

'World's longest cave' discovered 墨西哥潜水团队发现“世界最长”水下洞穴

墨西哥的潜水员们在当地发现了“世界上最长的”水下洞穴，这个洞穴长约 216 英里（347 公里）。名为“大玛雅地下水层项目（The Gran Acuífero Maya project）”的工作人员称，这一发现将帮助我们更加深入地了解有关玛雅文明的历史。

The group of divers spent months exploring a **maze** of underwater channels near the Mexican beach resort of Tulum. Parts of the region were **inhabited** by the ancient Mayan **civilisation** before the Spanish **conquest** in the 16th century.

这组潜水员用了数月时间在墨西哥海滩度假胜地图卢姆（Tulum）附近对水下错综复杂的峡谷开展了研究活动。该地的部分区域在 17 世纪被西班牙占领前曾是玛雅文明的所在地。

With more than 200 caves, they thought there was chance that something **record-breaking** would be found below the surface – they just had no proof – until now. For the team has discovered that one large **cavern**, Sac Actun, is actually connected to another, Dos Ojos, creating a 350km-long cave. Now for size, that's the equivalent of 7,000 Olympic swimming pools in length and in places up to 100m deep.

该团队已挖掘出的洞穴有 200 多个，因此他们认为很可能在水下发现长度破纪录的一个，只是直到现在为止，他们没有找到证据。已发现的被称作“白色洞穴（Sac Actun）”的巨大山洞其实与“双眼洞穴（Dos Ojos）”相连，共同构成了 350 公里长的山洞。它的大小相当于 7000 个奥林匹克规模的游泳池的总长，而且洞中一些地方的深度达 100 米。

And it's not just the size that matters. The area also **hosts** a wealth of historical treasures. Guillermo de Anda is director of the Gran Acuífero Maya project. He said the discovery would help them better understand the rich culture in the region.

这个洞穴的重要之处并不只是其长度。这个地区还汇聚了丰富的历史珍宝。吉利尔莫·德·安达（Guillermo de Anda）是大玛雅地下水层项目的负责人。他说，该发现会帮助研究团队更深入地了解当地丰富多彩的文化。

But while its size makes this the longest underwater cave, it can't **take the title** of longest cave. That belongs to the **mammoth** cave complex in the American hillsides of Kentucky – thought to be near double the length. They'll need to keep diving to beat that one.

虽然它是世界上最长水下洞穴，但它无法夺得“世界最长洞穴”的头衔。因为这个称号属于位于美国肯塔基州猛犸洞穴群，它的长度几乎是最新发现的水下洞穴的两倍。要想打破这项记录，研究团队恐怕得在水下继续寻找才行。

1. 词汇表

maze	迷宫般的地方
inhabited	居住着
civilisation	文明、文化
conquest	占领
record-breaking	破纪录的
cavern	大洞穴，大山洞
hosts	聚集、汇聚
take the title	夺得（第一的）头衔
mammoth	猛犸

2. 阅读理解：请在读完上文后，回答下列问题。（答案见下页）

1. Why did a group of divers have to explore these caves?
2. Why is this cave longer than previously thought?
3. True or false? *You could fit the length of 7,000 Olympic swimming pools inside this cave.*
4. Before the discovery of this new cave, was there any real evidence that it existed?

3. 答案

1. Why did a group of divers have to explore these caves?

Divers had to explore the caves because they were underwater.

2. Why is this cave longer than previously thought?

Two large caverns are connected, creating a 350km long cave.

3. True or false? *You could fit the length of 7,000 Olympic swimming pools inside this cave.*

True. The new cave is the equivalent of 7,000 Olympic swimming pools in length and in places up to 100m deep.

4. Before the discovery of this new cave, was there any real evidence that it existed?

No. It was thought that something record-breaking would be found below the surface – but there was no proof.