

WHAT IS A CENOTE?

A cenote is an extraordinarily beautiful natural well found in the jungles of the Yucatan Peninsula, a region composed of porous limestone and underground rivers, which form these natural cavities. In most cases, they are filled with turquoise and green crystalline waters. In ancient times, they were a source of this vital liquid and sites of worship for the Mayas, the mother civilization of this area.

They come up from the ground amongst the abundant vegetation creating a unique ecosystem; besides being a distinctive characteristic of the natural landscape, cenotes are an integral part of the history, customs and traditions of the Mayan people – wrapped up in myths and legends. Today, they stir up a sense of adventure for visitors from around the world who take the plunge into their refreshing waters. Cenotes comprise a one-of-a-kind system, though fragile and vulnerable; they need to be protected as living entities since they are windows to other dimensions with valuable information about nature and man.

