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# NATURE TRAIL ANAGA - CHASNA



Guide to the  
**Nature Trails**  
of Spain



SECTOR  
**CANARY ISLANDS**



## AN EXPLOSION OF NATURE IN TENERIFE

The Nature Trail of Anaga-Chasna is one of the longdistance trails of Tenerife; a route that goes through forested areas and to the top of the hills of the island to the delight of hikers, who will have the privilege of admiring along the way the great contrasts offered by the landscapes of Tenerife, from lush vegetation to quaint volcanic formations, all of it crowned by the imposing Mount Teide.

The island of Tenerife is the largest and highest of the seven islands of the Canary archipelago. It has 43 protected natural areas - distributed throughout the island - which cover 45% of its total area. The high level of protection of the territory is just a reflection of the diversity and uniqueness of ecosystems and landscapes that can be found in an area less than that of any other Spanish province.



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The Anaga-Chasna Nature Trail or GR-131 is one of the two long-distance trails on the island. It goes through the central region of the island in a south-westerly direction from the town of La Esperanza to the historic quarter of Arona. Due to its length, around 90 kilometers, GR-131 is divided into five sections.

### STAGE 1. LA ESPERANZA TO LA CALERA

1. The first section of the trail departs from La Esperanza, the capital of the municipality of El Rosario, and, from this village, we will enter the forest of Adelantado, remaining vestige of a laurel forest. Once we leave the village, the path takes us through forests of Monterey pine and Canary Island pine, and leads us to the recreation area and viewpoint of La Vica. The trail goes along wide forest tracks and small sheltered paths to reach the resting area of Siete Fuentes, where we begin a steep ascent along a zigzag path. After reaching the greatest height of this stretch, the path skirts numerous cliffs through forests of pines and heath trees. A forest track leads us, first to Casa del Agua (Water House), then to Pedro Gil resting area and, finally arrives at the La Caldera recreational area.

### STAGE 2. LA CALERA TO EL PORTILLO

2. From La Caldera we will have the opportunity of enjoying breathtaking views of La Orotava Valley and the island of La Palma, which can be glimpsed even when it is cloudy, under the so-called sea of clouds characteristic of this island. From there, the path enters a pine and heather forest that takes us to the resting area known as Pino or Fuente del Dornajito. Gradually, the forest turns into a Canary Island evergreen laurel

forest, dominated by characteristic species of the laurel forest. As we ascend, the path takes us into an increasingly thick pine forest, with shrub species that are particularly characteristic of this altitude such as the Teide broom and the codoso or laburnum. The forest comes to an end and we begin the ascent to the visitors' center of El Portillo, in Teide National Park.

### STAGE 3. EL PORTILLO TO PARADOR DE TURISMO

3. From El Portillo we follow the track of Siete Cañadas (Chasna Royal Road) through a unique landscape with endemic flora. The trail runs along the base of the so called Circo de Las Cañadas (Circus of Ravines), allowing us to admire all along the way the vastness of Mount Teide. In this leg of the trail, we can see remarkable rock formations of volcanic origin such as La Papelera and El Palomar, interspersed with a number of ravines that have given its name to this trail. Along the way, there are also Guanche settlements that were later used by shepherds. The trail ends at Cañada del Montón de Trigo, a plain that spreads under a lava wall where a large pond is formed in winter. At this point, we have the option to follow the track until we reach the Parador Nacional de Turismo (National Tourist Hotel) or to begin the next stretch of the Nature Trail in the direction of Degollada (mountain pass) de Guajara.

### STAGE 4. PARADOR DE TURISMO TO VILAFIOR

4. Back to the Cañada del Montón de Trigo, we follow a path that ascends with a constant slope to Degollada de Guajara, a spot from which there are scenic views of Circo de Las Cañadas del Teide (the cirque of the ravines of Mount Teide), Pico Viejo (Old Peak), Montaña Blanca (views of both slopes of the mountain are magnificent). Once past the hillock, we begin our descent through pine tree areas that alternate with patches of hill scrub vegetation, until we reach a more developed pine grove. In this

### STAGE 5. VILAFIOR TO ARONA

part of the trail we find the ruins of Marrubial House, and, further on, a resting area under the shadow of an enormous pine tree. We then continue on the road to Vilafior, the highest altitude town in the Canary Islands, at 1,400 meters. In this last leg of the trail, the Royal Road of Chasna runs between dry stone walls, and the original road surface is perfectly preserved. Once in Vilafior, a series of signs on the Trail will lead us to the main square of San Pedro, where we will find the church of the same name, one of the oldest religious buildings on the island.

### STAGE 5. VILAFIOR TO ARONA

5. From the church of San Pedro in Vilafior, the road will keep ascending up to the shrine of San Roque. As we ascend, we go deeper into the Natural Park of La Corona Forestal, past the municipal water reservoir, until we reach an area called Las Corujas. From this point, the trail goes down into the protected landscape of Ifonche - where pine groves alternate with some cultivation terraces - and crosses the bridge at Guayero, which spans over the cliff of Las Goteras, considered the area of greatest floral interest in the region of Ifonche. Until we reach the end of the trail, we will see ancient circular threshing floors. Once we reach the base of Roque Imoque, the path enters the Special Natural Reserve of Barranco del Infierno (Hell's Cliff), from where we can make out in the distance the village of Adeje and Los Cristianos, as well as the islands of La Gomera and La Palma. Particularly noteworthy in this last section of the road is Roque del Conde, on whose summits are some remains of aboriginal engravings, as well as typical plants of the area. If we continue the trail along the ravine of El Rey, we will reach the neighborhood of Vento de Arona, and after a stroll through the streets of the village, we will arrive at the historic quarter. There, at Plaza de la Salud, overlooked by the church and city hall, the trail comes to its end.



The trail begins in El Adelantado Park, in La Esperanza



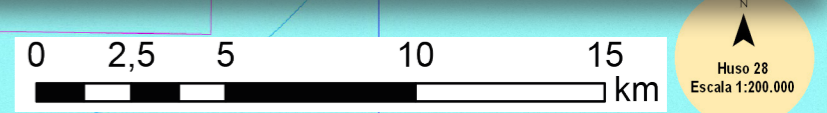
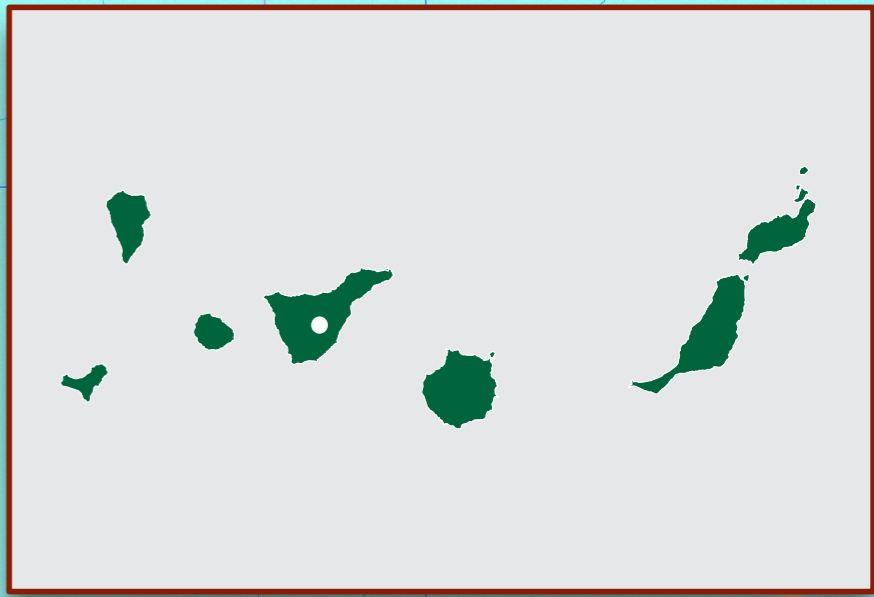
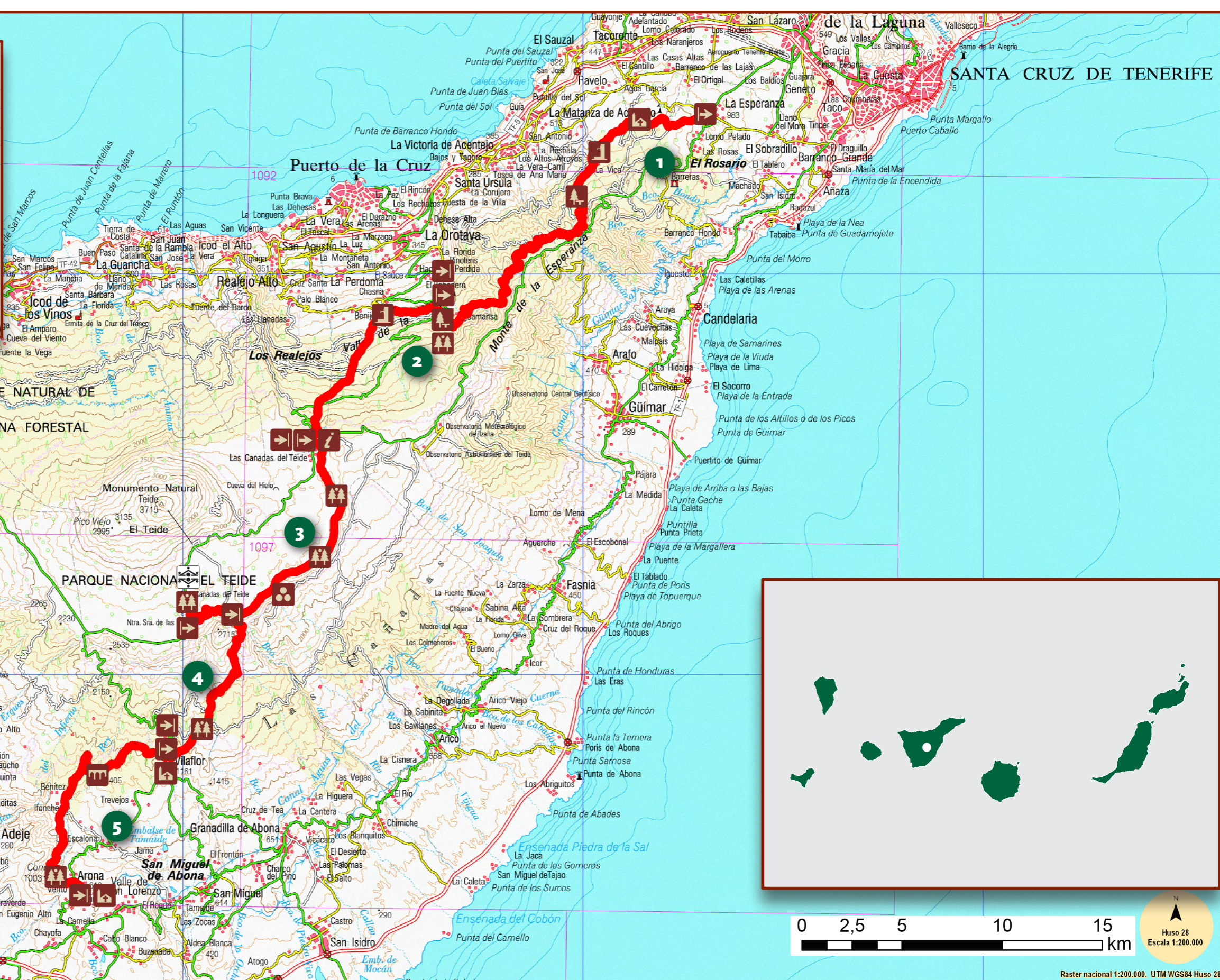
Pico del Teide, from El Portillo



Canary Islands pines (Pinus canariensis) in the fog

MIDE			
Harshness of natural environment	2	▲ Upward gradient	3630 m
Guidance along the route	1	▼ downward gradient	3340 m
Route difficulty	2	≡ ROUTE LENGHT	93,2 km
Amount of effort needed	5	⌚ TIME**	27 h

◆ town    ● point of interest    \*\* Seven journeys of 4-5 hours each



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# NATURE TRAIL ANAGA - CHASNA

- Stage start
- End of stage
- Rest area
- Information
- Feature of environmental interest
- Religious building
- Bridge
- Ruins
- Fountain
- Parador