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ECONOMY

# Discovering Ancient Guayupe Sites in Colombian Oil Exploration

The Latin American Post Staff 2 weeks ago

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**Ecopetrol**, Colombia's state oil company, has identified at least 27 archaeological sites of the pre-Columbian Guayupe people in Meta, revealing a rich historical tapestry beneath the region's oil-rich terrain.

In a groundbreaking exploration effort that intertwines history and industry, Colombia's state oil company, **Ecopetrol**, has uncovered a treasure trove of at least 27 archaeological sites belonging to the pre-Columbian Guayupe people. **These findings, located in the fluvial terraces of the Meta department, offer a fascinating window into the lives of a community that flourished long before Spanish colonization.**

Among the discoveries near the Orotoy River are ceramic fragments and remnants of

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domestic sites, including kitchens, dwellings, and other activity areas of the Guayupe community. These artifacts, some showing traces of soot and smoke, indicate that these locations were once bustling with culinary activity. This remarkable blend of past and present showcases **Ecopetrol's** commitment to preserving historical heritage while pursuing modern industrial goals.

One of the most intriguing aspects of the archaeological efforts in Meta is the discovery of ceramic pieces with evidence of cooking activities. In the municipality of Guamal, excavations revealed ceramics bearing soot and smoke traces, indicating their use in food preparation. This find provides a tangible connection to the daily lives of the Guayupe people, who utilized these vessels in their culinary practices.

In Acacías, another significant archaeological site, over 3,000 pieces were unearthed, including five notable vessels slated for restoration. The collection also includes lithic pieces and stone tools, offering further insight into the technological advancements and everyday activities of the Guayupe. These findings enrich our understanding of pre-Columbian life in the Llanos Orientales, a region rich in history and cultural heritage.

## Community Engagement and Preservation Efforts

**Ecopetrol's** archaeological initiatives extend beyond excavation and discovery. The company is dedicated to involving local communities in preserving and understanding their cultural heritage. According to Igor Martínez, an **Ecopetrol's** Environmental Management and Relations Department archaeologist, the company has developed a plan to share the results with local communities. **This initiative aims to raise awareness about the importance of protecting archaeological heritage and fostering a sense of shared history.**

The Guayupe people, who inhabited the Llanos Orientales before the Spanish arrival in the 16th century, were skilled farmers, hunters, anglers, and potters with complex funerary practices. By engaging with the local communities, **Ecopetrol** ensures the preservation of these ancient sites and enhances the collective knowledge and appreciation of the region's rich cultural past.

## Long-term Archaeological Commitment

**Ecopetrol's** dedication to archaeology in the Meta region can be traced back to 2015. Its ongoing efforts to reconstruct the history of its ancient inhabitants aim to uncover the social processes and daily lives of pre-Columbian populations, contributing to broader historical and cultural research.

The company's pioneering dual focus on oil exploration and archaeological preservation presents a unique and inspiring model for balancing industrial development with cultural heritage conservation. **Ecopetrol** helps build a comprehensive picture of the Guayupe people's life and legacy by meticulously documenting and analyzing each find.

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# 51 °F

## Bogotá

Scattered Clouds

↓ 63° - 51°  
▲ 93%  
⇌ 3.44 mph



63 °F  
Sun



69 °F  
Mon



63 °F  
Tue



61 °F  
Wed



56 °F  
Thu

The intersection of modern oil exploration and ancient history in Meta is a powerful reminder of the layers of human activity that define a region. [Ecopetrol](#)'s discoveries underscore the vital importance of integrating archaeological research into industrial projects, ensuring that progress does not come at the expense of cultural heritage.

**As the archaeological work continues, the findings promise to illuminate even more about the sophisticated society of the Guayupe.** This integration of past and present enriches our historical understanding and provides a meaningful context for the ongoing development in the region.

The discovery of Guayupe archaeological sites amidst oil exploration efforts in Meta exemplifies a harmonious blend of industry and history. [Ecopetrol](#)'s dedication to preserving and understanding the region's cultural heritage highlights the importance of recognizing and protecting the legacy of ancient communities.

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These efforts offer valuable lessons in balancing development with cultural preservation, ensuring that the rich history of regions like Meta is not lost to time. Through continued research and community engagement, [Ecopetrol](#) is paving the way for a future where the past is honored and integrated into the story of modern progress.

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