

Help Wanted: Ancient Mayan Citizen

Job Role: Ancient Mayan citizen

Location: Tikal, Guatemala

Salary: 500 cacao beans and 2 sacks of salt per year

So you think you can handle the job of being an Ancient Mayan? Look at the following job description to see if you're up to the task.

Travel: Firstly, you will need to be able to travel to our beautiful location in an area of Mesoamerica, called the Yucatan, which you might now know as Southern Mexico and Central America. The land in this area varies between high mountain ranges, exotic rainforests and stunning coastlines. There are no vehicles, so your only mode of transport will be walking.

Education: You will need to be able to fluently read and write using our Ancient Mayan symbols. The Mayan alphabet system is made up of over 1000 symbols which represent different sounds made in our language. We also use symbols instead of numbers.



Skills: Your main job is likely to be based in farming, so you will need to have skills in growing and harvesting crops. You will also need to be able to turn the dense jungle into suitable farmland, the forests often need to be cut back and burned so the nutrients from the ash can make the soil fertile.

Diet: You must be happy to survive on a diet consisting of fruits, nuts, vegetables, beans and grains. But above every other food, you must love maize! This food is a very important part of our lives and even features in our creation story. We use maize in lots of different ways. It can be ground to make flatbread or porridge and can even be fermented to produce beer. Another special food for us Mayans is cacao, which is enjoyed because of its rich chocolatey flavour and is often mixed with chilli to create a delicious drink.



Appearance: To be considered as beautiful in our Mayan society, you should ideally have a large nose and a sloped forehead. Crossed eyes are also considered to be very attractive in our culture. If your head is not already the correct shape, it can be bound between two flat boards in order to create the perfect shape. As well as this, a bead on a string can be attached to the boards so that it can make you become cross-eyed. You can always make your nose look bigger using clay if you wish.

Religion: Of course you will need to respect and praise the Ancient Mayan gods. We have many gods, such as Hun Ixim, the maize god, who decides whether a crop will succeed or fail. You will need to read our precious holy book 'The Popul Vah', which includes the story of our creation.

Society: Our king is at the top of our society and is thought to have godlike powers with huge temples built in his name. The king's family, nobles and other royals are also treated with great respect. Craftspeople and merchants are next, followed by farmers and finally slaves. On special occasions, great celebrations are held in our communities so commoners and slaves can get to see the king and his family.

Leisure Time: You may be invited to play ball games, as these are very popular in our Mayan world. The aim of our favourite game is to keep a rubber ball in the air using different parts of your body and then pass it through the stone hoops. However, hands and feet are not allowed to be used. At the end of the game, if you are on the losing team you may be offered up to the gods as a blood sacrifice.

Contact Us: If you are interested in applying for the job, please get in touch with us at: The Lost World Pyramid, Tikal, Guatemala, MA1 0YA.

