

Museum (1)



- The necropolis of El Caño is a complex composed of a cemetery and a ceremonial center.
- The cemetery is organized in two sectors, one for the burial of low status persons and the other for high status persons. The tombs vary based on the different rituals conducted after death.
- The El Caño Museum contains artifacts discovered in some tombs within the park. Artifacts include jewelry, masks, vessels, tools, bowls, belts, and pectorals made up of gold, ceramics, and emeralds.

Museum (2)

- The society buried its dead with artifacts for the head, ears, nose, neck, chest, waist, arms and legs, and also with tools and weapons. They were not simple adornments, but elements that symbolically represented the person's identity and social role in life.
- As seen in many artifacts, artists represented the people of Coclé with different zoomorphic or hybrid forms that metaphorically expressed their qualities.
- The exhibition seeks to show the life and death of the Coclé, their social structure, and funerary customs. Many questions may arise. We encourage you to see it not as the final presentation of a research on El Caño but just the beginning of many others.

El Caño Archaeological Park Brochure

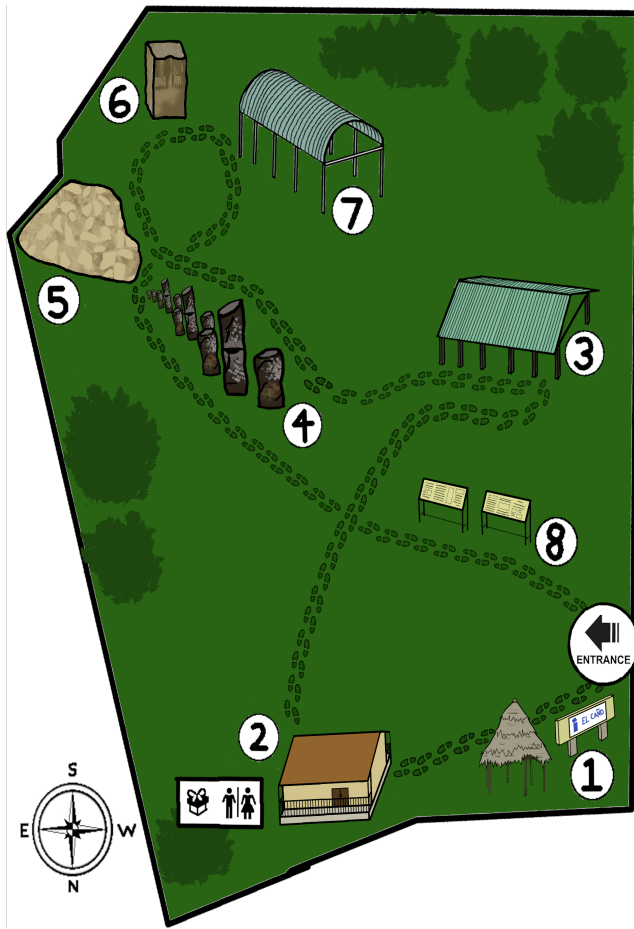


El Caño Coclé
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MINISTERIO
DE CULTURA





1 Ticket Booth

- El Caño represents the culmination of a long process of economic, political, social, and religious development that spanned from 500-1000 A.D.
- Segregation of rich and poor tombs highlight great social inequalities within the El Caño society.
- Abandonment of the necropolis around 1000 A.D. suggests an exhausted political model and the beginning of a new period.

2 Museum

- The El Caño museum contains the artifacts discovered in some of the tombs within the park.

3 Mound 3

- When Mound 3 was first excavated it was a small hill, similar to the one to the right of it.
- Two different types of burials were found here.

1. Primary burials: person buried in extended or laid out position
2. Secondary burials: bones were gathered after decomposition and buried in bundles or urns.

The skeletons displayed demonstrate the different types of burials.

Row of Monoliths

4

The ceremonial area of the necropolis is composed of: Alignment of 67 columnar basalt formations, alignment of 14 similar columns, 26 stone figures, 2 alters, 2 basaltic columns with carved reliefs and 37 sculptures in tuff and basalt.

5 River Rock Causeway

- Cobblestone causeway that is believed to have connected to the Rio Grande River which is approximately 450 meters from the necropolis.
- Funeral parties arrived in the necropolis via the river and causeway.

6 Sacrificial Area

- It is believed this area was used to behead prisoners before they were buried with the chief.
- Other household members were honored to sacrifice themselves by drinking poison and be buried with their chief.

7 Area 1 Excavation

This area is only available for viewing when the archaeological team is working

- Dr. Julia Mayo and the El Caño Foundation team have been excavating the area since 2008 during the dry season of every year.
- 7 tombs dating to 680 A.D.- 1000 A.D. have been discovered here.

8 Information Panels

- Contains background information about the park.
- Details and pictures of the first two tombs discovered in Area 1.