



Landmark #26  
**Chichen Itza**  
Mexico



Chichen Itza was a large **Maya city** dating back to the **Terminal Classic period (c. CE 800–900)**. The archaeological site is located in Tinúm Municipality, Yucatán State, Mexico. The place had been a major crossroads in the Northern Maya Lowlands since the Late Classic period (c. CE 600–900), which accounts for the presence of a plethora of **architectural styles** at this site. As one of the largest Maya cities, it is likely to have been one of the mythical great cities, or **Tollans**, referred to in later Mesoamerican literature. The city may have had the most diverse population in the Maya world – a factor that may have contributed to the abovementioned diversity of architectural styles.



Chichen Itza is also well-known for its so-called '**Sacred Cenote**', a natural well of water accessible by a steep hole. According to both Maya and Spanish post-Conquest sources, pre-Columbian Maya sacrificed objects and human beings into the cenote as a form of worship to the rain god **Chaac**. American archaeologist **Edward Herbert Thompson** explored the Sacred Cenote between **1904** and **1910**, from where he recovered artifacts of gold, jade, pottery, and incense, as well as human remains whose wounds were found to be consistent with **human sacrifice**, thus bolstering this hypothesis.

Click on the Pictures for two **VIDEOS** on Chichen Itza