

Cave rescue in Thailand

After nine days trapped in a flooded cave that stretches 10km, the 12 Thai boys and their football coach have been found alive. Here's how the gruelling search unfolded.

SATURDAY, JUNE 23

The group are reported missing after going into the Tham Luang cave in northern Thailand following football practice. Park officials search for the group. Some of their belongings are found near the entrance.

SUNDAY, JUNE 24

Rescue workers dive in floodwaters inside the cave. Handprints and

footprints believed to belong to the group are found, suggesting they went deeper inside after being blocked by floodwaters. Relatives begin their vigil outside.

MONDAY, JUNE 25

Thai Navy Seal divers step in as the heavy rain continues. The boys are believed to have retreated farther to an elevated air pocket called "Pattaya Beach".

TUESDAY, JUNE 26

Divers reach a T-junction several kilometres inside but are forced back by rushing floodwaters near "Pattaya Beach".

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 27

Rescue teams look for shafts into the cave. Pumps are installed to reduce the water levels.

THURSDAY, JUNE 28

United States forces arrive to help. They are

joined by British diving experts who go into the cave but quickly retreat because of heavy flooding.

FRIDAY, JUNE 29

Rescue teams find a possible opening, but there is no guarantee it will connect to the main cave network. Thai Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha visits the site.

SATURDAY, JUNE 30

A break in the bad weather allows divers to reach farther inside, but they are still several kilometres from where the boys are believed to be.

SUNDAY, JULY 1

Divers inch farther in as the weather improves. Hundreds of oxygen tanks are pulleyed in, allowing divers to remain underground for longer.

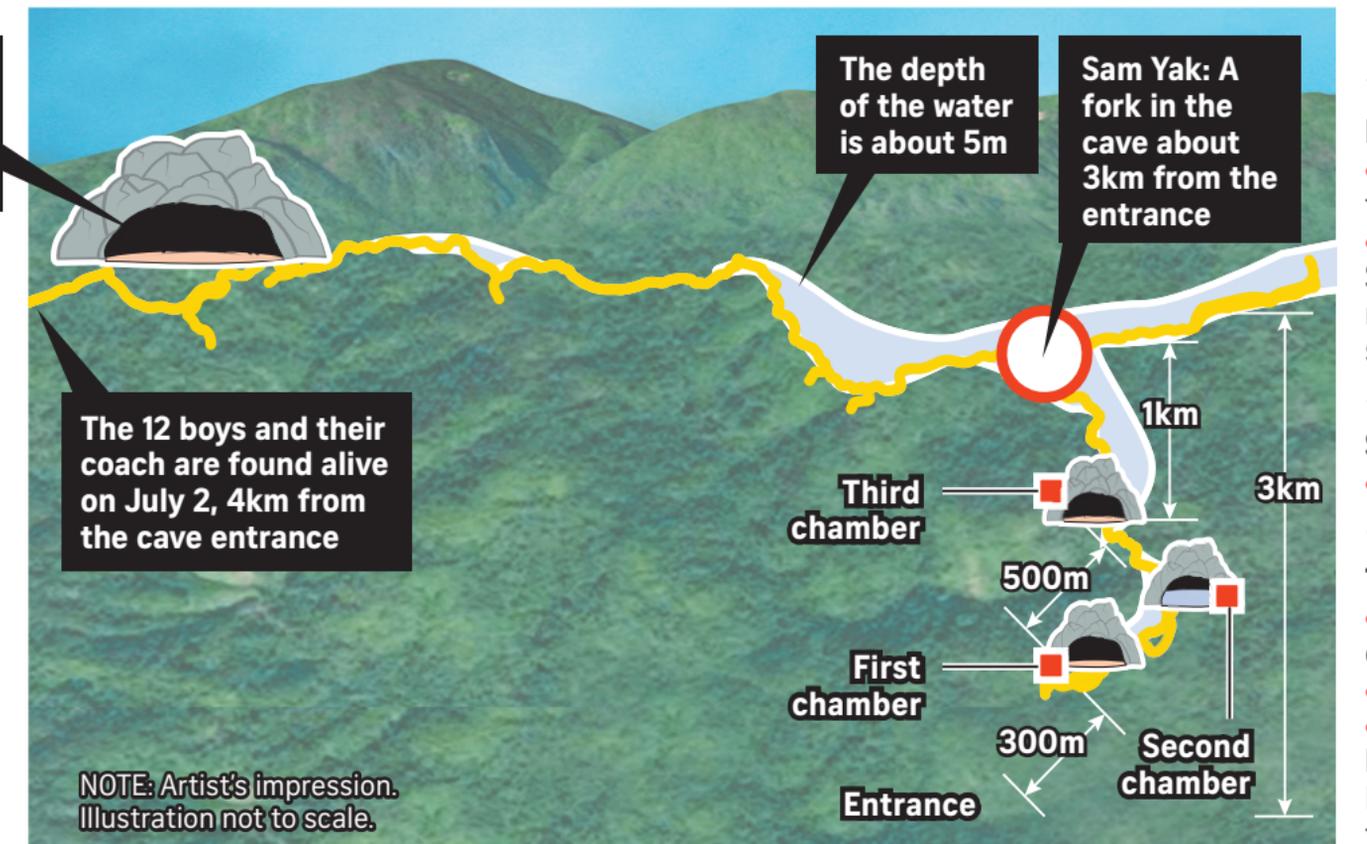
MONDAY, JULY 2

The group are miraculously found alive about 400m farther along from "Pattaya Beach".

Sources: THE NATION/ASIA NEWS NETWORK, BANGKOK POST, AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE, GUINNESS BOOK OF WORLD RECORDS, MSNBC STRAITS TIMES GRAPHICS



A chamber dubbed "Pattaya Beach" where the group were thought to be located



The 12 boys and their coach are found alive on July 2, 4km from the cave entrance

NOTE: Artist's impression. Illustration not to scale.

First chamber

- 300m from the entrance.
- Thai Navy Seals and rescue divers start diving.

Second chamber

- Totally flooded.

Third chamber

- 2km from the entrance.
- High ground.
- Latest diving base for Thai Navy Seals team.

What happens to the body when there's no water

First 3 days

- The body stops producing perspiration, saliva and urine to conserve water.

By day 4

- Since perspiration cools the body, possibility of heat fatigue and heatstroke increases without it.
- Toxins also build up in the body as they are not disposed of by urine, resulting in aches and pains.

When there's no food

After 24 hours

- Intense hunger as energy created by food is used up.

After 48 hours

- Hunger goes away and is replaced by an "empty" feeling as stomach shrinks.

Next 2 to 3 weeks

- Weight loss occurs as body breaks down fat to supply energy.
- The heart pumps slower to conserve energy, leading to low blood pressure, dizziness and physical weakness.



For more updates, go to www.straitstimes.com

SCAN TO READ

Medics and ambulances on standby outside cave



SCAN TO WATCH <http://str.sg/rescuers>

First encounter between divers and boys



SCAN TO WATCH <http://str.sg/cave>