

Easter 2025 Matienzo Expedition Summary

Overview

Over 40 cavers visited Matienzo during Easter 2025, with over 50 people total including partners and children and lots camping behind Casa Germán. Poor weather with drizzle and rain made the camping field unusually waterlogged despite reasonably low water levels. Strong winds caused equipment damage, with a trailer tent being destroyed.

The permit application was delayed due to administrative issues at Cultura but was eventually approved. The permit area remains unchanged, though cavers must still contact authorities via phone 112.

Major Discoveries

Total new cave surveyed: Over 2km

Key achievements:

- **Cueva de la Puerta (0024)** linked to **Cueva del Risco** via Tonto Series, adding nearly 800m
- **Cueva de Rescavieja (0077)** breakthrough past boulder choke, discovering over 400m of large passage
- **Four Valleys System** extended by nearly 500m, reaching over 78.5km total length
- New top entrance found for **Cueva de la Espada**
- 11 other sites pushed and surveyed
- 21 new sites recorded

Southern Sector

Cueva Vallina (0733): Five trips explored leads, with diving team pushing upstream Rio Rioja. Chambers and side passages surveyed to 146m, with 120m beyond sump 9 still unsurveyed.

South Vega: Multiple site checks including **Torca de la Manga (5052)** where boulder blocking was cleared and a 24m pitch descended. Several new sites discovered including a cave with goat skeleton remains.

Seldesuto: Torcón de la Calleja Rebollo (0258) yielded 160m of new passage following old footprints to connect with known routes.

North-East Sector (Four Valleys System)

La Secada: Torca la Decepción (4732) entrance used to check old survey leads at Rocky Horror. **Socks (1017)** confirmed main draught from boulder choke.

Fuente las Varas: Cueva de la Canal extended with new passages including "El Gordo Branch" and "Rocky Horror Branch".

Riaño: Extensive work in **Cueva de la Espada (0103)** with a new top entrance (5474) discovered through digging operations and **Cueva de Riaño** with multiple trips adding 144m of new passage.

Fridge Door Cave (1800): Three trips made via Boob Tube entrance, connecting to cave 3234 and exploring new passages.

North-West Sector

Moncobe: El Cubillón (2538) featured major diving operations with Mark Smith and Jim Lister. Downstream Sump 2 explored to 15m depth through challenging zero-visibility conditions in chocolate-colored water. Despite difficult conditions, the sump shows possibilities for future exploration.

Multiple other sites across Solórzano, Hazas de Cesto, and surrounding areas received attention with varying degrees of success.

Conclusion

The Easter 2025 expedition was highly productive despite weather challenges, with significant breakthroughs in major cave systems and substantial new discoveries. The connection between Cueva de la Puerta and Cueva del Risco represents a major achievement, while the breakthrough at Cueva de Rescavieja opens up exciting possibilities for summer exploration.

Condensed by AI (Claude Sonnet 4) from a report by Phil Papard, 24th May 2025