

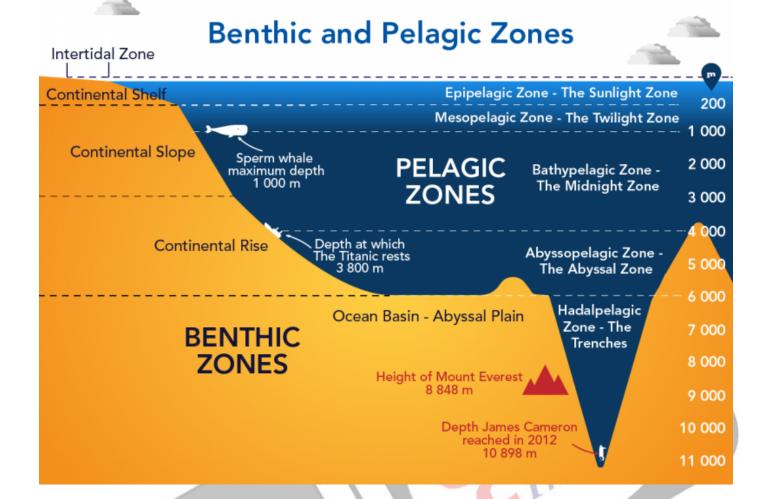
World's Deepest Blue Hole

Source: TOI

Recently, researchers have discovered the <u>world's deepest blue hole</u> located in Mexico's **Chetumal Bay in Mexico, known as Taam Ja' Blue Hole (TJBH).**

- It was originally believed to be the second deepest. However, recent measurements have shown that it exceeds 420 meters below sea level (mbsl), making it deeper than any other known blue hole.
- The new measurement reached into the **mesopelagic zone**, where sunlight is significantly reduced, and marine life concentration is high.
- TJBH's depth surpasses other well-known blue holes such as the Sansha Yongle Blue Hole in the South China Sea (301 mbsl) and the Dean's Blue Hole in the Bahamas (202 mbsl).
- Blue holes serve as <u>biological hotspots</u> hosting diverse marine life, including corals, sponges, molluscs, sea turtles, and sharks.
- Exploration of blue holes has been limited due to challenging access conditions, as most blue holes have small openings that are several hundred feet underwater, making them inaccessible for automated submersibles.

Feature	Blue Holes	Deep Trenches
Formation	Cave collapse	Subduction of tectonic plates
Location	Continental shelves, reefs, etc.	Convergent plate boundaries
Depth	Variable, from shallow to very	Deepest parts of the ocean (Mariana
	deep	Trench>36,000 ft)



Read more: Biological hotspots

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