

Cueva La Jeringa

La Jeringa is located just outside of the small town of Bayahibe in the Dominican Republic. La Jeringa in English means "The Syringe", kind of a strange name for a cave. In doing a little research and talking to one of the old timers that lives in the area we discovered that the property was once owned by Manuel Perez. Manuel was known as Jeringa because for some reason he liked to call everyone by that name. Manuel died many years ago when he was hit by a bus. The city later owned the property and pumped water from it until approximately 10 years ago. Today the property and much of the area around it is owned by the La Romana Bayahibe Hotel Association, with the park controlling access.

La Jeringa was discovered and mapped by Cristian Pittaro and Dave Pratt in early 2009. Exploration is still ongoing with new sections being discovered on a regular basis, however many of the new sections are considered "No Mount" and like the name implies requires divers to remove tanks and push them ahead to continue. This cave is a limestone "breakdown" cave, in that the rock is dissolved over millions of years, forms a void and then collapses, you are basically diving the space between such collapses. The rock is super sharp "Velcro" rock and will catch on any piece of gear so A+ buoyancy control is essential. La Jeringa is considered an advanced cave dive more suitable to Sidemount configuration were tanks are worn on the side instead of the back due to very low ceiling heights. Although very extensive and the second largest cave in the DR, most of the tunnels are very tight allowing only one diver to pass at a time, single file and often sandwiched between the floor and ceiling, some section require that divers remove the tanks and push them in front to continue, a dive of claustrophobic proportions.

Typical Velcro rock tunnel in La Jeringa



The pumphouse entrance cave starts just below abandoned water pipes

DRSS Dominican Republic Speleological Society DR-SS.com © 2009 DRSS

LA JERINGA CAVE BAYAHIBE, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC
 Exploration and Survey team:
 Cristian Pittaro, Dave Pratt
 June 2009 Updated: May 2010

