



Exploring Maya Ritual Caves: Dark Secrets from the Maya Underworld

By Stanislav Chládek

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Exploring Maya Ritual Caves offers a rare survey and explication of most of the known ancient Maya ritual caves in Mexico, Guatemala, and Belize. The caves were the Maya underworld, where rituals, including animal and human sacrifice, were carried out. The Maya cave cult and mythology, construction and modification of the caves, and cult art and artifacts are discussed. Chládek, an intrepid explorer, then describes important caves that he has recently visited and provides photos of their wonders.

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Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #4715328 in Books
- Brand: AltaMira Press
- Published on: 2011-08-11
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 9.45" h x .79" w x 6.46" l, 1.22 pounds
- Binding: Hardcover
- 240 pages



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Editorial Review

Review

Tireless explorer and citizen of the world Stanislav Chládek takes readers on a personal journey across and through the sacred landscape of the Maya. In doing so, he reaffirms the important role of caves in Maya worldview and religious practice, and offers insights into subterranean realms both familiar and new. (Dominique Rissolo, executive director, Waitt Institute)

About the Author

Stanislav Chládek, once a world champion whitewater kayaker, had a long career as a professor of chemistry, ran a business in Michigan importing English sea kayaks, and recently has studied Native American rock art and the Aleutian Islands, by kayak, in conjunction with the Smithsonian Institution. In his latest research on the Maya, he was on occasion the first non-Maya to enter some caves.

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