

Plumeria Tree, Frangipani Flowers, atop Pyramid at Nakum
Parque Nacional Yaxha, Nakum and Naranjo (PNYNN), RBM, Peten



Photographs: Teco (Moises Daniel Perez Diaz), Text: Nicholas Hellmuth



This is one of the most beautiful photos of a Plumeria tree of Guatemala that I have yet seen. This Flor de Mayo tree also has the thickest trunk other than those in cemeteries (which are protected for decades). This Frangipani tree is on top of a structure on top of a pyramid at Nakum (where the photographer, Teco, Moises Daniel Perez Diaz, is a park ranger for 23 years).

This is the purest most white wild Plumeria flower I have noticed anywhere in Guatemala. Most other wild white frangipani flowers have a large bright yellow center.

Photo by Teco, Moises Daniel Perez Diaz, park ranger at Parque Nacional Yaxha, Nakum and Naranjo.

Teco assists the FLAAR Mesoamerica research teams while we are doing studies of flora, fauna and biodiverse ecosystems in this park.



Flor de Mayo, May 26, 2020, atop pyramid at Nakum.

Photo by Teco with Huawei cell phone, model LYA-L29.

Recently we provided him with a Google Pixel phone so he can continue to take great photos to document the flora, fauna and biodiverse ecosystems of PNYNN, RBM, Peten, Guatemala.

Teco said the name for this structure is Y. You can ask the local park rangers how best to reach here, keeping in mind that it flowers only in April, May, June, and possibly early July.





Photo by Teco, Moises Daniel Perez Diaz, with Huawei cell phone, model LYA-L29. Teco is a park ranger at Parque Nacional Yaxha, Nakum and Naranjo. So Nakum is worth visiting for lots more than just its impressive temples, pyramids and palaces.

Photograph by Nicholas Hellmuth in October 27, 2018, Nikon D5. When climbing up this pyramid at Nakum I had only a 200mm lens and possibly no iPhone with me, since with an iPhone I could have taken a photo of the entire tree. Obviously no flowers in October.

This shows that most of the branches are growing upwards and only a few diagonally outwards.

The trunk appears to have been cut in a past decade, but that did not kill the tree—it resprouted and survived. Since it is rare to find *Plumeria* in PNYNN it would be helpful if this tree is not trimmed any more.

