

WALK DESCRIPTION

Waypoints



TOSCAL LONGUERA

Church of Our Lady of Guadalupe

START

2

Leaving the main road we turn left onto the street "calle Media Cuesta". We descend along "calle El Cardón" to the intersection with the street "calle El Cedro".

4

We then reach a stretch of stone paved path through abandoned patches, very close to the residential area of the Acapulco and Maritim apartments.

5

We take the path to the Playa de Los Roques beach and turn left along the track that runs along the beach.



The beach of Los Roques

6

The route takes us to the streets of the urbanization La Romántica II where on the right hand side we reach the streets of "Las Amapolas", "Las Palmeras", "Las Rosas" and finally "Los Geranios" where we again turn right.

7

We leave the streets behind and enter the track over the Riscos de Méndez cliffs which is flanked by Canary salt cedar and bands of tuff.

8

We can stop at several bends in this path to contemplate the views of the coast which reach from the Isla Baja to the shallows of El Pris in Tacoronte.

9

Before reaching the wooden bridge over the Gordejuela or Palo Blanco gorge we get to see the ruins of the old water pumping station of La Gordejuela.



Ramblas del Mar

MAP



10

We ascend on the pathway of La Merina until we reach a crossing to the right at the Siete Fuentes estate that runs along the cliffs of the Fajana coast.

11

Descending to the bed of the Godínez gorge, we get to a small bridge that allows us to situate ourselves right above the gorge's bed. From here on we enter the Rambla de Castro.



Canary palm tree (Phoenix canariensis)

13

Further along the main path we pass two junctions to the right and three to the left that lead to San Fernando's fort and the old track that leads to the dragon tree of the Rambla de Castro and the palm grove.

14

We continue along the main path until we reach the house of Castro. To the left we pass an intersection that takes us to "La Madre del Agua".

15

From the house we ascend the stone paved track of the Rambla de Castro and to the right, leaving the main path, we take a pathway that enters a stretch of palm trees.

16

We reach the road of "El Mayorazgo" where, after an ascending section we get to another stone paved track where we turn right.

17

We leave the stone paved path and turn left onto a road until we reach the next crossing. Then we turn right to take the road that goes down the the Socorro beach.

18

We walk between the estates of "Las Cuatro Ventanas" on the left and "La Rambla" on the right, through banana plantations and, further up, the estate of the Viscount of Buen Paso to the left.

19

We continue downwards on the road that leads to the beach. Higher up we can see the hermitage of Our Lady of Perpetual Help (Socorro in Spanish). We finish on the Socorro beach promenade.



PLAYA DE EL SOCORRO

Beach

END



The beach of El Socorro

FURTHER INFORMATION



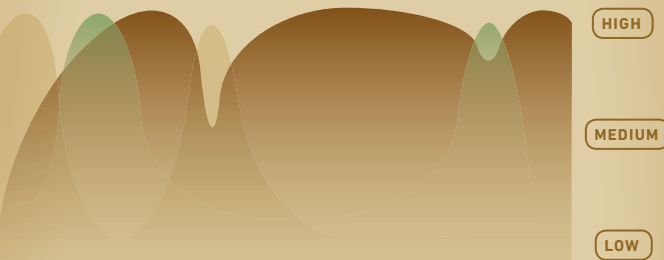
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SITUATION



TYPES OF LANDSCAPE

NATURAL RURAL URBAN



DATA SHEET

DIFFICULTY



LOW

TIME

2

HOURS

DESCENDING
2.5
KM

DISTANCE
5.7
KM

ASCENDING
1.1
KM

MIN. ELEV.
23
METRES

CUMULATIVE
DIFFERENCE IN
HEIGHT
495
METRES

MAX. ELEV.
171
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.



View from the Rambla de Castro.

INTRODUCTION



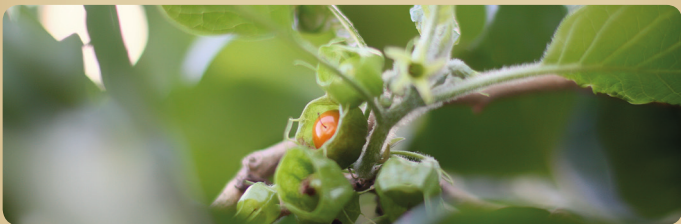
The trail known as the Water Trail is the result of decades of repairs that have helped to recover the old tracks that were used by fishermen and locals of the area to access the coast.

Now, most of the expanse of the nature reserve of the Rambla de Castro with its different enclaves, can be walked through and the beauty of the municipality of Los Realejos' coast appreciated, with its sand and pebble beaches, bays and natural pools. All this within the protection of the reserve that was established in 1987 and received its current denomination in 1994, with a surface area of 45,9 hectares.

This trail offers visitors the opportunity to take an interest in the area's natural wealth, its fauna and flora and its need for preservation.

The trail leads into one of the most beautiful areas of the island, where nature, history, the landscape and legends merge in a journey sprinkled with beauty and with the always present murmur of water.

The famous palm grove, the Castro manor, San Fernando's Fort and the pumping station of la Gordejuela are essential waypoints on the path that tell us about the natural, historic, strategic and industrial importance of this place.



Canary orobal (*Withania aristata*)

FLORA AND FAUNA



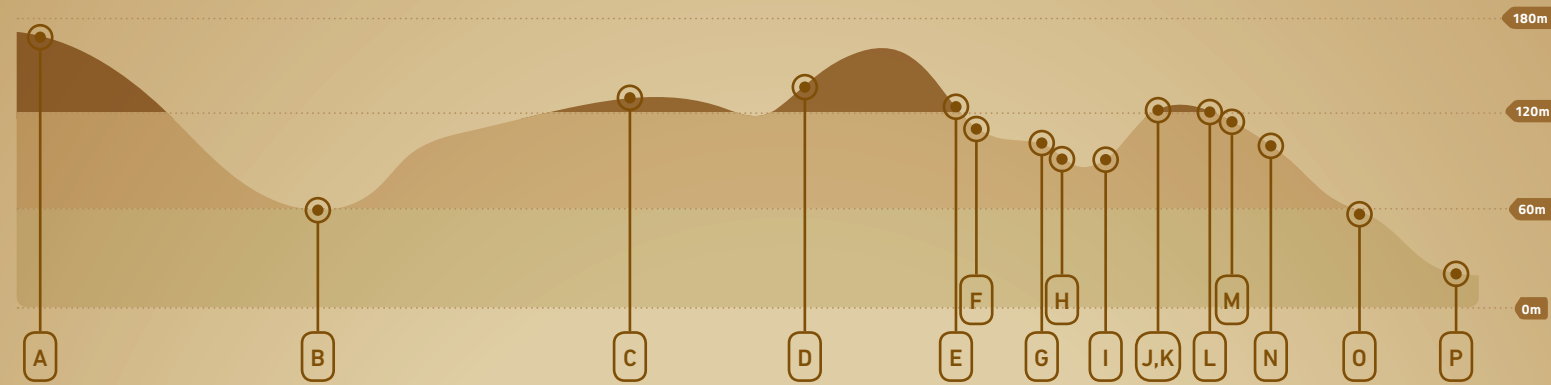
If we pay a little attention along the way, we can observe the most representative passerines of the coastal areas of the island's north, between the Los Roques beach and the San Pedro lookout. Among the species and subspecies we can see are the blue tit and the leaf warbler, the Eurasian blackcap and the Sardinian warbler, blackbird, grey wagtail and the ever present Atlantic canary. Some of these small birds, but especially the leaf and the Sardinian warblers, like to build their nests in the dense Canary incense that grows close to the house.

In the surroundings of the Rambla de Castro estate manor we find a large, apparently

man made grove of Canary palm trees (*Phoenix canariensis*). In places the foliage creates a dense cover where leaves and trunks intertwine, forming a refuge for winged species such as the long-eared owl or certain types of bats.

From a geological point of view, and even delving into paleontology, a journey through this part of the island's north coast offers insights into relevant and little known facts. With help of a specialist guide we can discover elevated beaches, the remains of large scale landslides, the imprints of plants in rocky layers and molds of thermophile trees and bushes that were covered by ancient streams of lava.

PROFILE



POINTS OF SPECIAL INTEREST

A

The parish church of our Lady of Guadalupe, in the centre of Toscal Longuera, is a new building whose construction began in 1980. It is a capacious building with the image of the name giving saint inside, work of the sculptor Ezequiel de León y Domínguez.

B

"Caleta del Burgado" is the old name for the "Los Roques" beach, that derives its name from the three rock formations that exist there. These are called "Roque Chico" (small rock), "Roque Grande" (big rock) and "La Pata".

C

All along the coast, fishermen gave interesting and picturesque names to the beaches, ponds and davits, such as "Callao de Méndez" (callao = pebble beach), "Pejereyes" (sardines) or "Piedra Cogalamagua".

D

The Gordejuela pumping station was planned by the house of Hamilton and the project commissioned to the engineer José Galván Balaguer. Construction started in November of 1903 and ended in June of 1907. The boilers were set up at 100 metres distance from the building with a 43 metre high tower and plumbing and steam engines which were the first ones on the island of Tenerife.



The Gordejuela pumping station

E

Godínez is only one of the names given to the gorge along its way. It is the result of several tributaries that join, starting in the mountains, down to the sea, receiving the names of "La Calera", "La Lora", "Godínez", "La Fajana" or "del Agua".

F

In 1970 strange noises were heard coming from a cave in the area, but it was never found out what caused them, although several stories existed to this effect. The case is known as the "Monster of San Vicente".

G

The fortress of San Fernando is one of three coastal batteries that existed in the old municipality of Realejo Bajo. It was built in 1808 to protect the locals from naval attacks.

H

The dragon tree of Castro (*Dracaena draco*) could be around 150 years old, if we look at its branches and trunk.

I

Castro manor is an interesting building that was built over the course of several centuries and goes back to the time when the land was given to Hernando de Castro after the conquest of the island.



Castro Manor

J

The hermitage of Saint Peter must have been built at the beginning of the 17th century and every 29th of June, to commemorate the saint, a beautiful arch of fruit and vegetables is displayed on the outside.

K

Centuries ago the connecting roads were called "caminos reales". The camino real passes by the hermitage of Saint Peter and is one of the few stretches preserved in the municipality of Los Realejos.

L

The place name "El Guindaste" derives from its past as a pier. It denominates a structure consisting of three beams that was used to load and unload boats.

M

The Las Chozas estate house is an interesting building consisting of a wide wooden gallery, covered with roof tiles that opens to the Guindaste road, the actual road of the Ramblas del Mar.

N

The house "Las Cuatro Ventanas" (four windows) which today is a tourist accommodation, belonged to the Vergara and Hoyo families and later to the marquisate of Celada. Its name derives from the windows in its upper floor that overlook the sea.

O

The estate of the viscount of Buen Paso and the marquis of San Andrés still maintains its U-shaped ground plan as well as the surrounding annexes.

P

The estate of El Socorro derives its name from the hermitage of Our Lady of perpetual help (socorro = help), built around the year 1617. Inside is the full size sculpture of the name giving saint that presides over an interesting altarpiece that contains portraits of the founding family.



THE WATER TRAIL

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Excmo. Ayuntamiento de
LOS REALEJOS
Concejalía de Turismo



GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS



THINK AHEAD

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



HIKE IN COMPANY

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



AVOID MAKING NOISE

You will enjoy nature better in silence.



DON'T LEAVE RUBBISH

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



RESPECT THE ENVIRONMENT

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



BE CAREFUL

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

BUS

Toscal: Lines 381, 354 and 353.
Maritim: Line 381.
El Socorro next to TF5: Lines 107, 108, 363 and 325.
Socorro beach: Line 546 (Only in summer).

+INFO:

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