

Tenerife Sur: Short Walks Under 10 km

Tijoco Alto-Barranco Erques-Icerce Circular (Adeje)

Route Summary

A moderate hike with a gradual ascent by Barranco Erques to over 1300 metres where you face an impressive canyon wall of rock. The scrub and open pine forest transforms into deeper woodland on the return stretch after visiting the abandoned finca and viewpoint at Casa Icerce.

Duration: 3.5 hours



Route Overview

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Transport/Parking: New bus stops have been installed but there is no Titsa bus-service at time of writing. Check, if required. On road parking close to start point.

Length: 5.880 km / 3.68 mi

Height Gain: 438 meter

Height Loss: 438 meter

Max Height: 1321 meter

Min Height: 955 meter

Surface: Mostly rough stony paths and rough roads.

Child Friendly: Yes, but only if children are used to strenuous uphill hikes on rough surfaces..

Difficulty: Moderate.

Dog Friendly: Yes.

Refreshments: The Tijoco Alto Bar appears to be permanently closed. The Tasca El Blanco is closed on Tuesdays and Wednesdays.



Description

Tijoco Alto in the Adeje council area is not often acknowledged as a base for walking and there are no walk information boards or signposts that we can find. However, a number of excellent routes are possible in this highland area (the village is almost 1,000 m above sea level). This walk, the initial uphill section following the eastern side of Barranco de Erques, provides some absolutely stunning views of that deep, precipitous and rugged ravine, culminating in a colossal corrugated rock wall that almost takes your breath away. Open pine forest accompanies the uphill stretch, followed by encountering a rushing open water channel. The abandoned finca at Casa Icerce, is an interesting curiosity evoking rural life in times past, and overlooking Taucho and La Quinta on a hillside ledge below, with the twin towers of the Hard Rock Hotel glinting much further below at the coast in Playa Paraiso. The return leg is mostly on good tracks and paths in pine forest, interspersed by the odd eucalyptus tree. During the walk we twice cross the modest but scenic Barranquillo del Agua. The tiny plaza in Tijoco Alto (also called Tijoco de la Arriba) has an interesting sculpture, and a wall portrait of a local figure.



Waypoints

(1) Start walk at plaza in Tijoco Alto

(28.16881; -16.73342)

The walk starts from the little plaza in Tijoco Alto, next to the Tijoco Alto Bar (closed). Walk uphill on the road from here.



(2) Continue on up road

(28.17013; -16.73182)

In around 300 m, ignore the access road on your right and continue proceeding uphill. (293 m)



(3) Left up path

(28.17099; -16.73120)

In another 120 m, or so, turn sharp left up a fairly indistinct path on a steep slope, looking back towards Tijoco Alto until the top of the rise when the path goes right, looking uphill again. The Barranquillo del Agua is below you now, on your left side. (423 m)



(4) Left and down into barranco

(28.17165; -16.73123)

In 130 m from the turn off the road, veer left and down into barranco following the path that then rises up on the other side. (539 m)



(5) Right and uphill

(28.17239; -16.73166)

Having crossed the Barranquillo del Agua in about 180 m, down and up, turn right almost immediately and follow the narrow path uphill. You will follow this path uphill, with the hugely impressive Barranco de Erques on your left, for about 2 km. At times the path can be indistinct but is usually marked with cairns. (720 m)



(6) Sharp right and down

(28.17798; -16.71562)

Walking steadily uphill for about 2 km, you will eventually veer away from Barranco Erques. On a clear day you will start to see the distinctive La Sombbrero mountain top high above you at the Teide Caldera. When you meet a more established path with low stone walls, turn sharp right and go downhill. The path is overgrown in places. It will take you in and out of the Barranquillo del Agua that you crossed between Waypoints 4 and 5. Continue following the path through the scrub and open pine forest. (2.7 km)



(7) Across pipes - right and down

(28.17493; -16.71589)

In another 600 m, encountering water pipes and an open water channel, cross on the rough stone bridge and go right and downhill, following the water flow. (3.3 km)



(8) Down to road and left

(28.17370; -16.71766)

In about 200 m, passing a picnic area under a large tree on your right, go left briefly down to a rough road, then left and uphill, following the road. This road eventually reaches the Teide Caldera far above you, but you are only going about 100 m, or so! (3.5 km)



(9) Right to Casa Icerce

(28.17326; -16.71748)

In 100 m, turn right off the road to access the entry to the Casa Icerce, an old finca. (3.6 km)



(10) Casa Icerce

(28.17246; -16.71777)

In another 100 m, you are at the Casa Icerce, an old abandoned finca, which provides a fine viewpoint down to the Costa Adeje coast and the Hard Rock Hotel in Playa Paraiso in particular. Closer below you, on your left, are Taucho and La Quinta. After you have finished exploring Casa Icerce re-trace your steps back to the rough road and go left and downhill past the picnic area with the large tree on your right. (3.7 km)



(11) Continue on rough road downhill

(28.17372; -16.71808)

In 200 m from Casa Icerce, where a narrow path veers off to you left, carry on downhill on the rough road. (3.9 km)



(12) Right and down

(28.17180; -16.72230)

In 600 m, walking downhill, take the turn to your right down a steep incline where the rough road is now lined by low stone walls on each side. This old road is called "Camino de la Yegua (mare) of Don Tomás". Keep following the route downhill, ignoring any turn-offs to the left, as it eventually becomes a narrower path. In 700 m you will meet the original rough road again that you have just left at this Waypoint. (4.5 km)



(13) Follow road down

(28.17234; -16.72816)

In 700 m you will meet the main rough road again. Veer right and follow this road back towards Tijoco Alto, passing around the red gate that you will soon encounter. The rough road becomes tarred just after the "Depósito Nuevo" (new water reservoir). (5.2 km)



(14) Veer left and down

(28.17057; -16.73025)

In 300 m, veer left at a y-junction to pass the old Depósito on your left. Just as this short section of tarred road ends at the gates of a house, carry on downhill on the old path at the outskirts of the village, rough in places. You may encounter a couple of dogs, one chained, the other friendly! This path will take you down to the centre of the village just above the Tasca El Blanco, not far from your starting point at the little plaza. (5.5 km)



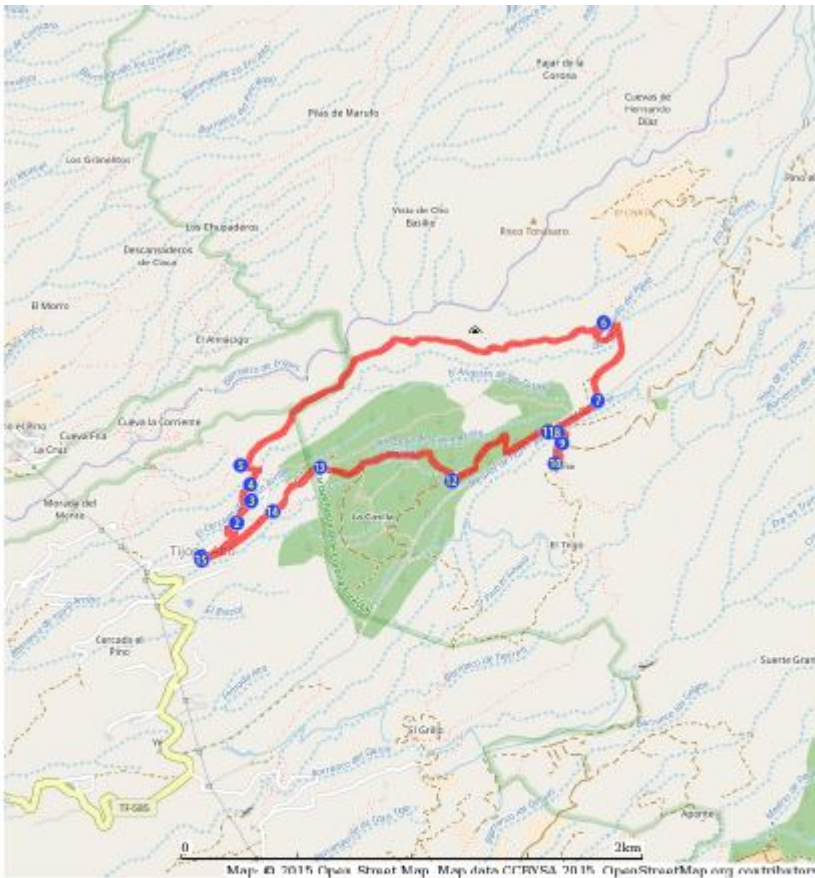
(15) Finish at plaza

(28.16870; -16.73340)

In 400 m, having left the old path and joined the tarmac road, you will arrive back at your start point at the little plaza. (400 m)



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](#)