

Tenerife Sur: Short Walks Under 10 km

Arguayo-Las Manchas-La Hoya Circular (Santiago del Teide)

Route Summary

A varied and strenuous hike to Las Manchas and back on old stony "caminos" taking in rural terraces, pine trees and lava fields. Great views to Teide and of the southern Teno Mountains. The last 2 kilometres involve an impressive traverse of La Hoya, above the El Bicho tunnels.

Duration: 4 hours



Route Overview

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Transport/Parking: Titsa 461/462 from Santiago del Teide. Easy parking in Arguayo beneath the start/end point at the church.

Length: 7.590 km / 4.74 mi

Height Gain: 525 meter

Height Loss: 525 meter

Max Height: 1180 meter

Min Height: 862 meter

Surface: Rough.

Child Friendly: Only if children are used to strenuous uphill walking on rough surfaces.

Difficulty: Medium to hard

Dog Friendly: Yes.

Refreshments: We suggest the El Unico Bar in Arguayo, near to the end of the walk.



Description

Although not hugely difficult, this is a strenuous hike involving 525 metres of overall ascent. The first part of the walk from Arguayo largely takes an alternative, less used route in the direction of Santiago del Teide. This narrow path rises up past numerous abandoned terraces and open pines eventually reaching the main "camino" and an area of mature pine forest with great views of Pico del Teide and Pico Viejo. We then cross over a watershed and the views change to a marvellous prospect of the southern Teno Mountains and Santiago del Teide nestling at the opening to the Valle de Arriba under the Puerto de Erjos. Passing a lonely Ermita (shrine), perched high above Las Manchas, we descend to the little hamlet before tackling the return to Arguayo, climbing over the side of the La Hoya mountain mass, passing high above the El Bicho tunnel openings on the TF-1, where the views are consistently spectacular as we skirt around the hillside.



Waypoints

(1) Start at church plaza

(28.26638; -16.80758)

The walk start in the church plaza in Arguayo. With the church door at your back, turn right and walk up Calle Candelaria.



(2) Turn right onto Calle San Augustin

(28.26812; -16.80634)

In 250 m, turn right onto Calle San Augustin. (249 m)



(3) Down and left out of village

(28.26730; -16.80532)

In another 150 m, or so, head down and left towards the outskirts of the village. (393 m)



(4) At signs go left to Santiago del Teide

(28.26711; -16.80412)

In 130 m, at the walk signs on the rough road, go left, taking the direction for Santiago del Teide. (525 m)



(5) Veer slightly left avoiding gated route

(28.26725; -16.80368)

In 50 m, or so, veer slightly left avoiding gated route on your right. (572 m)



(6) Left up narrow stony path

(28.26764; -16.80346)

In just another 50 m, or so, go left and up a narrow stony path. (621 m)



(7) Sharp right turn here

(28.26895; -16.80338)

In 172 m, go sharp right to follow another narrow path. (793 m)



(8) Left onto overgrown path

(28.26960; -16.80166)

In another 185 m, turn sharp left onto what looks to be an overgrown path. (978 m)



(9) Briefly right to avoid tree branches on path

(28.27039; -16.80134)

In 122 m, go right off the old path to avoid tree branches on path. Briefly follow the indistinct path that soon rejoins the main path you are on. (1.1 km)



(10) Left upon meeting main path to Santiago del Teide

(28.27150; -16.79609)

In 500 m, as the path relentlessly climbs up past abandoned terraces, turn sharp left upon meeting the wider main path to Santiago del Teide. Now follow it. (1.6 km)



(11) Ensure right turn here

(28.27186; -16.79602)

In about 40 m, ensure you take the sharp right turn slightly uphill on the main path. (1.7 km)



(12) Ensure veer right here

(28.27605; -16.79379)

In 500 m, ensure you follow the path as it veers right here, on the edge of the pines. (2.3 km)



(13) Sharp left at t-junction

(28.27922; -16.79212)

In another 400 m, as the path now descends to Las Manchas and Santiago del Teide, go sharp left at a t-junction. (2.7 km)



(14) Left and down again at junction

(28.27981; -16.79510)

In another 300 m, walking downhill, go left and down again at junction. (3.0 km)



(15) Right across waste ground

(28.27727; -16.80078)

In 700 m, as the path approaches the road to Arguayo, and with a high wire fence on your left, turn right over waste ground to reach the tarred road. Turn right on the tarred road and walk uphill towards the Ermita (shrine) on your left. (3.7 km)



(16) Off road to Ermita

(28.27882; -16.80141)

In 200 m, take the short path up to the Ermita del Santo Angel de Guarda, where there are great views down to the Teno Mountains and Santiago del Teide and, on the other side, up to Teide itself. This a good point to take a break, mid-way through the walk. (3.9 km)



(17) Follow path down to Las Manchas

(28.27878; -16.80186)

Leaving the Ermita, and looking down into the deep valley, take the narrow, twisting path down to Las Manchas. (4.0 km)



(18) Left and down

(28.28352; -16.80162)

In 600 m from the Ermita, in Las Manchas, go left and downhill from Calle los Pinos onto Calle San Isidro towards the church below you. (4.6 km)



(19) Veer left and down

(28.28378; -16.80258)

In 100 m, having passed the church, take a left down Calle los Manolos, carrying on downhill as the tarred road gives way to concrete then a rough surface. (4.7 km)



(20) Veer left by barrier

(28.28253; -16.80711)

In 600 m, just before the road becomes a flyover on the main road to Santiago del Teide, veer left past the barrier towards the main road. Nearing the road, go left to join the old camino, heading in the direction of the El Bicho tunnels. Soon the path will start to rise as you climb up and up, around the La Hoya mountain, passing the tunnel mouths below you. Continue up and over on this scenic path until it eventually reaches the outskirts of Arguayo (5.3 km)



(21) Cross road and go past sculpture

(28.26885; -16.80842)

In 2 km, the path around La Hoya eventually descends toward Arguayo. Cross the road and pass the sculptures of the women potters of Arguayo, then go right past the pottery museum down the Carretera General. Obviously, you may want to check out the inscriptions at the sculptures, and visit the excellent little museum. (7.3 km)



(22) End walk back at church plaza

(28.26636; -16.80767)

In 300 m, veering a little to the left off the Carretera General you will have arrived back at the church plaza where you started the walk. Just a little down hill from where you veer left off the Carretera General, you may want to take a refreshment at the Bar Unico. (7.6 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](#)