of Pakal the Great, and the Palace complex with its distinctive square tower. Beyond the ruins, the region offers the multi-tiered turquoise pools of Roberto Barrios and Aluxes Ecopark, a conservation center for endangered jaguars and scarlet macaws. This selection highlights the intersection of late-Classic Maya history and the lush biodiversity of the Chiapas rainforest.





A Zona Arqueologica Palenque

Palenque, also anciently known in the Itza Language as Lakamha', was a Maya city state in southern Mexico that perished in the 8th century.

Mexico (17.48465, -92.04539)

youtu.be/X5TsbVacB-g



B Temple of the Inscriptions

The Temple of the Inscriptions is the largest Mesoamerican stepped pyramid structure at the pre-Columbian Maya civilization site of...

Mexico (17.48366, -92.04694)

C Palace of Palenque

A complex of interconnected buildings and courtyards featuring a unique four-story square tower. It contains intricate stucco reliefs and vaulted corridors that served as the administrative and ceremonial center for the city's ruling elite.

Mexico (17.48396, -92.04626)

youtu.be/X5TsbVacB-g

D Cascades of Roberto Barrios

A series of tiered turquoise waterfalls and natural travertine pools located 30 kilometers from Palenque. The site includes multiple swimming areas and cascades set within the dense jungle of the Chiapas highlands.

(17.32985, -91.92805)

E Aluxes Ecopark

A wildlife rescue and rehabilitation center focused on native species. The park manages conservation programs for jaguars, scarlet macaws, and manatees, offering educational trails through reconstructed tropical ecosystems and botanical gardens.

Carretera Ruinas Palenque km 2.6, 29960 Palenque
(17.50187, -92.01555)

Mo–Th	09:00–17:00
Fr–Su	09:00–18:00

aluxes.org, +52 91 6688 0026

F Templo XIV

A small structure in the Cross Group containing a significant interior tablet. The relief depicts King Kan B'alam II and his mother, providing historical insight into the lineage and ritual practices of Palenque's royalty.

Mexico (17.48301, -92.04576)

DATA SOURCES

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