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Torca Los Humos – Cueva Cañuela

The explorations in Torca Los Humos began in 2020 and were undertaken by the Association Espeleo-Montañesa Transmiera (AEMT). The connection with Cueva Cañuela took place in 2023. The AEMT subsequently marked the route and bolted the cave for a through trip.

The through trip has been bolted using the following equipment:

“Hecho” metric stainless steel concrete screws 10x90mm; Fixe 316L M10 stainless steel anchors with rings; Rebelays with Fixe 316L M10 stainless steel chains; Stainless steel Parabolts M10 x 86; Stainless steel Raumer wings 10mm with Raumer rings and rebelays with A316L Raumer D Ø10 and rings.

Access:

Parking for Cañuela: From Arredondo take the CA- 261 road towards Puerto de Alisas. Shortly after passing km20 turn left towards Bustablado and follow the CA-665 road for 900m, where we find the lower car park on the left-hand side of the road. It's a descending track (with the first 8m concreted) where it's possible to park two cars (P1). If this car park is full, there is a second pull off area 300m before this where it's possible to fit two cars.

Parking for Humos: We continue following the road CA-665 to the main square of Bustablado, where we take a tarmac track that leads to Los Machucos. After 500m turn left and follow a road for 3.5km where we find a pull off area on our right with room for several cars (P3). Just in front of this parking area a steep partially concreted track starts on the left-hand side of the road. It is also possible with an appropriate vehicle to follow this track (**You can use most care up the track**) for 1.3km and leave the car in a grassy flat area (P4).

Walk

The entrance of Torca Los Humos is located a few minutes away from the P4 parking area. On the opposite side of the track where you have parked. Follow track uphill for and slide left to top of the doline to the entrance of Torca Los Humos.

If we park in the lower parking area (P3) we have to walk for about 30 minutes to get to the entrance.

<https://es.wikiloc.com/rutas-senderismo/socueva-1514998>

Return

As we come out of Cueva Cañuela we descend a steep grassy slope taking care not to slide down. A bit before the meadow becomes a forest, we look for a path on our left. This path doesn't lose height and keeps traversing the forest horizontally and eventually arrives at a big meadow. We traverse this and then descend to a wider path that leads us towards a cabin. From this cabin a clearly marked path takes us to the car.

<https://es.wikiloc.com/rutas-espeleologia/canuela-p1-195612896>

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Summary of the thought trip:

It's a trip to be undertaken by cavers with medium to high skills.

In order to do the trip using double rope technique a minimum of a 60 m rope and a second rope or cord of the same length to recover the main one are needed.

The length between entrances is 4010m and the total depth is -535m.

During the first part of the through trip several pitches follow one another with hardly any horizontal progression. We'll have to use double rope recovery technique to descend 453m via 28 different pitches. We'll also have to do a few climbs up and go through some squeezes (a 90kg person fits through them with no problem whatsoever)

Once we reach the river, we have a bit more than 3km before we reach the bottom entrance. In the first half of the river, as well as in the previous succession of pitches, we'll have to go through several squeezes and meanders that force us to progress by bridging, there are, as well, small pitches and climbs up. Gradually the galleries become bigger and it's possible to walk comfortably. We'll need to pass some traverses and pitches before we reach the galleries of Cueva Cañuela.

Timing:

Walk to the cave.....3 minutes or 30 minutes

Pitches.....4 hours 30 minutes

Cave.....3 hours 30 minutes

Return.....20 minutes

Description of the through trip

La Torca (the pitches)

It starts with a 2m climb down that leads to a squeeze, through which we pass and climb down another two metres.

We go down a small slope and we will find on our right the first pitch of La Torca, a **P10**. We use a traverse line to descend to a ledge from where there is a 6m rappel.

We continue descending another climb down and immediately on our left we climb a small step. Here we find a descending crawl that finishes at the top of a small rift. We pass it by the top and reach a **P30**.

This pitch has two rebelays and it's narrow in its middle section.

At the base of the P30 and on the opposite wall to the one we've descended by, we find a **P5** that we go down and immediately after it we'll have a traverse line that leads us to the **P22** and after it, to the **P15**.

Once we finish this series of pitches we arrive at the area called **La Turbina**, a narrow alley that finishes in the **P40** called **Pozo de las Caracolas** (pitch of the snails). The descent lands on the

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floor 4 metres above the base of the pitch, we have to descend the last section with the rope. Once at the base we go down a scree until we reach the **Meandro de Los Humos** (Meander of the Smokes.)

With the help of a traverse line and a small climb down of about 4 metres in the middle of this traverse line we reach the **P25**. This one is followed by a traverse line that leads us to a **P10**. At the base of this pitch there's a climb up **E5** that gives access to the next pitch, a **P20**.

We continue by going down a small climb that takes us to the next pitch, a **P12**. After this we go pass a descending crawl that leads to a squeeze, **Paso del Coronavirus** (Coronavirus' Pass). It is advisable to go head-first.

Just after the squeeze we find the **P12**. This pitch is narrow at the beginning but gradually gets bigger and it is followed by a **P8** that is also narrow at the beginning.

At the bottom of the P8 we find a meander that continues going down. In a narrow section we climb up and, on our right, we find the pitch-head of a **P16**.

After this we have a traverse line and a succession of pitches (**P20 + P6 + P4 + P12**)

These pitches take us to the start of the biggest vertical of the through trip, the **Estado de Alarma** (Alert state) a **P85** with a traverse line that gives access to its pitch-head and an intermediate rebelay (35 + 50)

It is advisable that all the members of the team have finished the descent of the previous pitches before anyone goes down this pitch as if there was to be a rock fall, the rock will go straight into the big pitch.

Once at the base we have to climb up two pitches, the first one has a rebelay in the middle (**E8 + E6**) and the second one is a **E8**.

After that we continue by a passage, we ignore a climb down on our right and carry on until we reach a squeeze.

The **Paso de las Penurias** (Hardship pass) is a seven-metre-long squeeze (advisable to go head-first) that leads to a two-metre traverse line before we reach the P8. This pitch links with another traverse line of three meters that leads to the **P20**. In the same wall we follow by a **P6**.

Once at the base of the P6, a boulder choke, we don't carry on descending, instead, we look for a small climb up behind us.

Once up the step we turn right going through two blocks and a bit later we find a **P20** that we will descend until we get on top of some blocks and here, we will find a new vertical, a **P25**.

Once at the bottom, head north. After a few metres, on the right-hand side and turning 180 degrees, we get access to a descending gallery where we go past several consecutive climbs down that lead to a meander with a small wet inlet. Before going down the last climb we will find a **P26** divided into P8 + P18. The P8 has a narrow pitch-head and ends on some jammed

blocks and it's followed by the second half P18 or Pozo de las Gotas (pitch of the drops). Next, we find the last pitch of La Torca, a **P10**.

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Now we have to follow by a meander until it joins another meander in direction South-North. We turn left, pass by a narrow section with formations and on the far end of the squeeze we climb down and eventually we arrive at the river.

The river

Once in the river we have to crawl in the meander with the water very close to the chest, heading North.

When the meander gets bigger, we find a small climb up and a bit later we climb down in order to continue by the river. It won't be long before we have to crawl again in a gallery of small dimensions.

When we can walk again, the gallery gets bigger progressively until we find an inlet coming from our left. We carry on downstream following NE direction until we reach an area with lots of formations where we first climb up an **E3** and then climb down looking for the more comfortable pass down.

We carry on following the stream until we reach a climb up, **E4**, then we won't lose height and we progress in opposition until we reach a flowstone with formations where, through a low section we get access to a descending ramp that leads us to a climb down **R4**. Once at the bottom we encounter the last squeeze, we have to go pass it nearly at water level and progress through at middle height.

Once we are on the other side of the squeeze, we continue through an area with marmites that we can avoid by progressing in opposition until we reach the **Sala de la Playa** (Beach Chamber), where, on our left, we spot a sandy hump with long and thin stalactites on the top. At this point the river takes direction NE, which will be the predominant bearing from now on.

We follow the river, going round a big boulder by its left. The river starts fitting into a meander while we carry by the top, getting higher in relation with the descending river, and looking for the most comfortable places to walk by.

Then we reach a traverse line and after that we go under a boulder and then climb up a bit and after that we take a turn right to abandon the river for a short while.

After this we find a crossroad and we take the left branch towards North direction.

We get to a traverse line on top of a small boulder choke to then carry on by a gallery – meander that makes z-shapes and that forces us to progress in opposition. We have to keep the height in relation with the river.

After a while a gallery appears on our right. Instead of taking this gallery, we start to go climb down by the meander, **R5**, to then, after a few metres, encounter another climb down, **R10**, that we have to climb down to reach the river again.

Once in the river we follow downstream direction, until we reach a traverse line that leads us to a **P7**. Just after this we get to a **P10**. The water goes down but we traverse the chamber to do a small climb up **E3**.

We are in a gallery that, after a few metres, becomes a meander carrying a small water flow. We continue by the meander until we reach a small chamber with a flowstone, the water flows down but we turn left and head toward NE direction.

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We carry on by this meander in whose walls we can spot moonmilk, then we reach a P5 that we have to descend and after a few metres we reach the **Agujero Soplador** (Drafting hole) P3, a narrow pass with a strong draft.

Then we encounter, on our left, a climb up **E5**, that leads us to a traverse line that takes us to another climb up **E8**.

We are now in a gallery, very close to a well decorated ceiling with stalactites. We walk pass a drop on our right and carry on until we make a 90 degree turn right to start going down a ramp with walls covered in moonmilk. We won't go down all the way to the bottom, as we will bump into a rope on our left half way down **E3**, that we have to climb towards some column. From here we descend a pitch **P3** towards the opposite side of the climb up.

Then, a small ascending ramp leads us to a further rope tied to several stalagmites **R5** that helps us to go down by a very slippery flowstone. Once we leave the rope we have to turn left, NE direction, avoiding a very worn path that carries on downwards.

We continue by a slippery gallery that get bigger little by little and zig-zags along. This gallery end up in a small climb up through boulder that eventually takes us to a fixed rope up **E3**. In several metres we reach another fixed rope, **P10** that leaves us in a chamber of bigger dimensions that the ones that we have encountered before.

In this chamber we carry our way on sticking to the left-hand wall and in the middle of the chamber we start to cross towards the opposite wall describing a semicircle so that we do a 180-degree turn. By going down we reach a boulder choke, we have to turn left in NE direction and carry on going up boulders, in his way we approach a fixed rope **E8** to carry on going up between boulders until we get to a climb down **R3** that we have to descend.

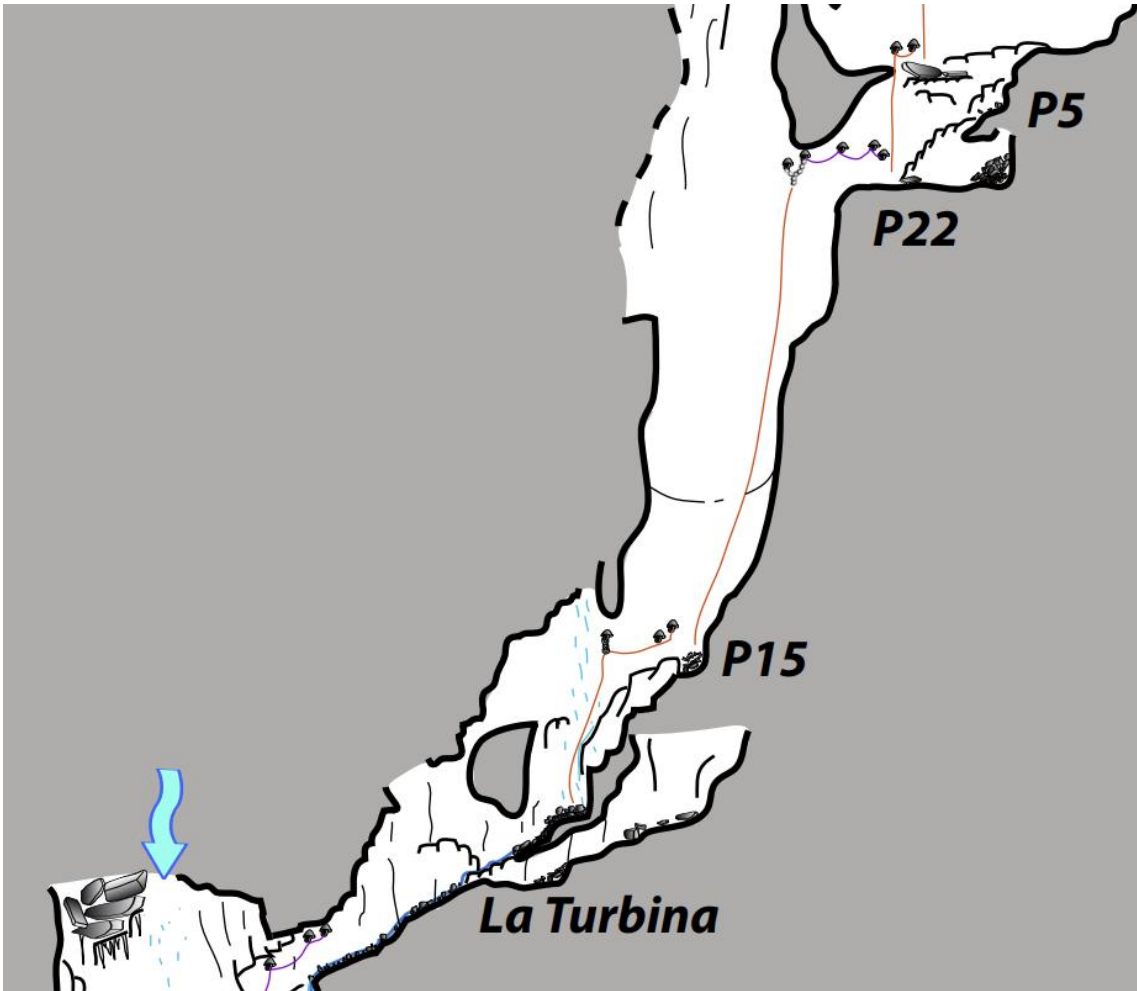
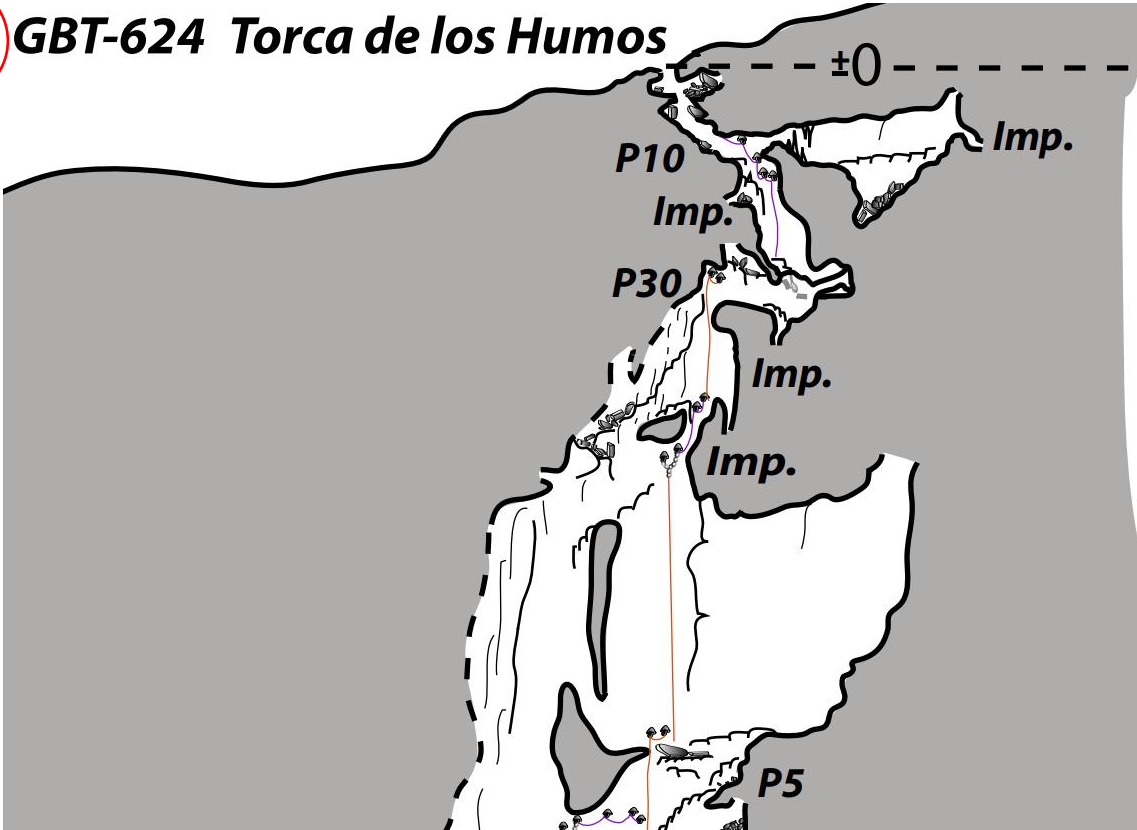
Now we find galleries of big dimensions and immediately we arrive to a crossroad where we take the gallery on our right, South direction. By going up some boulders we connect with the **Galería 10 de Agosto** (10th of august). This gallery ends up in an area with flat floor suspended like a balcony above the **Sala del Vivac** (the Bivouac chamber). Before reaching this balcony we go up a ramp leaving a drop down on our left. A fixed rope E8 protects the last part of the climb up.

Now we encounter a gallery which ceiling is full of big stalactites, we follow it by the left-hand side until we reach some boulders that we have to go up. We then reach a gallery of big dimensions with a cross road. We continue by the left until we reach the **Gallería del Patinazo** (skid gallery). This gallery that has Noth bearing, end up in the **Sala de la Encrucijada** (The Crossroads Chamber) This chamber is on a lower level that the path we were coming from. We'll have to descend to the base of this chamber to then go up again (**E15**) to a hanging gallery on our right, the **Galería del Bulevar** (the Boulevard Gallery). This gallery, who's bottom is flat in nearly the total surface, leads us to connection with the **Cañón Oeste** (the West Canyon) through a **P15**.

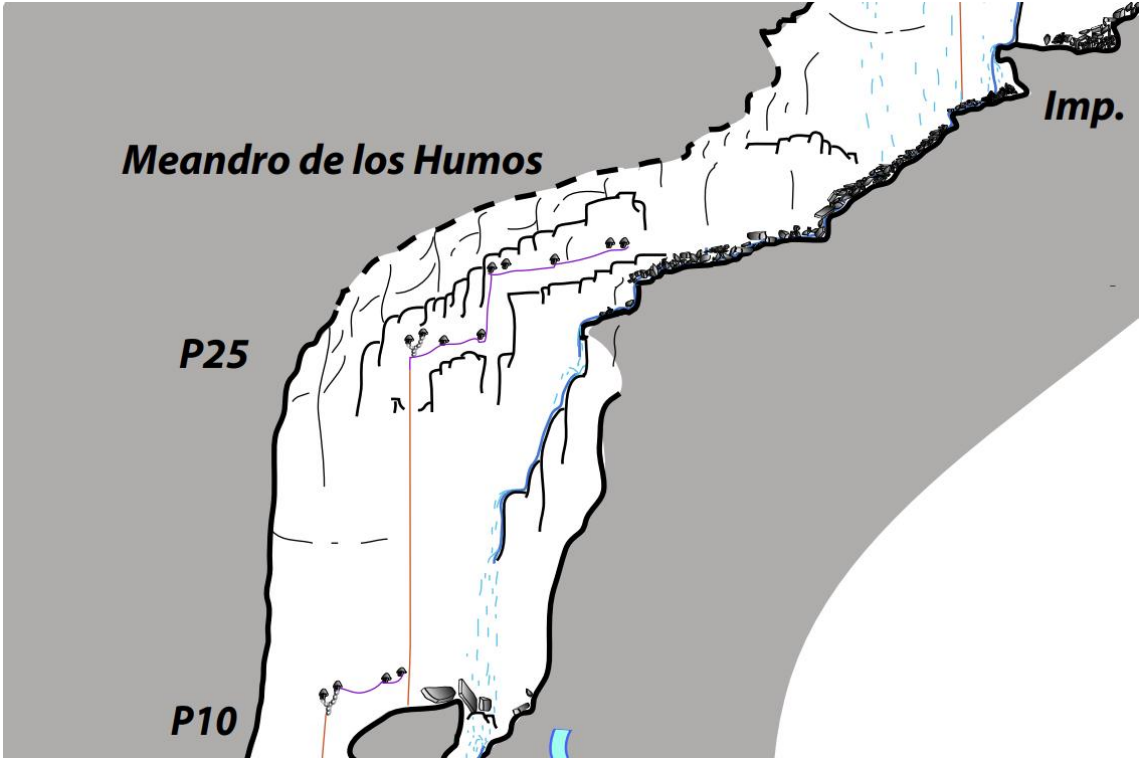
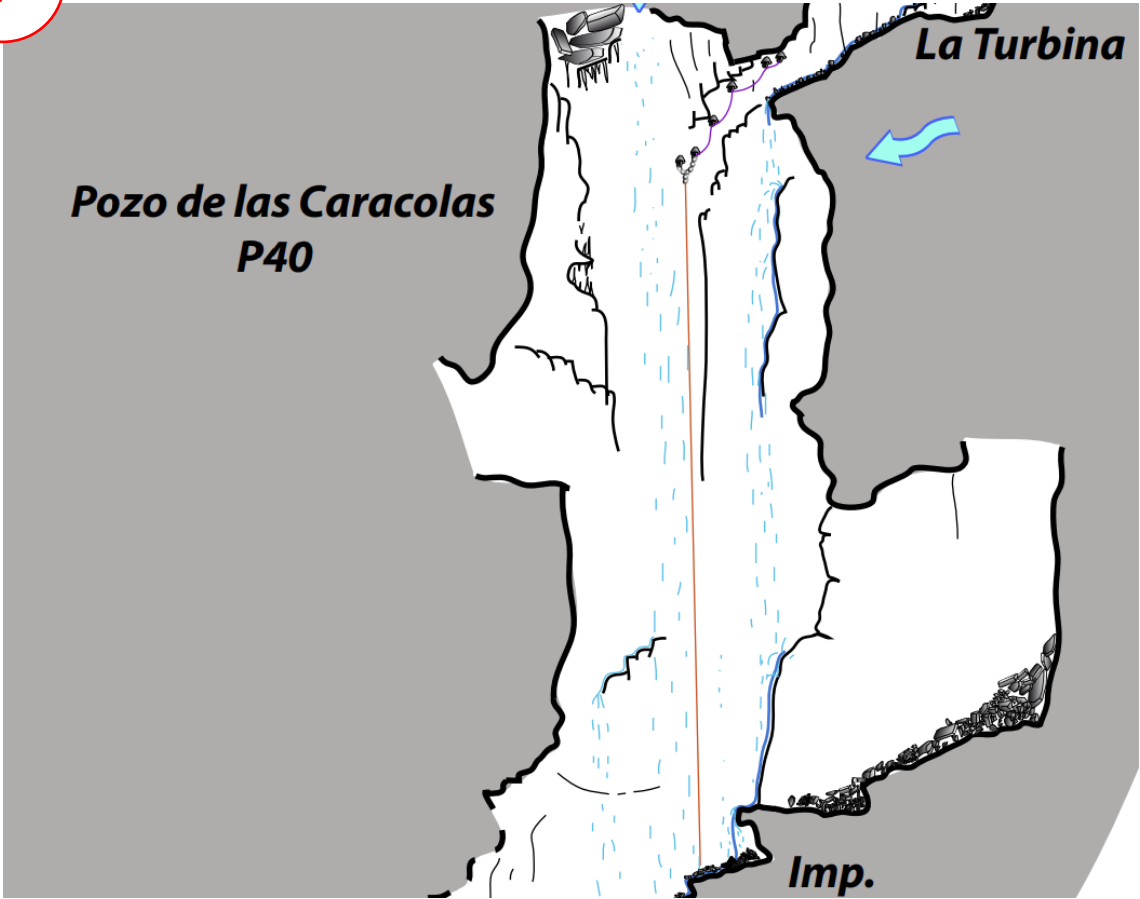
This **P15, Pozo del Arco** (The Arch Pitch) gets its name from a rock arch located above the Cañón Oeste and to the left of our rappel. The way on is on our right, so to speak, in the side of the canyon where the arch is not. We only have to walk and go across the traverse line to get to the exit of Cueva Cañuela.

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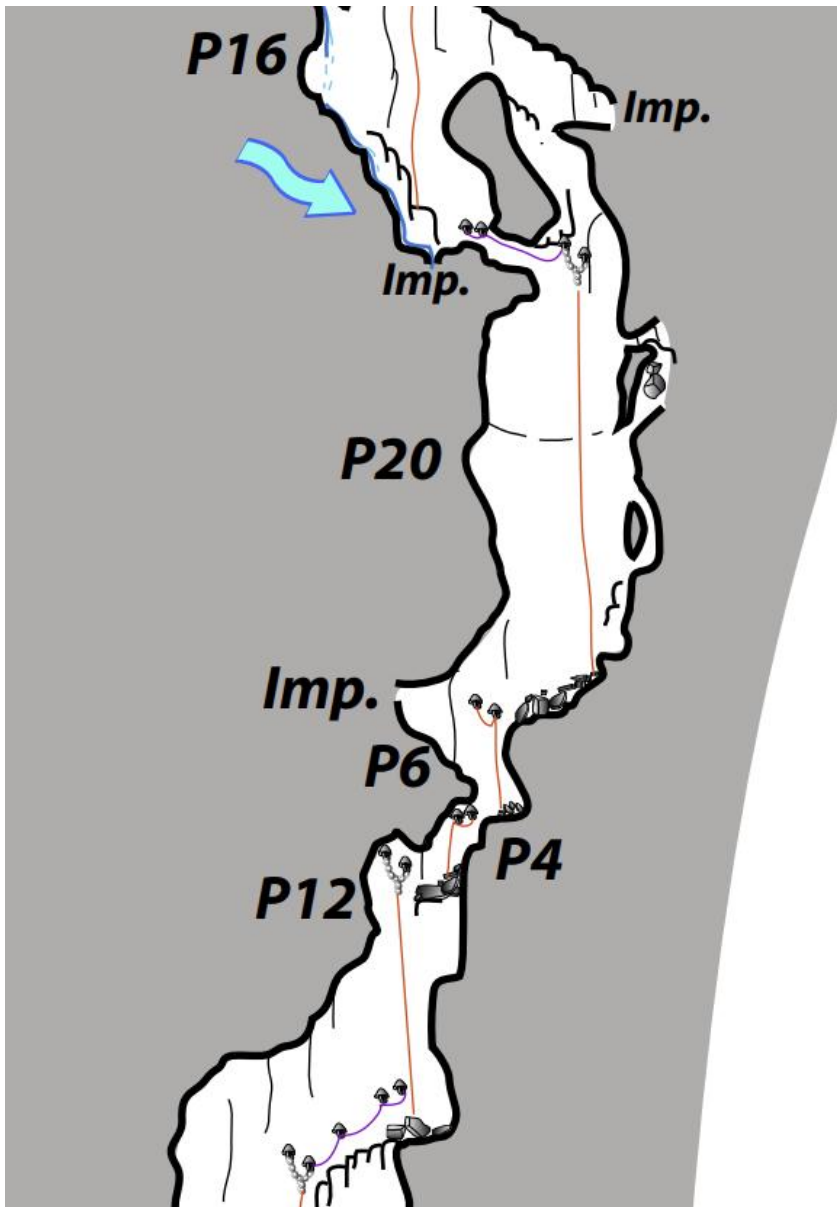
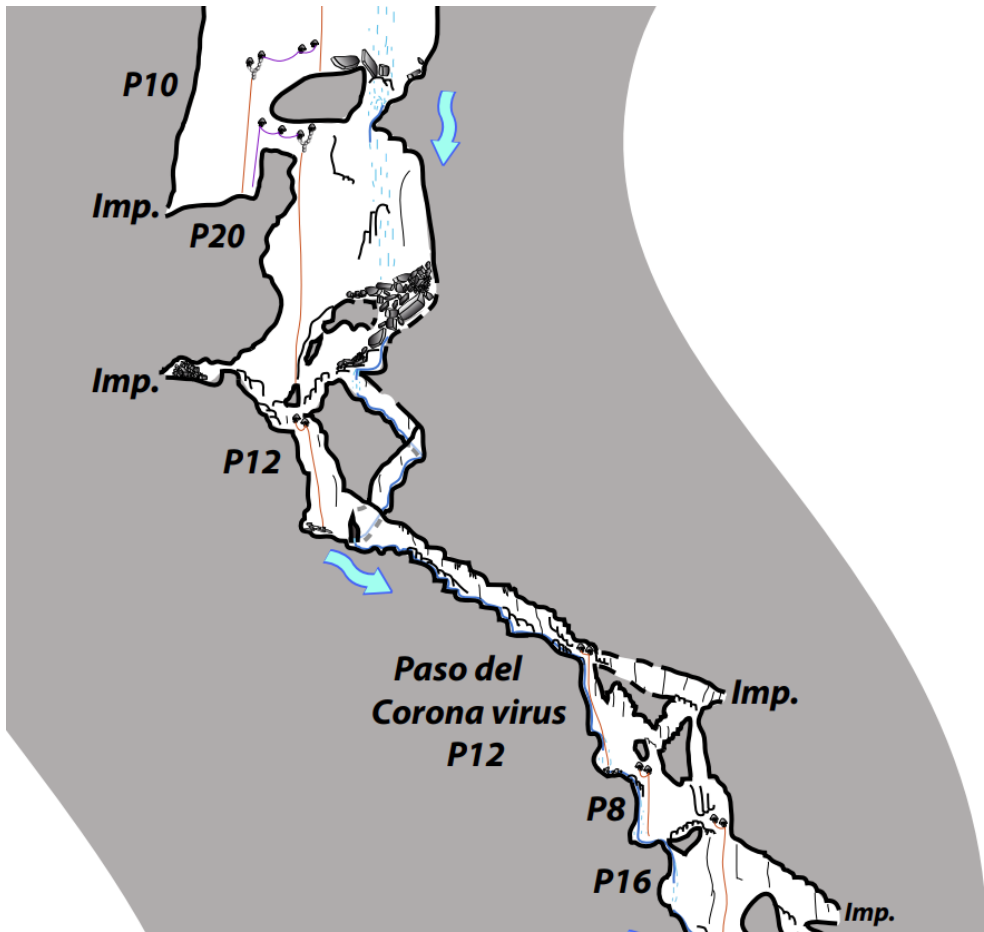
GBT-624 Torca de los Humos

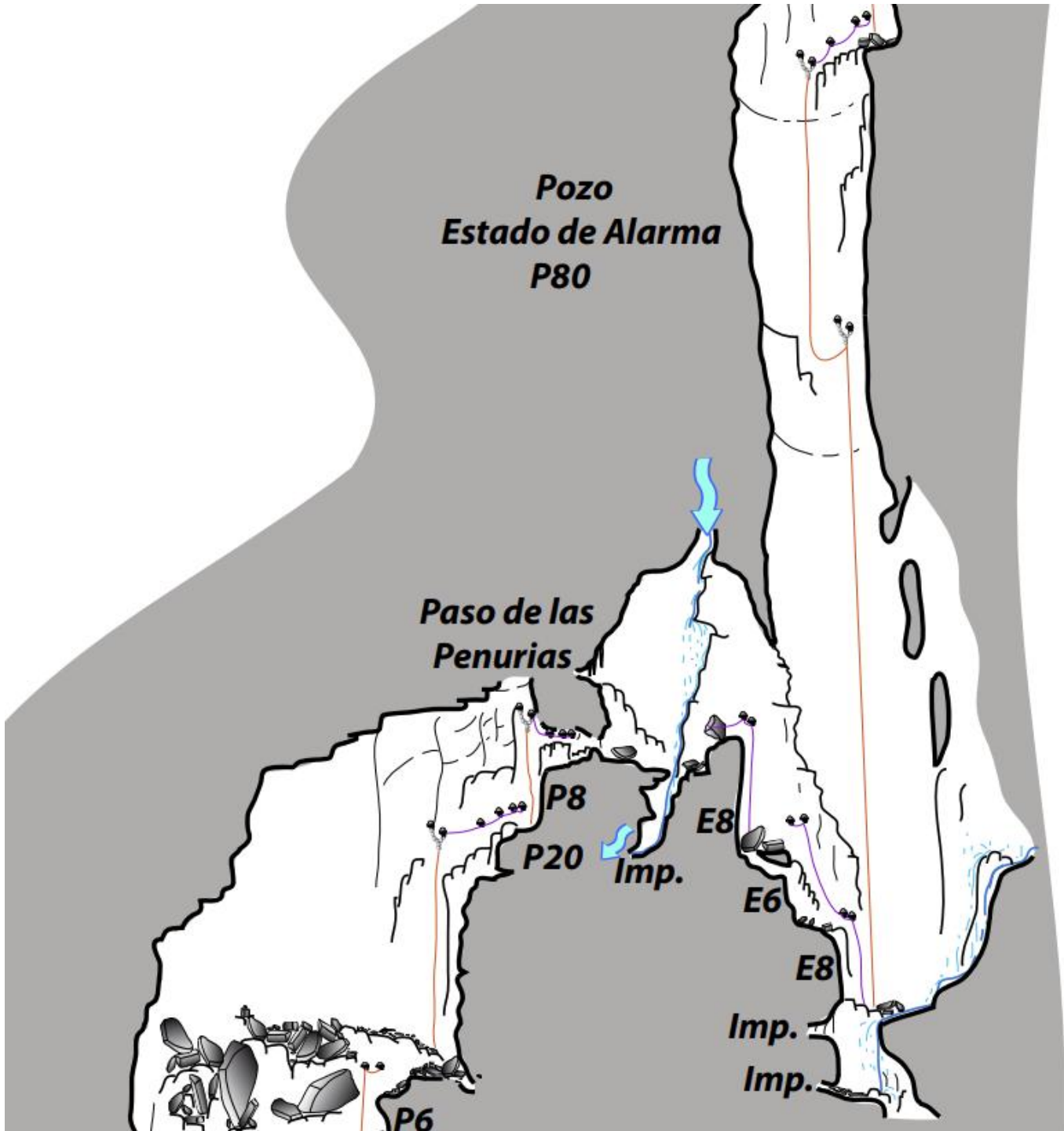


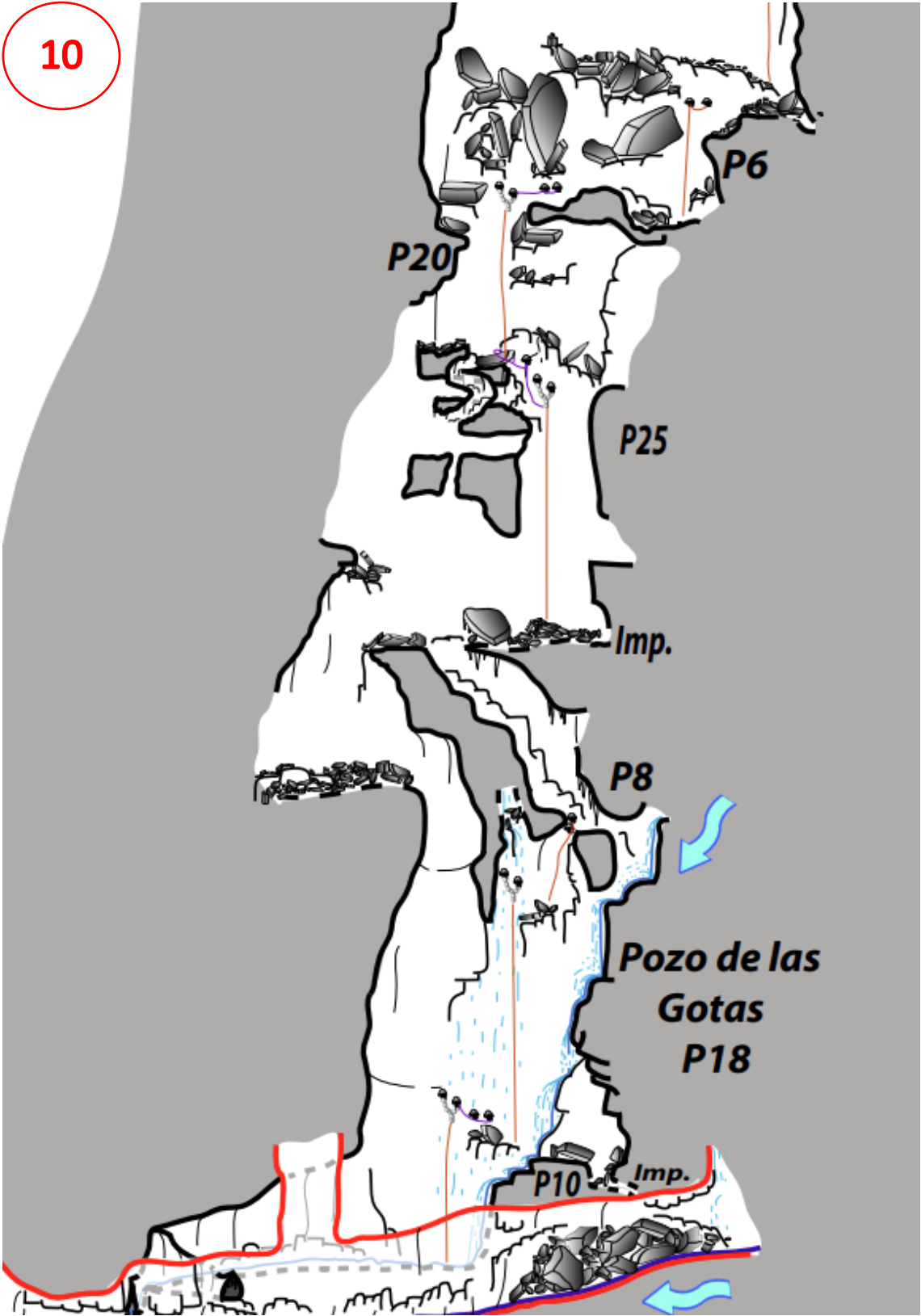
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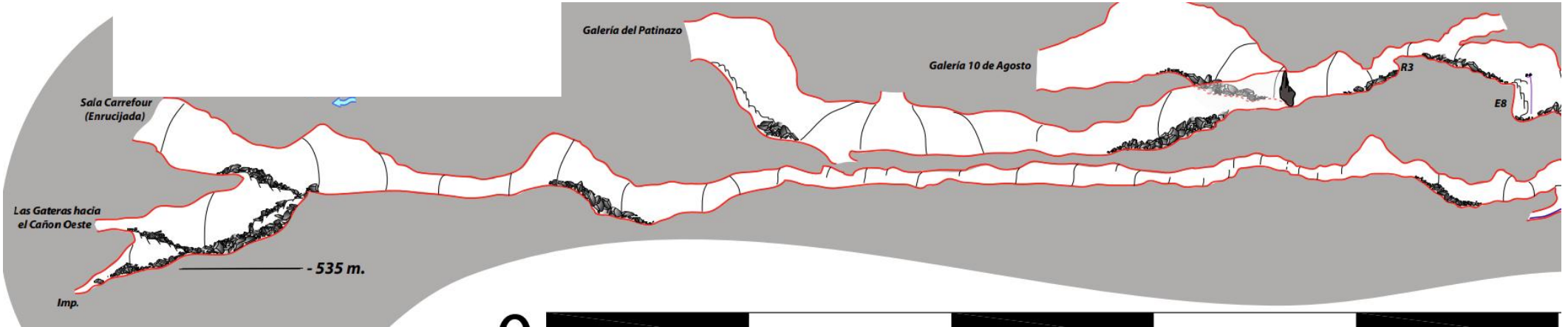
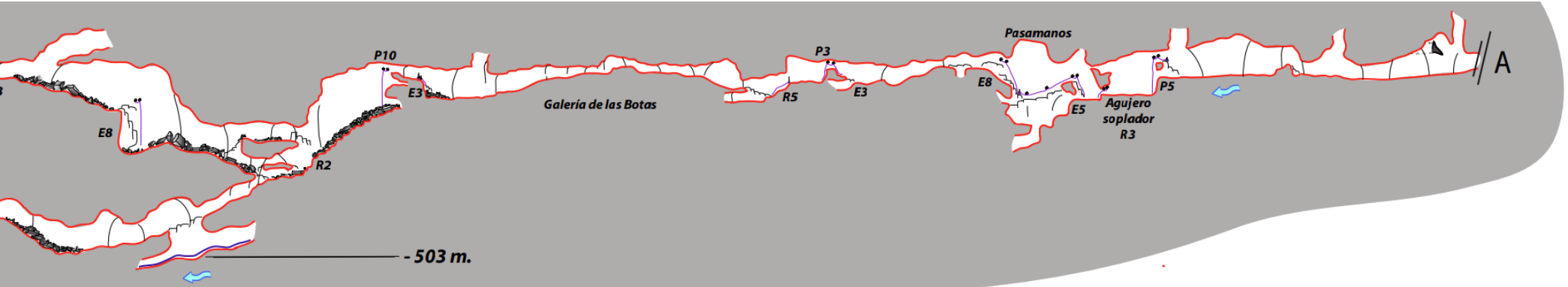
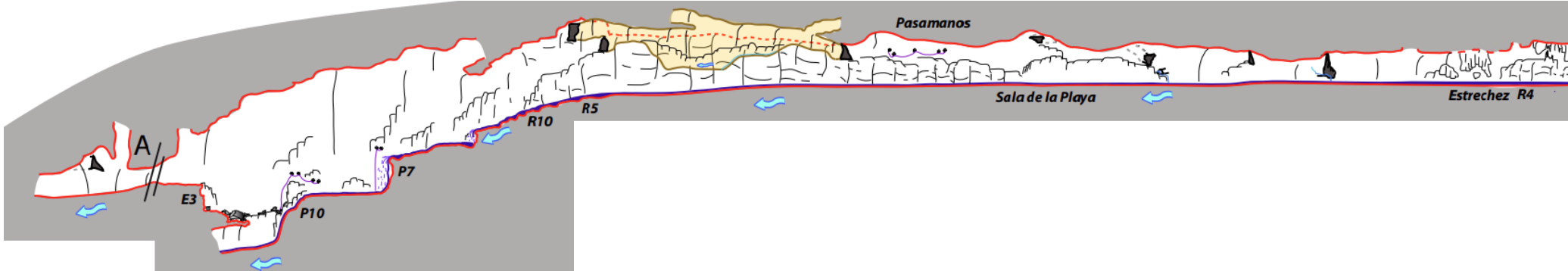
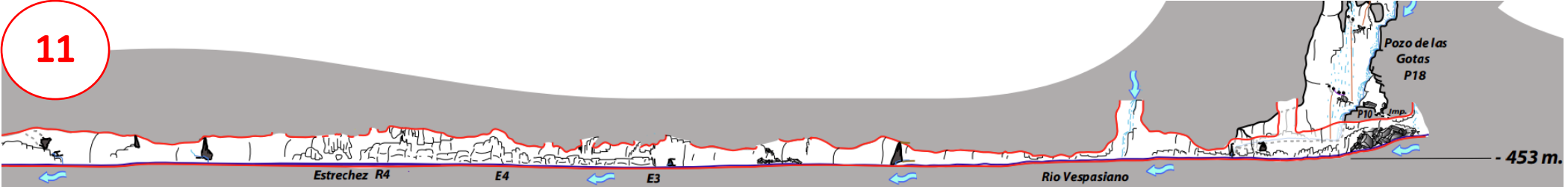


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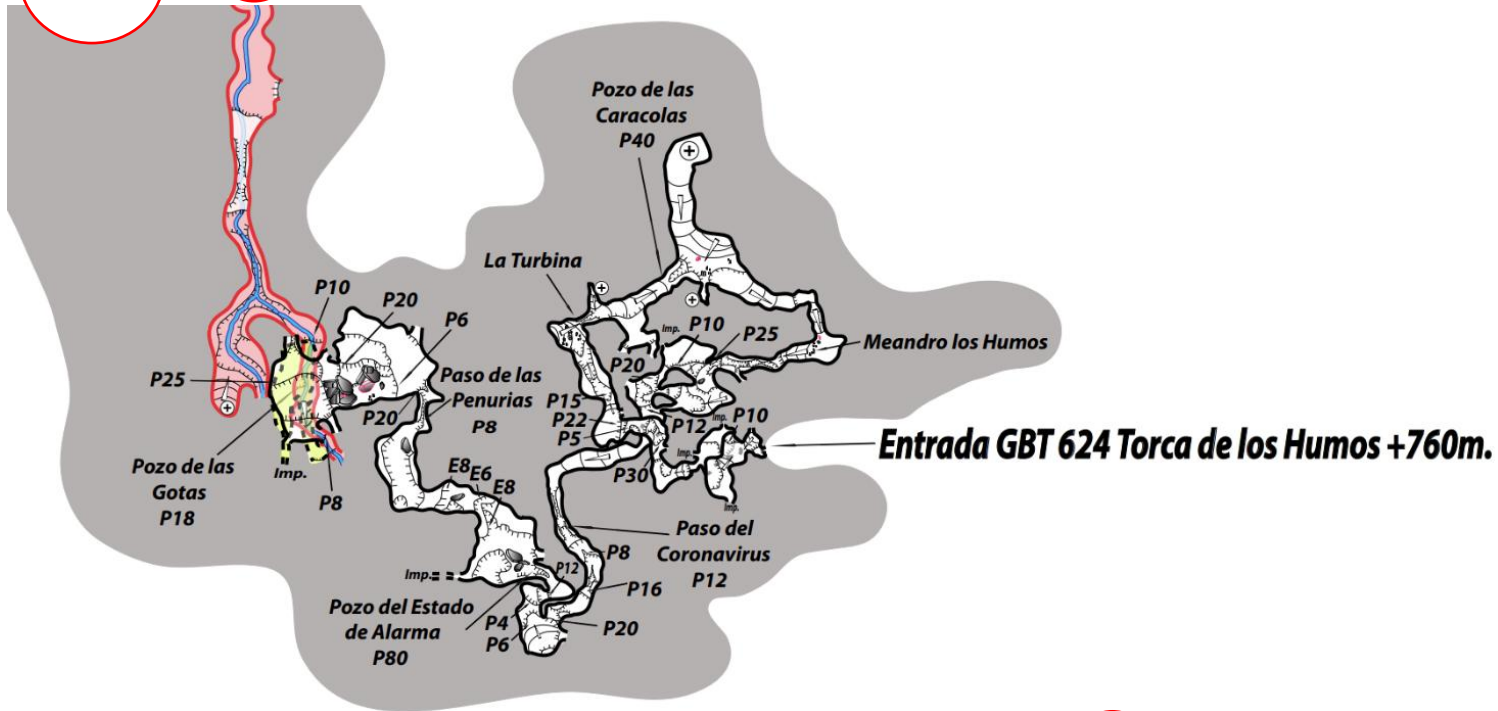




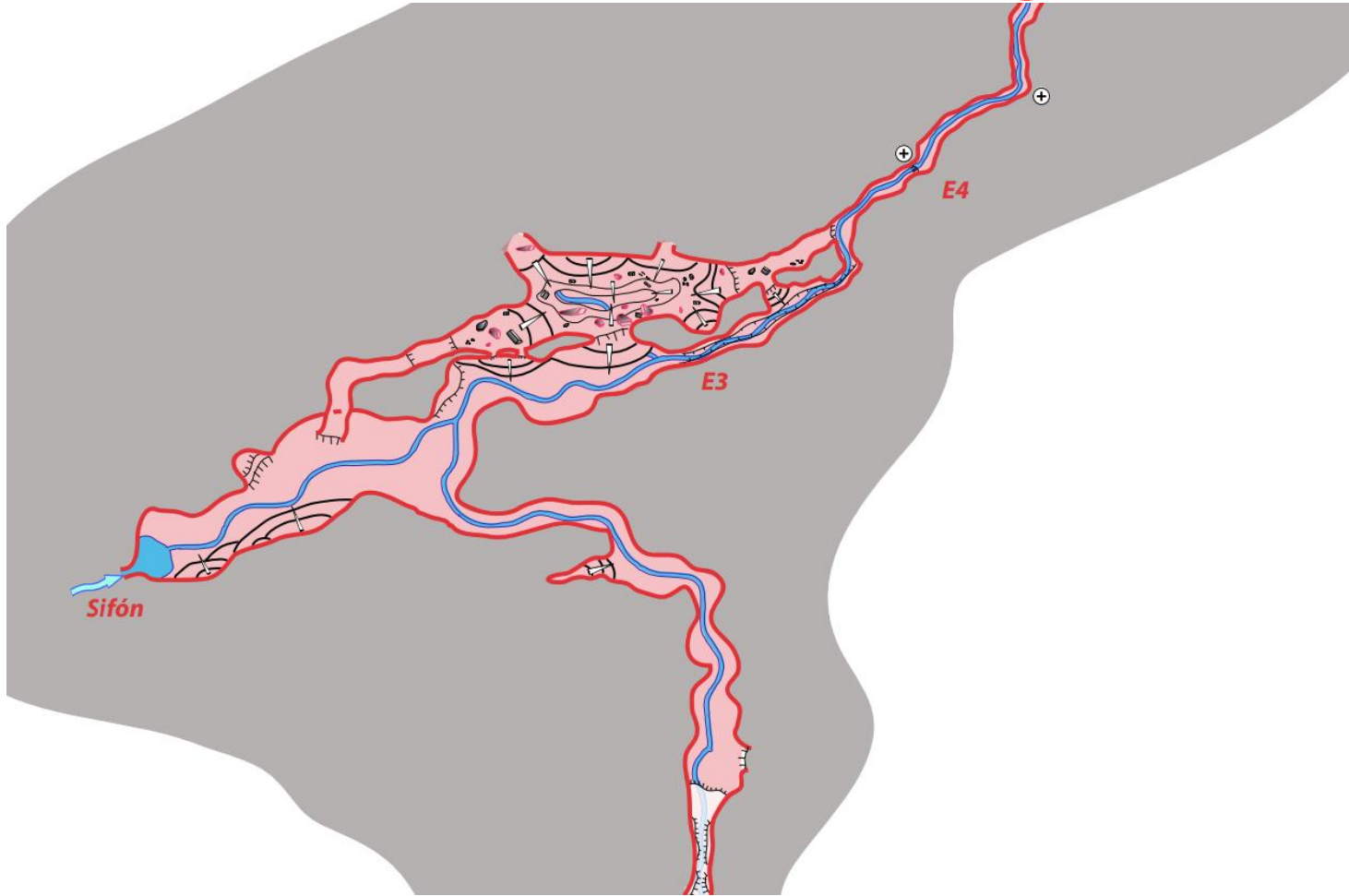


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A



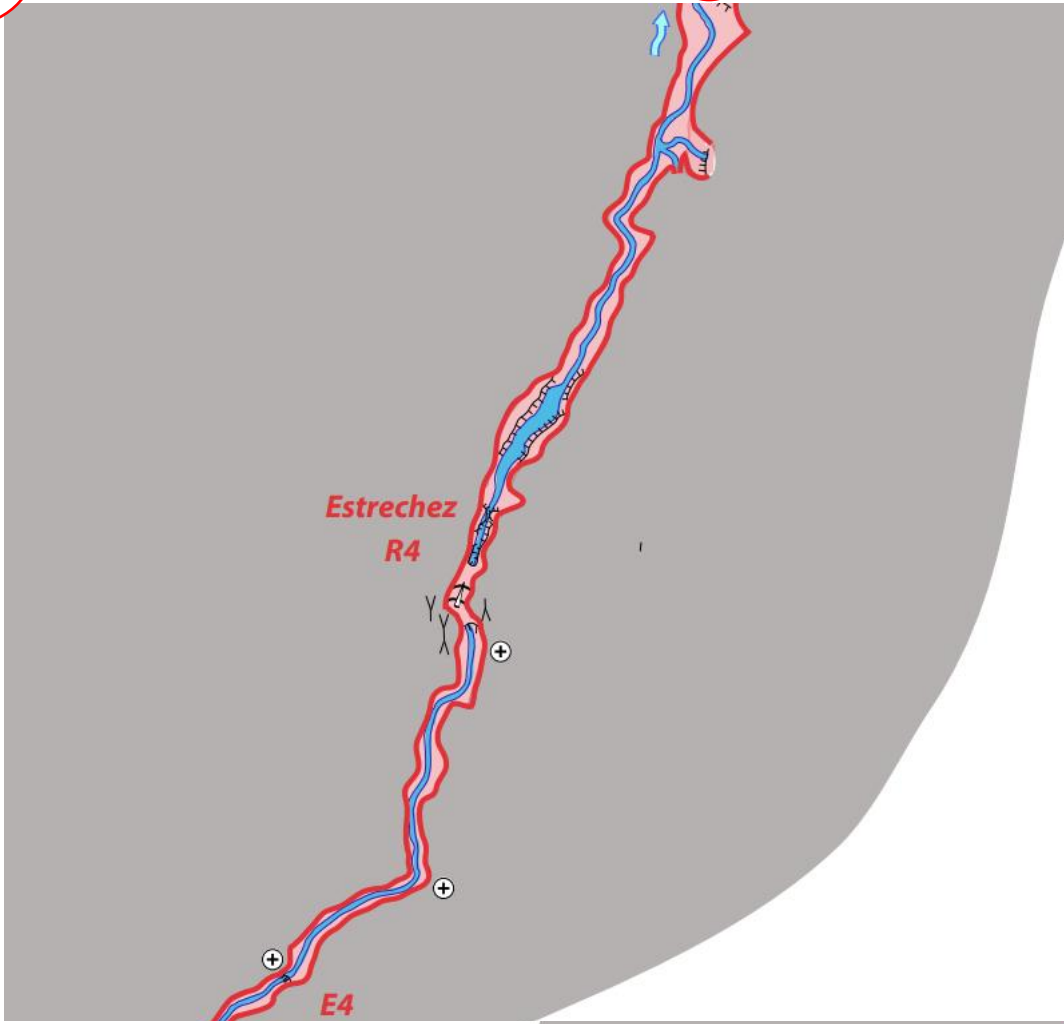
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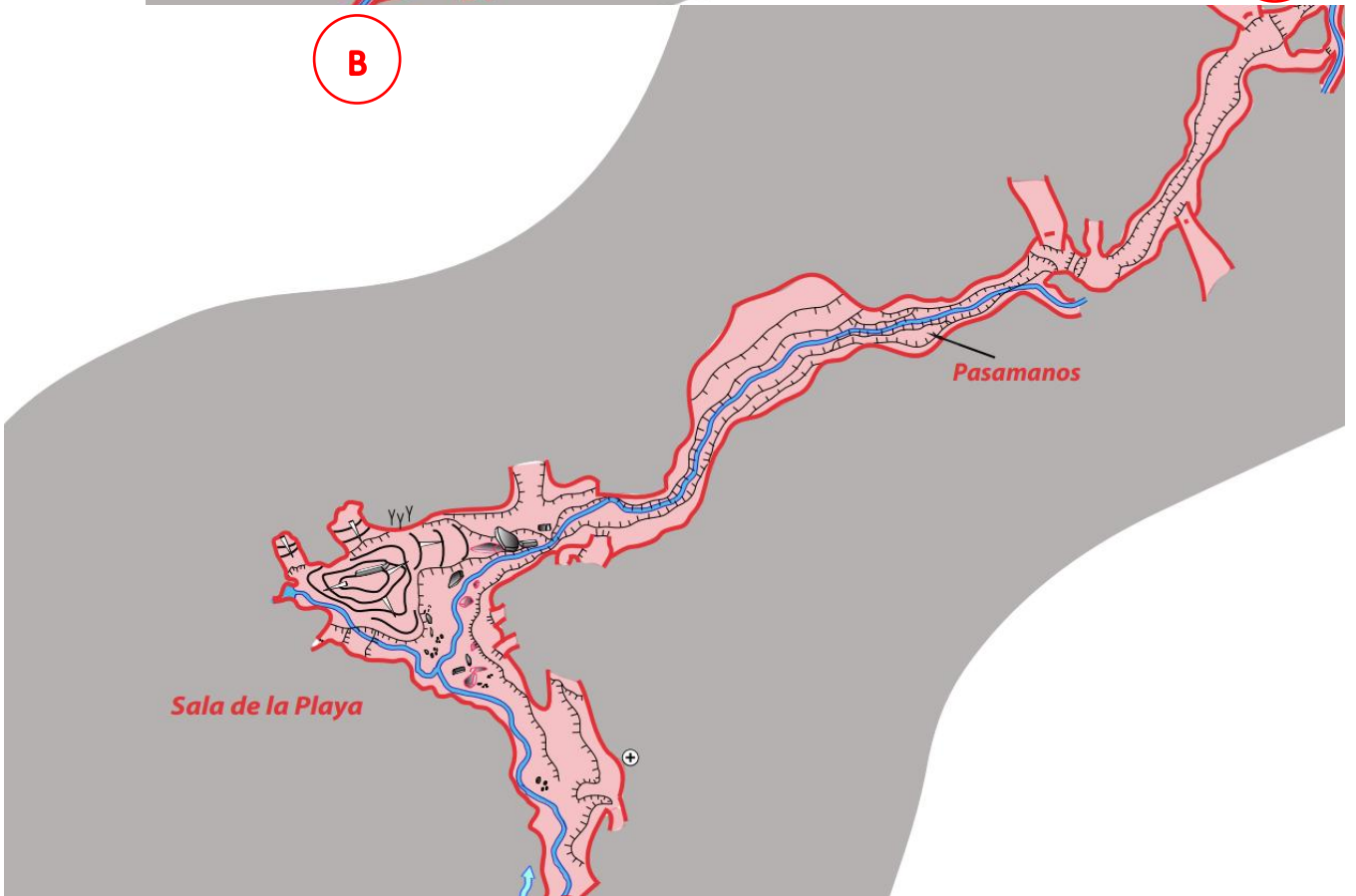
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D



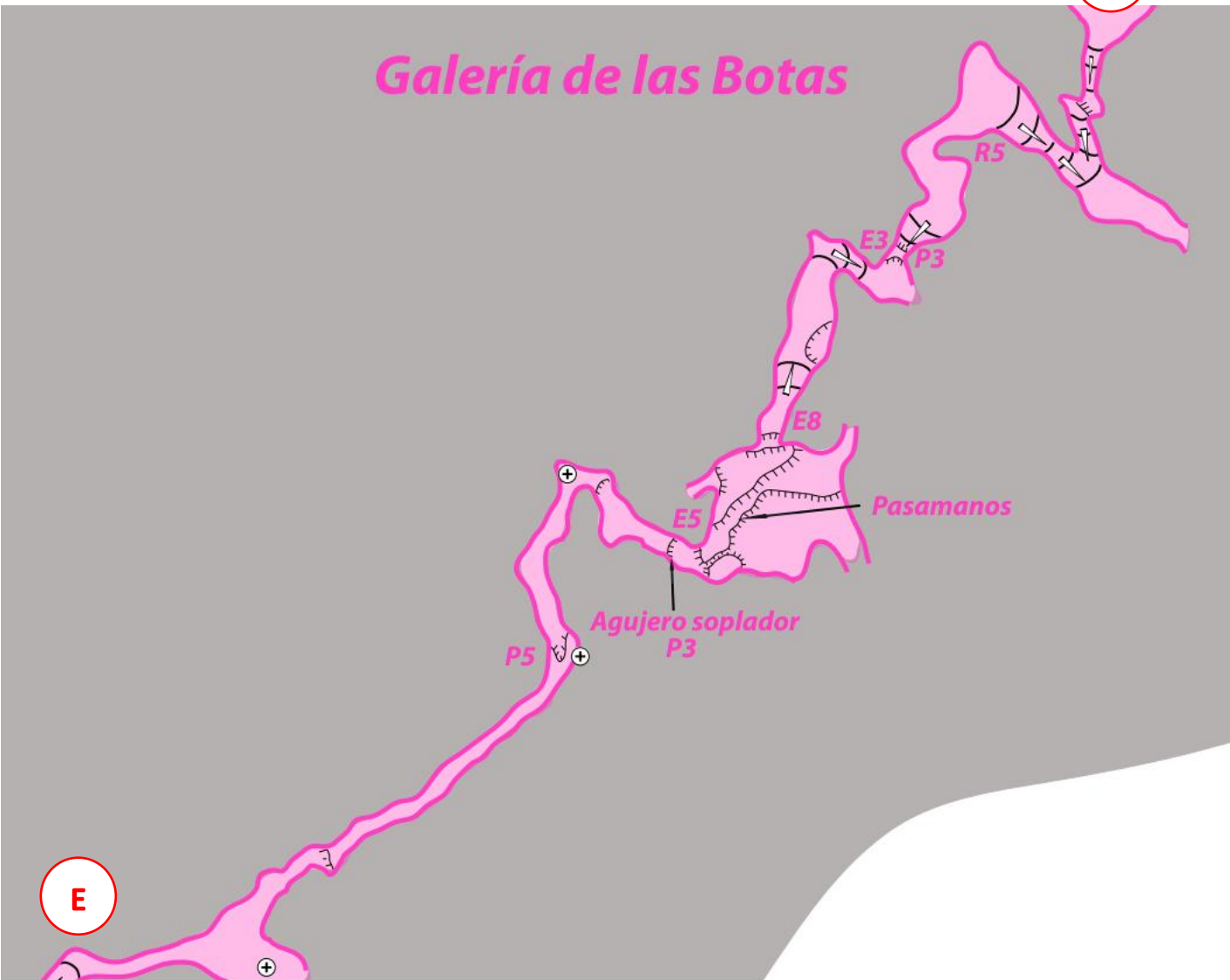
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E

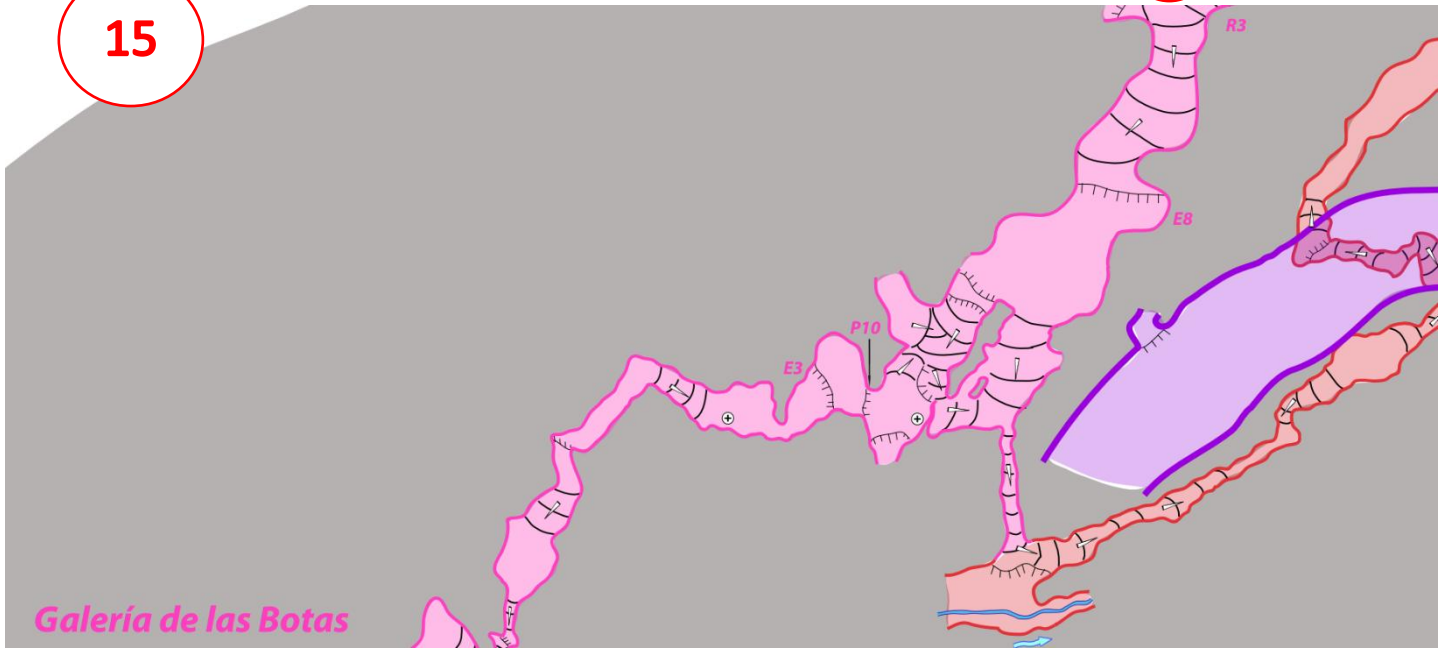


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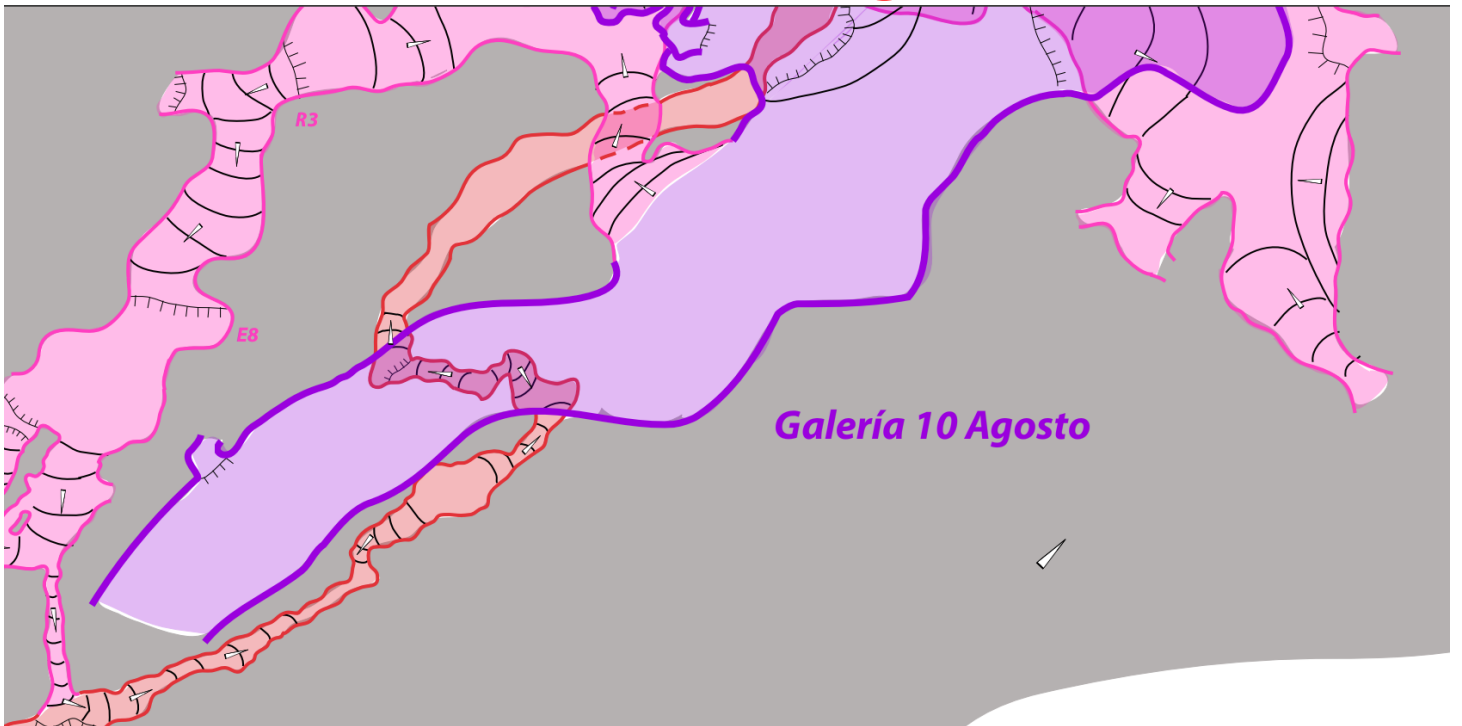
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Galería de las Botas

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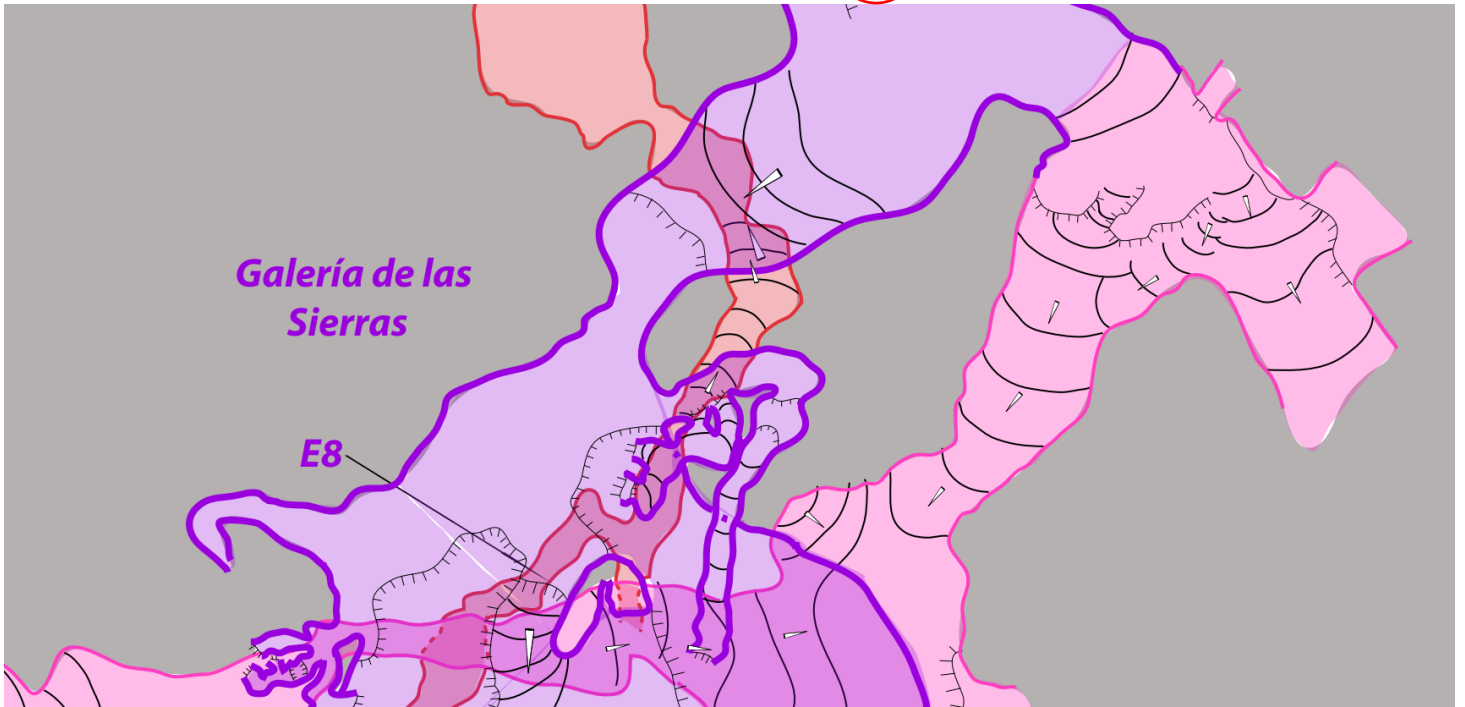
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Galería 10 Agosto

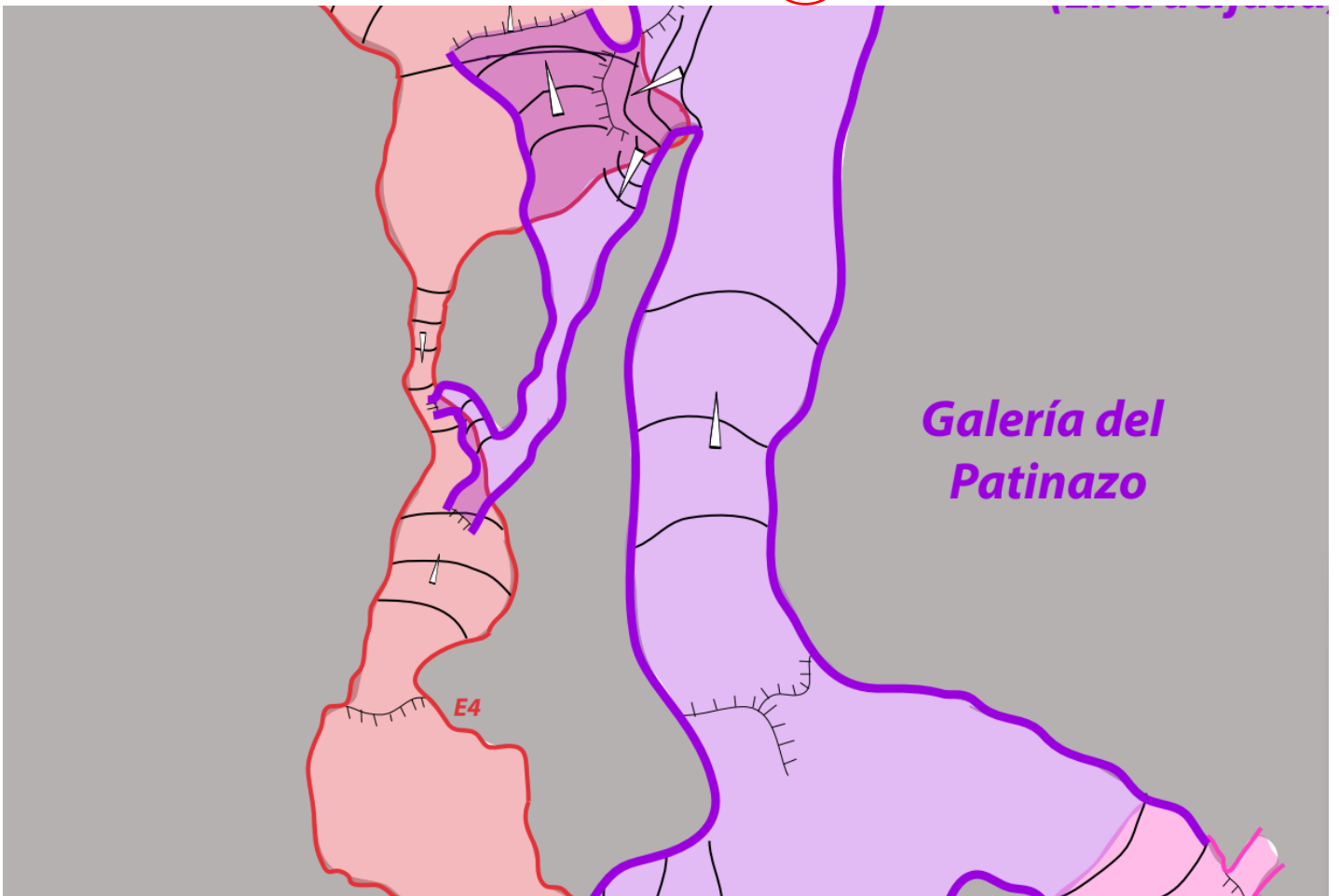
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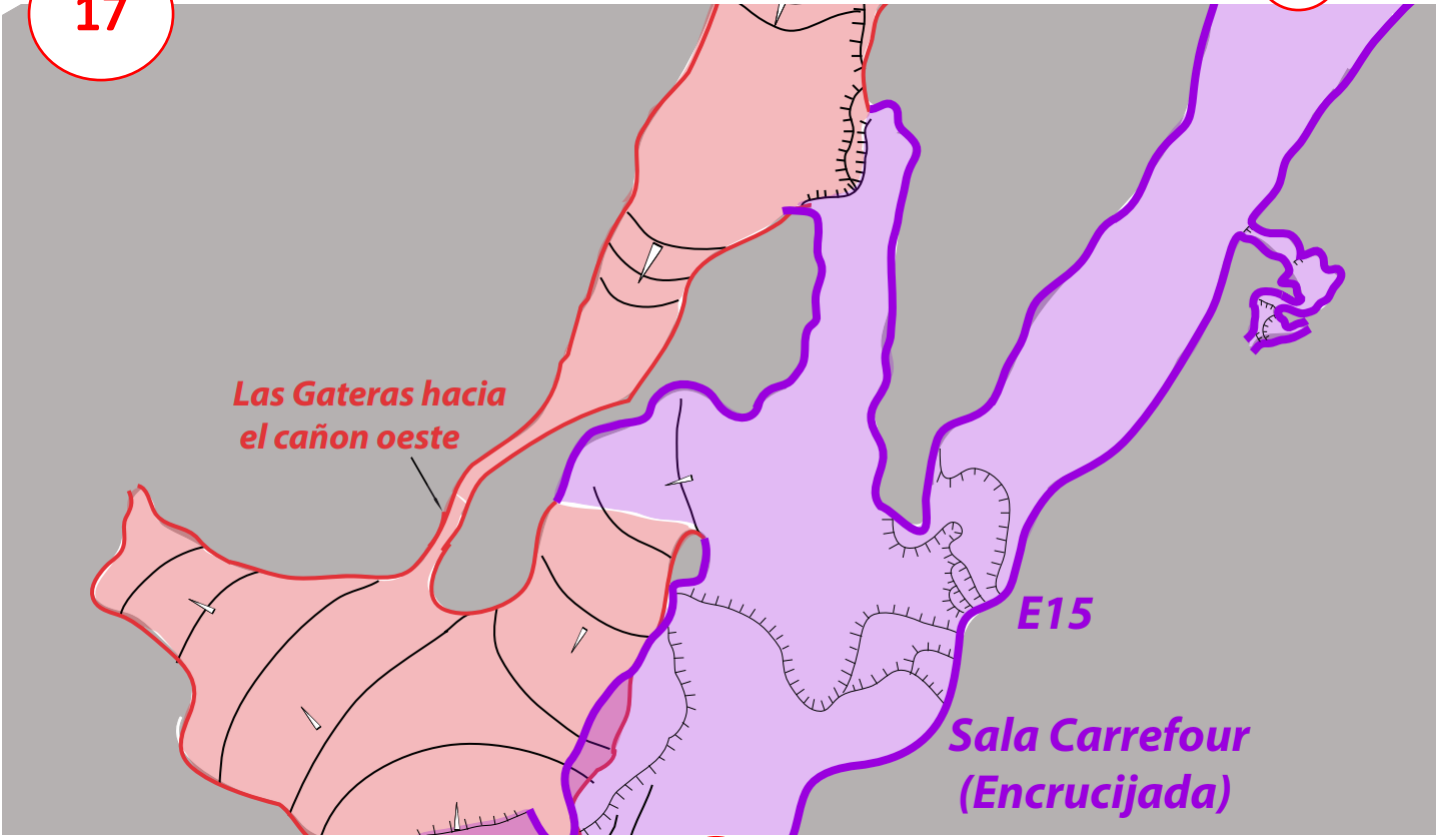
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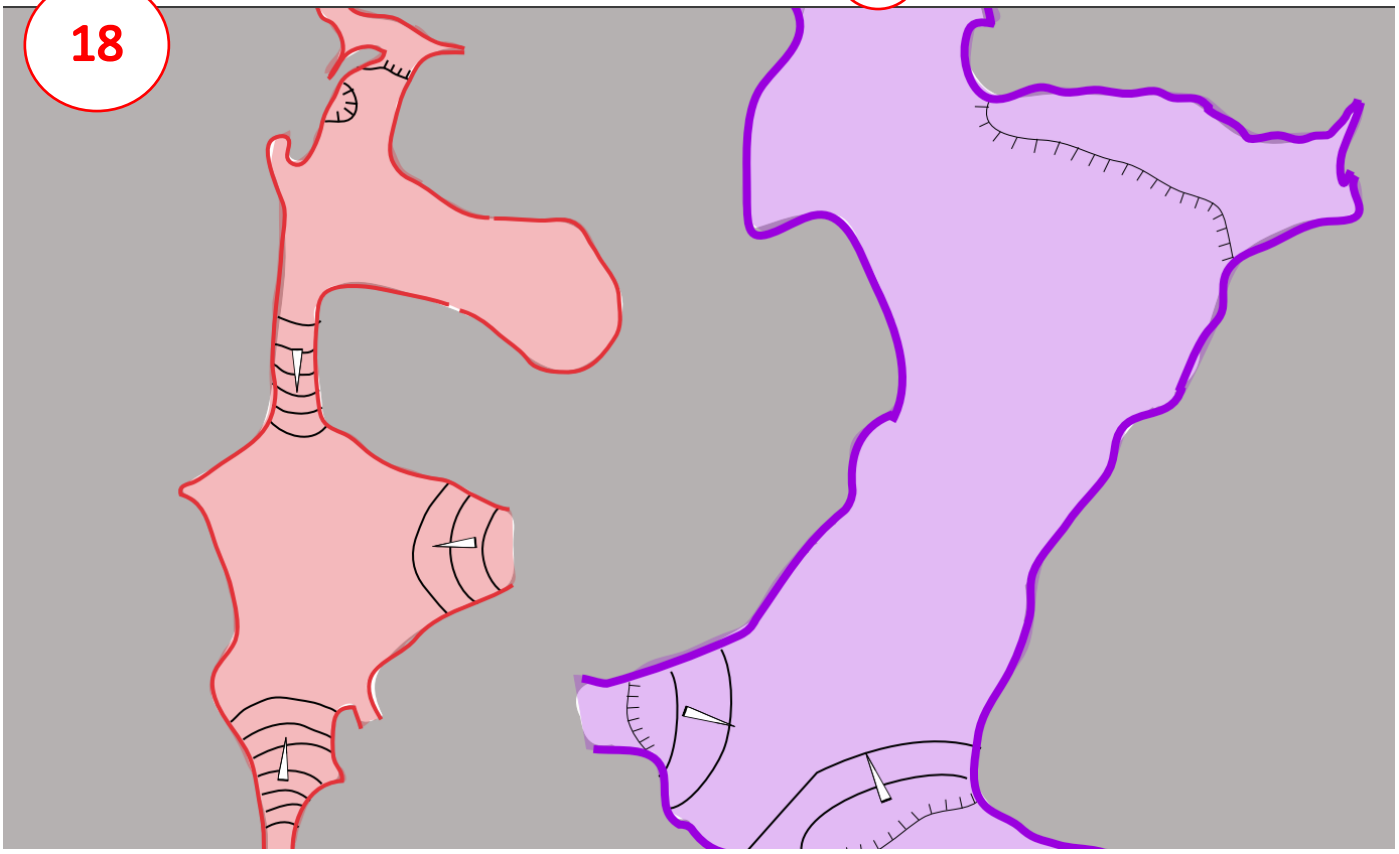
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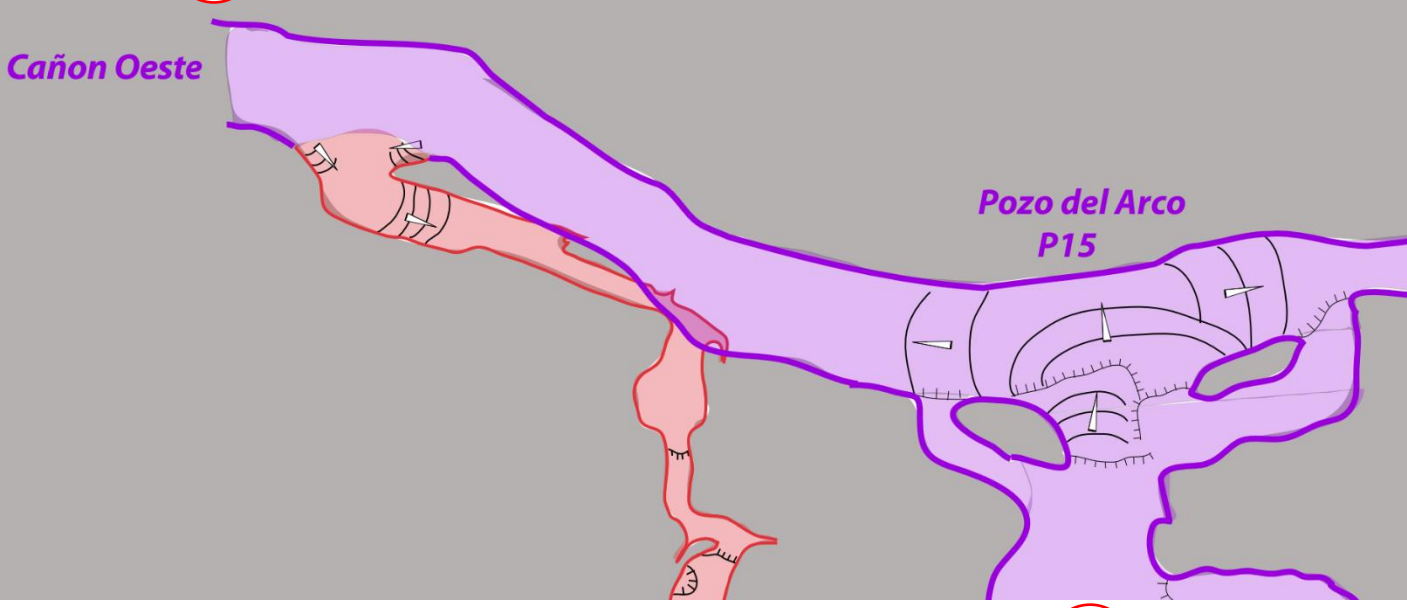
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M

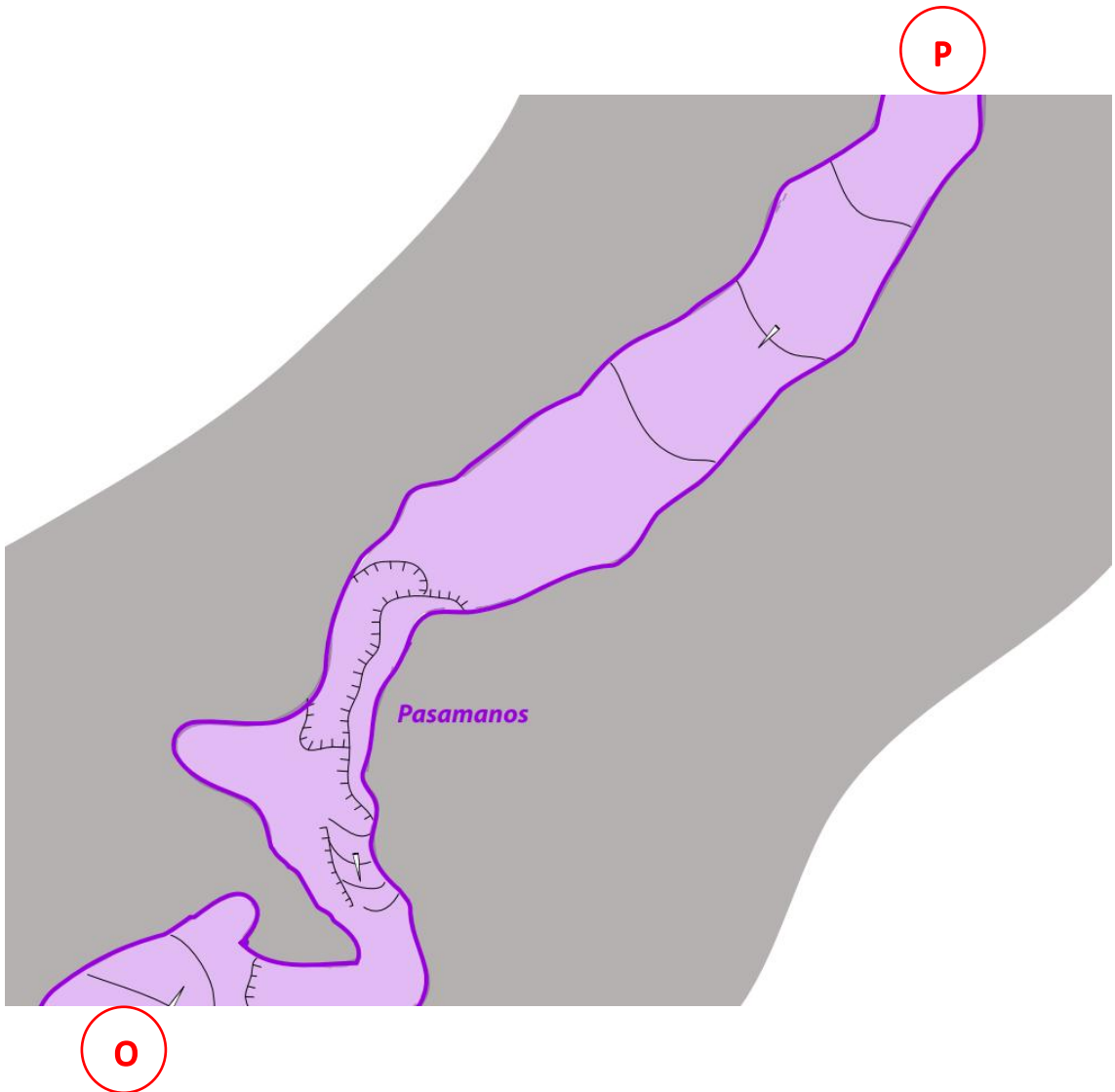
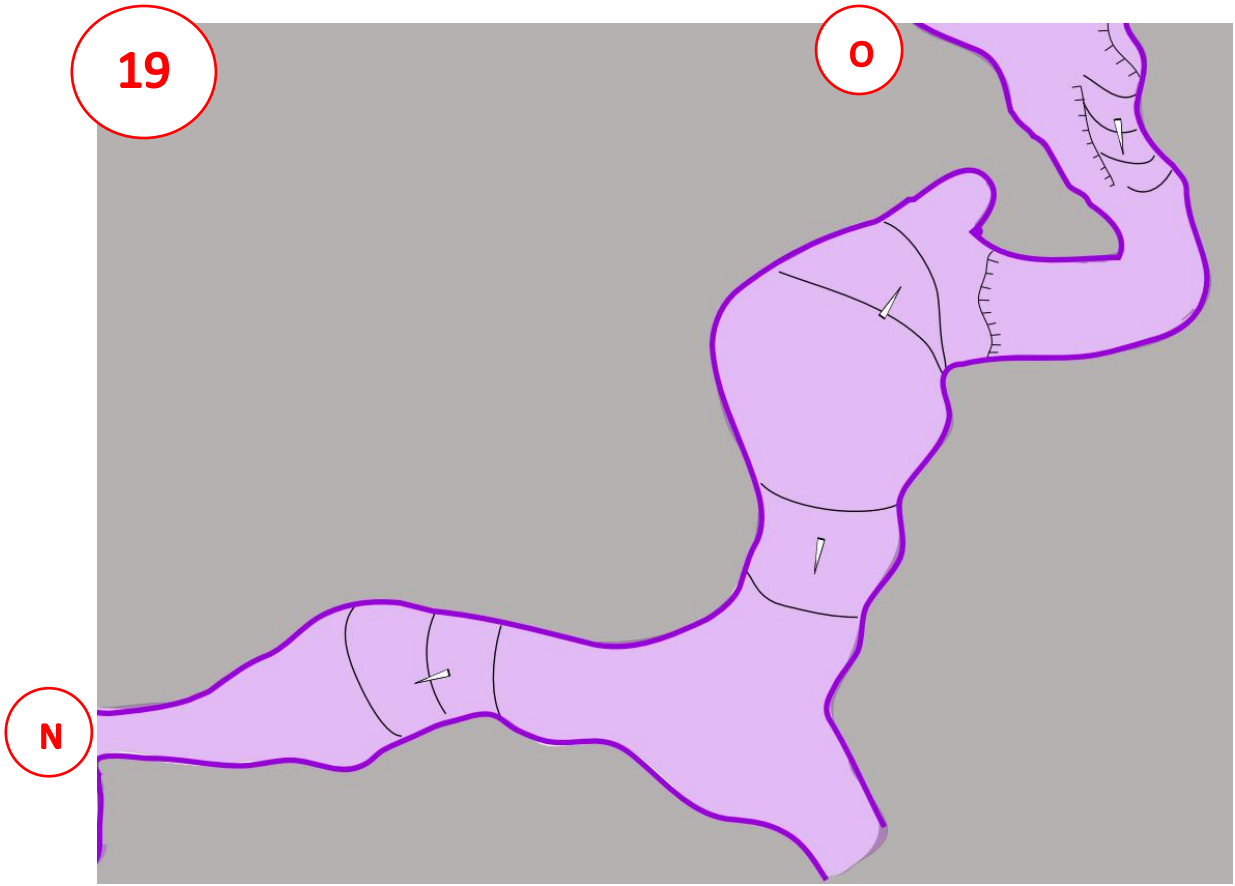


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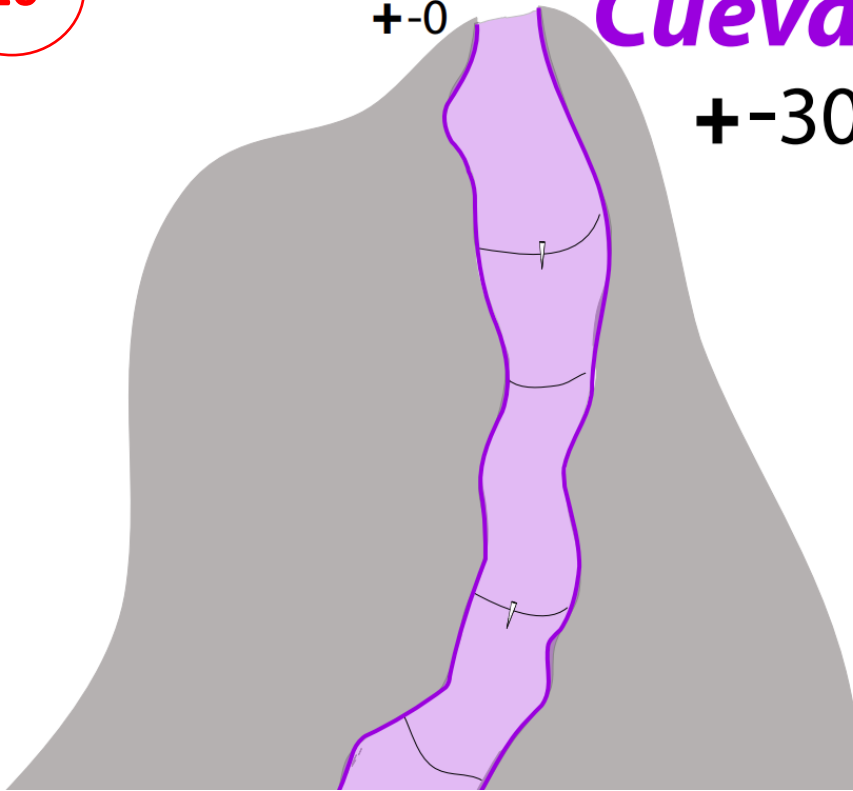


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+ -0

Cueva Cayuela

+ -304 Entrada



P

Rigging description.

PNº - Pitch + metres of depth

AN - natural anchor

E - Climb up

R - climb down

RP concrete screw + plaque with ring

RC - chain reunion

P10	AN+4RP.....	Traverse line + reunion
P30	AN+5RP.....	Traverse line + reunion + 2 rebelay
P5	2RP.....	on the opposite wall, squeeze.
P22	4RP.....	Traverse line + reunion
P15	4RP.....	reunion + deviator
P40	4RP+ RC.....	Traverse line + reunion Pozo de las Caracolas
P25	7RP + RC.....	Traverse line + R4 + traverse line in meander + P25
P10	2RP + RC.....	Traverse line + reunion
E5	2RP	
P20	2RP + RC.....	Traverse line + reunion
P12	2RP	
P12	2RP.....	Paso del Coronavirus
P8	2RP	
P16	2RP	
P20	2RP+ RC.....	Traverse line + reunion
P6	2RP	
P4	2RP	
P12	RC	
P85	3RP + 2RC.....	Traverse line + reunions + rebelay Estado de Alarma
E14	5RP.....	E8+E6
E8	2RP +AN.....	Climb up + Traverse line
P8	5 RP.....	Traverse line + reunion Paso de las Penurias
P20	4RP + RC.....	Traverse line + reunion
P6	2RP	

P20	2RP+ RC.....	Traverse line + reunion
P25	AN+1RP+RC.....	Traverse line + reunion
P8	2RP.....	Squeeze
P18	RC.....	Pozo de las Gotas
P10	2RP+RC.....	Traverse line + reunion
PM	5RP.....	Traverse line
R10	climb down in meander
P7	2RP.....	Traverse line + reunion
P10	4RP.....	Traverse line + reunion
P5	AN +2RP.....	Traverse line + reunion
R3	2RP.....	Squeeze Agujero Soplador
E5	2RP	
E8	4RP + AN.....	Traverse line + reunion
E3+P3	2RP	
R5	AN.....	Colada resbaladiza
E3		
P10	2RP.....	Pasamanos + reunión
E8	2RP	
R3		