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# Visits to archaeological sites decrease 81%

The sanitary contingency due to COVID-19 implied that museums and archaeological sites had to close, and more than a year later, the slow reopening of these areas just started

Congregación Mariana Trinitaria is committed to culture and art because we know that they are fundamental for education so, through the network called Art, Culture, Sports and Youth, which is part of the Welfare Ecosystem Model, we offer integral solutions to empower them during the pandemic using our resources in technology and connectivity to take cultural landmarks closer to people in vulnerable conditions.



According to INAH, the archaeological site of Palenque is one of the sites that allows access to the public.

he number of people who visited the archaeological sites in Mexico decreased 81.1 percent in January and February 2021, compared to the number of visitors during the same period last year, as revealed by data from the Ministry of Tourism in Mexico.

The first two months of the year 2020, considering national and foreign people, a total of two million 778 thousand 732 people visited the archaeological sites in Mexico, compared to 525 thousand 868 visitors during the same period this year.

"During the first bimester in 2021, the National Institute of Anthropology and History reported a number of 546 thousand 510 visitors (in archaeological sites and museums), that is to say, 4 million 471 thousand visitors less than the ones reported during the same period in 2020, which represents a decrease of 89.1 percent. In the total number of visitors, 65.6 percent were national visitors and 34.4 percent were foreign people" mentioned the Ministry of Tourism.

## Arrivals of national and foreign visitors to the main archaeological sites in the country



State	Archaeological site	2020	2021	Total
Quintana Roo	Tulum	322,316	184,432	-42.8%
Yucatán	Chichén Itzá	486,156	134,955	-72.2%
Quintana Roo	Cobá	129,861	46,983	-63.8%
Chiapas	Palenque and the museum "Alberto Ruz L'Huiller"	184,610	40,110	-78.3%
Yucatán	Uxmal and its local museum	69,191	22,936	-66.9%
Oaxaca	Monte Albán and its local museum	86,436	22,855	-73.6%
Yucatán	Ekbalam	31,903	10,946	-65.7%
Yucatán	Dzibilchaltún and Museo del Pueblo Maya	29,066	8,270	-71.5%
State of Mexico	Z. A. Teotihuacán (con Museo de Sitio)	441,407	7,470	-98.3%
Campeche	Teotihuacán and its local museum	10,214	5,545	-45.7%
Others	Other archaeological sites	842,455	7,428	-99.1%
Total of archaeological sites in the country		2,778,732	525,868	-81.1%

Source: Ministry of Tourism in Mexico (January - February, 2021)

### A complicated period

The considerable decrease of visitors to touristic zones took place in tandem with the sanitary contingency caused by GOVID-19 and the lockdown after that. According to the Ministry of Tourism, in some beach destinations, hotels experienced occupancy rates of only 1 percent in 2020.

"The economic scenario that Mexico faced as a consequence of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 was deeply connected to the evolution of infections, lockdown, and the sanitary measures that were implemented. The effect of those measures caused a reduction in the mobility of the population and the rhythm of economic activities also reduced" mentioned the federal department in charge.

Most of the archaeological sites and museums closed right after the sanitary contingency and their reopening happened slowly, some sites allowed visitors since June 2020 and some others only a week ago.

One of the effects of COVID-19 was closing borders, so the reduction of travelers became an important factor to reduce the demand of services in the country either for touristic or business purposes.

## Arrivals of national and foreign visitors to the main museums in the country



State	Museum	2020	2021	Total	
Quintana Roo	Museo Maya in Cancún and its archaeological site	15,903	2,585	-46.1%	
Campeche	De Arqueología Maya Fuerte de San Miguel	14,057	3,694	-71.0%	
Campeche	De Arquitectura Maya, Baluarte de la Soledad	9,032	2,378	-68.7%	
Yucatán	Regional de Yucatán "Palacio Cantón"	16,800	2,064	-83.9%	
Campeche	De Arqueología Subacuática Fuerte de San José El Alto	6,793	2,031	-68.9%	
Campeche	De Arqueología Maya del Camino Real de Hecelchakán	705	361	-47.9%	
State of Mexico	Capilla Abierta de Tlalmanalco	2,097	0	-100.0%	
State of Mexico	Capilla Abierta del Templo de Calimaya	600	0	-100.0%	
Guanajuato	Casa de Hidalgo	10,980	0	-100.0%	
Puebla	Casa de la Palestina	0	0	0.0%	
Total of museums in the country		2,238,923	13,13	-99.1%	

Source: Ministry of Tourism in Mexico (January - February, 2021)

## Most of the archaeological sites are closed

The National Institute of Anthropology and History (INAH) is responsible for a total number of 193 archaeological sites and a paleontological zone, which are regularly open in the country the whole year, however, due to COVID-19 most of them are currently closed.

Chiapas has 10 archaeological sites supervised by INAH, and only two of them are open: Palenque and Bonampak. Oaxaca has 11 sites and only Monte Albán and Mitla allow visitors, according to the last report posted by the department in charge published on April 21, 2021.

In Quintana Roo, 17 archaeological sites are supervised by INAH, and only seven of them allow the access of tourists. In Yucatán, 17 archaeological sites are supervised by that institute, and only seven of them are open to visitors; just to mention some examples in some states.

### **CMT and Art and Culture**

Congregación Mariana Trinitaria, A.C., through its Welfare Ecosystem Model and its network called Art, Culture, Sports and Youth; is aware of the importance of cultural centers in education so, it offers a series of integral solutions to build, promote, and get equipment for those areas.

One of the objectives CMT has, is taking people in vulnerable conditions closer to art, culture and sports, in order to develop skills that contribute to social inclusion.

Now, museums and archaeological sites are closed, but CMT takes advantage of its network of Education, technology, and connectivity to offer virtual tours.

This way, CMT aims to improve the opportunities of many families to have access to art, culture, and social sports by offering integral solutions that contribute to build and improve the current infrastructure and to facilitate their promotion.



