

Tenerife Sur: Short Walks Under 10 km

Aripe-Chirche Circular (Guia de Isora)

Route Summary

This is a very satisfying short walk with a fairly gradual initial ascent. Echoes of traditional rural life are all around. The villages of Aripe and Kirche are pretty, with an old-world ambience. There are good views up to the mountains, over to La Gomera and down to the coast.

Duration: 2 hours



Route Overview

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Transport/Parking: There is no longer a Titsa bus from Guia de Isora to Aripe. Parking on road just above Bar Aripe, near the start.

Length: 3.730 km / 2.33 mi

Height Gain: 207 meter

Height Loss: 207 meter

Max Height: 895 meter

Min Height: 729 meter

Surface: Rough old caminos, mostly

Child Friendly: Yes, but only if children are used to hikes of this distance and overall ascent on very rough paths.

Difficulty: Medium.

Dog Friendly: Yes. Yes. On lead in built-up areas and public roads.

Refreshments: Bar Aripe, close to start of walk. Bar/Restaurante Brasa de Kirche, in Kirche.



Description

This short walk encapsulates all that is good about walking in the hills above the West Coast of Tenerife. Over a very short distance, mostly on centuries-old stony caminos, the route passes through extensive areas of abandoned rural terraces, once hugely productive as is evidenced by the many stone ovens and threshing circles. Skirting areas of open pine trees at various times, the upward-looking views of the Corona Forestal and of Pico Viejo, at the centre of the Teide National Park, are particularly striking during the initial uphill section. On the outskirts of the two villages, plots are still worked and you will see numerous orange, almond and fig trees, potatoes and other vegetables. Aripe and Kirche are both very old settlements, with many old buildings that have been sympathetically restored, often surrounded by colourful garden flowers, and with marvellous views down to the coast near Playa de San Juan. The walk passes two fine old village churches, the one in Kirche nestling in a shady spot in the centre of the village, whilst the Aripe church is in an open setting with great views of Montaña Tejina to the east, the Teno Mountains to the west, and over the sea to La Gomera.



Waypoints

(1) Start walk at walks signpost in Aripe

(28.21628; -16.76714)

The walk starts at the walks information board on Camino Nuevo in Aripe, about 100 m up from the Aripe Bar. The walks information board is headed "Camino los Garanonos". Follow the direction for Chirche, going downhill. This takes you in and out of the Barranco Aripe towards some houses.



(2) Left and uphill at sign for Chirche

(28.21463; -16.76724)

In about 275 m, passing a red house called "La Tanquilla", go left and uphill at the walks sign, for Chirche. You are walking on the Camino de la Campana. (275 m)



(3) Veer down and left for Chirche

(28.21767; -16.75956)

After ascending on the old Camino de la Campana for about 1 km, veer down and left for Chirche. (1.3 km)



(4) Left and down into Chirche

(28.21842; -16.75930)

In just 100 m, or so, having ascended out of the shallow Barranco de Chirche, go left and downhill on the tarred road, at the walks sign, by the bins. (1.4 km)



(5) Right up El Roquillo

(28.21909; -16.76060)

In another 200 m, after passing the church on your left, go right for a short distance along the street named "El Roquillo". (1.6 km)



(6) Left down La Rivera

(28.21946; -16.76077)

In 45 m, go left and down at the street named "La Rivera". Continue walking downhill as this street soon joins Calle la Calzada. (1.6 km)



(7) Right and down Las Cascajitos

(28.21896; -16.76219)

In 200 m, or so, go right down the street named "La Cascajitos". (1.8 km)



(8) Veer right up narrow road

(28.21931; -16.76251)

In 100 m, at a y-junction, veer right and up the narrow road, Calle el Cornical. (1.9 km)



(9) Veer right up old path

(28.21941; -16.76405)

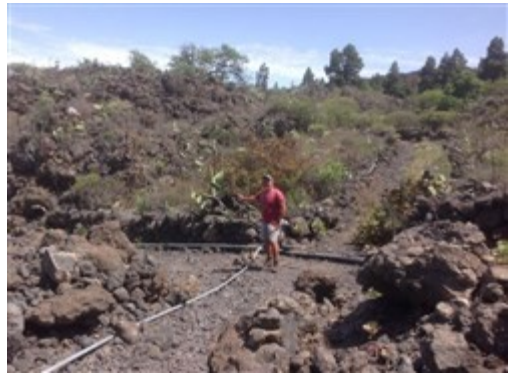
In another 100 m, or so, veer right off the tarred road to take an old stony camino out of the village. (2.0 km)



(10) Veer left and down

(28.21972; -16.76579)

In 200 m, at a junction of stony paths, veer slightly left (not the narrow path going very sharp left) and down. (2.2 km)



(11) Left again and down

(28.22013; -16.76711)

Soon, in 100 m, or so, arriving at a t-junction by steel water pipes, go left and downhill. (2.3 km)



(12) Right over pipes

(28.21993; -16.76761)

In less than 100 m, go right and over the steel water pipes. (2.4 km)



(13) Left towards minor road

(28.22144; -16.77155)

In 400 m, arriving at an open area with a walks signpost and plots ahead of you, go left over open ground towards the minor tarred road. Go left at the road and follow it downhill towards Aripe. (2.8 km)



(14) Pass church and plaza at Aripe

(28.21749; -16.76881)

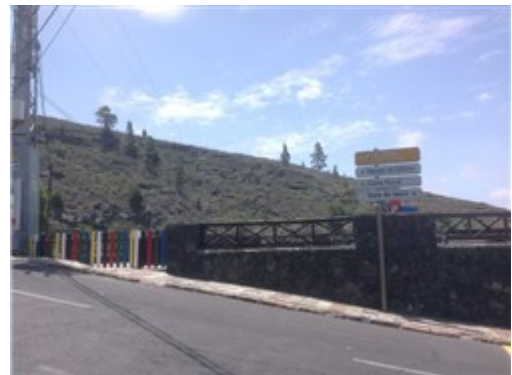
In 600 m, you arrive at the little church and plaza on the outskirts of Aripe. There are fine views from here to enjoy before moving on down into the village for the final short section of the walk. (3.4 km)



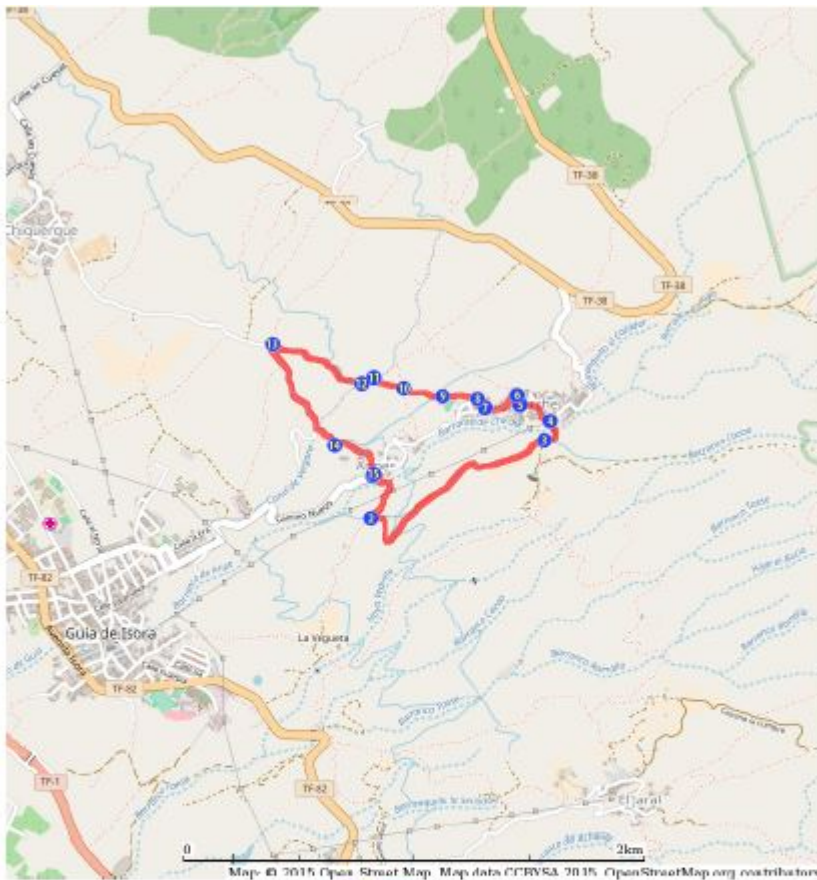
(15) Finish walk back at start-point

(28.21636; -16.76712)

Follow the winding road down into the village of Aripe. Cross the main road (Camino Nuevo) and enter the brightly coloured gate of a children's play-park. Follow the steps down to a small viewpoint area where there are two information boards. When you are ready, return to Camino Nuevo and turn left for the walks info board where you started the walk. (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](#)