

Tenerife Sur: Short Walks Under 10 km

Chio-Arguayo Circular (Guia de Isora/Santiago del Teide)

Route Summary

The walk heads uphill out of Chio into open forest on an old camino. On a good day there are stunning views of the island of La Gomera. The descent towards the interesting village of Arguayo is pretty. The lower level return route allows great views of the south-western coast.

Duration: 3.5 hours



Route Overview

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Transport/Parking: Titsa 460/462 from Guia de Isora. Parking below, or near, the Centro Cultural in Chio, at start of walk.

Length: 7.960 km / 4.98 mi

Height Gain: 328 meter

Height Loss: 328 meter

Max Height: 1006 meter

Min Height: 697 meter

Surface: Rough. A loose volcanic rock surface makes the path very rough in places.

Child Friendly: Yes. But only if children are used to hikes of this distance and overall ascent on rough surfaces.

Difficulty: Medium.

Dog Friendly: Yes. On lead in Chio and Arguayo.

Refreshments: Bar Unico in Arguayo, on the route, if open. Or, in Chio, we recommend Bar La Parada, on the main street in the centre of town.



Description

This moderate hike, both in terms of distance and overall ascent, takes in the old Canarian settlements of Chio and Arguayo.

Rural towns and villages like these can be found all around the southern side of the island, east and west, at similar heights above sea level. This mid-level (the "Medianías"), with the development of good irrigation systems, allowed agricultural improvements to flourish, and various "boom and bust" times over the centuries since the Spanish invasion. This route heads uphill out of Chio into the pine-scented open forest, to take an old camino used to link the town with Arguayo over hundreds of years. On a good day there are stunning views of the island of La Gomera and, even the distant La Palma. El Teide and Pico Viejo also put in an appearance along the way! The descent towards Arguayo is pretty. In the village we find a very well-preserved wooden wine press, a pottery museum and statues celebrating the age-old tradition of local women potters, and a fine church and plaza in a commanding position over the surrounding countryside. The lower level return route allows great views of the south-western coast.



Waypoints

(1) Start walk at cultural centre in Chio

(28.24059; -16.79680)

The walk starts outside the Centro Cultural in Chio where there is an information board about the town. The building is a distinctive yellow colour and is situated on the main street (TF-82) about 600 m on from the petrol station, as you enter the town from the TF-1 junction, on the same side (TF-1 side) as the petrol station.

From the information board outside the building, cross the main road, with care, and walk up Calle Paseo de los Indianos past the mini-market on the corner. As you climb out of the town the tarmac road becomes a rough track. Soon you will reach the main road to the Teide National Park, the TF-38.



(2) Cross main road and up rough track

(28.24235; -16.79642)

In just over 200 m from the start, the path meets the TF-38 road to the National Park. Walk downhill a little and cross, with care, this busy road. Walk up the rough road which is signposted for the route to Arguayo. (206 m)



(3) Carry straight on here

(28.24798; -16.79639)

In another 650 m, or so, ignore the opening to your right and carry straight on. (869 m)



(4) Veer right and up at y-junction

(28.25102; -16.79754)

In another 330 m, at a y-junction, veer right to take the uphill path. You will emerge from the lower path on your return, towards the end of the walk. (1.2 km)



(5) Straight on for Arguayo

(28.26709; -16.80412)

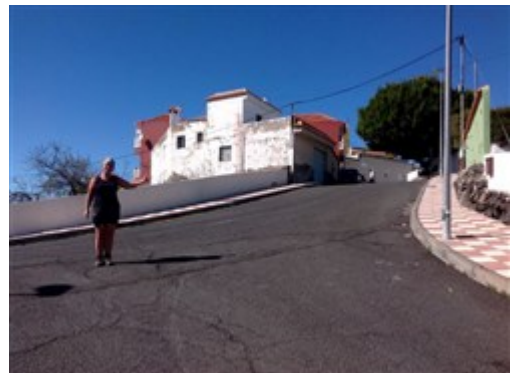
In 2.4 km, ascending, then descending through pine forest, often with fine views to La Gomera, you will arrive at a junction of paths on the outskirts of Arguayo. Fairly obviously, you carry straight on for the village that you can see ahead of you. (3.6 km)



(6) Right and up into Arguayo

(28.26732; -16.80531)

In just over 100 m, when you meet the tarred road, go right and up into Arguayo. Keep right on the street called Calle Horno de las Loceras that skirts the village on the eastern side, looking out for a bus-stop on the opposite side at a road junction. (3.7 km)



(7) Left at bus-stop junction

(28.26833; -16.80576)

In about 200 m, cross the road to your left to take the street, Calle el Carmen, into the village. You will pass a bus-stop on your left and street bin(s) on your right. (3.9 km)



(8) Left and down Calle el Carmen

(28.26862; -16.80644)

In just another 75 m, or so, go left, then veer right and carry on down Calle el Carmen. Soon you will pass an impressive wine press on your right side. Carry on without deviating until you reach the other side of the village at the old Carretera General, where you turn right, across from the pottery museum for the fairly obvious little plaza with statues celebrating the tradition of women potters in the village. (4.0 km)



(9) Potters statues

(28.26884; -16.80826)

In about 150 m from Waypoint 8 you will have crossed the old Carretera General by the pottery museum for the little plaza under Montaña La Hoya, behind the bus-stop, with the impressive statues of women potters. After taking in the scene, and perhaps visiting the museum if is open (not open in the afternoon) head downhill into the village again on the old Carretera General street. (4.1 km)



(10) Left along Calle Paraiso

(28.26833; -16.80796)

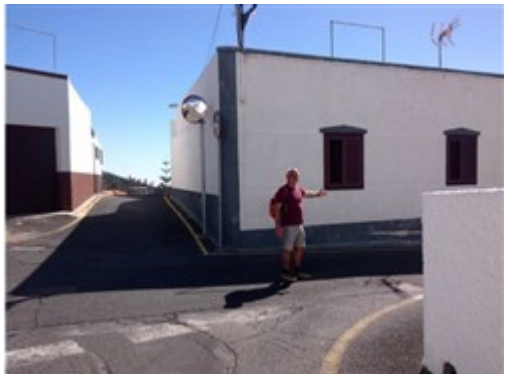
In less than 100 m, go left along Calle Paraiso. (4.2 km)



(11) Right and down Calle Candelaria

(28.26723; -16.80683)

In 200 m, turn right and down Calle Candelaria towards the church. (4.4 km)



(12) The church in Arguayo

(28.26641; -16.80762)

In about 100 m, you will have arrived at the church and plaza. After you have taken in the scene and views to coast in front, and hills behind. Leave the plaza by the steps on the north-western Montaña La Hoya side of the plaza and walk down the little street, straight ahead of you. (4.5 km)



(13) Left for Carretera General

(28.26677; -16.80795)

In less than 100 m, go left, then left again, to re-join the Carretera General street, The Bar Unico may be open for a refreshment as you pass it on your left, Carry on gently downhill, gradually leaving village behind you and eventually passing the cemetery on your left. (4.6 km)



(14) Left onto rough road back to Chio

(28.26106; -16.80641)

In 700 m, at a right hand bend on the road, take the rough road on your left in the direction of Chio. Carry on walking on this rough road which eventually becomes a path after a vineyard (with wine sales). Soon after that the path joins the path you took on your outward journey. Carry on downhill from there into Chio, re-tracing your steps. (5.3 km)



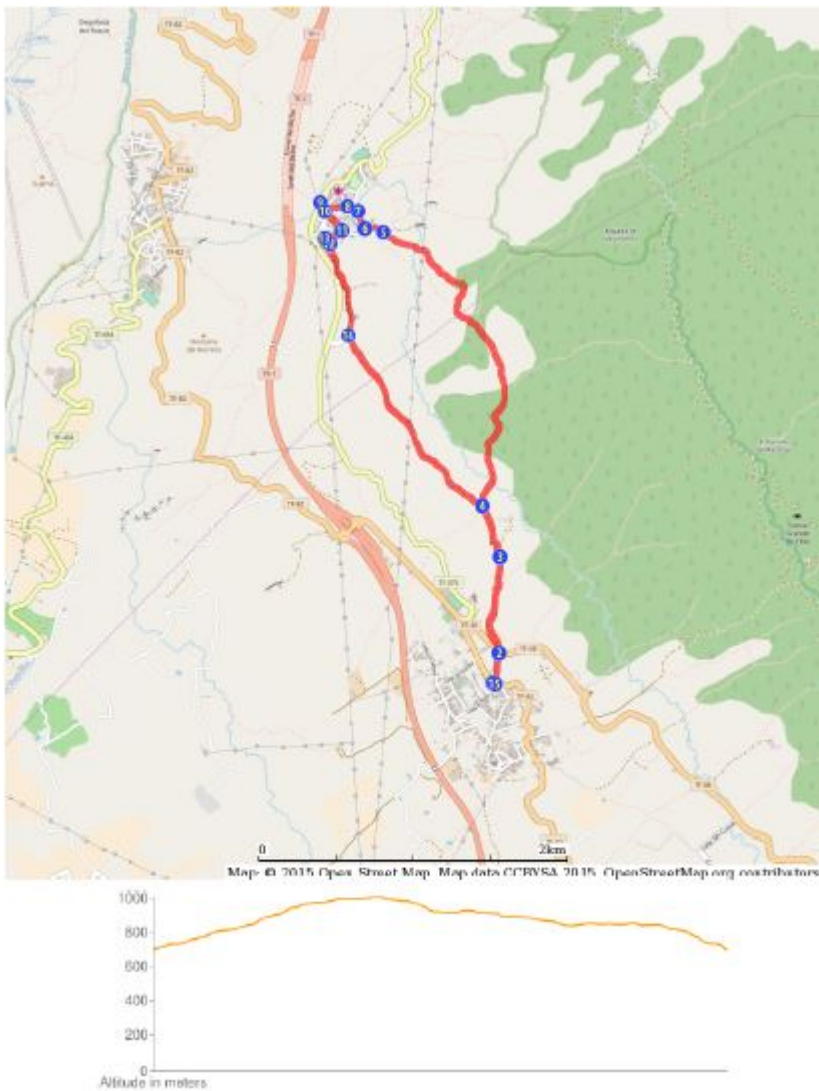
(15) End walk at cultural centre in Chio

(28.24054; -16.79671)

In 2.7 km from leaving the tarred road on the outskirts of Arguayo, after the cemetery, you will have arrived back at your start point in Chio. (8.0 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](#)