

# Tenerife Sur: Short Walks Under 10 km

## Barranco de Chijas (Arona)

### Route Summary

This short, there and back, walk into the depths of Barranco de Chijas from Valle de San Lorenzo provides a fascinating insight into the traditional means of supplying water to the island. Some rough rock scrambling involved.



### Route Overview

**Duration:** About 2.5 hours.

**Transport/Parking:** Quiet roads for parking. Titsa 416 from Los Cristianos.

**Length:** 3.71 km / 2.32 mi

**Height gain:** 276 meter

**Height loss:** 276 meter

**Max Height:** 727 meter

**Min Height:** 471 meter

**Surface:** Very rough

**Child Friendly:** No

**Difficulty:** Medium

**Dog Friendly:** No

**Refreshments:** Good choice of cafes in San Lorenzo.



### Description

This short walk into the depths of Barranco de Chijas from Valle de San Lorenzo provides a fascinating insight into the traditional means of supplying water to the island. The walk described here starts on Calle El Parral high above the centre of San Lorenzo. If using public transport (Titsa 416) then you will walk upwards from the main street on Camino La Longuera (opposite BBVA), left (briefly) onto Calle La Tosca, then right up Calle El Patio, veering left up to our start point. This fairly steep ascent adds about 1,800m to the walk, there and back.

Some rough rock scrambling is involved when you reach the narrow ravine of the Barranco. This is quite manageable for the average walker but, of course, you can always turn back when it suits you!



Although the walk is "there and back" the views are rewarding and different in both directions. We believe it is possible to walk up and out of the Barranco from the Galeria Salto del Topo y Chijo point on this walk, a large natural chasm in the rock, where we turned back. This would convert the walk into a conventional circular route. However the route onwards and upwards from the Galeria looked fairly daunting and impenetrable to us!

## Waypoints

### (1) Start of walk

(28.09772; -16.65545)

The walk described here starts on Calle El Parral high above the centre of San Lorenzo. Follow El Parral for 40 meters as it slopes down slightly after the junction with Calle El Patio before arriving at a large set of gates on your right. If using public transport (Titsa 416) then you will walk upwards from the main street on Camino La Longuera (opposite BBVA), left (briefly) onto Calle La Tosca, then right up Calle El Patio, veering left up to our start point. This fairly steep ascent adds about 1,800m to the walk, there and back.



### (2) Turn right around gates

(28.09772; -16.65586)

After 40m, turn right off the tarred road, Calle El Parral, before the houses on the left, passing the gate on the right-hand side where there is pedestrian access. Take the rough road heading inland and up towards the Barranco. (40m)



### (3) Follow rough road uphill

(28.09973; -16.65580)

After another 225m, the rough road veers to the left and you will notice an old rural casa, or finca, on the hillside some distance ahead of and above you. Continue walking on this road as it turns it way up the hill, passing the old building on your right. (265m, at left turn)



### (4) Turn left here

(28.10386; -16.65567)

Eventually, after a further 835m, you will reach a T-junction on the rough road where you will turn left towards Barranco de Chijas. Continue on this rough road as you head towards a white water pumping station. (1.1km)



### (5) Pumping station

(28.10540; -16.65762)

After a further 300m, or so, you will arrive at the modern water pumping station, taking the upward path to the left of the station. Notice, as you cross two water channels that the water flows in different directions! (1.4km)



### (6) Descend into barranco

(28.10550; -16.65781)

After crossing the water channels, take the partly concreted path veering to your left that leads down into the Barranco. (1.42km)



### (7) Rocky path

(28.10631; -16.65824)

Continue walking on the path into the Barranco, with a water channel on your right. The path will become increasingly indistinct and rocky. (1.6km)



### (8) Rock pool

(28.10708; -16.65851)

You will now be scrambling over and around rocks of varying sizes. After another 100m, or so, you will arrive at a pool. Carry on around the right side of the pool, taking care to establish firm foot-holds, and, at times, hand-holds. (1.7km)



### (9) Deep in ravine

(28.10785; -16.65916)

Although the path sometimes seems to disappear, keep going, with alternately easier and slightly tougher sections to negotiate. (1.8km)





## (10) Galeria

(28.10852; -16.65905)

After more rough rock scrambling at times you will arrive at the enclosed area known as the Galeria Salto de Topo y Chijo, with the sheer cliff of the Salto de Chijas on the left-hand side. Large water pipes have been drilled into the rock face.

We believe it is possible to walk up and out of the Barranco from this point on the walk, where we turn back. This would convert the walk into a conventional circular route. However the route onwards and upwards from the right-hand side of the Galeria looked fairly daunting and impenetrable to us! Good luck if you do choose that option! (1.9km)



## (11) Steps to green building

(28.10847; -16.65916)

Turning back to re-trace your steps you may be curious about the rough concrete steps immediately on your right. If you wish, ascend these steps to discover the waterworks building they lead to. (1.9km)



## (12) Green waterworks building

(28.10830; -16.65925)

Climbing the steps you arrive at this green-painted water-works building, presumably used as a store and base for maintenance work on the water pipes and channels. Return to the path below using the steps you ascended and make your exit from the Barranco, re-tracing your entry route. (1.9km)



## (13) Return on rough road

(28.10206; -16.65781)

Follow the rough road heading back to your starting point, pausing at the abandoned old casa (see Waypoint 14). (2.9km)



## (14) Arched channel

(28.10142; -16.65887)

When you reach the abandoned old casa you may take a very short diversion to your right to the edge of the, now shallow, Barranco de Chijas where you will be rewarded by the sight of a stone arch and a fine view up the Barranco. Return to the rough road and continue downhill towards your start point. (3km)



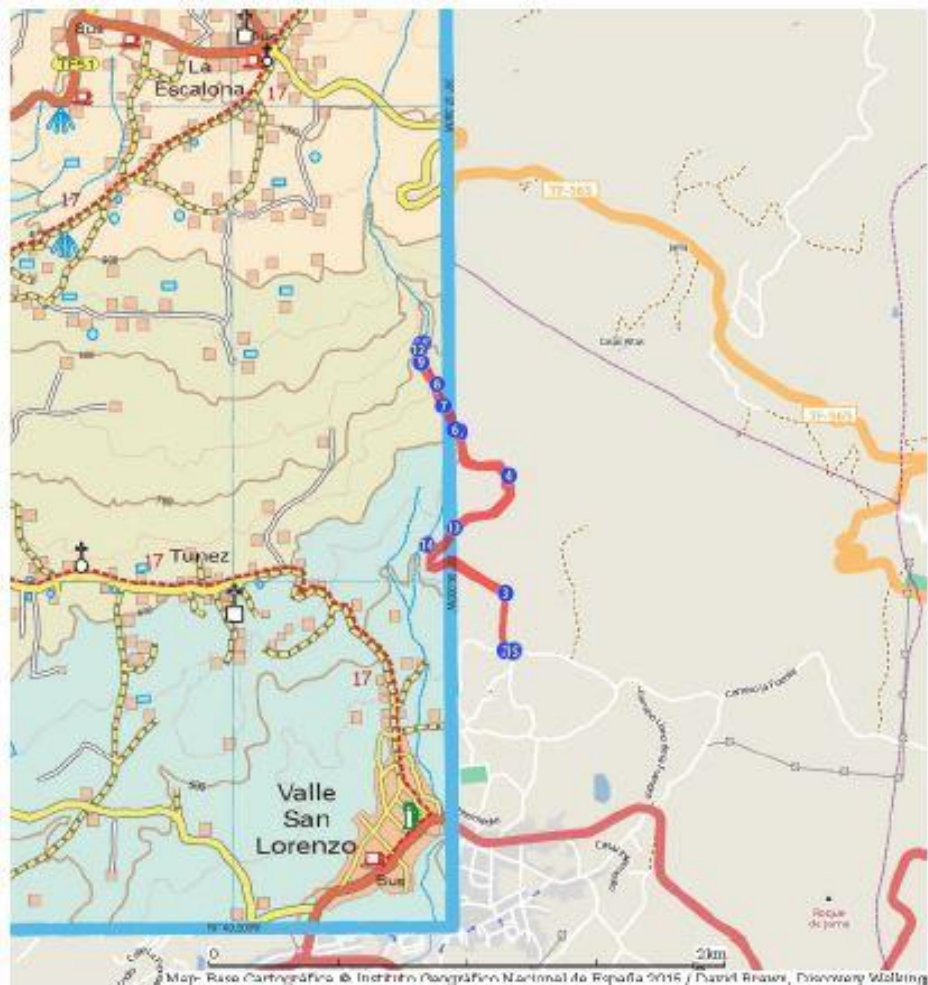
## (15) End of walk

(28.09767; -16.65552)

Exit from the rough hillside road at the gates you negotiated at the beginning of the walk. Turn right onto the tarred road, Calle El Parrel, and quickly reach your start point at the T-junction where Calle El Patio meets Calle El Parrel. (3.7km)



## Route Map



Links:

[Photos from walk](#)

[Download GPX file](#) (GPS Exchange Format)

[Download Route Guide PDF \(with illustrated Waypoints\)](#)

[Access Walk on Viewranger](#)