



## Mexico : The Yucatan, Maya Country



The Yucatan peninsula boasts some of the most beautiful archaeological sites in the Americas: the extraordinary Chichen Izta and Uxmal.

The Mayas are a native American people from Central America, founders of a brilliant civilization, which, after a period of very strong growth between the 7th and the 9th century AD, then gradually faded into insignificance.

The Maya civilization extended from the Mexican states of Chiapas and Yucutan, through parts of Belize, Guatemala, and Honduras.

Chichen Itza, voted as one of the new wonders of the world, stands as an eloquent reminder of the former greatness of the Maya civilisation, which has now all but disappeared.

Here we find the great pyramid referred to as « Castillo » by the Spanish conquistadors. From its peak, you can see out over the buildings of the ancient city, the temples, the real tennis courts, and the pigeon houses, as well as the forest.

Uxmal, is another ancient Maya city, but this time, dating from the classical period. The architecture is typical of the Puuc style; facades at ground level are kept simple, with more elaborate decorations being kept for the upper levels.

The pyramid and the buildings of Uxmal are extraordinarily charming. Yucatan also has a number of colonial towns.

The Spanish influence is visible to this day in the architectural style and lay-out of towns such as Mérida, Valladolid, and Isamal. As well as the streets lined with the pastel coloured houses typical of Yucutan, each town has a central square known as the Zocalo, bordered by the symbolic structures of colonial power, the governor's palace, the town hall, and the cathedral.

**Directed by Jacques VICHET**

A documentary of 52'

*French Version*  
*English Version*

High Definition  
HD Cam & Digital Betacam 16/9