
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 Covón / Chifletera

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

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 Esqueleto / Paso

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 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.