



The Five most beautiful Maya cities : Chichen Itza, Uxmal, Palenque, Tikal, Copán



Directed by Jacques VICHET

A documentary of 52'

French Version
English Version

High Definition
HD Cam & Digital Betacam 16/9

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A long forgotten culture, the Maya civilisation's past is filled with myths, scientific discoveries and impressive constructions.

We invite you to discover the five most beautiful Maya cities, the only remaining keys to decrypt this legendary civilisation.

Chichen Itza was probably the main religious centre of Yucatan. Many mysteries remain about its chronology and the identity of the Itza. Architectural know-how and astrological wisdom are linked in this site, serving as a calendar.

Uxmal, the final Maya city presented in this film, is the best preserved site, but also the most obscure.

Lack of historical sources makes it impossible to understand this temple. The elegant architecture is of glacial beauty, leaving no crack through which to peek into the mystery of the stone.

Palenque, "where the sun dives into the Jaguar's realm", is in the Mexican state of Chiapas. With only 10% of its area discovered so far, the site is filled with secrets. The ex-capital of the B'akaal region, Palenque is a historical site, witness to the glory and catastrophes of the Maya civilisation.

Tikal, unlike its sisters, has left us with some clues. With an important transcription of a list of kings, most of whose tombs have been discovered, as well as monumental sculptures, temples and palaces, Tikal is one of the most well-known Maya cities.

Discovered by the conquistadors in 1570, Copan lays in ruins under an invasive and dense jungle.

The site is one of the first modern archaeological digs of the Maya civilisation, at the start of the 19th century.

The archaeologist John Lloyd Stephens and draughtsman Frederick Catherwood were mainly responsible for sparking interest for Mesoamerican antiquity.