

What is Taam Ja Blue Hole?

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What is a Blue Hole?

- Blue holes are **water-filled vertical caverns, or sinkholes**, found **in coastal regions where the bedrock is made of soluble material**, such as limestone, marble, or gypsum.
- They **form when water** on the surface **percolates through the rock, dissolving minerals** and **widening cracks**, which eventually **causes the rock to collapse**.
- Famous **examples** include **Dean's Blue Hole** in the **Bahamas**, the **Dahab Blue Hole** in **Egypt**, and the **Great Blue Hole** in **Belize**.

About Taam Ja' Blue Hole:

- It is the **deepest** known **underwater sinkhole** in the world.
- It sits in **Chetumal Bay** off the **southeast coast** of the **Yucatan Peninsula in Mexico**.
- It extends at least 1,380 feet (420 meters) below sea level.

- It is 390 feet (119 m) deeper than the **previous record holder** — the 990-foot-deep (301 m) **Sansha Yongle Blue Hole**, also known as the **Dragon Hole**, in the **South China Sea**.
- Spread over an area of 13,660 square meters, the giant, underwater cavern has been named Taam Ja' which means "deep water" in Mayan.
- The submerged blue hole has a **nearly circular shape at its surface** with **steep sides** that form a large conic structure **covered by biofilms, sediments, limestone, and gypsum ledges**.

Key facts about Yucatan Peninsula:

- It is a **northeastern projection of Central America**, extending into the Atlantic Ocean.
- The **Gulf of Mexico** lies on its **western and northern sides**. The **Caribbean Sea** lies on its **eastern side**.
- The **northern part** of Yucatán **is in Mexico. Belize and** a part of **Guatemala** are in **the south**.

The peninsula is almost wholly **composed of beds of coralline and porous limestone rocks**.

Q1: What is a Sinkhole?

A sinkhole is a hole in the ground that forms when water dissolves surface rock. Often, this surface rock is limestone, which is easily eroded, or worn away, by the movement of water. Sinkholes also form when the roofs of caves collapse. Sinkholes are often funnel-shaped, with the wide end open at the surface and the narrow end at the bottom of the pool.

Source: [Deepest blue hole in the world discovered, with hidden caves and tunnels believed to be inside](#)

Source: <https://vajiramandravi.com/current-affairs/taam-ja-blue-hole/>

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