

The Canals



Page 151: Once we found Cenote Turtle Party, we could start our Burrodromo dives by using our DPVs to make the trek from the dock to the cave entrance, a trip that took about 25 minutes. Eric captured this drone shot of the gang scooting to the cave.

Left: Mayakoba is home to about 80 different species of birds, including the Limpkin which is frequently found near the water.

Right: Sunbeams could make our trips through the canals very inspiring. Here, Henry scoots through clouds of algae in the northern area of the canals by Ak K'U', casting his reflection on the surface above.

A central feature of Mayakoba is its well-connected system of canals. Forming a natural lattice that connects the property, the canals are used for boat transportation around the resort.

The canals at Mayakoba formed from a mix of naturally occurring cave collapses and terrain features like cliffs, together with some unfortunate excavation that occurred under previous landowners.

RLH Properties, the current owner of the resort, has worked to maintain these waterways and preserve their environment through water reclamation and careful management of the habitat. The canals are the home to about 80 different species of birds, 18 mammal species, five fish species, seven amphibian species, and 24 reptile species, including crocodiles.

We knew that the canals would be an integral part of exploring the property, expecting that many of the cave systems would be connected to these waterways. Using our scooters, which allowed us to travel at about 50 m (160 ft) per minute, we explored more than 14.5 km (9 mi) of canals, which contained more than 25 potential cave entrances, including the two new caves of Ma' Áayin and Ak K'U', and a previously unknown entrance to Burrodromo that we called Turtle Party. ♦





Left: We explored 14.5 km (9 mi) of canals, finding more than 25 potential cave entrances, many of which we haven't had a chance to check yet. Matt takes a look into the hole near Turtle Party.

Right: We frequently encountered crocodiles, sometimes in the water or sunning on the shore of the canals.









Left: Turtles were everywhere. In the canals, in the entrances to the caves, and on the land nearby.

Right: Matt takes a “closer look” into the hole near Turtle Party.



Left: The canals were surrounded by tall cliffs in some spots, evidence of their origin as cave passages.

Center left: The anhinga bird shows off its flexibility.

Center right: The boat ride to Ma' Áayin was a moment to contemplate the long dives ahead.

Right: Having fun in the algae just outside cenote Ak K'U'.



