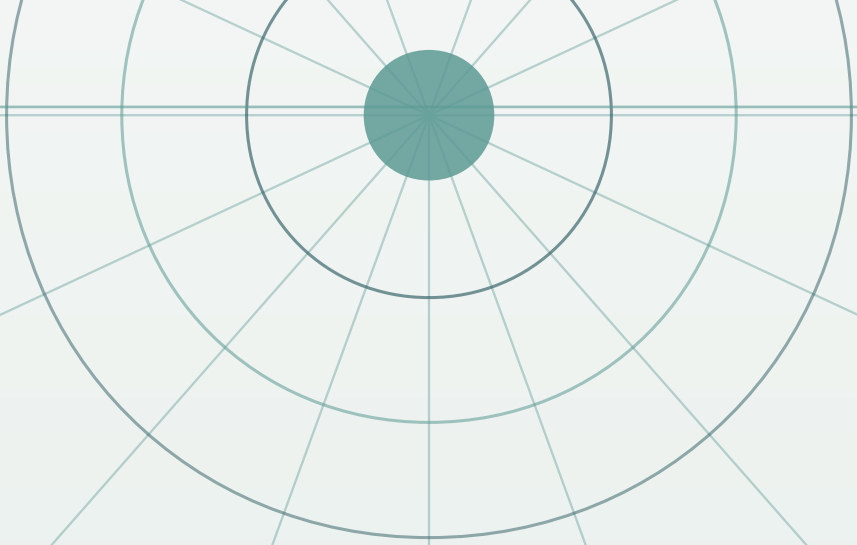




SATELLITE 07

# MONTE ALBÁN

*The Sacred Topography*

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OAXACA · MEXICO  
THE CENTRAL VALLEYS  
UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE SITE



## THE INVITATION

# Come Stand on the Carved Mountain

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**T**his is not a city built beside a mountain. It is a mountain carved, terraced, and reshaped into a city — terraces, dams, canals, pyramids, and artificial mounds cut directly from the hilltop itself, more than 1,300 feet above the valley floor, with a commanding view in every direction.

Scholars have a name for exactly what this site is: sacred topography — geography and meaning fused so completely that you cannot describe the mountain without describing what it meant, or describe what it meant without describing the mountain.

Three successive peoples — Olmec influence at its founding, Zapotec builders who made it their capital for over thirteen centuries, and later Mixtec rulers who reused its tombs for some of the most elaborate burials ever found in Mexico — each in turn read this same hilltop as worth building a civilization around.

## THE LAND ITSELF

# A Capital Carved From a Hilltop

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Monte Albán was founded around 500 BCE and served as the capital of the Zapotec civilization for more than thirteen centuries, until roughly 800 CE. At its peak, around 700 CE, it held a population of some 115,000 people — an extraordinary scale for a hilltop city, sustained by terraces, dams, and canals engineered directly into the mountain to manage water and soil.

By around 700 CE, evidence suggests the Zapotecs were no longer the sole rulers of the site; Mixtec peoples reused Zapotec tombs for burials of remarkable elaborateness, among the richest ever recovered in Mexico. By the time Spanish forces arrived in the 1520s, Monte Albán had already stood abandoned for five hundred years — a city whose active life had ended centuries before conquest ever reached it.

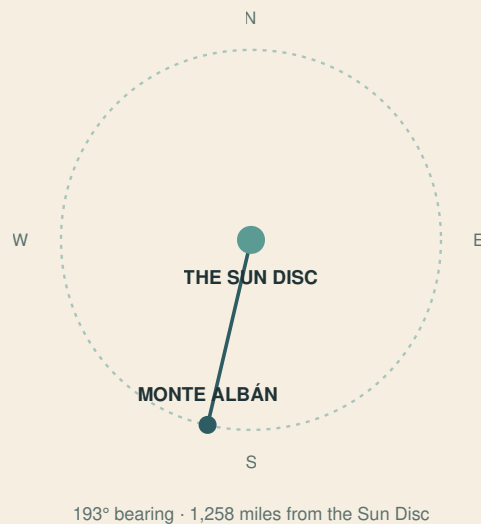
Located 8 kilometres from the modern city of Oaxaca de Juárez, in the Central Valleys of the state, it is inscribed by UNESCO alongside the historic centre of Oaxaca itself as a single World Heritage designation — an old capital and a living city, recognized together.

## THE ORIENTATION

# A Line Back to the Source

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From the Sun Disc's ground in Arkansas, this Satellite sits to the south-southwest, in the Central Valleys of Oaxaca, Mexico.



Named in the primary source material and confirmed by Peter's working diagram, this site carries the clearest scholarly precedent in this entire field of twelve for the very idea of “sacred topography” — geography deliberately built to carry meaning.

WHAT THIS GROUND OFFERS

# Beginning With What a Body Needs

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## **WATER & BREATH**

Dams and canals engineered directly into the mountain by Zapotec builders — water management carved into the ground itself.

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## **GROUND & SHELTER**

A mountain literally reshaped into terraces, capable of holding a city of well over a hundred thousand people.

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## **FOOD & PROVISION**

Valley agriculture substantial enough, at the city's peak, to sustain roughly 115,000 residents.

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## **WORK & CRAFT**

Advanced stone carving and hydraulic engineering, sustained across three successive civilizations.

WHAT THIS GROUND OFFERS

# Rising Toward What a Community Needs

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## KINSHIP & BELONGING

A capital seat held for over a thousand years across three successive peoples — Olmec, Zapotec, and Mixtec.

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## CHILDREN & LEARNING

A city that is, itself, the working precedent for everything this whole project of Satellites is attempting: geography deliberately built to hold meaning.

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## CULTURE & CEREMONY

An elaborate tomb tradition and a governing religious, political, and economic capital, sustained for thirteen centuries.

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## REST & RENEWAL

Wide terraces and open sky, more than 1,300 feet above the valley heat below.

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## VISION & CALLING

The commanding valley view that was, by every account, the very reason this hilltop was chosen in the first place.

## A Precedent Already Standing

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“Sacred topography” is not a phrase reached for loosely in this document — it is the scholarly term already used to describe Monte Albán itself: a mountain whose terraces, dams, canals, pyramids, and mounds were carved directly from the hill to carry meaning across more than a thousand years and three successive civilizations.

That is offered here plainly, without needing further esoteric elaboration: this Satellite is, in its own right, real-world proof that a people can deliberately build significance directly into a landscape's physical shape — which is, in the end, the whole undertaking this field of twelve Satellites is attempting to continue.



### A RECEIVING POINT, NOT A DESTINATION

None of this replaces standing on the ground itself. A Satellite is not a monument and not a holiday stop — it is a place already at work, quietly, carrying what the Sun Disc radiates outward into the land and the people around it.

Whatever draws you here — the mountain carved into a capital, the thirteen centuries three peoples in turn gave it, or the commanding view that chose this hilltop in the first place — the invitation is the same one this whole field of Satellites extends.

*Come see if it calls to you  
the way it has called to everyone  
who has ever stood here and felt something larger listening back.*

## FIELD NOTES

# Specifications & Coordinates

Satellite 07 of the Arkansas Sun Disc · Oaxaca, Mexico.

### THE SITE — MONTE ALBÁN

17.04° N, 96.77° W · Elevation >1,300 ft above the valley floor

Zapotec capital founded approx. 500 BCE, occupied until approx. 800 CE; peak population approx. 115,000 (c. 700 CE). UNESCO World Heritage Site, jointly inscribed with the historic centre of Oaxaca.

### REGIONAL ACCESS

8 km from the city of Oaxaca de Juárez, Central Valleys region, Oaxaca state, Mexico.

### RELATION TO THE SUN DISC

Bearing 193.2° from Pinnacle Mountain, Arkansas · 1,258 miles (2,025 km)

Great-circle bearing and distance computed from the Sun Disc reference point (34.8414° N, 92.4858° W) to the coordinate given above.

*Note: this document offers orientation, not survey. The coordinates above mark the named archaeological site, not a specific parcel boundary.*

Physical sources consulted: EBSCO Research Starters ("Monte Albán"); UNESCO World Heritage Centre; Monte Albán Heritage Center; Rutopia.

Ontological framework consulted: Archangel Metatron discourses transmitted via James Tyberonn (Arkansas Crystalline Tours material); Peter's working diagram; NJAS / EGA internal discourses.