

Hacienda Yaxcopoil

Hacienda Yaxcopoil was founded in the 17th century. Its name means in the Mayan language "place of the green poplars". The hacienda brings together in its history the three great periods of yesterday's Yucatan, pre-Hispanic life, colonial life and the henequen boom of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

With more than eleven thousand hectares of land in its heyday, Yaxcopoil was considered one of the most important rural estates due to its size and magnificence, both in the cattle and henequen fields. However, with the passage of time and with the continuous processes of political, social and economic change in the region, its extension was reduced to less than 3% of its former surface.



Currently, the hacienda has been converted into a private inn and museum, which seeks to show with the greatest accuracy and simplicity, the spaces and furnishings that were used in times of splendor. The main house with large rooms, high ceilings, and spacious corridors, is surrounded by extensive gardens with an infinite range of colors and exuberant vegetation, which place us in a unique and incomparable environment. It still has the original European furnishings that give it a period feel.

The main room is presided over by two oil paintings: Don Donaciano García Rejón Mazó and his wife María Mónica Galera Encalada, who in 1864 acquired the hacienda. From then on, the property was passed from parents to children until its current owner, a descendant of those. Books, plans, documents and other collections from the time of the administration of the hacienda are kept in the office.

An oil painting from the colonial era is preserved in the oratory. The image of its patron saint, San Gerónimo de Yaxcopoil, is venerated there. The dining room and the kitchen, both with precious and fine furniture that reflects the excellent way of domestic and country life.

In the garden there is a swimming pool with its dressing rooms, an irrigation tank and a Ferris wheel with its engine and American pumps from the early 20th century, which continue to work extracting water for daily use.

From the pre-Hispanic period, Yaxcopoil preserves in its mountains, Mayan ruins formed by numerous pyramidal structures, the six main ones having a height that varies between 6 and 20 meters, a court for the ball game and minor stelae that are found in an approximate area of 8 square kilometers.

One of the rooms, the so-called "Mayan Room", has been converted into a small museum that brings together numerous vessels, sculptures and other archaeological relics from the classic period (250-900 AD) found in the Mayan ruins of Yaxcopoil.

In the henequen shredding plant, it shows vestiges of the first motors and machines of the 19th century for the agricultural and industrial process. In the engine room, a 1913 Körting (Hannover) German diesel engine with 100 HP of power is kept in good condition, which was used until 1984 when henequen fiber production on the farm ended, after more than a year. century.

The workshop and the cellars, which are buildings that have facades beautifully decorated in the neoclassical style, columns with four sculptures of women representing the seasons of the year, from the José de Antonés Pottery factory in Hostafrancos, (Barcelona). At the other end of the sleeve in front of the engine room, you can see other buildings that were once part of the hacienda and that functioned as the school, hospital and store.

Due to its classic rural-style buildings, Yaxcopoil is, without a doubt, the best-known henequen farm in the region, since its main house and plant have served as the setting for the filming of several movies and television programs.

Any visitor who wants to know the past of Yucatan must tour a hacienda, because they are part of its history. Of all the haciendas on the peninsula, most are semi-destroyed by the relentless passage of time. Only a few of the magnitude of Yaxcopoil have been preserved.

The imposing arch at the entrance to the corral, with a strong Moorish flavor, must have been built around 1800 and its design can be attributed to the architect Santiago Servián, a native of Cádiz who arrived in Yucatán at the end of the 18th century with the commission to build the dome of the Church of San Cristóbal, which later settled in Mérida; his work is very numerous and is a reflection of his Andalusian origin.

Traveling along the road towards the ruins of Uxmal, when passing through Yaxcopoil, the building that most characterizes it immediately appears, its monumental "double Moorish arch" from the colonial period, perhaps the most beautiful in Yucatan, which opens to the visitor the doors of the hacienda, offering you a warm welcome.

From the 1880s until the 1950s, the chief crop of Yucatan was [henequen](#), which is extracted from the agave cactus for the manufacture of rope and twine. Most henequen was produced on large plantations and, to a lesser extent from the 1930s, on cooperative ejidos (common lands). Agricultural output now includes grains, tropical fruits, cattle, and pigs. However, today, services and manufacturing are more important economically. Tourism focused on the pre-Hispanic ruins has increased with the development of railroads, highways, docking facilities for cruise ships at [Progreso](#), and an international airport at Mérida. Since the 1990s, [maquiladoras](#) (export-oriented assembly plants) have created additional employment.