

## Tenerife Sur: Short Walks Under 10 km

### El Roque-Cho Pancho Circular (San Miguel)

#### Route Summary

One of our longer walks, with an overall ascent of 528 m, offering marvellous open views, the route provides an excellent insight into the history of this still very productive area. The Cho Pancho recreational site provides the opportunity for a very pleasant mid-hike break.

Duration: 4.5 hours



#### Route Overview

**Duration:** 4.5 hours.

**Transport/Parking:** Titsa 416 from Los Cristianos. On street near to start of walk.

**Length:** 9.570 km / 5.98 mi

**Height Gain:** 528 meter

**Height Loss:** 528 meter

**Max Height:** 634 meter

**Min Height:** 1110 meter

**Surface:** Rough. Very rough sections of old paths in places.

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

**Difficulty:** Moderate to hard.

**Dog Friendly:** Yes. On lead in El Roque and at Cho Pancho.

**Refreshments:** Bar Chachi in El Roque. Numerous options in San Miguel and San Lorenzo.



#### Description

This walk is near to our limit of 10 km in length, and requires a gradual but unrelenting ascent from 634 m above sea level to 1,110 m. Leaving the quiet village of El Roque, the route soon starts to take an old stony camino uphill, eventually joining rough rural roads amongst many productive farm terraces. Looking back, there are great views of the ancient volcanic landscape of southern Tenerife, and of the imposing mass of Roque de Jama and Montaña Guaza in particular. Of course, the distant coastal resorts stand out too, especially Los Cristianos. Looking upwards, forests and mountains dominate the scene. Along the way, in this border territory between San Miguel, Arona, and Vilaflor, there are many examples of human construction and agricultural activity – buildings, paths, walls, stone ovens, terraces, irrigation channels and reservoirs. Cereals, legumes and prickly pear cacti used to be the main crops, but it's very much potato and grape growing country these days. The recreational area at Monte Cho Pancho is set on a delightful pine-forested hillside and is a great spot for a mid-hike picnic. On the return route, on a rough and rocky old path, there are a number of interpretation boards providing interesting information about this historically important “middle-lands” (“Medianías”) area of the island.



## Waypoints

### (1) Start walk at church and plaza in El Roque

(28.09379; -16.63632)

Start the walk at the church and plaza in El Roque. With your back to the walk information board, turn right as you leave the plaza and walk along Calle El Roque to the end of the street.



### (2) Left up Calle El Tapado

(28.09403; -16.63468)

In about 170 m, at the end of Calle El Roque, turn left up Calle El Tapado, following the walks signpost direction for Cho Pancho. (169 m)



### (3) Right at signpost for Cho Pancho

(28.09940; -16.63649)

In another 650 m, or so, go right at the signpost for Cho Pancho. Follow this narrow road for approximately 150 m. As it approaches the gate of a house watch out for a path veering off to your right into the barranco. Walk down this cobbled camino for a short distance. (814 m)



### (4) Take left spur on old camino

(28.10066; -16.63597)

In about 160 m from Waypoint 3 at the walk signpost, having descended a short distance down an old cobbled camino, take the left spur at a y-junction. This will take you gently uphill past houses rather than descending into the barranco. (973 m)



### (5) Carry on uphill on tarred road

(28.10278; -16.63713)

In around 230 m, the path disappears at an open area of ground. Join the narrow tarred road here and proceed uphill to the end point. (1.2 km)



### (6) Off road to re-join old camino going uphill

(28.10344; -16.63713)

In about 100 m, the narrow tarred road ends and you go off road to re-join the old camino going uphill in a zig-zig fashion, initially. Eventually the old path becomes a rough road. In about 1.7 km, going steadily uphill, you need to look out for an indistinct path opening out, on your right. It will be easy to miss, so take care! (1.3 km)



### (7) Off rough road onto indistinct path uphill

(28.11645; -16.63918)

In about 1.7 km from Waypoint 6, after walking steadily uphill, you need to look out for an indistinct path opening out on your right before the rough road descends to your right into a low barranco and then rises up to pass a large rural terrace. At the opening to the indistinct path that is your route, watch out for a small cairn marking the entrance. It will be easy to miss, so take care! At this point you are leaving San Miguel territory and entering the Vilaflor jurisdiction. Carry on gently uphill following the indistinct path and passing the odd stone cairn here and there. (3.0 km)



### (8) Left onto wider track

(28.11842; -16.63952)

In about 200 m, go left onto an obvious wider track/rough road. (3.2 km)



### (9) Left between stone walls

(28.11904; -16.63968)

Soon, in 100 m, or so, veer left between stone walls to take the more well-defined country road past terraces. (3.3 km)



### (10) Right and up tarred road

(28.12039; -16.64181)

In about 400 m, the rough country road meets a tarred road. Go right and up the tarred road. (3.7 km)



### (11) Right and down to cross barranco

(28.12349; -16.64392)

In another 400 m, take the turn-off to your right and then follow the road down to cross the barranco. As you rise out of the barranco and the road bends to the left, the tarred surface ends. (4.1 km)



### (12) Veer slightly right by high wall

(28.12427; -16.64240)

In 200 m, or so, veer slightly right by the high walls of rural terraces. Keep walking with the high wall on your left side ignoring any turn-offs to your right. (4.3 km)



### (13) Sharp right and downhill

(28.12668; -16.63934)

In 500 m, or so, having left the high walls of the terrace behind you, go sharp right and downhill as you descend to an obvious junction. (4.8 km)



### (14) Veer right towards open area

(28.12231; -16.63721)

Having twisted and turned downhill for about 700 m, where the rough road goes sharply left, instead veer right towards an open area of ground. (5.5 km)



### (15) Right onto narrow path

(28.12200; -16.63699)

In about 40 m, or so, at the end of the open area of ground, by an almond tree, go right onto a narrow path. There should be a small stone cairn marking this path entrance. Almost immediately you descend over a section of broken-down stone wall as the path heads off in a broadly rightward, gently downhill direction past some deep caves (take care!). Soon the path passes a modern finca with neat areas of vines, fruit trees and vegetable patches, before becoming a broad rough road winding to your left through pine trees. (5.5 km)



### (16) At Cho Pancho area follow marked path down into trees

(28.11890; -16.63567)

After 600 m, having now passed the entrance to the modern finca, go right into the obvious parking ground for the Monte Cho Pancho recreational areas and take the signposted path into the trees where there are many picnic benches and barbecue areas. If it is the weekend, the area is likely to be busy with many families enjoying the dappled shade of the pine trees. Carry on downhill, following a path out of the woodland. (6.1 km)



### (17) Right onto rough road after trees

(28.11774; -16.63388)

In 300 m, or so, after emerging out of the pine woodland, go right on the rough road which, initially, rises up ahead of you. (6.4 km)



### (18) Follow signpost for El Roque on the right

(28.11671; -16.63409)

In about another 100 m, go right and uphill for a short section, following the signpost for El Roque. Now follow this rough path all the way down towards El Roque. There are a number of interpretation boards along the way with interesting information about the rural history of the area. (6.5 km)



### (19) Follow path down into barranco

(28.10116; -16.63511)

After 1.9 km on the rough downhill route, follow the path over a line of stones. This path crosses the barranco, joining up with your outward route at Waypoint 4. From there, re-trace your steps back to your start point in the middle of the village at the church. (8.4 km)



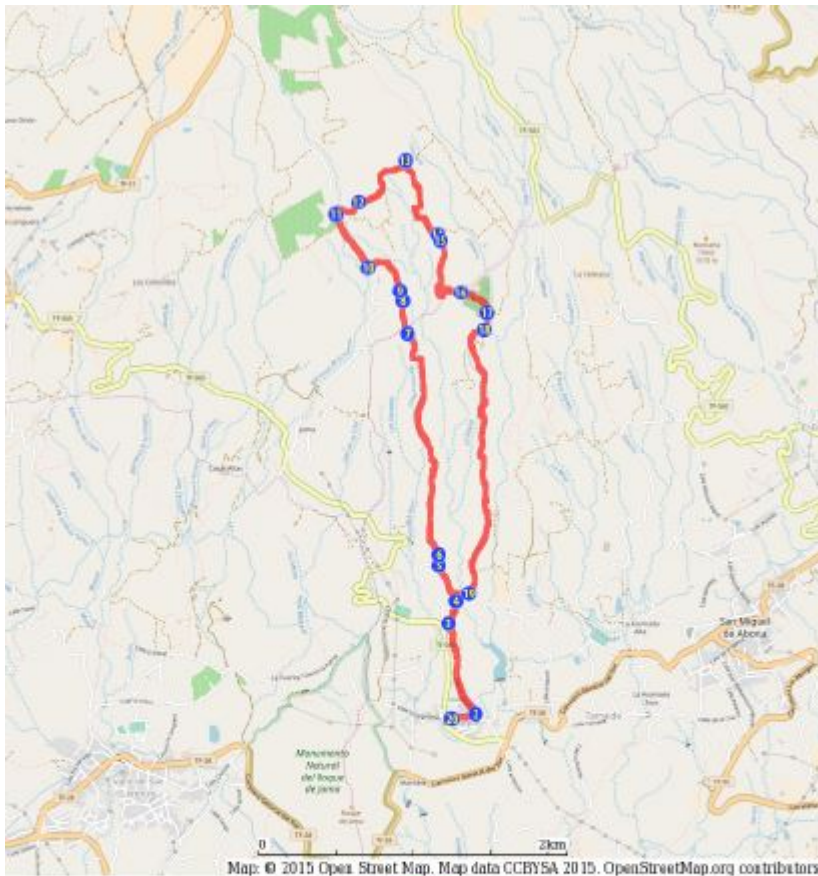
### (20) Finish walk back at church

(28.09377; -16.63622)

In 1.2 km from entering the barranco at the previous waypoint, you will have arrived back at your start-point in the church plaza. (9.6 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](#)