

Tenerife Sur: Short Walks Under 10 km

Las Galletas-Punta Salema-El Fraile Circular (Arona)

Route Summary

A fine coastal walk to the most southern point on Tenerife, with an interesting diversion to the settlement of El Fraile, and a great opportunity to appreciate the many attractions of seaside town, Las Galletas.

Duration: 2.5 hours.



Route Overview

Duration: 2.5 hours

Transport/Parking: Titas 467/470 from Los Cristianos. Parking in Las Galletas.

Length: 8.110 km / 5.07 mi

Height Gain: 88 meter

Height Loss: 88 meter

Max Height: 30 meter

Min Height: 1 meter

Surface: Rough, in places.

Child Friendly: Yes, if used to hiking.

Difficulty: Easy

Dog Friendly: Yes.

Refreshments: Numerous options in El Fraile and, especially, Las Galletas.



Description

This is a relatively easy walk, although the main outward section follows a rough and undulating path hugging the rocky coast to Punta Salema, reputedly the southernmost point on the island. There are many little coves along the way, and wonderful coastal views unfold at every turn. The mid-section of the route crosses now barren "badlands" (although once extensively cultivated) to visit the small town of El Fraile.

There are great views up to the mountains to compensate for the plainness of the open scrub terrain. Although El Fraile is a very ordinary town, and not on most people's "to visit" list, hidden in its grid of fairly functional streets there is a pretty church, plaza, gardens, an unusual sculpture, all surrounded by a host of modern buildings for public services. In the final section of the walk we get an opportunity to appreciate the attractive, very Canarian, seaside town of Las Galletas, with its sunny beaches, harbour, marina, fish-market, promenade, restaurants, and "rambla". So, a readily accessible walk that offers good exercise and great views, with interesting impressions of day-to-day life in the south of Tenerife.



Note: this walk can be easily extended along the coast to the Faro Rasca lighthouse. This adds about 3 km, in total. However, see also our walk to Faro Rasca from Palm Mar.

Waypoints

(1) Start at sculpture in the Rambla

(28.00701; -16.65702)

We start our walk at the sculpture in the Rambla Dionisio Gonzalez, just behind the promenade in Las Galletas. This fine sculpture, from 2006, honours the work of the fishing people of the village and shows how everyone in the family is involved. From here we head west towards the fish-market stalls and the pavement behind the beach on the access road into the town from the Guaza/El Fraile end.



(2) Take path behind beach

(28.00920; -16.66168)

In around 500 m, we spot the path that we will take heading diagonally across the end of the beach, in front of the Cruz Roja station. (533 m)



(3) Take path beside container

(28.00916; -16.66237)

Just after the Cruz Roja station, take the boardwalk path beside the brightly coloured container unit. From here you will pass a beach bar and cross a small beach to take the path closest to the coastline. You will be following this path for over 1km as it rises and falls, and twists and turns along the coastline. There are a number of roughly parallel routes to your objective at Punta Salema, but the path closest to the sea is the most scenic. (601 m)



(4) Join road at banana plantation

(27.99951; -16.67728)

After 1.1 km from the Cruz Roja station, the coastal path joins a rough road around the outside of a large banana plantation. Continue on ahead, with planted palm trees now on your left, sea side. (2.7 km)



(5) Turning point after Punta Salema

(27.99828; -16.67970)

After another 300 m, we suggest you walk out onto the accessible spit of rock just past the Punta de la Salema. This gives you a good viewpoint, both east and west. When you are ready, start your return from her. (3.0 km)

Note: this walk can be easily extended along the coast from here to the Faro Rasca lighthouse. This adds about 3 km, in total. However, see also our walk to Faro Rasca from Palm Mar.



(6) Enter open "Malpais" area

(28.00028; -16.67674)

In 300 m from your turning point at the last Waypoint, veer left slightly away from the coastal path you took on the outward section. Then, follow the path veering right, away from the plantation boundary. As the path goes over the rise shown in the photo you will see El Fraile in the middle distance, somewhat to your right. There are a number of paths and roads in this open, fairly desolate Malpais/Badlands area. Carry on walking in a roughly diagonal right direction towards El Fraile. If you take a route different from ours, it should be possible to correct that at some point, and get back on track! Great mountain views in this section to compensate for the bare terrain around you. (3.4 km)



(7) Pass old threshing circle

(28.00715; -16.67364)

After another 1.1 km, you should pass an abandoned threshing circle (era) on your left, to confirm that you are on track for the western end of El Fraile. (4.5 km)



(8) On entry path to El Fraile

(28.01030; -16.67236)

After a further 400 m, the rough path towards El Fraile goes over a slight rise to give you this view of a Chinese emporium. Carry on from here to the tarred road, and veer left to go along Calle Laderas del Teide on the western edge of El Fraile. (4.9 km)



(9) Right and down Calle San Sebastian de La Gomera

(28.01213; -16.67283)

In just 200 m, turn right down Calle San Sebastian de La Gomera. (5.1 km)



(10) Turn left into church plaza

(28.01236; -16.67142)

Soon, in just 140 m, or so, enter the church plaza on your left, and take in your surroundings. This area is the public centre of the town. Hidden within the grid of functional streets, there is this church, plaza, gardens, sculpture, and a host of modern public buildings for council services, health, sport, and education. From here, veer right through a gap between public buildings to cross the road, Calle Salvador Gonzalez Alayon, and enter the small public park with impressive sculpture. (5.2 km)



(11) Through park past sculpture

(28.01311; -16.67066)

Carry on through the park to Avenida Islas Canarias, where you turn right and proceed along the street, passing the junction with Calle San Sebastian de la Gomera, and entering an area with shops on both sides. (5.3 km)



(12) Left onto Avenida Fuerteventura

(28.01138; -16.66928)

After 400 m from entering the church plaza, turn left at the bottom of Avenida Isla Canarias onto Avenida Fuerteventura, which is the main entry and exit street for El Fraile. In just over 100 m, cross the road and go down Calle Orotava, turning first left onto Calle Montana Grande. Carry on walking along that street in the direction of the main Las Galletas road. (5.7 km)



(13) Path to Las Galletas

(28.01161; -16.66399)

After 500 m, take the path that veers off Calle Montana Grande at its end, heading now in the direction of Las Galletas. (6.2 km)



(14) Right into harbour/marina area

(28.00777; -16.65791)

In another 800 m, having passed the beach and fishmarket stalls on your right, enter the harbour and marina area by veering left across the little square (circle!). Join the harbour road and proceed to the end of the harbour wall. You may wish to stop for a refreshment at this point before proceeding? The cafe/bar on the upper level at the sea end of the harbour wall has great views. When you have taken in the harbour, marina and sea views, re-trace your steps. (7.0 km)



(15) Right and walk down promenade

(28.00722; -16.65836)

Returning to the entrance area for the harbour/marina, turn right to join the pleasant promenade, perhaps stopping for a (another?) refreshment along the way? (7.7 km)



(16) Turn left down the Rambla

(28.00637; -16.65593)

Reaching the end of the promenade, turn left for a short distance to take in the marvellous beach and sea views towards Costa del Silencio. Now turn around to your left and wander down the "rambla", passing the tourist office. (8.0 km)



(17) End of walk back at sculpture

(28.00694; -16.65688)

In around 100 m, you have returned to the "mending nets" sculpture, where you started the walk. (8.1 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](#)