

SISTEMA DE LA VEGA

ACCESS

Access to Torca del Coterón:

We will take the CA-261 highway that leaves Ramales de la Victoria towards Arredondo, deviating in Riba in the direction of Matienzom(CA-266 road). We will continue 7.2 km until the Cubillas neighbourhood, where we will take a detour to the left towards Seldesuto and the Barrio de la Vega (CA-654). On a farm (1.6 km since we left the CA-266) we will take a detour to the left to take a track concrete that goes up to a repeater that is It is located on the top of Mount Beralta.

We will continue 650m along this track until find the car park (a stone stable at the left side of the track, with some trees next to it contrary, they shade the car park). From here we will follow an unmarked path and ascending that will take us to the entrance of the torca, which opens on the north slope of the mount Beralta. This turn opens 100 m to the left and about 40 m of unevenness above a large torca, easily located and full of vegetation inside. The entrance shaft is a ramp elongated that opens perpendicular to the slope. On hot days it is possible to see the mist rise from the torque.

Coordenadas UTM (Datum **WGS 84**):

Parking Reñada:

30 T **449994 4795731** - Altura: 200m

Reñada Boca Inferior:

30 T **450351 4795549** - Altura: 200m

Reñada Boca Superior:

30 T **450335 4795493** - Altura: 210m

Parking Coterón:

30 T **451615 4795346** - Altura: 230m

Boca Coterón:

30 T **451150 4795181** - Altura: 360m

Boca Azpilicueta:

30 T **450249 4794764** - Altura: 476m

Access to Azpilicueta:

Torca de Azpilicueta opens on the slope of the Monte Limón, above Reñada. To reach There are two possible road routes to it. The first ascending leaving some additions lateral, to arrive at 6km from the highway, to a pasture located under a limestone cliff. Of among the numerous chasms that in this meadow appear, the Azpilicueta torque is perfectly distinguishable for being the only one in which it grows in its mouth an oak about three meters high. The second consists of addressing Matienzo, from where we head towards Seldesuto to arrive at the bar in the Barrio de la Vega, where we will take a track that goes up to the repeater of Mount Beralta TV. We passed a fence wire that interrupts the track, and we head westward; at 1.3km a track is left ascending to the left. We parked the vehicles on one side 2.1km later, in the Monte Limón, the cavity is located to the left of the path and 40 meters further up. Both routes are suitable for any vehicle in dry season or dry runway. Since two sections track have a steep slope, in the rainy season rains it is mandatory to use an all-terrain vehicle with four-wheel drive. It's interesting remember that we will need a second jeep to pick up the first. We can also access the torque from the Reñada parking lot walking up the hill. We will bridge a 276m drop by inverting a hour and a half in the approach and in the end it will be the best choice. Both accesses, on foot and by car, have a track that you can download on the website of the club Viana and that really simplifies the approach. consists of taking the track that comes out to the left from the CA-266 road (from Riba to Matienzo) to 6km from the Riba turnoff. From there, continue.

Access to Reñada:

From the Cubillas neighborhood we will continue along the same road (CA-654), we will pass by the detour that takes us to Coterón and Azpilicueta, and we will pass over the Clarín river. at 150m we will find a hermitage on the right (after this there is a detour to the right), 850m from the hermitage, there is a path to the left in the direction to the river. At this point, on the opposite side of the road, there is a small esplanade where we can leave the cars from here, we can walk following the path1 and when it's over We continue cross country until we cross the river (300m from the car). La Reñada cave opens 20m above from the river on the opposite bank, and about 300m from the river above the Comedian spring. Obviously, the ideal is to have two cars. In the case of Coterón-Reñada, if only of a car it is advisable to leave it near Reñada and walk about an hour to the Coteron.

TIME**Approximations:**

Coterón 0:45h

Azpilicueta with vehicle 0:05h

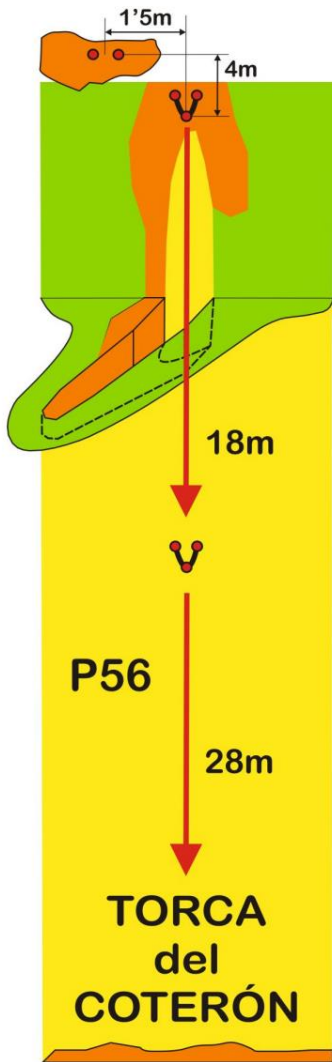
Azpilicueta walking from Reñada 1:30h

crossings:

Coterón – Reñada 6/7 h

Coterón – Codisera – Reñada 7/8 h

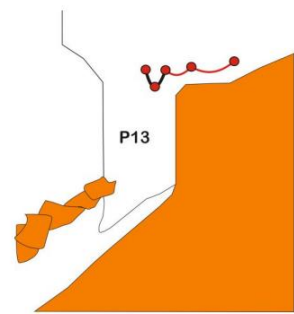
Azpilicueta – Reñada 8 h



The header of P52 of Coteron mounting a recoverable handrail on two chemical anchors located 1.5m to the left of the pick-up chain, which at its time is 4m above the vertical of the pitch. From there we will descend about 18m to reach a zone where the pitch reduces considerably its section, acquiring a cross-linked morphology, place where the second chain, which with a jump of more than 28m it will make us put, with a beautiful final flow, foot on land. The most recommended for the descent of this first pitch will be to mount it fixed with a 65m rope and that it is the last of the group who I lowered it double.

We continue through a descending gallery and slippery road that runs south from the hall. Soon we will come to an intersection, where we will find a huge gour and a chaos of blocks to our left. we continue descending through the gallery that we brought traversing the chaos through a gap between blocks.

The gallery becomes comfortable again and leads us to the “H” Pitch (P15), which We circle without any risk on the right. We continue down the gallery until we find the access handrails to P13 that will open to our right. This pitch, also retrofitted for double rope has as base a steep ramp, which can be descended smoothly for the blocks on the right, or pitch secured to the installation rope itself from P13, if it is 35m. At its base we will find abundant drips and we will continue to move forward, now between blocks, heading east initially, to turn a few meters to the south.



After this turn we will have reached the Room Edge of the World (1), (1) *From this room it is possible to access two galleries that are not They are part of the journey. The Gallery of Wonders of Marvin (from the N side of the room, just entering) and the Franck Gallery (from the E side, almost at the exit of the room, and slightly in descent).*

in the centre of which opens a Q35. We surround this room, going through a wide cornice covered with sand, on the left side of the same. We will leave the room through a wide gallery that takes the form of a comfortable ramp of sediments.

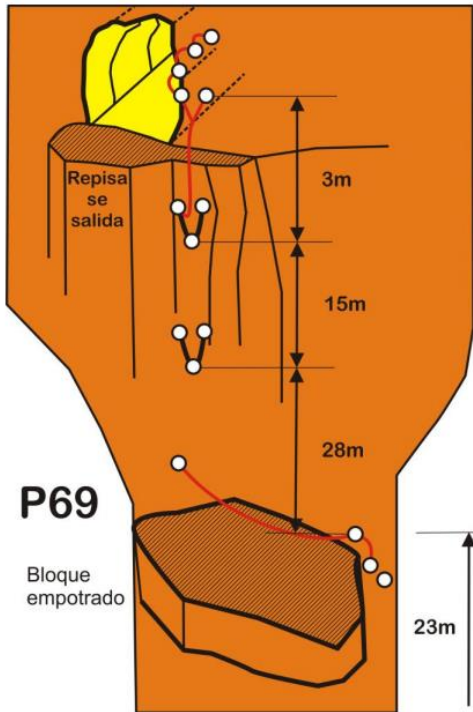
This ramp runs initially with heading south. Following the gallery, we will make a first turn to the right and after a few meters, we will find a second turn to the left. In At this point we will leave behind a gallery that comes out to our right (which starts in the direction north). We will continue to ascend. maintaining a southerly direction and after barely twenty metres, we will find a crossroads of galleries. Yeah, we continue ascending straight south, we will take the Codisera Branch. instead, if we turn right (westerly) we will enter the Reñada branch. At this intersection it is possible to take either of the two paths, which will become gather in the Edge of the Universe Room.

Reñada branch

We will continue moving in the direction west by a comfortable and rectilinear gallery, despite the multiple blocks that cover the ground. We will leave several galleries that open to our right, until we

reach Station 623. This point is easily located by the gallery slightly ascending that we will see open 45° to our right with respect to the great gallery by the that we come and for the enormous milestone that marks the spot. We will take this detour to the right, between Two Worlds Gallery, and initially we will advance through a rectilinear, horizontal, and shaped like a mining gallery.

Next, the gallery changes several direction times until we find a block and a P30 that blocks our way. Under the block, a short cat flap with a smooth clay floor compacted will avoid us the exposed crossing on the pitch, which without being difficult, is risky because be done free Already surrounded the pitch, the gallery takes a certain descending slope until leaving us at the head of the superb P69.



This pitch, abundantly dripping, It has a fixed access handrail on the left wall that allows us to approach a first header that with a 3m descent brings us closer to the first pick up. At 15m a second pick up makes us reach a great embedded block with a jump of 28m more. A new handrail brings us closer to the third and last descend from the pitch, that with a last rappel of 23m places us at the base of the pitch.

At the base of P69 we will take a ramp descending to the right of no more than 20m. In the point at which the ramp begins to ascend towards a room without continuity, appears in the right wall a window that opens onto a gallery, the Gallery of the 1st Union, chaotic and descending, which was the first point of connection of Reñada with Coterón. After climbing a little more one meter, a 90° turn to the left will take us already enters said gallery, which despite its modest dimensions and labyrinthine appearance, we drive between water-washed blocks on your final stretch, to the Edge of the Universe Room.

this branch taken from the text of Isidore Ortiz)

El Ramal Codisera, the most developed and with most conflictive areas, runs through galleries of beautiful phreatic sections and acceptable dimensions. After continuing for a wide canal, a narrow cat flap appears, which gives access to a room with a strong sandy ramp, at the end of which a P8 opens. A little further down, and to the right, take a passage that allows crossing to the other side of the room by on top of some blocks, accessing a bottomless meander, which crosses head-on and toward the left. Later a new bifurcation appears, in where an arrow that says Reñada marks the path. Continue along the meander until you reach passing a wash with water, to a point in the one that has to go down on the left and take the lower meander, since the upper one is blinded. HE Continue until you reach a crossroads of two meanders, being necessary to carry out an obligatory downclimbing to take, on the left, a meander bottomless, narrow and long, which leads to a small room with a large ramp. It continues through a comfortable meander and soil sandy (take all the crossroads to the right), until you reach a sandy cat flap between blocks, marked with a black arrow. Quickly a P17 appears, through whose bottom the river passes, Sala of the two siphons . The pitch is bordered climbing 3 m up a ladder until reaching a handrail installed with two ropes (attention to installation). At the end of this you have to download some 7m to follow a meander (Gallery of the Boot Lace) that presents, after a step evident between blocks, a conflict zone.

It is a chaos of blocks in which it is necessary to catch a slightly ascending cat flap on the right, to then go down a ramp with blocks that gives access to a large gallery, in which, in times of flooded,

the river appears from the left, fading fast. To the right you reach the Ghost Lake (handrail on left of lake, which helps you to stay dry). It is a lake hung with stagnant waters, of about 50m, which presents, in its final part, the sufficient depth and length, so that the use of a small boat is convenient tire, although, depending on each speleologist, you can opt for swimming! From here the galleries take big dimensions, without being free of points conflicting. Down a big ramp with blocks unstable, which goes down to the right, it reaches the river, in the area known as Borde del Universe.

Edge of the Universe Room – Cueva de Reñada

The Edge of the Universe Room, on ramp descending, it is crossed longitudinally by various bedding edges that form curious corridors. between the last one and the right wall of the room, channel a contribution of water that emerges from a small lake after a siphon. We descend the room avoiding the edges and we follow the course of water on the same bed of the river, to begin to climb later by the left on ledges hung from re-excavation. Thus, we enter a vadose zone in which the river floods the entire hall: we have entered Castle Hall (the Hall of the Castle). The watercourse siphons again before a stone wall, but a ramp ascending and chaotic opens to our left continuing the journey. At the top of the ramp and to the left appears a second ramp very slippery but with good grips. In its last meters it narrows over a great crash, forcing us to make an exposed step on horseback from a rock ridge that opens us to a hanging gallery, the Gallery of the Lever.

In this gallery, flat and comfortable in its first metres, soon a series of dry pots that we will have to dodge, until you get to one of them especially deep with a double rope installation of knots and rope for descender. The gallery is becoming a bottomless meander, with a step in which we will have to help each other again of a rope of knots to cross an elusive back of rock. we finish the zone bottomless advancing on edges that cross diagonally the meander. A 90° turn to the right marks the end of the exposed area and we continue gallery ahead following the manifold beacons on a marked clay path and arena, which finally leads us to the Hall of the Collapse. Here the blocks will appear, but we will cross the room without problems for a marked itinerary.

After this, we recover the galleries again spacious and comfortable with clay and sand floors. We are in the Alley of Blood, without doubt one of the most beautiful parts of the crossing. This gallery is decorated with multitude of various formations, among which stand out some of bloody hues that become something unique. We will advance through this wide “alley” following a perfectly marked route, until a point where, after leaving behind a beautiful organ with strong reddish colours, we will turn to the right next to a big block. Here the cave changes a bit: the gallery is turns downward, most of the formations, the ground is now covered with wet and heavily packed mud.

The descent of a pronounced ramp takes us to a first rolling mill, the Gatera del Peaje, in where the cavity again changes from morphology. The mud and quagmire make their apparition and they will not leave us until the exit by scolded. After the laminator we enter the Spa, where the gallery

expands and we return to find a water course that makes its appearance from the left. We will follow this course, that will introduce us into a second laminator the "Duck", Paso del Pato.

This low-ceilinged passage, about 7m long, at its most critical point it will make us crawl forward. To make it more enjoyable progression, the water course runs along the bottom, so it is almost inevitable to get wet. This step will always have water (usually 10-20 cm) with what a good option is to place the pull out from under us and move forward supporting the chest on her. Immediately after the Duck the gallery widens, we will ascend a ramp with guide rope, stops after a few meters find an E5, equipped with a fixed rope, the Resalte de la Maroma. This highlight consists of a slippery whitewash we'll get over to the right.

From here we will have to pay attention to the beacons, since the cave becomes chaotic, alternating wide areas and covered with mud with short cat flaps, or block steps. An ascending ramp leaves us in a real quagmire, the Porqueriza. The gallery, now a fangal, makes us cross a couple of kettles with sticky mud at its base.

Continuing through the mud, and after a turn of 90°, the gallery seems to close on the left. The continuation is to the right surpassing a slippery and staggered E3 that brings us to the elusive Paso de la Quilla, a stone ridge which resembles the keel of a ship. For the lower part de la Quilla, on clay and some carvings there is a simpler step that leads us in the same way to the slides. These two

slides, with guide rope, form a 90° angle, meeting at their vertex and between them the Embarcadero. Soil it is slippery calcite and the best form of downloading them is sitting down and letting ourselves be guided by the rope. After this, back to the mud (in this case rather watery), to immediately find the Blowhole to our left.

To pass this hole with water, the first thing to do is assume that we will get wet. Once we have clear this, we can choose to pass by, or by squat down, headfirst, to locking the arms on the sides, move forward without getting wet beyond the thighs. As soon as we pass this blowhole, we will be in a room whose background is sometimes flooded, and from where we will see the light of the street (Cuivo de Reñada).

COTERÓN TECHNICAL SHEET

Note:

aQ Chemical Anchor
Cda Double Ring Chain

Dificultad	Cuerda	Anclajes	Observaciones
P52	65m (x2)	2 aQ	En afloramiento rocoso cercano. 1'5m a la izquierda de la cadena.
		1ª Cda	4m sobre la vertical.
		2ª Cda	A -18m.
P13	25m (x2)	2 aQ Cda	Pasamanos de acceso
P69	35m (x2)	3 aQ	Pasamanos de acceso.
		2 aQ	Cabecera en "Y".
		1ª Cda	-3m.
		2ª Cda	-18m.
		2 aQ	Pasamanos sobre bloque.
		2 aQ	Descuelgue a la derecha.

AZPILICUETA - REÑADA CROSSING

Being the crossing of the system with the least route, is the one with the greatest unevenness, 276m between mouths that we will descend directly into the torque. The cavity begins with a 3m down climb on the same entrance, followed by a ramp with rocks loose (danger from falling stones to the P32), a descending step between blocks of 4m. It takes us to a P6 (descentable), with two spits.

The logical thing will be to install them so that everything descends the group and that the last one does it in free. Through a handrail fixed to our left, we access P32, whose first 25m they are done in flight. When descending this pitch we must avoid the ledges of -25 and -28m. A fixed handrail, R9 (possible fall of stones the first 4 meters) leaves us in the header of the following R13, where it makes its water appearance. After this ramp, we access a new handrail that brings us closer to the head of P28. Once descended, we left from the vertical by a small meander that intercepts the canyon, where we will meet a mud-filled block to our left. Here begins an exposed handrail that gives access to P14. The string 11 will go to the height of our feet as we progress in opposition. This last pitch leaves us in a narrow meander through which water circulates, the Eses of Bugatti.

We'll go with the flow and we will go down in opposition a short depth until reach the approach handrail to P100, which is divided into three runs of rope for three shelves: P50, P13 and P40. At -

15m of the first P50 we have a derailleur that will separate us from the torrent of rushing water from the header. The approach to the third pick-up of the P100, P40, is done through a long and athletic handrail with five sections, the Handrail of the Umbrella, in which it is inevitable to pass under the water. After descending the first 15 meters we will find the Tele-Kati, a guided rappel towards a deviator, like a cable car, which will facilitate the descent of the rest of the pitch without friction and away from the waterfall. this last jump of the P100 ends in a tremendous way in the ceiling of the Blind Room, occupied by enormous blocks and drilling of pitches. The continuation is performed by a cat flap (look for arrow), located on the right wall of the room, following the direction of descent of the water current.

The cat flap leads to a gallery of reduced dimensions, by which one continues until reaching a crossing with another gallery that starts by hand left (which we should not take), we continue in front of 6m more and next to the right wall we will find a small conduit descending: the WC Pipe (P20). This tube has a selective pitch at -4m, enlarged several times by successive bailouts to which it has given rise. This P20, collapsible, has a fixed rope on natural, and for its descent the best option will be to mount the descender in "C" on the rope Anchor. From here follow the red arrows or green pieces of electrical tape and the indications of "O" or "Reñada Out", left by the explorers English, and they will take us without loss problem until the union with the galleries coming from the Coterón-Reñada crossing.

The base of the WC Tube leaves us in a small room, the one we will reach by following the rope to the end, since at this point a journey is made over a small pitch that we will not descend. From here and through a window opposite and in the lower part we follow a short gallery and we go down a ledge on an exposed ramp, We entered the Cardboard Room. This highlight gives to a gallery. We back under the highlight lowered to find a handrail that circumvents a ramp horizontally. We went up a closed joint, the Diaclase Cross, until reaching a crest and we continue to the right, already on the roof, above the handrail rope.

We went up the Diaclase bottomless through some natural steps, until you reach a cat flap on the left. We are on the roof of the gallery of the handrail. From here from now on we follow a comfortable cat flap sand with marks of the transit of speleologists. This passage finally takes us to the Gallery of the Monk, where the reddish formations and is connection with the galleries. from Coteron. **Everything is marked with tape?**

AZPILICUETA TECHNICAL SHEET

Dificultad	Cuerda	Distancia	Observaciones
P6	10		2 sp inox. Pasamanos de acceso
P32	40	-25 -28	Repisa Repisa
R9	10		Pasamanos de acceso
R13	15		
P28	30		Pasamanos de acceso
P14	15	Bloque	Pasamanos de 5 tramos con factor. ¡Ojo!
P50	55	-15	Pasamanos de acceso Desviador
P13	15		Pasamanos de acceso. Repisa.
P40	45	-15	Pasamanos de acceso. Repisa. <i>Tele-Kati</i> . Rápel guiado

MATERIAL AND INSTALLATION

First of all, let the reader know that the Coterón-Reñada crossing is not found equipped “according to FCE standards”, to which we are used to crossings like Tonio Cañuela. However, Torca de Azpilicueta was re-equipped by Katiuskas in 2003 and presents a Stainless

equipment in excellent condition. The rest of the journey is kept in the highest part just as the English left it they explored. It is not in a state that is dangerous, but natural anchorages abound stalagmites, rock ledges and bridges, the spits, and the “rust” steel material. For the previous the first recommendation is to take mace and spitter, as pitch as plates and maillons in case We consider it necessary to retouch some facility. It is also advisable to bring a piece of rope to leave, in case We consider it necessary to replace any of the fixed sections. Regarding the material for the journey, if we enter For Coterón we will need a 60m rope plus another (or a cord) of the same length for recover.

With this we can do all the crossing (for the descent of the P69 it is enough with a 45m rope plus another of the same length to recover). If we opt for the Codisera branch line, despite the fact that there are handrails that surround the Ghost Lake, there are those who choose to take a boat to cross it, but it's not worth it. If we opt for Azpilicueta, all the pitches are equipped for double rope, and it will suffice with one 55m rope plus another or others that add up to the same length to retrieve.

Although the crossing is particularly hot, throughout the tour you can see multiple contributions of water (dry in the rainy season) dry season), which with rains will make the journey a frankly humid place, and in some places uncomfortable.

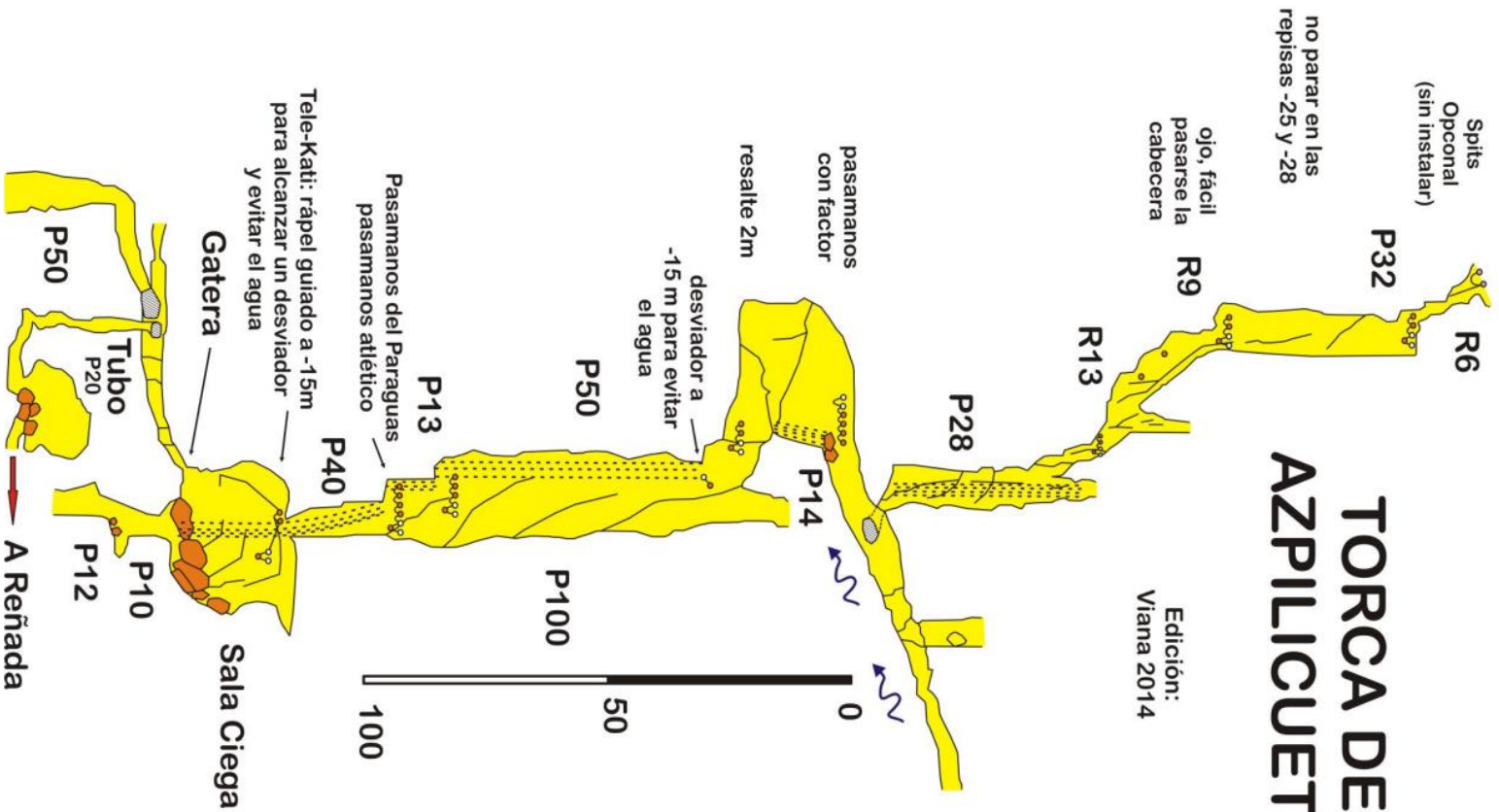
Other amenities it is necessary to have caution on two points:

- Just before entering the Duck we will find a water supply, which reacts very quickly to rains. This can raise the water level in the Duck being able to even siphon it if the rains are persistent. In case of siphoning, it will take a long-time time to lower the level again.
- The Blower Hole can still siphon in case of rain. Besides, the Azpilicueta pitches will always have drips, which will be waterfalls with rain in the abroad, so it is essential to study the weather forecasts before entering this journey.

That for the rest we will find kind, and particularly warm.

TORCA DE AZPILICUETA

Edición:
Viana 2014



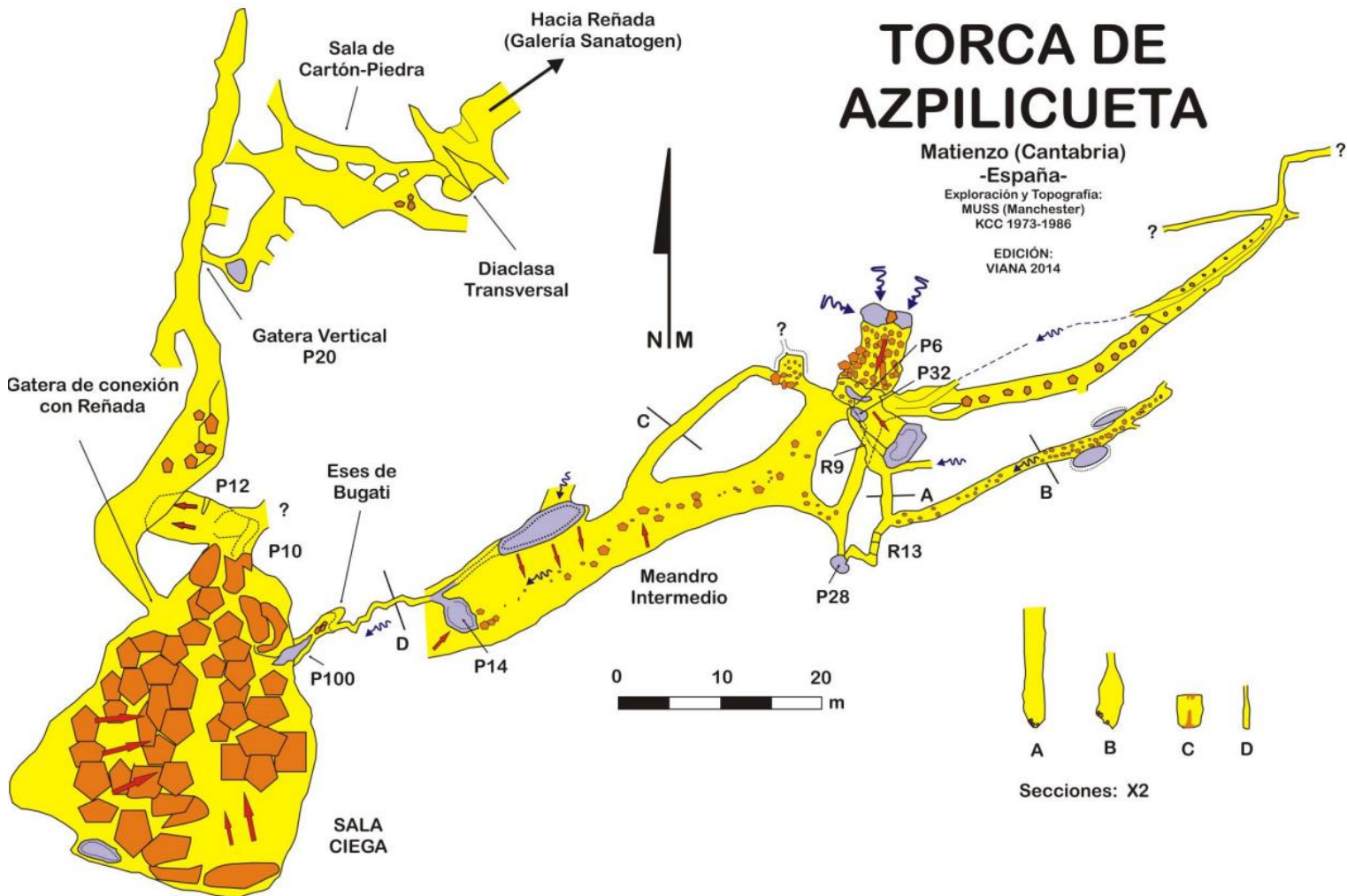
TORCA DE AZPILICUETA

Matienzo (Cantabria)

-España-

Exploración y Topografía:
MUSS (Manchester)
KCC 1973-1986

EDICIÓN:
VIANA 2014



Secciones: X2

Sistema de la Vega Sur

Matienzo (Cantabria)

-España-

Exploración y Topografía:
E.E.S.S. Santander 1964/65
MUSS (Manchester)
KCC 1973-1986
Matienzo Caves 2012-2015

EDICIÓN:
VIANA 2016



Cuivo de la REÑADA

CUEVA DEL COMEDIANTE

ZONA EMBARRADA

0 50 100m



Torca de AZPILICUETA

Torca de COTERÓN P52

Borde del Universo

Ramal Reñada

LAGO DEL FANTASMA

Ramal Codisera

SALA DE LOS DOS SIFONES

Ramal Codisera

Galería de la 2ª Unión

Galería del Algodón de Azúcar