

Pyramid wall in Tzintzuntzan, Mexico

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The stone wall of a pyramid is shown close up. The stones are laid out in two different patterns. The lower half of the wall is made up of large blocks of stone. The upper half is made of smaller stones laid horizontally. Tzintzuntzan is a small town near Pátzcuaro, Mexico in the state of Michoacán. It dates from before the arrival of the Spanish and was established by the P'urhépecha people. In the P'urhépecha language, Tzintzuntzan means the "Place of the Hummingbirds." During the pre-colonial period, the town served as an important ceremonial site and had several large stone pyramids. Many of these pyramids were dismantled by the Spanish to provide building blocks for colonial institutions, but the original ruins remain for archaeologists to study. Today the town is a popular tourist attraction and is known also for its hand-made baskets.



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