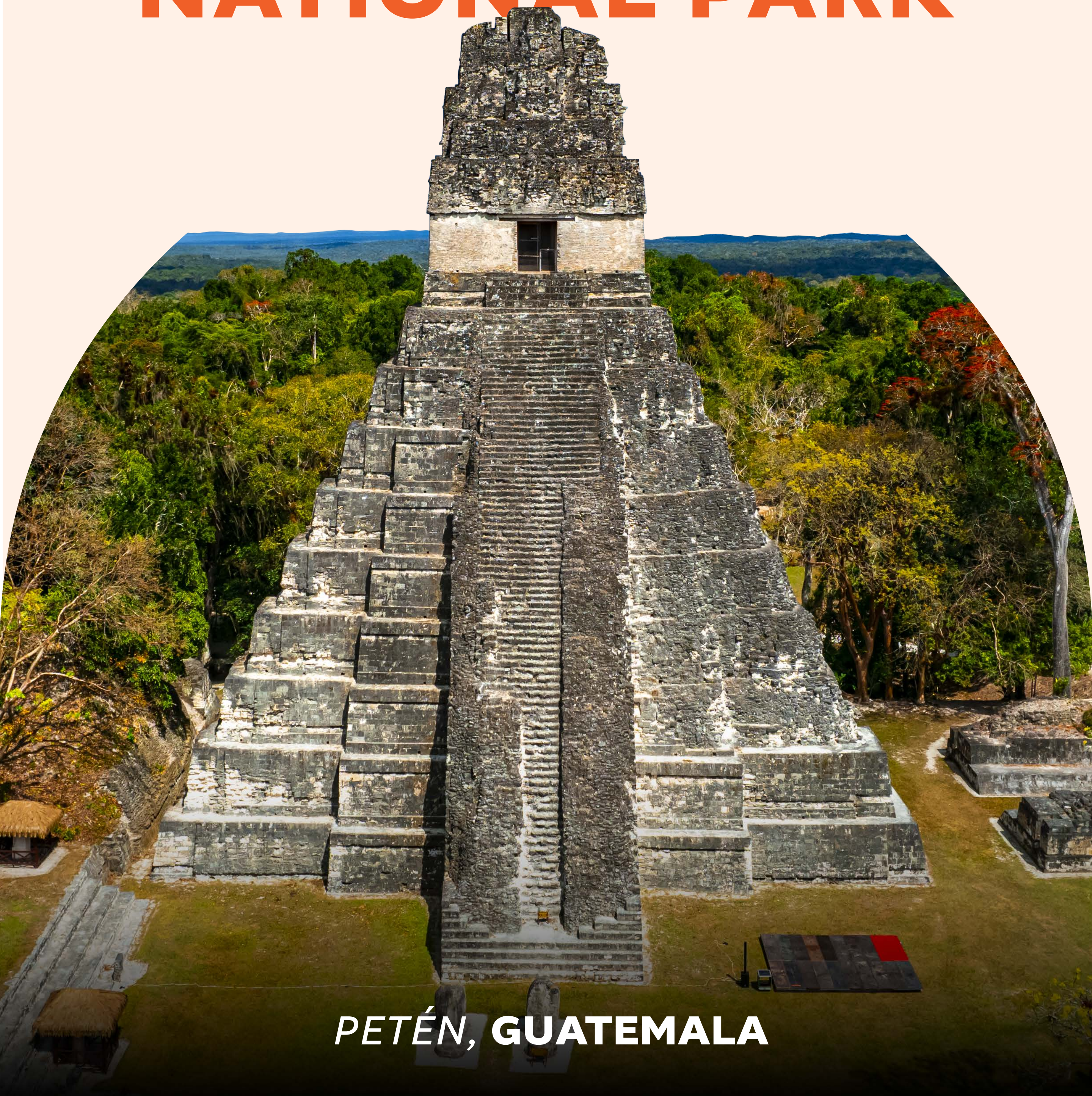


Welcome to
TIKAL
NATIONAL PARK



PETÉN, **GUATEMALA**





THE PARK

Tikal National Park, in the department of Petén, was created in May 1955 and regulated in September 1957. It covers an area of 576 km² and its sides measure 24 km in length. It is considered one of the most important natural and cultural reserves in Guatemala and the world due to the huge wealth of fauna and flora, as well as the countless vestiges of the Maya civilization found there.

HEART OF THE MAYA WORLD

Tikal National Park, located in the department of Petén, is undoubtedly of great cultural and natural importance in Guatemala, with ecosystems and habitats that are home to a diversity of flora and fauna. The city was inhabited from the 6th century BC to the 10th century AD and has been recognized by UNESCO as a World Cultural and Natural Heritage Site.



Tikal National Park was declared **Cultural World Heritage by UNESCO** in 1979.



1. GRAND PLAZA

Located at the epicenter of the entire site, it is the heart of Tikal and the central element of the urban spatial organization of this Maya city. It houses various buildings and numerous stelae. To the north, it is bordered by a row of sculpted stelae and altars, which contain a large part of Tikal's dynastic sequence. Immediately to the north rises the complex of ceremonial buildings known as the Acropolis, which also functioned as mausoleum for ruling families; to the south, another complex of palace-like structures, known as the Central Acropolis, serves as residential or administrative areas. The east side is occupied by Temple I, or Temple of the Great Jaguar, and a small ball court, while to the west is Temple II, or the Temple of the Masks.



2. PLAZA OF THE GREAT PYRAMID OR THE LOST WORLD

Located about 300 meters southwest of the Great Plaza, it acquires importance due to the presence of the oldest building in Tikal, currently visible, called the Great Pyramid or Structure 5C-54. It is approximately 35 meters high and forms a complex for astronomical observation, along with structures 5D-84, 5D-88, located to the east of it. 400 meters south of this plaza is the 6C-XVI group or the Masks.

3. PLAZA OF THE SEVEN TEMPLES

Located immediately east of the Great Pyramid plaza, it is made up of a series of ceremonial buildings from the Late Classic period that combine four architectural elements: three ballcourt patios to the north, seven temples to the east, three administrative and residential buildings to the south, and the rear of the Group E or Lost World buildings. To the west of this closed plaza, by the temples of the Great Pyramid plaza is a five-gate palace from the Early Classic period, which was filled in and used as the foundation for another building during the Late Classic period.

4. EAST PLAZA

The Méndez and Maler causeways meet here and you can see Temple 5D-38 and structure 5D-43, which is characterized by its slope-board style, unrestored market structures (4) and a ball court. There is a rest area here.

5. WEST PLAZA

It has no restored buildings, but many plain stelae and altars, with a rest area for visitors.

MAJOR TEMPLES

Within Tikal there are six large temples, all built during the late classic period.

6. TEMPLE I

Great Jaguar Temple, which closes the Great Plaza to the east and measures 45 m high. It was built around 700 A.D. by the ruler Jasaw Chan K'wiil I (also known as Ah Cacao, Lord A, 682–734), whose tomb (burial 116) was found inside. A replica of this tomb is in the Sylvanus G. Morley Museum.





7. TEMPLE II

Temple of the Masks, closes the Great Plaza to the west, measures 38 m high, like Temple I was built by the Ruler Ah Cacao around the year 700 AD.

8. TEMPLE III

Temple of the High Priest, located west of Temple II, measures approximately 60 m in height and on its front are Stela 24 and Altar 7; it was built around 810 AD. It has an original carved wooden lintel, its central figure wearing a jaguar skin.

9. TEMPLE IV

The Temple of the Two-Headed Serpent is located west of the Great Plaza. It stands 65 m tall, making it the tallest structure in Tikal. It was built around 740 A.D. by the Yikin' Chan ruler Káwiil.

A parking area and a rest area have been built to the south of this temple.



10. TEMPLE V

Located south of the Central Acropolis, it stands 57 m high; according to recent excavations, it was built between 550 and 650 AD. Its north facade has currently been restored.

11. TEMPLE VI

Known as the Temple of Inscriptions, it is located at the southern end of the Méndez Causeway. Its crest features

the longest hieroglyphic text at Tikal, mentioning the date 766 AD. It was apparently also built by ruler Yik'in Chan K'awill, and the glyphic inscription was later placed there by ruler Chitam. In front of the temple are Stela 21 and Altar 9.

TWIN PYRAMID COMPLEXES

This name is given to groups of four buildings: two truncated pyramids with steps on each side, located to the east and west of the plaza; to the south, a structure with nine entrances; and to the north, the so-called Stela Enclosure, within which is a stela with its respective altar, which are regularly carved. Facing the pyramid to the east are nine plain stelae with their altars, five of which can be visited. Seven of these complexes are known in Tikal, and they were built at 20-year intervals to commemorate the end of Katún (a period of time equivalent to 20 years).

12. COMPLEX N

It is located near Temple IV and was built in 711 A.D. by the ruler Jasaw Chan Káwill. It houses replicas of Stela 16 and Altar 5.

13. COMPLEX O

Located to the west of complex R, it is the only one in the northern enclosure that has a stela and a plain altar; it is believed to have been built in 731 AD.

14. COMPLEX P

It is located at the end of the Maudsia Causeway and was built in 751 A.D. by the ruler Yik'in Chan K'awill. It has replicas of Stela 20 and Altar 8, and also features five plain stelae and altars.

15. COMPLEX Q

Located east of Complex R, it was built in 771 A.D. by ruler Yaw Nuun Ayiin II. Stela 22 and Altar 10 are located here, and it also features nine plain stelae and altars. It has been partially restored, giving a better idea of what this type of building complex represents.

16. COMPLEX R

It is located approximately halfway along the Maler causeway and was built in 790 A.D. by the ruler Yax Nuun Ayiin II. Stela 19 and Altar 6 are located there.

ACROPOLIS

Currently, three groups of buildings can be seen in Tikal, which have been called acropolis.



17. NORTH ACROPOLIS

It is located north of the Great Plaza and has various ceremonial structures and masks from structure 5D-33.

18. CENTRAL ACROPOLIS

It is located south of the Great Plaza, and has various residential and administrative structures, buildings with several rooms and floors such as the palace of Siyaj Chan K'will II (also known as the Stormy Sky-411-456), the Maler Palace and the Five-Story Palace, bordered to the south by the so-called reservoir or palace waterhole.

19. SOUTH ACROPOLIS

This area has not yet been researched. It is located between the Plaza of the Seven Temples and Temple V.

CAUSEWAYS

There are five visible causeways in Tikal and it is believed that these worked as processional avenues.

20. MÉNDEZ

Starts in the East Plaza and goes in the direction of Temple IV. It is almost 1 km in length.

21. MALER

It connects the northern area with the East Plaza and measures approximately 350 m; near the northern area, on the roadway, there is a sculpted rock from the late classic period.

22. MAUDSLAY

It connects Temple IV with the North area and is almost 750 m in length.

23. TOZZER

It connects Temple IV with the west Plaza and is almost 250 m in length.

MORLEY

Located in group 6B-II or Baringer, it is perhaps 100 m in length. (Not shown on the map).

OTHER POINTS OF INTEREST

24. GROUP G

It is located on one side of the Méndez Causeway and consists of various palace-like structures with 29 chambers. The outer wall of structure 5E-58 is decorated with grooves. Access to the group is through a vaulted tunnel, the entrance to which is the mouth of a figurehead.

25. GROUP F

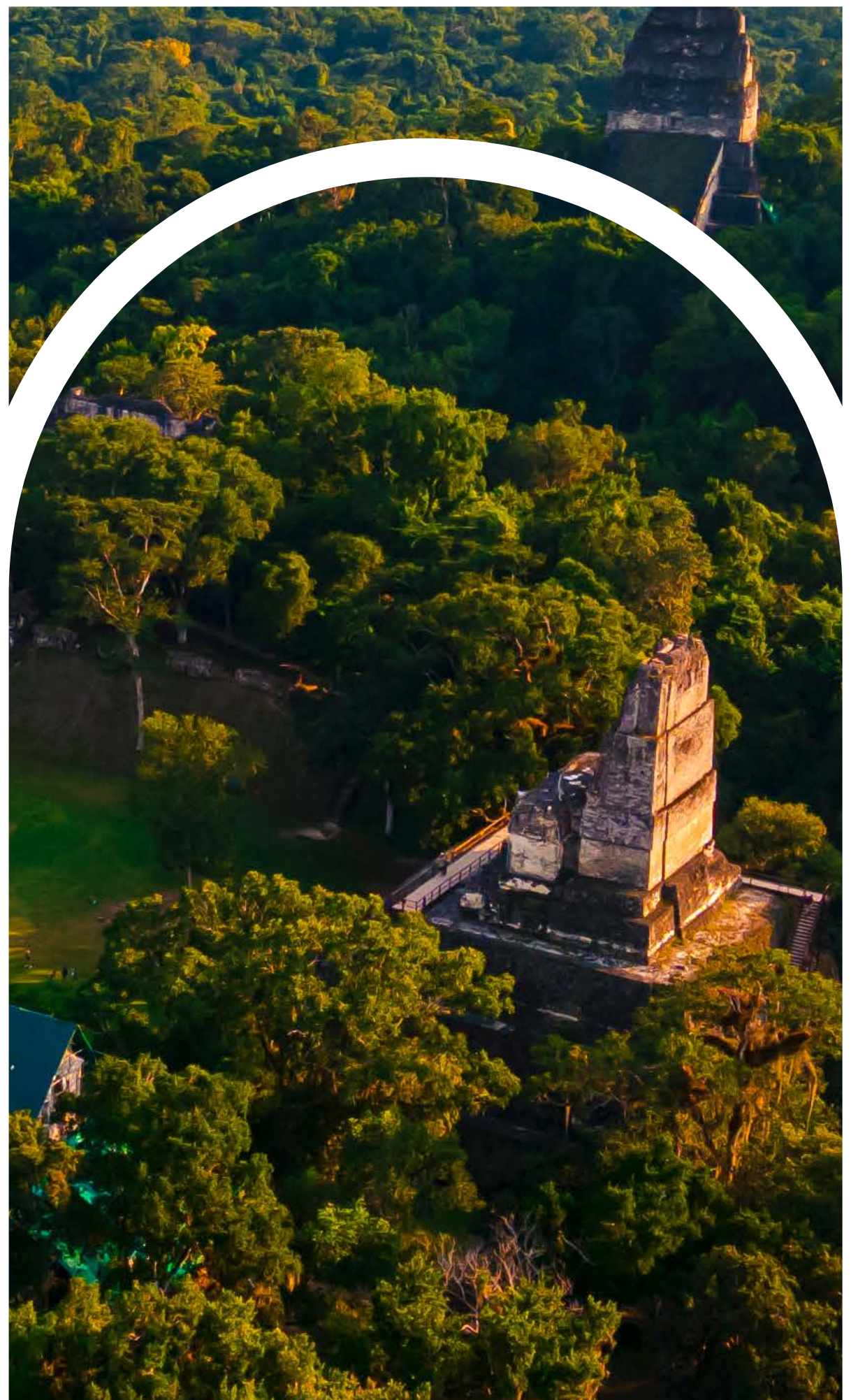
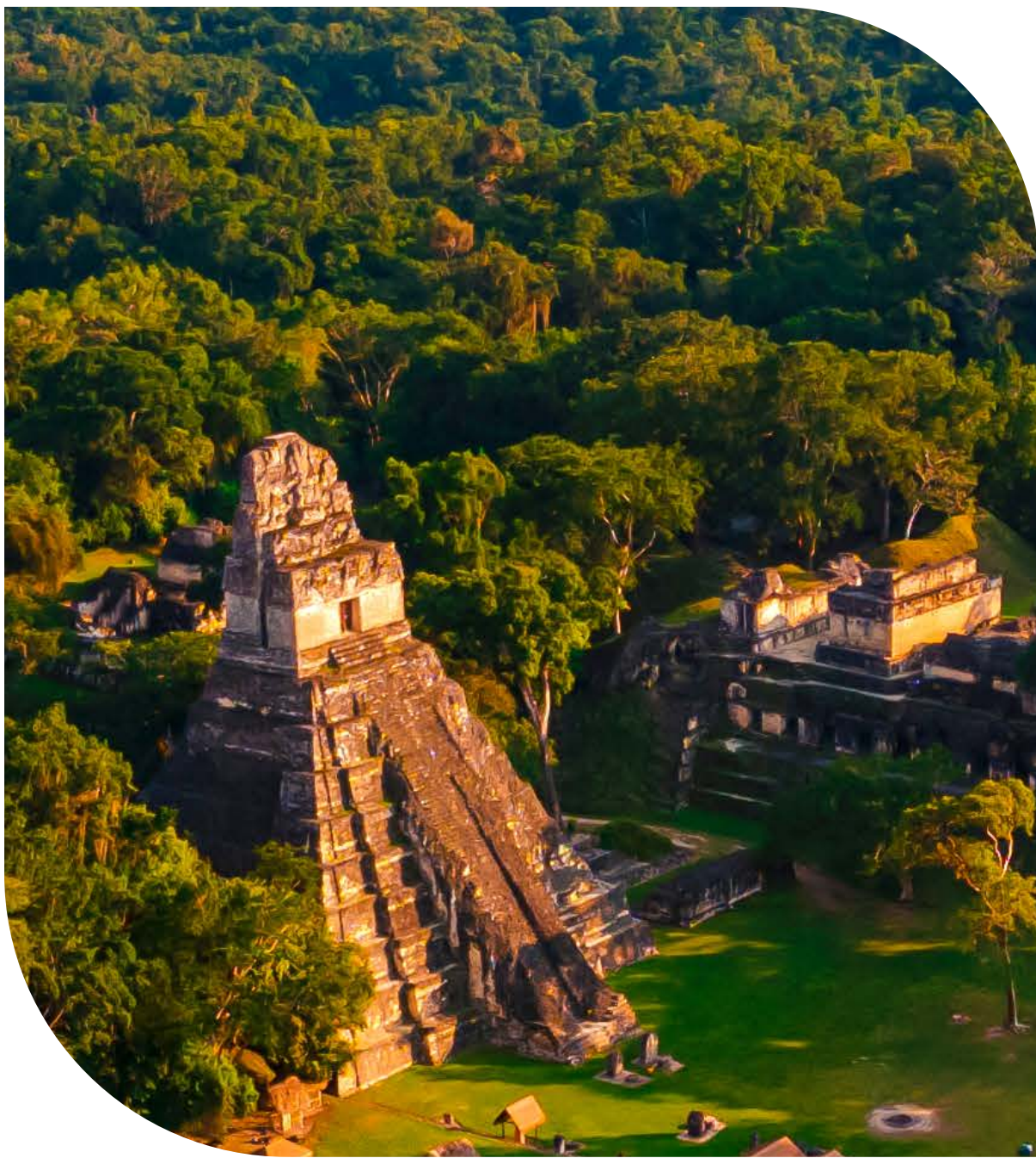
It consists of four partially consolidated Late Classic palace-type buildings. Nearby is structure 5E-22, one of the two known temascals (steam baths) at Tikal.

26. DE LAS VENTAS PALACE

Also known as the Palace of the Bats, it consists of a group of structures located west of Temple III. The building that gives its name to the group is partially restored and consists of a large number of interconnected rooms.

27. NORTH ZONE

The Mudslay and Maler causeways lead to it. The main buildings are structures 3D-40 and 3D-43, as well as two smaller twin temples, 3D-41 and 3D. On the west side of the platform supporting structure 3D-43 is the other temascal discovered in Tikal, covered by later constructions. Inside structure 3D-43, the structure known as Tikal Man was located, dating from the Early Classic period.



THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE

The mapped area covers 16 square kilometers and contains more than 4,000 structures or buildings of various kinds. The first evidence of occupation at the site dates back to approximately 800 BC, a period in Maya history identified as the Middle Preclassic. The latest constructions found is of the Late Classic period, approximately 900 AD. These 1,500 consecutive years of occupation gave the site a high level of cultural, artistic, architectural, urban, mathematical, astronomical, agricultural, and commercial development. This has motivated international admiration and scientific interest.

TIKAL
NATIONAL PARK



BEHAVIOR IN THE PARK



References

Squares	Acropolis
1 Grand square	17 North acropolis
2 Square of the Great Pyramid of Lost World	18 Central acropolis
3 Square of The Seven Temples	19 South acropolis
4 East square	
5 West square	
Temples	Roadways
6 Temple I	20 Méndez
7 Temple II	21 Maler
8 Temple III	22 Maudslay
9 Temple IV	23 Tozzer
10 Temple V	
11 Temple VI	
Complejos	Other places
12 Complex N	24 Group G
13 Complex O	25 Group F
14 Complex P	26 Palace of The Windows
15 Complex Q	27 North zone
16 Complex R	
	Hotels
	28 Posada de La Selva
	29 Jaguar Inn
	30 Tikal Inn

SOUTHEAST
MAYA BIOSPHERE





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