

Tenerife Sur: Short Walks Under 10 km

El Retamar-Degollada del Roque-El Molledo Circular (Santiago del Teide)

Route Summary

This is a moderate walk both in distance and overall ascent that provides satisfyingly different perspectives on the amazingly diverse scenery this area of the island has to offer. A very good introduction to walking in the Tamaimo area of the Santiago del Teide municipality.

Duration: 3 hours



Route Overview

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Transport/Parking: Titsa 325 or 461/462 from Puerto Santiago/Los Gigantes. Easy parking by the large trees, just off the main road near the entrance to El Retamar.

Length: 6.080 km / 3.80 mi

Height Gain: 334 meter

Height Loss: 334 meter

Max Height: 886 meter

Min Height: 702meter

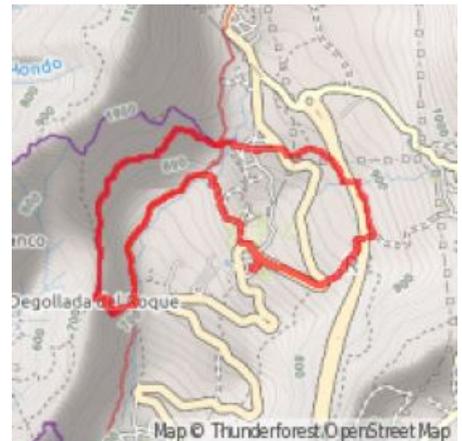
Surface: Rough.

Child Friendly: Yes. But only if children are used to hikes of this distance and overall ascent on rough surfaces.

Difficulty: Moderate.

Dog Friendly: Yes. On lead in built-up areas and by roads.

Refreshments: Cafes/bars in Tamaimo or Santiago del Teide.



Description

The villages of El Retamar and El Molledo are just a stone's throw away from each other in the very scenic valley descending from Santiago del Teide to the sea-front at Puerto Santiago. However, this relatively moderate walk purposively takes a very roundabout route between the two to maximise the variety and impact of the many stunning views that are available. The initial vista, between rocky hillsides, over fertile farmed plots and terraces down to a shimmering blue sea is very satisfying. After the short climb to the Degollada del Roque, a saddle between peaks on the southern edge of the Teno Mountain range, the views move up a gear. Here, your immediate outlook is dominated by spectacular images of the distinctive Risco Blanco rock formation and the wondrous Barranco Mancha de los Díaz as it dives towards the ocean below, framing the island of La Gomera. Looking inland, the landscape is just as impressive as your eyes are drawn towards the towering peak of Montaña Cruz de Gala. Moving on from here, the middle section of the walk, traversing on a fairly level path across the hillside, offers great views of the valley below, the villages of El Molledo and Las Manchas, Montañas La Hoya and Bilma and, above all, Pico Teide and Pico Viejo. After visiting little El Molledo, the walk takes an interesting route back to El Retamar, almost skirting the entrance to the El Bicho tunnels.



Waypoints

(1) Start at church in El Retamar

(28.28093; -16.81419)

Start the walk at the church square in El Retamar. Turn left onto Calle San Juan and walk up to the main road to Santiago del Teide. Turn left here and walk along the side of the road for about 80 m.



(2) Cross road and up rough road

(28.28207; -16.81431)

Taking great care, cross the main road and turn left up the rough road opposite you, passing plots on your right as you go uphill. (172 m)



(3) Go left past no entry sign

(28.28323; -16.81479)

In another 170 m, or so, go left at a junction, past a sign that warns about entry because of bees. Obviously, take care on that basis, but we did not see any beehives. Carry on walking as the rough road starts to descend past an old water 'galeria' towards the Camino Real path between Santiago del Teide and Puerto Santiago. (346 m)



(4) Left and down the camino real

(28.28576; -16.81716)

In another 450 m, you will descend to the camino real path where you turn left to continue gently downhill. (796 m)



(5) Right and uphill on path to Degollada

(28.27905; -16.82084)

In just over 1 km, at a signed junction, go right and uphill on the winding path to the Degollada del Roque viewpoint. (1.8 km)



(6) Right at Degollada del Roque viewpoint

(28.27928; -16.82325)

In 400 m you will have reached the Degollada del Roque viewpoint where there are spectacular views of the Risco Blanco rock formation, the Barranco Mancha de los Díaz, Montaña Cruz de Gala with other Teno Mountain peaks, and of the island of La Gomera. Once you are ready to move on, go right here along the gently ascending stony path under the Roque del Paso. (2.2 km)



(7) Carry on taking main path

(28.28229; -16.82309)

In another 400 m, with views opening up on your right of El Retamar, El Molledo and Las Manchas, ignore the path on your left marked with a white arrow. Instead, carry on taking the main path which traverses the hillside to El Molledo. (2.6 km)



(8) Veer right into El Molledo

(28.28742; -16.81527)

In 1.3 km, descending past a couple of signed paths, you are at the outskirts of El Molledo where you veer slightly right to take a tarred lane into the village past houses. (3.9 km)



(9) Left up Calle la Calzada

(28.28718; -16.81507)

In just over 30 m, go left and up Calle la Calzada which eventually joins with Calle la Tagora in the centre of the little village. (3.9 km)



(10) On Calle la Tagora pass church on left - plaza on right

(28.28707; -16.81395)

In 100 m, or so, now on Calle la Tagora, you will pass the church on your left. You will probably want to take in the view down the valley from the plaza on your right before carrying on up Calle la Tagora. (4.0 km)



(11) Cross main road and veer right

(28.28712; -16.81254)

In 200 m, cross the main road and veer right past the front of the houses. At the end of the houses, near the roadside behind an almond tree, you will find your route, at first twisting inland to your left past some piles of discarded items and rubble. (4.2 km)



(12) Left to follow stone wall

(28.28672; -16.81148)

In 100 m, or so, go left to follow a path beside the stone wall. (4.3 km)



(13) Veer right to continue following wall

(28.28707; -16.81066)

In another 100 m, veer right to continue following the stone wall gently downhill. (4.4 km)



(14) Left into tunnel under TF-1

(28.28536; -16.80886)

In 300 m, or so, go left into a tunnel under the TF-1 autopista. Once out of the tunnel, follow the path as it at first goes left then immediately right, walking in parallel with the road heading in the direction of the El Bicho tunnels. (4.7 km)



(15) Go right and over bridge

(28.28259; -16.80707)

In 400 m, go right and over the bridge over the TF-1 with the tunnels on your left side. After the bridge, follow the rough road down through the pine trees towards the main TF-82 road to Tamaimo. (5.1 km)



(16) Cross main road and back to El Retamar

(28.28012; -16.80986)

In 400 m, upon meeting the main TF-82 road to Tamaimo, cross the road with extreme care at the bend and climb over the barrier. Go left here to walk back towards El Retamar, keeping the barrier on your left side to protect you from the traffic. When you arrive at a point opposite the closed-down restaurant beside the petrol station, again cross the road with great care and take the pavement back to El Retamar where you will re-trace your steps back to your starting point at the church. (5.5 km)



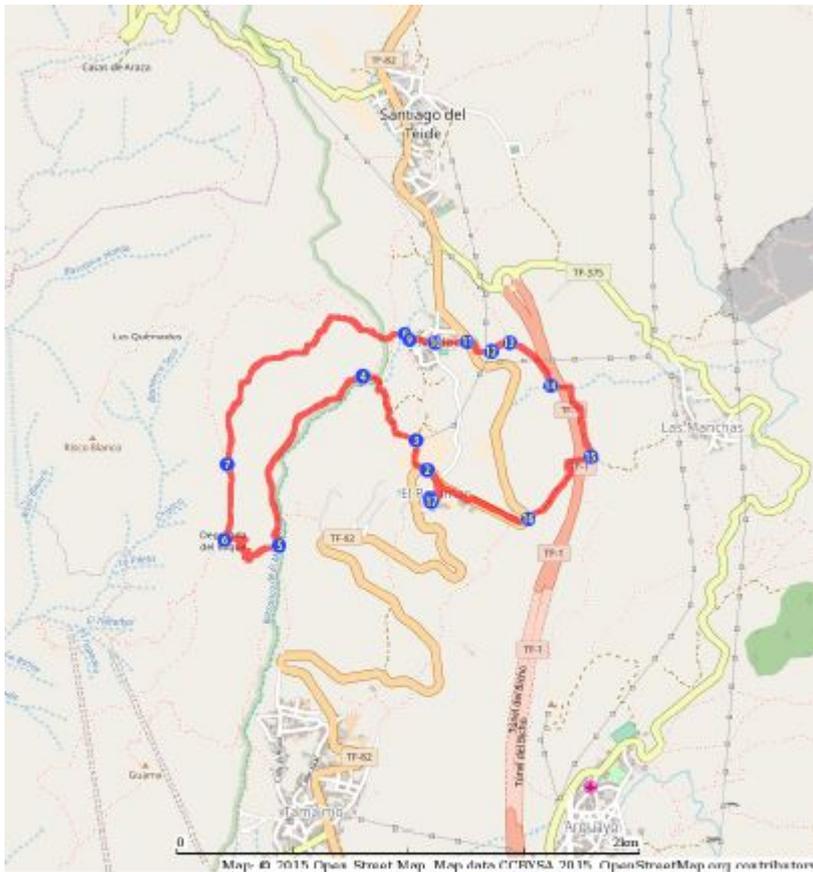
(17) Finish back in El Retamar

(28.28079; -16.81413)

You have arrived back at your start point at the church and plaza in El Retamar. (6.1 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](#)