

VALLINA – NOSPOTENTRA – TORCA DE ROTURA

ACCESS

Arredondo (Cantabria). From Arredondo we take the CA-261 that goes up to Puerto de las Alisas. 1km away from Arredondo we pass by the junction with the CA 655 that goes to Bustablado. 1.4km from that junction and following the road that goes up the Puerto de las Alisas, we will find a track on the right that go up to the Colorado cabins. At 900m of track, and where the track takes a sharp curve to the left, we are at the closest point to It powers us, and after 1.4 km we are only 5 minutes from Vallina, to our left and uphill below.

Cueva Vallina (Boca Superior) UTM (WGS 84)

30 T 450016 4792412

Altura: 420m.

Torca de Rotura (Boca Intermedia) UTM (WGS 84)

30T 450999 4792821

Altura: 403m.

Nospotentra (Boca inferior) UTM (WGS 84)

30 T 450747 4792364

Altura: 315m.

Datos: **Grupo Matienzo**

CAVING DATA

Total development: 36,771m

Depth: -198 (March 2022)

INTRODUCTION

The upper entrance is hidden between trees after a short walking approach and hill down, from the steep track that starts from the Arredondo-Alisas highway. The entrance is a 15m wide opening that has been used as a refuge through the centuries, and the evidence of its occupation has been proven, both by pieces of flint found, such as pottery from the Age of Bronze. The discovery, inside the cave, from a small ceramic container (goblet), possibly from the Bronze Age, led to the reopening, after thousands of years, of the second entrance, the one at the bottom. In October 2022, and after clearing the obstruction in the terminal part of Breaking Torque, enables the access to Vallina to its lower area, specifically to The Canyon, and almost in the middle of the cave.

The cave was first explored in 1989 from of the upper entrance by the British group. The cave continued to be explored over the years following by the Tortosa group to go from 3 km 12 km from development. In 1994, after being franked one step downstream, about 7km more of galleries jointly with the Spanish. The length of 36,771m includes 3.5 kilometres of those of Tortosa discovered at the beginning of the 90s that have been resurveyed.

DESCRIPTION VALLINA-NOSPOTENTRA CROSSING

After about fifty meters of cave and maintaining about 5m high, the ground descends to a zone flat and muddy (outside light limit), which takes a small step with air current located on the back wall. There we will find a cat flap that may require the drainage of water during the rainy season rain

(material placed there for this purpose). Immediately behind we will find a short rolling mill that leaves us on the head of a well of 10 meters. Under this pit a mud ramp quartered situates us in the Vallina Gallery that turns to the few meters to the right taking direction this. In the same place of the turn there is a tall chimney blind left. The gallery, 10m high and wide, continue, and past some formations in advanced state of deterioration we find a 4 meter drop. the gallery gets bigger keeping the ground covered with blocks. Finally, the gallery descends forming a room 20m wide by 25m high, east point on the that the progression ends at ground level due to a large cluster of blocks. The wall on the right is consists of sand and boques and an easy climb of 3m takes us to a raised area where we will find the continuation, also next to the right wall. This point is great for take a look back from the top of the balcony to thus contemplating the route already covered by the Gallery Vallina. This point is 20 meters in plan from the cavity 1823.

The Vallina Gallery continues from the balcony through a area called "Sunday Stomps" Sunday) for about 250m until you reach the "Glitter Run" (Corridor of the Glitters), so called by the small and crystalline pools of water that they adorn it. From there and heading east we appear in a room where the path divides in two:

1. To the south (our right) the path skirts a subsidence and leads us towards a muddy P25 located in the corner formed by the gallery when taking a new 90° turn to the right. This P25 was the access original to lower levels. The gallery gives a turn again, but this time to the left (east) and leaves us in

the superb gallery "Chunnel" (the Tunnel), with the ground covered with sand and keeping the 10m wide by 10m high we progress placidly for 70 meters until you reach a ramp that once up leaves us near a P10 which we keep to our right. continuing from in front of our low route towards a short downclimb between blocks that takes us to a P30 with a small step into its unexplored background. Immediately before this pit, a climb us leads to a large room in which the current is loss of air. At the beginning of the Chunnel gallery a laminator (crawl) takes us to a room without continuity.

2. The normal track that descends towards the centre of the cave starts near the "Glitter Run" (Corridor of the Brilllos) and continue to the east -straight ahead- (fork left) and goes down to the head of our second well, passing a chimney fitted where no continuity was found superior. This wide well is divided into two sections of 12 and 18 m. respectively. his descent leaves you on an area of blocks that, passing on the basis of the P25 that formerly served for go down to the lower floors, it takes you next to a new P12 (1). *(1) At the base of P12 we find a series of ducts that have been forced into a clogged passage with strong current of air after climbing through an opening.*

The normal route runs through the area evident in the E-NE direction for 150 m where upright and sometimes crouching we follow the draft up a steep ramp descending with sand that leaves us in a room high ceiling with a fitted access to a duct superior. Before the sand ramp, a fork to the right takes you to a series of rooms and galleries to through a 20m downclimb to the left of the first one that leaves you in the B-flat-Passage (Gallery B Plana) and following this gallery we arrive to the base

of our third well (P13). To the left and near the top of the ramp sand there are some ducts with beautiful formations of and so.

A three-meter climb behind the sand ramp will leave at the head of P13. Just above the head from this well the access to some pipes without continuity. At the base of P13 the path splits: a ramp leads you to the rest of the cavity; the wider route takes you to the entrance lower Nospotentra (2) (Lost Pot Entrance – Entrada of the Lost Goblet-). *(2) The Spanish name of the lower entry is "Nospotentra", for be what was understood in its day of its original name "Lost Pot Entrance" (Lost Goblet Entrance).*

A 4m downhill ramp passes the Windy Corner (Rincón del Viento) and increase the calcite formations. our route continues varied, comparatively smaller in size, but easy progression. We passed by a few side accesses until you reach an area of blocks. At this point the earthen goblet (3) of the Bronze Age and in the background an ascending cat flap leaves at the base of the artificial opening, from which with a climb of three meters we will go outside. *(3) Finding the beaker was the key to find out that there in times there was another entry. From the outside it was located by the trail of smoke produced by burning an old suit Neoprene in the cup area. A clearing in the area smoke outlet allowed entry. From outside the cavity we see that a landslide she was blocked by this natural entrance.*

VISIT TO THE REST OF THE CAVITY

At the base of P13, the third shaft entering from the upper mouth, the path divides: a ramp will lead to the heart of the cavity; the wider route takes you to the lower entrance Nospotentra.

The main route into the cavity continues from the base of the third well and introduces us, accompanied air current, in a labyrinthine area in which that not all the galleries have been surveyed or even explored (4). *(4) In this area that will work for us as a distributor of sectors, it will be essential to have the surveying ahead accompanied by a compass.*

A road heading west was entered by first time in 1996 and takes us to Shopping Trip that is about to describe. With heading north, The Maze, the Labyrinth takes us through the main road to the Corkscrew, whose entrance is opposite the access to the Shatter Passage (Decomposed Gallery). Head on - northbound- and between the two previous entries We access a large room without continuity.

The main continuation is to the east, where a series of galleries similar to each other of the Labyrinth Zone take us heading south to the Who Knows? room (Who knows?). There are other routes that also connect the room Who Knows? with the P13.

To the east of the labyrinthine zone and heading towards northwest towards Road to Nowhere gallery (Road to Nowhere), we will drive towards a narrowness with sharp rock. A speleologist who came from the upper mouth, he could put on protection for the passage. Certain galleries on the roof of the Road to No Site were topography the Week Santa del 96 adding to the cavity about 100m. TO from here the road is gaining in dimensions as it approaches us to The Canyon (El Cañón).

Zone :

- L'Empedrat
- Barney Rubbe's Uranium Mine (the B.R. uranium)
- German Gallery

In the Maze Area (Labyrinth Zone), the first and fifth turning to the left lead us through a complex zone of joints and laminators to the L'Empedrat area, explored for the first time during the 90s or 91s by the Catalans. This zone was extended in 2003 and 2004. Both entrances from the Labyrinth Zone they give us access to a wide gallery of about 5x5m with very decomposed –Shatter Passage (Gallery Decomposed)-. After a pronounced turn to the right, you pass through a room with columns. To the right of this room there is a series of joints and sand rolling mills with draft that do not have fully explored. also by hand right, but at the end of the room, there is a small passageway -Centipede Crawl (Centipede Cat Gate)- that joins the main gallery after a few 35m. The main gallery, which is

taken next to left side of the back of the room, then continue with some rare sections that force us to crawl. Some 100m beyond the room, some small openings to left hand lead us to a complicated area with three possible routes communicated.

On the left we find Tits Up (Breasts Above). Next to this gallery and through a narrow joint Barney Rubble's Uranium Mine (the B.R. Uranium Mine), and on the right we have a 2m downclimb that joins the main path, L'Empedrat.

The main gallery of L'Empedrat continues and enlarges its section at the point where it joins from the left the above-mentioned crash. The Below is in a posted gallery. 50m further on an ascending ramp, and after descending, leads us to a terminal room with a collapse with draft of air. A mess in the left side of the end of this room leads us to a gallery with beautiful formations that surrounds a P5 blind and that leads us again, as if from one ring road in question, at the entrance of the room. Breasts Up takes us to a step that had to be unclogged. On the left is a gallery in which the small dimensions are maintained leads us to the Pillar Chamber (Hall of the Column). following from In front of us we find a 4m climb that leaves in a wider gallery by which it borders a short pit This gallery ends suddenly at 76m from the downslope.

At the B.R. entered for the first time Holy Week 2004. It is about 250m long