

# Tenerife Sur: Short Walks Under 10 km

## Tajao-Barranco de Vijigua Circular (Arico)

### Route Summary

This short walk is based in the pleasant fishing village of Tajao, set within striking and unusual rock formations between El Medano and La Jaca on the east coast. At a mid-point in the walk there is a very large and evocative stone arch. Tremendous coastal views.

Duration: 2 hours



### Route Overview

**Duration:** 2 hours

**Transport/Parking:** Titsa 111 from Los Cristianos followed by 1 km walk from TF-1 Autopista stop. Easy parking at the Hondo beach area on the southern side of the village.

**Length:** 5.000 km / 3.13 mi

**Height Gain:** 107 meter

**Height Loss:** 107 meter

**Max Height:** 38 meter

**Min Height:** 0 meter

**Surface:** Moderate.

**Child Friendly:** Yes.

**Difficulty:** Easy.

**Dog Friendly:** Yes.

**Refreshments:** Quite a few cafe/restaurants in Tajao. Seafood cuisine is characteristic.



### Description

This is a gentle little hike taking in a quick tour of Tajao on the windblown south east coast, popular for its fish restaurants, appealing harbour area, and striking golden cliffs. Central to the walk is a fascinating exploration of the quirky volcanic geology around and about nearby Barranco Vijigua. We were surprised and pleased to find that the barranco aspect of the walk was aided by a number of informative interpretation boards (Spanish, English and German) covering the geology and human exploitation of the surrounding rocky environment. The huge eroded stone arch at the return point in the barranco is stunning, and the presence of a threshing circle in this arid landscape is intriguing. The final part of the outward section of the route passes a pretty, secluded beach by a tidy campsite, before taking in the fine coastal views of the bay at La Jaca and La Listadao from the cliffs at the Punta de los Gomeros.



## Waypoints

### (1) Start at beach car-park in Tajao

(28.10860; -16.47219)

Start the walk at the stony beach at the southern end of Tajao, walking back towards the village past a number of fish restaurants and joining Calle Callado Hondo.



### (2) Right and down to harbour area

(28.10925; -16.47040)

In just over 200 m, turn right down a lane to Calle de la Aurora at the edge of the harbour area. Facing the harbour, go left, then left again as you go around the buildings. (222 m)



### (3) Up ramp and turn right

(28.10956; -16.46989)

In just 100 m, having turned away from the harbour, take the ramp back onto Calle Callado Hondo and turn right, walking towards the obvious gap in the rocks at the end of the harbour area. (321 m)



### (4) Go left up rocky hillside

(28.10990; -16.46897)

In just over 150 m, after admiring the view of the rocky coastline at the end of the harbour area, go left up the smooth rocky hillside. Initially, there are houses on your left. There is no set path, but try to maintain a fairly straight line up and over the slope. (477 m)



### (5) Down then up then down again

(28.11116; -16.46912)

In just over 150 m, as you descend into a steep dip in the rock, take the path over the next ridge and follow it down to a rough track in a low ravine. (630 m)



## (6) Right along track

(28.11186; -16.46932)

In 80 m, or so, upon reaching the sandy track in the low ravine, turn right, heading towards the sea. (711 m)



## (7) Sharp left to barranco path

(28.11191; -16.46746)

In another 190 m, turn sharp left onto a narrow path before a large standing stone. (902 m)



## (8) First info board

(28.11209; -16.46741)

Divert a few metres to the standing stone which houses an information board. This is the first of a number of informative interpretation boards that you will encounter on the walk. When you are ready, return to the path, turning right to follow the course of Barranco Vijigua inland. (923 m)



## (9) The stone arch

(28.11585; -16.47236)

In just under 700 m, you arrive at a very large and impressive stone arch. Turn left here to ascend to the area of the arch to check it out. (1.6 km)



## (10) Through here down to path

(28.11579; -16.47296)

From under the arch, facing inland, go right then left behind a number of irregular rocks in order to descend to the path just below you, where you turn left and proceed a short way as the path wynds round a little to your right. (1.6 km)



### (11) Left up past era (threshing circle)

(28.11596; -16.47265)

Just 50 m, or so, from the stone arch, veer left up past the threshing circle (era), walking now in the direction of the sea, looking down the barranco. (1.7 km)



### (12) Left and down to cross barranco

(28.11591; -16.47173)

In less than 200 m, take the path as it veers left and down to cross the barranco. (1.9 km)



### (13) Left and up other side of barranco

(28.11602; -16.47157)

After advancing a very short distance (20 m, or so), take the path on your left ascending out of the barranco and continuing in a seaward direction. (1.9 km)



### (14) Veer left here

(28.11264; -16.46711)

In 700 m, as you near the seafront, veer left towards a stone block with information board. (2.6 km)



### (15) Veer left and up past info board

(28.11205; -16.46662)

In 100 m, after reading the information board, veer left up a slight slope, roughly parallel with the seafront. (2.7 km)



## (16) Veer left and up

(28.11206; -16.46610)

In just a few metres, veer left again, going slightly inland and uphill on a narrow path which soon descends into a ravine towards a campsite. (2.7 km)



## (17) Through campsite to end of beach

(28.11358; -16.46479)

In 300 m you will have reached the campsite where you turn right towards the beach. Go to the northern end of the open area above the beach. (3.0 km)



## (18) Take path to left of beach

(28.11359; -16.46371)

In just over 100 m, take the path down towards the beach area and turn left, following a path across the clifftops. The connected villages of La Jaca and La Listada will start to appear ahead of you, around the bay. (3.1 km)



## (19) Turn at Punta de los Gomerros

(28.11478; -16.46249)

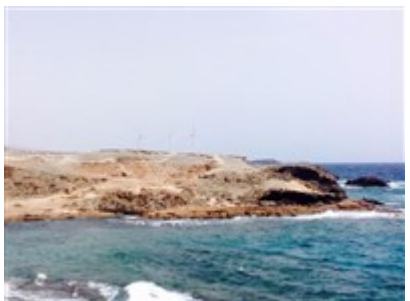
In 200 m, or so, from the campsite you will have reached the Punta de los Gomerros, on the clifftop. After taking in the views, re-trace your steps back to the far end of the beach at the campsite. (3.3 km)



## (20) Left at end of beach around headland

(28.11278; -16.46410)

In 300 m from the Punta de los Gomerros, at the Tajao end of the beach at the campsite, take the indistinct path to your left as it follows the headland, above the sea. You will discover the last of the information boards near a "beach house" at the former embarkation point for transporting quarried stone from Barranco Vijigua. Continue walking along a path above the sea back in the direction of Tajao. (3.6 km)



## (21) Follow cliffs back to harbour

(28.11121; -16.46762)

As you approach the distinctive low yellow cliffs at the northern end of Tajao harbour, taking due account of your safety, choose your own route across the smooth rock to return to Waypoint 4, near the Tajao harbour area. (4.2 km)



## (22) Church in Tajao

(28.10991; -16.46974)

In 400 m you will pass the church, ascending to the adjacent plaza area. From here, veer to your right to take a street that will shortly intersect with the entrance roundabout to Tajao. (4.6 km)



## (23) Up Calle Tabaibarril

(28.11027; -16.47055)

In 100 m from the church, cross the roundabout and take the short road immediately opposite you, Calle Tabaibarril. You will have learned on the walk that Tabaibarril is an old name for San Miguel de Tajao. Veer right at the top of the slope and take the steps down. You may want to take a refreshment at the Bar/Restaurant Tabaibarril immediately on your left at the base of the steps. Go left, then right, in any case, to return to the beach road and parking area where you started the walk. (4.7 km)



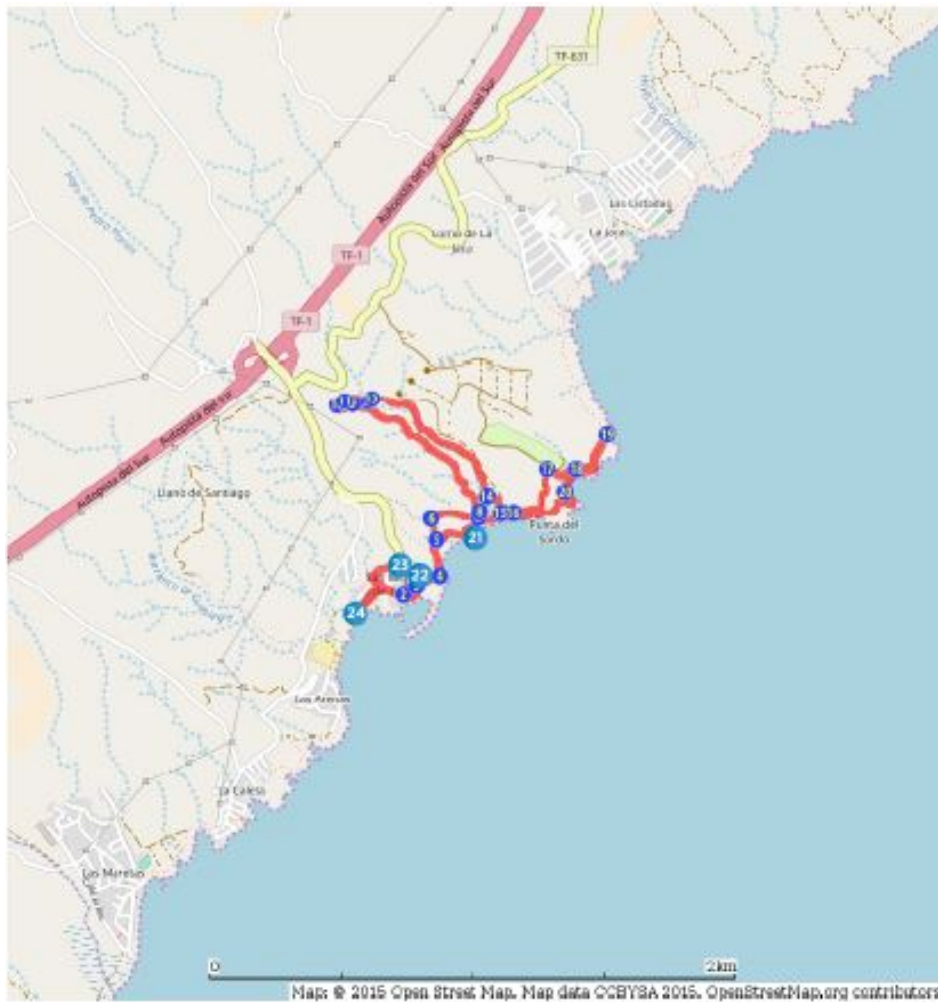
## (24) End of walk back at beach

(28.10861; -16.47227)

In 300 m, you will have arrived back at your start point above the Hondo beach. (5.0 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](#)