

Tenerife Sur: Short Walks Under 10 km

Valle de Arriba-Vaguada de los Ovejeros Circular (Santiago del Teide)

Route Summary

A relatively strenuous but highly recommended half-day hike in the hills above Valle de Arriba. With lots of rural interest along the way, there are tremendous views of the Teno Mountains and Teide in the first half, later giving way to glimpses of the North of the island.

Duration: 3.5 hours



Route Overview

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Transport/Parking: There is no longer a bus service to Valle de Arriba. It is a 15 minutes walk from the church in Santiago del Teide to the church in Valle de Arriba, the walk start-point. Easy parking just off road across from the church at the start of the walk.

Length: 9.260 km / 5.79 mi

Height Gain: 402 meter

Height Loss: 402 meter

Max Height: 1214 meter

Min Height: 975 meter

Surface: Rough. Some of the route is on paved surfaces.

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 in Valle de Arriba and near TF-373 road.

Refreshments: A number of options on the main street in Santiago del Teide. We recommend Bar Tropic II - authentic local tapas and friendly service.



Description

This excellent walk combines many of the aspects we love about walking in Tenerife. Starting at the old church on the outskirts of Valle de Arriba, you are immediately immersed in an agricultural, vine-growing landscape. In late Spring (April/May) wildflowers, and especially red poppies, provide a blanket of colour all around. Climbing out of the village, there are marvellous views of the Santiago del Teide valley and the southern flank of the Teno Mountains. Soon, these views are capped by a stunning outlook in the opposite direction towards Teide and Pico Viejo. Here, you are surrounded by fig and almond orchards. After passing a shrine commemorating the point where the lava stopped flowing in the Chinyero eruption of 1909, the route meanders along dry-stone wall lined tracks on its way to the Vaguada de los



Ovejeros (Valley of the Shepherds), a shaded and shallow ravine with many plants and flowers more typical in the North of the island. There are then wonderful views from a half-circuit of the pine-forested Montaña Tomaseche down to Valle de Arriba. A quick detour to the (presently) abandoned Eco Museum off the TF-373 road to San Jose de los Llanos provides interest (e.g. an old threshing circle – “era”) and views of the verdant North near Erjos. An ancient downhill path used by farmers and their livestock then returns you to the productive farmland of Valle de Arriba.

Waypoints

(1) Start walk at church

(28.30649; -16.80802)

The walk starts from the Valle de Arriba church, which is on the outskirts of the village, on the "Camino Real" road from Santiago del Teide. From the church, walk towards the village on the pavement. In the springtime you will see some wonderful displays of wildflowers, particularly poppies, as you pass vineyards and small meadows on the other side of the road.



(2) Turn right up Calle San Fernando

(28.30772; -16.80398)

In about 450 m, turn right up Calle San Fernando. (446 m)



(3) Turn right up Calle el Reventon

(28.30732; -16.80254)

In another 150 m, turn right up Calle el Reventon, passing the public water taps. (595 m)



(4) Left as Calle el Reventon goes uphill

(28.30680; -16.80238)

In just 60 m, go left at the bench where Calle el Reventon goes uphill. At the top of the hill, where the tarred road ends, carry on past the bins and the walks information board. (655 m)



(5) Veer right and slightly down

(28.30731; -16.80035)

In just over 300 m from the base of the hill, having passed the bins and walks info board, veer right and slightly down to follow the signed path. This takes you on to an old stony camino that zig-zags its way up the hillside. When you arrive at the surfaced road, go right for 20 m and then resume climbing uphill on the old camino. You will cross the tarred road on two more occasions as you continue your ascent. (863 m)



(6) Left and up on tarred road

(28.30476; -16.79570)

After almost 750 m ascent from the village you will meet the tarred road for the 3rd time. On this occasion, turn left and walk up the tarred road for about 100 m. (1.6 km)



(7) Left off tarred road onto old path again

(28.30417; -16.79501)

After walking on the tarred road for about 100 m, re-join the old camino on your left. Soon, as you walk round a bend in the path, and skies are clear, Mt Teide should appear in the distance. The old path soon re-joins the tarred road, where you carry on walking gently uphill, towards Teide. (1.7 km)



(8) Pass shrine on your left and veer left

(28.30120; -16.78984)

In 600 m, or so, you will reach the shrine, El Calvario de los Baldios. Here, each year, the villagers of Valle de Arriba celebrate that the lava stopped flowing from the Chinyero volcanic eruption (1909) and did not reach their homes and fertile valley. You will see the wall of lava and lava field ahead of you. Pass the shrine on your left and veer towards the rough road on the left side of the clearing. (2.3 km)



(9) Go left at y-junction

(28.30110; -16.78722)

In 300 m, go left at a y-junction on the rough road. (2.6 km)



(10) Left and downhill

(28.30558; -16.78727)

In around 500 m, go left and downhill to follow a less well-used track. (3.1 km)



(11) Carry straight on here

(28.30624; -16.79246)

In another 500 m, ignore an opening to your right and carry straight on. (3.6 km)



(12) Right at this t-junction

(28.30585; -16.79414)

In another 200 m you will arrive at an open area where there is a t-junction. Go right here. Do not deviate from this track as it eventually becomes a narrower path. (3.8 km)



(13) Sharp left and down into Vaguada de los Ovejeros

(28.31079; -16.79178)

In 800 m, or so, with some old rural terraces on your right, go sharp left and follow a narrow path down into the Vaguada de los Ovejeros (valley of the shepherds), a shallow ravine. Keep following this path as it eventually joins a track around the wooded slopes of Mt Tomaseche. There are great views down to Valle de Arriba at that point. (4.6 km)



(14) Cross road at roundabout for Eco Museum

(28.31825; -16.79705)

After 1.9 km, leave the forest track around Mt Tomaseche as it descends to the access road to Los Partidos by the roundabout on the TF-373 road to San Jose de los Llanos. Note the old threshing machine in the middle of the roundabout. Taking care, cross at the roundabout and go over the steel gates to the Eco Museum (closed and abandoned at the time of writing). From the car-park, go around a set of large gates to enter the path network of the museum. Follow paths to the museum buildings and courtyard. (6.5 km)



(15) Go right for walks post and era

(28.31937; -16.79863)

In about 400 m, descend from the museum buildings on a set of steps and go right onto a rough road, walking towards a yellow/white marked walks post. (6.9 km)



(16) Turn back after view at era

(28.31953; -16.79878)

After 25 m you will be at the white/yellow marked post, just above an old era (stone threshing circle). On a clear day there are fine views down towards Erjos, in the North of the island. When you are ready, turn back and re-trace your steps, passing the museum buildings on your left. Carry on this track, turning left between walls and heading back towards the TF-373 main road. (6.9 km)



(17) Right after steel gate onto verge of TF-373 road

(28.31848; -16.79720)

In about 300 m, go right after a steel gate onto the verge of the main TF-373 road, walking away from the roundabout. Carry on walking on the wide verge of the road for about 500 m. (7.2 km)



(18) Cross road and down path by info board

(28.31539; -16.80029)

In about 500 m, cross the TF-373 road with great care and go down a path near the walks info board. Depending on the time of year, it may be a little overgrown at this point. As you continue to descend the path becomes clearer. This is the "path of the wet shoes", apparently used by farmers in the Los Llanos area to take their cattle to water in Valle de Arriba. Carry on following the path to the outskirts of the village of Valle de Arriba. (7.7 km)



(19) Carry on down Calle la Hoya

(28.30903; -16.80357)

In 900 m, upon entering the outskirts of Valle de Arriba, do not enter the village but, instead, carry on down Calle la Hoya, soon leaving the buildings behind, for the countryside again. (8.6 km)



(20) Left at y-junction

(28.30955; -16.80428)

In about 100 m, go left at a y-junction, between dry-stone walls and follow the rough road between small fields and terraces. This rough road skirts around the village and will take you back close to your start-point at the church. (8.7 km)



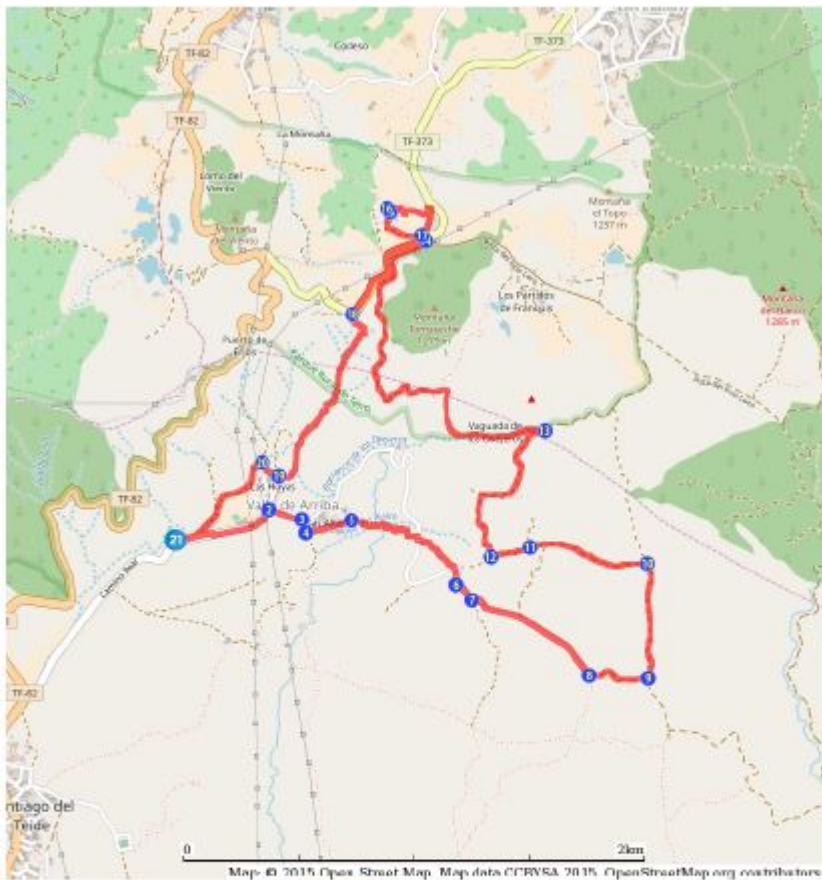
(21) Finish walk back at church

(28.30651; -16.80811)

In 600 m, you will have arrived back at your start-point, the Valle de Arriba church. (9.3 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](#)