

## TRAVERSE TORCA JUÑOSO - TORCA ANCHA

This unique journey, forgotten for decades, has been reequipped and marked in March 2015 as part of the magnificent conservation plan for classic cavities promoted by the Cantabrian Federation of Speleology. The refurbishment has been carried out by the Piezo Collective of Madrid with the help of Club Viana of Guadalajara and directed by Ángel San Juan. The uniqueness and special beauty of this journey lies in the dense formations that adorn the entire route. Juñoso – Ancha is, without the possibility of equivocation, the most concrete Cantabrian crossing, which gives it a charm that transcends the mere sporting plane. From the mouth of Juñoso to the Sala de la Unión especially, we will have to take our time to delight ourselves with the whims that nature has seen fit to create to decorate this cavity. It is obligatory to go down to see the Gallery of Wonders, which in itself is worth our visit. We will have to be especially careful not to leave any remains of our visit, as well as to be vigilant and not damage any of the formations that nature has taken millennia to create.

At Christmas 1977, the Speleo Club Cántabro discovered the chasms of Torca Juñoso and Torca Ancha, natural entrances to the system. When they arrived at the base of Torca Ancha (-57 m) they immediately saw their own footprints, which confirmed that they were in the system. This was not the case with Torca Juñoso (-42 m) where everything was virgin, so they proceeded to explore it in a westerly direction from where the cave would come from, until they reached an aerial well probed at first at -43 m, something serious for that time, especially in scale. Torca Juñoso became its main objective, and specifically to communicate it with the rest of the system, for which mixed camps were organized, one inside the cavity and the other in the one known as Vega de Yudero near the chasms. Thus, on December 28, 1978, a topography team managed to enter through T. Juñoso and exit to the Avalanche Gallery, joining the system. Total development of the system (topographed): 17,852 m

A good option is the Casa Rural de la Carburada<sup>1</sup> in Merodio (near Panes). In good weather you can bivouac without problems near the proposed car park.

**The proposed times are designed for a "calm" visit, taking photos and enjoying the route.**

Approach at the foot of the car park to entrances: 30 min

Total Activity Time: 8:00 h

Pre-installation Torca Ancha: 1 h

Torca Juñoso – Gallery of Wonders: 1:30 h

G. de las Maravillas - Sala de la Unión: 2 h

Sala de la Unión - Galería del Avalanche: 1:30 h

Avalanche Gallery - Paso del Minino: 30'

Paso del Minino - Torca Ancha: 1:30 a.m.

**The owners show cave, lovely, confirmed to us that they would make a special price to the cavers who visit the system. 15€ per person per day. Casa Rural la Carburada, tel. 985 414 476 / 659 252 138. This area, close to Picos de Europa, is a bit more expensive than Ramales**

### **Access**

Las Torcas are located in the neighbourhood of Caviña, in the municipality of Valdáliga, Camino de las Minas de La Florida, Cantabria.

From Madrid we take the A-1 to Burgos. In Burgos we turn off onto the A-73/N-623 to Aguilar de Campó. From there we take the A-67/N-611 to Torrelavega. From Torrelavega we take the A-8 towards Oviedo. At exit 258 of the A-8 we take the direction of Roiz / Las Cuevas (CA-848) and after 900 m of having passed the neighbourhood of Roiz we take the junction to the right (left would take us to La Cocina) towards the neighbourhood of Labarces (CA-850). At km 6.4 of the CA850 and a couple of km before reaching Labarces we take a detour to the left that takes us to the Caviña neighbourhood, which we will reach in 4 km. Just as you enter and after passing a sharp curve to the right, you will find a straight asphalt road on the right, Camino de las Minas de la Florida (signposted for going to the tourist cave of Soplao), which you will follow for 3.1 km uphill until you find a Canadian gate (cattle crossing) on your left that opens up to a forest track. We will ascend along this track for about 2.4 km, along the most obvious path and always taking the crossroads on the left. We will be especially careful when crossing a second Canadian bridge that is missing several sleepers, it would be convenient to do it by a bypass that makes the track on its right. Thus we will finally arrive at a telecommunications facility (TV repeater and telephone), where we will park the car. Following the track on foot in the same direction as we came, we will pass the antennas and cross a fence on our left to take a wide grassy track that descends steeply, crossing a large depression on the left. After descending 1 km (150 m of elevation gain) from the repeater and when the path begins to flatten, we will find a large and solitary yew tree on the left of the path. Entering the forest on the right right right there, and after passing a muddy area of grass, we will find the wide mouth of Torca Ancha after 20 meters.

**Note:** Access is considerably simplified by making use of the track that you can download from the Club Viana website, where you downloaded this document, and which marks the access from the beginning of the track to the mouth of both torcas

### **TORCA JUÑOSO**

From the yew tree that marks the point of approach to Torca Ancha, we follow the track for 300 m of flat road. About 25 m to the left and in a slightly depressed area we will see the fence of posts and barbed wire that delimits Torca Juñoso.

## COORDINATES

### Comienzo Pista Forestal

30 T 384927 4795372

### Parquin

30 T 386774 4794563

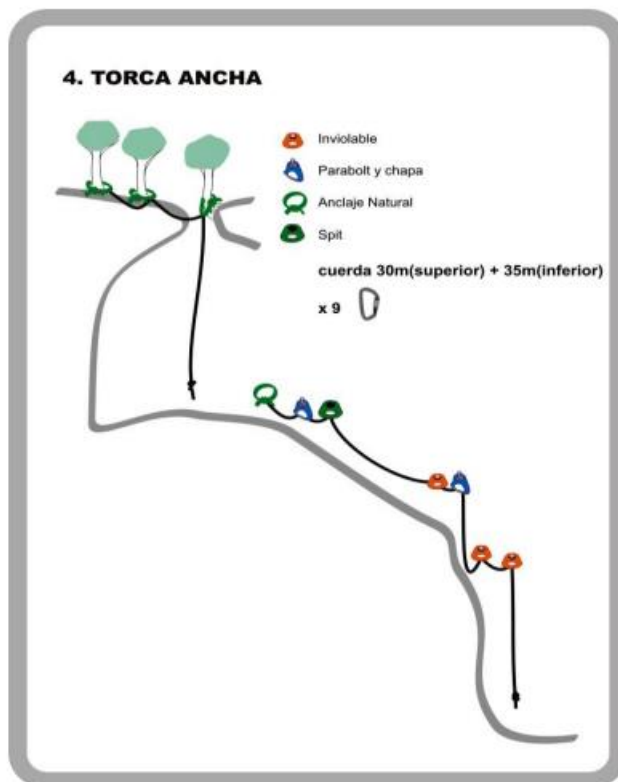
### Torca Ancha

30 T 387668 4794624

### Torca Juñoso

30 T 387925 4794629

## DESCRIPTION PRE-INSTALLATION WIDE TORQUE CROSSING



Once we have located the large mouth of Torca Ancha, we go around it on the right following a path that brings us closer to a second mouth of smaller dimensions, 2m in diameter, separated from the previous one by a large bridge rock. To this small mouth, through which we will descend, we approach the trunk of two trees **2**, to install the rappel (P19) to a sturdy tree **3**, with the trunk forming an elbow, which will give us a perfect flight to the ground.

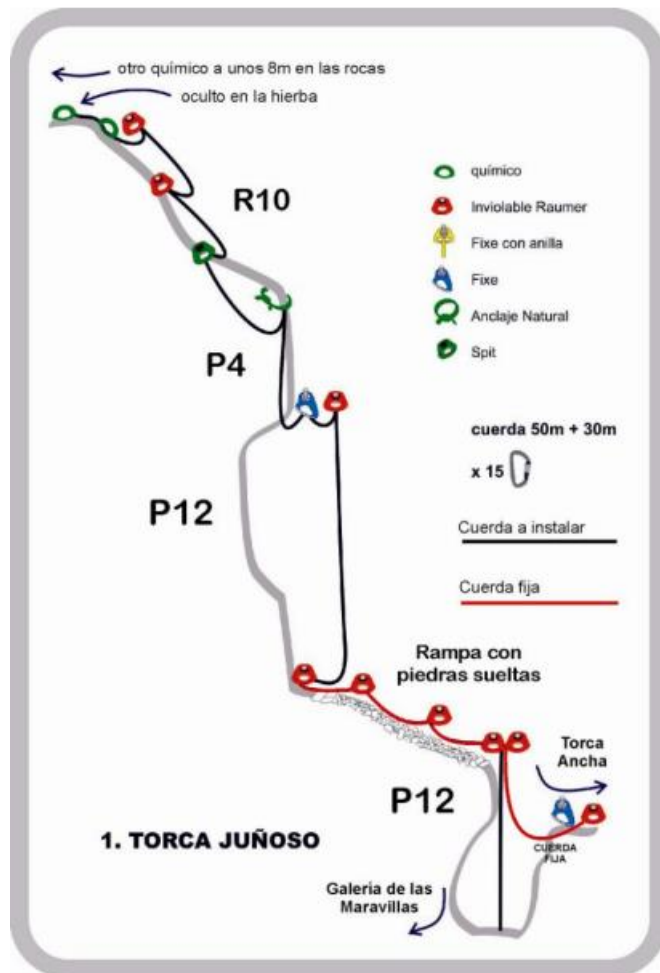
**2** Two 50 cm flat ribbon rings required.

**3** A 1 m flat ribbon ring required.

install a spit **4** on the right wall, to get closer to a natural anchor **5** in fixed, on a strong stalagmite, which will give us the first vertical section of the installation (P4)

**4** This spit, in good condition, could not be replaced due to the poor quality of the rock in the perimeter area.

**5** Flat tape.

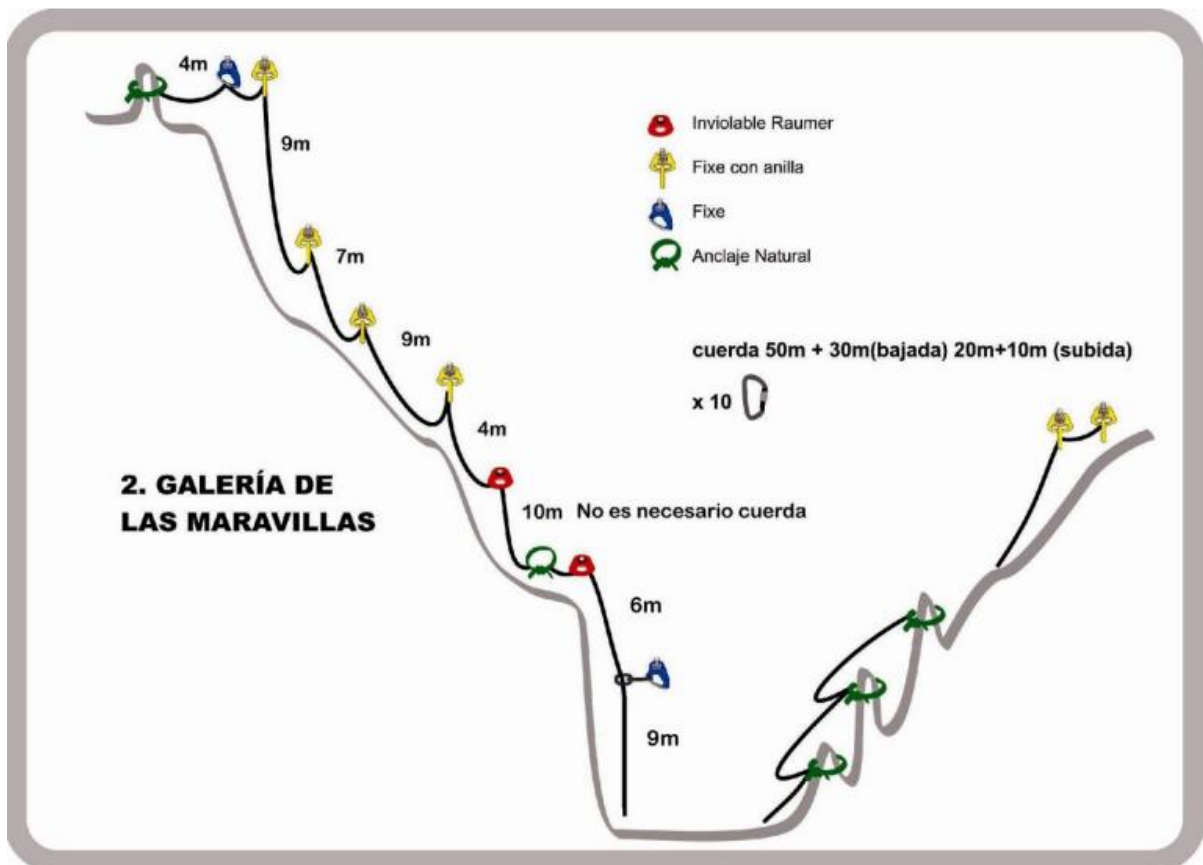


Our rappel will leave us at the head of the first long rope run (P12), whose base is formed by a dangerous ramp of unstable stones. We will have to make sure that no one walks through it, a real bowling alley, while someone is descending the next P12, because the stones fall on the same vertical of the rope. This ramp has a fixed handrail of three sections that brings us closer to the head of the P12, to go down to the Gallery of Wonders, or to the pendulum over the P12 (fixed rope) to continue our way to Torca Ancha. As it will be logical to visit this beautiful gallery, we will skip the fixed rope and install ours to descend the second P12. At the base, a very concrete room gives way to our right.

looking at the wall of the pitch, at the path to the Húmedo and Maravillas galleries. We descend a small stony ramp and immediately after we avoid a small gap on the left, where we climb an easy E2 that will take us to the beginning of the access ramp to both galleries.

This ramp, which was traditionally lowered and raised freely, has been reequipped in 2015 to be able to do so securely, due to the compromise of some steps, especially on the descent. The last two sections, already vertical, of the descent handrail that we will have to install, open us to a large room with an irregular floor and profusely decorated. On the right wall, and following a small supply of water, we will find the access to the narrow Wet gallery and the siphon, and to the left of the back of the room the stalagmites that will help us climb an E3 (although it can be done freely, it is preferable to equip it with a rope) that gives access to the superb Gallery of Wonders.

Walking through this gallery has to be especially careful, as we find ourselves walking through a veritable forest of formations. A half-height tack with a calcite floor marks the way forward, from where we can see a small lake at the bottom of the gallery that helps to create an environment of singular beauty. After 50 m of comfortable walking between formations, a fixed rope -P6- will leave us in a small room from which the gallery loses dimensions. This can be a good point to turn around and take the path that leads us to Torca Ancha.



### TORCA JUÑOSO – SALA DE LA UNIÓN

Having returned to the last P12 of Torca Juñoso, we ascend it and deviate to the left making use of the fixed rope provided by the pendulum. The sector that we will cross to the Galería de la Unión does not detract from what we have visited so far, and this is attested to by the extraordinary corridor, no more than 20 m, that we cross until we

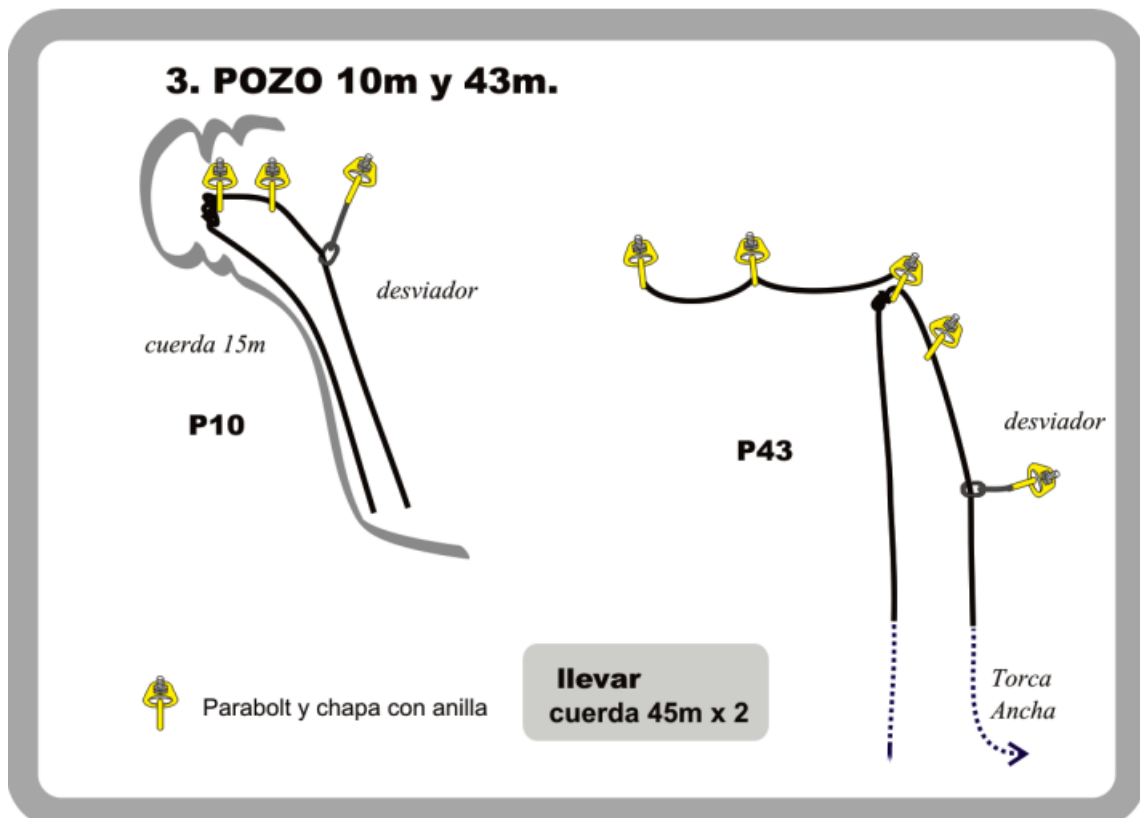
reach the next P10. Monumental stalactites and stalagmites cover the rooms, columns and organs placed without order, here and there, enveloping you and transporting you to the most beautiful of Tolkien's literature. We descend the P10, with the double rope technique, and marvel again at the natural wonders that decorate its base.

From the base of this last shaft, we exit to the right between stalagmites, to climb an E6 after 50 m with the help of natural resources (a real staircase of formations) that gives us access to another room with a very concrete high ceiling. We cross this room until we reach the opposite end where, heading to the left, we climb 5 m that will place us next to the head of the P43.

The handrail – fixed – to access this shaft runs along the left wall following a flow that ends up emptying into a magnificent bell covered with formations. The P43 (with drips in the rainy season) that we will go down in double, has a -1 m and on the opposite wall a derailleur, from which the overhang is absolute to the ground.

The base of this well forms a room from which we will exit by an R10 between stalagmites, for which it will be very useful to ensure the passage to some fixed ropes on naturals. We continue the march until after 20 m we find a new overhang (R3) equipped with fixed natural surfaces that leads to the Sala de la Unión.

At the back of this room we hear the noise of a small waterfall, which we will go to and locate to the left of it. A marked path and a reflector will help us locate the entrance to the Union Gallery. This cat flap is located in a small niche above the waterfall, which we will climb about 10 m without any difficulty.



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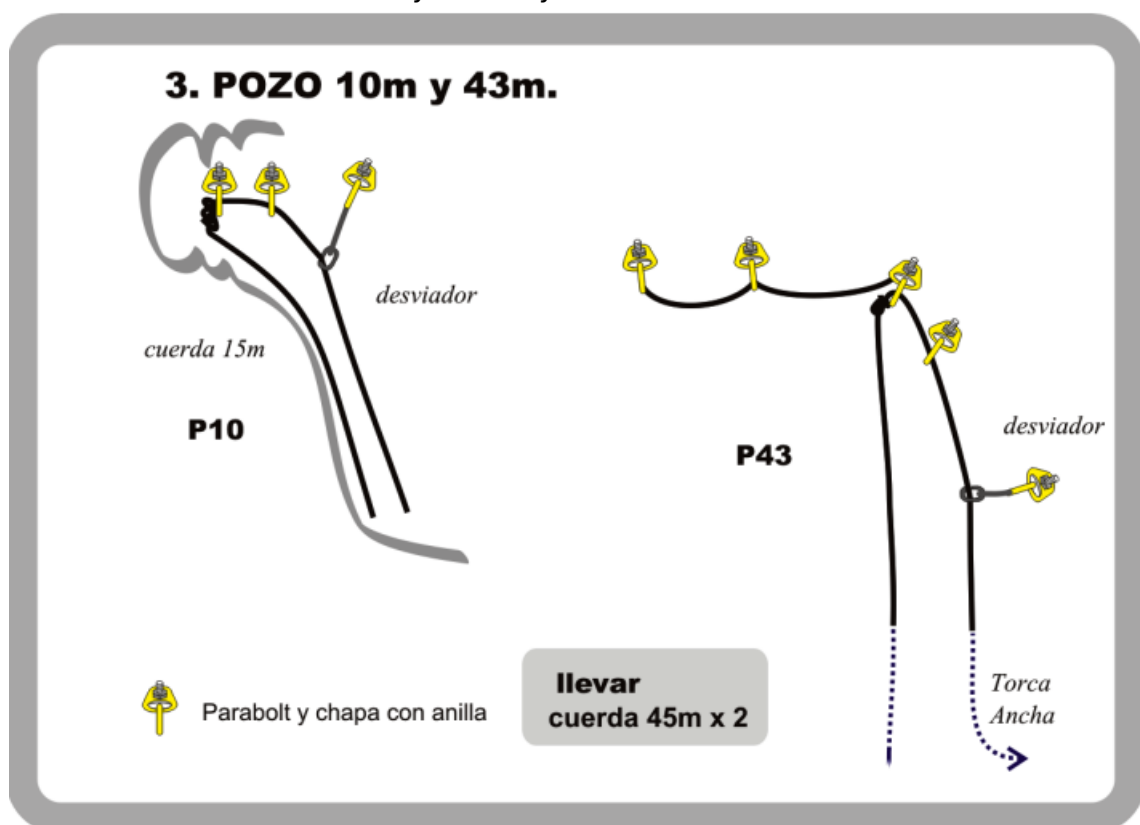
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## **SALA DE LA UNIÓN – PASO DEL (Connection with Torca Ancha)**

After crossing the cathole, we come out to an Adia clastic gallery where we can see the Perdido River and observe its clear origin of fracturing. At the beginning, the gallery runs straight ahead to later make several turns that make us lose and rediscover the watercourse, which will force us to make successive climbs and thus access, through an easy free E3 on the right, to an ascending room from which we will exit through a gallery that opens to the right. After a few meters, the general trend is again upward, and the climbs continue. We cross a deep fracture to the left and cross it again to the right a few meters later. A few silly passes and new climbs finally bring us closer to the P9 that brings us closer and closer to the long-awaited Avalanche Gallery. This cantilevered shaft, installed in a fixed position and with a diverter at -2 meters, leaves us in a room from which we will exit 6 on the right and following the existing reflectors. At 25 meters from the ropes and after climbing a little, this gallery is cut transversally by another of smaller dimensions, in which we will see a pole stuck in a descending ramp of just 5 meters. We will go down a few meters from this ramp following the right wall, in where a narrow and elongated opening will lead us to a new, rather narrow gallery. At 40 metres, the gallery opens a little to the right, forming an ascending calcite ramp with a curious central fracture. This ramp ends in a room from which we will exit, following the existing reflectors, next to its entrance and on the left. The exit from this room will force us to avoid a landslide, from which we will ascend until we reach the long-awaited Avalanche Gallery, which we will access by crossing a gap between blocks secured to a fixed rope.

**6** We will ignore the cat flap that also takes us out of the room and starts under the blocks to the left of the P9.

This gallery, about 120 m long, consists of a gigantic chaos of blocks without a single route, so it will help us a lot to follow the existing reflectors. We will begin to cross the room, descending between large blocks until we reach the bottom of a depression, and then go back up just in front of it, and continue with a continuous climbing and climbing of blocks, progressing rather on the left side of the room. The gallery ends by opening on the right to a very steep ascending ramp covered with megaliths; At that moment we must look to the left for the entrance to a descending ramp of the mining dump (of the Florida Mine). We go down the ramp until we reach a descending clay cat flap, on the ground and to the left. After the cat flap, we descend a little further to a point where the gallery seems to close. **We are in the Paso del Minino.**

## **PASO DEL MININO-TORCA ANCHA**

This cat flap, which has no more complication than others already crossed in the crossing, consists of a vertical slab, separated from the wall by about 45 cm and which we will cross upwards and to the left, where the widest point is. This fun passage leaves us in an ascending room from which we will exit through an overpass to the left, and then descend to the Gallery of the Slide. The progression is now comfortable and fun, letting us fall down a slide of smooth and clay soil of about 15 m. We will be careful not to reach its last meters too quickly, where an area of granular soil will slow down our slalom.

We will continue progressing through a comfortable and smooth area, we will pass a little later an area with a low ceiling and we will enter the Gallery of the Wagon.

We enter this room with flat floors, leaving on the left a sinkhole supported by mining beams used as a dump. In the middle of the room, a wagon on rails lies buried in what was once a mining gallery, now blocked by landslides in both directions. A few small footings, which once held the rails over a cliff, put an end to this beautiful mausoleum room.

At the end of the room, leaving a small waterfall on the left, we climb up a steep ramp. At the top we turn right, to descend later accompanied by formations on both sides. We leave the two entrances to the Grey Gallery on our left and begin to notice the unmistakable smell of "street". On our right begins a very steep ramp, the Galería de la Cabra, which is divided into two sections, separated by a turn to the left and a small living room with a smooth floor. The Goat Gallery ends up opening up to the P22 room after a low ceiling passage, where we will find the ropes that we previously installed, at the top of a debris ramp.

While anyone in the group is climbing the shaft we will be careful not to place ourselves under the rope due to the risk of falling stones that come with crossing the ramp that separates them from the final P19 of Torca Ancha. After uninstalling Torca Ancha and Torca Juñoso, our pleasant and surprising journey ends.

### **MATERIAL AND INSTALLATION**

This is not a "typical" crossing, because it will force us to install the entry and exit beams in a fixed way. Both entrances are shallow, Juñoso -42 m and Ancha -57 m, they have entertaining facilities.

	Material	
<b>Dificultad</b>	<b>Cuerda</b>	<b>Mosquetones</b>
Torca Juñoso	50+30 m	15
Torca Ancha	30+35 m	9
Maravillas	50+20 m	8
P10 y P43	50 + cordino 50m	Doble cuerda
P9	En fijo	

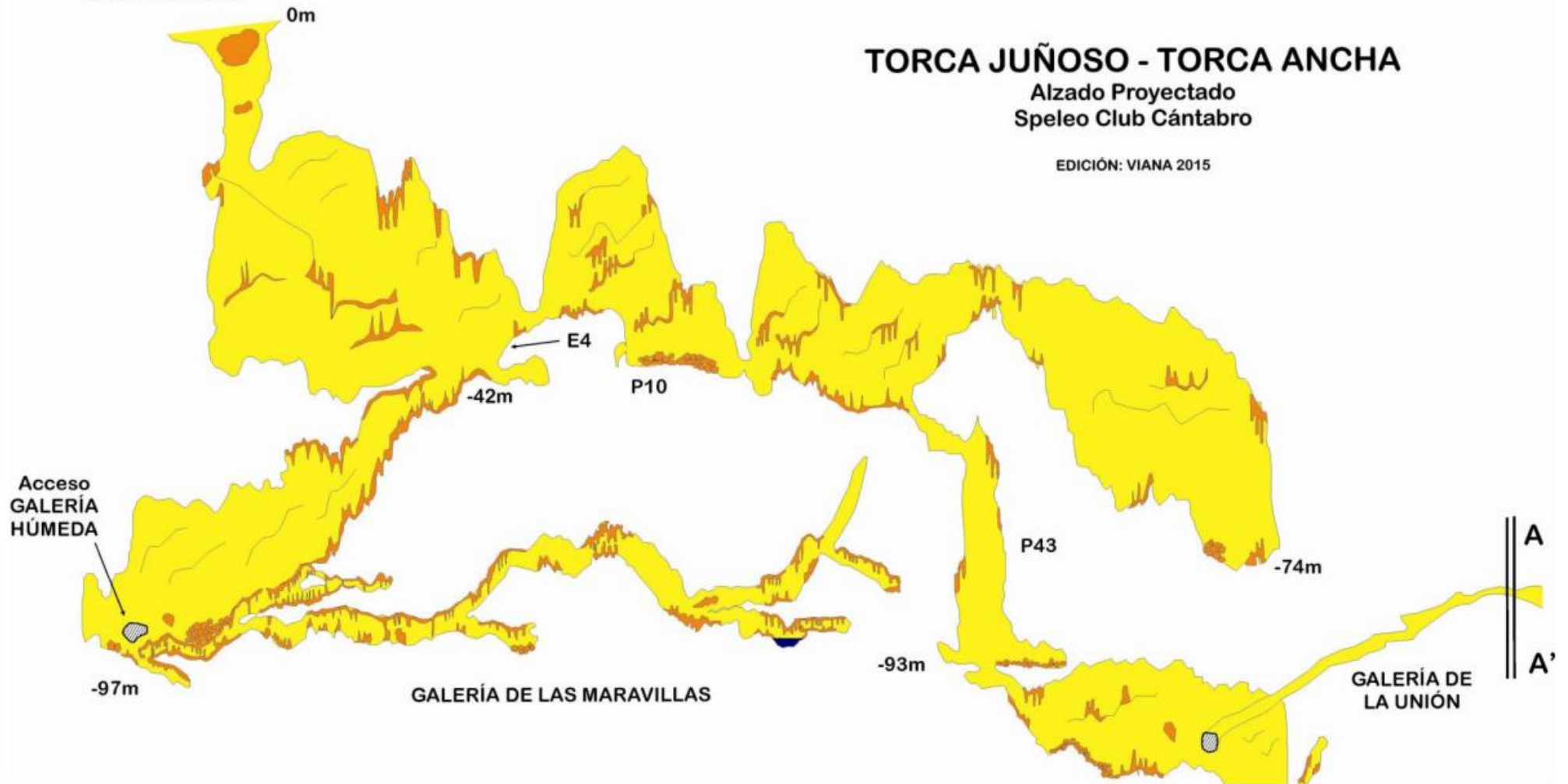
The P10 and P43 will be lowered with the double rope technique, while the P6 of the Gallery of Wonders and the P9 of the Union Gallery will be found in fixed form. On the way back from our visit to the Gallery of Wonders we will uninstall the ramp, abandoning the material used at the base of the pitch, to pick it up when we uninstall Juñoso after having completed the crossing.

# TORCA JUÑOSO

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Alzado Projectado  
Speleo Club Cántabro

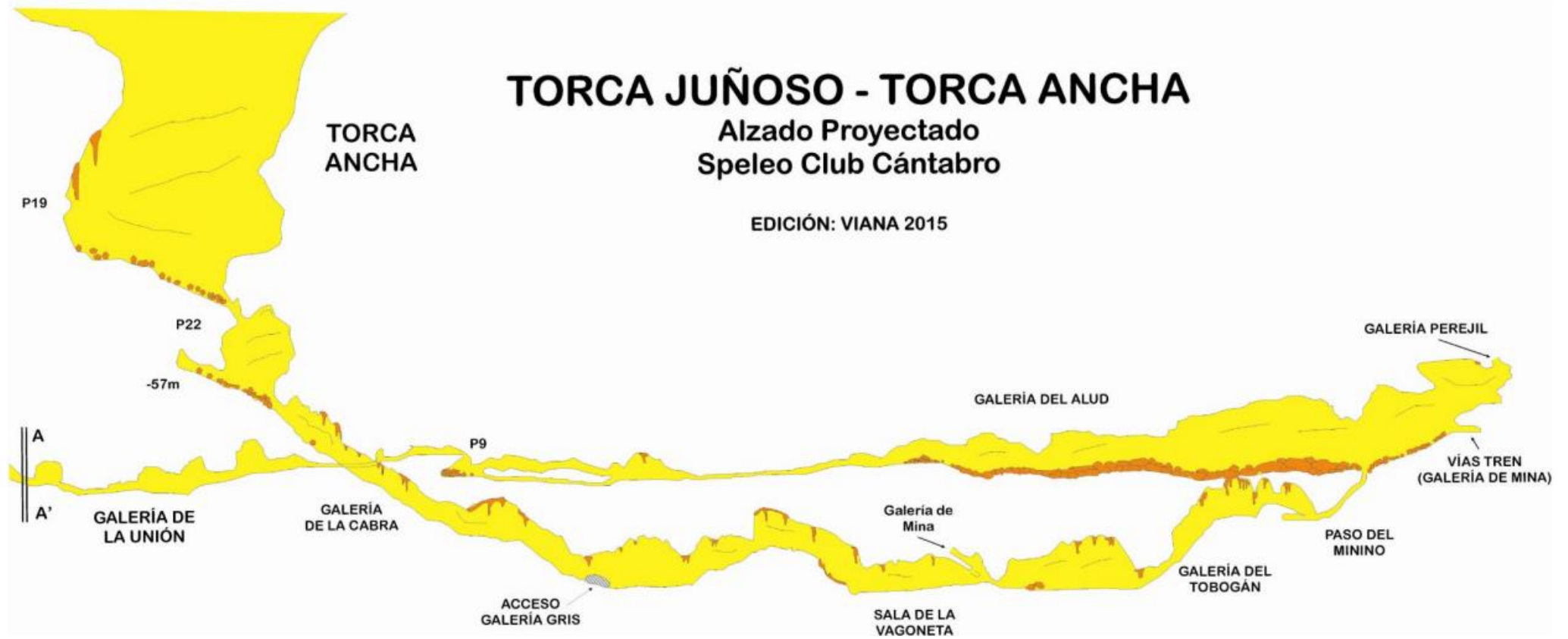
EDICIÓN: VIANA 2015

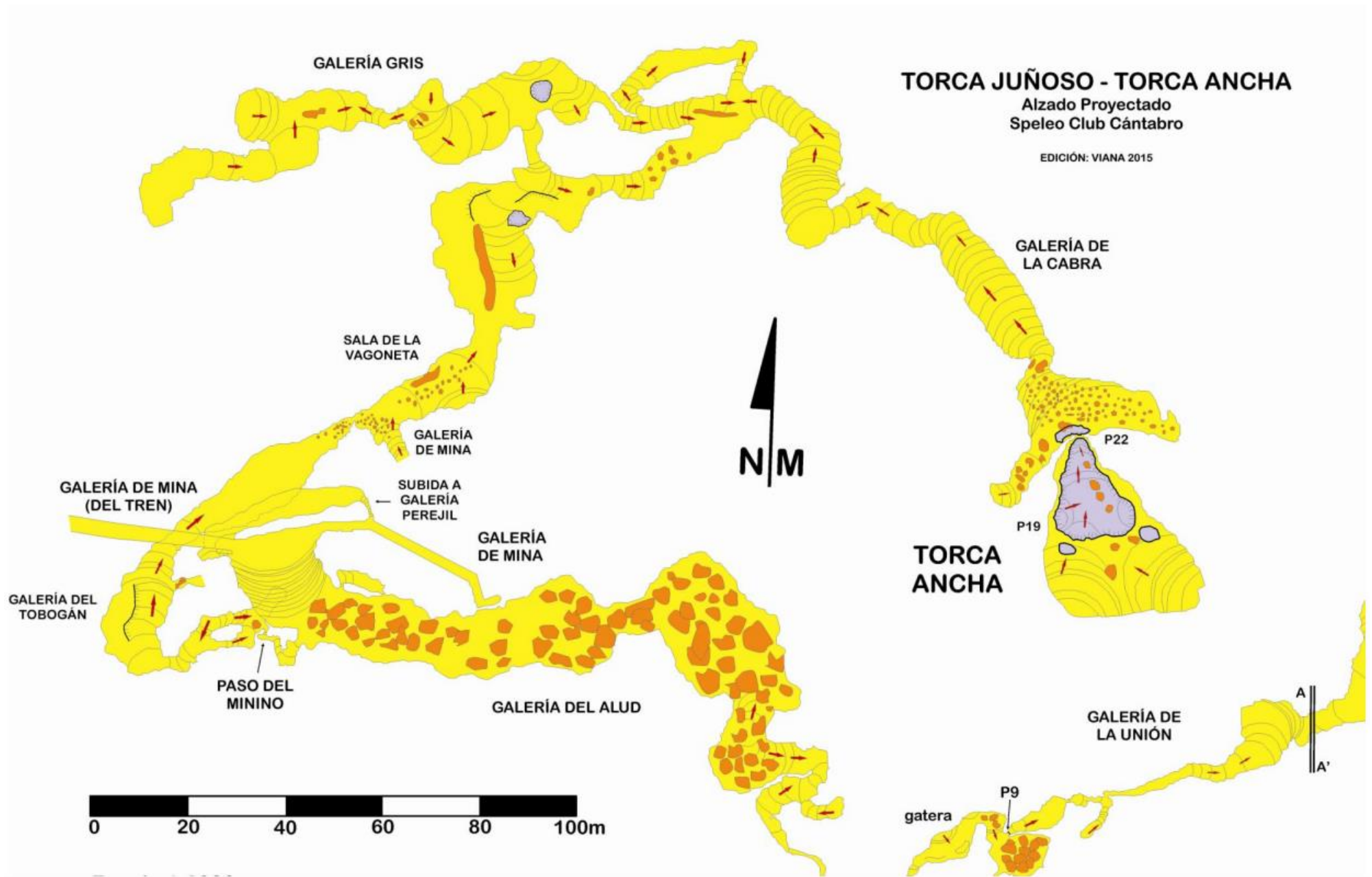


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Alzado Proyectado  
Speleo Club Cántabro

EDICIÓN: VIANA 2015





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Alzado Projectado  
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EDICIÓN: VIANA 2015

