coming from several of these options. They took note of the time, 4 a.m., and discussed the distance they had come, nearly 800 meters, and the time it would take to return to camp while derigging some of the ropes. With 72 stations in the book, and concern about what Andy might do given their long absence, they decided to pack up and head out. The trip back was a little slower than the trip in, but Derek and Gilly returned to Camp 1.5 around 9 a.m. and were immediately greeted by a very relieved Andy.

Derek, Gilly, and Andy slept until noon, had a meal, cleaned up camp, and began the trip back to the surface, stage-derigging as they went. The trip went well and the three emerged from the Hobbit Hole right at dusk. Without a vehicle, they had planned to hike from the cave to the nearby town of San Miguel, where a taxi could be hired to bring them the rest of the way to San Agustín. This turned into a much bigger adventure than anticipated after taking a wrong turn, getting false directions from a young girl, then finally getting to town where the three nearly met their end at the hands of a very drunk taxi driver. In the end they were rescued by some locals who took pity on the dirty, tired and lost gringos, and helped them find a more reputable taxi. Derek and Gilly discussed naming the new discovery after an area in Lechuguilla Cave, and Andy proposed "Mexiguilla," which immediately stuck. Mexiguilla represents a major breakthrough for the 2015 Huautla expedition. It is a unique section of Sistema Huautla both due to its incredibly horizontal nature, and to its high concentration of formations. After exiting La Grieta, Gilly, who was still experiencing the "booty high" for the remainder of the expedition, continuously brought up how wondrous she found Mexiguilla to be. This prompted Andy to (only half jokingly) suggest that the 2016 expedition T-shirts should read "I've been to Mexiguilla, everything else is s#%t." It goes without saying that a return to Mexiguilla will be one of our major objectives for 2016.

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