

# BLUE LIGHT

## THE MARBLE CAVERNS OF PATAGONIA


AN ELECTRONIC MONOGRAPH  
BY LINDE WAIDHOFER



### HOW TO VIEW THIS e-BOOK


This book opens on the computer screen in full screen mode, against a simple black background with no distracting menus.

Use the Right and Left arrow keys on your keyboard to turn the pages.

You can close the book at any time, by typing Control and w (on a PC), or  and w (on a Mac).

To exit the full screen mode and see your normal computer menus, simply tap the ESC key.

To zoom in and look at a photo in more detail type Control and + (on a PC), or  and + (on a Mac).

To zoom back out type Control and 0 (on a PC), or  and 0 (on a Mac).



# BLUE LIGHT

THE MARBLE CAVERNS  
OF PATAGONIA

LINDE WAIDHOFER

WESTERN EYE

2002-2006

# Patagonia

*46 degrees south, 72 degrees west.*

Chileans call their part of this vast lake—the second largest in South America—Lago General Carrera. To Argentinians, it's Lago Buenos Aires. Long before Europeans arrived, indigenous tribes knew it as lake Chilenko.

When great icefields blocked the western end of this lake, its water flowed to the Atlantic; today its glacier-fed waters drain to the Pacific. And these waters are magic. We've never seen water this blue, we've never seen this many shades of blue, blue that changes as the light changes, changes with the weather, from turquoise to cobalt and beyond. Bluer than blue. Bluer than any lake should be. Or could be. But is...



*the western end of Lago Carrera, photographed by a NASA satellite*



## Geologists

have a simple explanation for the breathtaking, heartbreaking blue of this giant lake, and the equally vivid blue of the water that flows out of it, into the Rio Baker and on to the sea.

They talk of super-finely ground glacial silt, much finer than the glacial sediments that turn many mountain lakes in the northern hemisphere green but milky. This water is at the same time an unearthly blue and crystal clear.

Vision doesn't stop, doesn't even pause, at the lake's surface, dives beneath the water like the cliffs that line much of Lago Carrera, plunging down into a blue clarity. 20 feet, 30 feet, more, each fissure, each detail of the rock still crystal clear. An impossible lake filled with impossible blue light...

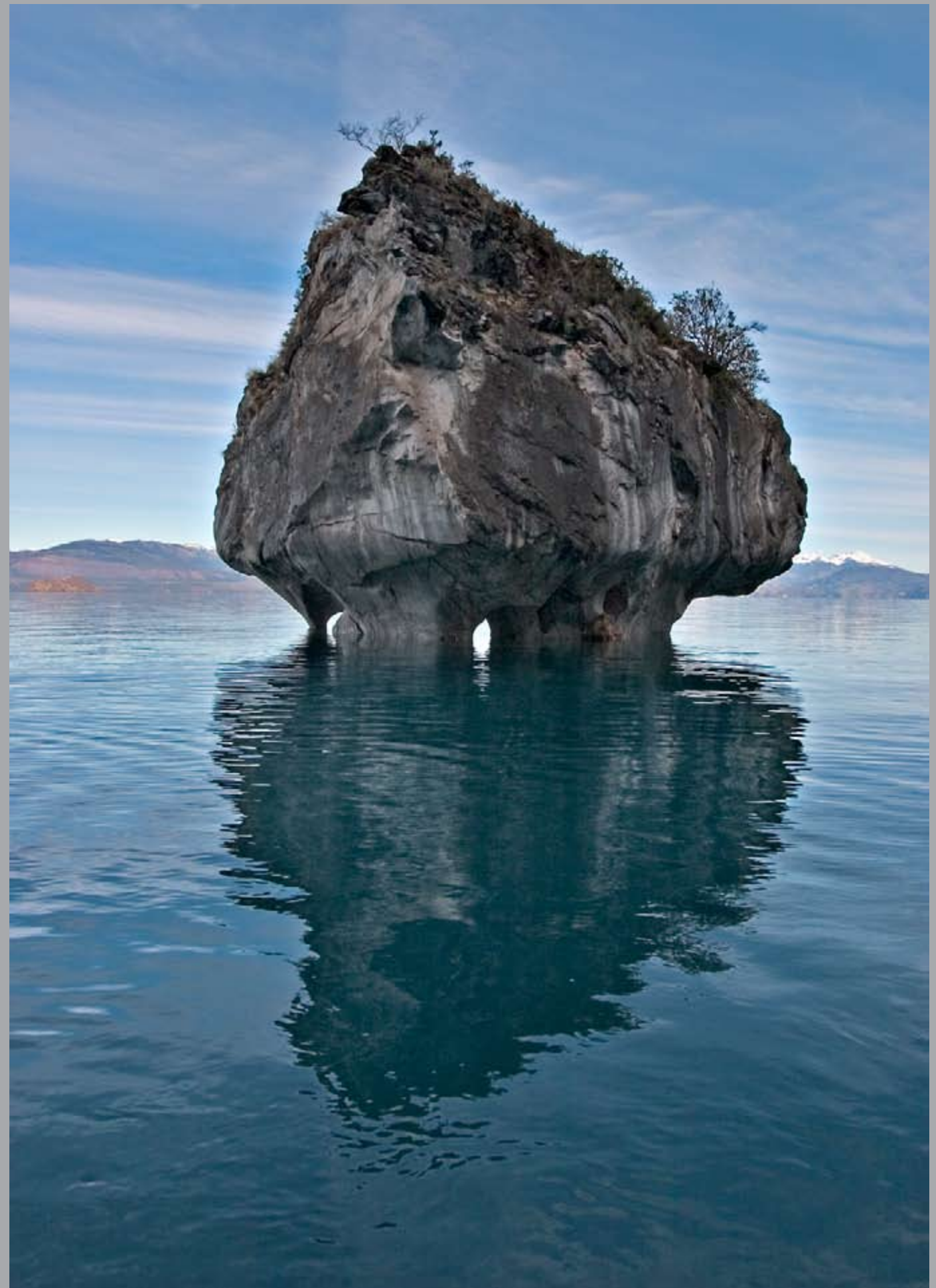
Photographers, and especially landscape photographers, aren't looking for explanations but for beauty, for mystery, for new images of an old world. Lago Carrera's blue light never disappoints, but it is at its very strangest inside the marble caverns, eroded by wave action over centuries at the base of steep cliffs and stone stacks near the lake's edge.

Here at Bahia Mansa, *Gentle Bay*, near Puerto Tranquilo close to the west end of the Lake, a desperately steep dirt road winds down to a hidden boat landing. A frontier post between reality and unreality. Ten minutes later your small boat enters a private universe, a private world of sculpted marble and blue light. Without the photographs as evidence you might think it was only a dream. It wasn't but it is.

*Lito Tejada-Flores*



*La Capilla de Mårmol, or Marble Chapel,  
first outpost of the marble caverns of Lago Carrera*

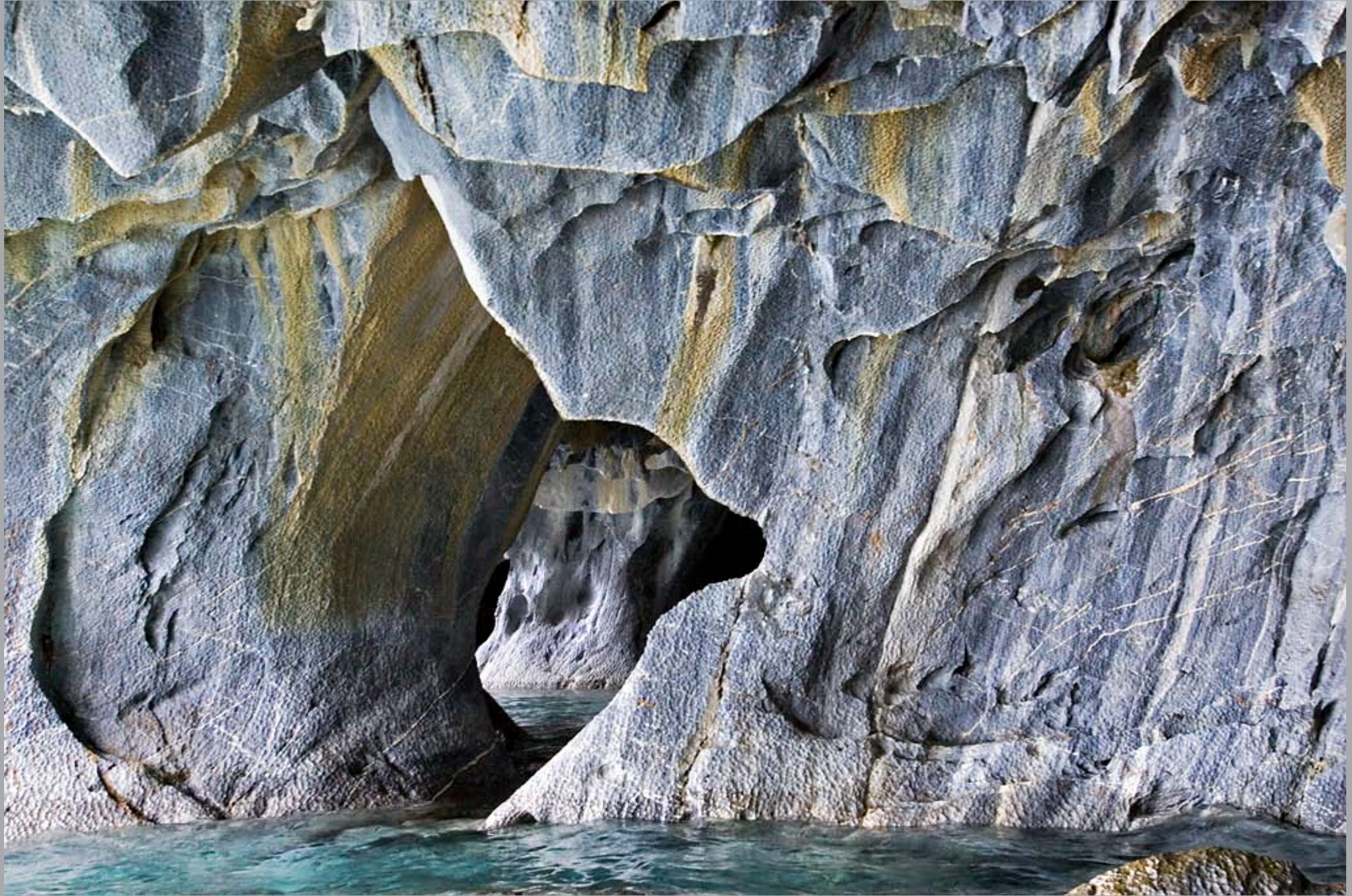


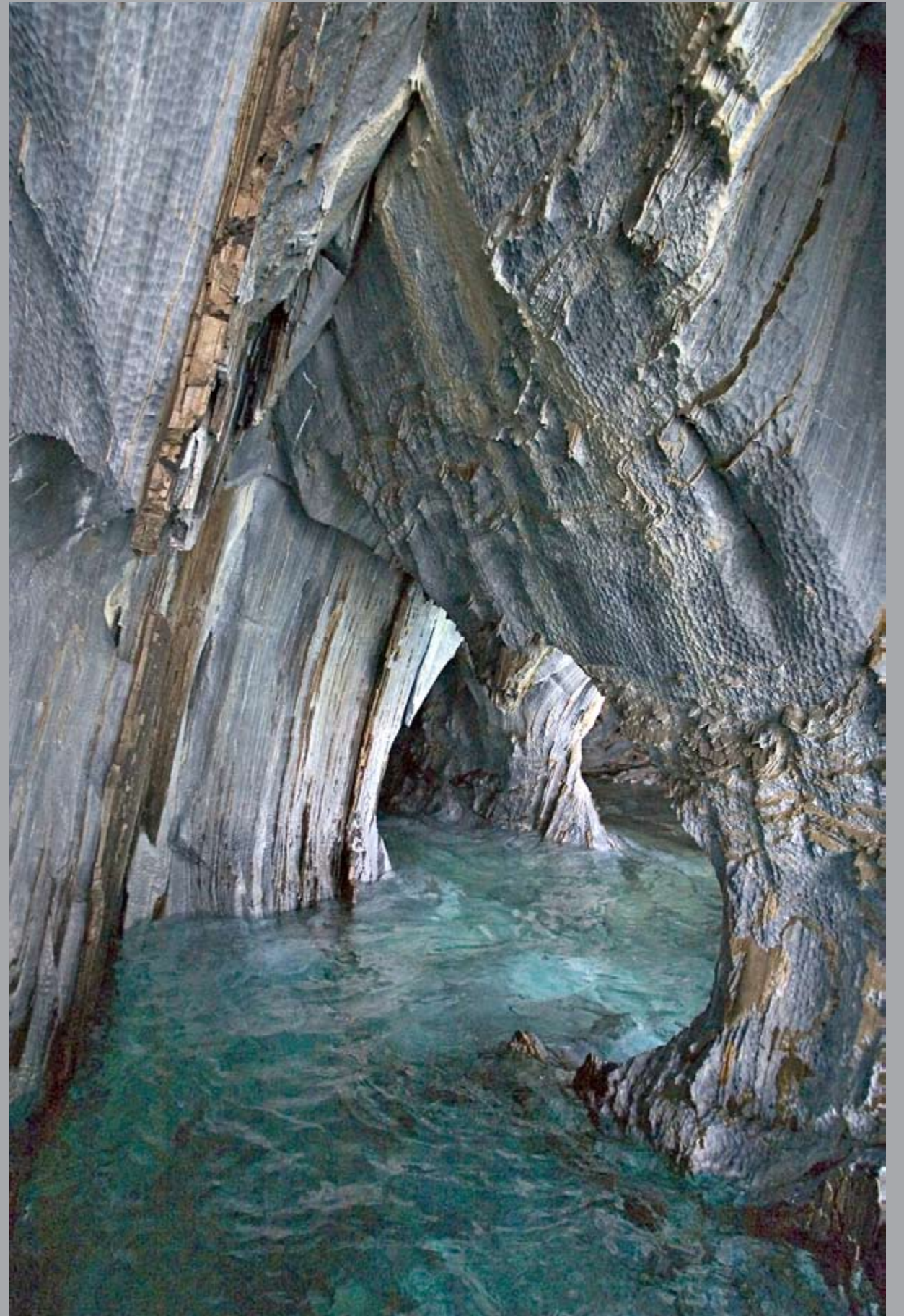
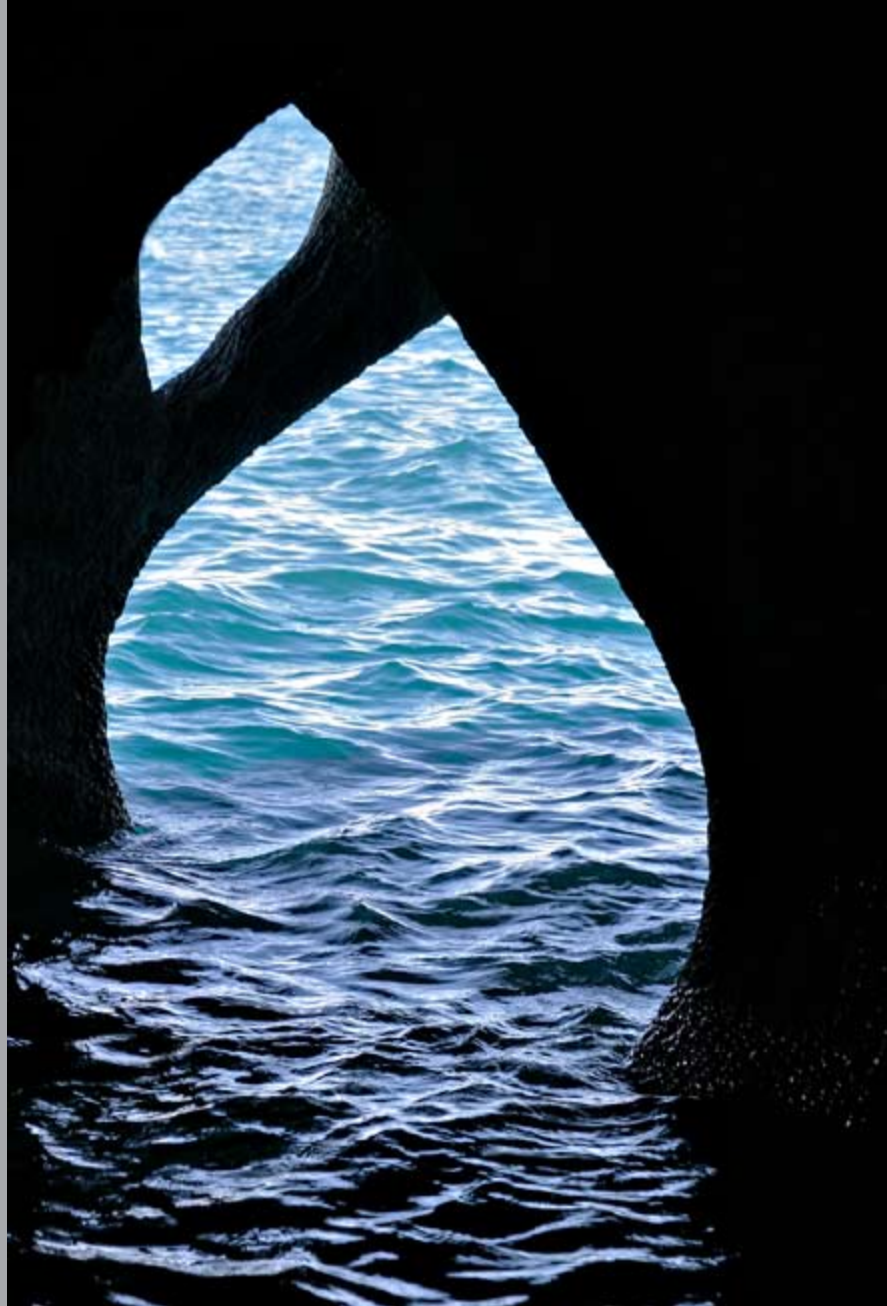




















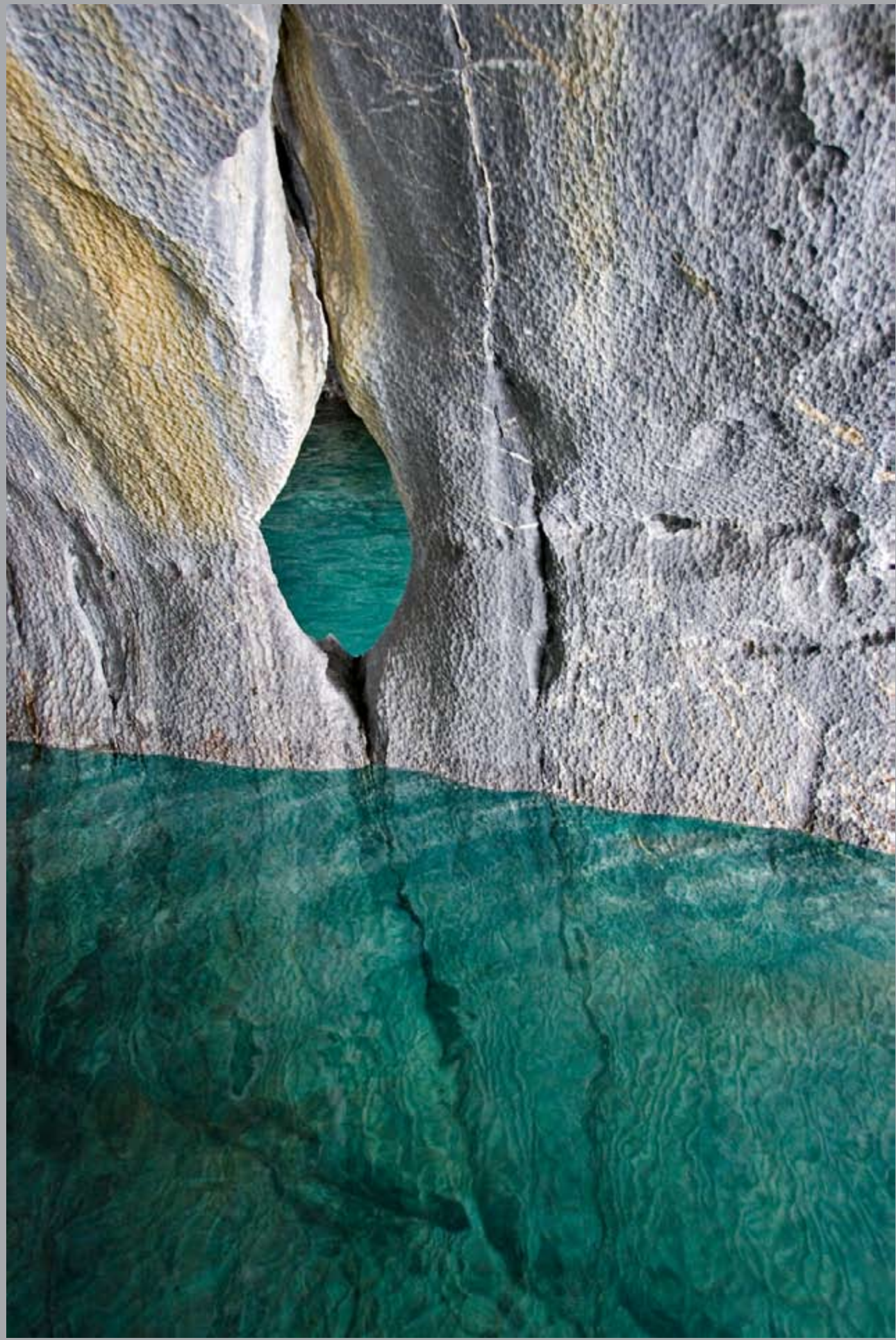




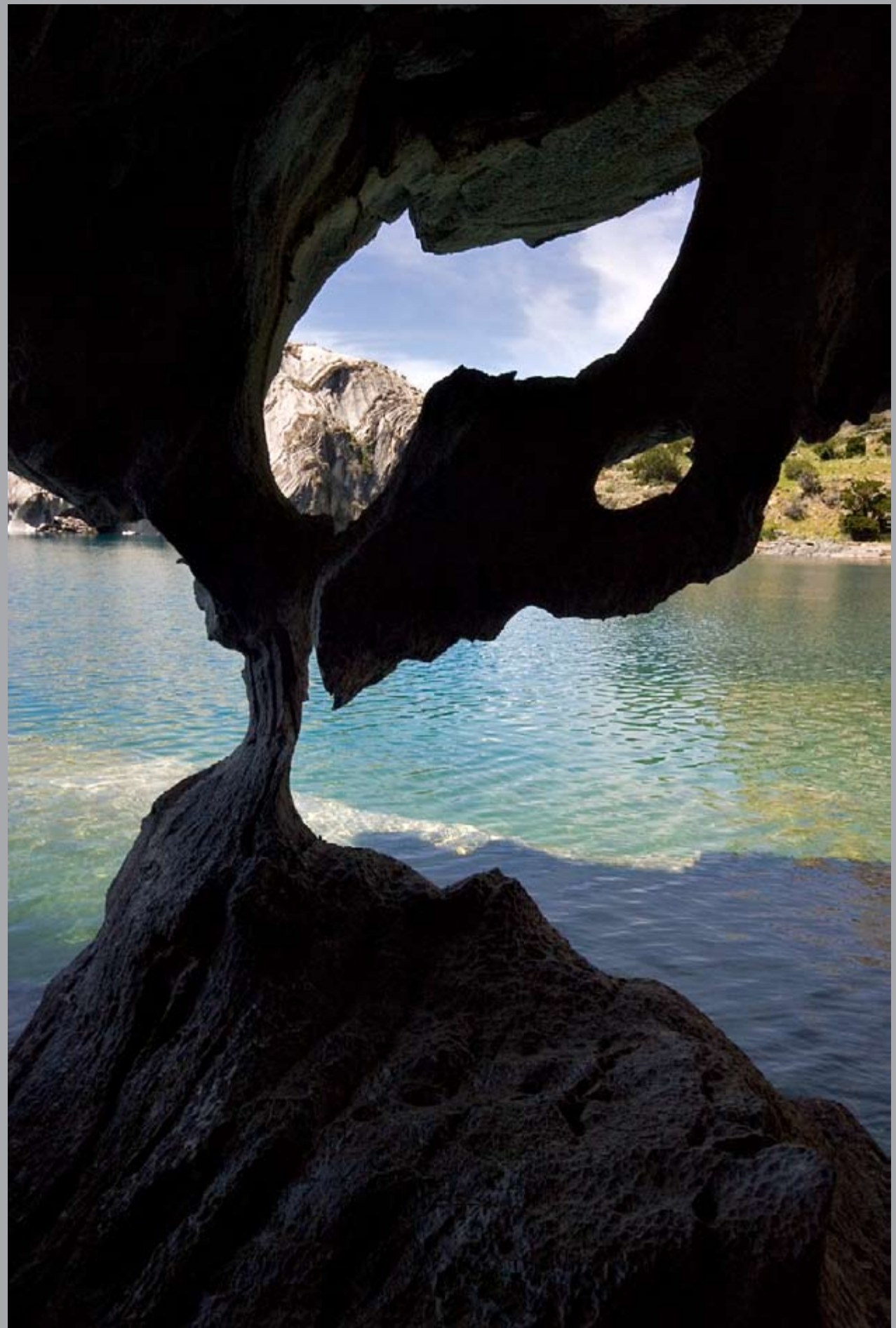
































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by Linde Waidhofer

v 1.0 (first edition)

## HOW TO CLOSE THIS e-BOOK

To close this electronic monograph

type Control and w (on a PC),

or  and w (on a Mac).

# COLOPHON

This electronic Photo Monograph is one of an ongoing series of electronic Books and Monographs published by Western Eye.

This e-Monograph was created with InDesign CS2 and Adobe Acrobat 7.0. The display type is Trajan, designed by Carol Twombly, and the text face is Stone Serif designed by Sumner Stone.

Other electronic Photo Books and Monographs are available on Linde's web site, **[www.westerneye.com](http://www.westerneye.com)**, as well as information about Linde's workshop schedule, a large collection of image portfolios, information on her fine-art prints, and essays on the art of photography. All the images in Blue Light are available as fine-art prints. For details and prices please visit the Fine Print section of Linde's web site.

All photos in this Blue Light monograph are from digital capture with a range of cameras, primarily Canon DSLRs. Special credit is due to our skilled and patient boat guides, Pedro Contreras and his son Jony, of Bahia Mansa.

Designed by Lito Tejada-Flores

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