

North Peru 2024

Shaft of Tragadero del Ojo
Derecho de Lorenzo
known as « Big One »
(Pico del Oro, Amazonas).



International Speleological Expedition in the North of Peru (Amazonas and San Martín Regions)

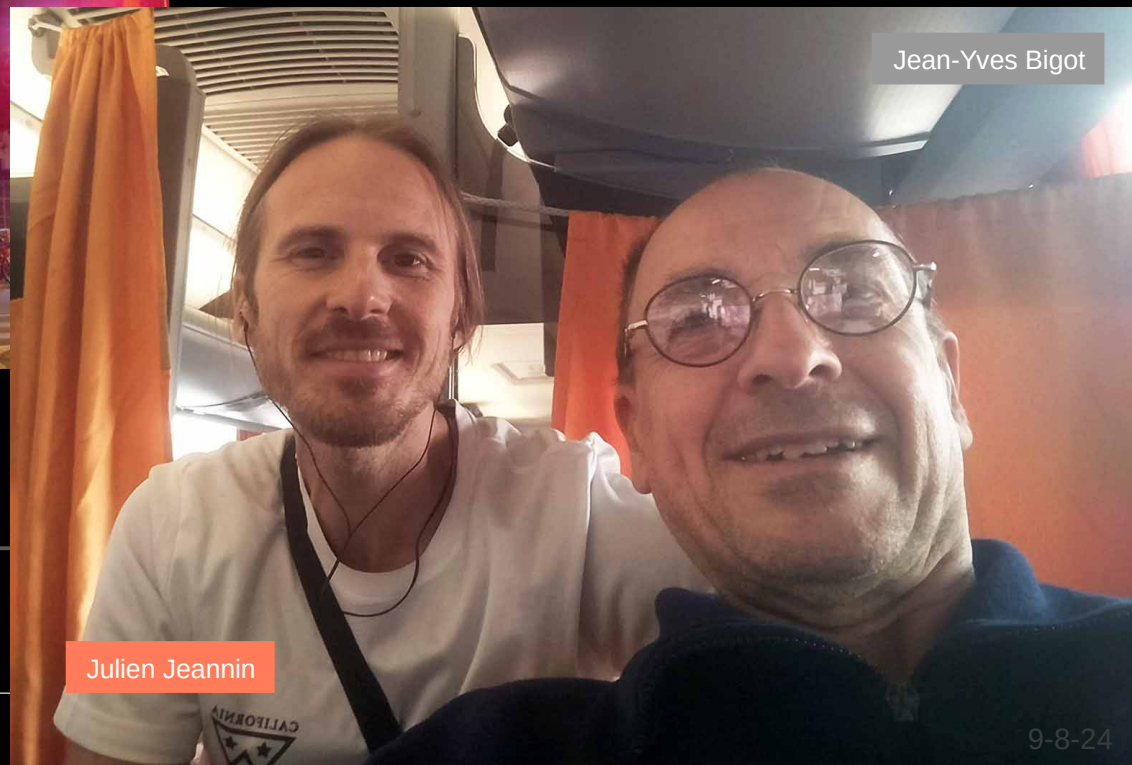
Organization: ECA Espeleo Club Andino de Lima (Peru),
GSBM Groupe Spéléologique de Bagnols-Marcoule (France),
and other cavers from Great-Britain and Irlande.

From August 8 to October 12, 2024

2 – See You in Lima



Arriving in the evening at Lima airport (Paris-Bogota-Lima), I take a taxi to the Miraflores district.



Jean-Yves Bigot

Julien Jeannin

The next day, I found Julien who, at the last minute, managed to get on the Movilbus bus that went to Chachapoyas.

A problem in Madrid had delayed his flight.

3 – Bus Trip



10-8-24

From the bus we see the Limón dam on the Rio Huancabamba (Piura & Cajamarca). It is almost empty and reflects the intensity of the drought that is raging in South America.

4 – Chacha in Celebration



10-8-24

Arriving in Chachapoyas in celebration, we settle into a hotel that is still free to then enjoy an Andean music concert. Some groups of musicians are from the Amazonas region, notably that of "Kutirimpuy" who uses traditional instruments such as the flute or the charango (small guitar).

5 – The Material

A full day is needed to collect our things in Luya and do the last shopping in Chachapoyas.

We find our colleagues from group 1 installed at the Casona del Rosario where we concentrate all the material to leave for Granada.



6 – The Target

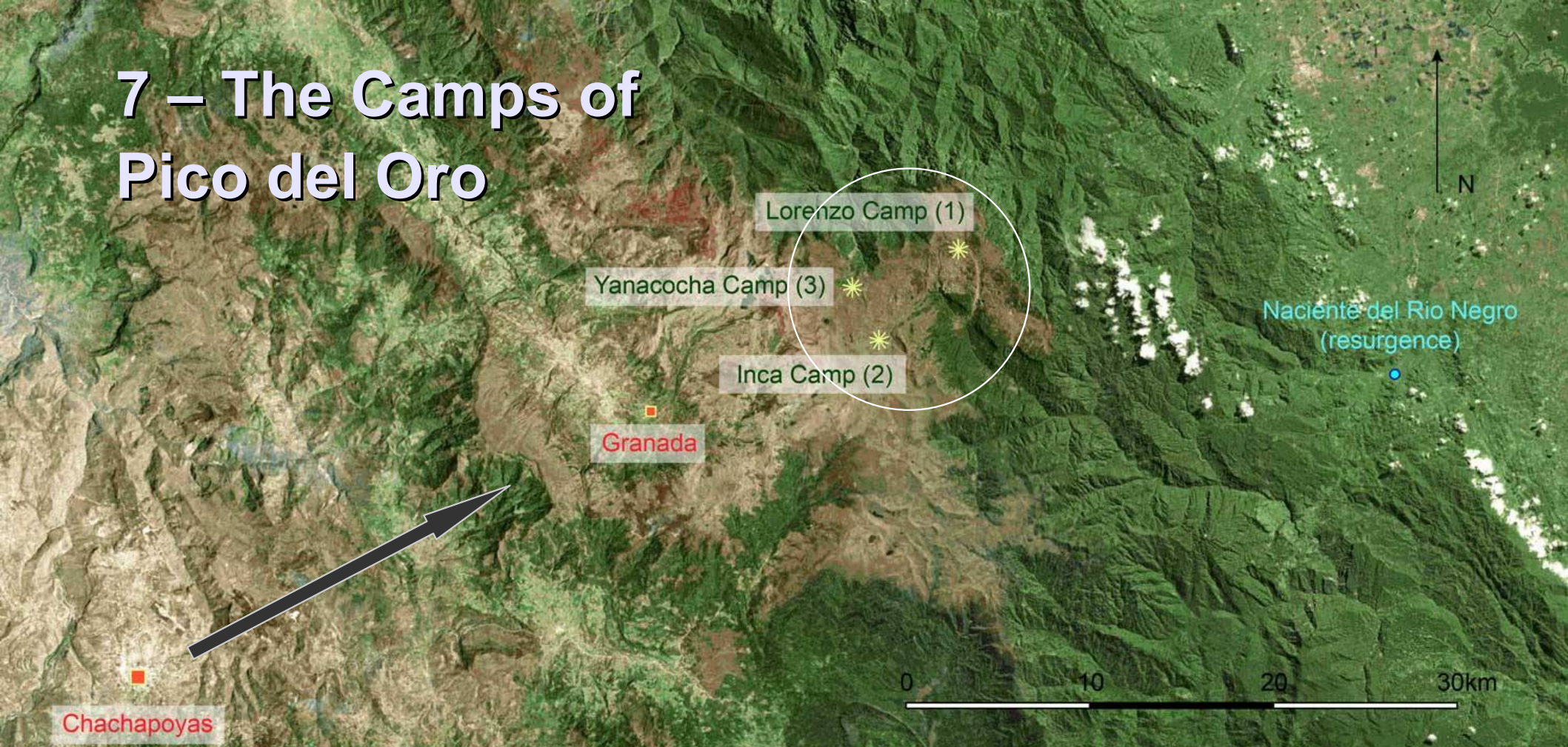
The goal is to explore the karsts of the Amazonian slope of the Andes.

The one of Pico del Oro dominates by more than 2000 m a powerful emergence located in the valley of Rio Mayo.

We have an appointment in Chachapoyas with other participants of group 1.



7 – The Camps of Pico del Oro



The Pico del Oro karst is quite far from the communication routes. Successive camps (1, 2 and 3) will be set up in order to explore the caves of the plateau.

8 – The Group 1

In Chachapoyas, the team is living its last days of comfort.



Steve McCullagh

Axel Hack

Antonio de Pomar

Martin Holroyd

Andreas Klocker

Jean-Yves Bigot

Julien Jeannin

Stephen Read dit Jock

Once at the high camp the diet will change...

9 – On the Way to Granada

The van is overloaded and we have to help it a little to reach the village of Granada.



10 – A Long Way

Long days of walking await us.



Having left the village of Granada in the morning, it takes a day to reach the Yanacocha hut (called *Calamina* because of its tin roof).


From this hut, it takes another day of walking to finally reach the Lorenzo high camp.

11 – The High Altitude Camp



In the foreground, we can make out some soutirages (sinkholes), and in the background, we can see the Pico del Oro. Our camp is set up in the hollow of a large polje.

12 – The High Altitude Camp



Sunrise over Lorenzo's Camp (or "Scottish Loch Camp" - Camp 1). At this early hour, it is still very cold at 3300 m altitude.

13 – The High Altitude Camp



Everything is ready at Lorenzo's camp, set up in a contact polje on the edge of the impermeable terrain of Pico del Oro and the karst. The advantage of the site lies mainly in the flat terrain and the presence of water (ponds).

14 – The "Two Eyes of Lorenzo"

Near the camp there are two caves very close to each other.

These two caves were indicated by Lorenzo, a resident of Granada.

In 2023, the first explorers called them the "Eyes of Lorenzo" (Tragaderos de los Ojos Derecho e Izquierdo de Lorenzo).



15 – The Tragadero Called « Small One »

The deep karst of Pico del Oro is mainly accessible by losses, a route which remains quite dangerous in case of rain.



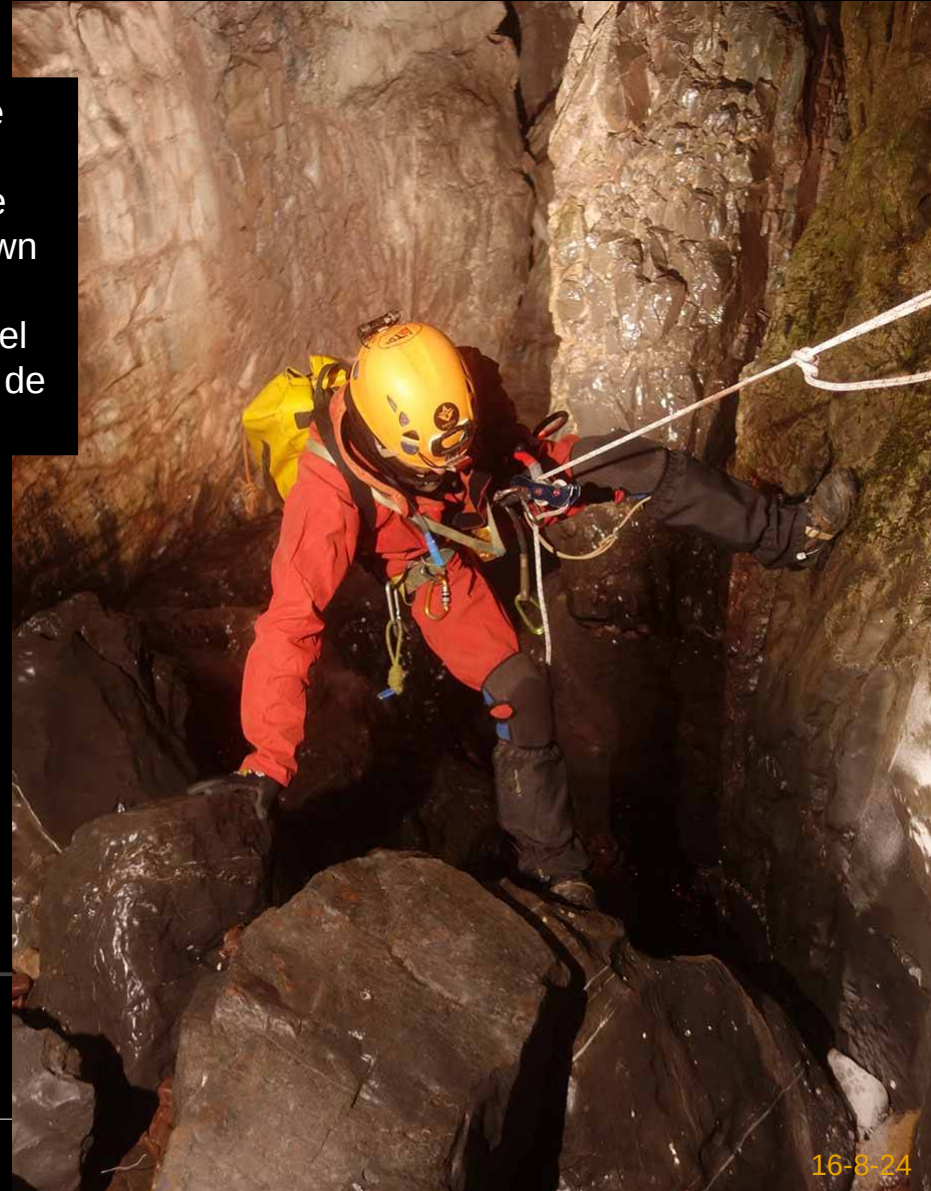
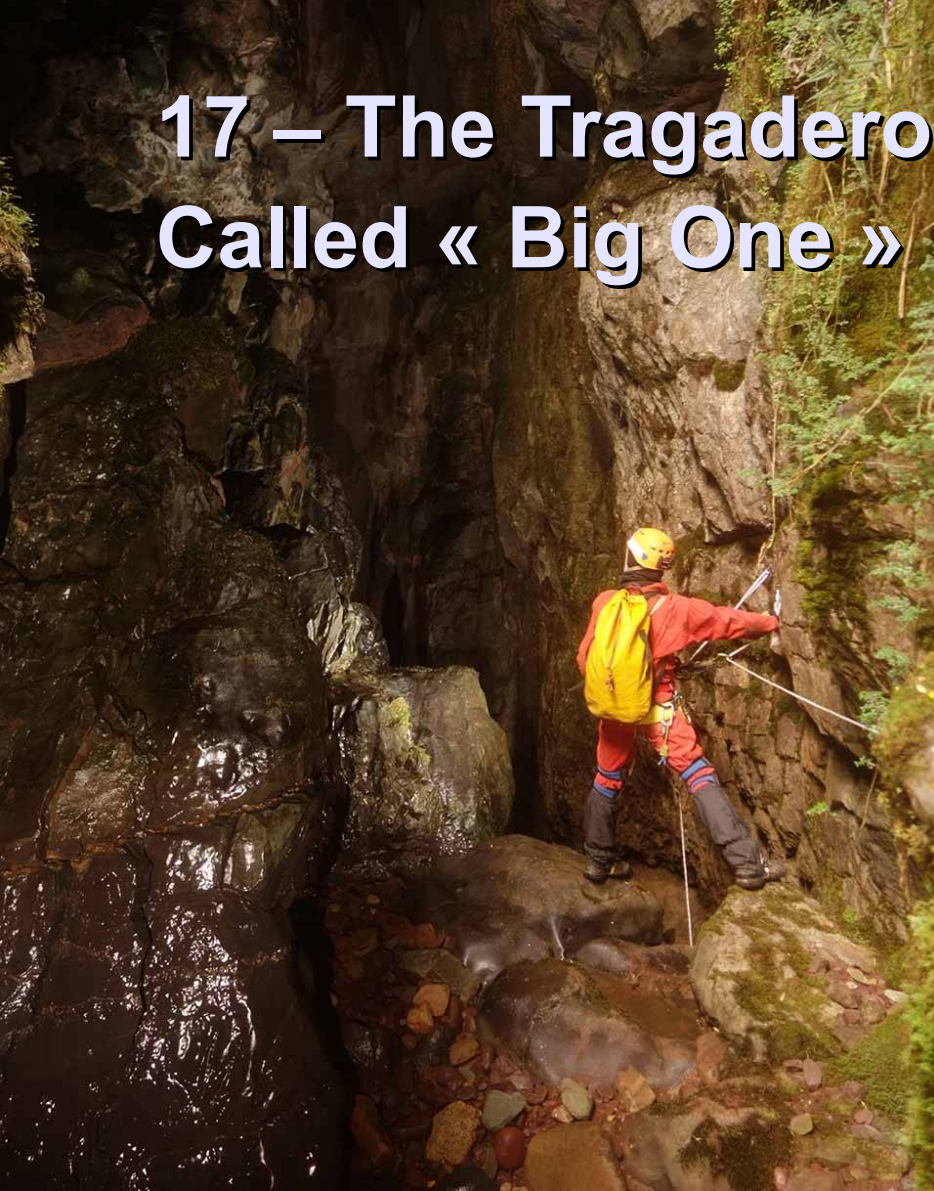
16 – The Tragadero Called « Big One »



With its grand entrance, the Tragadero known as the “Big One” seems the most promising.

17 – The Tragadero Called « Big One »

The entrance shafts of the Tragadero de Lorenzo known as “Big One” (Tragadero del Ojo Derecho de Lorenzo).



18 – The Tragadero Called « Big One »



Martin and Jock continued exploring Lorenzo's Tragadero, known as the "Big One", until reaching a large room called the "Majasive Chamber" (-235 m).

19 – The « Majasive Chamber »

The objective of our team (Julien and I) is to photograph the large room called "Majasive Chamber". Meanwhile, Steve and Jock follow us while doing the survey.

20 – The Tragadero Called « Big One »

The entrance shafts of the "Big One" are nice and clean, maybe a little too clean...



21 – « Majasive Chamber »

The "Majasive Chamber" is watered by water from wells coming from the surface.

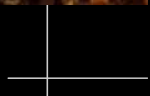


22 – The Fillings

The "Majasive Chamber" is occupied by a large pebble filling.



At the foot of the filling cut, we find plant debris brought by the floods.



23 – The Flood

The rest of the "Majasive Chamber" is a chaos of blocks that is quite dangerous in case of flooding. We are not on a mission to go there.

24 – The Flood

Once the operation is completed, we do not wait for our topographic colleagues.



25 – The Flood



We did well not to wait for our colleagues, because we emerge from the cave at the moment when a terrifying clap of thunder resounds, followed by intense rain.

We return to the camp, under a cold, pouring rain, to finally take shelter under the kitchen tent.

26– The Flood



An hour after the rain and hail began, Andreas heard water flowing at the bottom of the valley which feeds the Tragadero called "Small One" (in the background on the left), inside which Martin and Axel were still...

27 – The Flood

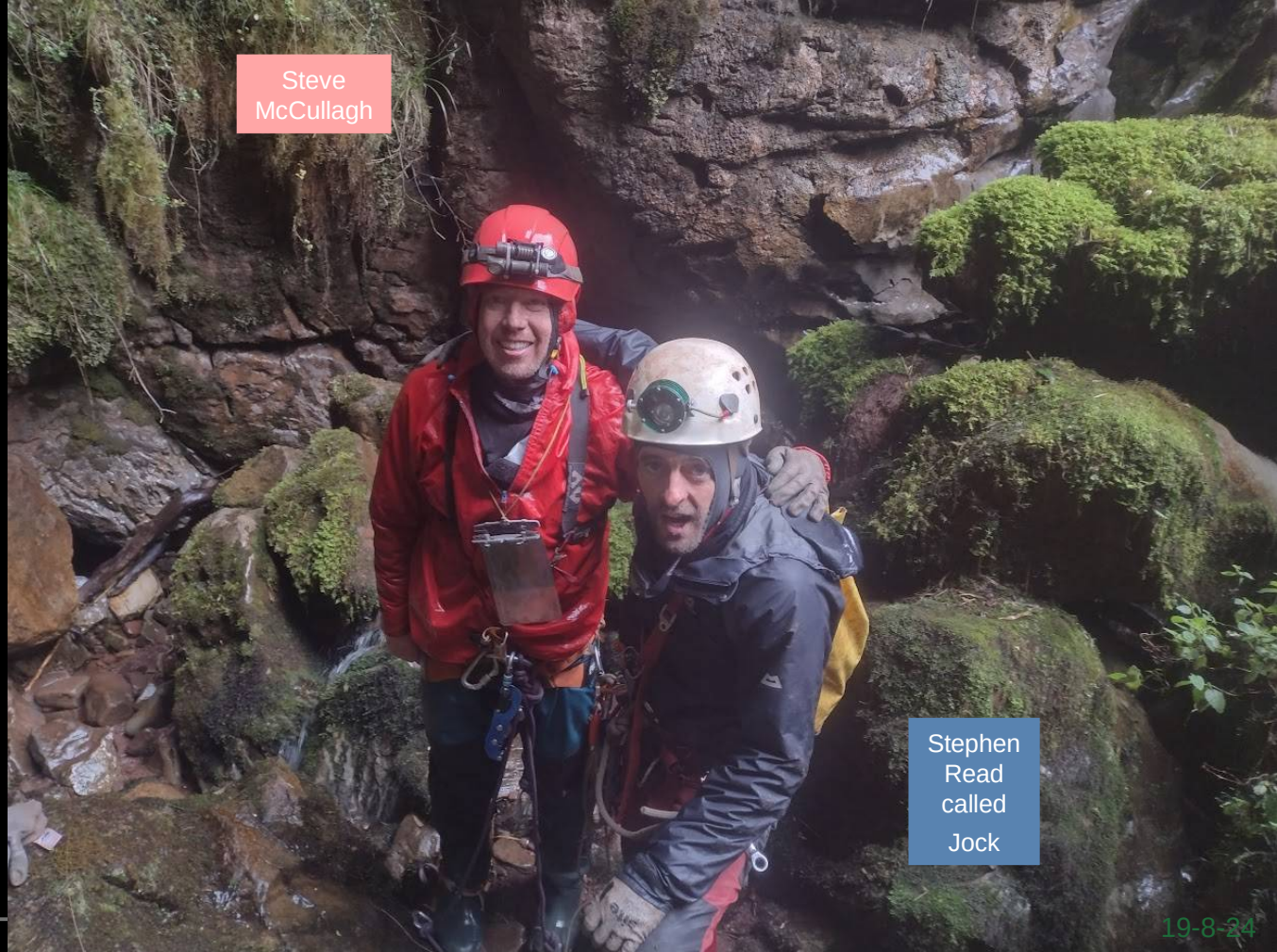
Martin and Axel will go out in the night, after having waited a long time in an uncomfortable meander around -100 m.

Steve and Jock were lucky, as they were still in the "Majasive Chamber" when the flood caught them.

This chamber then turned into a whirlpool of water.

On the second attempt, they were able to get out the next morning.

Steve
McCullagh



Stephen
Read
called
Jock

28 – The Flood

Axel
Hack

Steve
McCullagh

Andreas
Klocker

Hard hit, the team
recovers and will
change strategy.

This unpredictable
storm is a lesson in
caving.

We narrowly avoided
disaster.



29 – Tragadero Called « Big One »



The bottom of the Tragadero de Lorenzo called "Big One" (Ojo Derecho) reaches the level -265 m, and the

Tragadero El Ojo Derecho De Lorenzo

6.0232° South, 77.4774° West; Elevation 3,256m

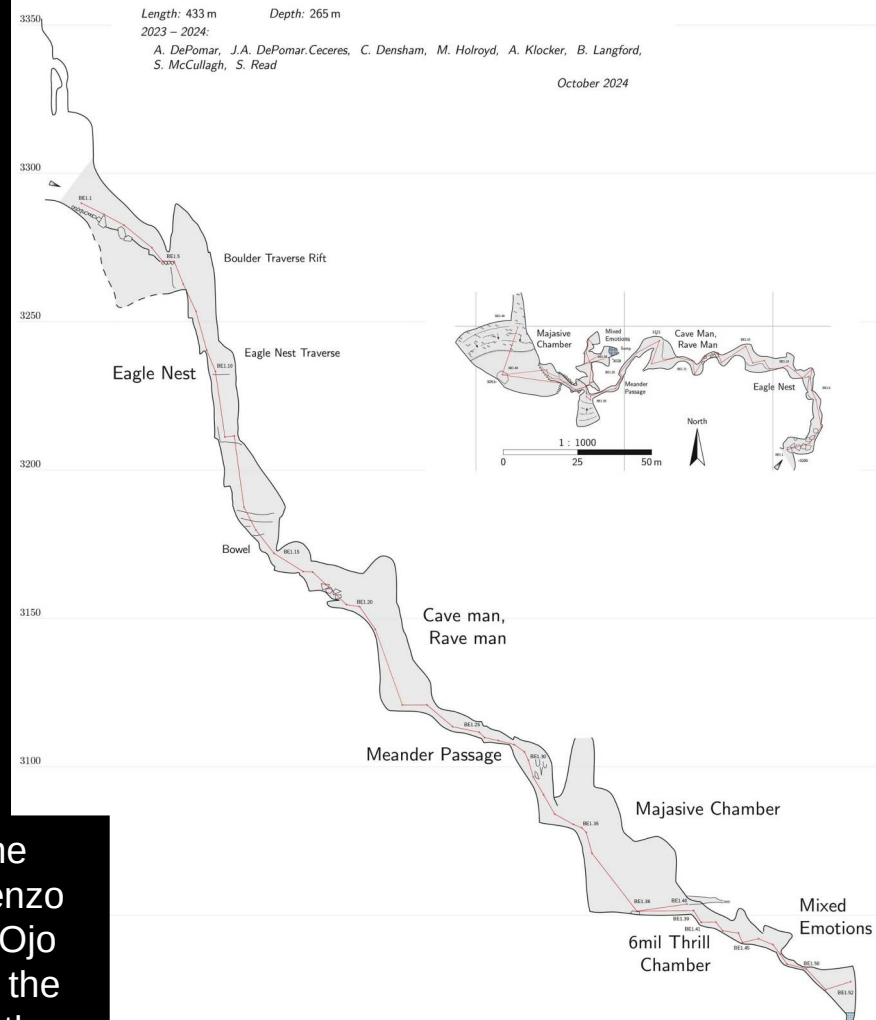


Length: 433 m Depth: 265 m

2023 – 2024:

A. DePomar, J.A. DePomar.Ceceres, C. Densham, M. Holroyd, A. Klocker, B. Langford, S. McCullagh, S. Read

October 2024



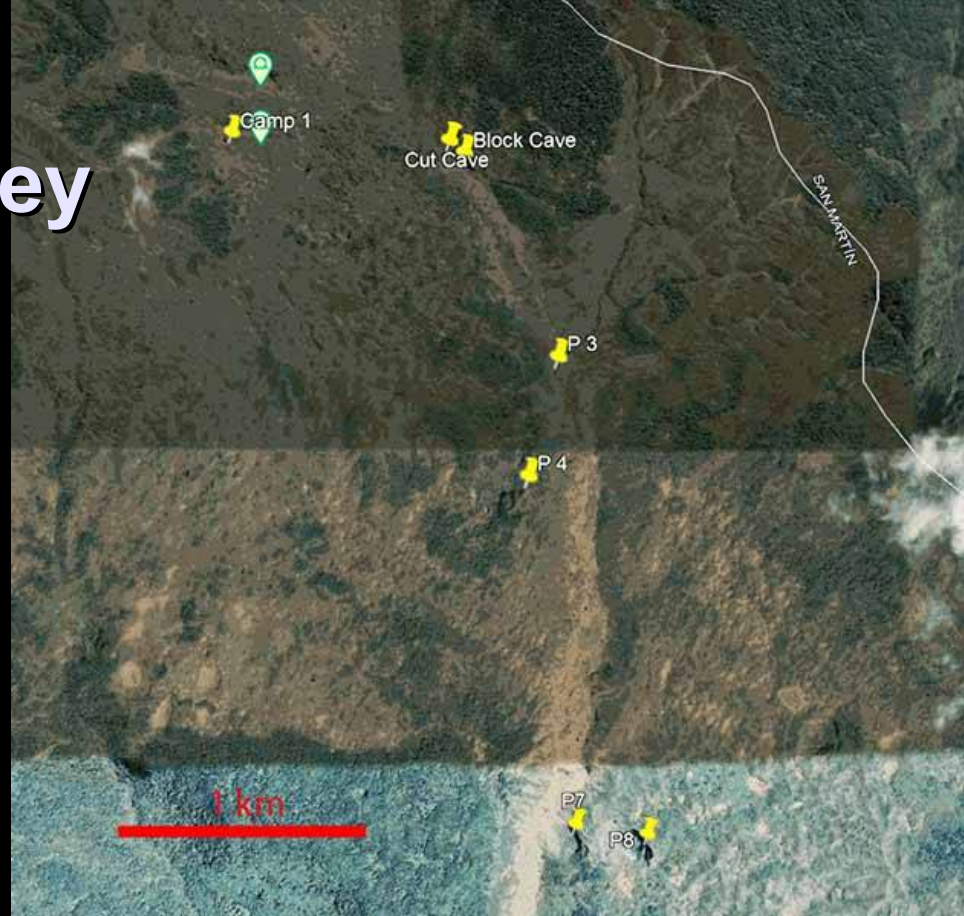
30 – The Pico del Oro Karst



20-8-24

The Pico del Oro karst sometimes has lapies that are impossible to cross.
You might as well take advantage of the open spaces to discover it.

31 – The Suspended Valley



From Lorenzo's high camp, we are not far from the "suspended valley", a large corridor oriented N-S where numerous megadolines (P 4, P 7 & P 8) have been spotted on satellite images.

32 – The Suspended Valley



P 7 & P 8



P 4

Megadolines are the result of subsidence or collapses, which betray the existence of large underground voids.

It would have been a shame not to recognize them and why not explore them...

33 – The Suspended Valley



23-8-24

I decide to explore the suspended valley and its megadolines on my own.
This way, I can see how long it will take to reach them.

34 – On the Bear Trail

21-8-24

Oddly enough, the valley is easy to navigate.

I quickly learn to follow the paths of the spectacled bears who regularly use them.



The passage of bears is attested by uprooted bromeliads and broken branches, sometimes by accumulations of droppings left near their nest.



17-8-24

35 – The Suspended Valley



23-8-24

The suspended valley contains a few caves fed by ponds or wetlands, but I don't have time to recognize them all, many of them are blocked.

36 – The Suspended Valley



A megadoline, named P 4,
opens at the edge of the suspended valley.
It is not easy to reach, because you have to go up a whole
wooded slope (jungle) from the bottom of the valley.

After discovering chachapoyas huts,
I open a path with a machete.
It is long and arduous, and it lasts more than one to two hours.

37 – The Suspended Valley



21-8-24

It was worth it, because the megadoline (P 4) is there and has steep sides several dozen meters high.

There is even a forest that covers the bottom.

38 – The Suspended Valley

From the Megadoline pass (P 4), we overlook the suspended valley where there is a Chachapoya village.

21-8-24

Concentration
of circular huts
at the bottom
of the
suspended
valley



100 m

39 – The Suspended Valley

The valley has many ruins of pre-Hispanic circular houses.



23-8-24

There are also large blocks of sandstone brought by glaciers.

40 – The Megadoline P 7

The megadoline (P 7), the furthest from the camp, is recognized.

Jock manages to descend to the bottom of the sinkhole, but it is blocked.



41 – The Dry Valley



Yesterday, Martin, Andreas and Tonio recognized some caves on the edge of a dry valley; a deep well was sounded...

42 – Orchid Shaft

The shaft opens up clearly
above the bottom of the dry valley.
It hasn't worked for quite a while...



The goal of
the day is
the
exploration
of this deep
shaft.

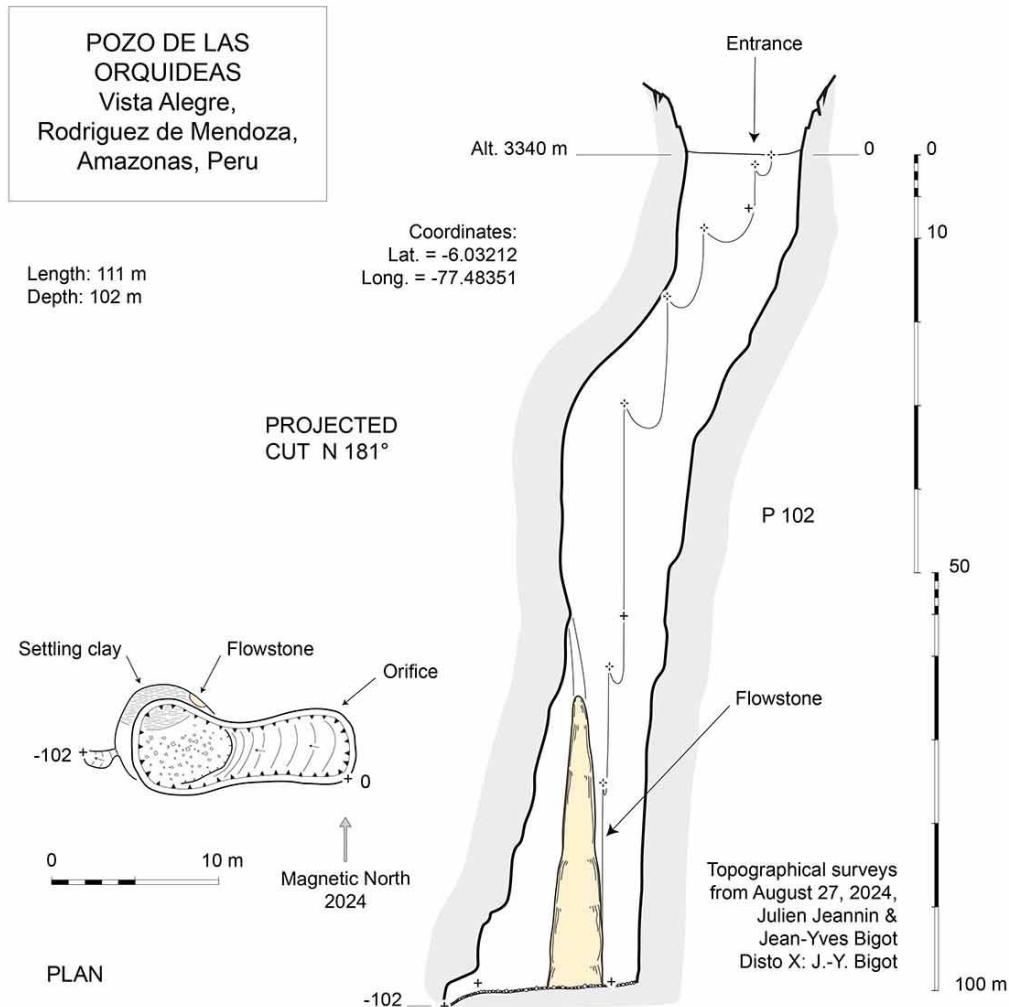


43 – Orchid Shaft



Julien comes out of the blocked shaft at elevation -102.

Conclusion: Holes not fed by watercourses tend to get blocked naturally.



44 – Change of Groups

On the way
to Inca Camp



Dario holding the
skull of a white-
tailed deer in his
hand



29-8-24

As agreed, Dario and his men came to pick up our luggage at Lorenzo's camp ("Scottish Loch Camp").

The participants of group 1 are leaving for Europe, while group 2 is settling in at "Inca Camp" for 15 days.

45 – Inca Camp of Group 2



The Inca Camp is nestled between two mountains, near a stream that disappears into a cave called "Sink 2". The water of the stream is easily accessible, as it is located only 2 minutes from the camp.

46 – The Group 2

Aileen
Brown

Tony
Seddon

Jules
Carter

Rene
Haemers

Hannah
Moulton

Gareth
Davies

Chris
Jones

Fleur
Loveridge

Brian
McCoitir

Petie Berry

Roison
Lindsay

Jean-Yves
Bigot

Antonio de
Pomar

Peter
Talling

Paul
McCarron

The Group 2 gathered at "Inca Camp".

47 – Inca Camp



The installation at Inca Camp is complete and we can start exploring the surrounding caves.

The name "Inca Camp" is due to the many walls and terraces that surround it.

Aileen and Rene ("Hélène et René" in French) guide us (Tonio and me) into a newly discovered hole: "the cave on the col".



48 – Cave on the Col



The cave on the col (Tragadero del Paso) is quite narrow and you have to use a hammer to get through.

49 – At the Bottom of the Sinkholes



Tonio and I decide to explore the hills where vast sinkholes open up.

50 – At the Bottom of the Sinkholes



But they are all blocked...
None provide access to a gallery.

51 – At the Bottom of the Sinkholes



1-9-24

During this day of prospecting, we understand one thing:
the large depressions are not the most interesting.
In the distance, there is an alignment of sinkholes fed by streams
at the limit of the moraines and the limestone: that is where we must go.

52 – Tragadero de la Soledad

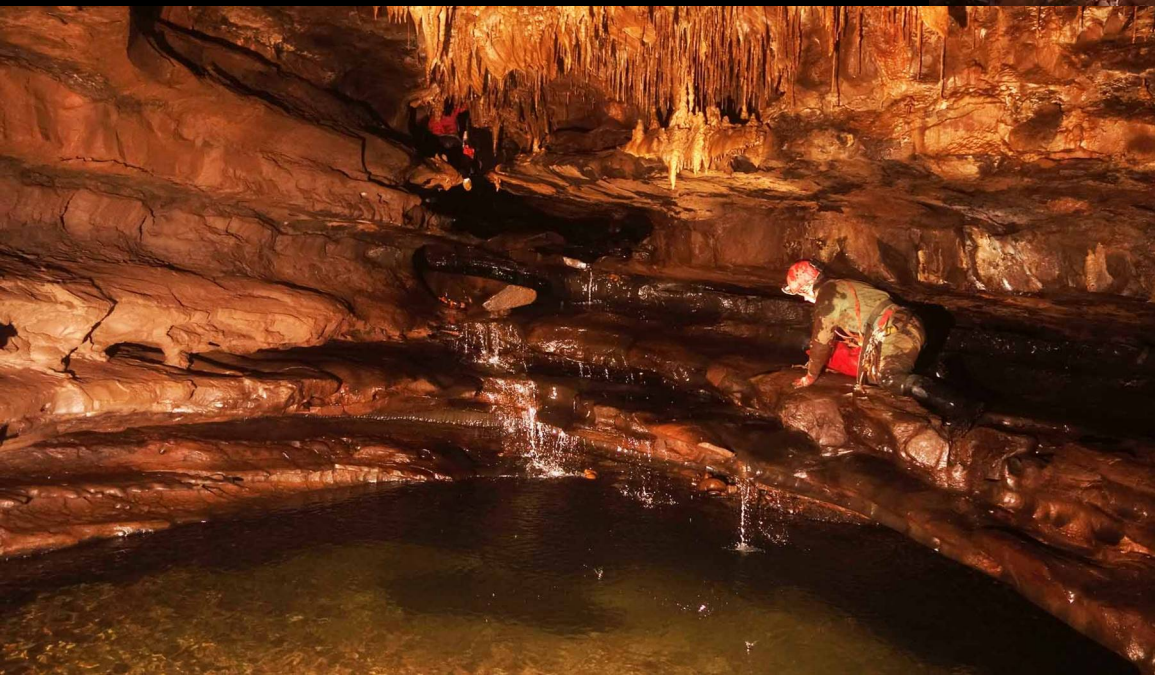
A photo outing is organized.
Guided by Fleur, Tonio and I can
explore the underground stream of
Tragadero de la Soledad.

A human bone is a reminder that
the surface was once frequented by
pre-Hispanic communities.



53 – Tragadero de la Soledad

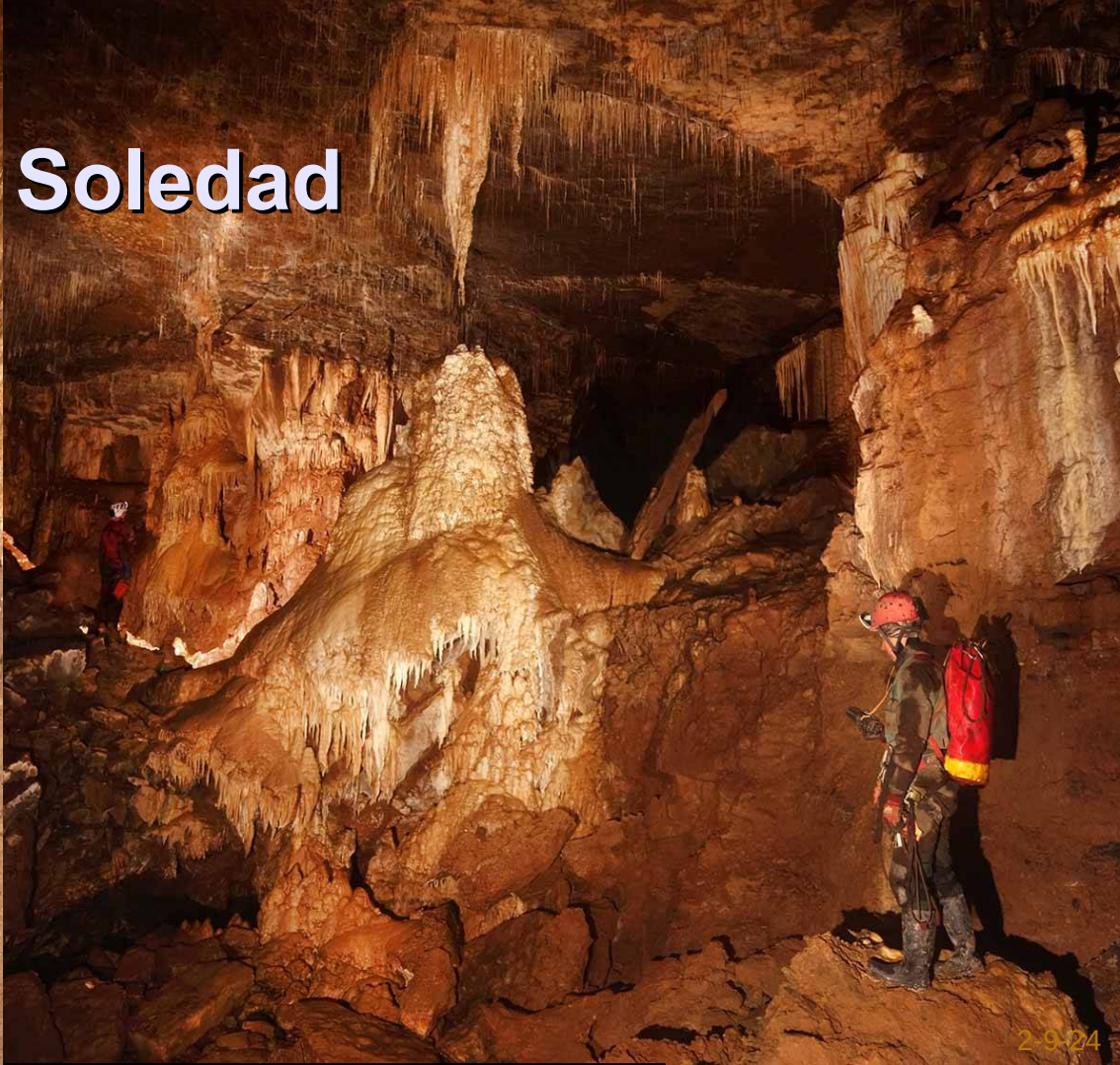
The galleries are magnificent, and it is a pleasure to visit this beautiful cave.



The underground stream of Tragadero de la Soledad was explored last year for 2 km, and it continues.

2-9-24

54 – Tragadero de la Soledad



We take pictures all the way to a large room called Lamb and Fox.

2-9-24

55 – Prospecting



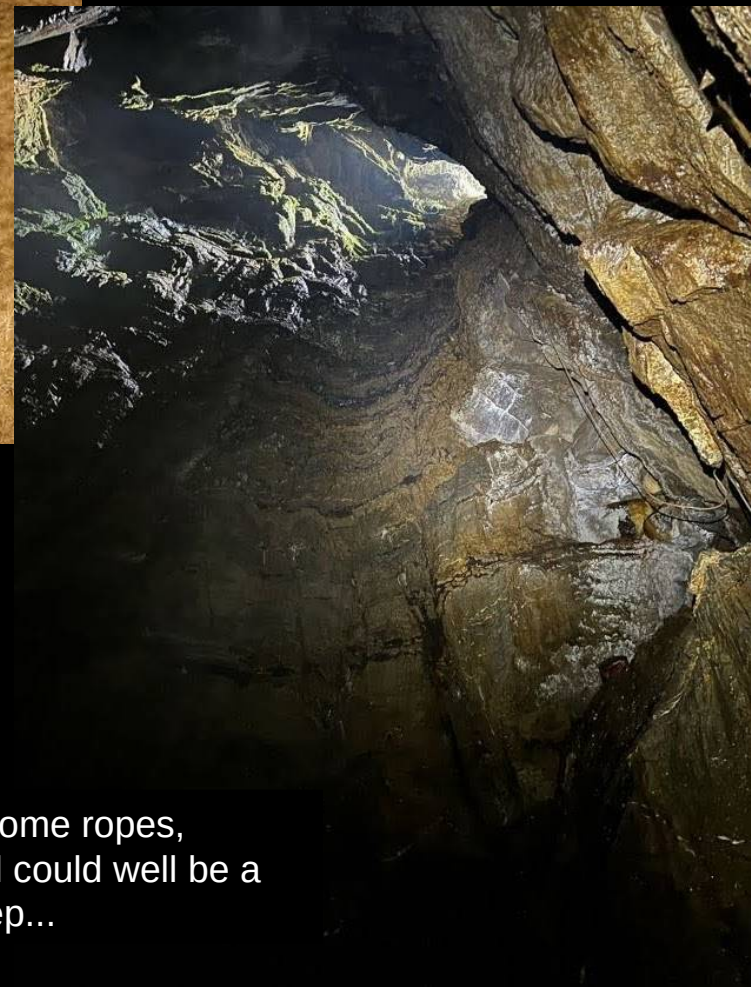
Peter, Tonio, Brian, Gareth and I go prospecting in an area with many shafts and caves. Most have descended, but they are all filled a few dozen meters below.

Hidden by tall grass, these vertical shafts are also animal traps; moreover a bear skeleton is discovered at the bottom of one of them.

Peter goes alone to prospect an area near the moraine-limestone limit and finds many promising caves there.

56 – Tragadero de las Golondrinitas

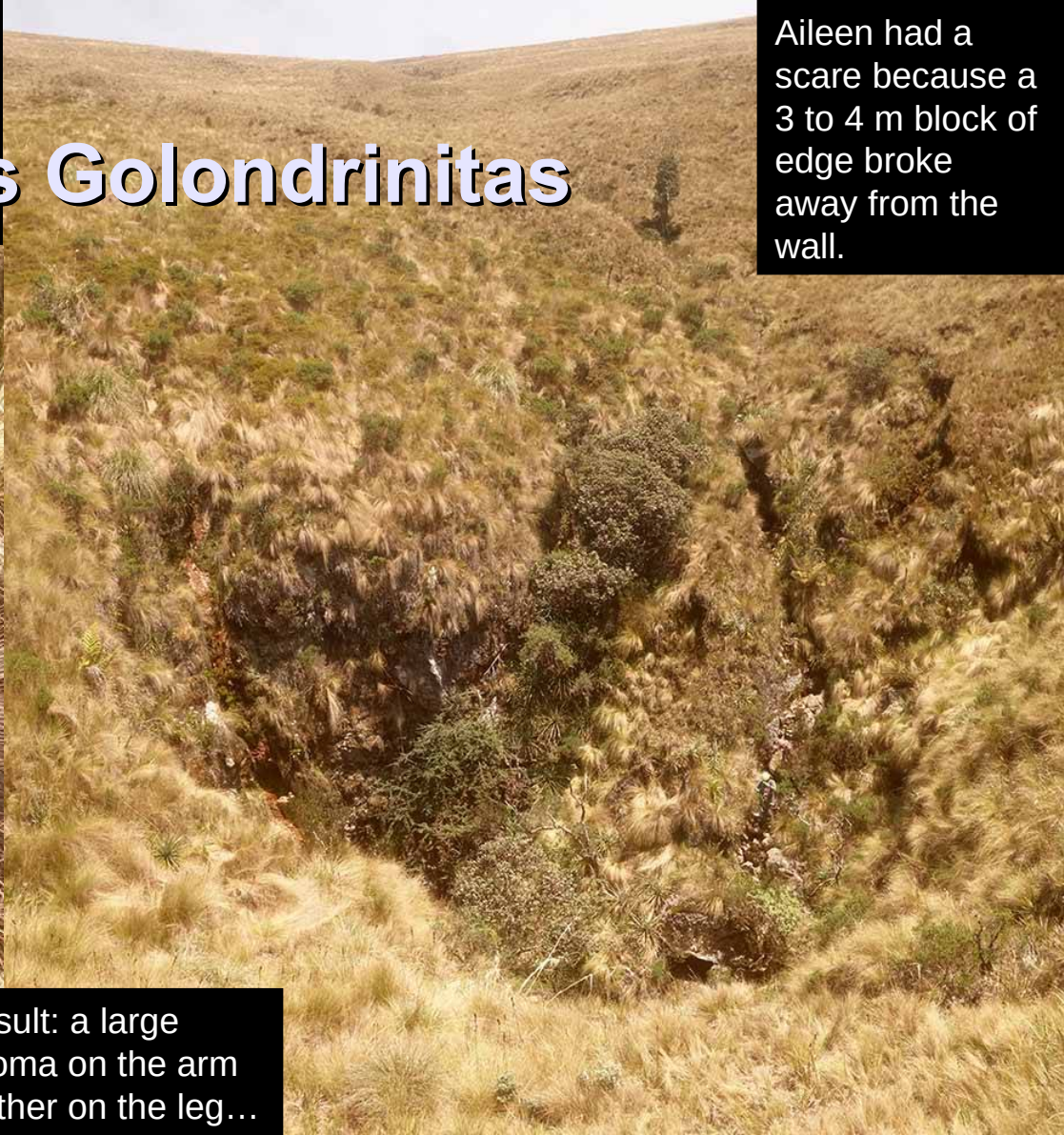
Peter discovered the Tragadero de las Golondrinitas (= Wagtail, little swallows) in which a stream is lost.



Aileen leaves with some ropes, because the vertical could well be a hundred meters deep...

57 – Tragadero de las Golondrinitas

Aileen had a scare because a 3 to 4 m block of edge broke away from the wall.



Result: a large hematoma on the arm and another on the leg...

58 – Sink 2



We have to derig the cave, called Sink 2, which is very close to the camp.

_____ Rene, Tonio and I are there. _____



59 – Sink 2



7-9-24

The cave is a loss of stream that only flows in flood.
The fillings, made up of large rolled pebbles,
give an idea of the flow rates that transported them.

60 – Sink 2



7-9-24

The cave hardly shows any concretions, but reveals completely smooth walls.

61 – Sink 2



7-9-24

The cave shows interesting corrosion patterns and numerous fillings.

62 – The Group 3

This is the end of the stay of group 2 which had 15 people. Group 3 is smaller and is only made up of 4 people.

Our camp is set up near the Yanacocha cabin (Calamina).



63 – Pozo del Arco



Pozo del Arco



Stone arch

We explore the areas located near our camp and close to the limit of the moraines and limestone.

Raphaël discovers the Pozo del Arco, a vast 10 m shaft topped with a monumental stone arch.

64 – The Bear's Den



A spectacled bear has built its den between trees overlooking the void of the Pozo del Arco. The bones of a deer indicate that this fruit-eating bear also enjoys carrion.

65 – Tragadero de Abra del Arco



Raphaël and Florian go down to the bottom of a sinkhole and discover a shaft about 170 m deep... This is the Tragadero de Abra del Arco: stopping on nothing around -200 meters.

66 – The Area of Abra del Arco

Pozo
del Arco

Tragadero
de Abra
del Arco

The interesting caves are all located in the same sector of the Abra del Arco.

67 – Abra del Arco

Group 3 in front of the big tent of the Yanacocha camp.



The ropes tackle store.

13-9-24



The narrow passage before the large shaft.

13-9-24



10-9-24

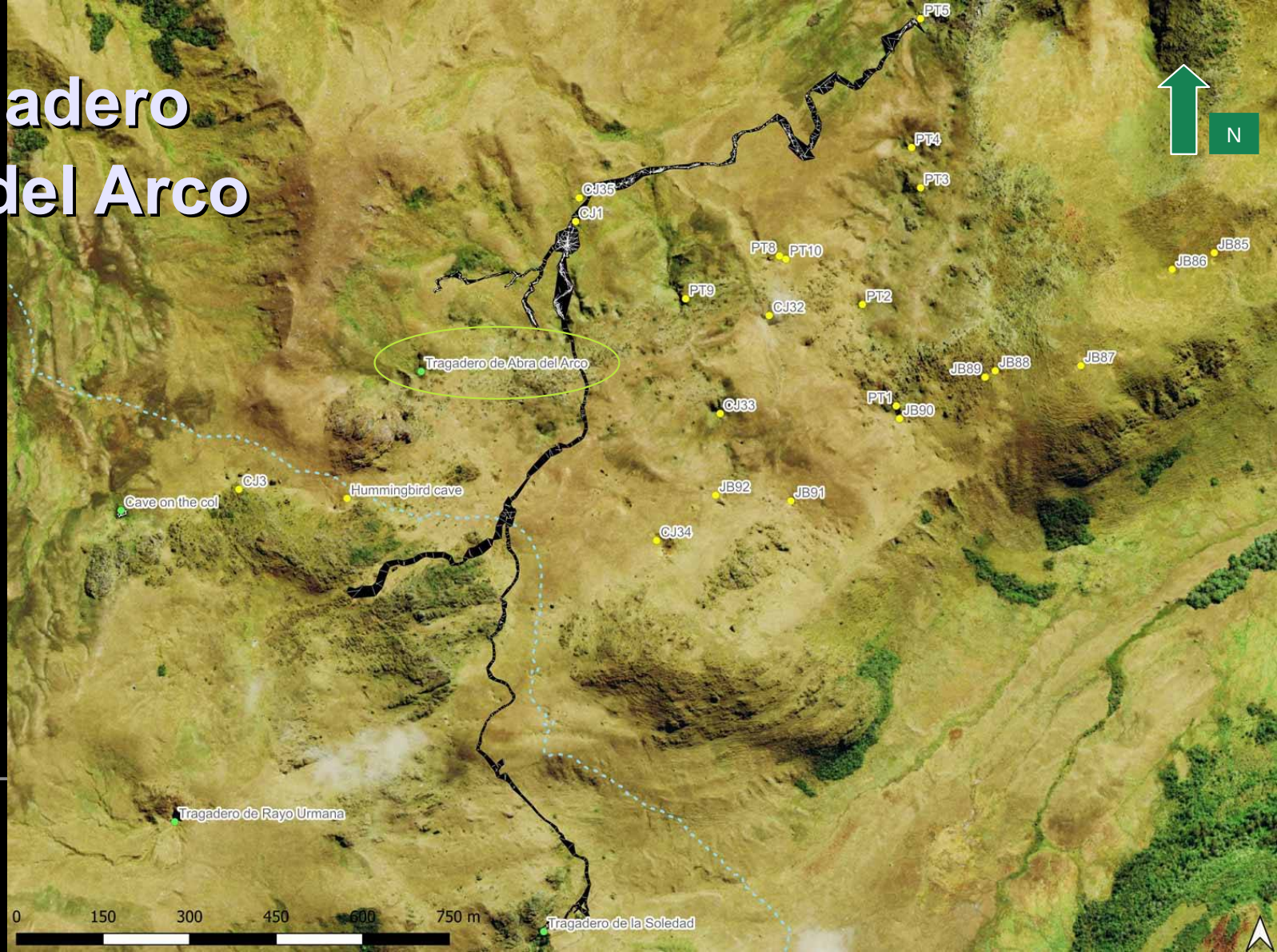
The Tragadero de Abra del Arco is derigged, some of the ropes are left before the narrow passage which dominates the large shaft: it is the ropes tackle store.

68 – Tragadero de Abra del Arco

The report of the caves on a satellite view shows that there is still much to do.

The Tragadero de la Soledad river, which flows from south to north, drains a good part of the sinkholes in the area.

The Tragadero de Abra del Arco could flow into one of the tributaries on the left bank.



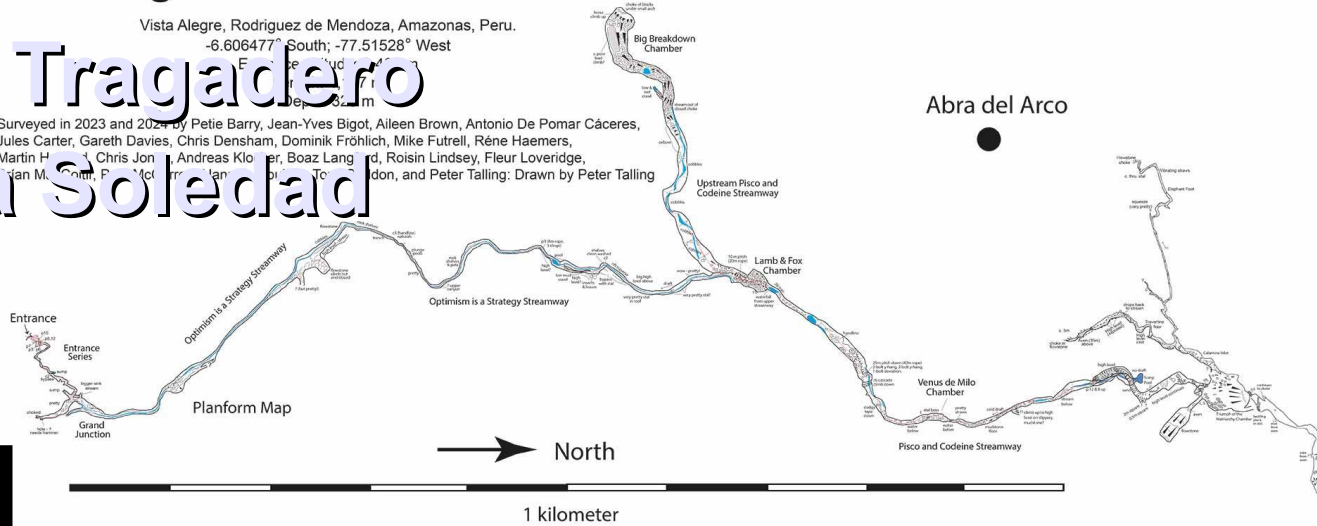
Tragadero de la Soledad

Vista Alegre, Rodriguez de Mendoza, Amazonas, Peru.

-6.606477° South; -77.51528° West

69 – Tragadero de la Soledad

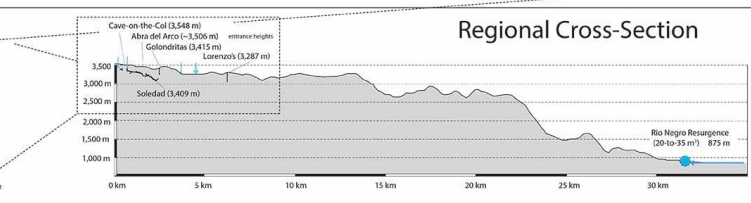
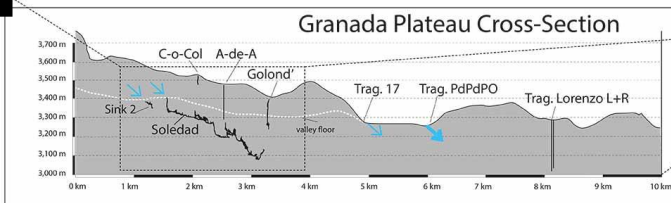
Surveyed in 2023 and 2024 by Petie Barry, Jean-Yves Bigot, Aileen Brown, Antonio De Pomar Cáceres, Jules Carter, Gareth Davies, Chris Densham, Dominik Fröhlich, Mike Futrell, Réne Haemers, Martin H., Chris Jones, Andreas Klotter, Boaz Langsdorf, Roisin Lindsey, Fleur Loveridge, Brian M., Tom P., Peter Talling, and Peter Talling. Drawn by Peter Talling



The Tragadero de la Soledad (alt. 3409 m) is now the longest cave in Peru with a length of 4187 m for a depth of 325 m.

There are possibilities for junction, especially for these caves:

- Cave on the Col,
- Tragadero de Abra del Arco and
- Tragadero de las Golondrinitas.



Tragadero de Golondrinitas

Darkest Peru

70 – The Colours of the Plateau

The Pico del Oro plateau is a little bare. However, you can see flowers that are still growing at an altitude of 3500 m.



71 – Back to Chachapoyas

For Tonio and I, it is the end of the investigations on the Pico del Oro massif after a month spent in several successive camps.



13-9-24

After only 4 days of activities, group 3 joined the Franco-Peruvian team based in Chachapoyas.



Granada



Chachapoyas

72 – All in Soloco

Christian Klein

Pierre Bévengut

Jean-Yves Bigot

Bastien Walter

Thibaud Duchateau

Liz Hidalgo

Jean-Denis Klein

Adeline Ferrandez

Raphaël Gueit

Antonio de Pomar

Florian Richard

The entire team is now based in Soloco to explore the Toclón area.



73 – Chance Discovery



On September 12, while leaving the Tragadero Olvidado, James Apaéstegui, Jean Loup Guyot and Liz Hidalgo got lost in a fossil network located near the entrance.

Jean Loup actively searches for an exit and notices the presence of a wall in a gallery.

He climbs it and discovers a magnificent chachapoya pottery.



74 – Chance Discovery



The goal of Christian Klein and me is to take pictures of the object.



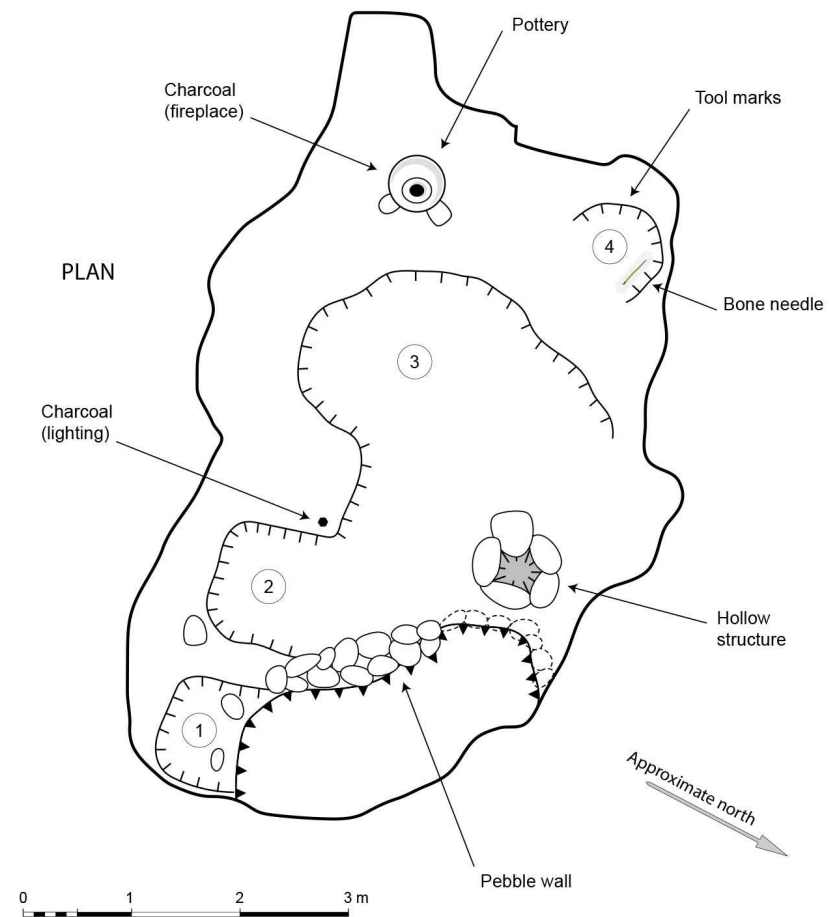
75 – Chance Discovery



A survey of the archaeological site is carried out.

Exploration sketch of September 15, 2024
by Christian Klein and Jean-Yves Bigot (GSBM)

POTTERY SITE PLAN
OF THE TRAGADERO OLVIDADO



76 – Chance Discovery

15-9-24



The pottery is magnificent and rests on large stones corresponding to a hearth.

It is likely that a liquid was heated or reheated underground which, after consumption, could perhaps allow contact with the world of the dead.

77 – Chance Discovery



The rest of the archaeological site appears empty.

However, it is noticeable that hollows have been made in the ground.

15-9-24

78 – Chance Discovery

Apart from ceramics, there is little to be found on the surface of the ground, except for a needle with an eye identified by Christian.

Europeans could not have solved such a riddle.

It took the advice of our friend Carlos Pizarro, a speleologist with an archaeological background, to propose a coherent hypothesis.

According to him, needles are often associated with dolls.

The needle is positioned on a specific spot on these dolls, either to heal a part of the body, or with a more malicious intention.

In Peru, both options are possible.



79 – Upstream of the Tragadero Olvidado River



Jean Loup, Pierre and I will recognize and topograph the upstream of the Tragadero Olvidado river.

This is a very beautiful part of the river with waterfalls dug into a black and shiny rock.

80 – Tragadero Olvidado



Explorations also continue downstream of the Tragadero Olvidado.

81 – Toclón 7

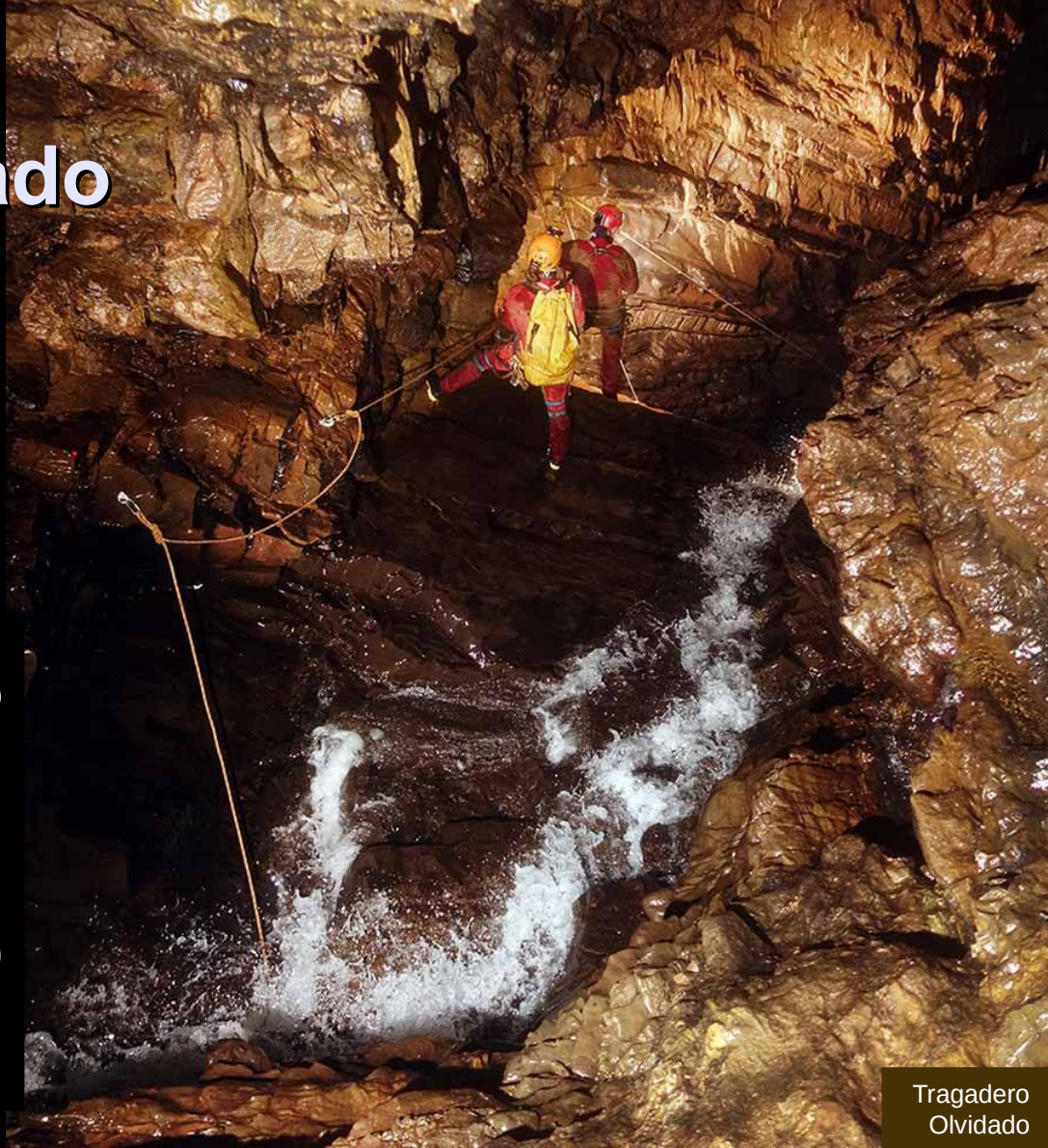


Christian and I revisit the Toclón 7 cave. Two years ago, I thought I saw a rammed earth wall in front of a small cave entrance. But the “rammed earth” only corresponds to a piece of extracted filling. Indeed, no straw is visible in this entirely natural “rammed earth”. However, a few ceramic fragments show that the cave was known to pre-Hispanic populations.

82 – Tragadero Olvidado



During our forays into the Tragadero Olvidado, another team reached the Toclón collector exploring the Tragadero del Canyon (Toclón 5) whose entrance was discovered two years ago.



83 – Olvidado



The junction of T 5 is made with the Toclón system (T3 and T4).

In order not to disperse, it is necessary to derig the Tragadero Olvidado.



84 — Olvidado



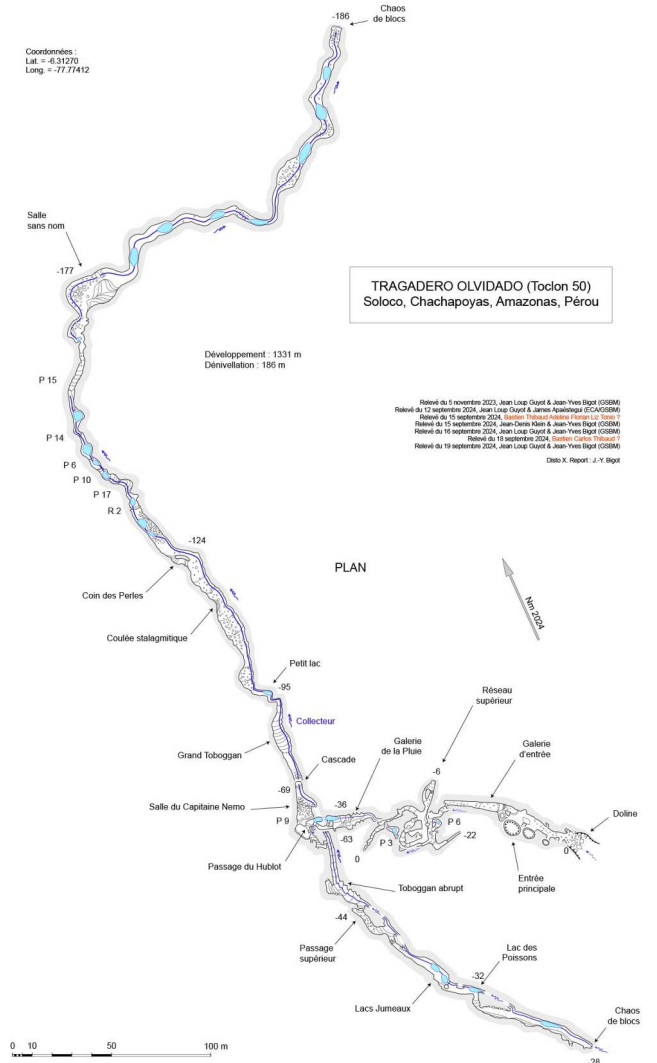
19-9-24

The Tragadero Olvidado was dug in bedding plan with a steep slope.

85 – Olvidado

Plan of the Tragadero Olvidado.

We wait for the others to come back from the bottom, in a place called The Pearls, to take some of the equipment.



TRAGADERO OLVIDADO (Toclon 50)

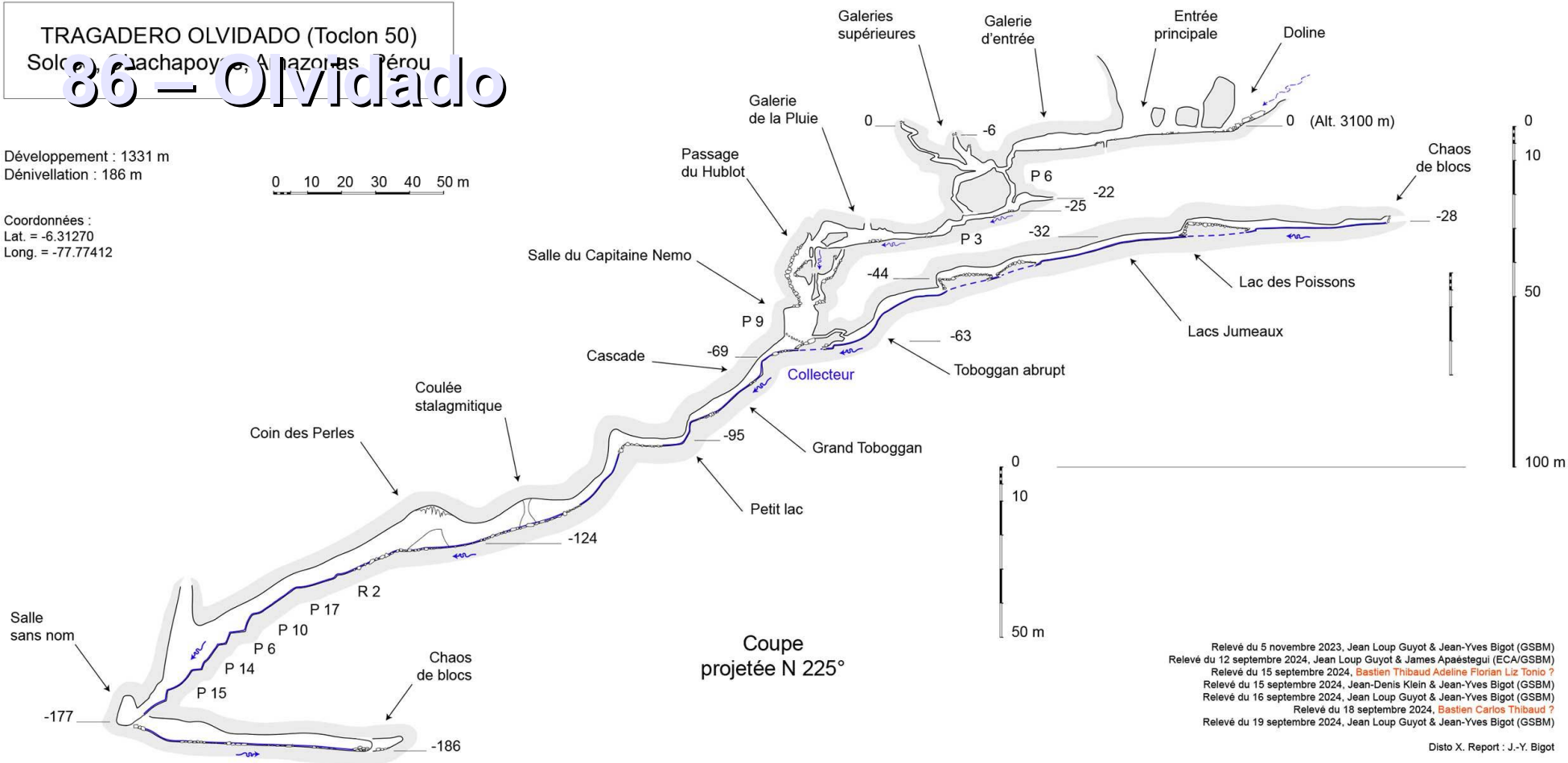
Solc, Achapoy, Alazoras, Pérou

86 - Olvidado

Développement : 1331 m
Dénivellation : 186 m



Coordonnées :
Lat. = -6.31270
Long. = -77.77412



Relevé du 5 novembre 2023, Jean Loup Guyot & Jean-Yves Bigot (GSBM)
Relevé du 12 septembre 2024, Jean Loup Guyot & James Apaéstegui (ECA/GSBM)
Relevé du 15 septembre 2024, Bastien Thibaud Adeline Florian Liz Tonio ?
Relevé du 15 septembre 2024, Jean-Denis Klein & Jean-Yves Bigot (GSBM)
Relevé du 16 septembre 2024, Jean Loup Guyot & Jean-Yves Bigot (GSBM)
Relevé du 18 septembre 2024, Bastien Carlos Thibaud ?
Relevé du 19 septembre 2024, Jean Loup Guyot & Jean-Yves Bigot (GSBM)

Disto X. Report : J.-Y. Bigot

Projected cut of Tragadero Olvidado.

87 – Toclón System (T5-T3 Crossing)



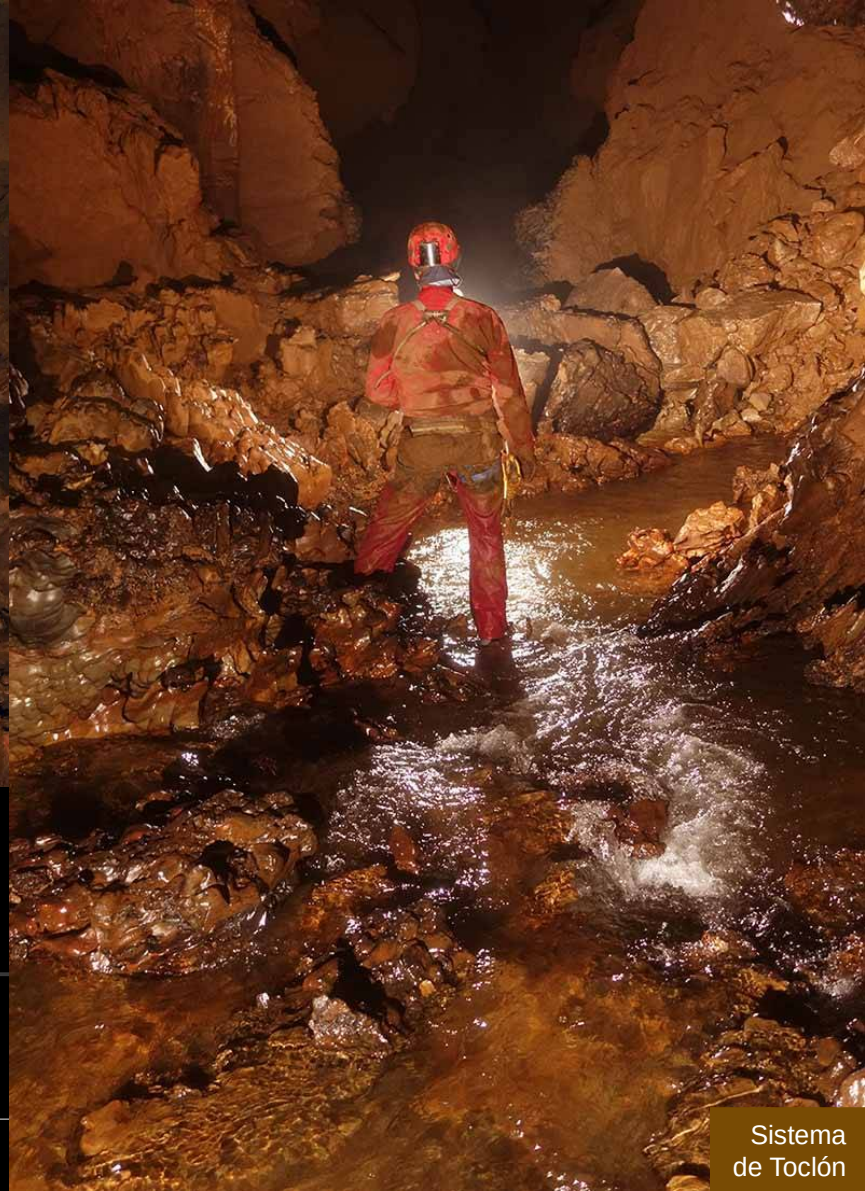
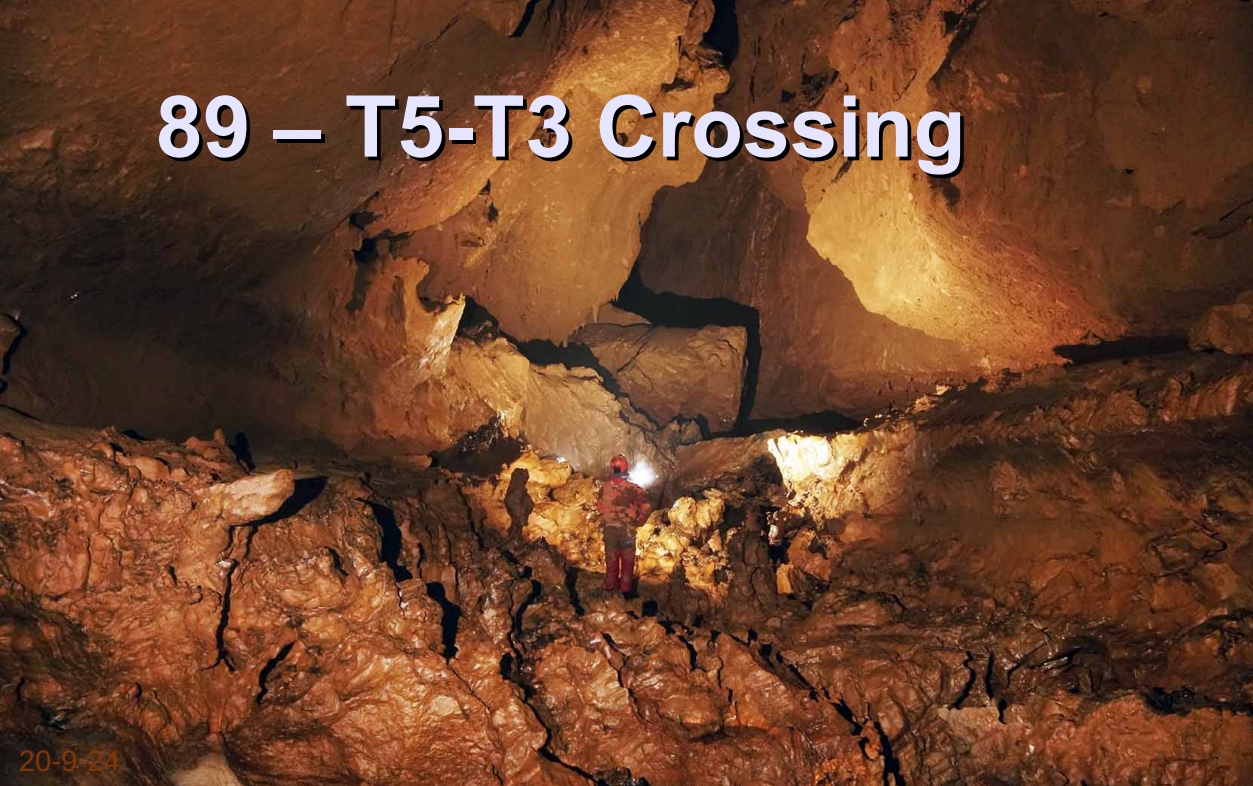
20-9-24

Entering through Toclón 5, we exit through T3 after having posed in front of the upstream siphon of the collector.

88 – T5-T3 Crossing

The flow rate of the Toclón system collector is low due to the drought in South America.

89 – T5-T3 Crossing

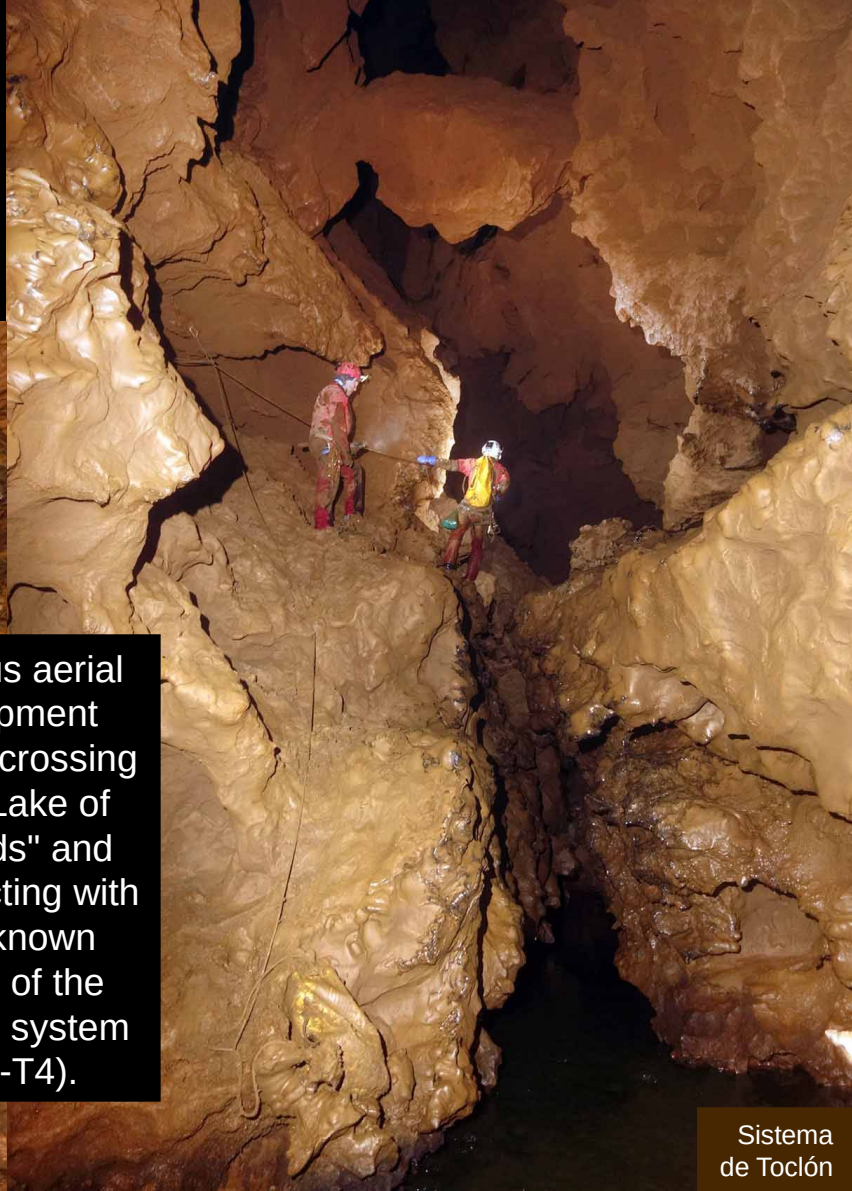


A section of the collector,
abandoned by the river, reveals
beautiful forms of erosion.

90 – T5-T3 Crossing



Various aerial equipment allows crossing the "Lake of Islands" and connecting with the known parts of the Toclón system (T3-T4).



91 – Cleaning and Rest

The day is dedicated to cleaning the material extracted from the Toclón system.

Part of this material must then leave for a camp in Santa Maria, located in another sector of Soloco.



92 – Santa Maria Camp

There are too many things to transport, we have to do two rounds...

A first convoy of horses is organized.

Tomorrow, a second will bring the whole group together at the Santa Maria camp.



93 – Santa Maria Camp



Camp

Tragadero de
Santa Maria

The camp is set up in a cave a little above the entrance to the Tragadero de Santa Maria.

94 – Santa Maria Camp

The camp is set up under the porch of a cave once occupied by the Chachapoyas.

It was possible to shelter all the tents, making some concessions.



95 – Tragadero de Santa Maria



The Tragadero de Santa Maria was explored up to a large room that seems to constitute the terminus of the cave.

Indeed, enormous blocks have fallen from the vaults and the shape of the stalagmites indicates that they are still moving.



96 – Tragadero de Santa Maria

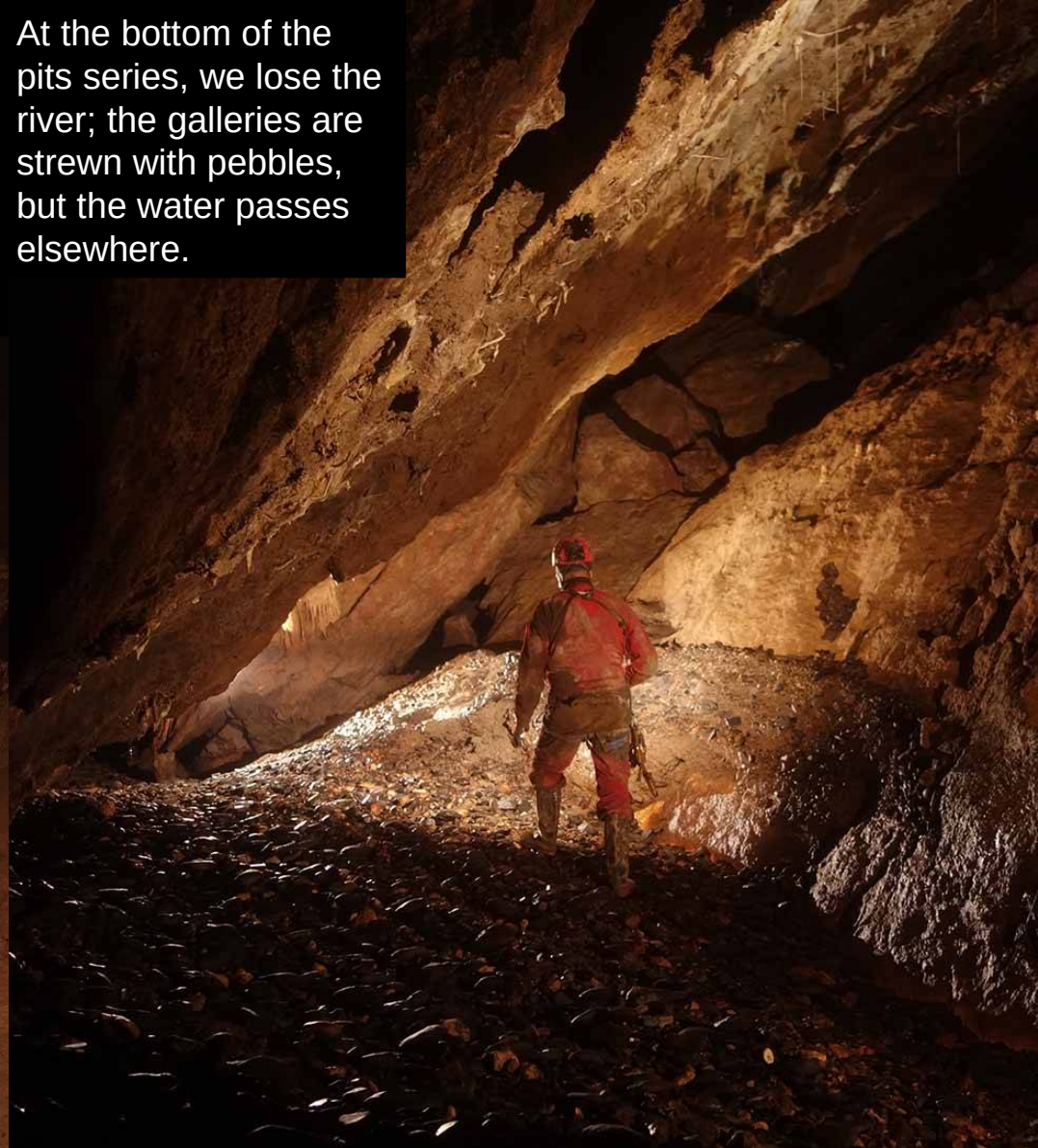


25-9-24

A survey session reveals the terminus at a depth of -207 m.

97 – Tragadero de Santa Maria

At the bottom of the pits series, we lose the river; the galleries are strewn with pebbles, but the water passes elsewhere.



25-9-24

98 – Santa Maria Camp

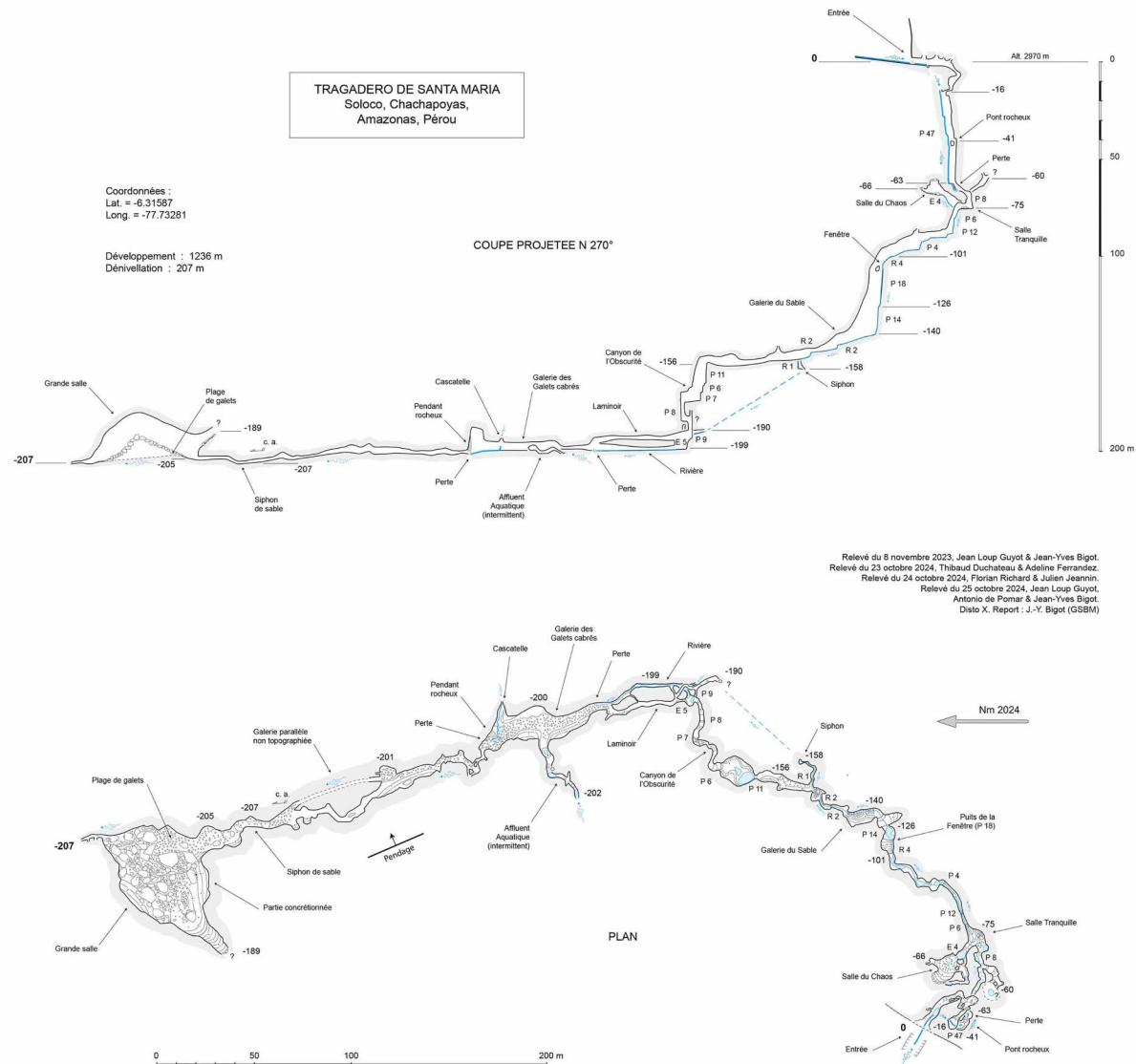


26-9-24

The Santa Maria camp is comfortable and appreciated by all.
Before leaving, other caves must be derigged, including the Tragadero de Parjugsha Arriba.

99 – Tragadero de Santa Maria

Survey of the
Tragadero de
Santa Maria.



100 – Santa Maria Camp

This is the end of the Santa Maria camp.

Manuel's horses come to get our equipment to take it to Soloco, two rounds will be necessary...

A good news: all the food initially planned for Granada has been consumed.



101 – Soloco Parade



It's a festival in the village of Soloco, parades are planned in the streets. People from the village who are in favor of us, suggest that we parade, Manuel Rojas in the lead, with our caving suits. It's a way of responding to the opponents of our coming to Soloco who had come forward at the beginning of our stay.

102 – Guinea Pig



In the region, guinea pig is on the menu, especially in Chachapoyas.

103 – Departure of Chacha



After washing and sorting our equipment, we leave a good part of our belongings at the Luya tackle store.

We now leave Chachapoyas (Amazonas) to reach Palestina (San Martin).

For this, we rented a special van.

104 – Palestina Cave



Everyone goes to visit the Palestina cave.

Pierre and I give up on swimming across the lake, in order to study the possibility of a rigged ledge above the water.

But the presence of a completely altered calcite flow prohibits any anchoring.

105 – Palestina Cave

Another problem with the development of the cave is the presence of guacharos, which fly and scream when disturbed.



106 – Palestina Cave



1-10-24

However, the Palestina River is beautiful and could be opened to visitors.
The thorny issue of diplomas and quotas remains to be resolved.

107 – Training

PATROCINADO POR



Cuevas de Palestina
OPERADOR DE TURISMO DE AVENTURA

Capacitación en técnicas de espeleología y primeros auxilios **en ambientes subterráneos**



 **Del 3-5
Octubre**

Aprenderás:

- Técnicas básicas de espeleología y el auxilio en ambientes subterráneos.
- Responder a una solicitud de auxilio en las actividades de espeleo turismo como autoridad local.
- Generar intercambio entre los espeleólogos, los guías y los visitantes.

Certificado a nombre del Club de Espeleología ECA
Espeleo Club Andino



RESPALDO Y DICTADO DE CURSO:



• Ponentes: •

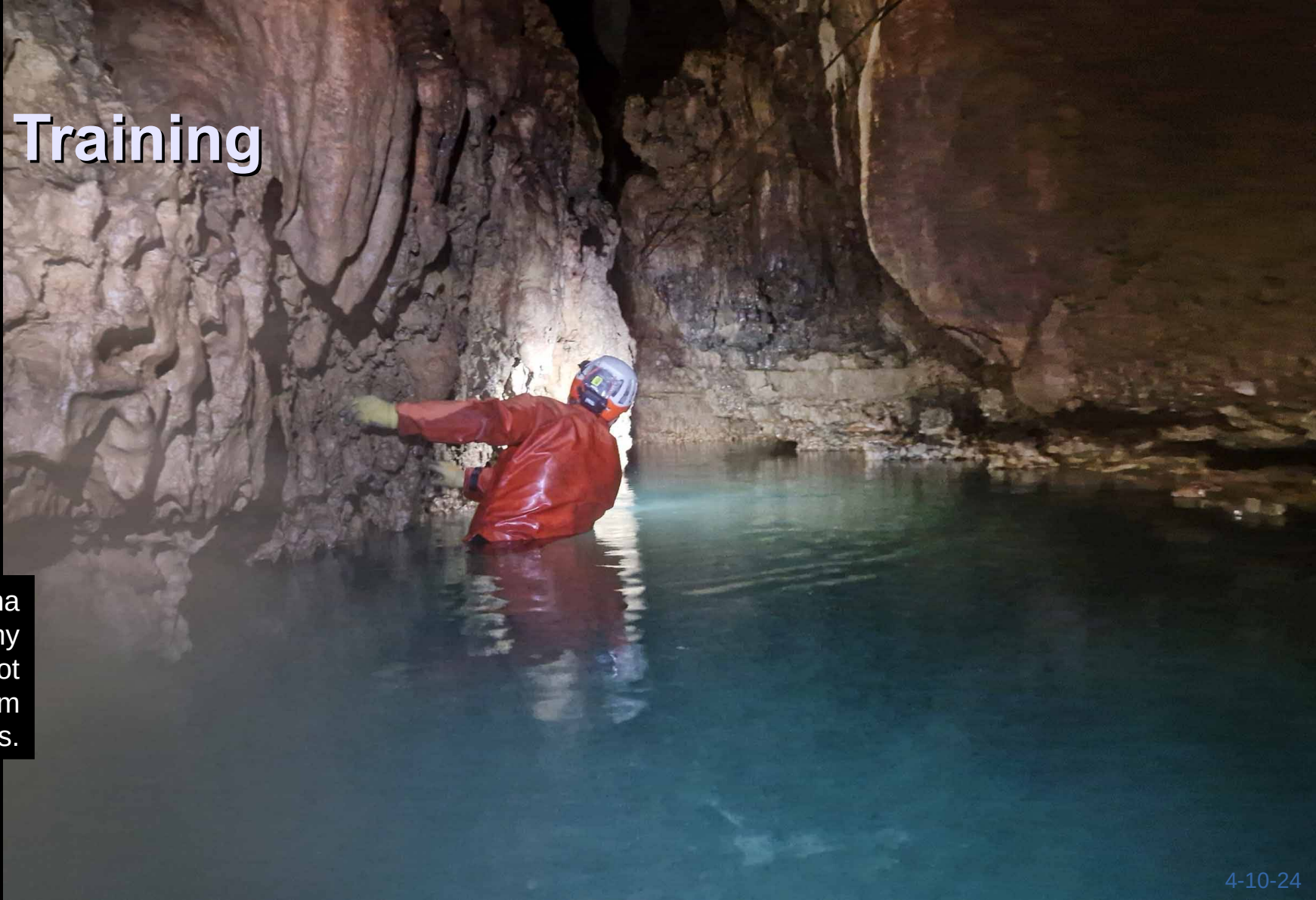
Jean Denis – Pierre – Antonio De Pomar



3-10-24

Training in caving techniques and underground first aid is organized in Palestina.

108 – Training



A visit to the Palestina Cave is offered; many participants do not hesitate to swim across the lakes.

109 – Training



The training was a success and each participant received a certificate.

The active participation of firefighters helped generate a much-appreciated group dynamic.

110 – Valle Andino

The hydrological mission (Jean Loup, Elisa, Christian and I) passes through Soritor (San Martin) and Valle Andino, a remote village in the Vista Alegre district (Amazonas).

The track is wet, not easy to drive in these conditions.

In the village, we are lucky to meet two children (Mikael and Jozman) and a man (Samuel Heredia) who accompany us to the Cavernas de Valle Andino.



111 – Cavernas de Valle Andino



5-10-24

Those who have entered these caves say that they walked for hours without seeing the end...

112 – Cavernas de Valle Andino



But who could believe such nonsense?
Certainly not speleologists like us!

The vast galleries of the cave were occupied by guacharos who
dropped seeds on the ground.

113 – Cavernas de Valle Andino

A photograph of a person wearing a red jacket and a red helmet, standing in a large, dimly lit cave. The cave walls are composed of layered, brownish rock. The person is standing on a rocky floor, and the cave appears to be quite deep and narrow. The lighting is warm and focused on the person and the immediate surroundings.

5-10-24

The further down you go, the bigger it gets. You feel like you can't see the end of it...

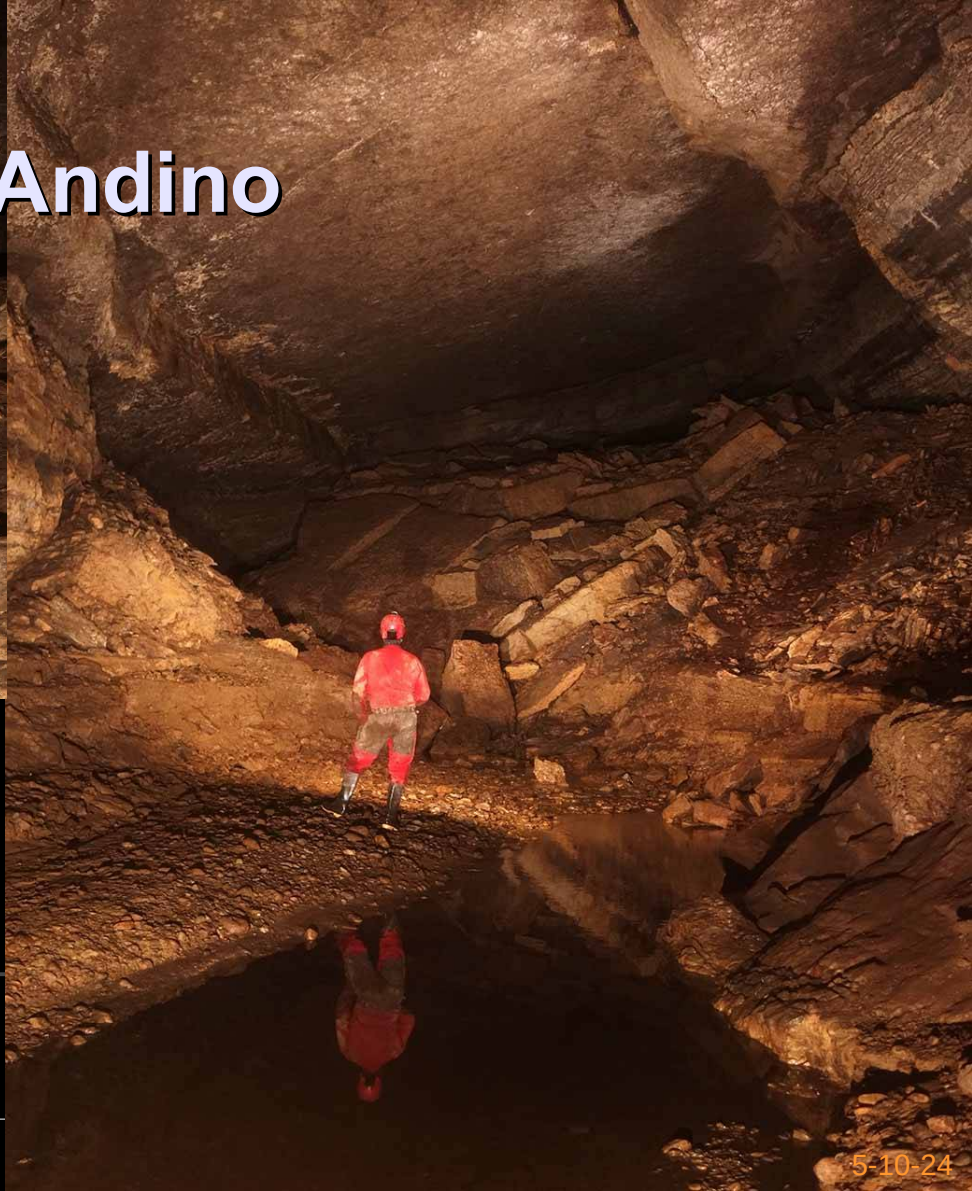
114 – Cavernas de Valle Andino



5-10:24

After having surveyed the "endless gallery" in which we decided to stop the surveys, we descend towards a collector which has an upstream... which we must also abandon to examine the downstream part...

115 – Cavernas de Valle Andino



After 6 hours of non-stop survey, we give up on the idea of finishing anything.

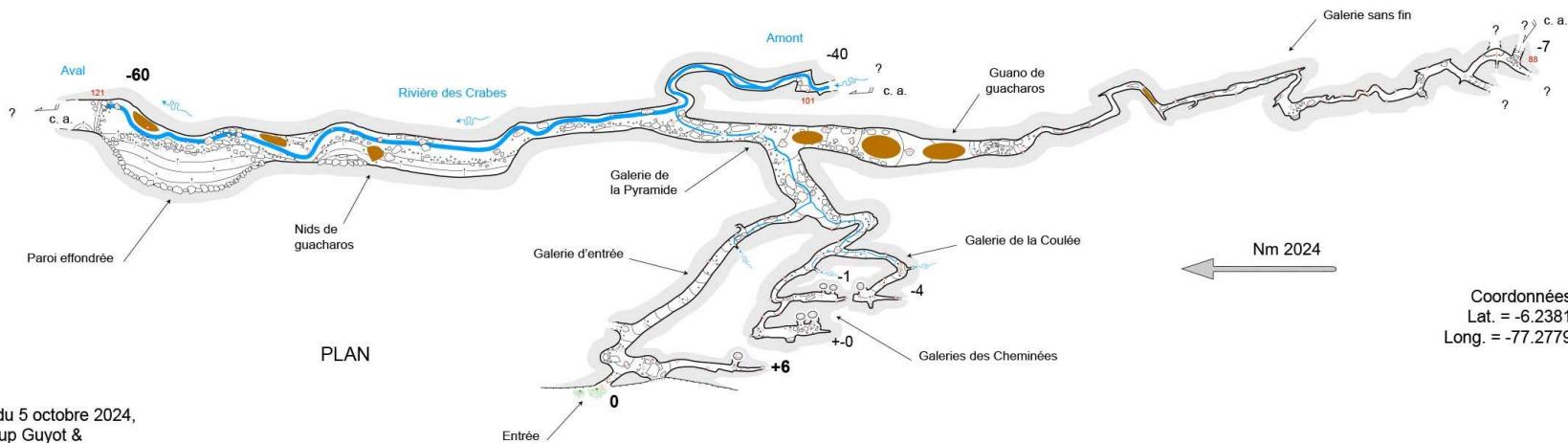
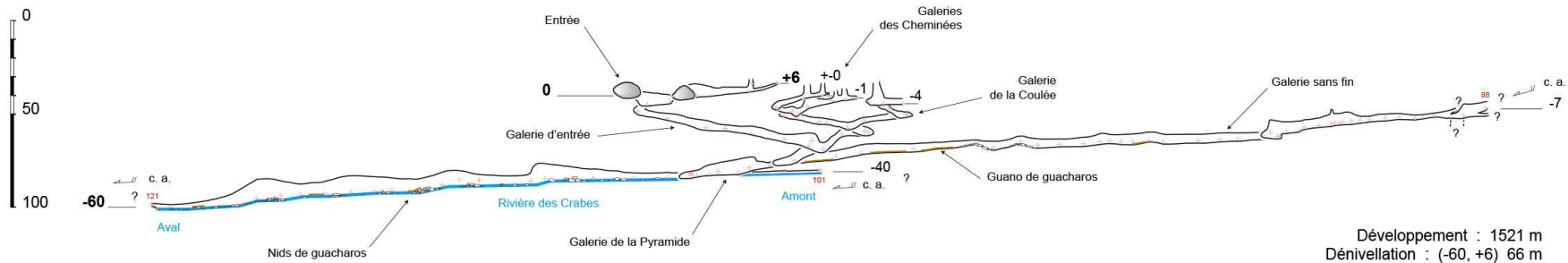
Of course, the downstream course of the underground river continues, with a draft of course, but it is too much for us.

We have fulfilled our mission for today.

It takes us another hour to return to Valle Andino where we find Elisa and Christian installed in Samuel's house.

116 - Cavernas de Valle Andino

CAVERNAS DE VALLE ANDINO
 A la Aleare, F. drigu...
 Amaz...
 COUPE PROJETEE N 270°



Coordonnées :
 Lat. = -6.23810
 Long. = -77.27795

Relevé du 5 octobre 2024,
 Jean Loup Guyot &
 Jean-Yves Bigot (GSBM)
 Disto X. Report : J.-Y. Bigot



Survey of
 Cavernas
 de Valle
 Andino.

117 – Valle Andino



We were very well received at Esmeralda and Samuel's. The track was still slippery with the storms, so we stayed in Valle Andino for the night.

118 – Valle Andino

We slept in
rooms set up
upstairs in
their house.



119 – Chazuta



We take the road to reach Tarapoto, then Chazuta where we have samples to collect from Nancy. For several years, Nancy has been regularly taking water samples from the Rio Huallaga.

With her sisters, she offers us a visit to her *chacra* located only 10 km from Chazuta.

The word *chacra*, borrowed from Quechua, refers to land holdings that produce food to supply cities.



120 – Urcu Runa Center



In fact, it is more of a *chacra* retreat center called Urcu Runa where medicinal plants used by the natives (ayahuasca, etc.) are consumed.

We visit the wish tree: a gigantic tree dominating a 47-hectare park.

121 – Lima



On the way back, we follow the eastern slope of the Andes and sleep in Huánuco.

Arriving near Lima, we stop in an unlikely place: the sanctuary of Santa Rosa de Quives (Canta).

There are a lot of people and we wonder what we are doing here.

There is a well, but it is a "wishful well"...

8-10-24

Once in Lima, we find the Miraflores district where people dance every night in Kennedy Square.

That's also Peru.



Lima

8-10-24

122 – The End

The
End

