

Tenerife Sur: Short Walks Under 10 km

Roques de Garcia Circular (National Park)

Route Summary

A short circular walk that is between easy to moderate in terms of difficulty. It provides marvellous vistas of the evocative Roques de Garcia themselves, and the wider spectacle of the Caldera area of the National Park, under Teide. This is National Park Sendero 3.

Duration: 2 hours.



Route Overview

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Transport/Parking: Titsa 342 from Los Cristianos. One daily service, outward in morning, return in afternoon. Check current schedule for times. Arrive early to avoid waiting for a space near the Mirador de la Ruleta at the start/finish point.

Length: 3.500 km / 2.19 mi

Height Gain: 204 meter

Height Loss: 204 meter

Max Height: 2173 meter

Min Height: 2022 meter

Surface: Variable. Particularly rough on the 1.4 km section between Waypoints 3 and 4.

Child Friendly: Yes. You may have to assist smaller children on the rougher section with high steps between Waypoints 3 and 4.

Difficulty: Easy to moderate in places.

Dog Friendly: No. Dogs are not allowed in the National Park.

Refreshments: Parador Cafe nearby.



Description

Readily accessible in less than an hour from the southern resorts, this is a classic short walk in the Teide National Park. It encircles the world-renown and iconic Roques de Garcia on a route that gives ample opportunity to take in their rugged grandeur from different angles and to marvel at the wider landscape, from the Teide massif, to the mountains of the Caldera rim, and the Plains of Ucanca. The mid-section between Waypoints 3 and 4, as you descend through a lava field, is quite rough with some high steps but families with children seemed to be coping OK the day we were there.



Waypoints

(1) Start at right side of turning circle

(28.22324; -16.63066)

Approaching the turning circle at the Mirador de Ruleta near the Roques de Garcia, close to the area of the Parador, go right along the hard surfaced path. You may wish to join the rough track that runs more or less parallel to check out an information board. Carry on until the hard surfaced path ends in about 850 m at another information board.



(2) Left before information board

(28.22884; -16.63534)

In 855 m, just before the information board about lava types, go left up the rough path. (855 m)



(3) Carry on veering left for Ucanca

(28.23164; -16.63808)

In another 450 m, when you come to the junction with the path to Pico Viejo, carry on in the direction signposted for Ucanca. (1.3 km)



(4) Carry on ignore sign for Walk 26

(28.22488; -16.63589)

In another 1.4 km, carry on past the sign for Walk 26 - Llanos de Ucanca. Walk past the La Catedral rock on your right and start ascending towards the public viewpoint above you. There is a good viewpoint with a slight diversion to your right part way up. (2.7 km)



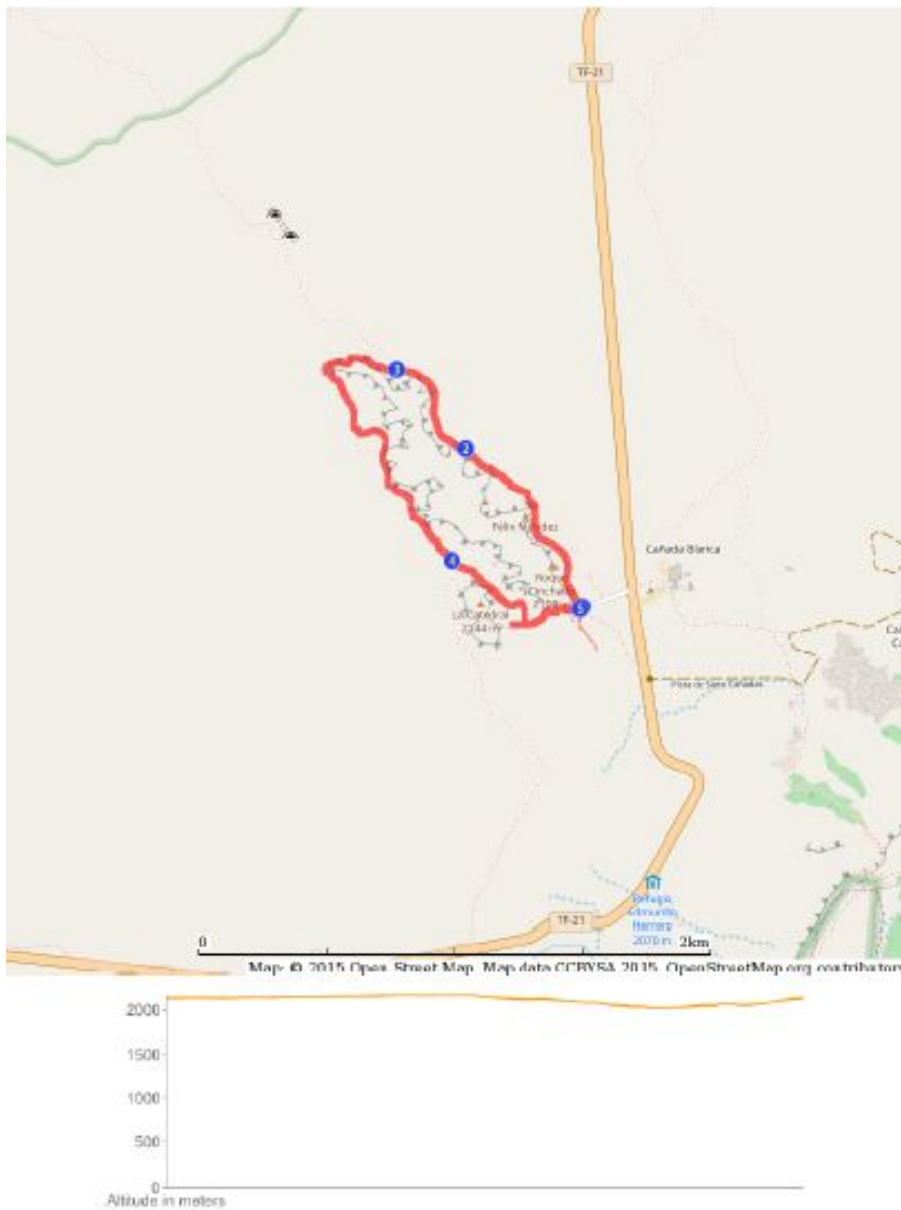
(5) Finish walk back at turning circle

(28.22318; -16.63075)

In 800 m, on ascending to the Mirador de la Ruleta viewpoint and the turning circle above it you have returned to your start point. (3.5 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](#)