

Cueva Narizón - Torca Palomas - (Castro Urdiales)

Introduction

This unique journey, forgotten for decades, has been retrofitted and marked in March 2016 within the magnificent plan of conservation of classic cavities promoted by the Cantabrian Caving Federation. The re-equipment has been carried out by the Cota Mínima Group of Cantabria and directed by Iván Vicente Aparicio.

The R10, the P35 de la Esperanza has been re-equipped and the installation of the P6 of the Union has been maintained, as it is in perfect condition, so the crossing can be carried out today with full safety guarantees.

The Narizón-Palomas system has a topographic development of 4,800 m and a maximum depth of 90 m, although the integral traverse described here covers just over 1,500 m. This crossing must be made from Narizón to Palomas, to take the two intermediate wells in descent direction, and to be able to help us, in our orientation, of the existing beacons. Although it is a technically simple journey, it will require us to be on the lookout and to contrast topography and compass so as not to leave the route. On the other hand, despite being a route dragged almost 30%, the beauty of the formations with which nature has endowed the system, makes it well worth visiting.

The exit by Torca Palomas is the only difficulty of the cavity that is not equipped in fixed, so the installation of the P30 will be forced before the crossing.

Note: The photos in this document have been provided by Fco. M. Lorenzo, Miguel Ángel Pérez Pontón ("Pon") and the Cota Mínima group.

ACCESS

•Situation:

Vallegón, Peña de Santullán, municipality of Castro Urdiales.

• The fact that the two mouths are only 106 m apart is surprising.

From Castro Urdiales we go to Sámano, about 3km away, and from there to El Vallegón Industrial Estate, following the indicative signs, in 2km more. We will cross this polygon on the main street and almost at the end we will take a street on the left that crosses the channel of the Arroyo de Tabernillas by a bridge. As soon as we cross the bridge, we can park the vehicle in an open field on the left.

Torca Palomas: From the parking lot we walk 100m to the left following the road that goes towards Momeñe and Santullán. When we see a grove of eucalyptus trees to the right, just at the beginning of it and 30m above the road, the torca is located. About five minutes walking from the car.

Cueva del Narizón: From the bridge we take the path that follows parallel to the course of the Tabernillas stream on the right and for one hundred meters, to leave it on the left following a little marked path.

The path that climbs zigzag a 30-meter drop, twists to the left before some cliffs. Continuing a few hundred meters and keeping level, we approached the characteristic rock of the "Nose" (similar to the curious Moais of Easter Island), located almost opposite the bridge. About 30 m further on from the "Narizón" and on the same level, the small mouth of the Cueva de Narizón opens up. About 15 minutes from the car.

TIME

- Approach:

Parking - Torca Palomas: 5 min.

Parking - Cueva Narizón: 15 min.

- Crossing:

Nose - Doves: 5 h.



Ascenso de Torca Palomas.



Pasamanos sobre desfonde

DESCRIPTION OF THE CROSSING

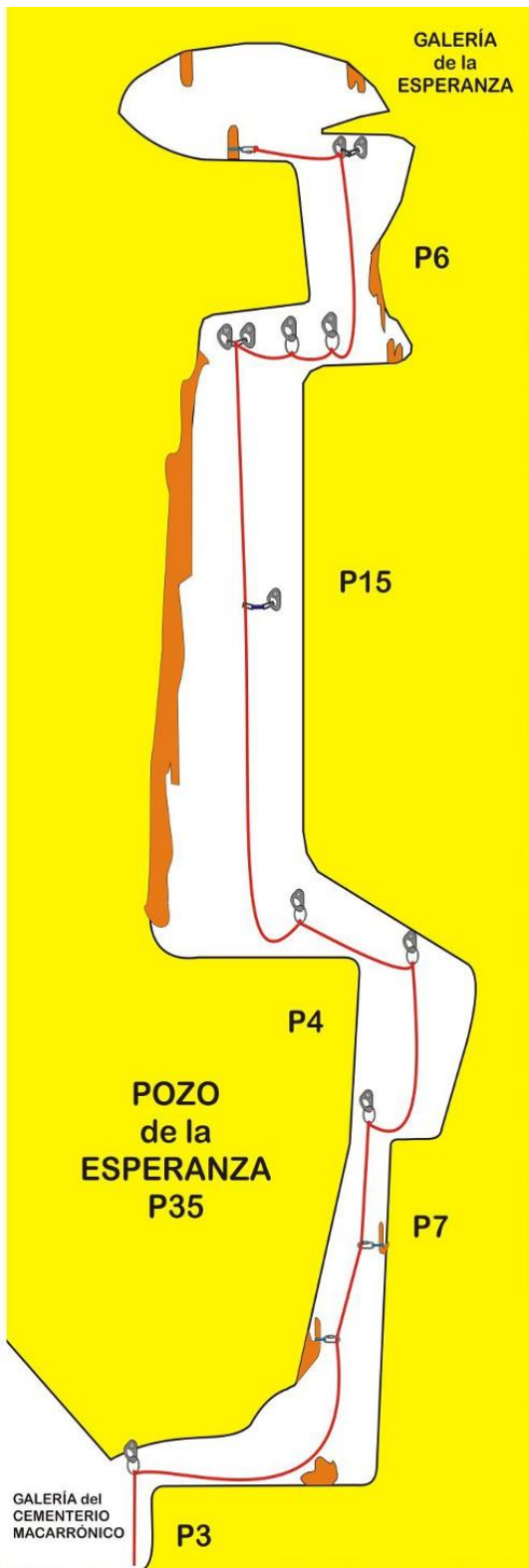
The Narizón cave, with its mouth half a meter in diameter, allows us to enter sitting and thus reach the short circular conduit that opens us to the first room. At the bottom of this, a passageway brings us closer to an R10 whose base opens to a new room larger than the previous one, with abundant formations. At the bottom of it and on the left, a narrowness communicates with the narrow gallery that leads to the Hall of Scratches. A few meters further on a handrail on the right ensures us on a sidewalk.

After a sharp turn to the left we find ourselves in a somewhat chaotic area in which the descending fissure¹ is located that communicates with the Gallery of Hope.

Finding it is simple, although different gatera² descending, which do not follow the itinerary of the crossing, open in the vicinity. We will look for a passage on our right marked with a "1" surrounded by a circle of white paint, which after an easy detour will take us to a crack marked with an arrow slightly to our right. A thin current of air will help us to take the step directly, which marks a sudden change of direction, going down to the end between blocks, sometimes with narrowness, following a spiral in a clockwise direction and finally opening to the Gallery of Hope. The concreteness of this new gallery is striking from the very beginning.

The dimensions are acceptable during the first meters to transform immediately into Laminador de la Esperanza, through which we will proceed carefully, on the right, so as not to damage any of the fine columns that crowd it. At the end of the rolling mill and coinciding with an area where the ceiling rises a little, some very curious rock-like formations appear levitating suspended from the ceiling.

The Well of Hope, P35, appears on the floor of the gallery as a narrow fracture that communicates with the lower galleries. In 2016, the precarious previous installations were removed, establishing a new road with imperishable anchors and divided into 5 rappels of 6, 15, 4, 7 and 3 meters, with wide intermediate shelves and access handrails. The P15 and P7 have one and two deviators respectively.



Galería de la Esperanza



Galería de la Esperanza

Base del P35 – Galería de la Joyería



Formaciones en la Joyería

The last highlight of the well leaves us in the Gallery of the Macarrónico Cemetery, at the point where the bivouac was set up during the explorations, called Narizón Night Club where a tent is still preserved in the middle of the gallery. From here, if we take east direction (left), we enter the system, and continuing west we go to the Pozo de la Unión, continuity of the crossing.

It is worth visiting the Jewelry Gallery, which, even leaving the crossing, deserves the effort. In ten minutes we will be there. To go to the Jewelry shop we will take East direction, where the gallery reduces its height and width dimensions considerably, while it takes a sharp turn to the right. We will crawl on the left side between formations. After a few meters, the gallery regains its width and the walls amaze us with the richness and beauty of the formations. A new turn to the left introduces us to a smooth and compacted floor laminator, in which at 25 meters it opens to the right, at ground level and semi-hidden, access to Jewelery. This fragile whim of nature receives this name because of the multiple shines that dot its walls with countless and crystalline formations.

Base of the P35 - Torca Palomas

Back to the base of P35, where we can walk upright again, we follow the gallery to the west, to a point where it seems to close. The continuation is at the bottom and to the left. The roof has already fallen again and a few meters later we will take a crossroads, also on the left, which will take us to the Paso del Macho Cabrío, marked with an arrow and a landmark on our left. This step, a gatera, seems to have widened a bit with the passage of cavers and, although narrow, it is not a selective step.

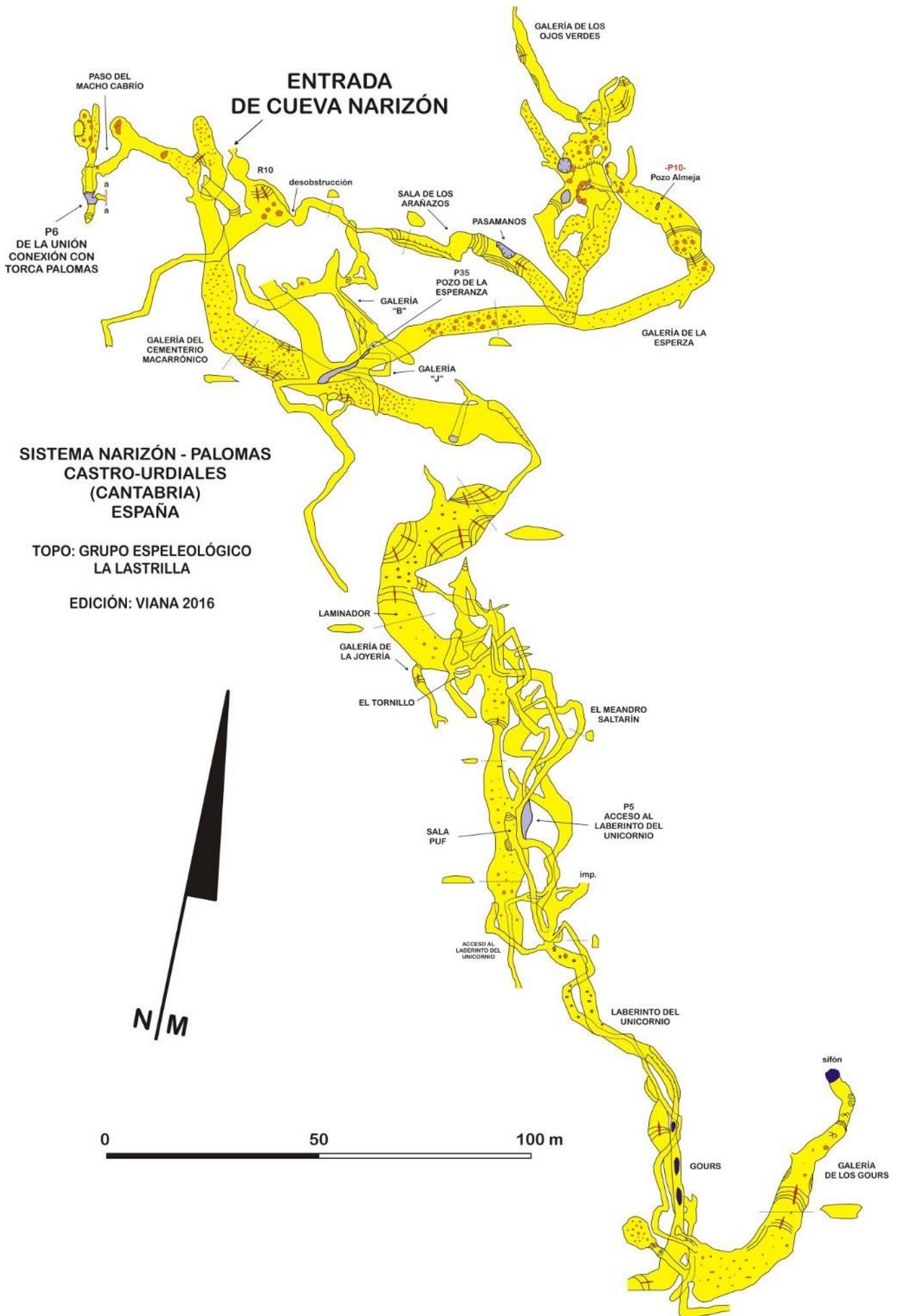
After the narrowness and a few meters to the left, we find the coveted Pozo de la Unión, P6, from which the Torca Palomas galleries begin. The P6, which is in fixed, begins its installation on a strong stalagmite and will make us pass a derailleur to -2m.

The base of the pitch of the Union intercepts a gallery that clogs in both directions a few meters. The continuity we will have to look for it where the rope falls downwards, by another narrow and gateroso step, unblocked during the explorations, that to the few meters it turns to the right and it ends us taking to a small room, where we will take to the left the Sweaty Bear Gallery. After this gallery that will make us "sweat" a little, we will find a step something exposed, to get around a street to our left. Then, after going down a compacted clay ramp, we enter the Crossroads Room. From here the galleries increase in size and we begin to perceive the unmistakable smell of "street". We left the room on the left and a few meters makes the appearance of the river, which we will follow to the base of the torca. During this last journey we will run into two siphons, which although sometimes we can find open have a previous step that short-circuits them on the left marked with milestones or reflective.

After leaving the river, to the left of the loss, Torca Palomas opens, where we will find the rope that we installed before beginning our journey.



Vista de los tres ojos de Torca Palomas desde el interior



ENTRADA DE CUEVA NARIZÓN

P6 DE LA UNIÓN CONEXIÓN CON TORCA PALOMAS

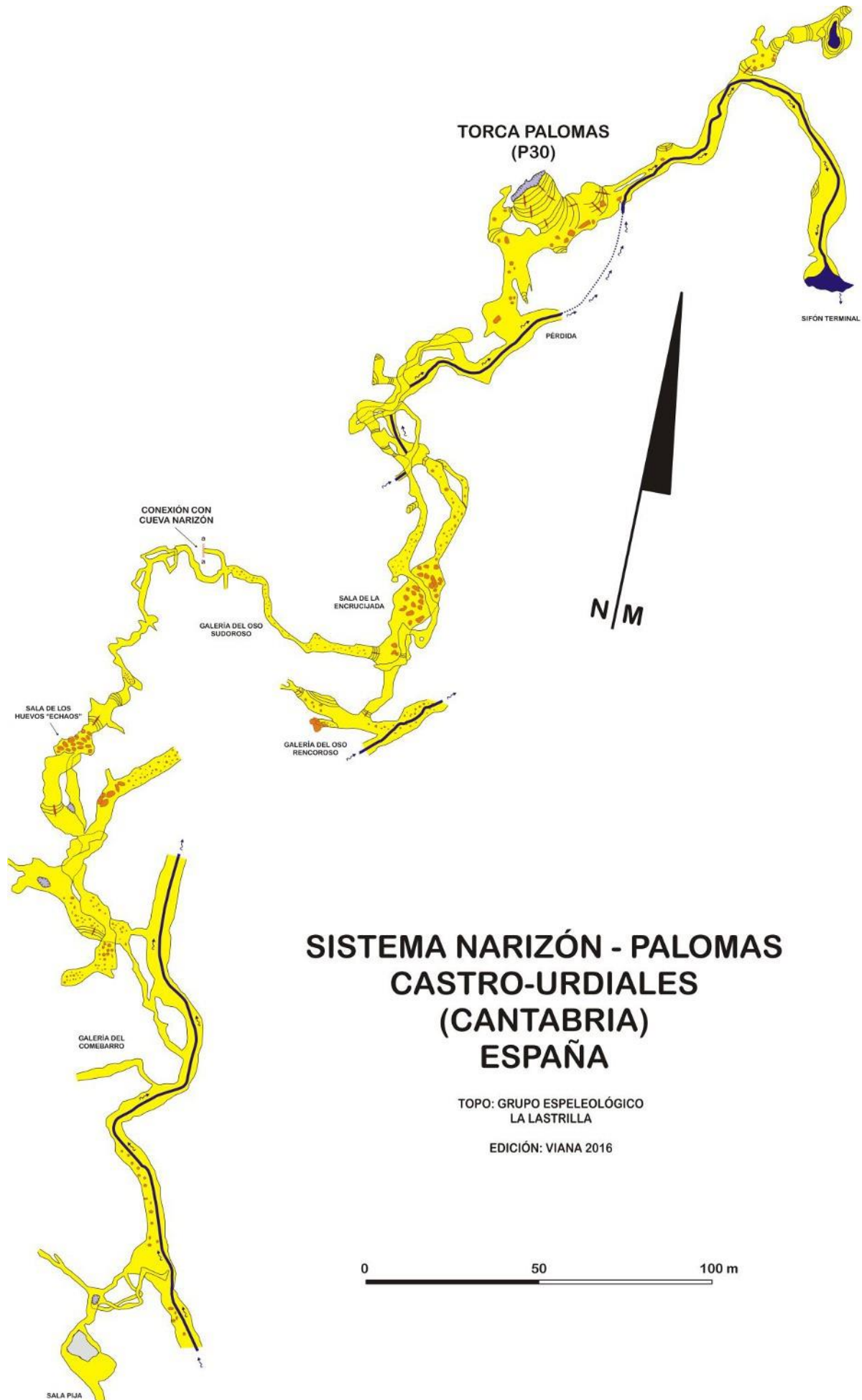
**SISTEMA NARIZÓN - PALOMAS
CASTRO-URDIALES
(CANTABRIA)
ESPAÑA**

TOPO: GRUPO ESPELEOLÓGICO LA LASTRILLA

EDICIÓN: VIANA 2016

N/M

0 50 100 m



**SISTEMA NARIZÓN - PALOMAS
CASTRO-URDIALES
(CANTABRIA)
ESPAÑA**

TOPO: GRUPO ESPELEOLÓGICO
LA LASTRILLA

EDICIÓN: VIANA 2016

