


LABNÁ
 Yucatan

BRIEF HISTORICAL REVIEW

Labná is located in the district of Bolonchén, in a valley; it is believed that the city had an extension of 2.2 km² and it has been calculated that it could easily accommodate a population of **3,000 inhabitants**.

The central area is located in the plain of the valley and is comprised by groups of formal architecture. The Palace is located north and south you can find the group of the Mirador and the Main Square. The surrounding hills were occupied, so they are called "residential hills".

Labná had two important moments of occupation; the oldest one is located in the south and among its constructions **the Mirador and the group of the Main Square stand out**. During the **8th and 10th centuries, A.D.**, the city took its current form and it is then when most of its buildings were built; most notably The Arch group and The Palace complex, residence place for the dominant group and **center of the administrative and religious activities** of the latter period.



The presence of "towers", similar to those of the Chenes region is noteworthy. Its location in the north access of the Main Square has allowed it to be identified as the **Sacred Precinct** of the city. Due to the stucco elements, with which the towers were decorated, it is believed that they were representations of the cosmic tree of the center of the world or Wakah Chan.

TOPONYM	Old House
CULTURE	Mayan
PERIOD	Late Classic
TIMESPAN	300 BC to AD 1000

DISCOVER IT YOURSELF

We recommend that you carefully scan the first level of the Palace, in the central room you will find a **main square** decorated with anthropomorphic faces, possibly representations of ancestors. Decorating the facade of Room 19, which has been interpreted as the **Throne Hall**, is a mask in strong relief, with a date corresponding to A.D. 862, possibly marking the opening moment of this Throne Hall.


A typical example of the Puuc cities Labná, a World Heritage Site, stands majestically in the valley awaiting the visit of travelers.




OUTSTANDING STRUCTURE

📍 The Palace


Located on the highest point of the valley is The Palace. In fact it is a set of at least seven buildings distributed in two levels which went through different construction stages, the earliest ones not belonging to the Puuc architecture and located in the highest part of the hill. Then, in this same sector, a courtyard

 **HOW TO GET THERE**

From Merida take road 261 towards Campeche, until reaching the intersection of the state road 31 (road to the Puuc route). It is 9 km from Sayil.


 **COST**

In accordance with the provisions of the Federal Law of Rights: Free entrance for children under 13, students and teachers with current ID cards, senior citizens, retirees and pensioners, as well as workers and researchers of INAH.

 **PHOTOGRAPHS**

A professional license is required for professional cameras and tripods. The use of video cameras is paid in accordance with the Federal Law of Rights.

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 **OPENING HOURS**

Monday to Sunday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

TEXTS

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arrangement is built, already with Puuc architecture, which must have housed the first ruling lineages of the site.

In the following period, the Mayas add to the hill an enormous platform about 150 meters long and 70 meters wide, with 40 enclosures, most of them next to the hill. By the Terminal Classic period, the Palace was the seat of political and religious power; it was never finished, since in the northeast sector we can see a series of unfinished rooms.





ARCHITECTURE

Labná's buildings were built in Puuc style, which thrived in the region from A.D. 750 to A.D. 1000. Three of the best examples: The Viewpoint, the Arch and the Palace, show the skills achieved by the builders. At the Mirador we can appreciate the beginnings of the style marked by the smooth facades and, in this case, by its high crenellations with stucco decorations.

The Arch and the Palace display a more advanced stage of the Puuc style, called mosaic. We can see how the stone shapes the Chaak masks, straw houses, anthropomorphic sculptures and stepped edges.



MUST-SEE

- A** The Palace
- B** The Viewpoint
- C** The Arch




- 1 The Temple of the Columns
- 2 Sacbé



DID YOU KNOW...?

- In The Palace there is a courtyard buried beneath tons of stone.
- The only way to get to the Sacred Precinct was through the sacbé and the tour had to begin at The Palace.
- The Arch illustrated the bills of a national gold peso issued by the Constitutionalist Government of Yucatan in 1916.
- Phallic representations are common in the Puuc region and are usually related to fertility.

SOME FIGURES

-  67 The Palace has 67 rooms.
-  1300 The city was occupied for 1300 continuous years.
-  60 In the center of the city there is an estimated 60 chultunes.

YOU CAN'T MISS...

- While hiking on the Puuc route, visiting the village of Santa Elena is essential. One of the main attractions of the village is the 16th century church, where you may find a museum exhibiting the only mummies that have been found in the region.
- The pottery workshop *Los Ceibos*, located in Muna, where excellent craftsmanship and reproductions of archaeological pieces are made and whose owners have recovered, in part, the pre-Hispanic tradition of polychrome vessels.



WHERE TO SEE?

At the sacbé, running from north to south, we can see the Mirador (Viewpoint) and the entrance to the Sacred Precinct and from south to north we get a view of the Palace.