

Valladolid

Yucatán · Mexico

TRAVEL GUIDE

Tripomatic



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Overview

Valladolid is a small colonial town in the east of the Yucatán Peninsula, about halfway between Mérida and Cancún. It has pastel houses, a big plaza and a 16th-century convent. Several cenotes lie in and around the town, and it is the best base for Chichén Itzá.

It suits two nights, with the ruins as a day trip. The town is calm and cheaper than the coast.

When to visit

November to March is dry and cooler. April to October is hot and humid, with afternoon storms in summer. Chichén Itzá is best early in the morning, before the heat and tour buses.

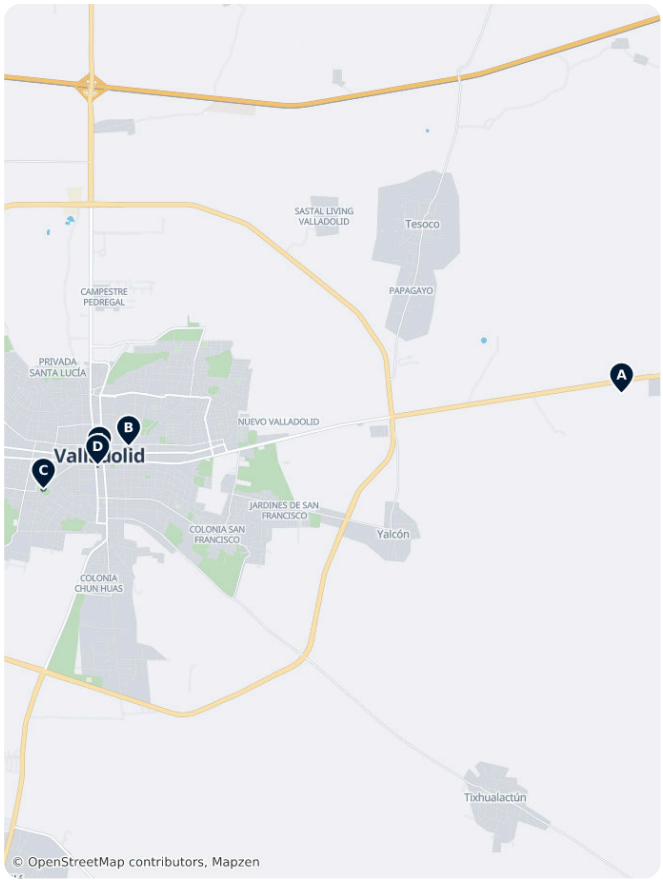
The spring equinox in March and the autumn equinox in September bring a light-and-shadow effect on the Chichén Itzá pyramid.

MONTH	CONDITIONS	DAY °C avg / max	NIGHT °C avg / min	
January	Good Good for sightseeing	30° / 33°	18° / 14°	Muggy, humid air · Calm winds
February	Good Good for sightseeing	31° / 34°	19° / 14°	Muggy, humid air · Calm winds · UV 8 (Very high)
March	Poor Poor for sightseeing	33° / 36°	20° / 16°	Muggy, humid air · Calm winds · UV 9 (Very high) · Up to 7 days above 35°
April	Poor Poor for sightseeing	35° / 38°	22° / 18°	Muggy, humid air · Calm winds · UV 10 (Very high) · Up to 18 days above 35°
May	Poor Poor for sightseeing	35° / 39° Feels like 39°	24° / 21°	Oppressive humidity · Calm winds · UV 10 (Very high) · Up to 20 days above 35°
June	Poor Poor for sightseeing	32° / 37° Feels like 37°	24° / 22°	19 rainy days · Oppressive humidity · Calm winds · UV 9 (Very high) · Up to 5 days above 35°
July	Poor Poor for sightseeing	31° / 35° Feels like 36°	24° / 22°	22 rainy days · Oppressive humidity · Calm winds · UV 10 (Very high)
August	Poor Poor for sightseeing	30° / 35° Feels like 36°	24° / 23°	24 rainy days · Oppressive humidity · Calm winds · UV 11 (Extreme)
September	Poor Poor for sightseeing	30° / 34° Feels like 36°	24° / 23°	24 rainy days · Oppressive humidity · Calm winds · UV 10 (Very high)
October	Poor Poor for sightseeing	29° / 32° Feels like 34°	22° / 18°	19 rainy days · Oppressive humidity · Calm winds · UV 9 (Very high)
November	Fair Fair for sightseeing	29° / 33° Feels like 32°	20° / 16°	Muggy, humid air · Calm winds
December	Good Good for sightseeing	29° / 33°	19° / 14°	Muggy, humid air · Calm winds

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

Top sights

- A Cenote Suytún is a cenote with a platform and a stone staircase, famous for its light and swimming.
- B Zaci Cenote is a cenote near the centre, with a cave and a swimming area.
- C Ex-Convent of San Bernardino de Siena is a fortress-like convent from the 16th century, a short walk from the centre.
- D Cathedral of San Gervasio is the town cathedral on the main square.
- E Parque Francisco Cantón Rosado is the central plaza, with benches, trees and cafes.
- Cenotes X-Kekén and Samulá are two linked cenotes southwest of town, in caves with roots and light.



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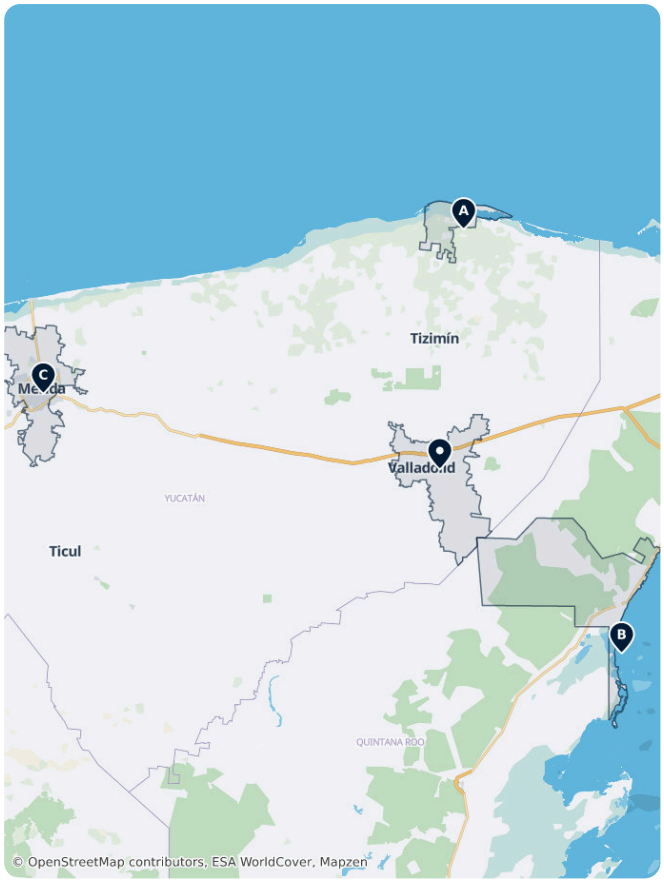
What to experience

- Swim in a cenote after the heat of the day.
- Walk the plaza in the evening, when families gather.
- Take an early trip to Chichén Itzá and return for lunch in town.
- Try Yucatecan dishes in a family restaurant near the main square.

Day trips

- Chichen-Itza: about 45 minutes by car. A large Maya city and World Heritage Site, with the famous pyramid.
- A Río Lagartos: about 1.5 hours by car. A coastal town with flamingos and pink salt lakes.
- B Tulum: about 1.5 hours by car. Cliff-top ruins and beaches.
- C Merida: about 2 hours by car or bus. The capital of Yucatán.



Where to explore

- Merida for Yucatán's colonial capital.
- Tulum for ruins and beaches on the coast.
- Río Lagartos for flamingos and pink lakes.
- Cancun for the nearest large airport.

Getting there

- **By air**: The nearest large airport is Cancún (CUN), about 2 hours by road. Mérida (MID) is about 2.5 hours away.
- **By bus**: ADO buses connect Valladolid with Cancún, Mérida, Playa del Carmen and Tulum. Local colectivo vans also run to nearby towns.
- **By road**: The highway between Mérida and Cancún passes near town. Toll roads are quicker than the free ones.

Getting around

- **On foot**: The centre is flat and compact.
- **Bike**: Rental bikes are easy for cenotes within a few kilometres.
- **Taxi and colectivo**: Taxis serve cenotes and nearby villages. Agree the fare first.

Getting around on foot & by bike

WALKABILITY

High

The colonial centre is flat and compact. Cenotes outside town need a bike, taxi or car.

CYCLING INFRASTRUCTURE

Moderate

Roads to nearby cenotes are flat, but the heat is strong.

Driving

- **Is a car worth it?**: Useful for Chichén Itzá, Río Lagartos and remote cenotes. Not needed if you stay in town.
- **Roads**: The toll highway is fast and in good condition. Speed bumps (topes) appear at the entrance to villages.
- **Parking**: Park in lots or on side streets near the plaza.

Food & drink

Yucatecan food is the main attraction: cochinita pibil (slow-roasted pork), lomitos de Valladolid (pork in tomato sauce, a local dish), poc chuc and sopa de lima. Longaniza, a spicy sausage, is a regional speciality.

Restaurants around the plaza are good for dinner. Small family places and markets offer cheaper meals.

What to eat & drink

LUNCH

Cochinita Pibil
Slow-roasted, citrus- and achiote-marinated pork, a Yucatán specialty traditionally cooked in an underground pit.

DINNER

Mole
A complex sauce, often built from chiles, spices, and sometimes chocolate; mole poblano and Oaxaca's several moles are the best known versions.

Chiles en Nogada
A Puebla dish of stuffed poblano chiles topped with a walnut cream sauce and pomegranate seeds, in the colors of the Mexican flag.

Pozole
A hominy stew with pork or chicken, topped with shredded cabbage, radish, and chile, traditionally eaten on special occasions.

SNACKS & STREET FOOD

Tacos
Corn or flour tortillas filled with meat, fish, or vegetables, with endless regional and stall-to-stall variation.

Tamales
Corn dough filled with meat, cheese, or vegetables, wrapped in a corn husk or banana leaf and steamed.

Elote/Esquites · Elote / Esquites
Grilled or boiled corn on the cob (elote) or served off the cob in a cup (esquites), topped with mayonnaise, cheese, chile, and lime.

DRINKS

Mezcal
A smoky agave spirit from Oaxaca and several other states, distinct from tequila, traditionally sipped neat.

Tequila
An agave spirit from the region around the town of Tequila in Jalisco, Mexico's best-known export spirit.

Horchata
A sweet, cinnamon-spiced rice-based drink, popular as a non-alcoholic accompaniment to spicy food.

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Safety & health

The town is generally safe. Take usual care with bags and phones at night.

- The heat is strong. Drink plenty of water and use sun protection.
- Cenotes can be deep and cold. Follow the rules and use a life jacket if offered.
- Rinse off sunscreen and repellent before swimming, to protect the water.
- Drink purified or bottled water.

History

Valladolid was founded by the Spanish in 1543 on the site of a Maya town. The convent of San Bernardino de Siena was built in the 16th century. The town was a centre of the Caste War of the 19th century, which began in the region in 1847.

Country facts

Quick practical facts for Mexico at a glance:

CURRENCY
MXN $

EMERGENCY
911

ELECTRICITY



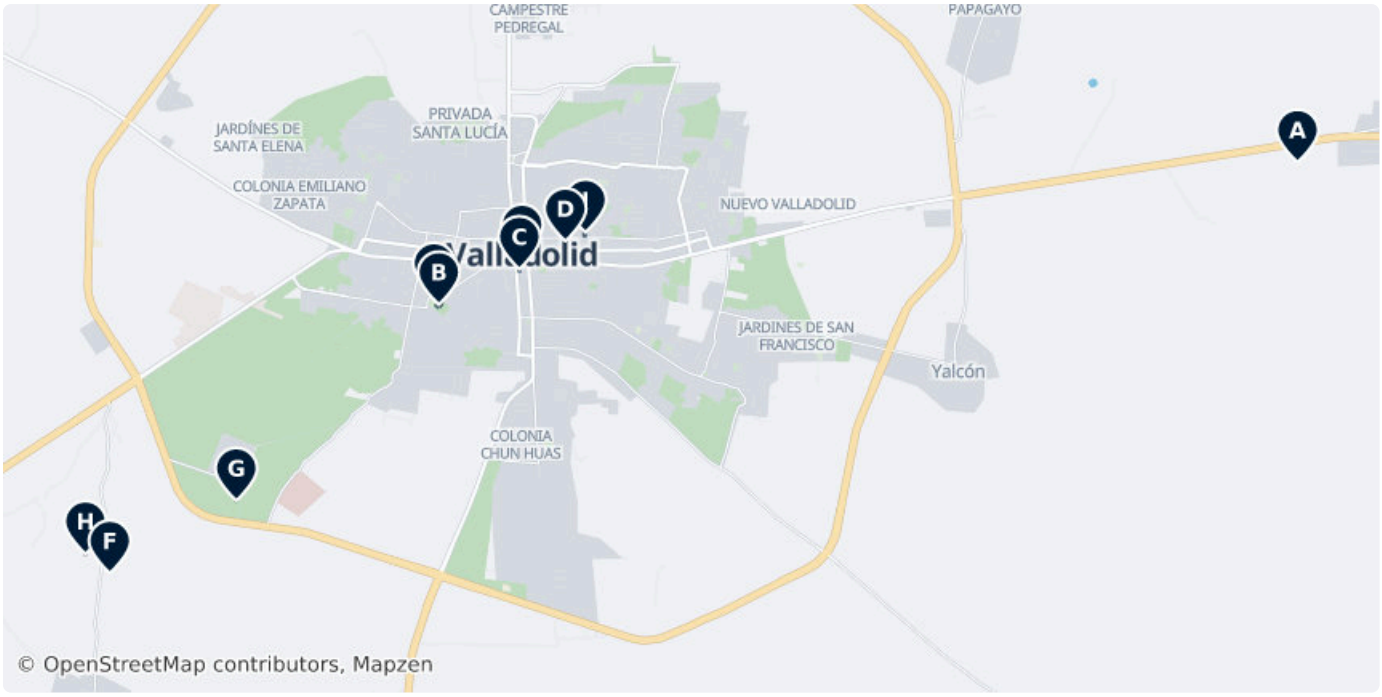
Type A / Type B
127 V · 60 Hz

LANGUAGES
Spanish

TAP WATER
Not safe to drink

Valladolid Essentials

Valladolid showcases the heritage of the Yucatan through its 16th-century architecture and natural geography. The city center features the San Bernardino de Siena Convent, a fortress-like Franciscan structure, and the Cathedral of San Gervasio with its Spanish baroque facade. Beyond the colonial streets, the region is defined by subterranean cenotes like the cavernous X-Kekén and Samulá, or the open-air Zací. Local life centers on the Francisco Cantón Rosado Park and the Mercado Municipal, where traditional Yucatecan goods are traded daily.





A Cenote Suytún

Natural freshwater sinkhole with clear blue waters and scenic surroundings, known for swimming and nature experiences.

Carretera Valladolid-Tikuch Km. 8, 97780 (20.69899, -88.12457)



B San Bernardino de Siena Convent

An important Franciscan edifice that has retained its importance into present days. It also holds many interesting events on its precincts.

97780 Valladolid (20.68579, -88.20993)

Mo–Sa	08:00–13:00, 17:00–20:00
Su	08:00–12:30



C Cathedral of San Gervasio

The 16th century cathedral built in a showy colonial style with Spanish baroque influences is worth stopping by.

42 202D, Valladolid, Yucatán, Mexico (20.68908, -88.20192)



D Cenote Zací

A nice getaway right in the middle of the city. Something between a natural swimming pool and park lake.

Calle 37 & 34-36, Valladolid, Yucatán, Mexico (20.69169, -88.19736)



E Fransisco Canton Rosado Park

The centre of the city and the main square. A pleasant, shady place surrounded with historical buildings.

Carretera Federal 180, Valladolid, Yucatán, Mexico (20.69020, -88.20166)



F Cenote X-Kekén

Underground cavern featuring a single overhead opening that allows sunlight to illuminate stalactites and turquoise waters.

Mexico (20.66082, -88.24264)



G Cenote Oxman

Located within Hacienda San Lorenzo Oxman, this deep sinkhole is characterized by hanging tree roots reaching down to the water and a stone staircase.

(Unnamed Road), Mexico (20.66756, -88.23006)



H Cenote Samulá

A cavernous limestone sinkhole featuring a large underground chamber with a central skylight and long tree roots extending toward the water.

Mexico (20.66262, -88.24506)



I Letras gigantes de Valladolid

Large, colorful sculptural letters spelling the city's name, located in the park fronting the San Bernardino de Siena Convent.

211 Calle 45, Valladolid 97784, Mexico (20.68661, -88.21040)

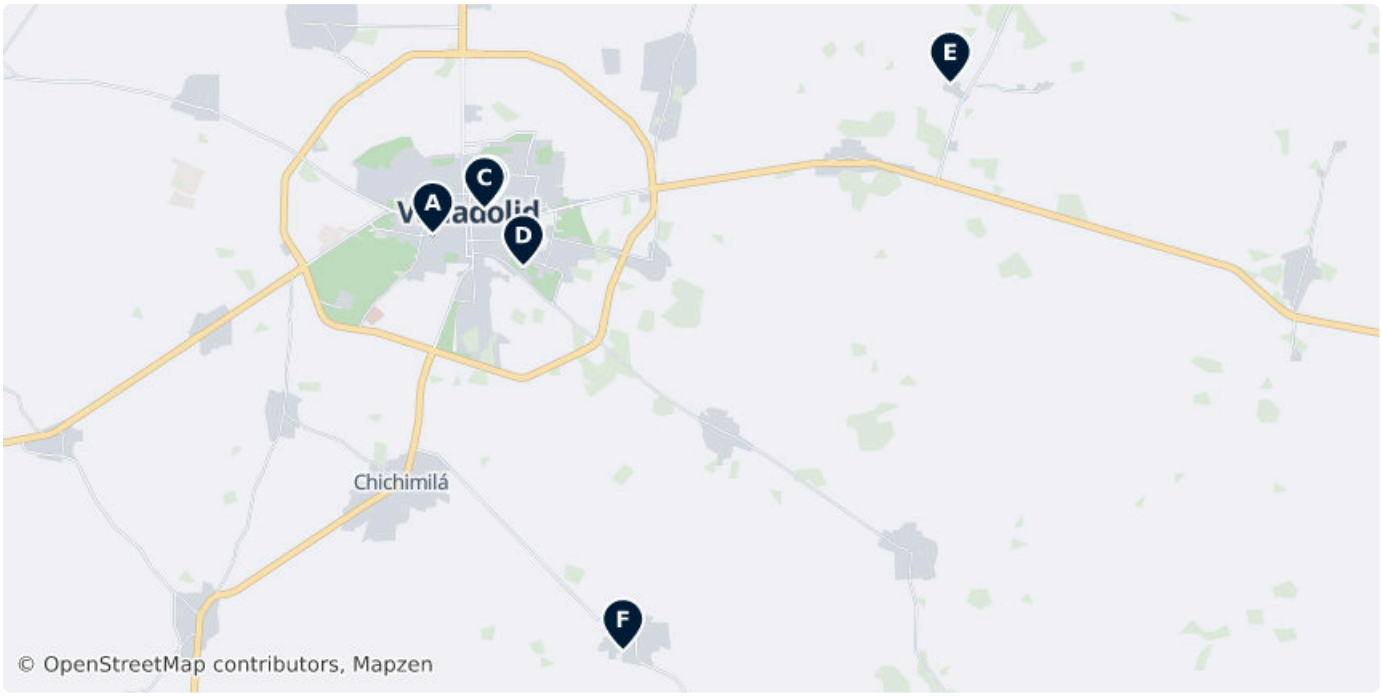
J Mercado Municipal "Donato Bates Herrera"

Traditional public market selling regional Yucatecan specialties, including longaniza de Valladolid, honey, fresh produce, and handmade textiles.

Calle 32, 97780 Valladolid (20.69250, -88.19535)

Valladolid Landmarks

Valladolid's landmarks showcase a blend of Franciscan history and indigenous culture. The 16th-century San Bernardino de Siena Convent serves as a major historical site, while the Museo Comunitario de Yaxché offers insight into local heritage. The city's artistic side is represented through open-air venues like the theater at Cenote Zaci and the Laboratorio de Teatro Campesino e Indígena in Xocen, which specializes in Mayan performance traditions. These locations highlight the architectural and social development of this Yucatecan city.





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B Chichen-Itza

A historical monument situated within the city of Valladolid.

Calle 34, Cabo Siena, 98780 Valladolid, YUC, Mexico (20.69147, -88.19715)

C Teatro al aire libre "Cenote Zaci"

Outdoor performance venue located adjacent to the Zaci cenote in the heart of the city.

(20.69126, -88.19786)

D Teatro al Aire Libre

Open-air theater used for community gatherings and local cultural presentations.

Valladolid 97783, Mexico (20.67865, -88.18877)

E Museo Comunitario de Yaxché

Community-run museum documenting the history and cultural practices of the Yaxché region.

(20.71860, -88.08924)

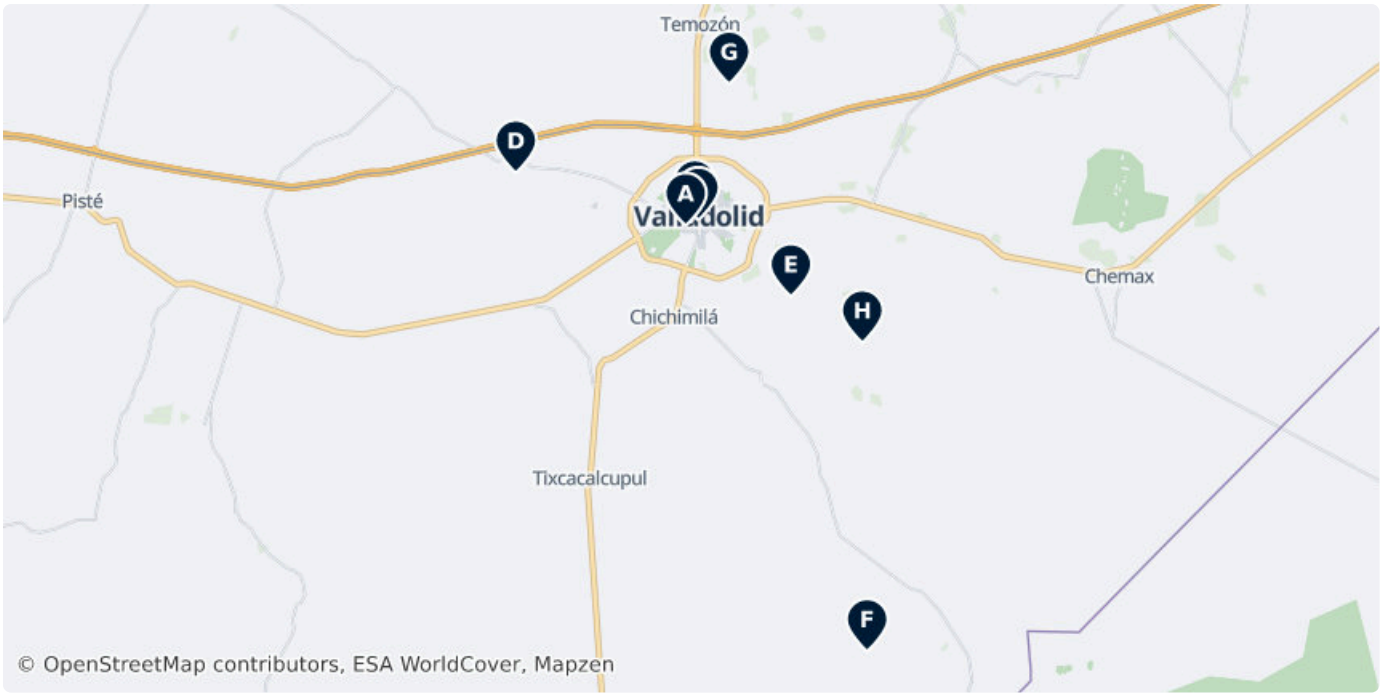
F Laboratio de Teatro Campesino e Indígena Xocen

Cultural center and theater dedicated to the study and practice of indigenous and peasant performance arts.

(20.59490, -88.16556)

Historic Churches of Valladolid

Valladolid's religious landscape is defined by 16th-century Franciscan architecture and the 'fortress-convent' style. This collection spans from the monumental San Bernardino de Siena complex to the unique north-south oriented Cathedral of San Gervasio. These sites showcase Spanish baroque influences, Moorish-style arches, and indigenous craftsmanship, with several structures built using stones reclaimed from nearby Mayan archaeological sites.





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42 202D, Valladolid, Yucatán, Mexico (20.68908, -88.20192)



C Convento de Candelaria

An 18th-century church featuring a distinct red facade and Moorish-style arches. It is dedicated to the Virgin of Candelaria and includes a small courtyard and cloister.

179 Calle 44, Valladolid, Mexico (20.69339, -88.20419)

D Templo y Ex Convento de Santiago Domingo

Located in nearby Uayma, this 17th-century former convent is known for its facade decorated with stars, rosettes, and the Habsburg double-headed eagle, constructed using stones from Mayan ruins.

Calle 18, Uayma 97796, Mexico (20.71675, -88.31673)

E Iglesia Principal de Tixhualactún

Colonial-era village church serving the community of Tixhualactún.

Calle 25, Tixhualactún, Mexico (20.64404, -88.14374)

F Iglesia principal de Nohsuytún

Small rural church in the community of Nohsuytún.

(Unnamed Road), Nohsuytún, Mexico (20.43522, -88.09579)

G Iglesia principal de Chan Yokdzonot

Local community church in Chan Yokdzonot.

Carretera a Chan Yokdzonot, Chan Yokdzonot, Mexico (20.76903, -88.18258)

H Iglesia de Kanxoc

A historic church in a significant Mayan community that played a prominent role during the 19th-century Caste War.

Calle 53, Kanxoc 97785, Mexico (20.61694, -88.09887)

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