

INTRODUCTION: TRAVERSE SEL DE MINA –UDIAS CAVE – COBIJON EXIT

This beautiful crossing of a medium technical level crosses a large sector of the Sel de Mina mine to reach a point where a cave section intercepts a mine gallery - The Udías or Rescaño System, which we will exit by following the active streamway up to leave the cavity by the Cobijón sump, also called Cave Rescaño.

Unlike the rest of the Cantabrian Caves You cannot drink from the streamway as it is polluted with farming and mining waste. Like any sink, Cobijón has strong and sudden floods that depend directly from rainfall in the wide catchment area, completely flooding some of its galleries in times of torrential and persistent rains and therefore make the crossing impossible.

SYSTEM INFORMATION

Development: 17,360 m

Elevation: -220 m

A LITTLE HISTORY

On February 1, 1912, a foreman of the Sel de Haya mining company (Real Asturian Mining Company) connects the mine with the great galleries of Udías, descending 40m with the help of a mine safety belt.

During the 60s and 70s members of the S.E.S.S systematically explore the system until connecting in 1973 the natural entrance of Cobijón with the mining galleries of Sel de Beech In 1985 The Lenar Caving Society locate, explore and survey up to -140m the Sima of the Full Moon. Because of its proximity to the Cobijón Cave, they had always shuffled the possibility of its connection with the system. But it won't be until 2005, when the Speleo Cantabrian Club, after forcing a small crawl at -120 m and the descent of some parallel shafts, connects with the System Udías, at -180 m approx., Where an E10 leads to a horizontal gallery from where they discovered the main Network, complex of galleries and shafts, of several kilometres and a large number of Beautiful formations of plaster glass



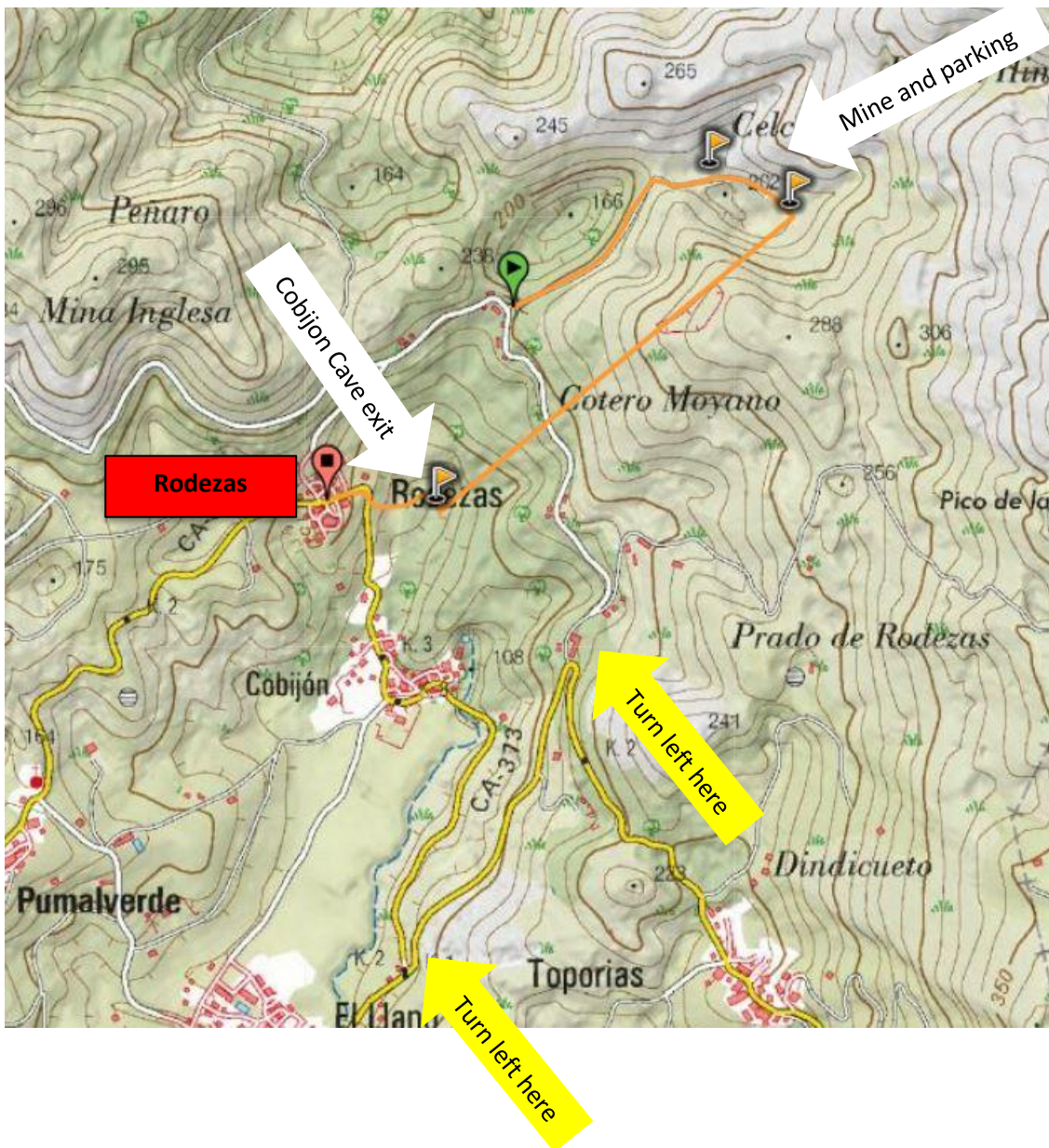
DIRECTIONS FOR THE MINE DE SEL HAYA TO COBIJON EXIT

Map 1: General route from **Rodezas** where you can park a car nearer the exit. (Red pointer on map)

From Rodezas head on the road through Cobijon uphill and bearing sharp left on the first switchback towards Toporias. At the second hairpin turn left onto a smaller tarmac track (might be signposted towards the mine)

Keep on this track until you pass the mine houses and look for a Mine railway bridge on the right. (Green pointer on map below)

Pass under the bridge, now on a dirt track for 800mtrs until an open area of vegetation where you can park the Car – The mine entrance is only 20mtrs from here. (First and Second orange flag on map)



ACCESS

Bocamina of Sel de Haya

- Situation: Rodezas, district of Udías.

To get to Sel del Haya starting from Rodezas, climb the road towards Toporias and turn left towards the Houses of the Mine (at the second switchback up from Cobijon). Pass the mine houses until you find, on the right, a mine railway bridge. Pass under it and follow a gravel track in good condition for 800 m to an area of vegetation, where the mine is located. Just 20 meters from the mouth we can Park several cars without problems.

Cobijón or Rescaño Cave

- Situation: Rodezas, district of Udías.

To leave the cave from the natural entrance of Cobijón (or Rescaño), we will descend, with the help of a fixed rope, a steep Ramp that will lead us to a grove. From this we will leave at 150 meters, following an ascending path and westbound, until reach open meadows from where we see the first buildings of the neighborhood of Rodezas, where we have left another vehicle.

Sel de Haya parking

(WGS 84) 30 T 400292 4800408

Sel de Haya Mine Entrance

(WGS 84) 30 T 400456 4800322

Cobijón Cave Mouth

(WGS 84) 30 T 399716 4799721

TIME

- Approach:

Parking - Sel de Haya: 2 min.

Cobijón Cave - Parking: 15 min.

- Crossing:

Sel de Haya - Cobijón: 6 h.

CROSSING DESCRIPTION: SEL DE HAYA'S MINE

From the parking place at the end of the track, it won't take two minutes of flat road and under the pleasant shadow of the beech, to access the entrance of the mine. Enter Sel de Haya through the open metal door from the mine.



From the entrance a small step leads to the smooth and comfortable floor of the mine gallery. *(The mine is stable, but we advise not to step on the existing sleepers which may have protruding nails)*

Continue straight ahead for about 500 m in the mining gallery, keeping to our left the power line anchors dating from 20s. We leave several side accesses until you make a 90° turn to the left, following the laying *(Note, the gallery continues straight on)*, which will take us to 20 meters, and leaving a fork on the right, to the support base of the first mining winch. ***(Primer Cabrestante on survey)***

From the chamber where the Plinth is located we continue straight ahead. At 15 meters from gallery begins the First Great Ramp descending from the mine, marked on our left with a large graffiti "E7". At the start of the ramp the gallery meets with the first natural passage, which is characterized by making us pass under a large rock bridge, carved by the hard mining activity. In the same place where the bridge is located, to the left is another gallery, which takes us to a beautiful 1920's pumping station that is worth a visit.

Back again to the main gallery of the mine, we pass under arch of rock and three meters from it we observe to the right a beautiful lake of clear water. We continue our ramp march down leaving a couple of forks that come out on the right, and we begin to see the rails that carried wagons in both directions. We will also begin to see on the ground the guide pulleys for the steel cables. Still on the ramp, we pass by an inlet of water on our right that will serve us as the Udías river level indicator. If the inlet is a stream, we must turn back, because we will meet number of non-wading areas in the streamway. On the contrary, if the inlet is a mere drip, or is dry, we can continue.

When the gallery becomes horizontal, it narrows and there is a wet section that, if the crossing is viable, there will be no problem with and should be only ankle deep

Leaving the flooded area behind, and after 70m we will see a fork to the right that we will not take. For reference it is given the number "1" that is painted in red in the middle of the detour. We continue in the gallery, which continues with its installation of Railroad track and staying horizontal. At 20m from the previous fork we will find another, but now on the left, which we will ignore and that is blocked by a wall of masonry

The next 100m lead us to a fork to the right immediately preceded by a window that shows us a side rift. Taking the right fork, which also immediately divides in two: to the right and marking one curve follows the railroad tracks, and to the left, a bridge of masonry leads us to the 10 meters to another mining gallery that cuts it transversely.

The gallery that cuts transversely is the Second great descending ramp, which starts at the second steel cable winch base.



We begin the descent of this second ramp that, much shorter and steeper than the previous one (about 100 m), it has a small intermediate horizontal section and carved stairs to your left. *(In times of heavy rain circulates through it a brutal torrent of water, which announces the unfeasibility of the crossing)*. At the end of the second ramp, the gallery returns to horizontal and meets another natural section, which we will appreciate for the height of the roofs. Here, and when the gallery leaves its slope, we find a first opening to the left of about 15 meters, which follows, 70 m later, the Great Well, within the same cave area. This well, 45m deep and that communicates with the Udias canyon is crossed on the right following the mining rails. We must exercise caution, since the passage is only 1.5 m wide. At the end of the spectacular mouth of the well, the tracks are introduced again in the mine gallery, to divide after 15 meters in three new possibilities. We take the left hand passage, the only one that keeps the rails. In between the two galleries that we left to the right, we see on the ground a circular metal platform, a former track distributor. We continue on the left path and at five meters we see a large window that links with the natural passage we left behind and with the Great Well.

We continue our gallery 20m more to a new fork of three galleries We take the right gallery which after a few meters seems to be cut by a natural passage and where the remains of the wooden viaduct are. To the left of the area in which the tracks are hanging there is a path we take that descends the depression zigzagging down the carved steps. Our route continues descending and after marking a turn to the left and passes a 15 m well behind us on the right that links with the 'galleries of Udias'. This area presents a true carved staircase that is introduced under some blocks to take us to Bethlehem (with mud sculptures), and next to it the long-awaited ladder that with a 6m climb down will lead us definitely to the galleries of the 'system Udias'. Climb down the ladder with caution, because it dates from the 20s and because behind it appears a new opening of 8 m.

THE CAVE OF UDIAS

We will continue our journey, now by natural cave gallery. Turning right facing the ladder we follow a marked path that leads to the bottom of the depression that we keep by our side and the one that we descend by some carved stairs built in the 1920s and that still retain the railings. At the base of the slope we find next an area that has a large block with several metal lug anchors that once held tense steel cables.

The journey continues to the right. We move along the right wall crossing an area of blocks, until it leaves us before a mining 'casco' hopper that we will have to climb to enter the Grand Canyon. A very marked path takes us across a new bridge of masonry that brings us back to the path and that advances through the canyon .A new cone of mining demolitions, fallen from the wells that communicate with the mine, makes us climb about 5 meters and following an obvious way on we continue forward until it becomes more level, where we find a big block with the survey station **22**.

Our route, which is always obvious, takes us across a little depression, which we will leave with the ascent of a ramp of about 5 m **(1) - ref number indicated on the survey)**. with carved steps *(In the canyon we will find steps in more occasions, which will always be carved or masonry.)*, after which our path follow upward with regular carvings The

ramp ends in an area of heaped clay, characterized by the appearance of small cavities that form the antiestalgitas and by the slight sound that announces the proximity of the active streamway.

We find a gallery-opening (2) that seems to cross our path and that we cross a new bridge of masonry. Our route keeps the active steamway at left, we already heard perfectly, until a point where some stairs that mark a couple of turns introduce us to a parallel gallery (3) of smaller dimensions and of flat clay floor. We follow on the right wall, completely smooth, and we exit from said gallery in front and slightly to the right, by another block ladder, to meet again with the opening of the active streamway on the left. Thus we enter the Balcony of the Canyon of Udías, work of mining masonry and great beauty, from which we leave using a new ladder that leads us to chaos of blocks with a clearly marked path.

On the right a smaller gallery opens (4) whose access makes us descend a slippery mud ramp of about 5 m. We are approaching the river, which we see through a window to our left and that we cross next to the right wall. This gallery, now with the clay firmly compacted, takes us away from the river that we keep hearing, to take us to a little clearing at a point where it is cut transversely by another gallery, which in time of rains usually takes a small flow of Water. We cross it out straight across from a climb of a couple of meters (5) that returns us to the gallery we came in on. This gallery, which will lead to the active streamway, makes a right turn at one point in which a climb of 2m on the left (6) Takes us up to a low roof top balcony with fixed ropes that serve as "Fear-remover" to cross the river, over a recessed block - 5 m from the water - in the meander that forms the active course



Climb up towards the fixed ropes

We continue straight ahead in the direction that point the fixed ropes, crossing another area low ceiling and we descend to the gallery of The Gours, whose unique beauty will make it was worth our visit to system.



Gallery of Gours

From this gallery, of no more than 20 meters, we go out next to the right wall in the point that this marks a left turn. The escape is a ramp feature ascending with abundant formations, between which highlights a beautiful column.



'Escape Ramp'

We get to an old upper channel, which we will leave after 15m from a 4 m climb to the left divided in two sections, of which the second can be simplified with the help of companion.

We are now in the upper part of the Great Canyon, on a bed of sand and with the wall on our left (7). A short area of blocks takes us to the first small crawl of the crossing, about two meters long, but really comfortable and wide. Behind this the gallery maintains the previous size (8), with the ground of compacted clays and following the left wall. From this gallery we leave on the right through a simple slide that descends about 4 meters and that makes us cross in its half One step between blocks. We appear in a room in which we already see the streamway, which we will continue turning left and following upstream and staying together to the left wall. A ramp of blocks next to the wall, we Go back up to a balcony over the river, which leads direct to La Tirolina. This installation, in which we will have to cross the channel offers two options: one zip line of about 10 m and two ropes, or a traverse on the right to which we access through an E3 and from which we will leave for a P6 and a pendulum to a new rope on the wall in front. Both facilities are in perfect condition, but only use the tirolina if you have pulleys to save damage to the rope

From there continue through the high part of the passage, following obvious path, keeping the wall to the left and following the streamway. A little debris forces us down to a wide balcony over the river, which we maintain, encased to the right, and on which we observe the formation of antistalagmites, they decorate the floor. Our amazement is on the rise, crossing the beautiful Colada room that, upholstered in calcite brown and gours, it is hung over the River.

Following the path we bring, a ramp of about four meters of blocks we go down to active streamway, which we will cross safely through its same bed (9). We stay on the right bank, sandy ground, for about twenty meters to cross left again over a couple of large separate blocks each other half a meter (10). A few meters from crossing the river, now we take to the right, we will enjoy an inlet and flowstone formations.

Our route brings us closer to the water now and we progress on its very edge. Soon the water completely covers the channel, without giving us the possibility to continue without get wet! At that point, on the left, is a small ramp that leads us to a short walkable hanging gallery (11). We go down back to the water and we cross the channel to the right bank, which leads us to a good size room in which the river enters between two large blocks (12). Continue by climbing a steep ramp of 40 meters to the right (the Great Ramp) that begins by following a kind of channel and that continues to make a turn left by a block chaos that surrounds the room while ascending and leading us to its highest part by a marked path with milestones. Beautiful "pisolitas", almost in the high part of the ramp, we liven up the ascent. On the left hand side of the highest part of the ramp we see the fixed ropes of the E20 that we go up to the Vivac Gallery.

E20 Climb to the Gallery Vivac Information :

First climb + 8m 1 rock thread Left wall

Deviation + 2m 1 rock thread Left wall

Header + 10m 2 rock threads Right wall

Window exit 2m 1 rock thread right wall

At the top of the E20 climb there is another fixed rope **that we do not take** *that goes up another 20m or so to the dead end connection up to the Gallery Avatar that is well decorated, but is off route.* We descend from our window by a left ramp that leaves us at the base from the gallery and there is, immediately, a P18 that we will go round on the right and leads us to a balcony on a large left turn. This balcony intercepts the other side of the gallery through a spectacular rock bridge but we do not cross. . We follow our ledge and we border on the right an exposed crack half a meter that cuts it, to follow another ten meters of certain exposure.



Exposed part of the Cornice

From here, the difficulties are over from the Vivac gallery and continue by following Markers and fishing line! Continue for the next 300m ,following the path marked by the beacons and enjoying the multiple formations that decorate the entire Great Hall, which in its final section takes us next to another great right where From this beautiful room we go down a large ramp of blocks (13), which ends the marked area and from whose half we can follow clear path .Our ramp ends again in the riverbed, now covered by large blocks on which we will progress out to the left and following the course of the river. It will be advisable to wait for the whole group to be down to continue the march, due to loose stones .A low pass (14) makes it inevitable to get wet up to the knee in an area where we have to cross the channel twice and follow the left margin through a path that takes us already dry in the middle of a slope of sand. The end of the sand slope brings us back to the river, that we will have to cross again to progress along its right bank and between blocks (15), after which a roof area low and about 20 meters long marks a turn to the right, where a couple of recessed blocks in the ground force us to make a slight climb, after which we return back to the river in the Suvia Canyon.

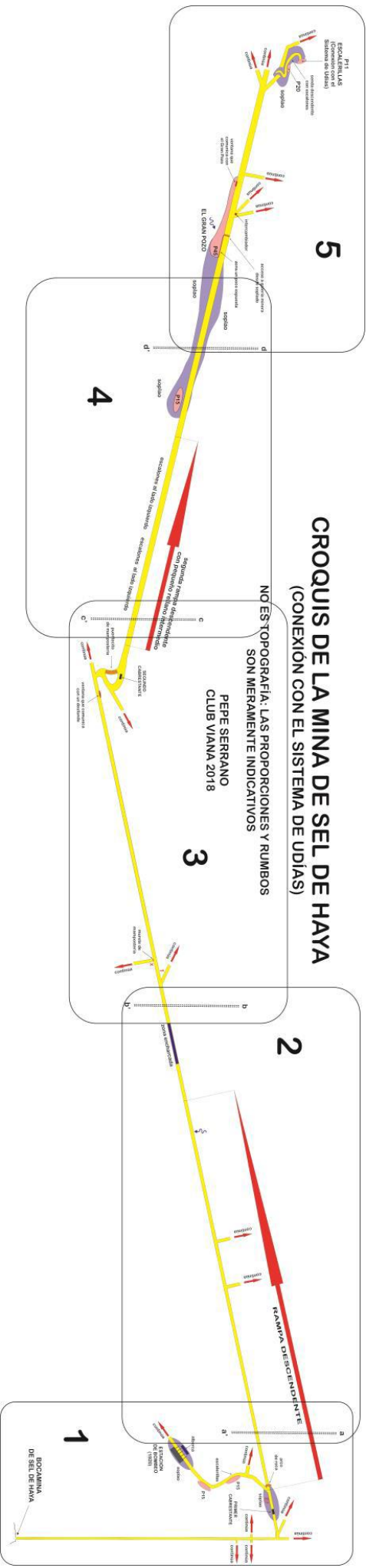
We continue following the course of the river that we will cross on a couple more occasions, until we find another low roof area after which the water covers the entire gallery and in a couple of meters comes to cover us to the waist. To right hand and when the river starts to cover the entire gallery appears a ramp that raises us to a dry area that avoids the deepest area. We come back again to the river following its right bank, up to a point at which the channel is dammed and would already give same route. There, two large blocks on the riverbed help us cross to its left side, where a large block muddy ramp opens us access to the Hall Chechu, which we will access by following as far as possible, the footprints of our predecessors.

We will not have to climb to the highest part from the room, but on a half-landing height we will begin again the descent to active streamway, having left the area behind we continue to stick to the left edge of the river to pass a tributary that joins to the course on the left, which we will ignore. following the main stream upstream. Again the water is dammed at one point in which the river covers.

Right there and on the left a window opens half a meter above the water in which a small ramp and a short gallery takes us to the Second small crawl of the crossing. We will cross it sideways and with the feet ahead, touching ground one meter low the exit of it and already after the zones. Now the river is perfectly fordable and we follow it for about 20m more until we find ourselves on the left wall the access ropes to the Exit passage – The Ropes of Death !! **(We followed the river all the way out in 2022, the river was low)**



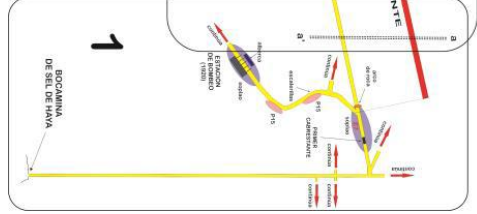
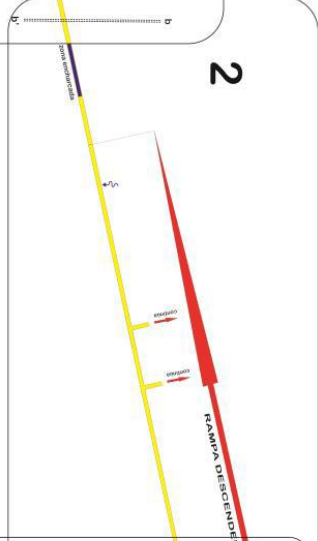
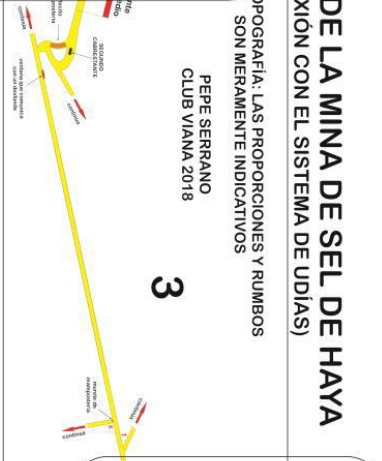
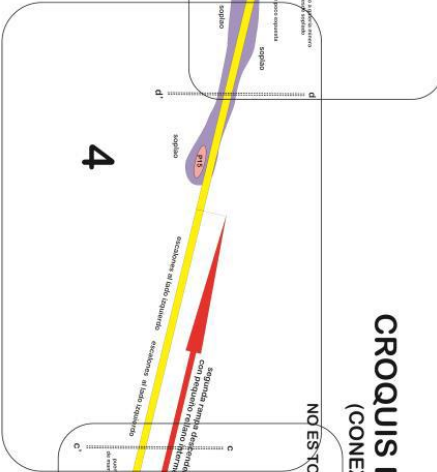
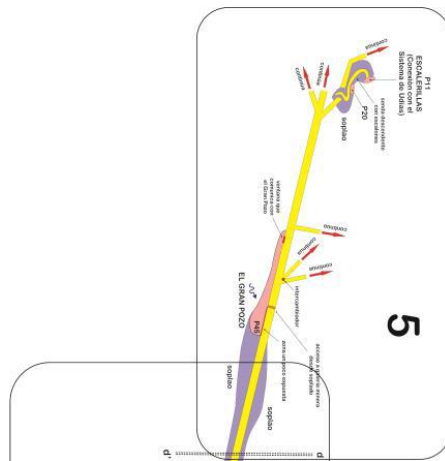
After the first two sections of ropes, that begin with ascending rope, we access a short gallery from which we will go out through a hole to the left, the Third small crawl of the crossing, smooth, Comfortable and descending. The crawl brings us to a room with a right **which we will not take**, finding the right path on your left. A new section of gallery and another crawl we lead to the third section of traverse ropes, which takes us to a room and very long rope traverses, whose end opens us to the Entrance Hall of Cushion. An ascending ramp in which it is common to find goats!, leads us to the natural mouth of the system.

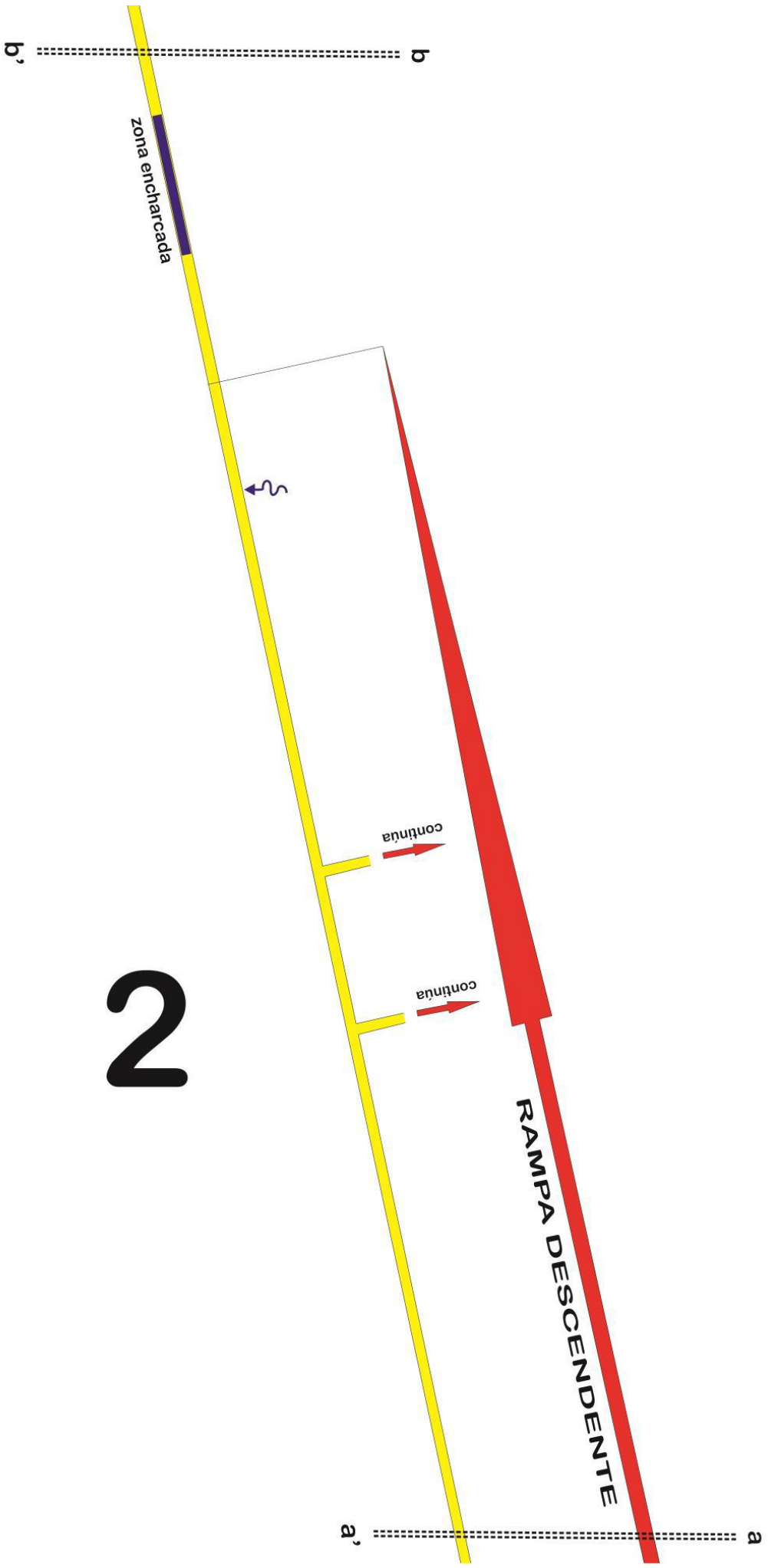


CROQUIS DE LA MINA DE SEL DE HAYA
(CONEXION CON EL SISTEMA DE UDIAS)

NO ESTOPOGRAFIA: LAS PROPORCIONES Y RUMBOS SON MERAMENTE INDICATIVOS

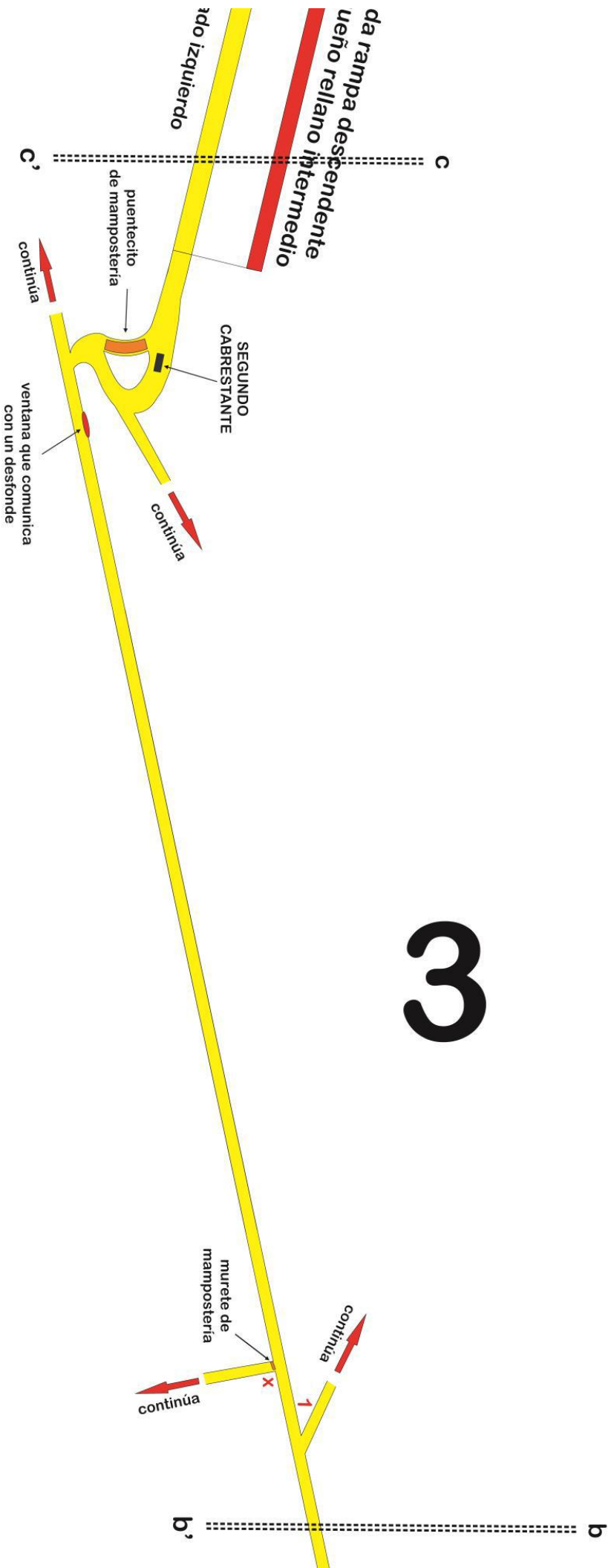
PEPE SERRANO
CLUB VIANA 2018

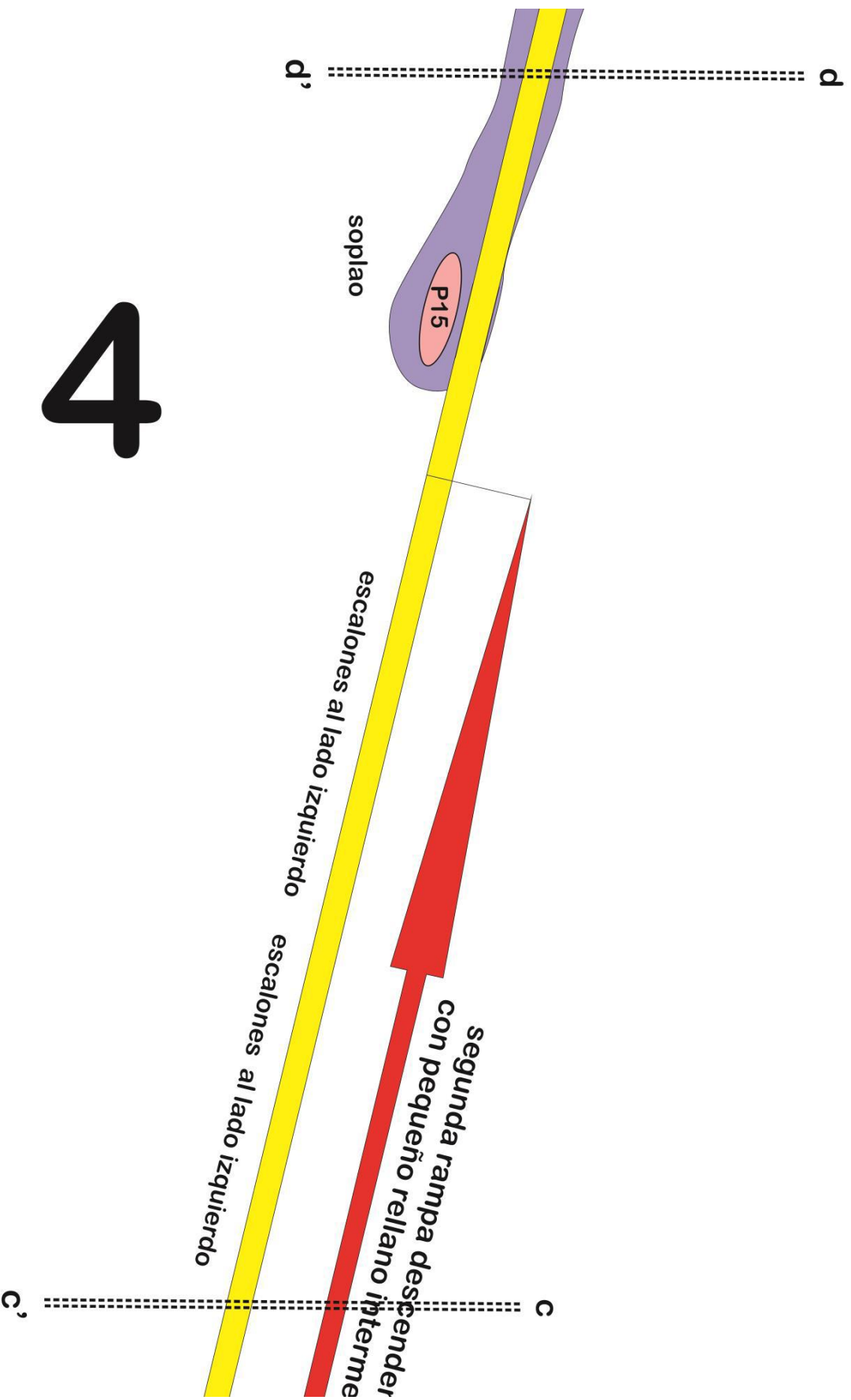




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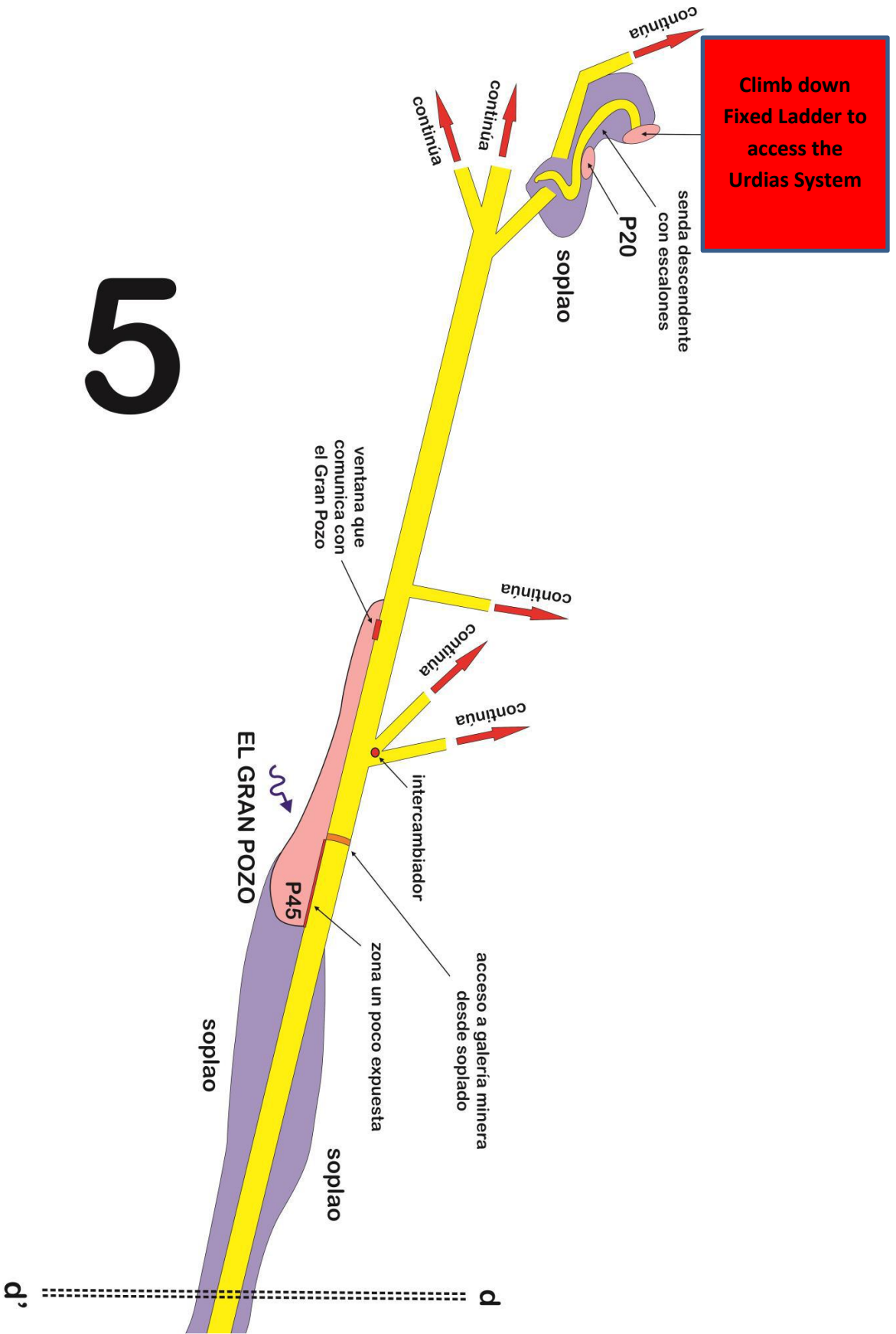
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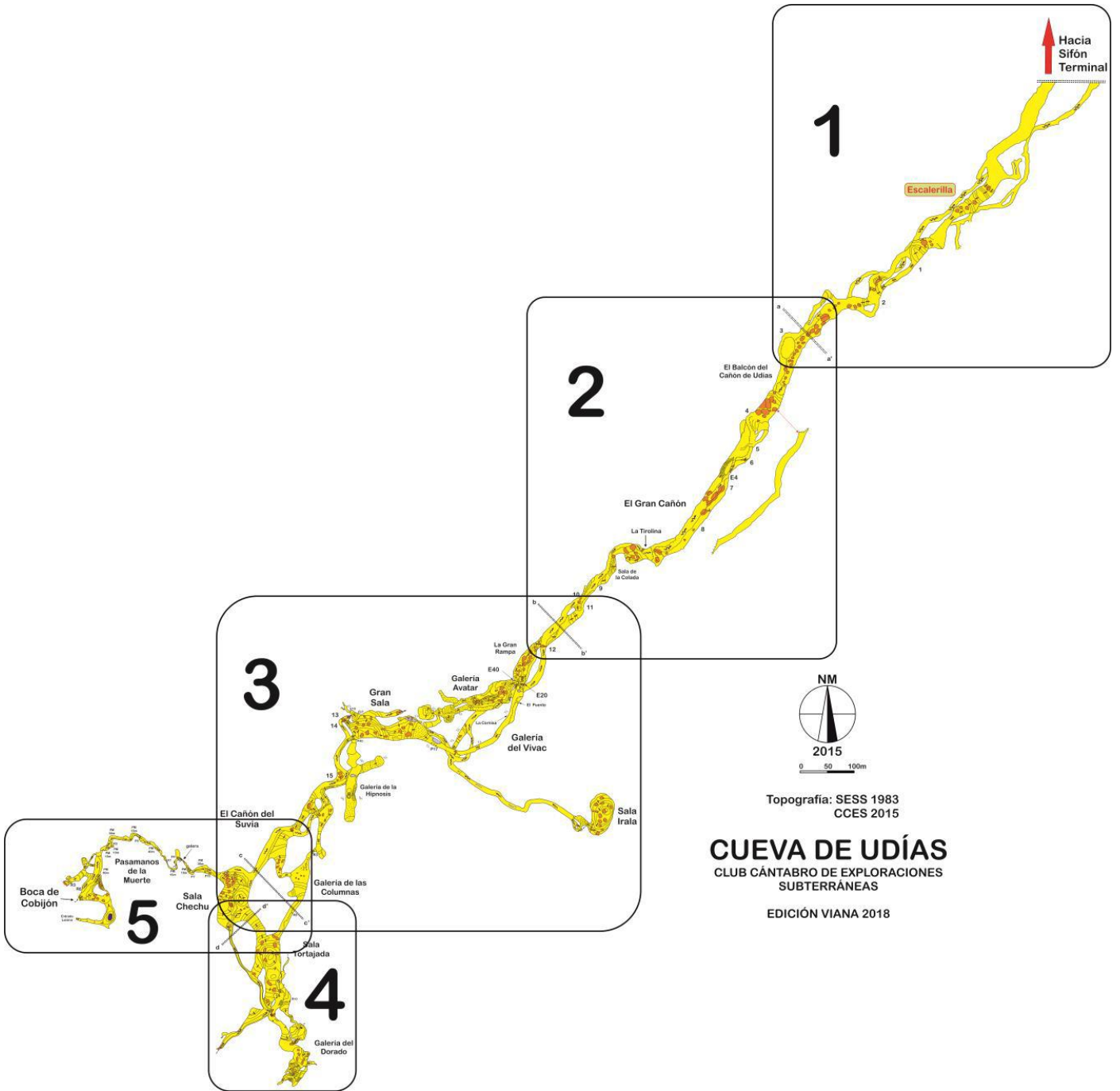




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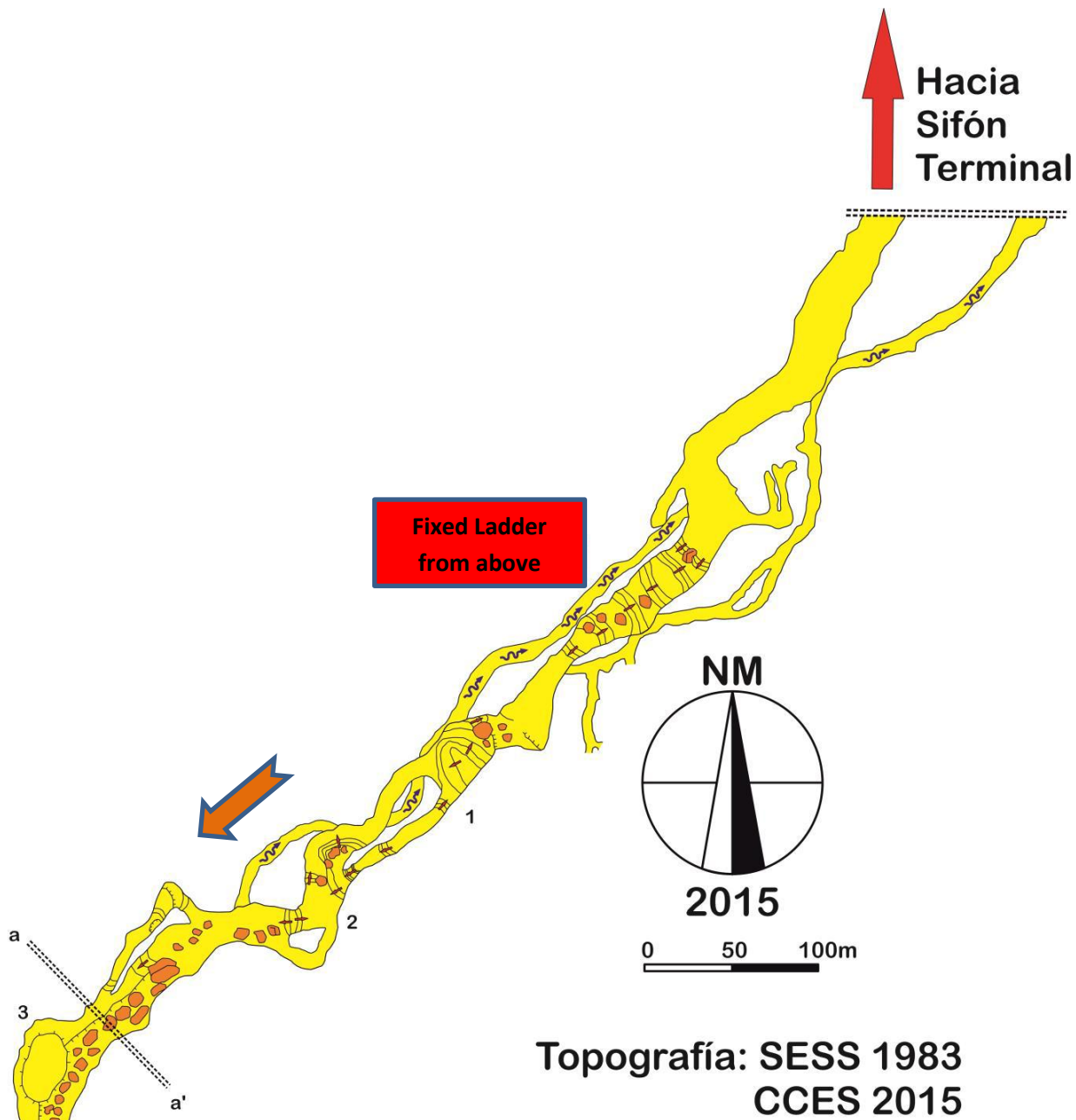




Topografía: SESS 1983
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CUEVA DE UDÍAS
CLUB CÁNTABRO DE EXPLORACIONES
SUBTERRÁNEAS

EDICIÓN VIANA 2018



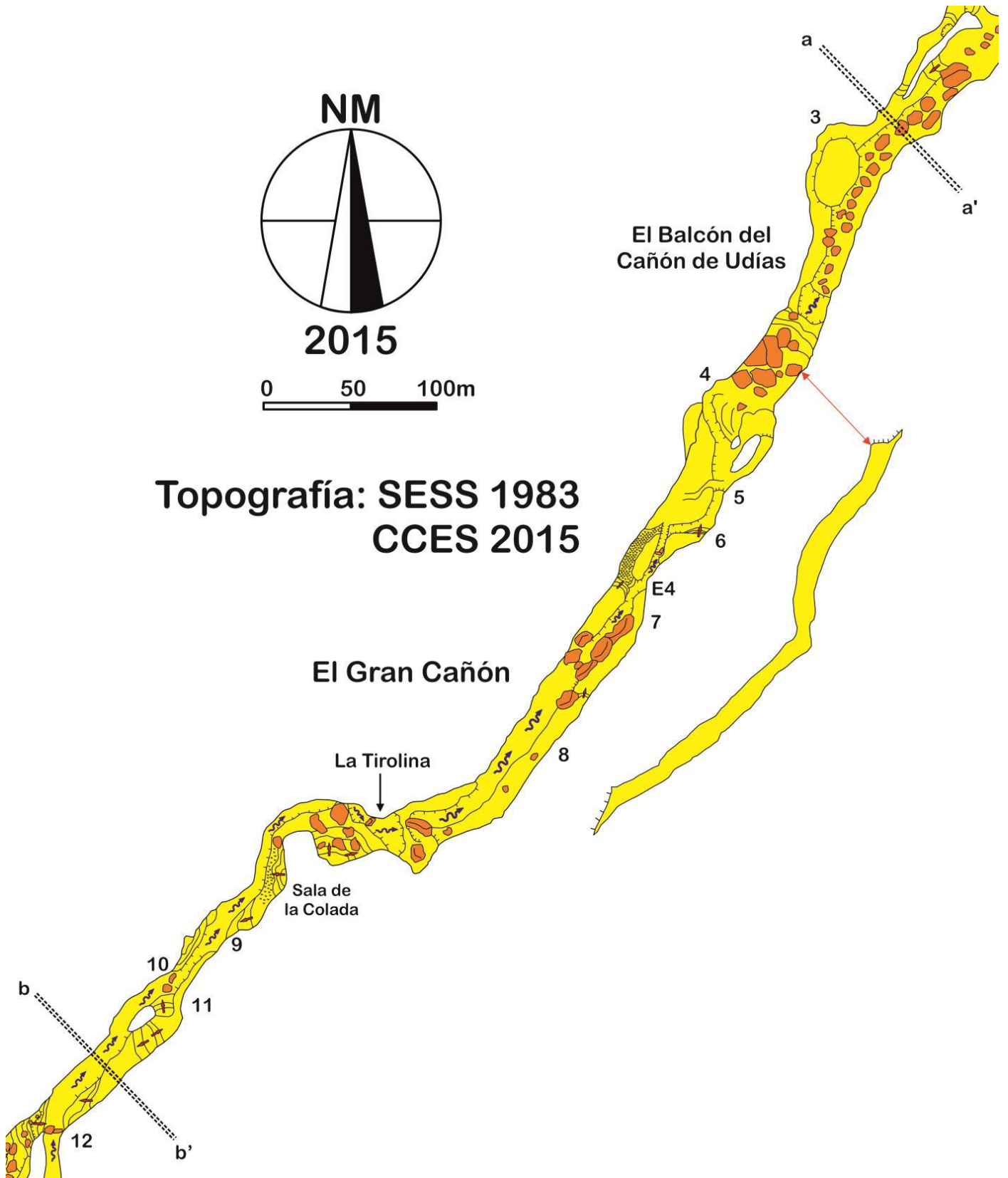
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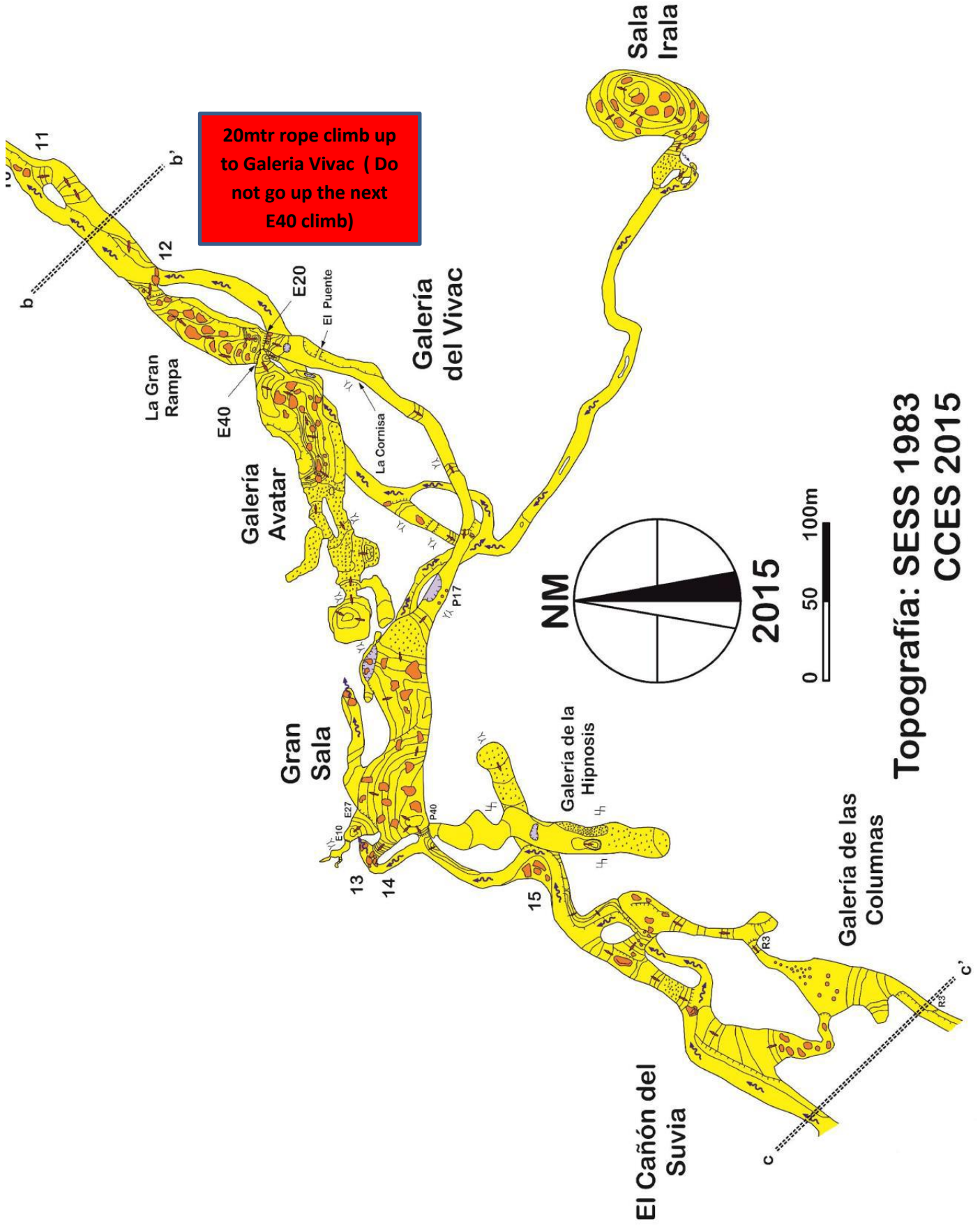


2015

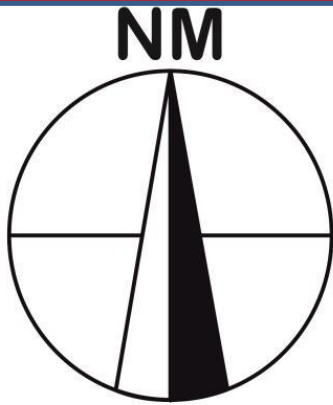
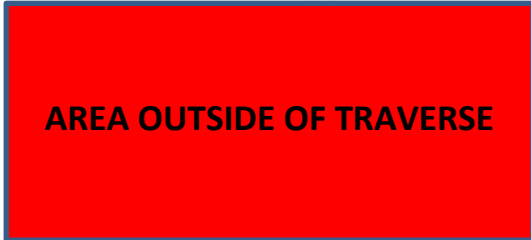


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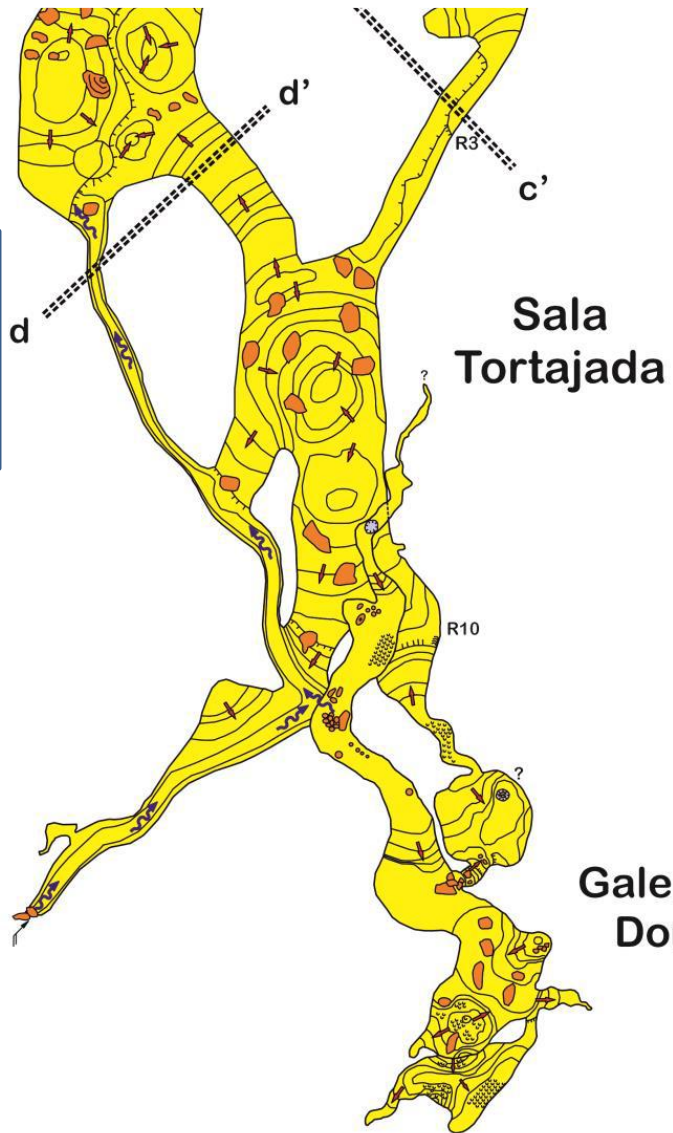




Sala
Chechu

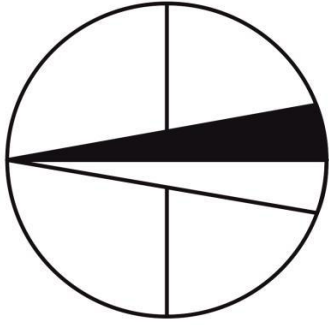


2015



Topografía: SESS 1983
CCES 2015

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2015

Boca de Cobijón

Entrada Luisina

Topografía: SESS 1983
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