

GROTTE PALOMERA: GENERAL INFORMATION

DESCRIPTION OF PALOMERA CAVE



The natural area of Ojo Guareña is a karstic complex of international importance located in the north of the province of Burgos, within the region of Las Merindades. With more than 100km of underground routes, it is the largest cavity in Spain and one of the largest in the world. The karst complex was declared an Artistic Historical Monument in 1970 because of its richness and its archaeological diversity, as well as the peculiarity of some of its deposits, which allowed this protection status and the conservation of its cultural and archaeological value. Later, this status is passed to Good of Cultural Interest (BIC). Similarly, it was declared a Natural Monument in 1996. The purpose of the declaration of this conservation status is to maintain the structural, hydrological, biological and cultural integrity of the karst complex, to provide new ways of enjoying and using the 'Espace Naturel', as well as to promote the development of information, interpretation and environmental education activities. Another objective is the search for formulas that can be used as a propelling element of the socio-economic activity of the region and the quality of life of its inhabitants. The Grotto and the Palomera Ramp, as well as its continuation to the Wax Museum and the Cacique Room, thanks to their ease of access and the presence of many elements of interest, combine the characteristics necessary for their development. In addition, it is also possible to realize several routes of different duration and intended for a diverse public, during which it is possible to easily protect the geomorphological, hydrological, archaeological and biological values of the cave, as well as to connect the management of the visit to the Casa del Parque of Quintanilla del Rebollar. The development of this sector of the karst complex, taking into account the existing protection figures (Natural Monument and Cultural Interest Property) as well as the cave's own characteristics, is oriented towards a natural and cultural tourism, with a touch of adventure tourism. Visits, of reduced frequency, will be guided and composed of a number of visitors limited to about twenty, in order to guarantee the adequate protection of the underground and surface values. The different routes in the cave respect the diversity of the elements of interest and the need to preserve them.

PLANS

This map shows the itinerary of the visit to Palomera Cave



GENERAL INFORMATION

The visit of the Palomera Cave takes place by the "Rampa de Palomera" (Palomera's Rampa), the "Sala Edelweiss" (Edelweiss Hall), the "Main Gallery" (Galería Principal) and passes by the base of "Sima Dolencias" (Aven of the Sufferings) to continue by the "Galería del Teléfono" (Gallery of the Telephone) until the "Sala Cacique" (Hall of the Cacique). Afterwards, visitors retrace their steps through the Telephone Gallery to the gallery that connects with the last section of the "Gran diagonal" Grande Diagonale that leads to the "Museo de Cera" (Wax Museum). . The return is made following the Big Diagonal to the Main Gallery and, from there, the same path traveled one way.

The total itinerary is 2.492 m.

When visiting the Palomera Cave, many points of interest will be highlighted and explained by the instructors.

- Dolina de Palomera (Palomera's Doline): Remarkable for its geomorphological and botanical values.
- Rampa de Palomera (Palomera Ramp): Remarkable for its geomorphological, archaeological and faunistic values (aquatic fauna).
- Sala Edelweiss (Edelweiss Room): Remarkable for its geomorphological and faunistic values (aquatic fauna).
- Base of Sima Dolencias (Aven des Souffrances): Remarkable geomorphological values.
- Gour de las Hojas area (Gour des Feuilles). Faunistic values (aquatic fauna). The route passes close to points OG-15 and OG-8.
- Sala del Cacique (Cacique Room): Remarkable geomorphological values.
- Museo de Cera (Wax Museum): Characteristic values mainly geomorphological, as well as others of archaeological interest (traces of fire on the vault) and aquatic fauna (OG-1, point of aquatic fauna).

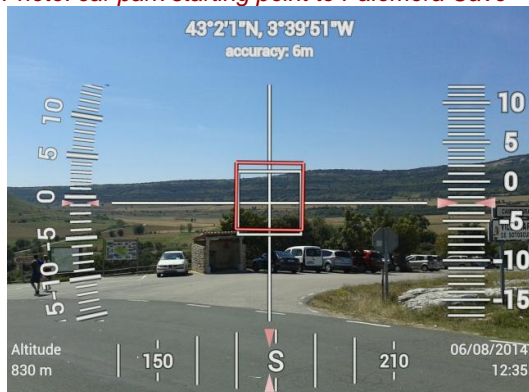
PALOMERA CAVE: LOCATION

HOW TO FIND US

The visit of Palomera Cave starts at car park called “El Alto de la Concha” which is located in the municipality of Merindad de Sotoscueva.

The best way to reach it is taking the regional road BU-526, from the village of Espinosa de los Monteros from the East or from Soncillo from the West of the province of Burgos. It is also accessible from the village of Villarcayo taking the regional road BU-562.

Photo: car park starting point to Palomera Cave



ACCESS MAPS

In this section we give you the access maps to the car park “El Alto de la Concha”, starting point of the visit of Palomera Cave, which is located approximately 600 meters away from the entrance. The guides will be waiting for the visitors there.

OJO GUAREÑA



Photo: Ojo Guareña. Entrance

Ojo Guareña is categorised as a Natural Monument and is located in the north of the province of Burgos on the south slope of the Cantabrian Range. It forms a complex of caves internationally significant.

The Natural Monument covers a surface of 13,850 ha.

Surface included in an area of socioeconomic influence of 51,100 ha.

Three municipalities are located within the Monument: Merindad de Sotoscueva, Merindad de Montija and Espinosa de los Monteros, as well as 23 towns.

With an extent of more than 100 kilometres, the karstic complex of Ojo Guareña is one of the largest in Spain and is among the 10 biggest in the world. In addition to its undeniable speleological interest, several prehistoric sites were discovered inside, in addition to numerous species of cave dwelling invertebrates, many of which are new species. On the south slope of the Cantabrian Range rises an impressive rocky cut

formed by Coniacian limestone and dolomite which rests over an impermeable substratum of marl and argillaceous limestone.

The rivers Guareña and Trema carved out the karstic complex of Ojo Guareña in this thick massif from the Upper Cretaceous period.

BOOKINGS

RULES, SCHEDULE AND PRICES

The visit begins at the [Palomera Cave car park \("El alto Concha"\)](#), which is approximately 600 metres away from the entrance of the cave. The guides will be waiting for the visitors there. Visitors will be provided with a helmet and frontal torch and will be given some basic safety and behaviour notions inside Palomera Cave. Visitors start the walk to the cave entrance with the guides from here and then access the inside of the cave where they can visit "la Sala Edelweiss" (Edelweiss room), "La galería principal" (main gallery), "La Sima Dolencias" (Dolencias karst shaft), "la Sala Cacique" (Chief's room) and "La Sala Museo de Cera" (Wax Museum Room), as long as the humidity conditions allow it for this last one.

Several stops are made at specific points of the visit where the guides will give some explanation on the different aspects of the karstic formations as well as the microfauna that lives in the cave.

The visit finishes at "El alto de la Concha"

The visit lasts for approximately 4h. (Long Visit)

It is also possible to do a visit with a shorter itinerary and duration (Short Visit), especially suitable for school groups, which consists in the visit of "la Sala Edelweiss" (Edelweiss room), "La galería principal" (main gallery), "La Sima Dolencias" (Dolencias karst shaft). These visits last for around 2.5 hours. If you wish to organise your school field trip, we recommend you to contact us by phone or email and the guides will advise you on the schedules and alternative visits.

BOOKINGS

- Bookings are to be done through this website with the following form.
- In case you come without previous booking, it is possible to do the activity, provided there are vacancies in the visits programmed that day.
- The Price of the visit includes access to the Casa del Parque.
- If you cancel up to 72 hours before the date of your visit, you will get a full refund of the price of the entrance ticket.
- If you cancel 24 hours in advance there is no refund.
- In case the group doesn't reach at least 5 people, the organization reserves the right to cancel the booking (with a 48h notice) and will offer the visitor either a full refund (via the same type of payment) or another date for the visit. The visit must be confirmed by phone or the email address that appears on this page.
- If the group is less than 2 people, it is possible for the visitors to do the visit if they pay the total amount corresponding to 2 people.

ONLINE BOOKING FORM (IF THE BOOKING FAILS YOU CAN SEND US AN EMAIL AT THIS ADDRESS CUEVASOJOGUARENA.SANBERNABE@GMAIL.COM)

Fill in the following data to confirm your booking:

ACCESS RULES

- It is forbidden to leave the group under any circumstances.
- It is forbidden to smoke, litter or do any physiological necessities inside the cave.
- It is forbidden to remove minerals, bones, fauna or any type of material from the cave.

- Video cameras are not allowed.
- All the visits are guided and the guide's indications are to be respected.
- The person in charge of the activity may decide to end the visit before its completion when: the safety of the group is compromised, the expected time to reach the exit is exceeded to his or her judgment, or faced with irresponsible actions that threaten the environment or that may compromise the group's or personal safety.
- Visitors must take care of and return the equipment provided in good condition.
- Before the beginning of the visit the guide will check that the visitors are properly equipped to avoid slipping or hypothermia situations (it is necessary to wear appropriate footwear, with rubber soles and anti-slipping pattern, and warm clothing).
- The visit is suitable for people over 12 years old ([joined document](#) must be filled in). Visitors under 16 must be accompanied by an adult who will be completely responsible for them.
- Participants ought to be reasonably fit.
- The temperature inside the cave is around 8-9 ° C.
- The organisation will provide a helmet with frontal torch for the visit.
- The visits will start at the set time, with a 10 minute margin.
- The use of cameras is not allowed inside the cave.

SCHEDULES

- Visits are carried out every day (except for Mondays if it is not a holiday or a holiday's eve), always with previous booking, at 09:00h, 10:00h and 16:00h (15:00h in Winter)
- The deadline for internet bookings is 48 hours before the selected date. For bookings less than 24 hours in advance, please use the contact phone number.645490288

PRICES

There are different prices depending on the type of visit (long or short), the chosen day of the week (working day or weekend/holiday) and the number of people (> 10 people – group fare). There is a special fare for people between 12 and 16. When you make the booking, the system will guide you and apply the corresponding fares.

For special groups, please contact the San Bernabe by phone at this number 947.138.755 – 645490288 or by email cuevasojoguarena.sanbernabe@gmail.com