

## **Cubillo de Ojáncano – Cubillo de la Anjana. Miera (Cantabria) Bus stop cave**

### **The significance of the name**

The Ojáncano is an evil monster in Cantabrian mythology, it personifies evil amongst Cantabrians and represents evil, cruelty and brutality. Wild, fierce and vindictive this creature inhabits the deep and gloomy caves of the remotest places in the mountains whose entrances are usually blocked with weeds and large rocks. The Anjana is another fantastic character of Cantabrian mythology. They have the whitest skin and a loving and serene look but can become people, trees, animals or inanimate objects. They are kind beings that help and protect needy or distressed people, and they have great underground palaces hidden in pots and caves frequently springs and rivers where they keep magnificent treasures that they often use to try and punish the greedy and proud, or to favour the kind-hearted, humble or disadvantaged. These beings are antagonists are cruel and pitiless Ojáncanos.??

### **Access**

Follow the CA-260 from Liérganes to Mirones and at PKM 6.8 and opposite the detour towards Moresante we find a bus stop and we park on the bus stop layby. The entrance is about 200m walking past the bus stop on your right and down the road (the direction you had come from in the car), entrance is a 10m climb up on the left. The return from Anjana, whose entrance is found close to the Rio Miera , is simple up a steep path with some carved steps takes 5minutes to join the road next to the parking.

### **Location**

In the municipal of Miera, the distance between the two entrances is only 100m.

CUBILLO DE OJÁNCANO Datum WGS 84 30 T 442496 4795151

CUBILLO DE LA ANJANA Datum WGS 84 30 T 442628 4795100

### **Time for traverse**

Ojáncano to Anjana 3hrs

## Description of the traverse

The entrance to Ojáncano is fairly small (0.5m x 0.7m), We start with a fixed traverse line for a couple of metres that brings us to a P4. Once below this we climb down between blocks and carry on for 40m (follow cairns and markers) in a southerly direction. In the lower part opens galleries that we take and we find a fixed traverse line that descends (towards the west). After this we stick to the right to the end where we turn to the left between blocks (Southwards) and after 10m we find another fixed traverse line that brings us close to the head of a P8 that gives us access to the lower levels. Once down this pitch we advance by a bedding heading south for about 15m. To our right is a crawl followed by two ascending galleries, we take the second one and we are forced to make a climb. We continue west by a fossil gallery that increases in size (6x4m) for about 150m towards a chaos of blocks that block the way. Here we climb up and the gallery opens to the left marked by cairns to catch then the second that opens to the right

20m later we downclimb 2m to the west into a galley that opened to the left and we find a nice meander 4x2m that leads to a fixed travers to a P10 which we go down to the river.

(Evaluate flow. In times of heavy rains could be problematic, although not normally reach pass the ankle. Easter 2019 was waist deep in places)

Once in the river we follow the river downstream (NE) by the beautiful active part of the cave, following areas gouged by the water. We continue for 35 minutes along the river, with small gours on both sides always progressing along the active course. During the aquatic part there is a noteworthy climb of 2m(R2), a small climb and on occasions the gallery sometimes narrows.

(The R2 is not equipped. With a rope of 5m is sufficient (chemical anchor 1).)

Finally the gallery widens coinciding with a long stretch where we continue to walk through the water. In front is a deep marmite that completely covers the riverbed which turns sharply to the right but which we do not follow. The correct route continues along a dry gallery that opens to the left and after 4m bends to the right. This gallery descends and is slippery it leads to a sump with a guide wire and a rope up (E14 del Cortocircuito) (by ascending the E14 and following the gallery above we come to a 50cm high bedding. After this difficulty in 5 mins we arrive at the base of the P8 already descended on the traverse)

To continue in the direction of Anjana take the only possible option in a comfortable gallery that opens to the left. With a turn and change of direction we reach a room or rather a widening of the gallery. Ahead the ground is "desfonda" but we can down climb without difficulty to the bottom where we find a crawl where water runs over shingle. After 5m we loose the water on which we crawled and we turn to the right. We need to be vigilant because after a few meters and by our heads appears the delivery room? This passed, unambiguously recognizable by the draft. As the name suggests the step is a crawl. It is

more than likely that falling stones will come from the person in front and it is advisable to wait until they have passed. Already up we get to a room on the left from which emerges a gallery with a low roof that takes us to the exit.

From the entrance of Anjana, to the left, we climb for about 50 meters up a steep path with some carved steps which leads us in a few minutes to our parked car.

### Installations

In 2016 the traverse has been re-rigged for double rope technique and whilst currently all the pitches are rigged with rope the belays for pull through are imperishable. All ropes were changed in April 2019.

