

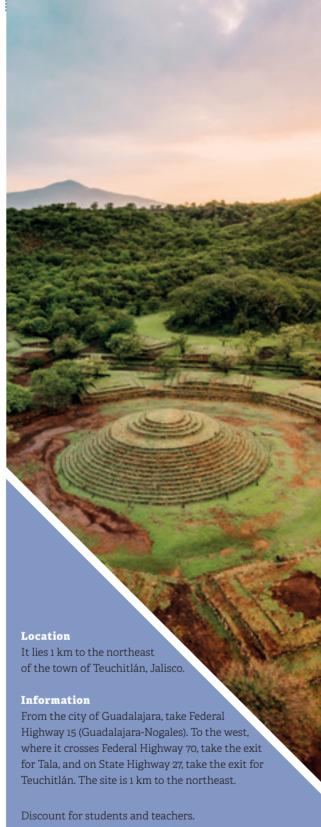
This was a multicultural tradition with few elements from Teotihuacan. The end of this tradition is possibly linked to the arrival of Western culture and its technologies such as metallurgy and bows and arrows.

## **THE WESTERN GAMES**

Teuchitlán culture constructed a complex society that settled in the valleys of Tequila, in the center of Jalisco, with its main center being in the Guachimontones. Ceremonial centers throughout the region include ball courts and distinctive circular temples, which appear frequently after 100 B.C.

More than 50 ball courts spanning Pre-Classic to Classic periods have been reported over more than three decades of surface reconnaissance in Jalisco, which tells us that the Mesoamerican ball game was important in this region from early times.

The oldest ball court in the region is Ball Court 1 in the Guachimontones.



Discount for students and teachers. Free admission for children under 13. Free admission for senior citizens.

### **Opening Hours**

Tuesday to Saturday from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Maximum capacity of 60 people at the same time.

Tel. 333 613 1075

direccion.jal@inah.gob.mx



CULTURA | SECHETARIA DE CULTURA



## **SETTING**

The heart of Teuchitlán's tradition was developed in the lakeside zone of the highlands and in the valleys bordering the volcano of Tequila, in the center-west of the current state of Jalisco. We can see its cultural influence along the length of the Lerma River, the south of Zacatecas, throughout the Bajío, and in the coastal zones of Nayarit and Colima.

## **EL OPEÑO STYLE**

The Guachimontones was the first great population center in the west of Mexico. Its initial phase included the construction of shaft tombs in the "El Opeño" style (subterranean chambers covered by vaults, excavated in the subsoil and accessed by ladders) and it developed at the same time as other Mesoamerican groups.

# THE GUACHI-MONTONES

Miniguides

Teuchitlán, Jalisco

- JUEGOS
  DE PELOTA
  MONUMENTALES
   CONSTRUCCIONES
- CONSTRUCCIONES CIRCULARES

### ONE OF A KIND

This site covers 20 hectares of buildings with two monumental ball courts and five external plazas. The area is surrounded by a group of residential complexes that consist of 40 circular constructions with attached ball courts. There were three types of housing units: residential and ceremonial areas for the elite, residences for people with high status, and those inhabited by people with lower status. Although there was a dispersed pattern of settlement with a ceremonial center at its core, the distribution of land and architecture shows elements of urban planning.

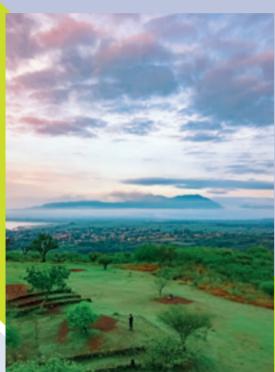
It is also known by the name of Teuchitlán due to its proximity to the municipal capital of the same name.

# YOUR ARCHEOLOGICAL SITE

# **MINI GUIDE**

# **An Impressive Site**

One of the most important sites in Western Mesoamerica lies 90 minutes from Guadalajara. near to the Tequila volcano. It has an impressive urban layout, original architecture of stepped conical structures, and elevated circular platforms.



# Cultural Landscape

Unlike the large pyramids, these structures are circular, which not only tells us about one site and a single form of architecture. but about an entire cultural landscape that includes complex sites, workshops, chinampas (raised beds for farming), neighborhoods, and constructions for war.

# Language

Its discoverer Phil Weigand proposed that the language spoken could have been Totorame, a variant of the Cora language.

# **Structures**

There are three remarkable structures on the site: El Guachimontón La Iguana, and El Azquelite.



You can also see the remains of ball courts on the site, which has courts in Mesoamerica, at a length of 111 noting that the walls goals or markers on the floor were used.



Entrance A

Circle 2

La Iguana

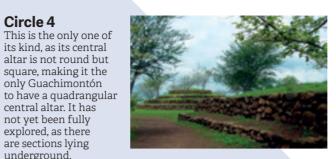
Small Pyramid

Circle 3

El Azquelite

## **Ball Courts**

one of the largest ball meters. It is worth do not have any goals, so perhaps movable



Circle 1

El Gran Guachi

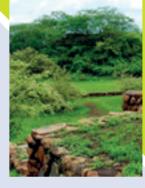
### **Guachimontones Interpretive Center**

You can appreciate the site's history from the moment you enter the zone. The museum area houses the mural by Jorge Monroy, as well as several pieces, scale models, and maps that explain the site.



## El Guachimontón or Circle 1

This has a span of 125 meters in diameter with 12 rectangular platforms, of which only five have been excavated. In the center stands an altar that measures approximately 50 meters in diameter. The courtyard surrounding it measures 23 meters around the altar.



# La Iguana or Circle 2

This is the only structure that has been fully excavated. It has a diameter of 115 meters and 13 steps in concentric circles that go up to a small landing. The upper part has an altar



with four steps.



# El Azquelite or Circle 3

This has a diameter of 115 meters. In the center is an altar with a diameter of 38.5 meters and a height of 10 meters, which has 13 steps in concentric circles and an upper altar. It is possible that the pole for the "volador" ritual was erected in this place.



## DID YOU KNOW...?

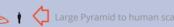
- Teuchitlán comes from the Nahuatl word "teoztitlán" ("place dedicated to the divine" or "place dedicated to the god Tenoch").
- Guachimontones is a more recent term that combines the Nahuatl words "cuautli" (tree) and "chinamitli" (wall) with the Spanish word "montón" (mound).



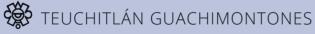
Mural by Michoacán

Jorge Monroy.

painter and watercolorist



Ball Court 2



To the Guachim

Interpretive Center 📵 🕯 🧴

# **IMPORTANT**

300 В.С. то 450/500 A.D. Late Formative to Classic Period.



200 A.D. Stage of splendor, during the Late Pre-Classic Period.



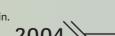
1970` Discovery of the ruins by American archeologist and anthropologist Phil Weigand.

1996

underground.

**Amphitheater** 

Weigand and Mountjoy formally map the Guachimontones for the first time.



2004 Declared Cultural Heritage of Humanity by UNESCO.

2020

The 2020 Phoenix Award is presented to the Interpretive Center and Archeological Zone of Guachimontones for preservation of the environment.



