

Tenerife Sur: Short Walks Under 10 km

Montaña Pelada Crater Walk (Granadilla)

Route Summary

A short walk up to and around a large volcanic crater on the coast east of El Médano. Mostly very easy but with a steep initial ascent and final descent.

Duration: 1.5 hours



Route Overview

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Transport/Parking: Titsa 470 from Los Cristianos to El Médano.

Parking at start.

Length: 3.740 km / 2.34 mi

Height gain: 150 meter

Height loss: 150 meter

Max Height: 91 meter

Min Height: 4 meter

Surface: Rough

Child Friendly: Yes, but only if capable of steep ascent/descent.

Difficulty: Mostly easy, but very steep ascent/descent at start/end of walk.

Dog Friendly: Yes

Refreshments: Lots of options in El Médano.



Description

This walk is mostly very easy but with a steep ascent and descent up to the wide path around the crater rim.* Care and appropriate footwear is necessary! Once onto the crater path you may choose to deviate to the actual rim itself at various points to maximise the extent and quality of the views of the rock formations and tiny beaches below, and up to the hill towns and mountains beyond. Montaña Pelada has a commanding position over the coast to the east of El Médano. It is a "Natural Monument" and contains a visually impressive, very large and shallow crater, almost 1 km in diameter. This huge yellow rock formation is a volcanic cone that was created by the process of hydrovolcanism (the interaction of magma from a volcano with a body of water). The area also features a fossil dune, which is evidence of previous fluctuations in sea level, along with many splendid examples of coastal plants that are typically found on ravine floors. You also obtain an interesting view over the wind-farm at the ITER complex (Instituto Tecnológico de Energías Renovables, or Technological Institute for Renewable Energies).



*Access is from the Arenas del Mar area to the east of El Médano. However, we understand that it may also be accessed from the other side which provides for a much gentler ascent of the hill. To do so, take the exit for the Granadilla industrial estate (Acceso B) and continue towards the ITER (Instituto Tecnológico de Energías Renovables, or Technological Institute for Renewable Energies). There are a number of dirt tracks leading off from this road that go to the Natural Monument, although they are in a poor state of repair and it is not recommended that you attempt to drive on them in a standard car.



Waypoints

(1) Start at small car park

(28.05764; -16.52381)

Start the walk at the furthest point on Avenida Juan Carlos I in Arenas del Mar at the extreme east end of El Médano, where there is a small car park. Drop down from the car park onto the sandy path and almost immediately turn right towards the beach.



(2) Pass information board

(28.05802; -16.52219)

After about 175 m, near the entrance to the beach, swing left under the signpost and walk towards the hillside, heading towards a gully more or less straight ahead of you. (175 m)



(3) Follow path into gully and uphill

(28.05893; -16.52128)

After a further 140 m, or so, veer slightly left into the gully area, then slightly right, following the path that soon starts to ascend up the steep slope. Continue up the path as it twists and turns until you reach the very top. (312 m)



(4) Turn left at top

(28.06131; -16.52050)

After 280 m, or so, you will reach the top, which you will immediately see is the rim of a very large crater. Turn left here and follow the fairly wide path as it starts to circle the crater area. You may choose to leave the path, veering to your left, to get a better all-round view from nearer to the actual rim of the crater. (593 m)



(5) Veer left here

(28.06739; -16.52181)

After about 900 m, on the opposite side of the crater from Waypoint 4, there is a cross-roads. We suggest that you veer slightly left off the path here to get better inland views, returning to the wide path in a couple of hundred metres, or so. As you continue to circle the crater, you may want to leave the path again in order to look down on the rocky coastline and little secluded beaches. As you are approaching a full circuit of the crater, a short ascent is required, and you will have to return to the path here, if you have left it. (1.5 km)



(6) Exit down entry path

(28.06132; -16.52033)

In another 1.6 km, you will have completed your circuit of the crater, and may wish to savour the marvellous views before beginning your descent on the same path as you ascended from the beach area. It is very steep in places, so take care! (3.1 km)



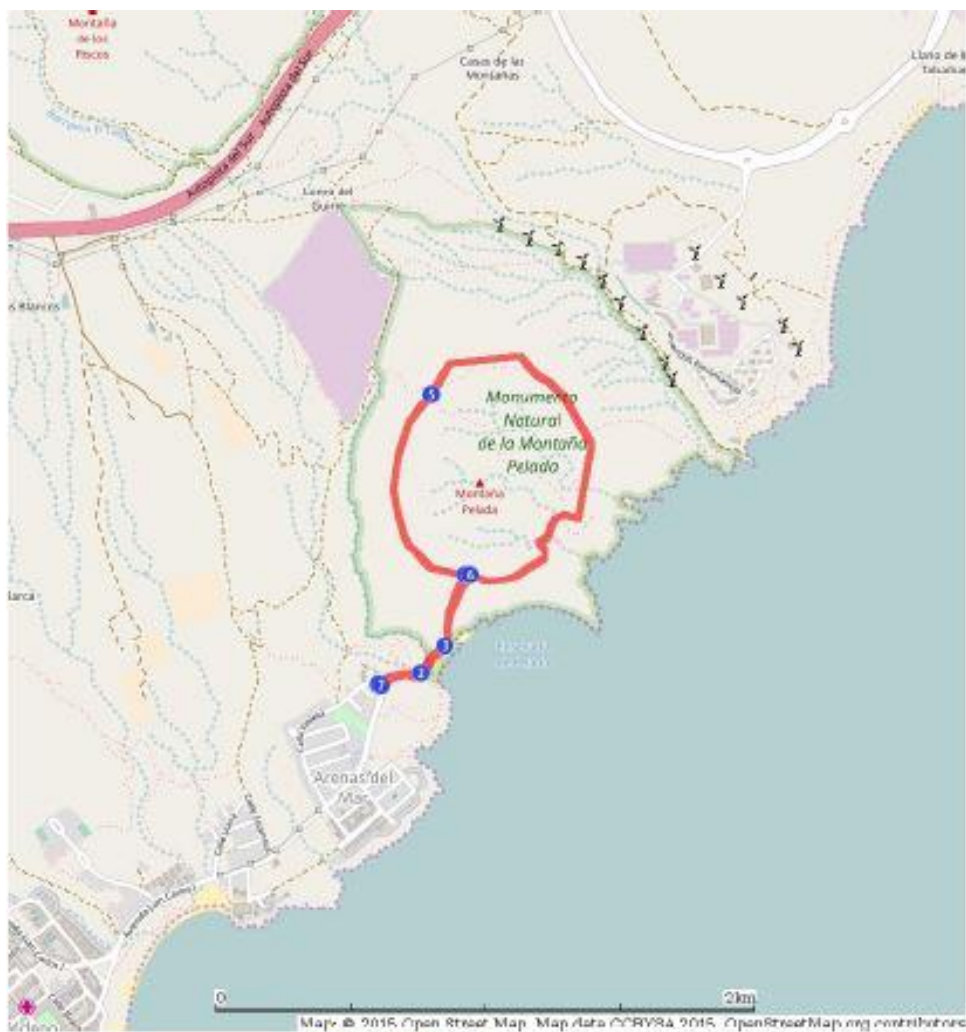
(7) End walk at starting point

(28.05759; -16.52370)

After the 600 m, or so, descent, and passing the beach again, admiring the yellow rock formations on this side of the hill, you will have returned to your starting point at the little car park. (3.7 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](#)