

Route planner

1. From the TF-5, at Los Realejos towards the Mirador de San Pedro (viewpoint)

Distance: 1 km

Approx. time needed: 2 minutes

Estimated time for visit: 30 minutes

The Los Realejos route starts on the main TF-5, at Los Realejos. Set off towards Icod de los Vinos, drive through the tunnel at the village of San Vicente and a couple of hundred metres downhill and just before the bend to the left, turn off the main road to the right to reach the Mirador de San Pedro, the San Pedro viewpoint. You immediately come to the parking area.

2. From the Mirador de San Pedro (viewpoint) to el Realejo Bajo

Distance: 2.6 km

Approx. time needed: 10 minutes

Estimated time for visit: 30 minutes

The next stop takes you on a visit to the village of Realejo Bajo. To reach it, you will have to get back on the TF-5 towards Icod de los Vinos to be able to turn and come back. To do so, leave the viewpoint and drive the short distance along the road Camino de San Pedro, passing the viewpoint. Just up ahead you will find the junction with the TF-5. Turn right and join this road. After about 300 metres you will see a junction on the right-hand side signposted Los Realejos-Puerto de la Cruz-Playa El Socorro. A few metres will take you to another junction. Turn right to take the road back towards Los Realejos. After some 100 metres you join the TF-5, this time back towards Santa Cruz. You will see a fork up ahead and here you should get into the left-hand lane. Another 600 metres takes you to the entrance of the tunnel that you came through in order to get to the San Pedro viewpoint. Just before the entrance to the tunnel there is a junction on the left-hand side with a sign to San Vicente. (You cross on-coming traffic). Turn left and enter the road to San Vicente. Drive up this road. After 200 metres you will find a junction on the right-hand side with San Vicente Street, which leads to your next stop. After 700 m, San Vicente Street changes name to become Cantillo de Abajo. At the end of the street stands the Church of Nuestra Señora de La Concepción. Park your vehicle nearby and continue the visit on foot.



Estimated distance:

16 km

Estimated time overall:

2 hours, 37 minutes

Estimated time for car travel:

37 minutes

Stops:

- Rambla de Castro y Mirador de San Pedro (viewpoint)
- Realejo Bajo
- Tigaiga
- Mirador de El Lance (viewpoint)
- Mirador de La Corona (viewpoint)

Other points of interest:

- Chanagija Recreational Area
- Realejo Alto
- Farmer's Market of Los Realejos

Route planner

3. From the Realejo Bajo to Tigaiga

Distance: 1.4 km

Approx. time needed: 5 minutes

Estimated time for visit: 20 minutes

In order to get from Realejo Bajo to Tigaiga you need to take Guillermo Machado y Pérez Galdós Street which runs past the Church of Nuestra Señora de La Concepción. After 190 m you come to Los Príncipes Street. Continue straight ahead along this street which changes name to be called Barroso Street. Continue along this street, until at the end you arrive at the main part of Tigaiga and a small church. Park in the surrounding area and continue the visit on foot.

4. From Tigaiga to the Mirador de El Lance (viewpoint)

Distance: 6 km

Approx. time needed: 10 minutes

Estimated time for visit: 20 minutes

In order to arrive at the next stop, the El Lance viewpoint, you should drive back the way you came, back along Barroso Street towards Realejo Bajo. After a distance of 600 metres, turn right into Mencey Acaymo Street. Drive straight ahead up this street some 300 metres. Here you will see a junction on the right-hand side with Viera y Clavijo Street. Turn right and continue along this street. On the route, on the left-hand side you pass the Los Príncipes football ground, and on the right-hand side the house where José de Viera y Clavijo was born. At the end of the street turn slightly to the right into Pablo Garcia Street and, after a few metres, turn left. A short distance ahead you will see the junction with the TF-342. Then, turn right onto this secondary road where your route continues. The access to the viewpoint is 4 km away. The road has a great many bends, so drive with care.

Route planner

5. From the Mirador de El Lance (viewpoint) to the Mirador de La Corona (viewpoint)

Distance: 5 km

Approx. time needed: 10 minutes

Estimated time for visit: 20 minutes

The last stop on the route takes you to see the upper area of San Juan de La Rambla. The trip gives you a closer view of the reality of the agricultural nature of the municipality, as you drive past numerous plots still cultivated to this day that make a delightful rural picture.

Leave the public laundry site of La Vera on the left and climb up along the main road. It is 1 km to the junction with Lomo Los Quinteros Street where you turn left and continue uphill a short distance. Here you will come to a junction with the TF-342 (secondary road), turn left and continue straight ahead. 300 m further on you will see a junction with Linda El Velado Street. The same junction is signposted "Zona Recreativa La Tahona" (La Tahona Recreational Area). Drive on up this street some 2.3 km until you come to a new junction. You will see a group of houses, turn right and continue straight ahead. After 1 km, you will come across another junction on the left-hand side, signposting the way to La Tahona. Follow this narrow road taking care in case of oncoming traffic. At the end of the road you will see the Recreational Area and the car park.

Start

Los Realejos

On this route you enter the heart of the northern municipality of Los Realejos, situated in the Orotava Valley, in a unique location and which features leafy, varied vegetation and more than five centuries of history.

The roots of Los Realejos go back to pre-hispanic times, when these lands belonged to the aboriginal kingdom of Taoro. According to the tradition, this was the scene of great historical events; this is where the guanches surrendered to the Castilian conquerors and is thus the place where the Island became part of the Realm of Castille. Here the victors established one of the first settlements on the Island and in the area of Upper Realejo (Realejo Alto) they built the first religious shrine on Tenerife, the Church of Santiago Apóstol (the apostle James). Apparently this is where the guanche kings received the sacrament of baptism together with other aborigines in the year 1498.

The village was devoted mainly to agriculture and, to a lesser extent, to cattle farming. Reflecting this is the installation after the conquest of a sugar mill on Los Príncipes estate in Realejo Bajo (Lower Realejo), owned by one of the conquerors, Alonso Fernández de Lugo, and which is said to have stood in the so-called King's Field, the name by which the fertile territories belonging to the Mencey (guanche king) Bencomo were known.

You will discover small villages that retain all the essence of times past, such as Realejo Bajo, which has a well-preserved collection of beautiful, historical buildings which has earned it the status of a Site of Cultural Interest. On the route you will see different estates and religious buildings, reflecting earlier periods of splendour, a consequence of the economic power which grew as traders settled and different religious orders became established.

However, the development of the town itself and new town planning requirements have meant that much of this heritage has remained scattered among new buildings that have sprung up. As a result, Los Realejos does not have a well-defined and preserved historical centre, except for Realejo Bajo.

Los Realejos is the birthplace of the famous writer, biologist and historian José de Viera y Clavijo. His birthplace can be found in Realejo Alto (Upper Realejo), on the street that bears his name, at No. 101. This is a two-story house which retains only the original facade as its interior has been completely altered according to the needs of its inhabitants.

The municipality is also of great natural and scenic interest with many protected natural areas like Los Campeches, Tigaiga y Ruiz, the Rambla de Castro, the Natural Monument of Los Frailes Mountain and the Barranco de Ruiz (ravine), a Site of Scientific Interest, perfect for taking part in activities in nature, such as hiking. The many viewpoints provided also bring us closer to this reality, offering views of the Orotava Valley and allowing visitors to discover amazing panoramic views of the town, observing its urban growth with historic buildings and a green, rugged landscape with a steep coast consisting of cliffs and deep gorges that scar the territory from the mountains to the sea.

Further information:

www.ayto-losrealejos.es

Stops

1. Rambla de Castro and Mirador de San Pedro (viewpoint)

The Rambla de Castro is a natural site of great scenic value. Nestling in the coastal strip of the municipality of Los Realejos, it covers 45.9 hectares and gives beautiful panoramic views along the north coast of Tenerife.

This green beauty spot situated on the shore of the Atlantic is surrounded by a great variety of flora such as palm trees, dragon trees and bananas. It contains a number of exceptional, characteristic buildings such as the Hacienda de Castro whose origins go back to the XVIth century, although in fact the present building is from the XVIIIth century; the Fortín de San Fernando (fort), that served to fend off attacks by pirates; the Gordejuela building, which housed the first steam engine on the Island, and the chapel of San Pedro.

A visit to this area gives the visitor a range of choices. First of all, the Rambla de Castro forms part of the "Sendero del Agua" (coastal path) which starts from the Hotel Marítim (in Los Realejos), crosses the Los Roques beach, La Romántica residential estate, the Rambla de Castro and finishes at the San Pedro viewpoint. Walking the whole path allows you to enjoy a pleasant excursion and discover this delightful spot on Tenerife's north coast. You can also access the Rambla from the San Pedro viewpoint and take a stroll through it, visiting its most characteristic buildings and open spaces and take in the spectacular views of the Atlantic from the viewpoint.



Location:

Carretera Santa Cruz-Icod de los Vinos (TF-5). Los Realejos

UTM Coordinates:

28.395892, - 16.593942

Geographic Coordinates:

28°23'45.21"N, 16°35'38.19"W

Footpath Sendero del Agua:

Distance: 4 km

Walking time: 4 hours

Difficulty: low. This is a short path with an easy gradient and well laid out.

Further information:

[www.todotenerife.es/
imagenes_noticias/
mapaSenderos_ESP.pdf](http://www.todotenerife.es/imagenes_noticias/mapaSenderos_ESP.pdf)

Los Realejos

History, nature and agriculture

Stops

2. Realejo Bajo

Lower Realejo is an urban area that until the mid-twentieth century was an independent town. It is a town steeped in history, where the Adelantado (*) Alonso Fernández de Lugo founded an estate and a sugar mill in the area called the Hacienda de Los Príncipes.

The town's origins are linked to this estate, for its gradual development was accompanied by the arrival of new settlers who chose to build their homes nearby on land donated by the Adelantado allowing the formation of the original town.

Traditionally it has been devoted to agriculture, much of its land being used for growing sugar cane, vines, etc. It has preserved an interesting collection of historical buildings, declared a Site of Cultural Interest, where you can see different buildings of particular architectural significance. Outstanding among them is the Church of the Concepción whose origins date back to the sixteenth century when a small chapel was built. The present church dates from the late XVIth and early XVIIth centuries and suffered a devastating fire in 1978 from which only a few religious images, such as the Lady of the Rosary, and various pieces of precious metal work were able to be saved. Laborious reconstruction work is being carried out to restore all its splendour and beauty. The steps of Domínguez Afonso Square, where the church is situated, has two magnificent specimens of ancient dragon trees, known as the Dragos Gemelos (twin dragon trees). Next to the square an information panel gives suggestions for an interesting tour of the town. It recommends a visit to the old Town Hall, various properties located in Acequia Street, the Hacienda de Los Príncipes (estate) and the chapel of San Sebastián. We recommend a stroll through the streets, savouring the historical and artistic wealth of the place and discovering the friendliness of the residents at first hand. This is certainly a special place that exists in perfect harmony with modern times without losing touch with the traditions and customs of northern Tenerife.

The magnificent estate, the Hacienda de Los Príncipes, deserves a special mention; its name refers to the Princes of Ascoli, its owners during a certain period, descendants of Alonso Fernández de Lugo. The chapel of San Sebastian forms part of the cluster of historical buildings. It was built in the early XVIIIth century, but was destroyed by fire in 1886. Today the hacienda only retains some of its structural elements and parts of the old mills. The current building has an L-shaped floor plan and dates from the XVIIth and XVIIIth centuries.

* Adelantado: a title granted by the King to the nobles who administered newly conquered territory



Location:

Calle Cantillo Abajo, Realejo Bajo. Los Realejos

UTM Coordinates:

28.386236 , - 16.588361

Geographic Coordinates:

28°23'10.45"N, 16°35'18.10"W

Stops

3. Tigaiga

In Tigagiga, the neighbourhood at the foot of the steep mountain of the same name, you can become acquainted with all the charm of small towns in the north of Tenerife. The town is known for its peace and quiet which give it a special charm and make it the perfect place to relax and unwind. Its origins go back to the XVIth century, one of the most important historical sites in the municipality of Los Realejos. Traditionally devoted to agriculture, in the village some notable estates were established, among which the most outstanding are the Hacienda de La Fuente, which houses a public clothes washing place, the Hacienda de La Era and La Coronela. At the heart of the village stands the small church of Nuestra Señora de La Concepción, from whose square you can see a wonderful panorama. Around the church you will find a number of homes which feature a curious decoration of their facades, in some cases, drawings done with vivid colours. While there are now various buildings of more recent construction that have transformed its traditional appearance, the town continues to maintain the essence of the rural world.



Location:

Tigaiga, Los Realejos

UTM Coordinates:

28.385131, - 16.599089

Geographic Coordinates:

28°23'6.47"N, 16°35'56.72"W

Stops

4. Mirador de El Lance (viewpoint)

The El Lance viewpoint is located on the cliff of Tigaiga. Even the road to reach it offers spectacular views, an authentic sample of the rich landscape of this corner of the Island. The viewpoint pays tribute to one of the best known historical episodes in the area. Tradition has it that the Mencey Bentor leapt into the void from this very spot, preferring death rather than surrender to the Castilian armies. A statue of the mencey commemorates this event. Nowadays this viewpoint offers a landscape of great beauty from which to survey spectacular views of the Orotava Valley. Its location makes it a valuable lookout point, allowing you to perceive the main features of where the population of the area is concentrated, marking the various urban areas and outlining all the northern coast of Tenerife. The viewpoint cafe and restaurant are also worth a visit.

- We recommend confirming the opening times of establishments



Location:

Carretera Los Realejos-La Guancha, TF-342. Los Realejos.

Tel.: 922 359 718

Opening times:

Cafe:

Every day: 10:00 - 22:00

Restaurant:

Saturdays and Sundays 13:00 - 22:00

UTM Coordinates:

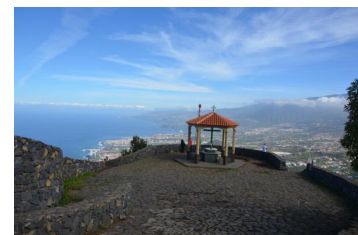
28.384969, - 16.603492

Geographic Coordinates:

28°23'5.89"N, 16°36'12.57"W

5. Mirador de La Corona (viewpoint)

The La Corona viewpoint is located at a considerable height above sea-level, some 780 metres, and offers breathtaking views of the entire municipality of Los Realejos. Access to it and its location give it a special value, as it permits you to see in detail the agricultural areas of the municipality's upper reaches. To get there you have to cross Icod El Alto and its higher ground, entering the Protected Landscape of Los Campeches. It is characterized by a rural landscape, consisting of widely-scattered, traditional houses and numerous farm plots, many abandoned, which in their day were filled with potatoes and cereals. In addition the viewpoint offers a wonderful panorama made up of a green backdrop, dotted with numerous villages and marked by an original topography, of great landscape value. It has tables and a roofed memorial cross, next to a ramp for paragliders to take off.



Location:

Carretera La Corona, Los Realejos

UTM Coordinates:

28.378411, - 16.600425

Geographic Coordinates:

28°22'42.28"N, 16°36'1.53"W

Other points of interest

1. Chanajiga Recreational Area

The Chanajiga Recreational Area is located in La Corona Forestal Natural Park, in the upper area of Los Realejos. Its location makes it the perfect place to relax and enjoy contact with nature. It has barbecue areas, benches and tables.

Location:

On the main road La Orotava-Palo Blanco-Benijos: signpost on the left-hand side; or on the main TF-821, La Orotava-Las Cañadas, turn-off on the right-hand side along a forest track.

UTM Coordinates:

28.343878 , - 16.584403

Geographic Coordinates:

28°20'37.96"N, 16°35'3.85"W

2. Realejo Alto

Until the middle of the XXth century, Realejo Alto (Upper Realejo) was a separate town from Realejo Bajo. It was not until 1954 that both villages were joined to form one single municipality, Los Realejos. This is an area traditionally devoted to agriculture which today presents an urban image, characterized by recent buildings among which properties of earlier times stand out. These constructions are real gems of Tenerife's historical heritage, outstanding among them being the Church of Santiago Apóstol, the first house of worship on the Island. The rich history of the area is perfectly reflected in the building, because according to tradition, this was the place where the aboriginal kings (the menceys) were christened by the hand of the Castilian conquerors.

The Church, declared a Site of Cultural Interest as a Historical Artistic Monument in 1983, dates from the late XVth century, but has undergone numerous additions and alterations.

To visit this urban gem, we recommend strolling through its streets, enjoying the bustling daily life of the town and stopping to make the most of the magnificent views of the town, visible from many points.

Location:

Carretera TF-334, Realejo Alto. Los Realejos

UTM Coordinates:

28.38065 , - 16.585344

Geographic Coordinates:

28°22'50.34"N, 16°35'7.24"W

Other points of interest

3. Farmer's Market of Los Realejos

The suburb of Los Quevedos is a village located on the ridge of the same name in the middle slopes of San Juan de la Rambla. It was declared a Site of Cultural Interest and consists of around fifteen houses of traditional architecture scattered among more recently constructed buildings.

It is a neighbourhood that combines past and present, where you can encounter some of the traits of the world of the small-holder in northern Tenerife, while getting an insight into the day-to-day reality of small towns of the Island's middle slopes.

Traditional buildings are rectangular with thick masonry walls. They generally have one or two floors, the latter having access by an outside staircase.

- We recommend confirming the opening times of establishments

Location:

Plaza Viera y Clavijo, Realejo Alto. Los Realejos

Openings times:

Saturday and Sunday: 9:00 - 14:00 hours

UTM Coordinates:

28.380919, - 16.585586

Geographic Coordinates:

28°22'51.31"N, 16°35'8.11"W

Further information:

- www.losrealejos.es/realejos/ayuntamiento/agricultura/mercadillo-del-agricultor.html

- www.facebook.com/mercadilloagricultor.losrealejos