



Archaeological Park

QUIRIGUÁ

IZABAL - GUATEMALA

Km 204 Carretera al Atlántico CA-9
Aldea Los Amates, Izabal
infoquirigua@mcd.gob.gt

15000
ASISTENCIA AL TURISTA
TOURIST ASSISTANCE
2290-2810

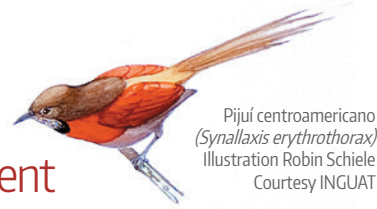
Cover photo Stela E, courtesy MCD



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Environment



Pijui centroamericano
(*Synallaxis erythrothorax*)
Illustration Robin Schiele
Courtesy INGUAT

Quiriguá Archaeological Park was classified as Protected Area in 1910, aiming at the conservation of 34-hectare remnants of forest, a safe haven for diverse fauna and flora from the Motagua River Valley. It fosters native species as the ceiba tree, cedar, mahogany, charcoal, local rubber, matiliguatate and amate.

It also serves as refuge to rodents, bats and armadillos, as well as serpents, turtles, frogs, toads, iguanas, and a great diversity of local and migratory birds.



▲ "Guatemala: Travels and depictions from years 1878-1883", by Otto Stoll, 1886

The subtropical wetland forest expands over large plains affected by the Caribbean Sea. An area of high precipitation (6,000 mm of rain a year) with high temperatures and humidity.

▼ Photo Courtesy MCD



Environment

World Cultural Heritage Site



Quiriguá Archaeological Park was declared a UNESCO World Cultural Heritage Site on October 31, 1981, meeting the criteria that:

1. It represents a masterpiece of human creation.
2. It bears witness to considerable exchange of human values during a particular period of history or in a determined cultural area, in architecture, technology, monumental art, urban planning or landscape creation.
3. It is a representative example of a type of construction, or an archaeological or technical complexity, or landscape that illustrates one or various meaningful periods of human history.

Quirigua Archaeological Park is one of the three Cultural sites in Guatemala declared UNESCO World Heritage, the other two being Tikal National Park and Antigua Guatemala.

On December 13th 2016, UNESCO declared Quirigua's historical documentation, represented by the rich texts in its Stelae, as Memory of the World, a recognition to their relevance as documentary heritage of humanity and the importance of their preservation and universal access. It marks the first time that stone-carved monuments are considered historical documents in this UNESCO programme.

The drawing to the right was commissioned to commemorate this important nomination.



Illustration Stela D
Courtesy Jaime Borowicz, 2016

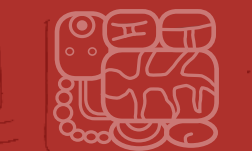


▼ Photo Courtesy MCD

Recommendations for visitors

- The park is open every day from 8:00 A.M. to 4:30 P.M. Visitors are not allowed to stay within the archaeological site or the park's forest after 6:00 P.M.
- While in the park, visitors are suggested to remain accompanied by a local guide, and to follow his or her recommendations and instructions.
- Smoking and alcohol consumption are not allowed in the park. Visiting the park under the influence of alcohol is not allowed.
- Bonfires are allowed only for Mayan ceremonial purposes in designated areas.
- Walking is permitted only on the park's pathways and designated open areas, as instructed on park signs.
- Climbing structures is permitted only when expressly stated on signs, take all possible precautions.
- It is strictly prohibited to damage, loot, litter, or graffiti buildings, stelae or any structure in the park.
- Hunting is prohibited. Firearms must be registered and deposited in the administrative office during the visit.
- It is not permitted to feed animals or destroy vegetation.
- The site and all its contents are public domain for general enjoyment. Do not take anything from the site.
- All trash and waste must be deposited in the trash bins or disposed of outside of the park.
- The use of speakers, amplifiers or sound systems is not permitted.

World Cultural Heritage Site and Recommendations for visitors



Archaeological Park

QUIRIGUÁ

IZABAL - GUATEMALA

Visitors' Guide

Location

Quiriguá Archaeological Park is located in the municipality of Los Amates, Department of Izabal, at approximately four hours driving distance from Guatemala City, on Km 204 of the CA-9 highway. The Park is elevated 75 meters above sea level and its coordinates are 15°16'10" north latitude and 89°02'25" west longitude.

REPUBLIC OF GUATEMALA

Area: 108,889 Km² or 42,042.04 sq. mi

Population: 17 million

Administrative division: 22 departments

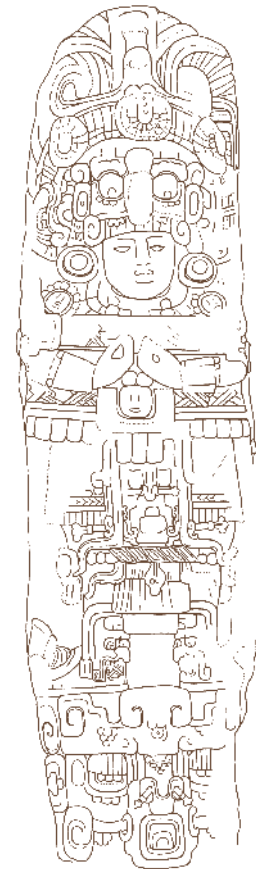
Currency: Quetzal

Official Language: Spanish. There are 23 other languages, 21 of Mayan origin, one Xinka and one Garifuna.



Stela H May 9, 751

This is the only stela in Quiriguá that includes the carved pattern of a petate or pop (palm rug), which was a symbol used by Mayan rulers. Here, *K'ahk' Tiliw Chan Yopaat* used the title of Man of the South or *Ch'aho'm*. His headpiece has a frontal form of a jaguar with serpents at its sides. The lateral portions of the stela present the effigies of the god *K'awiiil*, protector of rulers.



Stela H East Side

Stela J April 12, 756

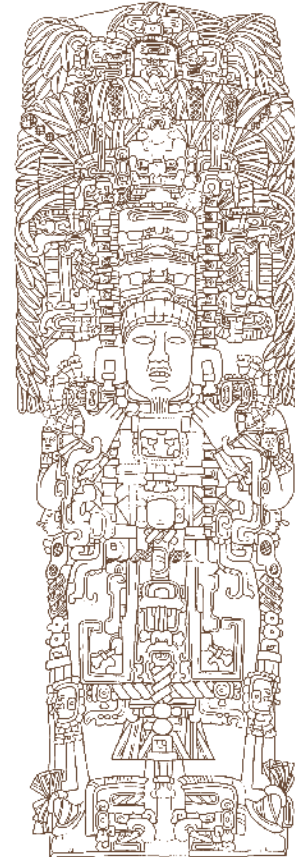
K'ahk' Tiliw gave himself the following titles: The Man, *Kalo'mte'* of the South, Lord of Black Copán, 14th Ruler of *Witenaah* and Man of the Black Place in the Dream. *Kalo'mte'* is one of the most prestigious titles for Classic Mayan royalty, and *Witenaah* is a sacred temple dedicated to the sun. It depicts the capture and decapitation of Copán's ruler, performed by *K'ahk' Tiliw*.



Stela J West Side

Stela F March 17, 761

It depicts the story of rituals performed in mythical places and ancient times. It tells of a character 4,460 years of age and of rituals that happened in the "place of the black well" or *Uhtiiy Ik'naahb'nal*, which is considered the original name of the city of Quiriguá or of the Grand Plaza. This name may have its origin in the dark and muddy water associated with storms, floodings and mudslides from nearby hills.



Stela F South Side

Stela D February 19, 766

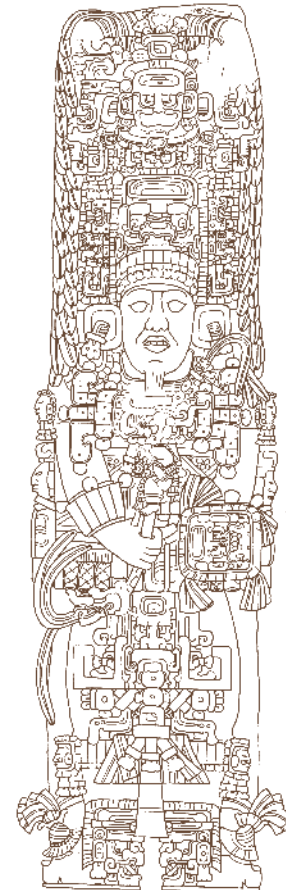
This monument commemorates the second *k'atuun*, meaning the 40 years of *K'ahk' Tiliw* as ruler of Quiriguá. One *k'atuun* is a period of 20 years in the Mayan calendar.



Stela D North Side

Stela E January 24, 771

It tells the date that *K'ahk' Tiliw* was named ruler of Quiriguá as vassal to Copán's ruler. It depicts how and when *K'ahk' Tiliw* captured and beheaded Copán's ruler as an act of war and named himself ruler of the whole region. This was narrated when a *hotuun* on 771 was celebrated, in the presence of the ruler of a nearby city named *Xkuy*.



Stela E North Side

Stela C December 29, 775

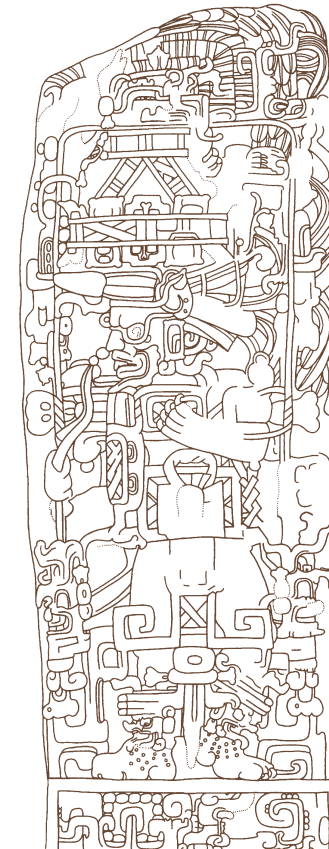
This monument references the mythical date of August 13, 3114 BC as the origin of the Maya. It also mentions December 29, 775, a date when *K'ahk' Tiliw* performed a ceremonial dance to mark the end of a *hotuun*.



Stela C South Side

Stela A December 29, 775

It tells of a recently passed *hotuun*. *K'ahk' Tiliw* performed a ceremonial dance dressed with slippers and gloves made of jaguar hide.



Stela A North Side

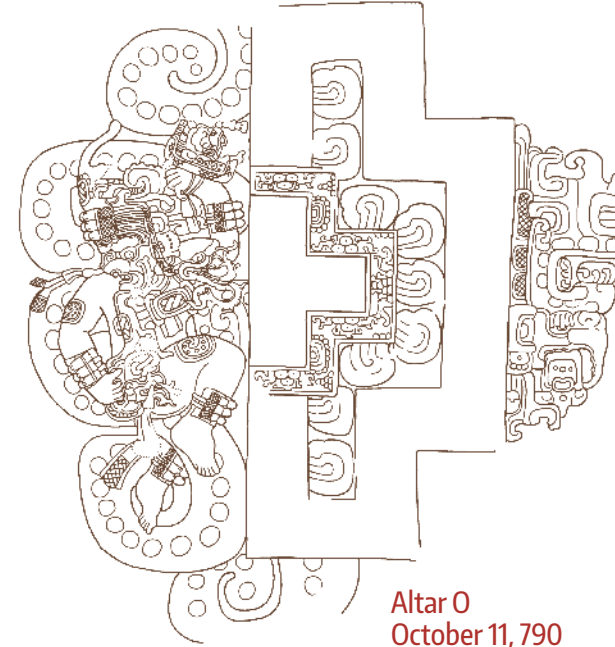


Stela A South Side

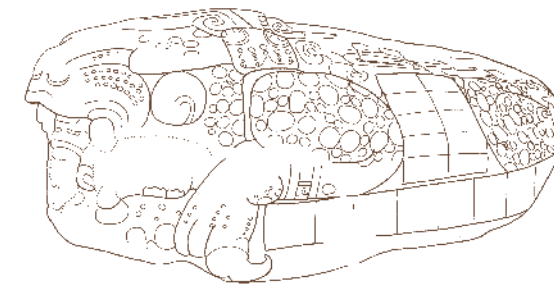
Ruler *Chan Tiliw Yopaat*

Ruling Period
785 - 800 AD

He was the son of *K'ahk' Tiliw Chan Yopaat*. He built three zoomorphic monuments and two altars between the years 785 and 795 AD. This ruler also inaugurated a monument every five years. *Chan Tiliw Yopaat* radically changed the monument's traditional style imposed by his father, representing the complexity and richness and Mayan ideology through extraordinary stone monuments.



Altar O
October 11, 790



Zoomorphic Monument G
November 6, 785

The first monument built by this ruler, depicts the funeral of his father *K'ahk' Tiliw Chan Yopaat* who died on July 27, 785 AD.