

Tenerife Sur: Short Walks Under 10 km

La Quinta-Fonte de Aponte Circular (Adeje)

Route Summary

With an overall ascent of 450 m this is an energetic hike, climbing through pine forest to the site of the abandoned water source at Fuente de Aponte in a delightful wooded barranco. The descent, in open countryside, provides the opportunity for great view in all directions.

Duration: 3.5 hours



Route Overview

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Transport/Parking: No Titsa bus service. Parking near church in La Quinta.

Length: 7.600 km / 4.75 mi

Height Gain: 454 meter

Height Loss: 454 meter

Max Height: 1249 meter

Min Height: 910 meter

Surface: Rough.

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

Difficulty: Medium.

Dog Friendly: Yes.

Refreshments: Bar Restaurante Taucho, in nearby Taucho.



Description

The first section of this walk ascends through relatively open pine forest scarred by forest fire, but now thriving again. The overall ascent for the route is over 450 m, so, there is quite a strenuous first half, climbing to 1,249 m above sea level. After that, there is a gentle descent in an open rural landscape, eventually reaching the outskirts of Taucho. During the descent there are wonderful views down to the SW coast, to La Gomera and La Palma, and up to the mountains at the Teide caldera. The centre-point of the walk is a descent into the delightful verdant dell at Barranco el Pinque where the Fuente (Spring) de Aponte once provided water. Unfortunately, all that is left is a dried-up channel on the now overgrown hillside where the spring once flowed. Presumably, the water is now tapped by a "Galeria" bore-hole a little further up the barranco from which there is a metal pipe that goes parallel to the old channel, downhill. A little further on the route, ascending out of another very scenic wooded barranco (Cañaheje) near the abandoned finca, Casa Aponte, the route passes a cave where we spotted vertical markings on the walls that may indicate human occupation in the pre-Hispanic Guanche era.



Waypoints

(1) Start at Ermita de Santa Margarita

(28.14964; -16.72704)

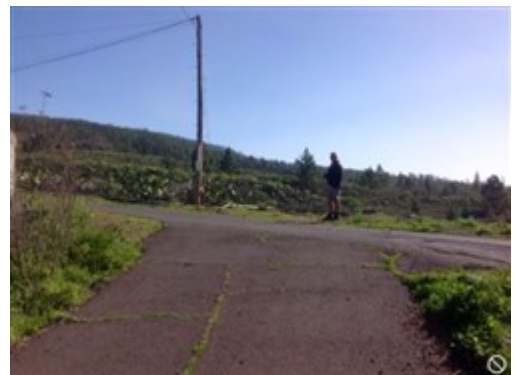
Start the walk from the church - Ermita de Santa Margarita, in La Quinta. Head inland and gently uphill past the old threshing circle (era) and walks signpost. Keep following this path as it soon turns right behind some houses.



(2) Cross tarred road

(28.15133; -16.72314)

In about 470 m, go across the tarred road and follow the rough path on the other side. (470 m)



(3) Carry on following pipe

(28.14992; -16.72144)

In about 250 m, carry on following the water pipe down, then uphill, ignoring the track to your right. (713 m)



(4) Left and uphill at crossed path

(28.14939; -16.72021)

In less than 150 m, leave the main path and go left and uphill at the white/yellow crossed path marker. (851 m)



(5) Uphill through x-roads at sign

(28.15123; -16.71048)

After about 1.15 km ascent through the pine forest, go uphill through x-roads at the walks signpost, taking the Las Lajas route. (2.0 km)



(6) Veer left onto rough road

(28.15358; -16.70494)

In 600 m, or so, at a junction, veer left off the path onto the forest road. (2.6 km)



(7) Left and downhill

(28.15600; -16.70288)

In about 400 m, go left and downhill on a rough road through terraced plots. (3.0 km)



(8) Right and downhill for Fuente de Aponte area

(28.15729; -16.70855)

In another 800 m, walking downhill now, and after passing a green house (Casa Tito), turn right off the narrow tarred road and go downhill into the barranco on a rough track for the old water source (Fuente de Aponte) area. (3.8 km)



(9) Fuente de Aponte

(28.15797; -16.70825)

After 200 m winding descent you are at the base of the barranco. The old Fuente de Aponte is facing you half way up the opposite slope of the barranco. On investigation, it is dried up and water no longer flows. The old stone channel disappears into the hillside under a section of dry stone wall. Presumably, the water is now tapped by the "Galeria las Madres de Paulo" a little further up the barranco, where the metal pipe you will see originates from. In any case, the Fuente area is a delightful little dell to enjoy! When you are ready, re-trace your steps out of the barranco and turn right to continue following the narrow tarred road downhill. (4.0 km)



(10) Right alongside fence

(28.15595; -16.71115)

In 500 m, or so, as you descend towards some farm buildings (with chained barking dogs!), before you reach there, go right alongside a fenced area and follow the rough path which will soon take you past, on your left, a plot with an old caravan marked "Caravan los Almendros" [almonds]. (4.5 km)



(11) Guanche cave?

(28.15864; -16.71083)



In 500 m, or so, having descended into the delightful Barranco el Pinque and well up on your ascent of the other side, you will see a cave on the left side of the path. The entrance is overgrown but vertical stone



markings are visible on the right-hand inside section of the cave where there is a small ledge. There is a possibility, in our minds, that these are ancient Guanche markings. When you are ready, carry on up the path out of the barranco. (5.0 km)

(12) Casa Aponte

(28.15868; -16.71143)

In under 100 m, you will arrive at the partly ruined buildings of Casa Aponte. Pass through the finca buildings on the rough track. (5.1 km)



(13) Left down track by pipe

(28.15911; -16.71189)

In 100 m, or so, under the walls of an impressive threshing circle (era), go left off the rough road down track by a water pipe. Follow the water pipe/track downhill for only about 20 m. (5.2 km)



(14) Left off track and over pipe to path

(28.15900; -16.71203)

In 20 m, turn left off the track and cross over the water pipe to find an old stone path. Continue following this path downhill (with water pipe accompanying you). You are now heading back in the direction of Taucho/La Quinta. (5.2 km)



(15) Down steps and go right downhill

(28.15637; -16.71716)

In about 600 m, the path ends at some stone steps. Go down the steps and then go right, downhill. Follow this rough road as it gently descends into the low barranco, and then follow the rough road up and out of the barranco onto a narrow tarred road where you will go left and continue your downhill descent, now with occasional houses and plots on either side. (5.8 km)



(16) Left and down road into barranco

(28.15133; -16.72751)

Eventually, in 1.4 km, you arrive at a t-junction where you will turn left and follow the tarred road down into the Barranco de la Quinta that separates the hamlets of Taucho and La Quinta. Just after you reach the base of the barranco, after a tight right hair-pin bend, leave the road and take the obvious stony path on your left (with stout wooden safety fence) that climbs steeply out of the barranco to reach La Quinta. At the top, turn right towards your start point at the church. (7.2 km)



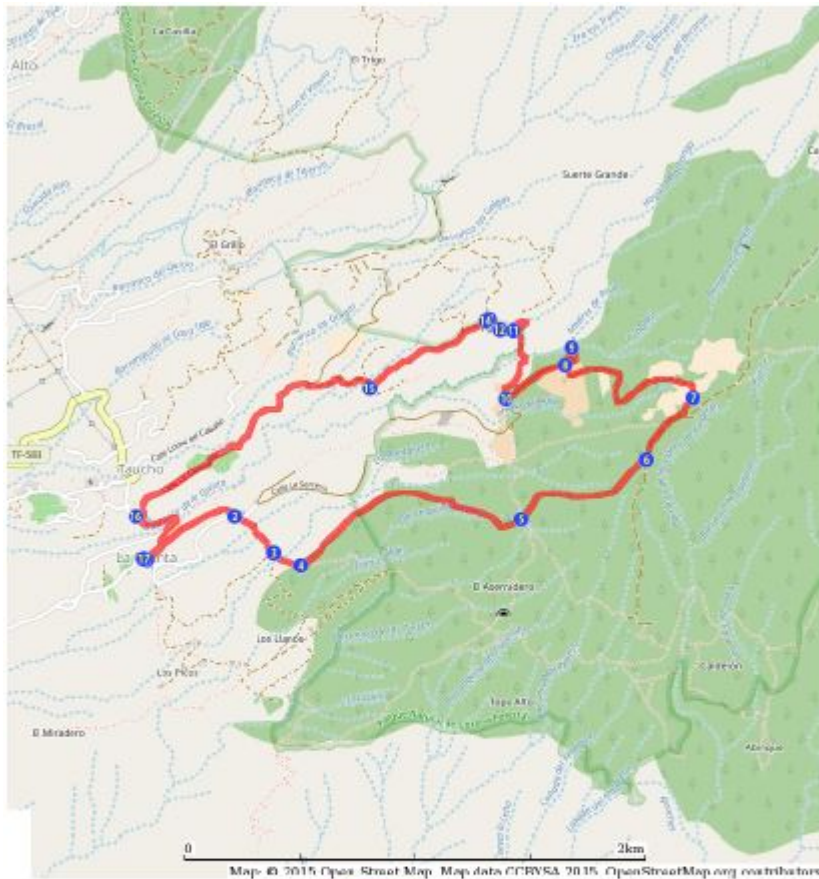
(17) Finish walk back at church

(28.14967; -16.72716)

In 400 m from the t-junction at Waypoint 16, you will have returned your start point by the church in La Quinta. (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](#)