

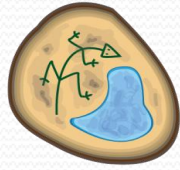
CUEVA NI RAHU'



(Cueva de los Niños del Agua)

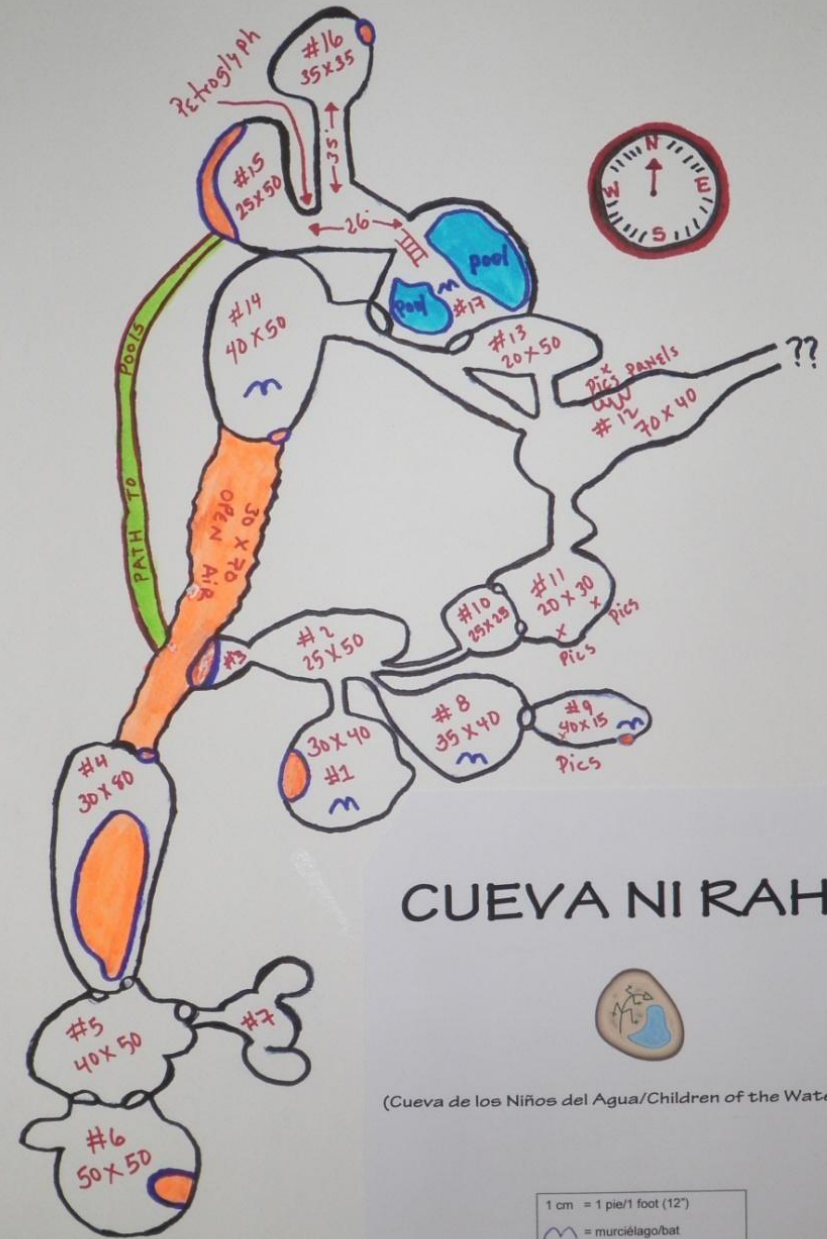
A brief introduction to a project that combines economic and well-being assistance to the poverty-stricken people of Dominican and Haitian descent in the rural community of La Piedra in the region of Boca Chica, Dominican Republic, while simultaneously protecting the region's delicate and fascinating karst topography in what was once a vital drinking-water resource region for the island's Native Taíno people.

**Dr. Lynne Guitar (U.S. historian and cultural anthropologist),
for the Guanín Foundation, Inc. in La Piedra.**



Cueva Ni Rahú

- The cave is located to the North of the Las Americas Airport, in La Piedra, which belongs to the Municipality of La Caleta, Boca Chica. It contains more than 17 connecting rooms with Native Taíno pictographs and petroglyphs, incredible natural formations, and two subterranean pools of crystalline drinking water. The cave's name comes from two Native Taíno words: *ni* = water and *rahú* = children. Thus, "Cueva Ni Rahú," or "Children of the Water Cave."



CUEVA NI RAHÚ



(Cueva de los Niños del Agua/Children of the Water Cave)

1 cm = 1 pie/1 foot (12')

☺ = murciélago/bat

☐ (orange) = una apertura en el techo o entrada/salida al aire libre/opening in ceiling or entrance/exit to open air

☐ (blue) = piscinas subterráneas subterranean pools



Cueva Ni Rahú





Cueva Ni Rahú, pictografías taínas



Salón #11



Salón #9



Salón #12

Salón #1





Cueva Ni Rahú, petroglifos taínos



Salón #15



De
unas
cuevas
vecinas

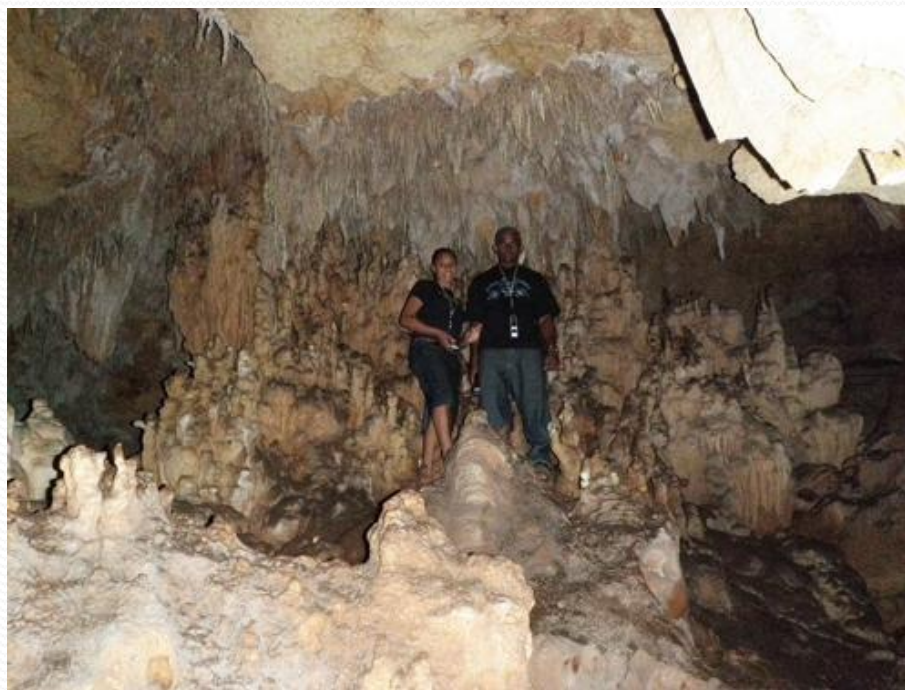


Salón #3





Cueva Ni Rahú, formaciones naturales





Más formaciones naturales





Cueva Ni Rahú, dos piscinas subterráneas





El terreno alrededor de la Cueva Ni Rahú



LAND AROUND CAVE: Rainy Season



Dry Season

Los vecinos de La Piedra



LA PIEDRA NEIGHBORS; SHORT HISTORY:

- Limestone formed by corals created karst landscape
- Called San Luis Plantation in 1930s-40s, Trujillo claimed
- 1960s, abandoned —1998 Hurricane George refugees began to move in, both Dominican and Haitians

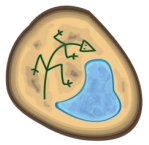




Lo que queremos hacer en La Piedra

- We want to create an Educational Ecotourism Center dedicated to the Taíno people of the Greater Antilles with an Ecolodge for tourists and student groups, plus their teachers, with a restaurant/bar to also use for presentations and conferences
- We would provide educational tours of the cave and ecological conferences about the caves and the Taíno, forming links with other ecotourism programs across the regions, and training local residents in foreign languages and how to be ecological and community guides Eventually we would like to provide programs to return native animals to the region (hutias, solenodontes, iguanas and more) and plant more Native Taíno foods..





Lo que queremos hacer para la comunidad de La Piedra

Through Centro Guanín, Inc., we would like to provide for the La Piedra community:

- Training for good-paying jobs as ecotourism guides, cooks, sports managers, craftsmen and artisans, as well as in construction and maintenance and other positions to support ever higher levels of ecotourism/community tourism and student group visits.
- We would like to expand both our educational programs for children and teens, as well as adult students, with a focus on basic education as well as Spanish, English, French, German, and foreign languages.
- We would also like to expand our library and computer competency programs.
- Continue organizing summer camps for the children of La Piedra.
- Form agricultural cooperatives to raise vegetables, grains, and animals that thrive in this region such as goats, pigs, and chickens.
- Organize educational programs about organic agriculture and the construction and use of what are called “fertilizer-making family latrines.”
- Create community aid projects to lay aqueducts for bringing water to the residents’ home as well as more reliable electrical power.

