THE LONGAR HYPOGEUM

The Longar site is located in the Alto of Bojes, 750m height in Viana, between Aras, Aguilar de Codés and Labraza. This area is situated between two streams, in an elevated and protected area with enough resources for hunting and harvesting.

It is dated from 2,500 BC approximately, it is therefore settled in the Neolithic, a period in which the metal was not used.

The inhabitants lived in huts, built with perishable materials. They dedicated to the cereals cultivation as it is shown by the flat mill found inside the undertaker’s. It was an extra stone of the bench prepared for the deposit of corpses. Their tools were made of stone.

The megalithic tomb found in Longar is a Hypogeum, which is very strange and little usual in these places. It is an underground room excavated in an elongated way with the bedhead in semicircle, delimited by a wall and covered with a great gravestone. The access door is a big drilled stone and a passage with driven stones on both sides.

More than a hundred people of all ages have been found there throughout a century, five or six generations used this tomb before it collapsed.

When it was full, it was cleaned so that it could be used again. The skulls were respected and were stacked in a corner. It is curious that grave goods, necklaces, pendants have not been found. Only a very rudimentary ceramic which could be used as an oil lamp has been found. The only found objects are silex tools: knives, chippings and thirty tips of arrows. Some of these weapons appeared stucked in the bones of some of these people: in the vertebra, humerus, in a rib and in the jaw.

The Longar Hypogeum was studied and rebuilt from 1991 to 1993 by a team of archeologists from Navarra university.

The access is quite easy for visitors, by car from Viana, along Aras road and at km 4 turn left or just walking following the Valverde River.