

Cueva de Valporquero (Sil de Perlas)

Cueva de Valporquero, Valporquero

Create: 2024-06-05 23:14:35	Update: 2025-06-25 09:23:12	Print: 2026-06-16 10:06:02
Country: España / Spain Region: Castilla y León Subregion: León Town: Valporquero		
Difficulty: not as difficult	Grading: v3 a3 V	Total time: 3h20
Approachtime: 15min	Tourtime: 3h	Returntime: 5min
Altitude entry: 1345m	Altitude exit: 1080m	Delta Altitude: 265m
Canyon length: m	Highest rapell: m	Amount rapells:
Transport: Car required	Rock type:	Drainage area: km ²
Season:	Orientation:	Best Time:
Rating: ★ 4.7 (3)	Info: ★ 2 (2)	Belay: ★ 3 (2)
Specialities:		
Gear: Ropes: 2x60		
Summary: Speleocanyoning		
Hydrology: Relative small water catchment area, water levels can be checked at the exit, touristic cave entrance and in the upper canyon (40 aniversario)		
Access: Valporquero, take first road left (sign for Atalaya), large parking.		
Approach: From parking Atalaya, head east on a rocky trail to the gated entrance (2025: no key needed).		
Tour: Many fixed ropes (often 3 lines, it gets busy in high season), but a few abseils still have to be installed. The most impressive one is the 3rd one, which is overhanging and dropping into a room with beautiful formations (25-30m). The bigger abseils can be broken down to 30'ish meters or done in one go with 50/60m ropes. Two more splashy abseils outside, followed by a river crossing or flying fox (tyrolienne). In high season: count more time and dress warm for possible waiting times.		
Return: After the 2 abseils in open air, cross the main stream (if low water) or use the Flying Fox a little downstream.		
Coordinates: Canyon Start 42.9088 -5.5519		

Reports:

2026-06-13 | Max H. | ★★★★★ | 📖★★ | 📍★★★ | 🌊 Normal | 👍 Completed

The access is a 15-minute walk from the parking lot, slightly downhill to the "Saal der Perlen" (Hall of Pearls) canyon. First, there are two short rappels; the third rappel leads into a cave dome featuring pearls and other "beauties." Right next to the landing area is a hole with additional anchors; DO NOT use this, as you would have to climb back up from there. It's better to traverse the cave down to the left, enter a second one, and then exit via a section with a fixed rope behind the rappelling site where you descended. After that, you'll reach a lake (optional) and a narrow passage. Not everyone can get through here; please adjust your backpack and body size accordingly beforehand. Your backpack must hang well below you (120 sling or similar), and the figure-eight descender must be "extended" over your helmet. Then first push/kick your backpack through and follow it, or place your hands/feet correctly. After that, it's down into the depth—many rappellers, but it's not nearly as narrow until you reach the river. The water is cold, and there are some small spots where you have to wade through the water. There are many fixed ropes, including for different water levels, apparently from the second canyon, which is often climbed. Rappel is often possible outside the water; a splash-proof headlamp is sufficient. Later, you'll come across another cave; you'll first go up via ladders, then down to the "siphon," where you crawl through without your backpack—there's enough headroom, so you don't have to dive through. After that, you can see the exit; there are two more major rappels outdoors, and the tour is complete in about 5 hours. Follow the stream for 10 minutes to the lower parking lot. (machine translated)

2025-03-05 | Jeroen Kirchner | ★★★★★ | 📖★★ | 📍★★★ | 🌊 High | 👍 Completed

Done after canyon 40 aniversario. High flow but possible thanks to local guide. Luckily i visited the touristic cave as well, bcs the beauty of it is obviously more impressive (lights, deco...) than the traverse. All alone in both the cave, canyon and traverse.

2023-03-09 | System User | ★★★★★ | 📖 | 📍 | |

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