

Actun Xcoch

"Xcoch was but a league distant, and, besides the ruins of buildings, it contained an ancient pozo, or well, of mysterious and marvelous reputation, the fame of which was in everybody's mouth. This well was said to be a vast subterranean structure, adorned with sculptured figures, an immense table of polished stone, and a plaza with columns supporting a vaulted roof, and it was said to have a subterranean road, which led to the village of Mani, twenty-seven miles distant...Not a white man in the place had ever entered it, though several had looked in at the mouth, who said that the wind had taken away their breath, and they had not ventured to go in."
-John Lloyd Stephens, Incidents of Travel in Yucatán, V.1, 1843

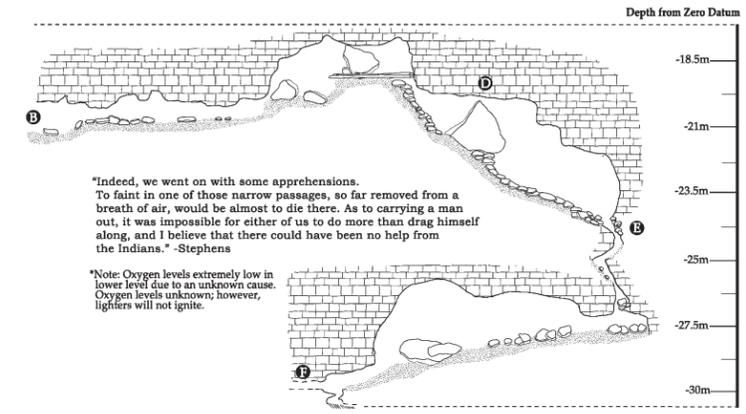
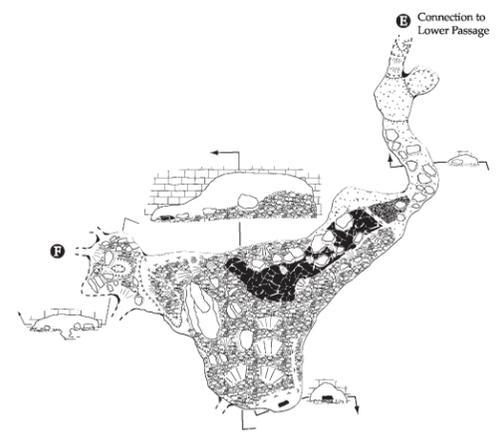
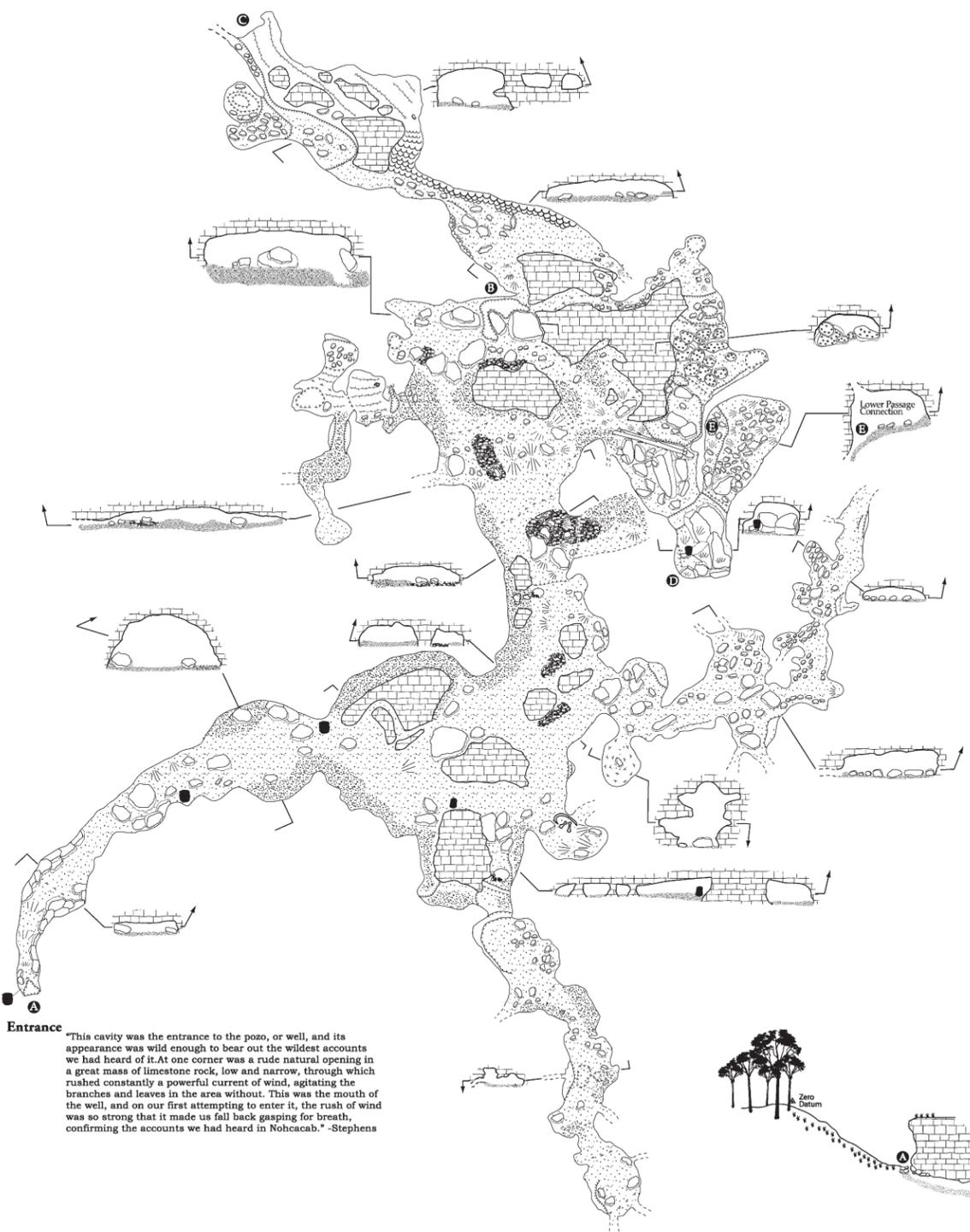


Yucatán, Mexico
 2009 Survey
 Magnetic Declination: 1.02
 Total Surveyed Depth: 32.9 meters from zero datum
 Total Surveyed Length: 661.0 meters
 Suunto Compass and Fiberglass Tape

Surveyors:
 Beth Cortright
 Tammy Otten
 Dorothy Goepel
 Harry Goepel
Cartographer:
 Eric Weaver

Legend

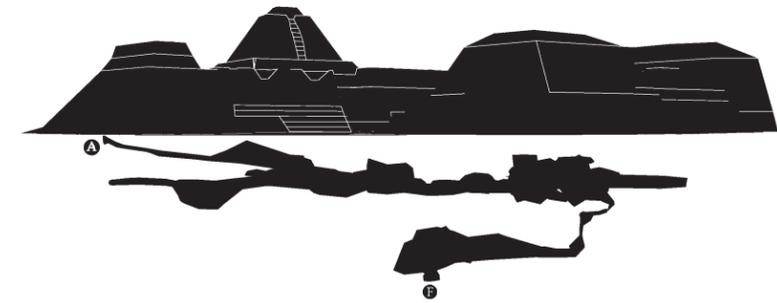
- Cave Walls
- Potential passage
- Drop floor/ceiling
- Bedrock
- Ledge
- Dome
- Mud slope
- Flowstone
- Gypsum
- Water
- Bucket
- Human bones
- Burro bones
- Metate
- Obsidian blade
- Altar
- Rounded stone
- Wood bridge
- Soil
- Rock debris
- Ceramic
- Charcoal
- Bedrock



"Indeed, we went on with some apprehensions. To faint in one of those narrow passages, so far removed from a breath of air, would be almost to die there. As to carrying a man out, it was impossible for either of us to do more than drag himself along, and I believe that there could have been no help from the Indians." -Stephens

*Note: Oxygen levels extremely low in lower level due to an unknown cause. Oxygen levels unknown; however, lighters will not ignite.

"As a mere cave, this was extraordinary; but as a well or watering-place for an ancient city, it was past belief, except for the proofs under our own eyes. Around it were the ruins of a city without any other visible means of supply..." -Stephens, p.357



Entrance
 "This cavity was the entrance to the pozo, or well, and its appearance was wild enough to bear out the wildest accounts we had heard of it. At one corner was a rude natural opening in a great mass of limestone rock, low and narrow, through which rushed constantly a powerful current of wind, agitating the branches and leaves in the area without. This was the mouth of the well, and on our first attempting to enter it, the rush of wind was so strong that it made us fall back gasping for breath, confirming the accounts we had heard in Nohcacab." -Stephens



Actun Xcoch
 Nohcacab, Mpo. Tekax
 Yucatán