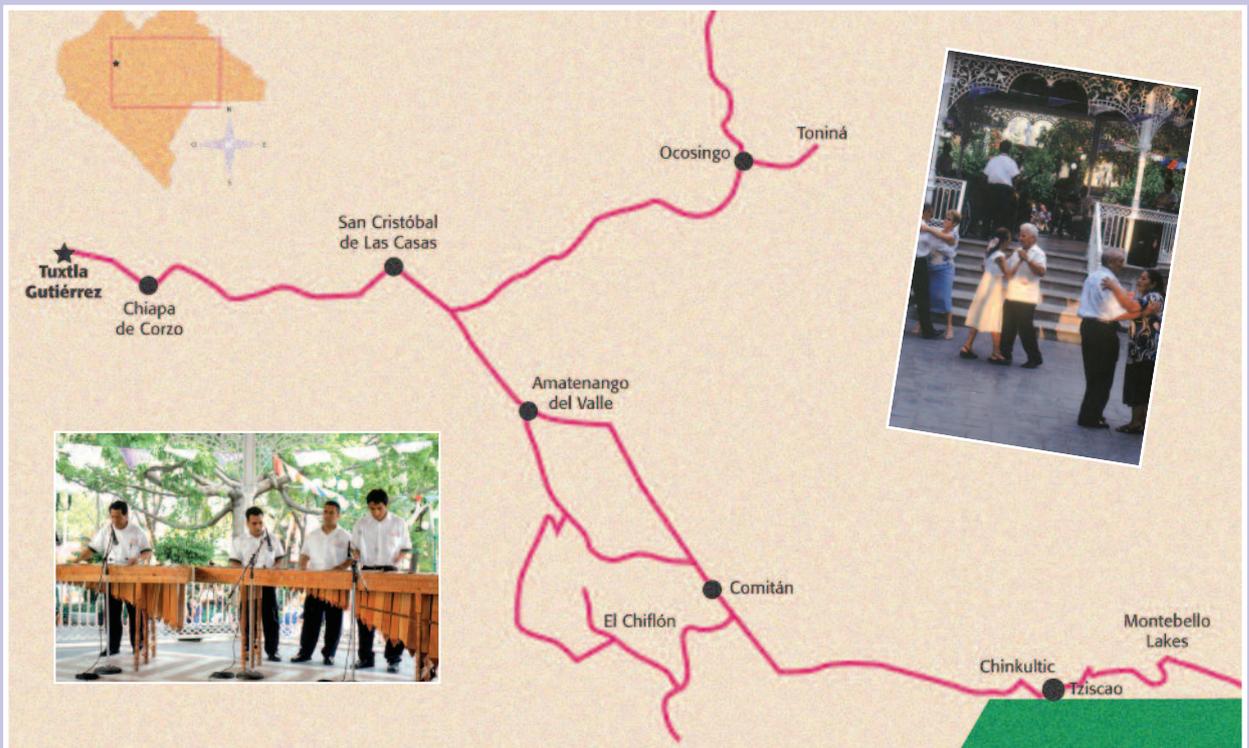
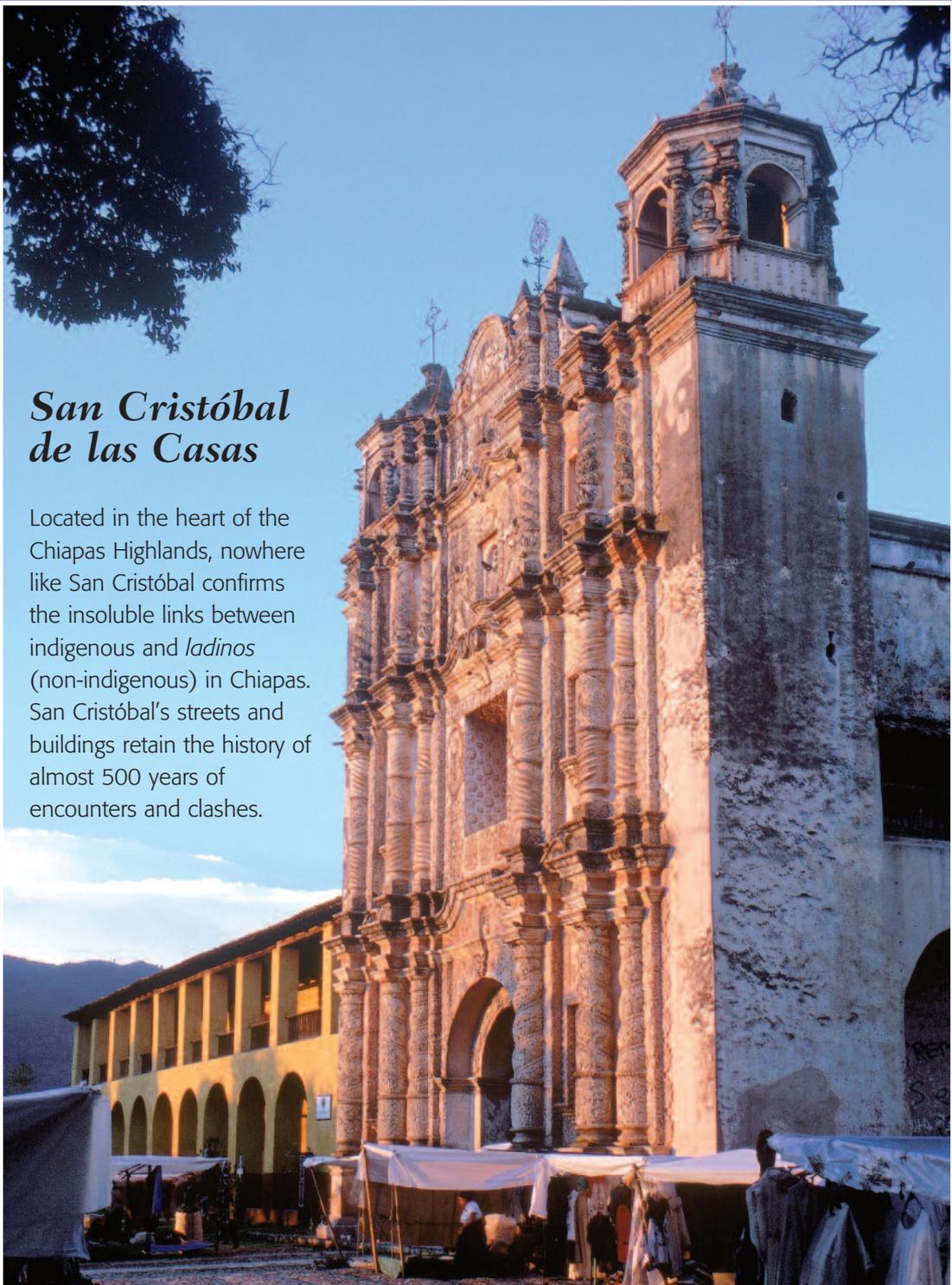


Photos by Elsie Montiel

Snapshots from Chiapas





San Cristóbal de las Casas

Located in the heart of the Chiapas Highlands, nowhere like San Cristóbal confirms the insoluble links between indigenous and *ladinos* (non-indigenous) in Chiapas. San Cristóbal's streets and buildings retain the history of almost 500 years of encounters and clashes.



Elsie Montiel



Elsie Montiel



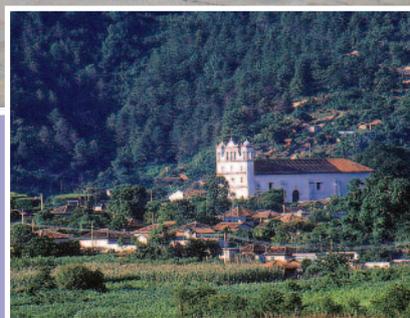
Rubén Vázquez



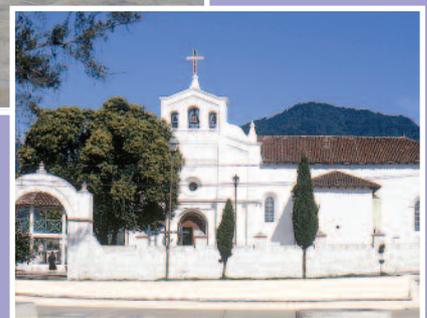
Elsie Montiel



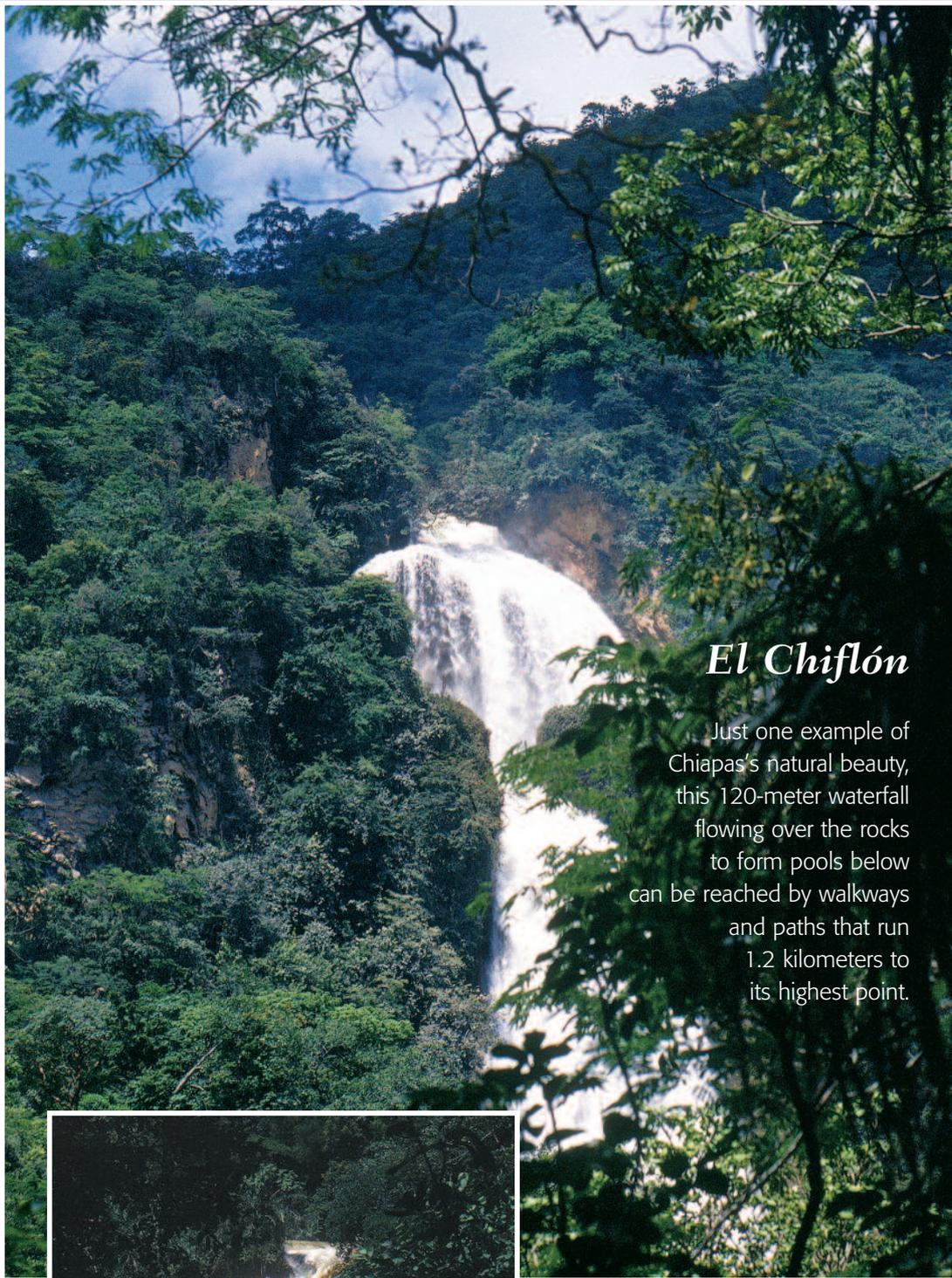
Rubén Vázquez



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Elsie Montiel



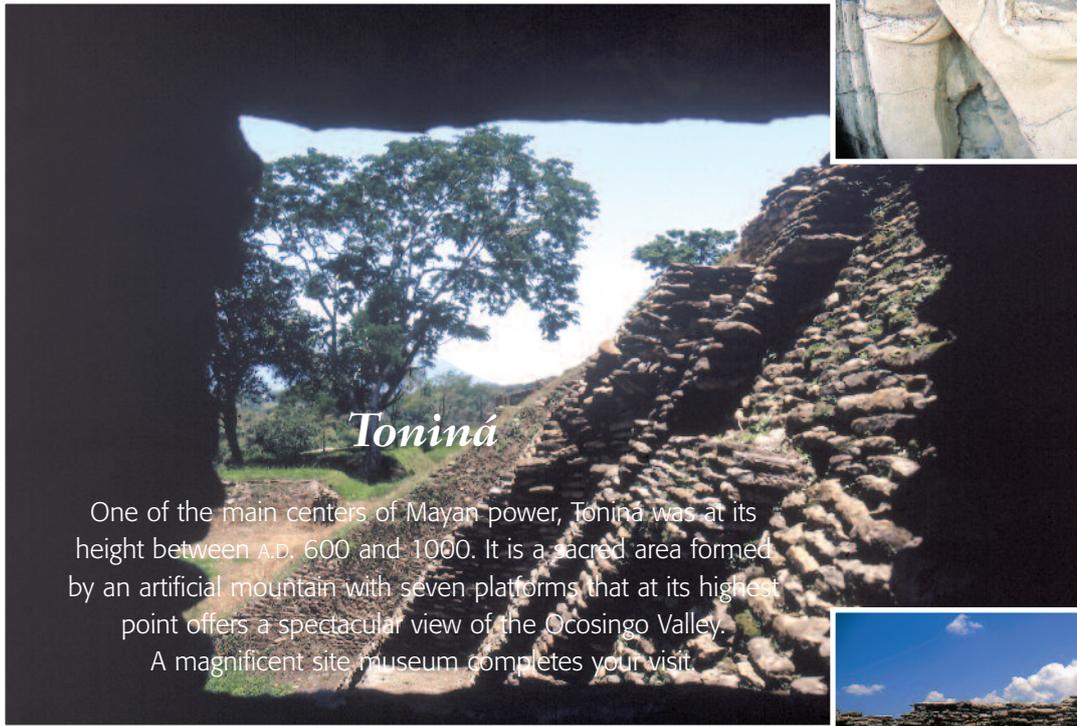
El Chiflón

Just one example of Chiapas's natural beauty, this 120-meter waterfall flowing over the rocks to form pools below can be reached by walkways and paths that run 1.2 kilometers to its highest point.



Elsie Montiel

Elsie Montiel

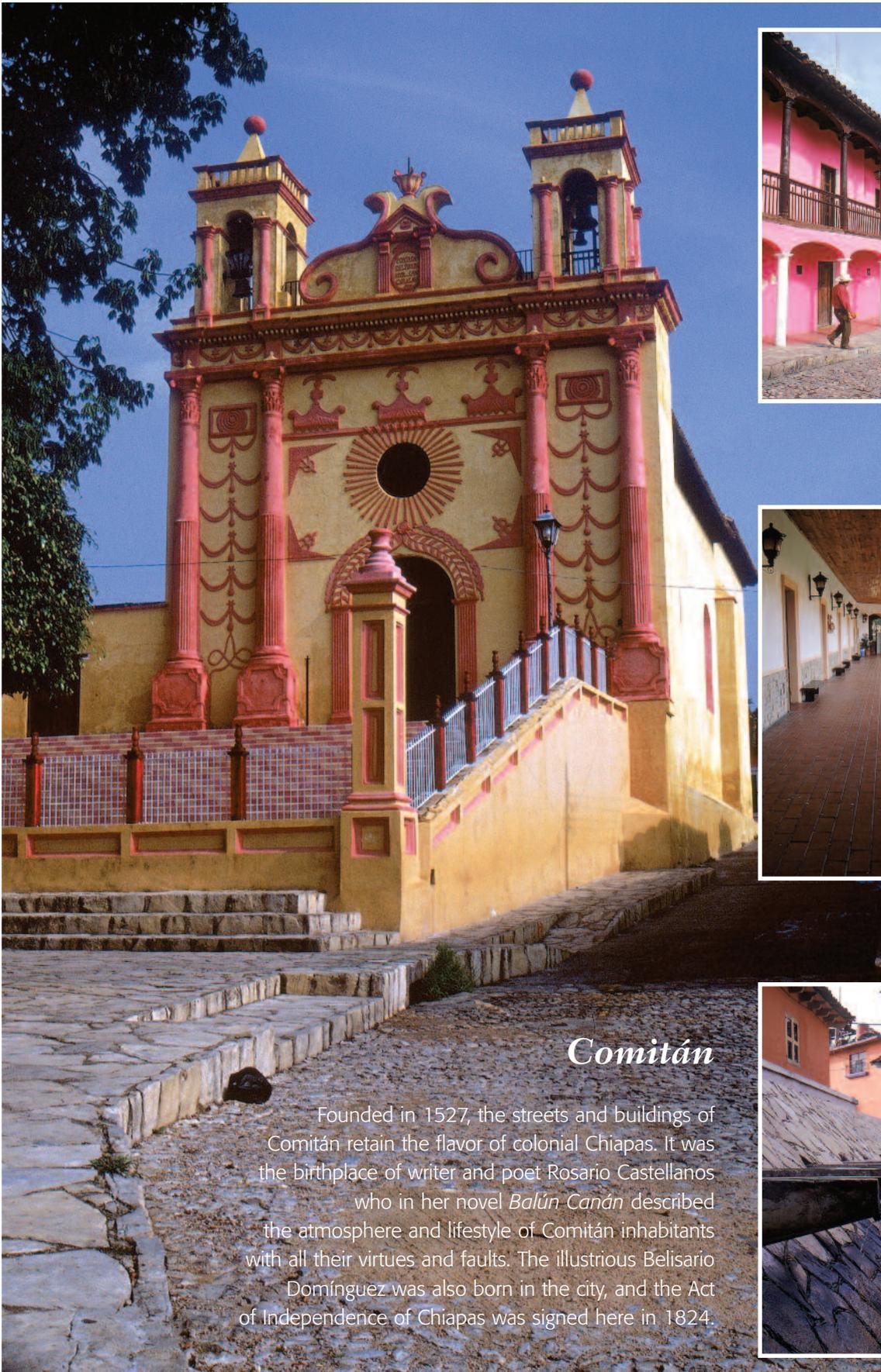


Toniná

One of the main centers of Mayan power, Toniná was at its height between A.D. 600 and 1000. It is a sacred area formed by an artificial mountain with seven platforms that at its highest point offers a spectacular view of the Ocosingo Valley. A magnificent site museum completes your visit.



Photos by Rubén Vázquez



Elsie Montiel



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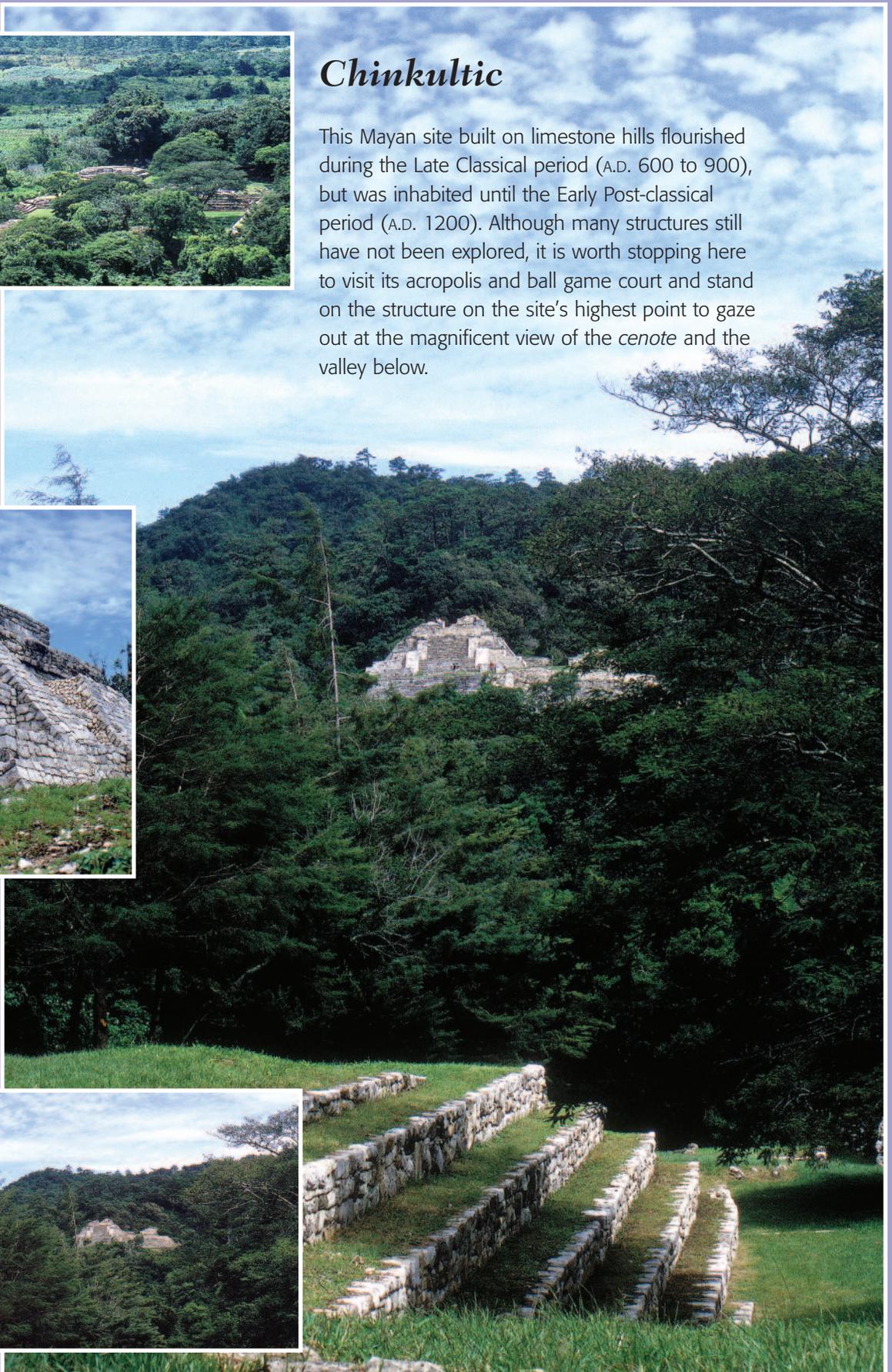
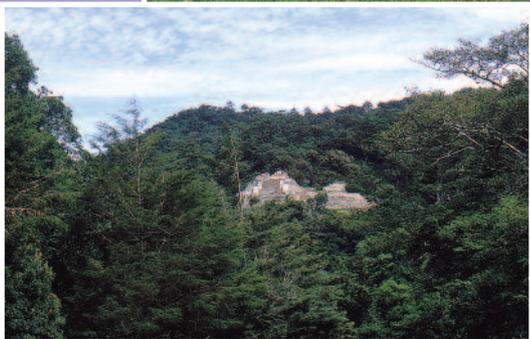
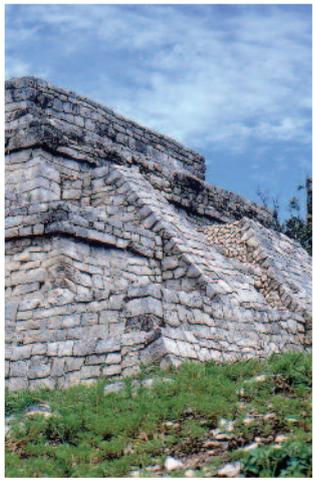
Comitán

Founded in 1527, the streets and buildings of Comitán retain the flavor of colonial Chiapas. It was the birthplace of writer and poet Rosario Castellanos who in her novel *Balún Canán* described the atmosphere and lifestyle of Comitán inhabitants with all their virtues and faults. The illustrious Belisario Domínguez was also born in the city, and the Act of Independence of Chiapas was signed here in 1824.



Chinkultic

This Mayan site built on limestone hills flourished during the Late Classical period (A.D. 600 to 900), but was inhabited until the Early Post-classical period (A.D. 1200). Although many structures still have not been explored, it is worth stopping here to visit its acropolis and ball game court and stand on the structure on the site's highest point to gaze out at the magnificent view of the *cenote* and the valley below.



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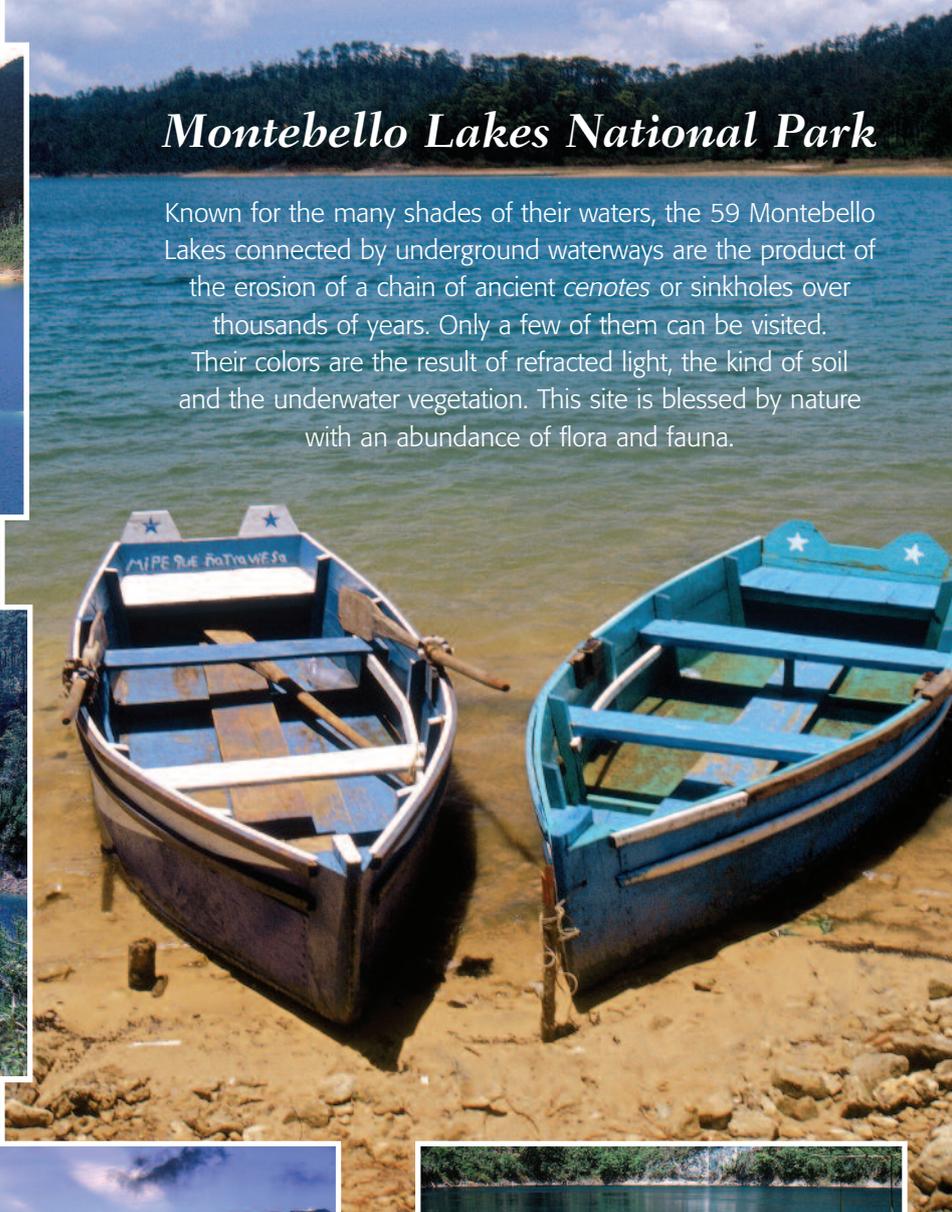
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Montebello Lakes National Park

Known for the many shades of their waters, the 59 Montebello Lakes connected by underground waterways are the product of the erosion of a chain of ancient *cenotes* or sinkholes over thousands of years. Only a few of them can be visited. Their colors are the result of refracted light, the kind of soil and the underwater vegetation. This site is blessed by nature with an abundance of flora and fauna.

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