SAVE THE CENOTES

An apocalyptic nightmare is threatening the fragile cenotes and underground water ways of Riviera Maya, the stretch of Caribbean coastline on Mexico's northeastern Yucatán Peninsula. The Mexican government plans to build a train corridor through the jungle in what's been reported to be an ill-conceived, poorly planned project known as the "Tren Maya". It has already disrupted tourism, and resulted in the expropriation of local Mayan lands. Wide swaths of the jungle will be clear cut and pillars will be sunk into the longest flooded cave systems on the planet threatening their collapse, which could likely destroy the caves and disrupt the vital flow of fresh groundwater onto coastal reefs of the Mesoamerican Barrier Reef System.



The original planned route of Tren Maya – from which there have been significant deviations. Phase 1 (shown in red) of the route has already begun laying tracks. Preliminary construction already has begun on Phase 2, but it is hoped that there is time to halt or change the route (Map: Tren Maya)



What You can Do to Help:

1. Educate yourself! **Read the articles below**
2. **Please Sign the Petition:** **No al Tren Maya sobre los cenotes y cuevas de Quintana Roo** (No to the Mayan Train over the cenotes and caves of Quintana Roo)
3. **Share these articles** and petition on social media
4. **Show your support** for local dive stores and operators.
5. **Voice your concerns** to government officials.



Further reading:

- *Diver:* ***The Imminent Destruction of Mexico's Best Dive Sites – One Track at a Time*** *by Natalie Gibb (2.10.22)*
- *X-Ray:* ***Dive community up in arms over Tren Maya railway project*** *by Larry Cohen (2.14.22)*
- *DIVE:* ***Divers fear Yucatán train could destroy cenotes*** *by Mark Crowley Russell (2.17.22)*
- *France 24:* ***Mayan Train, the president's pet project exposing Mexico's cracks*** *(12.15.21)*
- *France 24 (video):* ***'Ecocidal': Mexico's 'Maya Train' divides communities*** *(12.15.22)*
- *Aljezerra:* ***Mexico's Mayan train suspension divides Indigenous community*** *(4.21.21)*

Photo courtesy of SJ Alice Bennet