

Tenerife Sur: Short Walks Under 10 km

Los Poleos-Chinyero Circular (Santiago del Teide)

Route Summary

This is a moderate walk in a unique natural environment where life flourishes despite the depredations of fairly recent volcanic eruptions and forest fires. There are great views of Montaña Chinyero, El Teide and Pico Viejo along the way.

Duration: 3 hours

Route Overview

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Transport/Parking: No Titsa bus service. The walk starts and ends at the Los Poleos viewpoint, which is 14 km from Chio on the TF-38 road to the Teide National Park. There is a small parking area at the Los Poleos viewpoint.

Length: 8.270 km / 5.17 mi

Height Gain: 270 meter

Height Loss: 270 meter

Max Height: 1540 meter

Min Height: 1383 meter

Surface: Rough. The walk is mostly on easy forest trails and roads amongst the pine trees. However, the sections of path on the surface of the lava are rough underfoot.

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

Difficulty: Moderate.

Dog Friendly: Yes. On lead at the Los Poleos Viewpoint and near to the TF-38 main road.

Refreshments: Restaurante las Estrellas on the TF-38. Alternatively, in Chio.



Description

This walk undertakes a very scenic circuit of the iconic Montaña Chinyero in the Corona Forestal area, just below the Teide National Park. The volcanic cone of Montaña Chinyero is the site of the last eruption on Tenerife in 1909 when the villages of Valle de Arriba, Santiago del Teide and Las Manchas were in danger of being overwhelmed by lava flow. The walk is mostly on easy forest trails and roads amongst the pine trees, many scarred by forest fire. However, the sections of path on the surface of the lava are rough underfoot. The walk crosses one of the main lava fields emanating from Chinyero and, during the circuit around the mountain, there are marvellous views of the partially collapsed Chinyero volcano, El Teide and Pico Viejo. During the walk you may be lucky, as we were, to observe Blue Chaffinches, a species unique to the pine forests of Tenerife. There are some old photos of the Chinyero eruption in the PDF guide.



Waypoints

(1) Start walk at the Los Poleos viewpoint

(28.28097; -16.76790)

The walk starts and ends at the Los Poleos viewpoint, which is 14 km from Chio on the TF-38 road to the Teide National Park. After taking in the view from the mirador, and with your back to the road, turn right and follow the path alongside the road, behind the barriers.



(2) Sharp left at end of barrier

(28.28419; -16.76627)

After about 400 m, go sharp left at the end of the barrier at the side of the main road. Turn back on yourself, veering slightly right towards open ground. (412 m)



(3) Veer right towards trees

(28.28387; -16.76684)

In just under 70 m, veer right, away from the road towards the trees. (479 m)



(4) Veer right again towards high pines

(28.28438; -16.76749)

In about 90 m, veer right again towards the high pines ahead of you. (570 m)



(5) Follow indistinct path down

(28.28489; -16.76749)

In approximately 60 m, having passed a large rock on your left, go over the slight rise as you enter the trees and follow the indistinct path downhill. Now follow the path as it gently descends through the pines. (633 m)



(6) Right and gently uphill

(28.28985; -16.77186)

In just under 900 m, go right and gently uphill when you meet the yellow/white marked path at the edge of the lava field. (1.5 km)



(7) Left over lava field

(28.29017; -16.76566)

In 600 m, or so, go left on the rough road over the lava field at the marked junction of paths. (2.1 km)



(8) Right and up steps for Chinyero circular path

(28.29468; -16.76556)

In about 600 m, at the walks signs and information board, leave the road and go right and up the steps for the Chinyero circular path. (2.7 km)



(9) Continue following Chinyero Circular route

(28.30119; -16.76148)

After 1.1 km, at a walks sign, where a rough road intersects from the left, continue following the obvious Chinyero Circular route.

(3.8 km)



(10) Sharp right at x-roads for Chinyero Circular route

(28.30185; -16.76136)

In just 100 m, go sharp right at the paths x-roads, taking the marked Chinyero Circular route into the trees. (3.9 km)



(11) Right here

(28.29715; -16.75269)

After 1.1 km, follow the path as it turns to the right. (5.0 km)



(12) Right again

(28.29677; -16.75278)

In a short distance, follow the path as it turns right again. (5.0 km)



(13) Go straight on - Chinyero Circular path

(28.29153; -16.75171)

In 700 m, or so, as the path crosses a rough road, go straight on and gently uphill, following the marked Chinyero Circular path. (5.7 km)



(14) Right and downhill

(28.28747; -16.75516)

In another 600 m, go right and take the downhill path at the y-junction. (6.3 km)



(15) Left at x-roads

(28.28637; -16.76020)

In 700 m, at a x-roads, do not take the marked path straight-on but instead go left and follow the rough road. (7.0 km)



(16) Right approaching large pine tree

(28.28602; -16.75958)

In less than 100 m, follow the road to the right as you approach a large pine tree in a clearing. (7.1 km)



(17) Right off forest road

(28.28470; -16.76172)

After a further 300 m, or so, leave the rough road, veering right to take the narrow path, roughly parallel with the main road which is now on your left. Follow the path back as it leaves the open ground and passes through pine trees. You will soon be in the area near the start of the walk at Waypoint 2. From there, continue back towards the Los Poleos viewpoint where you started the walk. (7.4 km)



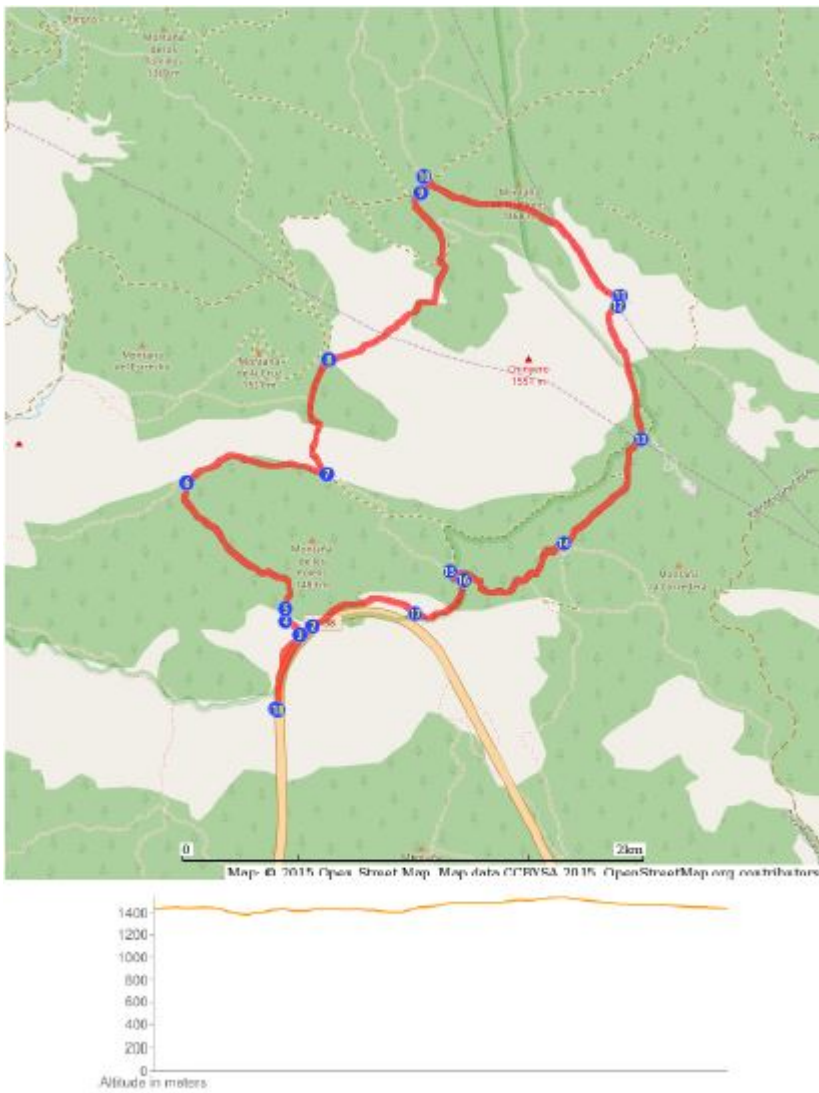
(18) Back to start at Los Poleos viewpoint

(28.28091; -16.76783)

After 900 m, you will have returned to your start-point at the Los Poleos viewpoint. (8.3 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](#)

Old Photos of the Chinyero Eruption in 1909





