

EXPLORING THE MARIANA TRENCH.

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The Mariana Trench is the deepest part of the earth's oceans, and the deepest location of the earth itself.

The deepest part of the Mariana Trench is the Challenger Deep, so named after the exploratory vessel HMS Challenger II.

Cause of its extreme depth, the Mariana Trench is cloaked in perpetual darkness and the temperature is just a few degrees above freezing.

The light does not penetrate to a depth below 1,000 meters.

As with spaceships, deep-sea submersibles must be engineered to accommodate innumerable challenges, including dramatic changes in pressure and temperature and a total absence of sunlight.

If Mount Everest were dropped into the Mariana Trench, its peak would still be more than a mile (1.6 kilometers) underwater.

At the bottom of Challenger Deep, calcium carbonate shells are not an option because the intense pressure — over 1,000 times sea-level — dissolves the mineral.

The Mariana Trench's microscopic inhabitants might even shed light on the emergence of life on Earth.

Four descents have been achieved: the first was the manned descent by Swiss-designed, Italian-built, United States Navy-owned bathyscaphe Trieste, by Canadian film director James Cameron in 2012 (on 26 March, he reached the bottom of the Mariana Trench in the submersible vessel Deepsea Challenger).

Scientists have discovered the world's deepest fish – a snailfish found at a depth of 26,722 feet.

Each unexplored ocean trench is a surprise package waiting to be unwrapped.