

Tenerife Sur: Short Walks Under 10 km

Ifonche-Fuente El Chorrillo Circular (Adeje)

Route Summary

A short but spectacular walk in the very rural and pine-forested Ifonche area. Taking a path under the cliffs on the edge of Barrancos del Infierno and Seco, the route passes through a botanically interesting environment, visits a number of caves and a verdant spring.

Duration: 2.5 hours

Route Overview

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Transport/Parking: There is no Titsa bus service to Ifonche. Park on the verge of the road leading uphill from Bar/Restaurante El Dornajo.

Length: 4.570 km / 2.86 mi

Height Gain: 271 meter

Height Loss: 271 meter

Max Height: 1060 meter

Min Height: 941 meter

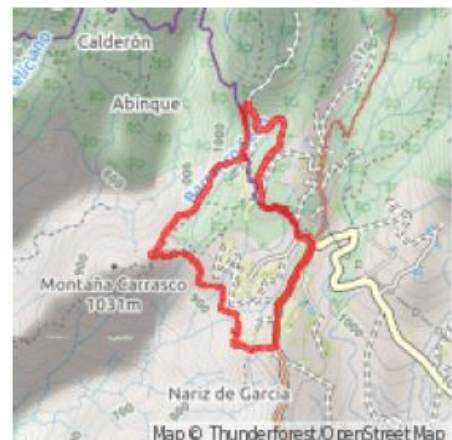
Surface: Rough. The path is narrow and a little precipitous in places.

Child Friendly: Yes, but only if children are used to hikes of this distance and overall ascent on rough paths. Note also that the path is narrow and a little precipitous in places.

Difficulty: Moderate.

Dog Friendly: Yes.

Refreshments: Bar/Restaurante El Dornajo in Ifonche.



Description

This short walk offers botanical and environmental interest alongside some of the most spectacular views that can be experienced in the south of Tenerife. Initially, the route deviates from the standard path from Ifonche to La Quinta to take a slightly higher route through the pine trees. Descending to the side of the Barranco del Infierno near the threshing circle (era) and finca at Benítez, the views are stupendous. From here the path descends to a shaded and verdant area under a steep cliff with the opportunity to spot plants and flowers, such as the Canary Bellflower, not often seen in the south and west of Tenerife. Crossing a saddle to enter the Barranco Seco there is the opportunity to visit a number of caves including one apparently occupied by a large family within living memory. The focal point on the route is the Fuente de Chorrillo, a spring that drips and trickles from the cliff wall near the top of the deep and precipitous Barranco Seco. Here, mint, rushes and other water-loving plants can be found. In this area, the views of the rugged barranco, and to the southern resorts at the coast are breath-taking. Note that the path is narrow and a little precipitous in a couple of places.



Thanks to [Sally Whymark](#), author of "[Tenerife Nature Walks](#)", for the [route description](#) that gave us the idea for the walk. This walk (#92 in our series) can be combined with our Walk #50 to approximate to the longer route described by Sally.

Waypoints

(1) Start at Bar/Restaurante El Dornajo

(28.13498; -16.69000)

The walk start at the Bar/Restaurante El Dornajo. With your back to the entrance door, turn left and follow the road downhill, around a bend, then uphill towards an obvious walks signpost on your right about 100 m from the Bar El Dornajo.



(2) Turn right onto marked path

(28.13528; -16.69081)

In about 100 m from the bar/restaurante El Dornajo, turn right onto the signposted path marked for La Quinta. (106 m)



(3) Turn right up rough road

(28.13698; -16.69299)

In another 380 m, or so, after climbing a steep section of track, turn right up the rough forest road. (484 m)



(4) Take left fork

(28.13765; -16.69290)

In just 75 m, take the left fork at the y-junction. (559 m)



(5) Keep straight on here - then veer right

(28.14084; -16.69318)

After about 650 m, keep straight on where there is an option to go left and downhill - then very quickly veer right, still following the rough forest track. (1.2 km)



(6) Left and down

(28.14127; -16.69316)

In about 50 m, follow the track that goes left and downhill. (1.3 km)



(7) Left again

(28.14227; -16.69375)

In another 100m, or so, go left at the t-junction on a narrow path that will take you back to the main La Quinta path that you left at Waypoint 3. (1.4 km)



(8) Left onto main La Quinta/Ifonche path

(28.14187; -16.69408)

In another 100 m, turn left to re-join the main La Quinta/Ifonche path, heading back in the direction of Ifonche for 200 m, or so. (1.5 km)



(9) Right at x-roads

(28.13939; -16.69389)

Descending through the forest for about 200 m, now turn right at the x-roads of paths. (1.7 km)



(10) Carry on past era - away from house

(28.13861; -16.69582)

In 300 m, having passed the finca Benitez above you on your right you will arrive at an old threshing circle (era) at the edge of the Barranco del Infierno. On a clear day there are some very impressive views here! When you are ready, move on past the era and a short white concrete post, going away from the Benitez house. Keep the barranco on your right. (2.0 km)



(11) Right down stony path

(28.13681; -16.69687)

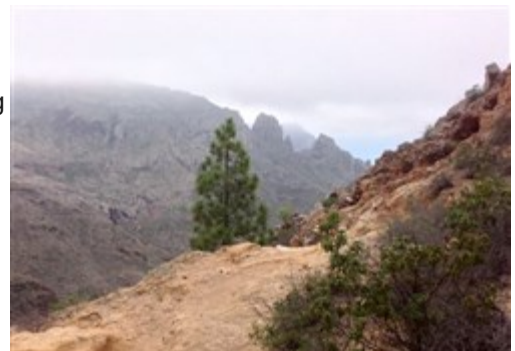
In just over 200 m, before the path starts to rise up a slope, go right down the stony path that descends into the barranco, just past the small blue sign for a protected area. (2.2 km)



(12) Left at rocky saddle

(28.13424; -16.69941)

In 400 m, the path reaches a rocky "saddle" composed of yellow/orange coloured pumice stone, with Barranco del Infierno on your right and Barranco Seco on your left. Go left here, looking out for a narrow path on your left in about 100 m. (2.6 km)



(13) Cave of the Donkey

(28.13443; -16.69893)

In under 100 m, you will find the narrow path on your left that takes you to the Cave of the Donkey (Cueva del Burro). Once you have checked out the cave, return to the main path and carry on. (2.7 km)



(14) Go left at t-junction

(28.13429; -16.69859)

In just 40 m, or so, ensure you go left at the t-junction to continue following the path with the cliffs on your left side. (2.7 km)



(15) Cave of the Small Farm

(28.13445; -16.69793)

In another 100 m, you will come upon another cave, this time with a walled and gated entrance. This is the Cave of the Small Farm (Cueva de la Estancia). Apparently, this was the childhood home* of a large family with some of them still surviving, in their 80s, in 2014. When you are ready, move on along the main path with the cliffs on your left side.

* Information provided by Sally Whycheck, "Tenerife Nature Walks":

<https://tenerifenaturewalks.wordpress.com/2014/06/02/an-exciting-new-walk-in-the-reserve-of-the-barranco-del-infierno-near-ifonche-tenerife/>

(16) Cave of the Rejoicing

(28.13275; -16.69628)

In another 300 m, ascend the narrow path to the Cave of the Rejoicing (La Cueva de Regocijo). There are wonderful views of the barranco and down to the coastal resort from here. Now, return to the main path and carry on as before. (3.1 km)



(17) Fuente el Chorrillo

(28.13219; -16.69520)

In about 200 m, you will arrive at the delightful Fuente (spring) el Chorrillo. Here there are ferns and water-loving plants like Mint, and water trickles into a concrete/stone receptacle. When you are ready, move on. (3.1 km)



(18) The Dripping Cave

(28.13130; -16.69438)

In about 100 m you will arrive at The Dripping Cave (La Cueva de las Goteras). When you are ready, move on. Soon the path starts to rise on a zig-zag route, with terraces appearing on your left side. Keep following the path to the top of the barranco side, passing a small communications mast on your left side near the top. (3.4 km)



(19) Left back towards El Dornajo

(28.12961; -16.69214)

In 500 m you will have arrived at the top of the side of the barranco at a rough road. Turn left here to soon join the narrow tarred road back to the bar/restaurante El Dornajo. (3.9 km)



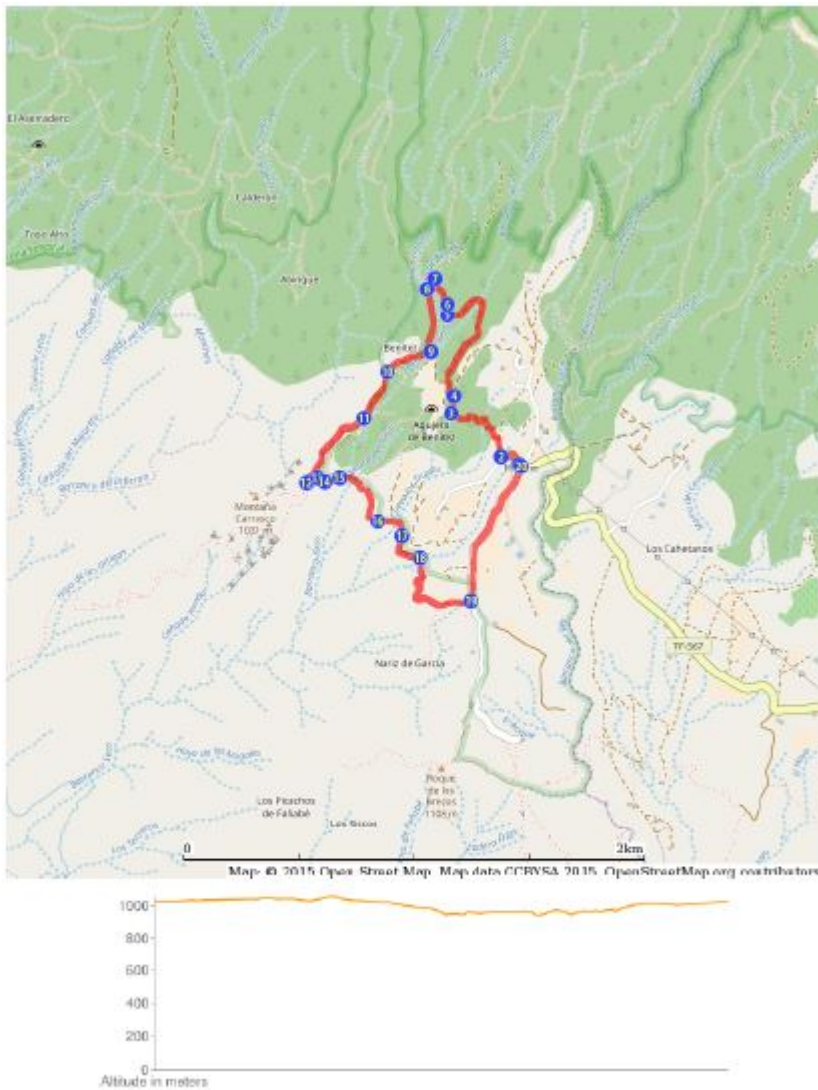
(20) End at Restaurant Dornajo

(28.13491; -16.68992)

In 700 m, you will have returned to your start point at the Restaurant Dornajo. (4.6 km)



Route Map



Links:

[Photos from walk](#)

[Download Route Guide](#) (PDF with illustrated Waypoints)

[Download GPX file](#) (GPS Exchange Format)

[Access Walk on Viewranger](#)

[Access Walk on Wikiloc](#)