

## **INTRODUCTION**

Welcome to Ojo Guareña Karstic complex. We are in a Natural Monument and therefore, we have several rules for its conservation:

-You cannot eat inside the cave, you can only drink water and there's no WC inside (when we finish we will go up to the upper parking and you can use WC there before continuing to entrance of the cave).

The route that you are going to do passes through a cave in its natural state. We recommended suitable footwear (sneakers or mountain boots) and warm clothing, we have only 8°C inside the cave.

Before continuing, you must sign this document with your data and if you are under 18 years, your father, mother or legal tutors have to sign an authorization.

Once you all have signed, we are going to see how we placed the helmet correctly and what is the size that corresponds to you.

When we all have the helmet, we ascend to the upper parking.

## **PALOMERA ACCESS**

We are in one of the 14 entrances to the main part of the complex.

If we have a look at the topographical plane, the entrance to Cueva Palomera is one of the most central and is divided into two parts. On one hand, upper galleries of Palomera and on the other one, Palomera ramp which is the place where we are going to descend.

Regarding the rules, apart from those mentioned:

-We can only take photos in two points (this entry and another place where I leave you the time). We have to put the mobiles in airplane mode. You can't touch the walls and the ceiling.

As I say before, Ojo Guareña was declared a natural protected space since 1976 for three reasons:

-The first one, more than 110km of caves.

-The second one, more than 80 archeological remains they are still investigating it.

-The third one. We have 54 endemic animals, 34 of them new to science. These are small insects with very varied characteristics which we will have to be careful not to step on them.

Now we enter into the cave, if you have any doubt, you can ask me.

Follow me to the next point, Edelweiss hall.

## **EDELWEISS ROOM**

We just arrived at Edelweiss hall, the biggest hall of our tour. The reason of the name is for Edelweiss speleological group from Burgos, a group that has been studying this network of galleries since 1956.

In Edelweiss hall the most important part is archeology, over there we can find the access to the room of paintings. In this room there are about a hundred paintings with different motifs classified into three groups: animals, antropomorphs, and symbology. Some of the most important images would be inverted triangles (it symbolize female fertility), one of the first representations of the domestication of an animal, deers or mammoth (there are only four representations of these animals in prehistoric caves of the Iberian Peninsula). All of them dated to about 13,000 years old (Upper paleolithic). Due to its conservation we cannot see it.

Another important aspect of Edelweiss hall, that you have already seen, is the brightness of some walls and the ceiling. This shine comes from fungi and a bacteria found inside the condensation droplets. The fungus are the silver marks and the gold ones would be bacterias. They use the drops to transport themselves and if we touch it they wouldn't appear anymore.

And finally, in the bottom part of the room you can see natural lakes created by the water leak that you are listening to. At other times where you see natural lakes or along the path you are going to continue, the river can circulate, it's an active level.

In case of an emergency you must follow the reflectors, the orange ones indicate the entrance way and the silver ones indicate the way out. Located in one, you will see the next.

We follow our tour along the main gallery.

## **BURIAL ROOM**

In this room we find important details:

- Firstly a stalagmitic flow form by the infiltration water coming from the outside part of the cave, which pass through the fracture in the limestone. Then the water dissolves the limestone dragging the calcium carbonate. This component forms the stalactites and in the lower part stalagmites and they united it as a column. That flowstone yellow and grey colours for the filtration iron and manganese.
- At the upper part of the gallery we have what we bring the name to the room. (Burial room). In this place they found in 1981 a buried man of about 3.700 years (Bronze age). At the Karstic Complex there are more burials, but none with these characteristics.

## **COMMUNICATION ROOM**

We just arrive the communication room. The reason of that name it's that from here we can take four different ways.

- **East:** the mainly gallery where we have been walking and where we have to come back.
- **South:** two acces to the second axial.
- **West:** the acces to the long diagonal.
- **North:** the acces to Dolencias, that's the way we are going to continue.

## **DOLENCIAS CHASM**

We are in Dolencias chasm. In this room you can see two different chasm in different high. On your left the chasm has 23 meters of high and the other one has 54 meters high.

We start with the smallest one, which is called Dolencias chasm, this name is due to the use it have. People used to through dead animals inside it.

We are in Dolencias Chasm now. In this room, you can see two chasm of different heights. On the left, we have got a chasm of 23 meters of fall and on the right, we have got another chasm of 54 meters of fall. The name of this room refers to the use of this chasm during a lot of centuries. There is a legend that speaks of the bodies of deceased animals were thrown through this chasm, hence Dolencias, the name of the chasm.

On the other hand, we have got another chasm of 54 meters of fall. We can see a waterfall falling for this chasm in the rainy season. The water of this waterfall comes from the the stream of Villamartín and inside the cave, this about continue to Chocolatua Gallery. When the low levels (levels 5 and 6) are full, the water continue to the Main Gallery and all the level 4 is flooded. This level has got several water multiple water inlets and we will know another one later.

Now, you can take photos and i can answer any question.

When you finish to take photos, we continue to Telephone Gallery.

## **CACIQUE ROOM**

We had arrive to Cacique Room, we can see more references of the action's river.

You can see how the river is re-excavating the floor and complete changing it.

Be careful with the step on the floor and with the ceiling, we recommend you to duck. When you will be uptown, you should join to the wall.

Now we are going to turn off the lights and you can enjoy different sounds. You can hear different sounds refers to the little holes in the floor caused by the fall of infiltration water.

In this room, we can see another water entry, it is the entry of the river from the Ojo del Guareña sump. The river is re excavating the floor and changing the form of this room.

Now, we will continue to Museo de Cera room. We come back to Phone Gallery to reach to this room.

## **WAX MUSEUM**

We have reached to Museo de Cera room, we have to leave bags, walking sticks and another things here because we have to underpass.

There are two low passages and we will explain you how to pass them in the easiest way.

You can see how the floor of this room is a geological formation known as ***gours***. The river doesn't enter to this room, but you can see a line on the wall and this line comes from the level of infiltration water.

You can see geological formations as stalactites, stalagmites, columns and other speleothems.

We go back the same way to the place where we left our backpacks. The visit ends at the upper parking, where I will pick up your helmets. If you have any questions along the way, you can ask me.

I hope you enjoyed the visit, thank you!