

## EN BÚSQUEDA DE LOS MAYAS CONTEMPORÁNEOS

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El pasado 12 Agosto, los antropólogos Eleonora Zampelli y Tiziano Pincelly, profesores de la Sapienza University of Rome, Italia realizaron una visita a los alrededores del Mpio. de José María Morelos. El objetivo de la visita fue comprobar que la cultura maya sigue viva en las comunidades de la península.

El siguiente reporte, en versión inglesa, lo envía Javier Puc Ciau del séptimo semestre de la licenciatura en Turismo Alternativo.

### Finding the real Maya

*This past August 12th I had the opportunity to take two Italian anthropologists into a tour around the Maya zone of Quintana Roo. I met Tiziano and Eleonora thanks to Professor Angel Ucan Dzul, who talked them about **the real Maya communities**, located in our State and as anthropologists **they were interested in visiting these communities instead the touristic zone in the northern State.***



*The goal of the tour was to show them how the Mayan people live today and they understood the history behind the current manifestations of the culture in our zone. The first point we visited was the **“Speaking Cross Sanctuary”** (Santuario de la Cruz Parlante) in Felipe Carrillo Puerto. There, I*

*explained them the importance of this ancient place, once known as Chan Santa Cruz, during the Caste War or Maya Social War. Also we had the chance to know the guards of the cross and they were glad to meet these anthropologists and explained us in Maya language what they currently do taking care the sanctuary and the ancient ceremonies they still do.*

*After visiting the sanctuary, we moved to Tihosuco to visit the museum and the church. We were lucky to be received by Carlos Chan, the director of the museum and an old man with a huge*

*knowledge of the Mayan culture. There, they had the opportunity to know more about the history of the Yucatan Peninsula and all about the Maya culture: how they lived, organized, life during the Spaniard conquest, what they did for living, and what was the cause of the Caste War.*



*At the museum, Mr. Chan explained us a little bit more about the Caste war. After that Tiziano and Eleonora told me they were happy and all the questions they had when they landed at the airport were already answered.*

*Finally we visited Saban and had the chance to coexist with*

*the people from the community, especially with another student from UIMQRoo University, Andred Moo and his family. They saw the way they live currently and they tried a traditional meal known as "brazo de reyna".*

*As a tourism student this was a great opportunity to share my knowledge of the Maya culture and a great chance to practice my Maya and English Language skills. I've got to say that we reached the goal of the tour because they were really happy during the way back, especially because they had the chance to coexist with the children of Saban and for all the information they got from the people of Carrillo Puerto and Tihosuco. It was an educational tour not only for them, it was also for me and this make me feel proud of my culture.*

*I would like to thank Andred Moo, a Language and Culture student for help me organize the visit to Saban; Carlos Chan, director of the museum at Tihosuco and the guards of the Sanctuary in Carrillo Puerto for share with us a little bit of a great culture.*

Con esta experiencia ellos se regresan a su pais muy satisfechos por tan interesante experiencia. Adicional a ello, se agradece la participación de Javier por haber diseñado el viaje histórico a los profesores visitantes.

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