Hole 7

Page 133: The cenote "sand trap" at hole 7 of the El Camaleón golf course, which is widely known as the first PGA golf championship in Latin America, and for its distinctive Greg Norman design. It was awesome to reveal the caves below a spot that so many people all over the world have seen on television.

Left: "When in Rome, do as the Roman's do." We loaded our gear into a golf cart to make the trip to explore the cenote on hole 7.

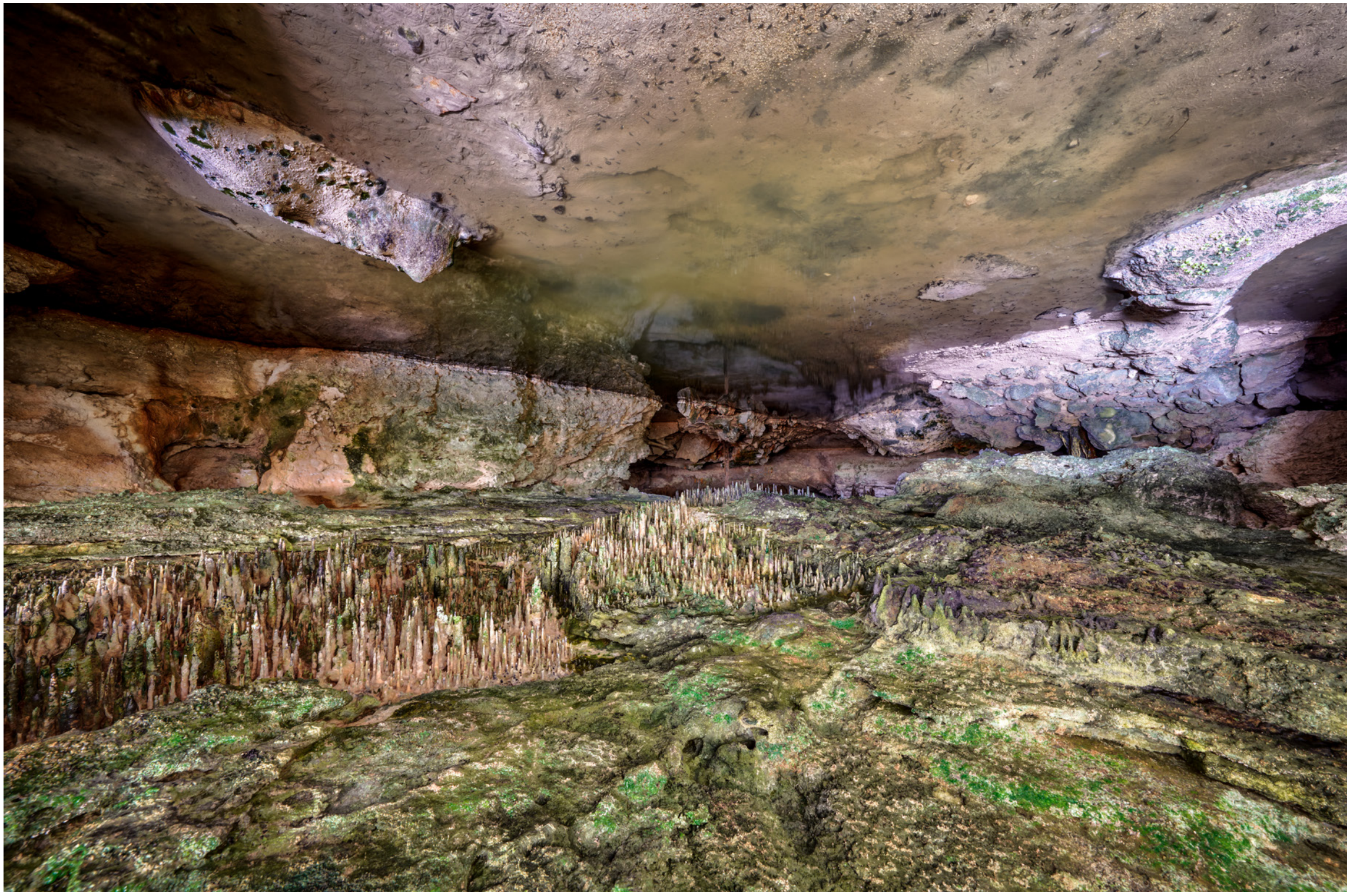
Right: The pool of shallow water at the front part of the cenote. The submerged cave passage was much farther back into the cavern, requiring a challenging scramble with our gear.

Most guests of Mayakoba know of the famous cenote on hole 7 of the PGA Championship golf course. Built into the course as a "Mexico-style" sand trap, the cenote is an impressive opening facing the Burrodromo passage a few hundred meters to the south.

Matt first visited the cenote with Daniel Scott, the managing director of Rosewood. On this trip, they'd found a small pool of water in the very back of the cave, 40 m (130 ft) back and a very tricky scramble from the entrance. Knowing that it is difficult to judge a cave by its entrance, we weren't sure exactly what we'd find on a dive, but held out hope that this pool of water would form the connection to Burrodromo.

On July 16th, we loaded our gear into a golf cart and made our way to hole 7, aided by support from the golf course team and lots of curious players.

Expecting a tight entrance that couldn't be safely navigated by two divers until we had run a line, Matt tied into some rocks at the side of the pool and plunged below while Henry provided support from above. Matt was back at the surface five minutes later having found a short cave passage that terminated in a small room at a depth of 6 m (20 ft), and just 15 m (50 ft) of distance. ✦



Left: Cenotes are always changing. Here, the stalactites grow as water drips from the ceiling of the cave.
Right: A view out onto the golf course from inside the cave.