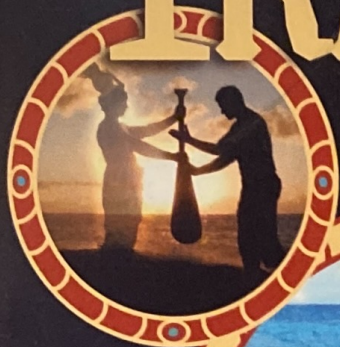


LA TRAVESÍA



KIT DE PRENSA



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Sigue la ruta sagrada y escucha el mensaje de Ixchel porque ...

¡En ti, vive la historia!





LA TRAVESÍA SAGRADA 2009

UN VIAJE A LA RITUALIDAD DE LOS MAYAS

La tercera edición de **La Travesía Sagrada Maya** se llevará a cabo del 21 al 23 de mayo del presente año. Saldrán 30 canoas de ocho metros de largo, con tripulaciones de cuatro a seis canoeros. El reto es cruzar el Canal de Cozumel desde Polé, hoy Xcaret, a la isla de Cuzamil, hoy Cozumel; y al día siguiente, cruzar a Xamanhá, hoy Playa del Carmen.

La Travesía Sagrada Maya es una recreación de la antigua peregrinación ritual realizada por los pueblos habitantes de la Península de Yucatán a "Polé" con la intención de embarcarse hacia "Cuzamil" para adorar a la diosa Ixchel y consultar su oráculo, el único existente en toda la región.

Iniciada la travesía, las 30 canoas con destino a **Cozumel** recorren alrededor de 28 kilómetros (tan sólo de ida), lo que representa entre 6 y 7 horas de remo continuo en mar abierto, el cual posee una profundidad estimada de 420 metros y corrientes de sur a norte de 2 a 4 nudos aproximadamente. Es por esto que todos los canoeros participantes iniciaron entrenamientos de remo, nado, flotación y acondicionamiento físico desde el pasado mes de enero.

Para comprender la importancia que la ritualidad jugaba en los antiguos mayas es necesario saber que para ellos la razón por la cual los dioses crearon a los humanos era simple: necesitaban quien los venerara y alimentara. La justificación fundamental de la existencia humana

giraba alrededor del servicio a sus dioses. Los antiguos mayas querían estar en comunicación con sus dioses, y para hacerlo, necesitaban llevar a cabo ciertos ritos, agrupados alrededor de un ritual. (Un rito, en el sentido amplio de la palabra, es una costumbre o ceremonia, una práctica muy establecida y ordenada dirigida a lo sobrenatural. En este sentido, un ritual es un conjunto de ritos).

El propósito de un rito es introducir a los hombres en el ámbito de lo sagrado. Los rituales estaban muy regulados y no podía llevarlos a cabo cualquier persona; solamente los sacerdotes y gobernantes lo hacían.

En los rituales públicos se permitía la participación de la comunidad. Estos rituales eran asociados a la fertilidad, a la veneración de los dioses o a la entronización de los gobernantes. En **La Travesía Sagrada Maya** se recrean rituales públicos dirigidos a la **diosa Ixchel**, los cuales están encaminados fundamentalmente a solicitar sus favores: la salud, la fertilidad de la tierra, la fecundidad de las personas y la benevolencia de las condiciones climáticas.

Primera Parte:

La Purificación - jueves 21 al atardecer y viernes 22 al amanecer en Xcaret.

Durante la representación artística de la Travesía, se podrán observar en el ritual acciones de purificación del espacio y de los participantes, como las oraciones, los

y cada elemento observado tenía un significado particular). También se llevarán a cabo rituales para pedir la buena fortuna de los intrépidos navegantes que cruzarán el mar para llegar a Cozumel.

Segunda Parte:

El Cruce - viernes 22 al amanecer en Xcaret. La travesía marítima equivale simbólicamente al paso por un inframundo acuático, en el transcurso del cual ocurre una muerte ritual.

Tercera Parte:

El Renacimiento - viernes 22 al medio día en Cozumel. Al llegar a Cozumel hay un renacimiento ritual, los navegantes llegan a su destino renacidos espiritualmente después de su intensa convivencia con el mar y las fuerzas de la naturaleza.

Cuarta Parte:

El Oráculo o Mensaje - viernes 22 al atardecer en Chankanaab. En esta parte se realiza una recreación artística en donde los sacerdotes mayas tienen comunicación con la diosa Ixchel y se escucha el mensaje y su respuesta a las múltiples peticiones de los hombres.

Quinta Parte:

El Regreso - sábado 23 al amanecer en Chankanaab.

La travesía marítima de regreso también equivale simbólicamente al paso por un inframundo acuático, en el transcurso del cual ocurre una muerte ritual.

Sexta Parte:

Recepción y Entrega del Oráculo - sábado 23 a medio día en Playa del Carmen. De igual manera que a la llegada a

Cozumel, los navegantes tienen un renacimiento ritual. El pueblo ansioso recibe los designios de Ixchel y celebra con júbilo el regreso de los valientes navegantes.

En la actualidad, la realización de **La Travesía Sagrada Maya** es posible gracias a la participación de cientos de voluntarios de la comunidad, que participan como canoeros, elenco artístico y personal de apoyo. Es un gran esfuerzo compartido entre Xcaret, el Municipio de Cozumel y el Municipio de Solidaridad.

La Travesía Sagrada Maya nos trae de vuelta el pasado maya de los siglos XI d.C al XVI d.C con su riqueza histórica y su legado cultural. Es un ejemplo vivo de la relación de los mayas con lo sagrado. Revive el valor y la audacia de los antiguos navegantes que contribuyeron con sus redes comerciales al último esplendor de su cultura en la Península de Yucatán.

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PROGRAMA GENERAL DE ACTIVIDADES TRAVESÍA SAGRADA MAYA 2009

JUEVES 21 DE MAYO PARQUE XCARET

| HORARIO | ACTIVIDAD | LUGAR |
|-----------------------------|---|--|
| De 6:00 p.m. a 9:30 p.m. | Exposición de productos de los mayas de hoy "Mayas de ayer y hoy, productores y comerciantes" | Explanada (junto al Juego de Pelota) |
| | Visita al mercado interactivo prehispánico maya "El comercio y los mayas, el kii'wik, un viaje al pasado" | Mercado Maya (entrada del área del mercado frente a la tortillería y hasta la escuela) |
| | Sahumada de remeros y familiares | Área a un costado de la Isla de Jaguares |
| | Protocolo de inauguración | Bahía Dos Playas |
| | Presentación del espectáculo: "La villa de pescadores de Polé" (1a Parte) | Bahía Dos Playas |
| | Expo-venta de productores mayas de hoy | Explanada (junto al Juego de Pelota) |

VIERNES 22 DE MAYO

| HORARIO | ACTIVIDAD | LUGAR |
|-----------------------------|---|------------------------|
| De 5:00 a.m. a 7:00 a.m. | Ritual sahumada de despedida | Dos Playas, Xcaret |
| | Presentación del espectáculo: "La villa de pescadores de Polé" (2a Parte) | Dos Playas, Xcaret |
| | Salida de cruce de remeros | Dos Playas, Xcaret |
| 12:30 p.m. | Arribo de remeros "Playa de Cuzamil, los remeros arriban" (3a Parte) | Playa Casitas, Cozumel |
| | Representación "El oráculo de Ixchel, Chankanaab por la noche" (4a Parte) | Parque Chankanaab |

SÁBADO 23 DE MAYO

| HORARIO | ACTIVIDAD | LUGAR |
|------------------------------|---|---------------------------------------|
| 5:30 a.m. | Ceremonia "Despedida para remeros de Xamanhá" (5a Parte) | Parque Chankanaab |
| De 12:30 p.m. a 3:00 p.m. | "Arribo y entrega del mensaje a los pobladores de Xamanhá" (6a Parte) | Playa Fundadores, Playa del Carmen |
| | Protocolo de clausura de la Travesía Sagrada Maya 2009 | Playa Fundadores |

INVITAMOS A TODOS LOS PARTICIPANTES QUE LLEGARON ANTES DE LA SALIDA
DE LOS CANOEROS (6:00 A.M.) A QUEDARSE EN EL PARQUE Y DISFRUTAR DEL
DÍA EN XCARET



www.travesiasagradamaya.com.mx



THE SACRED JOURNEY 2009

A VOYAGE INTO MAYAN RITUAL OBSERVANCE

The third edition of **The Sacred Mayan Journey** will be held from May 21st to 23rd this year. Thirty 26-foot canoes, rowed by four to six oarsmen, will be launched from Polé, known today as Xcaret, on the challenging crossing of the Cozumel Channel. Their final destination: the Island of Cuzamil, modern-day Cozumel. The following day they will cross the Channel again to ancient Xamanhá, nowadays the world-renowned tourism destination of Playa del Carmen.

The Sacred Journey is a recreation of the ritual pilgrimage undertaken by the ancient people of the Yucatan Peninsula to **Polé** in order to cross the sea to **Cuzamil** to worship the goddess Ixchel and consult the island's oracle, the only one in the region.

Once the crossing is under way, the 30 canoes bound for **Cozumel** will travel approximately 17 miles (that's just outbound), which is about 6 or 7 hours of continuous rowing over open sea that reaches 1,380 feet in depth and is cut by south to north currents running at 2 to 4 knots per hour. That's why all the oarsmen began training in rowing, swimming, flotation and endurance in January of this year.

In order to understand the importance of ritual observance for the ancient Maya, we need to know something of their cosmovision. For them, the gods created mankind for one simple reason: they needed someone to venerate and feed them. The basic justification for human

existence centered on service to their gods.

The ancient Maya wanted to communicate with their gods, and to do so, they needed to observe certain rites centered on a ritual. (A rite, in the broadest sense of the word, is a custom or ceremony, a very well-established and ordered practice focused on the supernatural. And a ritual, therefore, is a set of rites.)

The purpose of a rite is to introduce mankind to the realm of the sacred. Rituals were very structured and not just anyone could undertake them; only priests and rulers performed rituals.

The community was allowed to participate in public rituals associated with fertility, worshipping of the gods or the coronation of rulers. **The Sacred Mayan Journey** is the recreation of public rituals performed to worship the goddess Ixchel, basically to ask for her blessings for good health, fertile lands, children and benign weather.

Part One:

The Purification – in Xcaret on Thursday the 21st at sunset and Friday the 22nd at dawn.

During the Crossing's initial ritual, you will see the rites of purification for the sacred space and the participants: prayers, songs, dances and offerings (according to strict rules where each element—with its own special meaning—is carefully observed.) There will also be rituals to ask for good fortune for the intrepid oarsmen who will



Part Two:

The Crossing – Friday the 22nd at dawn in Xcaret.

The sea crossing is the symbolic equivalent of the passage through the watery Underworld, during which there is a ritual death.

Part Three:

The Rebirth – Friday the 22nd at midday, on Cozumel.

Upon arriving at Cozumel, there is a ritual rebirth; the oarsmen have arrived at their destination and are spiritually reborn after their intense communing with the sea and the forces of nature.

Part Four:

The Oracle or Message – At sunset, Friday the 22nd at Chankanaab Park. Here, we see an artistic recreation of Mayan priests communicating with the goddess Ixchel; she gives a message and responds to mankind's multiple petitions.

Part Five:

The Return – Dawn, Saturday the 23rd at Chankanaab.

The return sea voyage begins, the symbolic passage through the watery Underworld, during which the oarsmen undergo a ritual death.

Part Six:

Welcome and Delivery of the Oracle Message – Saturday the 23rd at midday in Playa del Carmen.

Just as it happened upon arrival at Cozumel, the oarsmen are ritually reborn. The people anxiously await Ixchel's commandments and joyously celebrate the return of the brave seamen.

The Sacred Mayan Journey is possible in modern times thanks to the participation of hundreds of community volunteers who work as oarsmen, the cast of players and support crew. This is a great effort shared between Xcaret and the Cozumel and Solidaridad County Governments.

The Sacred Mayan Journey brings us back to the Mayan civilization of the 11th to 16th centuries, with its great historical treasures and cultural legacy. This is a living example of the Mayas relationship with the divine. It re-enacts the courage and audacity of the ancient seamen, whose trade routes contributed to the Mayan civilization's glorious final days in the Yucatan Peninsula.

For more information, contact:

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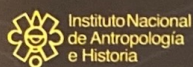
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DE PUERTO**



SEDETUR

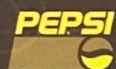
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**ARMADA
DE MÉXICO**



Cozumel
Island in the moment

RIVIERA MAYA

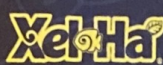


MÉXICO
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Magazine



C Producciones

**ASOCIACIÓN DE HOTELES
DE COZUMEL**



