



Zunil (2086m)

Vuelta a Guatemala



Zunil and its white church

Vuelta a Guatemala

56th edition in 2016 and an international list of winners, exclusively Spanish speaking (25x Colombia, 15x the host country, 6x Costa Rica, 5x Spain, 3x Mexico, 1x Cuba and Venezuela). 9 days in 2016 and a route between the Ocean (Pacific) and the volcanos (Tajumulco 4220m, Acatenango 3976m, ...). The topography of the country allows to design a very good balanced route: flat stages along the seashore, alpine elevation gains (between 1500 and 2000m) and final jumps to cross over the highest altitudes, around 3000m. Not so amazing to see so many 3rd category KOM above 2000m.

For example, the KOM list 2013:

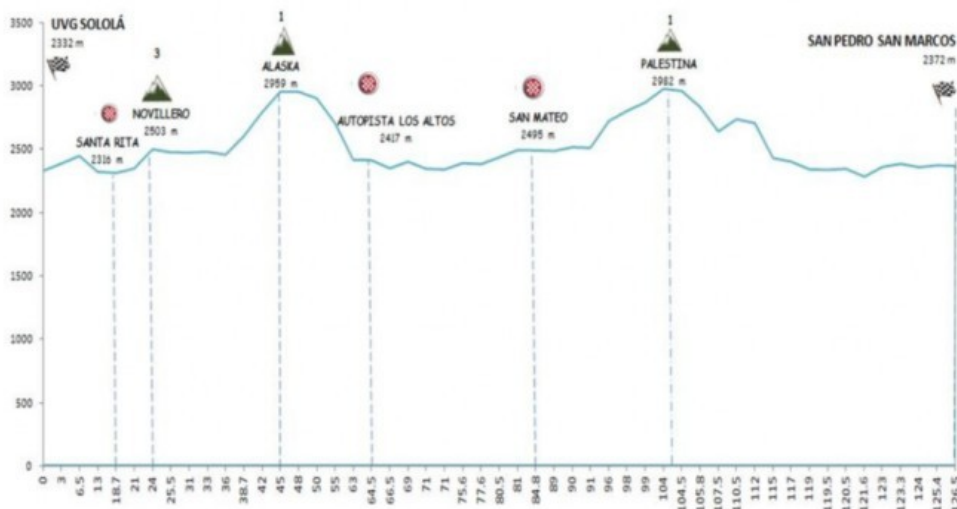
Etapa	Puertos	Altimetría (m.s.n.m.)	Categoría	Ganador
1. ^a	Sin puertos puntuables			
2. ^a	Alto Pasarela. Mojón 32.	1987	3. ^a	 Arley Montoya
	Alto del Mirador de San Lucas.	2005	2. ^a	 Arley Montoya
	Alto del Presidente.	1974	3. ^a	 Óscar Sánchez
3. ^a	Sin puertos puntuables			
4. ^a	Alto Pasarela. Mojón 32.	1987	3. ^a	 Ramón Aguirre
	Alto del Presidente.	1974	3. ^a	 Arley Montoya
	Alto la Calera.	2481	3. ^a	 Walter Escobar
	Alto aldea Chupol.	2477	3. ^a	 Luis Danilo Marroquin
5. ^a	Santa Catarina Ixtahuacán	2953	1. ^a	 Arley Montoya
	San Francisco El Alto	2569	2. ^a	 Edwin Parra
	Alto de Pologua	2792	3. ^a	 Óscar Sánchez
	Malacatancito	2014	3. ^a	 Óscar Sánchez
6. ^a	Gasolinera Los Dos 237	2061	3. ^a	 Jhonathan De León
	Alto de Pologua	2772	3. ^a	 Fredy Colop
7. ^a	Palestina de Los Altos	2959	1. ^a	 Dorian Monterroso
8. ^a	Alto de La Dicha	909	2. ^a	 Alex Arseno
	Alto de Santa María	1537	2. ^a	 Walter Escobar
	Zunil	2086	1. ^a	 Arley Montoya

https://es.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vuelta_a_Guatemala_2013

The fans of altimetry will appreciate the comprehensive routes of 2012 and 2013:

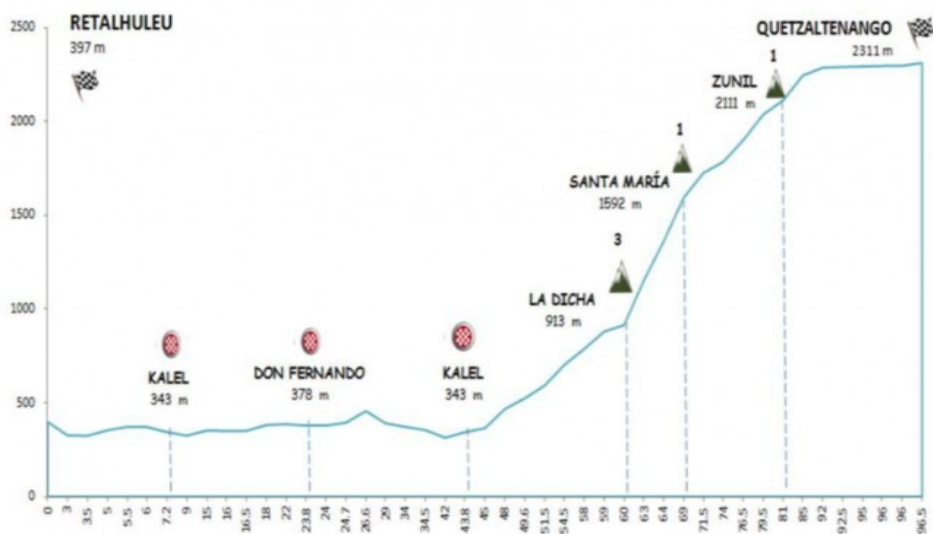
https://es.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anexo:Etapas_de_la_Vuelta_a_Guatemala_2012#2..C2.AA_etapa:_Sanarate-Cob.C3.A1n.2C_158_km

https://es.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anexo:Etapas_de_la_Vuelta_a_Guatemala_2013#5..C2.AA_etapa:_Solol.C3.A1_-_Huehuetenango.2C_150_km



Profile 5th stage 2015. Alaska is the other name of Santa Catarina

Zunil – Portrait



Profile 7th stage 2015

We've chosen Zunil, little town at 2100m. Not the highest « King of the Mountain », but the one with the best elevation gain. It lies on the road from the plain to Chimaltenango (2300m, 15km after Zunil). From there, it's possible to reach Alaska/San Catarina and Palestina de Los Altos at more than 2900m (see profile above).

From the bridge Puente El Niño, the climb is 39km long with 1740m elevation gain, that means 4,46% average gradient. Remarkable: the organizers put two intermediate KOM in the continuous climb, in **La Dicha** (901m) and **Santa María** (1526m). See the photos below. The altitudes are those of the route 2012. The profile of the 7th stage 2015 gives different figures.

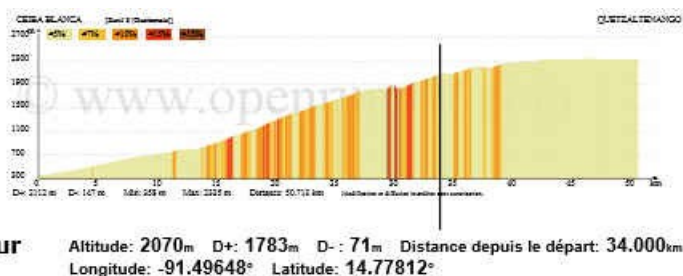
36,0	Inicio de ascenso. Puente El Niño.	320
45,0	Entrada a San Felipe. Zona de túmulos.	563
47,5	Segunda entrada a San Felipe.	580
54,0	1. ^{er} Premio de la montaña (de 3. ^a categoría). Alto de La Dicha.	901
63,0	2. ^o Premio de la montaña (de 1. ^a categoría). Alto de Santa María.	1526
68,0	Paso de túnel (precaución).	1742
75,0	3. ^{er} Premio de la montaña (de 1. ^a categoría). Alto de Zunil. Inicio de descenso.	2061
77,0	Inicio de ascenso. Zona de túmulos.	2055
87,0	Las Rosas. Paso a desnivel.	2245
88,0	Giro a la derecha.	2248
89,7	Monumento a la Marimba.	2257
91,0	Llegada. Parque Central de Quetzaltenango.	2298

End of the route 8th stage 2012

Openrunner gives a rather different distance (34km instead of 39), but a similar elevation gain (1712m against 1741m).

1,6 3,3 3,2 3,8 4,5 / 4,1 4,3 4,2 3,1 3,1 352m
 3,0 4,5 1,1 3,7 7,1 / 6,8 7,2 7,8 7,2 8,7 571m
 8,5 5,7 7,6 6,0 7,2 / 5,4 8,2 4,4 1,3 5,5 598m
 -2,0 8,5 6,4 6,2 191m

The km % allow to understand that La Dicha is only a 3rd category climb, after 15km at +/- 4%. Santa María (1st cat.) is another story (625m in 9km). Zunil (535m in 12km) in itself is not a 1st cat. climb, but its position in the race is strategic.



Profile Openrunner

Actually, Zunil is not the end of the climb, that continues up to the plateau. After Zunil, we can find the following km %: 0,8 4,9 6,0 -0,2 5,8 3,5, ...

Summary of the climb on <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Mt5K93FS-TQ> (from 9.49)

Some screenshots of the 8th stage 2013



KOM in El Dicha (video 13.11)



KOM in Santa María (video 17.10)



Tunnel between Santa María and Zúñil



Urban KOM in Zunil



In Zunil, the Ladies' path is cobbled



Shortcut from Zunil to Quetzaltengo via Almolonga