

The Pit

Sistema Dos Ojos

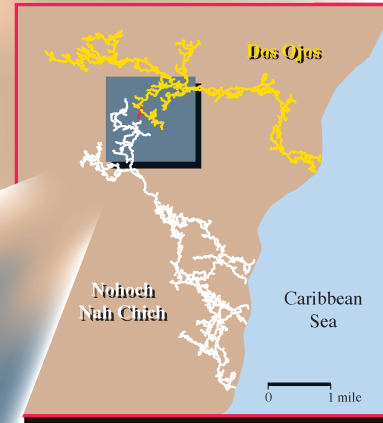
Quintana Roo, Mexico

A knotted-line survey by

Steve Bogaerts, Paul Heinerth, Jill Heinerth,
Dan Lins, Mike Madden, Andreas Matthes,
Buddy Quattlebaum, Gary Walten
and Kay Walten

October 1996 - March 2000

Cartography by Hazel A. Barton

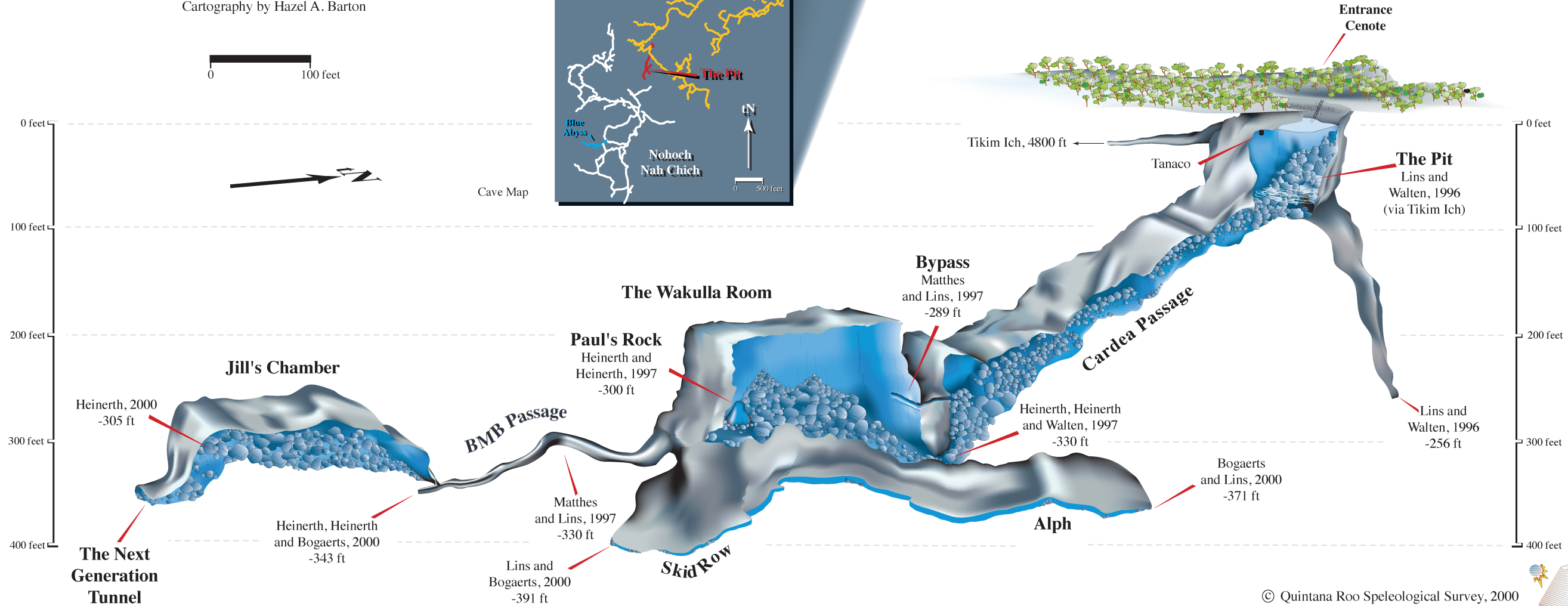


History

The Pit was originally discovered in September 1994 by Dan Lins and Kay Walten during a 4800 foot penetration dive from Cenote Tikim Ich; their goal was a connection between the 34 mile Sistema Dos Ojos and the near-by, 38 mile-long cave, Nohoch Nah Chich. Following the initial discovery, Jill and Paul Heinerth explored The Pit, along with Kay and Gary Walten. This team discovered a descending borehole, The Cardea Passage. At the end of this passage, at a depth of 330 feet, a significant boulder collapse was encountered. Squeezing a route between these boulders, Paul went on to discover the Wakulla Room.

In 1997, Dan Lins returned with Andreas Matthes and Mike Madden. These divers discovered a bypass to the squeeze at the bottom of the Cardea Passage, The Bypass, and subsequently went on to discover the BMB Passage at the far end of the Wakulla Room. Due to the huge amount of equipment needed for these dives and the remoteness of the site, these were the last open-circuit exploration dives at The Pit.

Finally, Buddy Quattlebaum constructed a road to the entrance cenote. This improved access allowed two rebreather expeditions to take place at The Pit in early 2000. In January, Steve Bogaerts, Dan Lins and Buddy Quattlebaum carried out a series of dives, to discover the Alph Passage and Skid Row. Unfortunately, both of these leads closed down. In March 2000, Jill and Paul Heinerth returned to extend the cave beyond the BMB Passage. Once again, passing through a tight constriction, Paul discovered Jill's Chamber and, the as yet unexplored, Next Generation Passage.



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