Caves of Lanzarote

Guide to the caves with GPS co-ordinates

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1Photo Downflow Puerta Falsa Monte Corona Lava Tube System
Cueva del Covón is located on the west side of the island, 30 minutes walk north along the coast path from the old fishing village of El Golfo, commencing at the free parking area nearby a recreation ground at the end of the sea-front road.

It is accessed from the sea cliffs and lies 300 m within the national park boundary. Covón can be done as a through trip to Cueva de la Chifletera which lies approximately 350 m inland, however the connection squeeze makes it an impossibility for all but the slighter cavers out there. The Chifletera section of the cave is so short it is not considered worth doing as a trip in its own right, hence the more popular Covón is generally done as a 2 way journey for those who cannot fit.

Description:

Leaving the sun-lit main entrance chamber, soon leading into some sizeable walking passage, you encounter a significant boulder choke, keeping close to the left hand wall there is a discernible route through the ruckle. The cave opens out to a level-floored chamber with good gypsum deposits but soon lowers to a nice arched passage which quickly drops to a low flat out sandy crawl.

Either continue along the crawl, (approximately 30 m) keeping an eye out above you until you can stand and find yourself in a trench in a chamber, or alternatively back at the first part, just before the sandy crawl, to your left at shoulder height, is a stacked boulder pile facilitating access through a level roof slot to some finely decorated gypsum chambers. Try and minimise impact to the gypsum deposits while enjoying the sights therein.
Cueva del Paso is located on the west side of the island 30 minutes walk along the coast path from the old fishing village of El Golfo. You enter here to do the through trip to the del Esqueleto exit/entrance.

It lies approx 100 m inside the national park boundary and is accessed from a nondescript, impossible to locate depression about 300mm inland from the cliffs. GPS is thoroughly recommended since finding it without would be all but impossible. Arriving at the surface depression with a choice of cave entrances, it is the left hand hole as you face towards the ocean.

Description:

The low stooping entrance quickly opens to a descending passage that spirals down with a couple of slightly tricky thought-provoking climbs within the ability of experienced cavers, and a final 3 m drop into the commencement of fine smooth-walled lava flow passage.

Taking the obvious way on, little difficulty presents since this cave has a very noticeable draft accompanying you throughout. Eventually after negotiating some low stoops and small boulder crawls, with an extended low-roofed sideways hands and knees section, you emerge into a stunning daylight passage which exits about 10 m up a cliff face with rewarding views of the sea. Confident climbers could free climb out to the coast, but there is no room for error, so alternatively 3 dubious rusty bolts provide a shared belay to give you an option of a pull through abseil down the cliff. The easiest and safer option is to just reverse your steps back out the cave and return across the lava field to the main path and the parking area. If you do opt for the abseil exit, follow the wave cut platform (low tide – check the times on the internet beforehand) on the left (facing the sea) to a twin-stage (straightforward) climb by an angle boulder which zig-zags up to the clifftop. If the route you take is alarming, you have picked the wrong approach. Recce beforehand is the better option.
Cueva Los Naturalista (Las Palomas)

GPS UTM/UPS WGS 84 0630861 3210177 (Entrance)

Las Palomas is situated between the villages of Masdache and La Vaguetta and is approximately 1640 m long with two entrances, providing a satisfying and straightforward through trip. Many interesting lava formations are on view in this cave, including thousands of lava equivalents of helictites. As you enter the cave through the jameos go downslope and to the right of the stepping stone slope (or far side), into the darker passage, a 1 metre step taking you into the lava tube conduit, where you have a left or right option.

Turn left into a perfectly formed circular tube, and easy but rocky walking passage. The cave opens up ahead with a daylight window on your left, the other option from the entrance jameos.

Almost immediately beyond daylight penetration you encounter the first significant large-scale lava tube formation, a pillar in the middle of the passage giving the effect of two huge cats eyes (seen in the photo above). Do not miss the numerous and impressive lavatites in the ceiling.

More easy walking passage, followed by a series of roof collapses, leaves you clambering over boulders for a short distance before returning to easy walking passage. Another large pillar gives the cave the effect of having a major roundabout with many ways off. There is only one genuine continuation... Continue ahead and you will see the daylight from the exit jameos; however, shortly before this, behind the boulder collapse filling the main route, there is an obscured right hand branch taking you to some more major and impressive easy walking passage.

Continue as far as you are comfortable along this passage and look out for many of the lava drips, helictites/lavatites and calcium sulphate formations on the way. Also take time to look at some of the patterns in the roof and floor, they are really quite stunning. It is a very photogenic part of the cave.
When you've had enough the way out is back to the daylight exit you passed earlier. Head towards the obvious light and an easy clamber out of the jameos, taking a quick look around to get your bearings, before the walk back across the lava field to the road, and your car on the other side.

**Prendes - Gentes Through trip Length 1170m**

**GPS UTM/UPS WGS 84 Jameos Prendes 0649259 3228427**

Starting at the top of the Monte Corona lava tube system, pre-rig the exit climb from the Prendes entrance with a 10 m ladder, and 25 m rope (which will serve as a long belay for the ladder and as a lifeline). Capable climbers may dispense with the need for a ladder.

Then return to the main lava field and enter at the Gentes entrance (see relevant description above) and head up-flow until at the top of a 10 m scramble to the right, after about 1 km of passage and a stooping passage, you reach the 7 m pitch which you can descend, rigged for pull-through and for which you should take a 20 m rope. Pull through after the abseil (awkward lip/stance until you notice the footholds!), and after about 50 m of further caving you will reach the bottom of the ladder in the Prendes entrance.

As a two way trip, dispensing with the climb/abseil, no tackle required as you simply start at the Gentes entrance and head up-flow (left hand entrance as you face the climb down into the jameos). A 4 m descent down an in-situ wooden ladder (beware the with missing rung 3 steps from the bottom!). Continue up-flow until you reach the top of the pull through pitch and turn around at this point and head back out the way you came.
Enter the jameo de la Gentes and head down-flow (to the right as you face the impressive pit on arrival). Follow the obvious main passage down until you reach a boulder collapse.

At the first boulder collapse take the small stooping tunnel around the collapse to the left hand side.

Continue on, and at the 2nd collapse take the small hole in the floor on the right hand side, to bypass this obstruction.

On exiting the bypass look to your left as you regain larger passage, and sign the log book left for visitors to the cave if you wish.

Continue down flow until you reach the exit of Puerta Falsa.

The walk back to collect your car is just over 1 km if you use the roads.

An alternative, should you have GPS, is to walk in a direct line back to the Gentes entrance, passing the 3 impressive jameos which comprise the Jameos Cumplido section of passageways.

A short trip which can be done on the walk back to pick up the car after the Gentes Puerta Falsa through trip.

Enter via the middle depression and go down-flow through he arch. Eventually, after traversing around some holes in the floor and then through a narrow slot at the end you emerge in a high gallery overlooking the Gentes tube.
Puerta Falsa to Verdes

GPS UTM/UPS WGS 84 Puerta Falsa 0650653 3227151

As a two way trip Length 800 m

Enter at Puerta Falsa and go down-flow. (to the right) hand side.

The passage starts as double level before rejoining back to a single level. After approximately 400 m the passage is fenced with warning signs, and signifying the start of the Las Verdes Show cave.

Cueva de los Verdes Showcave

GPS UTM/UPS WGS 84 Puerta Falsa 0650653 3227151

There are 2 showcaves on the island. Both are approximately 8-9 euros entrance fee. The main cave is Cueva de Los verdes and involves the huge cavernous pools and the levelled galleries. The Cueva del Agua showcave is more about art and design.
Cueva Los Lagos  Length 791m

GPS UTM/UPS WGS 84 Los Lagos 0651853 3226501

Descending the locked steel ladder - the cave immediately opens out into large canyon style passage, the height varies between 15 - 20 m high and 3 – 8 m wide. The passage undulates, with lots of clambering up and down boulders.

Eventually the passage drops steeply and the 1st swimmable lake develops on the left hand side of the passage (approximately 40 m long).

The dry route continues by climbing up the right hand wall and in through a boulder ruckle. before entering a perfectly circular tube that heads down towards another traverse on the right hand side of the passage over the far end of the 1st lake

Continue ahead and slip through a narrowing to reach the beginning of the 2nd (and more significant) lake.
For non swimmers at low tide there is a ledge that remains dry on the left hand side which can be followed to the far corner, allowing a glimpse of the next flooded chamber.

For the more adventurous swimmers or soft , inflatable boaters, there is the option to carry on along the entire length of the lake until you can go no further. Be on the look out for sharp underwater rocks that may snag and burst the unsuspecting vinyl boat!

The final chamber involves swimming through a low arch on the right hand side. It is unknown as to whether to this sumps at high tide so beware.

The back end of Cueva del Agua is “apparently” through a small drilled hole in the roof of the penultimate chamber.
Cueva Pico Partido

Pico Partido GPS UTM/UPS WGS 84 0624827 3209939

There is very little to this cave, however there are some interesting lava formation both above and below the ground and some colourful iridescent wall coatings in places. The flow that created the cave is easily identifiable from the road in the distance.

Sima Tinguatón

GPS UTM/UPS WGS 84 0625328 3211081 (Volcan Nuevo)

Sima de Tinguatón (Cueva del Diablo) is one of a group of 6 volcanic vent holes lying in the crater of Volcan Nuevo, just south of route 67 between Tinguatón and Montanas del Fuego.

It is the deepest of the six, approx 95 m in depth, and purely an SRT trip.

Cueva Tahiche

GPS UTM/UPS WGS 84 Tahiche 0642489 3209781

Take the Costa Tegusie to Tahiche road. At the top of the hill the road bends round to travel along side the base of a volcano. Park in a huge layby on the right hand side with a wide path with steps going up towards the volcano.

Cueva Tahiche is at the top of these steps on the right, surrounded by an obvious circle of boulders. It goes both up-flow and down-flow, both worth a visit. To reach the furthest parts involves crawling and pads and gloves should be worn. Watch out for broken glass.
Cueva Nazaret

GPS UTM/UPS WGS 84 Nazaret 0638639 3212081

This cave starts big and ends low and wide. It's not a very long trip, the entire length is about 100 – 150 m maximum. There was possibly a 2nd exit to make the trip a through trip but it has been blocked by boulders. Daylight can be seen through the gaps.

Sima de Pedro Perico

GPS UTM/UPS WGS 84 Pedro Perico 0616225 3206998

In the hills to the right hand side just prior to dropping down into the village of El Golfo on the west coast of Lanzarote

An SRT trip into a volcanic chamber. In-situ bolts allow a rebelayed 20 m pitch to be rigged, leading into a sizeable chamber with a route leading off which soon closes at a small choke.

Cueva del Rubicon

GPS UTM/UPS WGS 84 Rubicon 0611332 3195539

Near the Rubicon plains by Playa Blanca, Cueva del Rubicon was part of an abseil through trip that has now been sealed off. You can still go into the bottom of the cave and look up the pitch. There are plenty of assorted animal bones to see. It is only a very short cave and is significantly aided with the use of a 5 m hand line to get into the depression at an awkward overhang.
Las Cuevas

GPS UTM/UPS WGS 84 sima 0648964 3227180

other 0649035 3227156 / 0649109 3227161 /0648935 3227232

4 entrances in all, in a linear row, dissected by various blockages or collapses. Each of the 4 entrances has a distinct characteristic. One has a 3m entrance pitch, one is used as a store, one is even used as a home! Treat with respect. Juan is the live in, house proud tenant.

Cueva de lago ne

GPS UTM/UPS WGS 84 Punta Prieta 0653399 3229403

In malpais close to the show caves, near Punta Prieta, taking the coastal road from Arrieta to Orzola.

A small sharp challenging collectors piece that continues to entice the explorer with widening passageways always just ahead and round the next bend. Terminates in a tidal controlled sump to small for continuation. Very sharp, pads and gloves necessary.

Party Cave

GPS UTM/UPS WGS 84 Party cave 0629135 3210721

Only 10 m long, accessible from the village of Tingaton, crossing many lava fields following old dirt tracks.
Picon Cueva de Bosquecillo de Famara

A Picon mine atop the stunning cliffs of Famara. Close to the radar station on the highest point on the island. Park at the end of the track. Walk to the cliffs top then turn left and go up the hill about 50 – 100 m. The mine steps can be seen on the right hand side. Beware the drop, it’s about 670 m to the bottom.

Las Breñas

Las Breñas GPS Coordinates UTM/UPS WGS84 0616113 3200535

Cueva las Breñas is situated on the outskirts of the village of Las Breñas on the west of the Island.
It consists of 950 m of small, stooping, flat out, thrutching lava tube.
Knee and elbow pads, helmets, gloves and plenty of water are recommended.

Follow the string to guide you through this network of less than generous sized passages.
Its finest features are its variety of passage morphology as seen from the pictures. In the further reaches it feels as though it may be slightly geothermal!