

Sistema de la Cueva del Lobo

Access

To get to the upper entrances Torca Fria and Cueva Fria, we have to take the road which goes from Arredondo to Puerto de la Sia. At a tight bend PK15,500 we can park the car. From the parking area we take a path (the first bit is concrete) which goes up to a meadow where there are some huts "Las cabanas del Carrascal" Soon we reach the start of a forest, located under an impressive big limestone cliff, situated under the Pic of Pena Lusa. In the platform located above this cliff are the entrances of the Upper Entrances.

To pass this barrier there are two different ways. The first one takes an obvious path which enters the forest heading north, later on it goes back and forth following a Z path, it leads to a big breach easy to go up, we reach the top of the cliffs and a path takes us to the upper entrances.

The second way despite being longer is safer. After passing the forested area and just before reaching a col we have to enter the forest until we reach the base of the cliff. Following the line under the cliffs we easily reach a big crevice through which we reach the upper area of cliffs, from this point we walk in a smooth platform in a southwards direction to eventually join the other path, we suddenly get to a moraine located in the North face of Pena Lusa. Cueva Fria is really close to the edge of the moraine and Torca Fria is in a big visible crevice some dozens of metres above the other mouth. They are both clearly visible from a long distance away. Total time to go up to the cave 1hr 45 min

(Julia's notes: we usually park the car in the huts at the exit of Lobo, and from there we join the path that goes up to Fria)

Torca Fría



Portillo de acceso a Torca Fría

Valturron

We get to this cave following south direction over the cliffs until the east massif of rocks of Peña Lusa comes abruptly towards the cliffs to locate nearly on the top of Casas del Carrascal. Time to approach 45min

Cueva del Lobo

To go to Cueva del Lobo it is better to leave the car in the PK16500 by the road near a hut. in front of this there is a path which goes up to reach several huts. Once by the huts we go up through a moraine until we reach the forest and later on the base of the cliffs. At this point we turn right and we follow the base of the cliffs for about 200-300m finding a little and long-shaped entrance. In summer gusts of freezing cold air can be felt a long way away showing us the location of the cave. Time to reach Lobo = 20-30mins

Torca Fria-Lobo

8hr30min -254m and 2430m

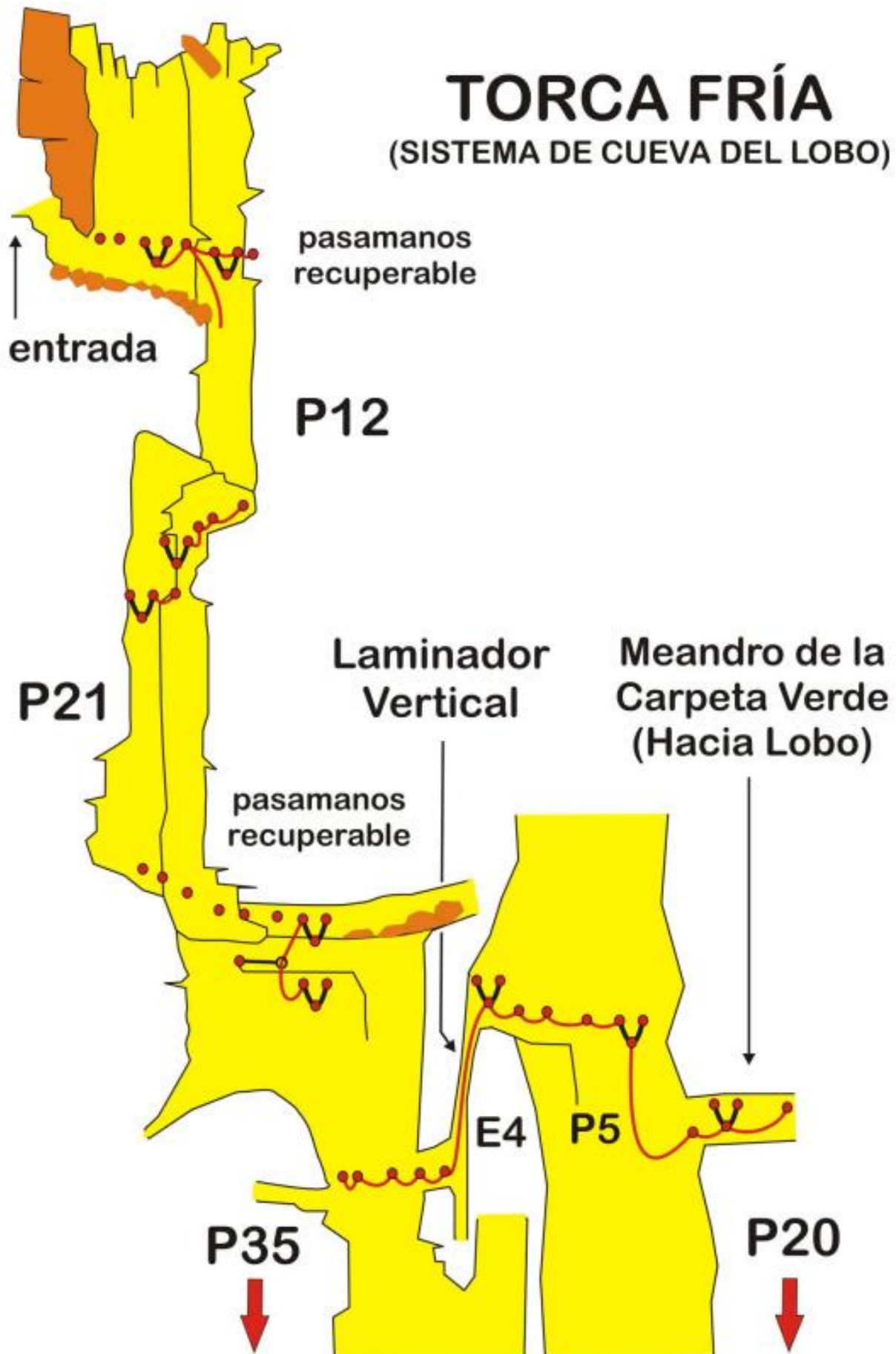
Although both entrances are possible it is better to descent Torca Fria because despite being more technically complex it is much more comfortable than Cueva Fria. All in all, the difficulty of the traverse is medium but it is really complex regarding route finding especially in the sector near the exit where the galleries cross each other very often. Other difficulties include having to pass "bottomless" meanders where you often do not have the security that you would like.

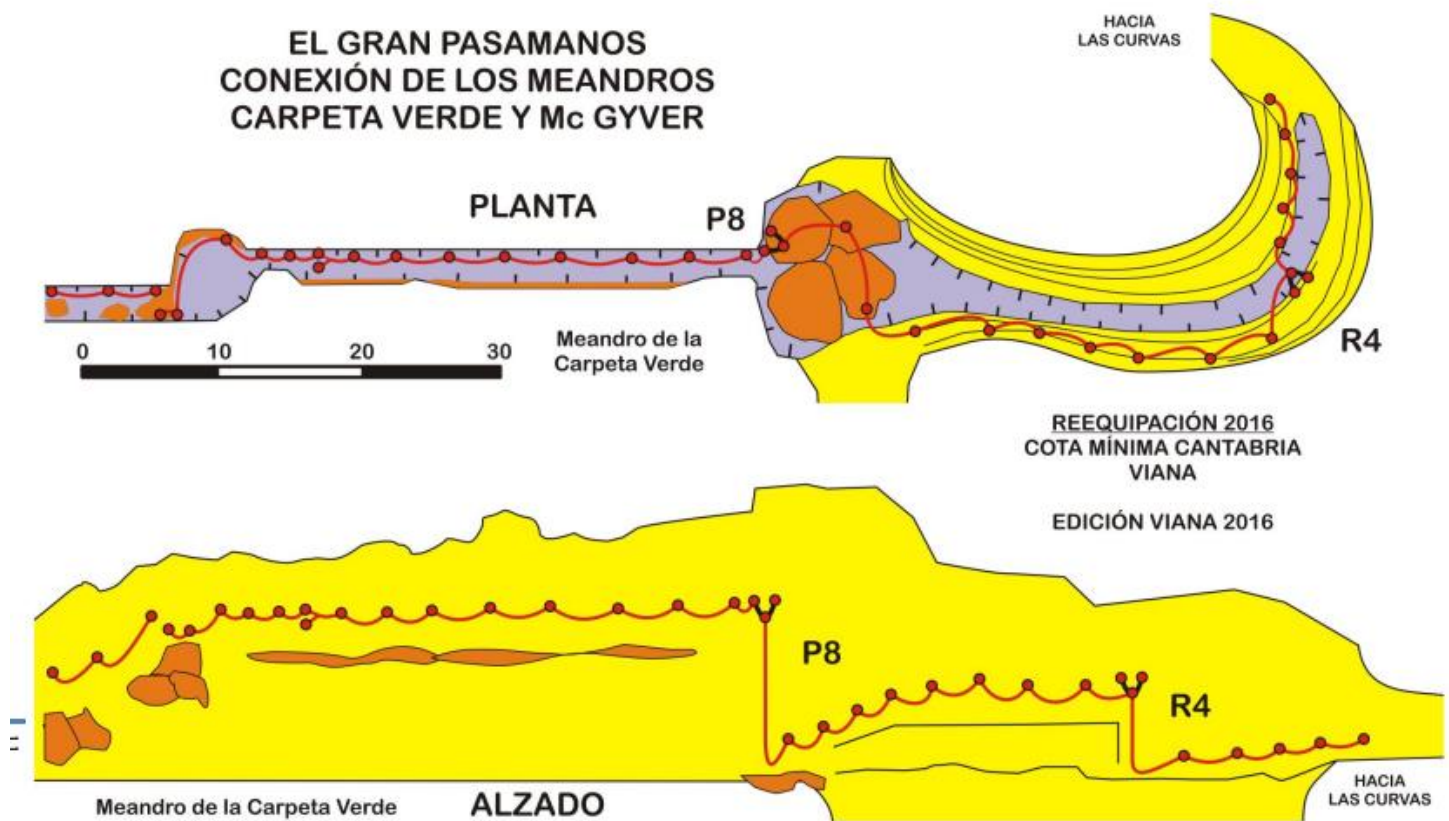
Torca Fria opens in bare rock presenting in the upper area several holes distributed with no order. Some meters below a crevice in the rock is a small porch. We enter by this and pass a squeeze to reach a small chamber where there is usually snow in the floor. We get to the first pitch P12 which is open to the sky and leads immediately to a P21. At both pitch heads we need to be very careful about loose stones. at the base of the second pitch, we find a pile of boulders and nearly always a pile of snow they give way to a parallel pitch P35 it is a long canyon shaped pitch. The belays at the pitch head are in a big overhang and there is a deviation on the far wall. We go down 20m until we reach some wedged boulders. There we need to do a big pendulum to reach a small window which gives way to a narrow vertical fissure that we must go up. Once at the top we reach another pitch parallel to one that we have just left behind. (pozo de la union) We go down about 5m of this pitch and then make a traverse which gains the final meander of Cueva del Lobo.

We go along the meander for about 300m without any difficulty, later the meander becomes very narrow at the bottom, and it is easier to progress at the top and then later descend. Leaving behind on our right a gallery which goes up, the meander becomes wider and false floors appear. Once we've passed this a big loose big hole in the floor that we need to traverse through an overhang on the left wall **(1)**. Further along we climb down and at half height we reach a part where the gallery becomes much wider. Then we get to a junction where an arrow shows us that we must follow the gallery on the left which is an upper level with a section of about 3x4m **(2)**. its floor is mainly sand, and we follow it for about 100m until the gallery becomes deeper. Eventually we get to a point where we need to abseil 8-10m to get to the bottom of the meander **(3)**. (It can be descended without rope but is very dangerous)

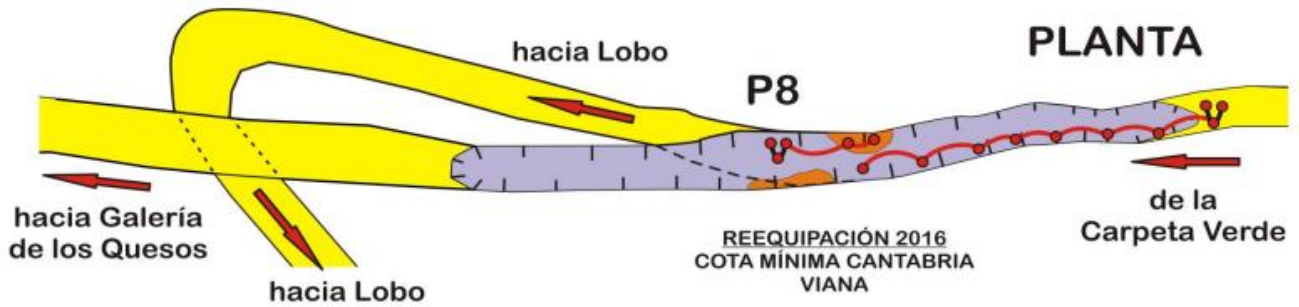
TORCA FRÍA

(SISTEMA DE CUEVA DEL LOBO)

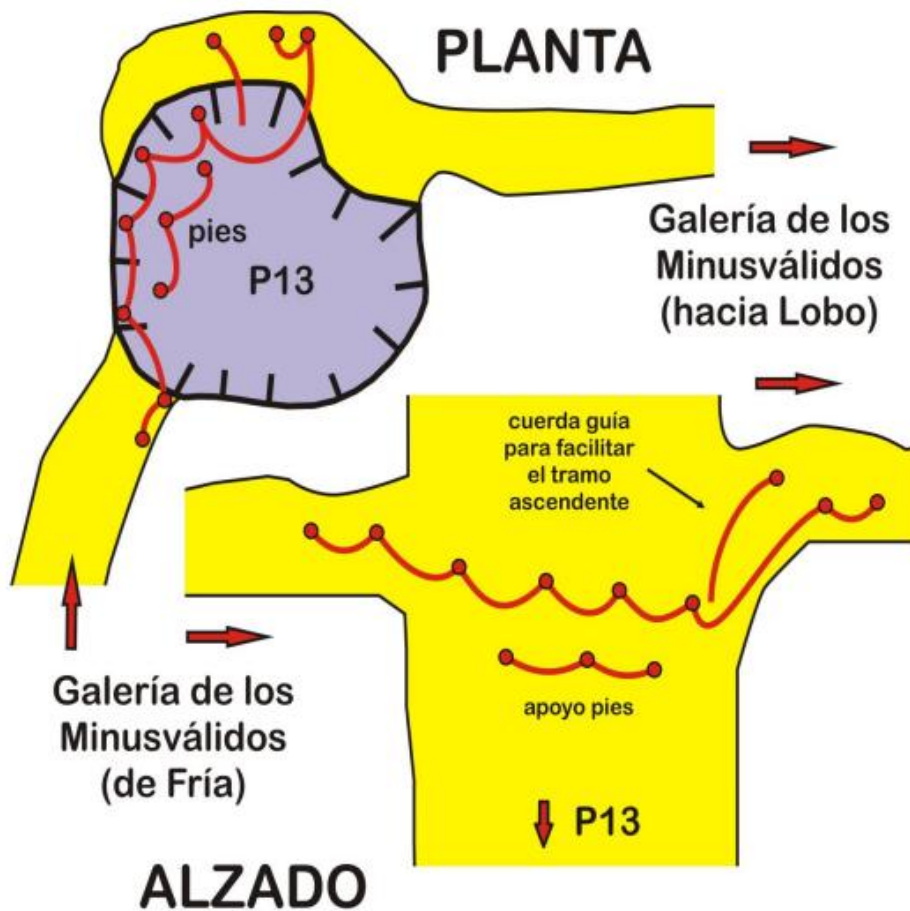
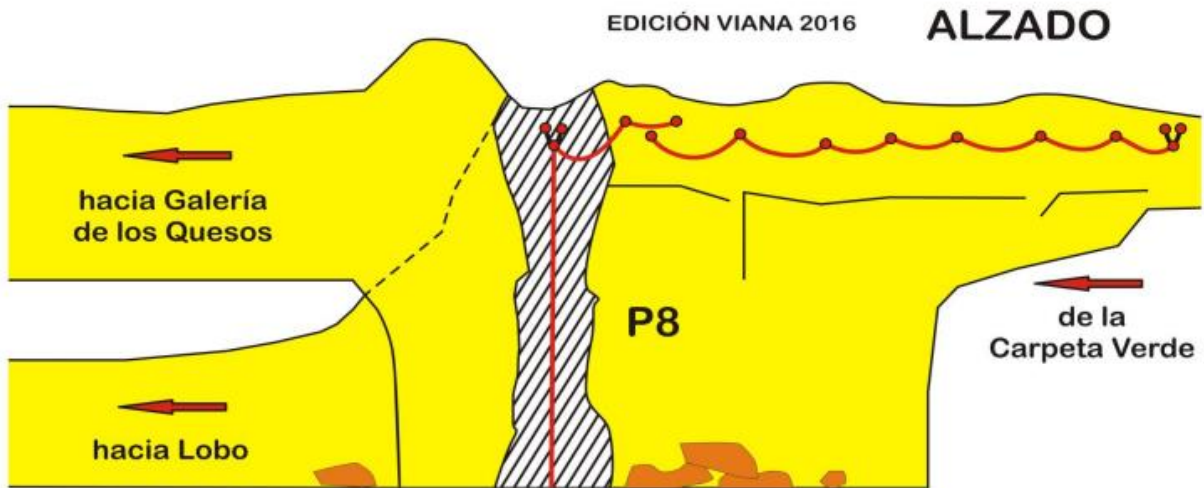




Once at the bottom we follow the same direction as before and shortly afterwards there is a bifurcation, and we need to take the one which is in a diagonal turns right.? (If you take the wrong one you soon reach an aven with rope going up) The galley now has a lot of turns with a section between 3-4m high and 1-2m wide the meander's walls and roof is covered with a layer of gypsum which produces a white sand when it falls. Further on we get to a junction with 4 galleries we turn abruptly to the left and take a meander where the gypsum disappears. (Galeria de los Minusualidos) In this gallery we find a 5m traverse which avoids a pitch. After that we walk comfortably in the floor of the gallery. We pass some passages a bit narrow in their final part and eventually the gallery becomes wider, and we find several climbs down the biggest being 2m. The dimensions of the gallery become notoriously bigger, and the walls become darker. Then we get to "La Sala del Carbon" (Coal Chamber) (5) and we walk straight ahead to enter "El Meandro Negro" (The black meander) we leave at our right? a big gallery that takes through a ramp? with a lot of rocks (there is a fixed rope) to several meanders (Meandros de la Fourche y de la Machoire).



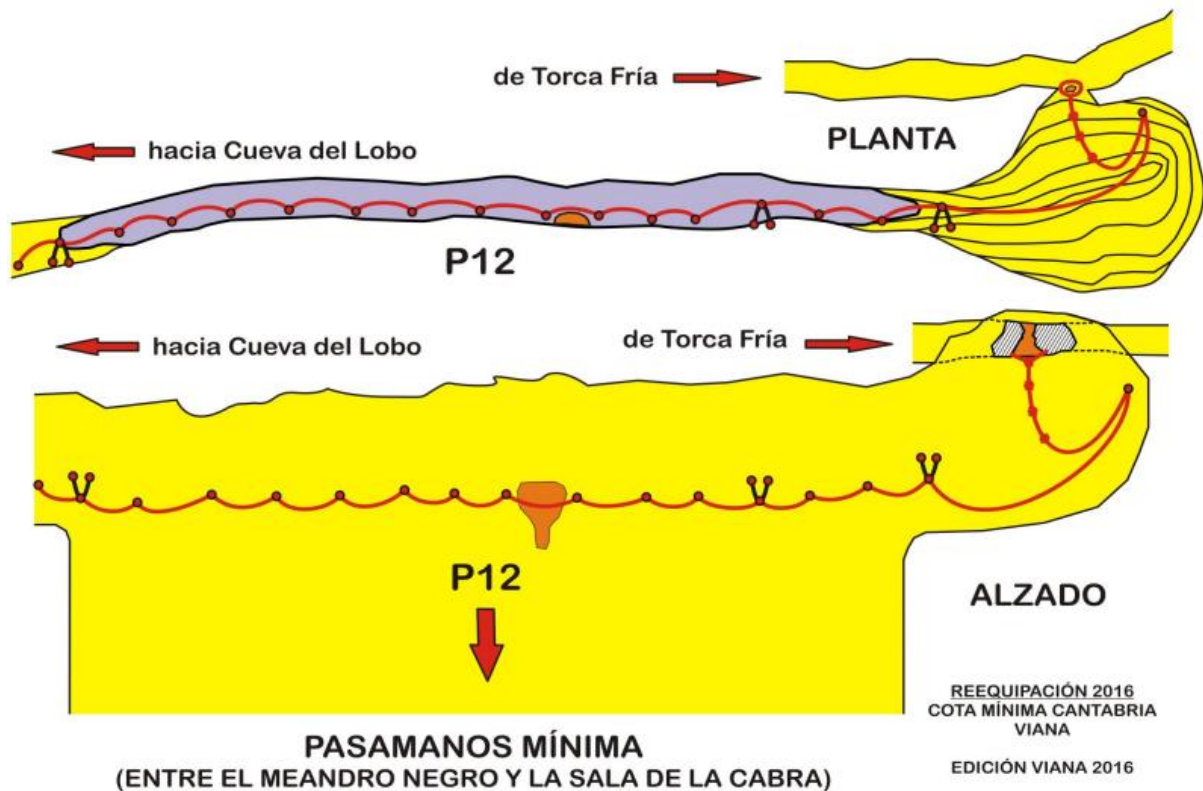
INTERSECCIÓN CON LA GALERÍA DE LOS QUESOS Y HACIA INTERSECCIÓN CON MAXIM'S



REEQUIPACIÓN 2016
COTA MÍNIMA CANTABRIA
VIANA

VIRA DE LA COLIFLOR
(GALERÍA DE LOS MINUSVÁLIDOS)

EDICIÓN VIANA 2016



The Black Meander becomes narrower and after passing some huge boulders the gallery's floor becomes a serious ramp becomes more like a hole. Without going down we keep going for about 5-7m getting access in this way to a big gallery, even bigger than the one that we have just left, and we will find as soon as we get into it a chaotic area with big boulders. If we take the lower level, we soon will get to an end. The correct way is going up the ramp until we get to a collapse on the left. We must pass between the boulders and take a narrow meander that after about 100m we have to abandon and go up a sandy ramp. We then reach an upper level of a big meander (3x4m) which shows a narrowing for about 10m with a narrow bottom where it is possible to walk until it becomes impossible to pass.

Another possible way although less obvious is passing between the blocks, leaving from the point where we take access to the big gallery (6) and turning left being able to get to 3-4m climb over a boulder with a "vira/pasamanos" for the hands and we make a traverse that takes us again to the previous meander although it's not (desfondado) in its central part (7). Further ahead after passing a big hole in the floor of the meander where there is always a rope, we reach a joint. On the right the gallery becomes smaller and ends at a big hole, so we take the left gallery, and climb up an R3 and reach a point where the meander makes a bend of 180 degrees (8) giving access to a net of labyrinthine conduits and parallel passages, where we can find it difficult to find the correct way especially if we haven't visited Cueva Lobo before. However, some arrows show us the way that we must follow which is basically going up a small cliff to take a gallery that starts in a low roof and sandy floor. Before getting to another gallery with a low roof and after a boulder there is a window which gives access to a small chamber where a bottomless meander starts (9). to cross this narrow but deep meander we must rig as a security measure a long traverse of about 30m. At the end of this we get to the floor, and we keep going through a crawl with a lot of wind. After this all the difficulties disappear. Going up a ramp we get to "Sala de la Cabra (Goat Chamber) where all the meanders that come from the upper entrances join. (Cueva Valturon, Puerta de Emergencia y Cueva Castielagua)

Later we go down a ramp and get to an area of big boulders and eventually the impressive Galeria de Flysch. before reaching its end another gallery of a similar size joins on the left. We take this second gallery and follow it for about 20m and a GRIETA appears on our right where the gallery to the entrance of Cueva del Lobo starts.

Cueva del Valturon - Cueva del Lobo

It is a traverse which is mainly vertical and with hardly any horizontal galleries. From the entrance porch large but low (4m x 0.8m) we can feel the strong air current which comes out of the cave, and which will show us the way to Lobo. After a gallery with a low roof, we keep going to the right via a meander until we reach the first pitch we bypass this to the right and gain an upper series of galleries. To the left is a calcite ramp (R12) and following the air current we keep going to a series of vertical drops. After a completely fossil P9 we descend a P18 which sometimes has a small current of water. After that we go down a P14 and a P28 reaching -105m. A big meander is followed by a narrow gallery with muddy walls and floor (La Cloaca) We reach another P30 THAT WE DO NOT DESCEND TO THE BOTTOM. About 15m down the pitch we enter a small window with a strong air current into it. (There are other windows, but they are very difficult to access) A fossil gallery of about 60m gives way to a P25 with a narrow pitch head and is covered in calcite. This pitch ends up in Meandro de la Bascula. After crawling for about 20m and leaving on our right the access to Sala de la Cabra we reach the big Galeria de los Campistas about 350m further ahead we find the exit through Cueva del Lobo.

Material:

The configuration of Fría and the way the pitch heads are rigged is such that the double rope technique is not very convenient. That's why most of the cave is rigged.

Once in the meander "la carpeta verde" it would be convenient use a 15m rope to secure the traverse. Further ahead, in point 3, where it's necessary to abseil 10m, it would be convenient to leave the rope fixed and secure the pitch head in case of getting lost you can come back. In the traverse which gives access to Sala de la Cabra, (10) we will need a 35m rope, and about 6-7 anchors.

Regarding valturón, it is **NOT PREPARED TO USE DOUBLE ROPE TECHNIQUE**

Recommendations

All the through trip is in fossil galleries so it's very sensible to take enough amount of water. In order to avoid getting lost, it would be recommendable entering first by Lobo until you reach at least "los Meandros Negros and La Sala del Carbón"

Do not trust the fixed ropes in Fria, as they have been there at least since 1992. Take equipment that can be abandoned and spits and rigging equipment.

Cueva Fria

Torca Fria







SISTEMA DE LA CUEVA DEL LOBO PEÑA LUSA - CANTABRIA



2048m Distancia desde la boca de la Cueva del Lobo
 -129 Desnivel con respecto a Torca Fria y Valturón
 (a la misma altura: 1.543 metros)
 Topografía: S.C. Dijón 1987 a 1990
 Edición: VIANA 2016