

## WALK DESCRIPTION

### ● Waypoints

> REALEJO ALTO  
Viera y Clavijo-Platz

( START )

#### ❶

From our starting point, the Viera y Clavijo square we walk up the “calle El Medio de Arriba”. Here we can see the Church of the Apostle Saint James the Greater, Tenerife’s oldest church.

#### ❷

Arriving at the Chapel in the “ calle del Medio” and leaving that to our left we walk until we reach the intersection with the street “calle Las Toscas de Romero”. We continue to the right in direction of the gorge “barranco de la Lara”.

#### ❸

Arriving at the intersection we leave the road up to the “Asomadero” to our right and continue to the left in direction of Chanajiga.

[ Foto ]

*Parish of Apostle James the Greater (Viera y Clavijo square)*

#### ❹

The path leads us to a large coniferous tree and to the infiltration gallery in Florida Baja. It should be noted that it is prohibited to enter the gallery, since toxic gases can accumulate there.

#### ❺

We arrive at an unpaved path that takes us to the hamlet of La Florida or Villanueva and to the forest road of La Florida where we keep to the left along a path lined with chestnuts, laurels and picconias.

#### ❻

A few intersections further on, always keeping to the right and a few hundred metres further we arrive at the “Fuente del Til” (stinkwood fountain), where we can find a centenarian stinkwood tree, “Til de los Pavos”.

[ Foto ]

*Ascent to the „Asomadero“*

#### ❼

A bit further on we reach the natural outlook of “Risco de los Villanos” (villains’ cliff) from where we have a spectacular view of the mid-section of the Orotava valley.

**8**

After a descent, on which we have to be particularly careful and a longish ascent we arrive at an intersection where we continue to ascend to the right.

[ Foto ]

„Camino de la Hondura“

**9**

A bit further on we arrive at an alternative route for this walk, PR TF 40.1 “Camino Punta del Risco”, a steep path that leads to the hillside of Chinajaga.

**10**

A winding track takes us a good way up in between the ridges. Further up the track opens into a forest road.

**11**

We continue along the old road until we reach the Chanajiga rest area and continue to the right to the children’s playground. There we go to the left alongside a stone wall.

[ Foto ]

„Camino de la Guarda“

**12**

After more winding ascent we reach an escarpment and then walk over more or less level ground until, descending a few stone steps, we reach the forest road of Chanajiga.

**13**

We follow this road and leave the intersection with route PR TF 40.01 “Camino Punta del Risco” to the right. This alternative route can be used as a shortcut.

**14**

Further on we get to the hut of Enrique Talg. Next to the hut we can see a small patch of bencomias. This is an ideal place to rest.

**15**

A few metres onwards we take the turnoff to the right that takes us down to the “Asomadero” along a ramp with a wooden handrail.

**16**

The path winds on through brush and shrubbery until we arrive at the fountain of “Los Helechos” (the ferns) next to a large laurel surrounded by chain fern.

**17**

Passing this, a few metres further on we reach an intersection that leads down to the right from the Icod el Alto forest road to the “Asomadero” overlook.

**18**

On the other side of the overlook we turn right at the intersection, across the ridge of the “Asomadero”, down a steep and winding path. Halfway down we reach the overlook of “la Tarasca” where we stop over.

19

Leaving the thicket behind we turn right and reach an agricultural road that takes us to a cemented road in the gorge of “La Lora”. Turning left we reach the intersection where the walk started.

([])  
REALEJO ALTO

(END)

[MAPA DE RUTA] MAP  
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FURTHER INFORMATION

[código QR]

EMERGENCY CALL

112  
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[pág 1 - panel a la derecha]

SITUATION

[mapa]

TYPES OF LANDSCAPE

o natural o rural o urban

[diagrama] (HIGH)  
(MEDIUM)  
(LOW)

DATA SHEET

DIFFICULTY HIGH  
TIME 6½ HOURS

DESCENDING DISTANCE ASCENDING  
4.3 14.9 5.6  
KM KM KM

MIN. ELEV. CUMULATIVE MAX. ELEV.  
DIFFERENCE IN HEIGHT  
373 2.198 1.265  
METRES METRES METRES

LEGAL DISCLAIMER

This leaflet is meant to be informative. The information it contains can depart from reality and cannot precisely represent the actual state of trails and paths which may have suffered alterations due to weather and other factors after this information was printed. We remind you that adequate means and equipment have to be used for hiking and that you should always act with the necessary precaution that this activity demands. The town hall of Los Realejos publishes this leaflet to make the trails of the municipality known to the public and does in no manner assume responsibility for its incorrect or negligent usage.

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[pág. 2 panel izquierda]

[foto]

*View from the “Lomo de la Tarasca” overlook*

## INTRODUCTION ⓘ

The starting point for this walk is the Viera y Clavijo square next to the beginning of the “Calle del Medio de Arriba”. This street, along with the “Calle del Sol” are the protagonists of one of the largest pyrotechnical spectacles in Europe that takes place on every May 3<sup>rd</sup> during the festival of crosses and fires in Los Realejos.

The most important landmarks here are the municipal Tourism Office and the church of the Apostle Saint James the Greater, the island’s first church. On the other side of the road is the old town hall that now houses the municipal library “Viera y Clavijo”.

The main part of this walk runs along the “La Lora” gorge, through the “Corona Forestal” natural park. Comprising 46,613 hectares, this is the largest natural park of the Canary Islands.

On our ascent to Chanajiga we come across traditional roads, houses and other constructions that illustrate how closely the locals’ lifestyle used to be related to the natural surroundings.

It is also worth mentioning that this is a certified hiking route that fulfills the corresponding European regulations.

[foto]

*Portugal Laurel (Prunus lusitanica ssp)*

## FLORA AND FAUNA

The escarpments along the slopes of Tigaiga which are practically bare of vegetation are ideal nesting areas for birds that nest in crevices and on ledges. Several species of birds nest in the natural caves and ridges of these cliffs that are surrounded by slopes covered in thermophile shrub.

While the common buzzard is probably the most conspicuous bird of prey in this area, you can also find common kestrels and Barbary falcons. We must also not forget that these escarpments, especially the ones covered in vegetation, are excellent nesting grounds for the endemic Laurel pigeon.

Shrub grows in the less steep gorges, slopes and escarpments that mixes with the pine woods at higher altitudes. In these areas of vegetations live a great number of invertebrates that can only be found on the islands: among others land snails of the genus *hemicycla*, beetles and millipedes. As

far as birds are concerned one of the most characteristic but at the same time most elusive bird in these surroundings is the Eurasian woodcock.

[pág 2 parte central]

## PROFILE

[diagrama alturas y puntos enumerados]

## POINTS OF SPECIAL INTEREST

(A)

The first records about the existence of a church here arise from the fact that this is the spot where in 1496 the aboriginal Canarians capitulated to the Spanish conquerors. Soon the Castilians laid the foundations for a church that was built with the “splendor achievable in those times”.

(B)

According to lore, which is adopted by the poet Antonio de Viana and the historians Juan Núñez de la Peña and José de Viera y Clavijo, the nine Guanche kings (menceyes) were baptised here.

(C)

The centre of Realejo Alto was declared historical monument in 2014. Here stand the last examples of historical architecture of the area.

[foto]

*Overlook “Risco de Miguel”*

(D)

At only a few metres distance lies the Viera cinema, a building in neocanarian style, built towards the end of the forties of the past century by the architect Enrique Marrero Regalado.

(E)

Not far from the intersection of “calle El Medio de Arriba” and “Travesía El Pino” are two large, centenarian, listed trees: a Canary laurel and a Canary pine.

(F)

The crosses of “calle El Medio” and “El Sol” are the exponents of one of the most important festivities of the municipality: May crosses and fires, a festival that was declared of national touristic interest and that is celebrated on very May 3<sup>rd</sup> with one of Europe’s biggest firework spectacles.

(G)

At just a few metres from the main route lies an old washing site that is now overgrown with vegetation.

(H)

The slope of Tigaiga is the habitat of many species. Water plays an important role, too, which can be seen from the number of troughs, infiltration galleries, washig areas, wells, pipes and other methods of water transportation that we can find along the way.

(I)

Basketry is the craft that Los Realejos most famous for. The large variety of baskets fashioned from chestnut and osier stakes is known far beyond the municipality and many of the chestnut trees you pass along the way are still used by local craftspeople.

(J)

Along the wayside is a cave, hewn into the rock that can be used for shelter when it rains. Inside is a feeding trough which is why it is thought that it may have been used as a stable in the past.

(K)

Further up the slope we find a well called “Fuente del Til” where we can see an impressive specimen of centenarian stinkwood, known as the “Til de los Pavos”.

(L)

Enrique Talg Wyss (1924 – 2006) was a pioneer of tourism and a great admirer of the islands’ landscapes and natural spaces.

[ foto ]

*The hut of Enrique Talg*

(M)

Bencomias are endemic to the Canary Islands. They grow as a woody bush, They were described by William Aiton, Philip Barker Webb and Sabino Berthelot in 1846 and dedicated to Bencomo, one of the Guanche chieftains (mencey) of Tenerife.

(N)

The stinkwood tree has a slender, cylindrical trunk which branches copiously close to the ground. It is an evergreen and its crown is dense and spherical in shape. Its wood is dark, hard and is considered valuable. When fresh it gives off an unpleasant smell. Another large specimen can be found on the left wayside.

(Ñ)

From the overlook of “Asomadero” at 1,100 metres above sea level, we have a spectacular view over the whole of the Orotava valley.

(O)

A few metres away from the small overlook which lies halfway down the track from “Asomadero” we find the caves of “Tarasca”, two open caves that were hewn into the rock.

[pág 2 parte derecha]

[ foto ]

FOOTPATH REALEJO ALTO - CHANAJIGA

ENGLISH – 2016 edition

[ logotipos ]

GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS

[columna izquierda]

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#### THINK AHEAD

You should wear adequate clothes and shoes, bring solar protection cream, a hat, a jacket and a charged mobile phone.

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#### AVOID MAKING NOISE

You will enjoy nature better in silence.

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#### RESPECT THE ENVIRONMENT

Don't pick plants and don't take animal or objects from their surroundings. Respect the local way of life.

[columna derecha]

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#### HIKE IN COMPANY

Inform family or friends about your route and only walk on marked paths.

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#### DON'T LEAVE RUBBISH

Take any rubbish with you and be especially careful with cigarette ends.

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#### BE CAREFUL

Hiking in nature holds risks. You hike under your own responsibility.

(BUS)

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[www.titsa.com](http://www.titsa.com)

(MORE INFO)

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