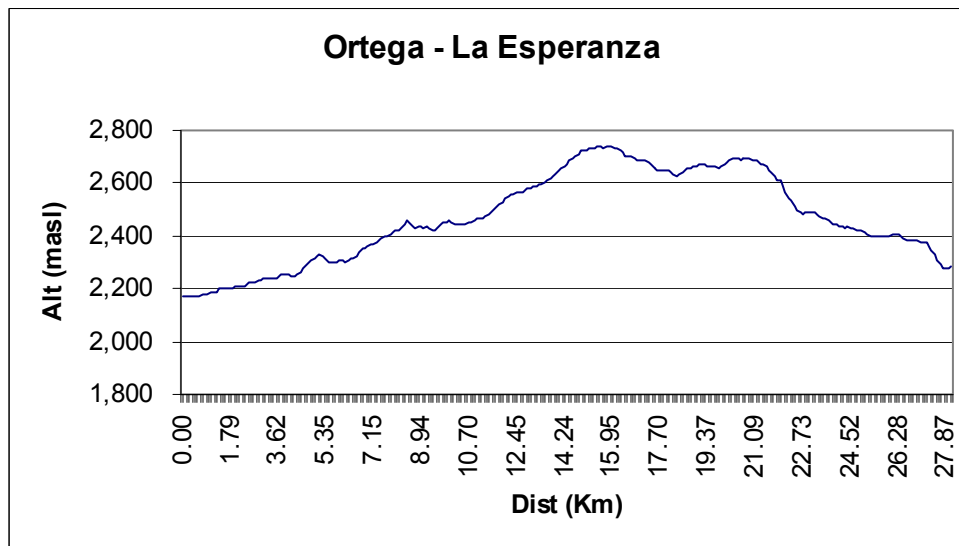


STAGE DESCRIPTIONS & ELEVATION CHARTS LEG 1

SPECIAL STAGE 1/4 : ORTEGA - LA ESPERANZA	
LENGTH:	29.06 km
STAGE RECORD:	No record. Last used in 2003, when it was run in the opposite direction and 1.98 km shorter.

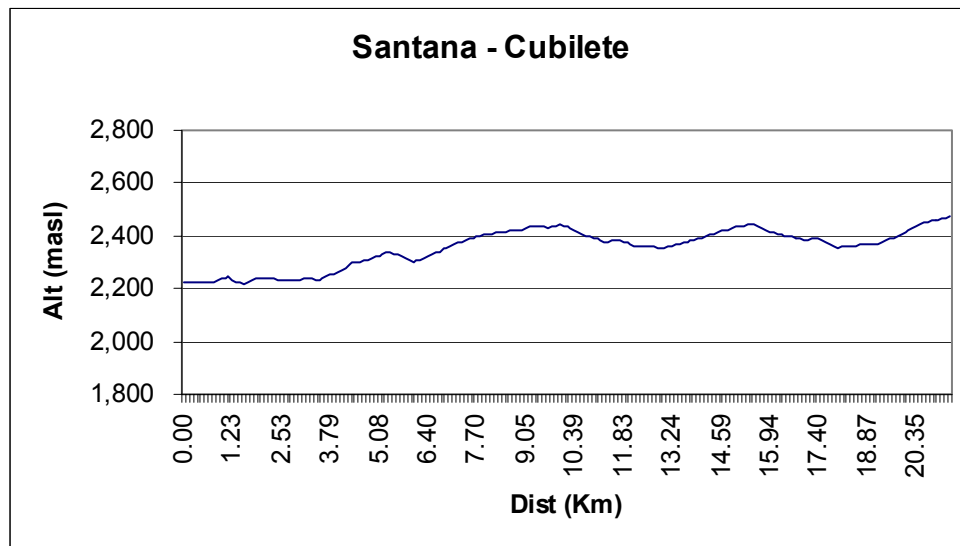
This very fast stage is the highest of the rally and peaks at 2,737 meters after 15.51 kilometers. It starts at 2,173 meters, running through a gorge and following the route of a river below. Ever-changing surfaces - from hard-packed loose gravel to softer dirt - are noted by changes from grey to red and orange-coloured roads with contrasting green pine trees on the hillsides. After climbing through the villages of Santiaguillo and El Tablón - near the highest point - the route goes through Las Cumbres on narrower roads before descending onto a more open track and the finish at La Esperanza Dam, at 2,282 meters. Nearly 20 kilometers of this stage has been built by Corona Rally México, reducing a round trip from Rincon de Ortega to Guanajuato by two hours and 100 kilometers for villagers. The mean altitude of the stage is 2,469 meters.



SPECIAL STAGE 2 : SANTANA - CUBILETE	
LENGTH:	22.61 km
STAGE RECORD:	No record. The stage is a combination of stages 1 and 2 in 2003, run in the opposite direction.

This stage is one of the fastest and has two very distinguishing features at the start and finish; the huge ruin in Santana sits alongside the start line, while the old church of El Cubilete is one of the most distinctive landmarks in the whole area, visible for miles sitting at a height of 2,473 meters.

The stage starts at 2,224 meters on hard packed gravel, gradually climbing up the mountains on fast, wide and flowing roads. A large lake and colourful church mark the village of Santana and the stage passes through La Luz at 15.70 kilometers, where it previously finished in 2003. The route then heads through Sangre de Cristo, with its typically painted Mexican houses, before reaching the summit of El Cubilete, on the road section, with its small shops and restaurants. The mean altitude of the stage is 2,355 meters.



SPECIAL STAGE 3 : IBARRILLA - EL ZAUCO	
LENGTH:	27.30 km
STAGE RECORD:	No record. Same as stages 9/18 in 2003 for the first 13 kilometers; new from there.

The stage starts at 2,029 meters on a fast uphill section, with views of León in the background. A combination of narrow packed gravel tracks, fast open sections and twisty undulating roads, sometimes on a sandy surface, ultimately take the crews to the junction at Agua Zarcà, at the mid-point of the stage. From here, flowing roads, open and spectacular plains ensure visibility of the stage for miles. This very fast stage is awash with cacti and finishes at a height of 2,312 meters with a series of hairpins and switchbacks. The last 20 kilometers were created by Corona Rally México for the 2003 event, which also provided a route to the main road to León for the inhabitants. The mean altitude of the stage is 2,248 meters.

