

Cavers Guide to Lava Tubes of Lanzarote

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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 950m of small, stooping, flat out, thrutching lava tube. Knee and elbow pads, helmets 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.

Covón/Chifletera

GPS UTM/UPS WGS 84 Covón 0613960 3208133 Chifletera 0614207 3208037

Cueva Covón is Located on the west side of the island ,30 minutes walk along the coast path from the old fishing vil- lage of El Golfo.

It is accessed from the sea cliffs and lies 300m within the national park boundary.

Covón can be done as a through trip to Chifletera which lies approx 350m 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, its not considered worth doing as a trip in its own right, hence the more popular Covón is generally done as a 2 way journey.

Description

Leaving the sun-lit main entrance chamber, into some sizeable walking passage, you soon meet a large scale boulder choke. Stick to the left. Continue to follow the obvious way on.

Eventually the passage drops to a low flat out sandy crawl.

Either continue along the crawl, (approx 30m) keeping an eye out above you until you can stand and find yourself in a trench in a chamber, or just before the sandy crawl, to your left , is a man made boulder pile allowing you access through a high level window into same passage above. Both routes eventually join. It is worth the journey up these “awkward to negotiate passages” as the features in the chambers above are quite stunning. The way through to Chiflet- era is back into the trench, at the end of the crawl, following the draft into the 2ft long restriction. A further 20m of low crawly passage after this obstacle eventually brings you out into the more roomier passages of Chifletera and 40m from daylight. Alternatively, if you wish to avoid the squeeze and flat out crawls, the way out is back the way you came.

Paso/Esqueleto GPS UTM/UPS WGS 84 Esqueleto 0614258 3207919 (Via Cueva del Paso)

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 Esqueleto.

It lies approx 100m inside the national park boundary and is accessed from a non descript, impossible to locate, de- pression, about 300m inland from the cliffs. GPS is thoroughly recommended. It is the left hand hole of 3 three possi- ble entrances.

Description

The low stooping entrance, quickly opens out to steeply descending passage that spiral down with a few tricky climbs, before the final 10ft drop into the top of some fine smooth walled lava flow passage.

Follow the obvious way on. Little help is needed with this cave as a very noticeable draft accompanies you through the cave.

.Eventually, after negotiating some low stoops and small boulder crawl, you will pop out into a stunning daylight pas- sage that exits about 10m up a cliff face with views of the sea.

Confident climbers could free climb out to the coast, alternatively 3 rusting bolts could give you the option to pull through abseil down the cliff.

The easiest option as ever is to just reverse your steps back out the cave.

Cueva Los Naturalista (Las Palomas) GPS UTM/UPS WGS 84 0630861 3210177 (Entrance)
0630552 3209974 (exit)

Las Palomas is situated between the villages of Masdache and La Vagueta, It is approx 1640m long with 2 entrances. Many interesting lava formations exist in this cave, including helictites. It is also a through trip.

As you enter the cave, go downslope and to the right (or far side) At ground level, you are immediately greeted with a left or right option. Turn left into a perfectly formed circular tube, and easy walking passage. The cave opens up ahead, with a daylight window on your left.

Almost immediately after you come across the first interesting lava tube formation. A pillar remains in the middle of the passage giving the effect of two huge cats eyes seen in the photo here. Keep an eye out for the stunning helictites 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 large roundabout with many ways off. There is only one genuine continuation. Continue ahead, you will see the daylight from the exit, however shortly before this behind the boulder collapse, there is an easy to miss right hand branch taking you to some more spectacular easy walking passage.

Continue as far as you are comfortable along this passage and look out for many of the lava drips, helictites 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.

When you've had enough the way out is back to the daylight exit you passed earlier.

An easy clamber out of the jameos, and a quick look around to get your bearings, walk back across the lava field to the road, and your car.

Prendes To Gentes GPS UTM/UPS WGS 84 Jameos Prendes 0649259 3228427

As a through trip Length 1170m

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

Then enter at the Gentes entrance and continue up flow until at the top of a 30ft scramble you reach the 7m pitch rigged for pull-through. Take a 20m rope.

Pull through the rope, and after about 50m of further caving you will reach the bottom of the ladder in the Prendes entrance.

As a two way trip No tackle required.

Start at the Gentes entrance and head up flow (left). Descend down the fixed wooden ladder with missing rungs. Continue up flow until you reach the top of the pull through pitch. Turn around and head back the way you came.

Gentes to Puerta Falsa GPS UTM/UPS WGS 84 Jameo de la Gente 0649671 3227528

As a through trip Length 1165m

Enter the jameo de la Gentes and head down flow. (to the right) Follow the 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.

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

The walk back to collect your car is just over 1 mile 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 make up the Jameos Cumplidos.

Puerta Falsa to Verdes GPS UTM/UPS WGS 84 Puerta Falsa 0650653 3227151

As a two way trip Length 800m

Enter at Puerta Falsa and go downflow. (to the right)

The passage starts as double level before rejoining back to a single level.

After approx 400m the passage is fenced signifying the start of the Las Verdes Show cave.

Cueva Los Lagos GPS UTM/UPS WGS 84 Los Lagos 0651853 3226501

Length 791m

Entrance Climb - Either free climb around the far side and climb down (v.diff) or rig the 6m pitch using a variety of naturals and bolt belays. The cave immediately opens out into large canyon style passage, the height varies between 15-20m high and 3-8m wide. The passage undulates, with lots of clambering up and down boulder piles.

Eventually The passage drops steeply and the 1st swimmable lake develops on the left hand side of the passage. (Approx 40m 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 back end of Cueva del agua is “apparently” through a small drilled hole in the roof of the final chamber.

Cueva de los Verdes (Island Showcave)

Jameo del Agua (Island Showcave)

Cueva Canal de Pico Partido Pico Partido GPS UTM/UPS WGS 84 0624827 3209939

Neighbours to Sima de Tinguatón, look for the arrow near the base of small crater that Sima de Tinguatón lies in. Follow the markers and cairns, that guide you across Aa Aa lava fields to the scar seen in the picture.

There is very little to this cave, however there are some interesting lava formation both above and below the ground. The walk across the lava fields is quite interesting in itself, starting from an arrow placed near the base of the Tinguaton crater. GPS UTM/UPS WGS 84 0625263 3210936

Sima de Tinguatón (del Diablo) 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.

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

Maps



