

The Great Beginning!



Xel-Ha

xcaret!
MEXICO

CHANKANAAB
ADVENTURE BEACH PARK



Market day: Trade and the Maya, the Kii'wik, a journey to the past

Today we celebrate corn at the market in Ppolé (Xcaret), which has come to life through its products. Be it red, white, yellow or blue, corn represents the people who work the land, and is the product of the hard labor of the community through the years, a symbol of human

wisdom and the greatness of this New Era. This market was a meeting point for the pilgrims that came from nearby villages to cross the sea toward Cuzamil, present day Cozumel, for trade and religious purposes but mainly to visit the shrine and oracle of the goddess Ixchel.



Hun Nal Ye,
(god of corn).



Cacao was used as the main coin in trade and as a status symbol and a sign of social and economic power.

"The creation of what we see, touch, feel and experience comes from the soil itself, all of us have emerged from corn; in our towns and communities, the cultivation of the

fields is the source of life".
Ppolé's local chief, the Batab

There are more than
30 kinds of corn in Mexico.



Today Ppolé village sings to Ixchel and prepares offerings and dances for her.



Ppolé is full of joy and hope due to the arrival of Hun Nal Ye, god of corn, and due to the ball game-ceremony-dance played between Hunahpú and Ixbalamqué (the twin gods of the Sun and the Moon) and the Lords of death, which symbolizes the victory and

rebirth of the man of corn. The celebration of life continues in a ritual where the oarsmen, previously blessed with the headband of the sacred twins, are asked to take corn and plant it in fertile soil so its gifts may multiply.





In order to protect the oarsmen, the Batab of Ppolé-the local chief-calls upon the Yumtzilob, the lords that have power over the forces of nature and natural phenomena and also control rain and wind. The four

Balam-Kaahob-the night guardians of the four entrances-join together to hinder the intrusion of evil spirits and winds. The farewell dances announce fertility and abundance.



Blessing and departure of the oarsmen from Xel-Há to Cuzamil.

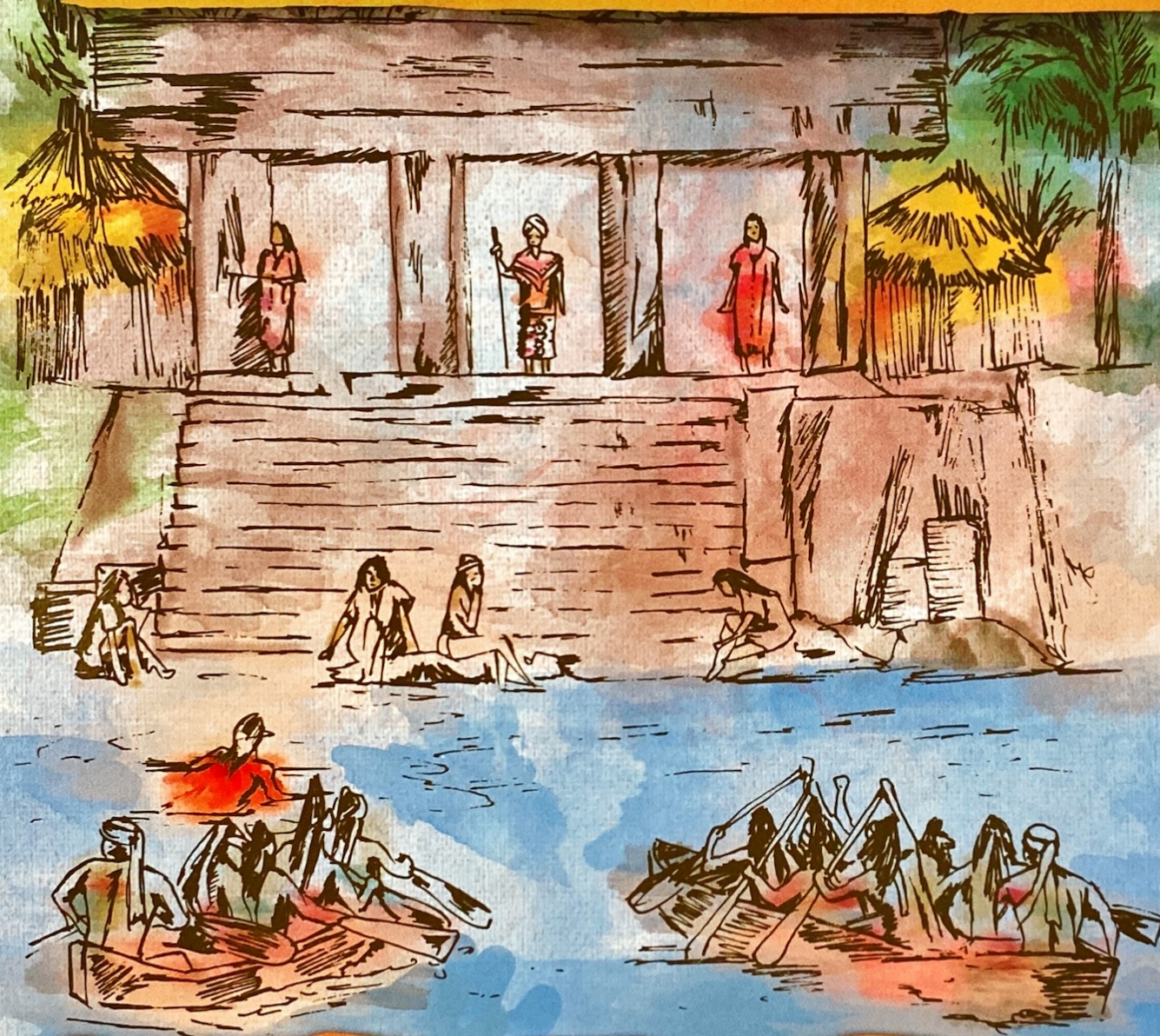




Arrival of the oarsmen from Xel-Há to Cuzamil.
They are welcomed by the Halach Winik,

supreme ruler of the land, who invites them to
drink and eat after an exhausting journey.

Worship to Ixchel, young goddess of the Moon



In her shrine, Ixchebelyax speaks: "Listen to me, care for the life forces in your life, encourage the flight of the turtledove and the macaw, don't mourn that turtles and deer run free, come to the river but don't

spill your black and milky putrefaction on it... Honor your people before you honor me... Strength and hope, life and corn live within you, share it among your people and don't deny it to others".

In the new day, the oarsmen cross the sea...
The New Era has emerged from the time of
darkness and anguish and has given us back
life. The harvest cycle is being reborn and it is

the perfect opportunity to do things right, to
straighten our paths and live in harmony with
nature, the gods, our people and all others.



Ppolé is celebrating...

The oarsmen are welcomed with the
joy, dances and music that reign in the

sunny village. Here the journey ends
and a Great new Beginning arises.



Our deepest gratitude to:

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#TravesiaSagradaMaya • #SacredMayanJourney



For 7 years **Xcaret Park** has celebrated the **Sacred Mayan Journey** during the month of May. This is an ancient Mayan tradition from the Late Postclassic Period where people from all over the Mayan region set forth on a pilgrimage to Cozumel Island to worship Ixchel (goddess of the moon, fertility, health and water and considered the inventor of painting and weaving).

Today more than 300 men and women will row their canoes back to Ppolé (Xcaret) from Cozumel Island thus marking the end of the Sacred Mayan Journey 2013. **You can welcome them in Dos Playas Bay (#4 on your map)** and listen to the message of hope sent by the goddess Ixchel for all of us to hear.

Be a witness to this unforgettable experience at 1:00 p.m.



#SacredMayanJourney

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Desde hace 7 años el **Parque Xcaret** celebra la **Travesía Sagrada Maya** en el mes de mayo. Esta es una tradición maya del período postclásico tardío en donde diferentes pueblos emprendían un viaje en canoa hacia la Isla de Cozumel para honrar a Ixchel (diosa de la luna, la fertilidad, la salud y el agua, considerada inventora de la pintura y el tejido).

El día de hoy más de 300 hombres y mujeres en canoas regresarán al pueblo de Ppolé (Xcaret) desde la Isla de Cozumel terminando así la Travesía Sagrada Maya 2013. **Podrás recibirlos en la Bahía Dos Playas (#4 en tu mapa)** y conocer el mensaje de esperanza que a todos nos envía la diosa Ixchel.

Vive con nosotros esta inolvidable experiencia a la 1:00 p.m.



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