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22/7

TG, LM Camping 2/7. Gear taken in:

6x Radan detectors to place

2x Radan detectors to wear

1x 15m rope

1x 20m rope

1x bolting kit

25x bolts + nuts.

3x hangers + mallets

8m rising tape

3m deviation string.

(Food, gas, clothes!)

22/7/99.

An open letter.

W
K

~~Dear~~ Estimado Señora Expedite Leader,

I think you are fab! Now that's the obsequious bit over with, I ~~to~~ have a suggestion. If you don't have a strong team for derigging, the pushing upstream is going well but being cut short at a point where not much has been achieved, and Gavin wants to push Egbert next year, then I have a solution to your derigging nightmare: don't. The logistics of leaving gear in situ are not ~~too~~ insurmountable (tie up ropes; grease anchors; store gear in dry places; pack the camp somewhere safe - like where it is...), and the costs ~~a~~, even if writing off some gear, ~~are~~ have to be balanced

go against the opportunity costs ~~to~~ paid otherwise.
Think about all of you, and argue about it.
Lunchy will be well out of range....

go deep Tim.

P.S. I am serious.

24/7/99 HG, RG camping 2/7.

Note to Jo + Pip: We've taken food + gas for ourselves only, you need your own. We have enough washing up liquid + bin liners for all 4 of us. We are short of carbide - have only 2 pigs. Alison will bring some more up from Lagos today if Jo + JC haven't, could you please bring in some extra for us. (an extra 3 pigs?)

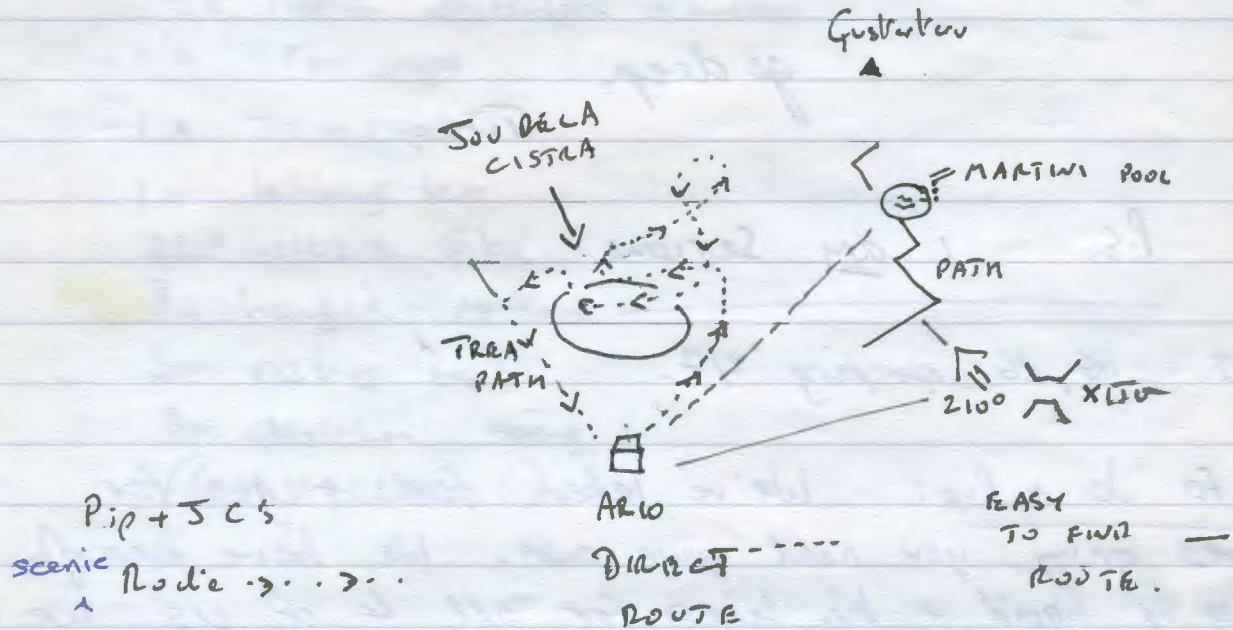
List of pushing gear (bolts etc) we've taken is in back of book. In addition to our rope there is a 30m 11 mil rope already in cave, plus what Tim + Lou took, so I don't think you need to bring any more rope.

General plan: Saturday - down to camp
Sunday - push Viagra bolting project, taking over from whatever Tim + Lou did (if any)
Mon/Tue - continue Viagra // push leads up Stairway to Heaven + 1 lead off Fear + Loathing in Las Brujas (if Coral Corner if still going) - the 4 of us in 2 pairs
Wed - out (if derig?)

See you down there,

Hitary

Not finding the Marini Pool by Committee
Present. Pip + JC.



10/19 21.7 Pip, Dick + Tim.
I've been forced into writing this up coz everyone else is underground. We got down to the undescended pitch without incident (that I can remember, anyway) + Tim + Dick decided that I should go down first, ostensibly as I hadn't ever been down unexplored passage before, but more probably because the rigging was dodgy. At the bottom of the pitch was a smallish hole with a drop beyond which I made Tim go through first. This lead to a section of rift that was too small (even for Lex, I reckon) for anyone to fit through. Tim + Dick decided to hammer it, while I told them what to do. I went through the squeeze + found a T-junction, one way leading to a nice aven + the other leading to a narsty section of rift which Dick went through + shredded his TSA. Tim didn't get through the squeeze. Ha ha! ← evil cackle.

Shaft Bashing

23/7/99

Gavin

(44)

○ 12/8 This is an old cave. Just upslope from the Martin's pool, ~~on~~ by the route to the top of Cusotatem. Well positioned to drop into upstream 2/7, and the description sounds like it might be easy to force a way on. Worth a visit?

○ 35/9 Approx 50m S of the large stakehole, ~ 50m SE of La Joyada. Alternatively, skirt round from 25/9 to the E. Near the bottom of a karstic area, sloping at $\sim 30^\circ$. 10m shaft

○ 36/9 Near lower end of valley running down from Verdelluenga, containing many stakeholes. Verdelluenga 232° . 5m shaft to snow

○ 37/9 In valley roughly 200m E of twin peak of Cusotatem (called Cabeza del Burro on the Mapa Topografico Nacional). Verdelluenga 220° , Curriente 150° (as yet no peaks are visible from the entrance). Walk down to snowplug; two daylight shafts enter from above. There might be a way on past the snow.

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On Names

I've noticed a number of discrepancies in naming between the Advados and Mappa Topográfica Nacional maps:

- MTN's Cabeza del Burro is Guatitero's twin peak, whereas Advados's Cabeza del Burro is further west.
- MTN uses the name Los Salmontas for the ridge marking the southern edge of the Top Camp area, whereas Advados calls it Los Cabrones; MTN's Cabrones is further west.
- MTN calls the F7 bowl Jons de Peña Blanca, whereas Advados calls it Jons de Jorcada; Advados uses the name Jons de Peña Blanca for the bowl to the south of F2.

When describing locations of camps, please make clear which map you are working from to avoid ambiguity.

GSP 25.7

Pip + Gavin.

Good trip. Found another 10m pitch.


New GSP Rigging Guide

- | | | |
|-----------------|---------------------------|--|
| P15 Pendula | 20m rope | 2 bolts at top of Flying Rebellés; deviation at -5; bolt for pull onto ledge; thread backup. |
| P10 ascent | 15m rope
ladder useful | 3 spike belays; a bolt at the top would be useful |
| P4G Serendipity | 55m rope | Spike backup; 2-bolt Y-hang; bolt repley at -10m; spike deviation at -25m; spike deviation at -30m |

thread belay at start of traverse; two spike belays on traverse; thread belay at end of traverse.

P810 35m rope Bolt and spike Y-hang; deviation at -7m

P6 Blind Pat  Spike belay

P6  Spike and thread Y-hang

P30, Tumbling Dice I 40m rope Chockstone backup; thread for traverse; Z-bolt Y-hang; deviation at -10m; deviation at -15m.

P70, Tumbling Dice II 80m rope Spike belay; spike belay; bolt belay; deviation at -2m; deviation at -4m; spike belay for scramble down boulder at bottom

P5 10m rope Spike backup; ~~bolt belay with rope protector -> needs a second bolt for Y-hang~~ -> Z-bolt Y-hang

(47)

20/7/99 to 23/7/99 Second Camping Trip down 2/7 Lynn & Lev

Day 1

Finally I am capable of making it on a 2/7 camping trip. My desires to do so had matured somewhat into actually wanting to do some pushing at the bottom, but basically I just wanted to go down such a deep and legendary cave.

Unfortunately pushing new cave was not to be, but the novelty of camping underground kept at least me entertained.

Our passage through the familiar rifts was slow, hampered by the four tackle sacks, one of which was Satan's own. Eventually we were beyond the cave I knew and pitch followed pitch followed pitch until I arrived in a heap on the Big Ledge.

Camping underground was not nearly as unpleasant as Lev had led me to believe. As Hilary said I've been underground and I've been camping - just stick the two together. Okay you do go to bed expecting everything to be brighter and warmer in the morning, but the food is better than on the surface and you couldn't wish for warmer, snuggler pits.

Day 2

After eating lots for breakfast we started the journey upstream and after 3 hours got as far as Echo Beach. Several hours and several lunches later we had still not been able to find the way on and had to return to camp hoping that Tim and Lou had arrived to share the responsibility of the next day's route finding.

Day 3

Alas no visitors, we would have to face Echo Beach without reinforcements.

We worked systematically around Echo Beach in search of the Dead Sea or a reasonable 'bold step' and eventually found a route that lead through the boulders. The static pool was much further than we had expected and the 'bold step' was not bold, especially compared to the bloody scary leaps that Lev had been contemplating the day before.

The rest of the route finding was slow, but eventually we managed to reach the end of the cave. Well nearly the end, neither of us had the energy or desire ~~to~~ confirm by sight that the roar we could hear was indeed Viagra Falls. Lev climbed Stairway to Heaven while I tried to avoid the rocks and rope that he kept throwing at me. After he had descended the rope that he had rigged we decided that was quite enough caving for one day and started back for camp. Deep Waters was deeper than advertised but the return route finding was not too bad, and Tim & Lou had the kettle on when we arrived at camp.

Day 4

We tried to talk Tim & Lou through our route finding mistakes in the hope that they might have a more productive camp and started to prussik our way out of the cave. By the time we reached Gusano Grovel my shoulders were too painful to move and I had to dose myself

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with painkillers and fail to help Lev with the tackle bag from hell. I will leave him to describe their route through the rifts. Despite not finding any new cave (except mistaken deviations from the route) I really enjoyed the trip and look forward to pushing deep caves in the future.

LSM

While not finding any new cave (except perhaps one beautiful little descent to the stream at the 2nd inlet in the Dead Sea Strolls), I did manage to find two completely novel ways of hanging oneself up:

1. Elbow pad clipped through prussik bag krabin tight squeeze in the rift series.
2. Footloops clipped through 7th Heaven deviation Krab.

I also discovered that just because you managed to get a tackle bag through the 1st squeeze in paradise rift it doesn't mean it will fit through the 2nd, and you may well have to unprussik it in between the two.

Also, I discovered a new way to get an uncooperative tackle sack through 7th Heaven squeeze - clip a jammer to the 2nd pitch rope with a pulley on it and run your long constraint through the pulley to the tackle bag, then jump off the ledge into the little hollow there until the bag comes through.

or it rips to shreds in a satisfying manner.

Upstream route finding tips:

Edro beach: For "route down through boulders" read "climb down through boulders and several climbs up" & for "bold step (worse on the return)" read "easy step across".

Read sea stralls (2nd inlet): For "traverse along the rift" read "walk along the passage."

Lei

22/7/99 to 25/7/99 camping down 217 Tim + Lei.

Thursday -> Over-planned late start went wonderfully according to plan and at 5-30 pm loaded up with food, rope and dunes drums full of warm clothing we headed in. An uneventful trip in landed us on the big ledge in good time for food. The last two pitches down from the crash pad did not disappoint my memory from last year - observing down in the darkness and huge space is still the most fantastic piece of canyoning EVER.

We hadn't really decided what to do - I don't like streamways - (especially when they are 24 hours away from knowing what the weather is doing) and the prospect of spending two days cold and wet hollering up a waterfall definitely did not appeal.

Consequently we had half decided to look at coral corner the first day and if I could get used to the stream, go to viagra the second.

It turned out that Lynn and Lei had had a lot of trouble route finding