



CAMINO DE ROMPESERONES



This route runs along a good path, a forest track and the road. It is only difficult is its moderate length and the long downhill climb. **out for:** Magnificent views (from Pico de Las Nieves, Cruz de la Helada, Rompeserones, Taidía). Alpine species in bloom between January and May. Camping area in the ZAR Mesa de Las Mascas. Use of a walking stick recommended and you should take water with you.

The Camino de Rompeserones owes its name to one of its most characteristic stretches. It is the route that covers the steepest downhill climb, nearly 1.300 metres from the Pico de Las Nieves to the bed of the Barranco de Tirajana. It crosses various landscapes and climates, which divides it into two very different stretches: the part from the Cumbre and the other section from the Caldera. The first stretch gently goes down along the southern slope of the Cumbre, which becomes much steeper once you have come down to the Caldera, and offers the walker the opportunity to enjoy magnificent views over nearly all of the southern half of Gran Canaria.

You will leave the tarmac and antennas behind at the Pico de la Gorra communications complex and continue down a forest track that goes along the Degollada de Bermeja, an area that is popular as a takeoff point for bodyflight. It then goes through Cruz del Socorro, which is the point where four municipal districts meet, over the Mesa de Las Vacas, a camping area, and through the Cruz de Helada, where the forest track and the first stretch of the route ends.

The important path that connected Santa Lucía to the rest of the island over the Cumbre reappears here from under the track that hid it. As you go down this track, you will go from the wooded landscape of the Cumbres to the dry part of the island or Xerocanaria: the sticky broom, Canary Island wall flowers and false sage of the summit region give way to the Gran Canary houseleek, thistle and narrow-leafed bugloss.

After you have stopped to enjoy the views from the end of the Rompeserones spur, begin to wind down the steep slopes to the El Tablero ridge and then round some further bends to the Taidía hamlet. The downhill path runs between irrigation streams, fruit and olive trees. Traditional architecture is set against the backdrop of palm groves or vertical rack walls, the most impressive of which is the pyramid-shaped Risco Blanco, which is an unforgettable sight that will delight the hiker. The route ends at the hamlet of Rosiana Alta, situated on the bed of the Ravine or Barranco de Tirajana, and the walker will be left with the sensations that this beautiful route leave in the body and soul of the people who complete it.

TAIDÍA



As the walker comes down from Rompeserones, Taidía appears as a green palm grove, dotted with fruit trees and various crops watered using the numerous ponds and an extensive network of irrigation ditches. This hamlet includes some important 19th-century buildings from an architectural point of view, which form part of the island's artistic and historical heritage scattered between terraced fields and crops. Just like La Culata, Risco Blanco and other hamlets on these slopes of Tirajana, which are off the beaten track, its residents preserve a traditional way of life, which

can be seen in every aspect of village life. The tranquillity is broken on feast days, such as that of its patron saint, Our Lady of El Carmen, and from the 1st to 3rd August.

CANARY ISLAND WALLFLOWER (*erysimum bicolor*)-Hornem. DC.

Alpine vegetation is to be found along a narrow belt of the highest part of the Cumbres, and mainly consists of shrubs that are adapted to the climatic extremes of cold winters with occasional snow and hot and dry summers. One of the typical species is the Canary Island wallflower, which also grows on La Palma, Hierro and Gomera. It is a small evergreen shrub, with many branches and lineal-lanceolar leaves, erect stems and dark violet or light-purple flowers on the tips. Its fruit is a capsule called silicula. It is used in popular medicine for its cardiotoxic properties, but it is best known for the deep colour of its flowers in spring.



SNOWWELLS

At the end of the 17th century, canons from the Cathedral of the Canary Islands introduced the idea of storing and preserving the snow that fell on the island's highest slopes and to use it in the home and for medicinal and cooling purposes. On the 5th July 1694, the Island Ecclesiastical Council therefore agreed to build the first of the wells on the Cumbre, where snow collected during the winter would be stored. The snow was compacted in layers, with straw between each layer and protected by roofs made out of beams and tiles, until the warmer weather came, when it was taken to Las Palmas by mule. This led to the position of "nevero" (person in charge of selling the surplus snow to the public) being established and the profits were divided between members of the ecclesiastical establishment. New tools also appeared, such as moulds, wooden shovels, baskets, steps or the crate used to press the snow down. Up to the beginning of the 20th century, the residents of San Mateo watched the muleteers of the Cumbre and their beasts of burden loaded with ice slowly making their way to Las Palmas. This industry and the wells were later abandoned until a few years ago when the work of researchers, with the help of local institutions, recovered this part of the Island's history



MASPALOMAS

ESPACIO NATURAL

GUIA RURAL

Y TURISMO ACTIVO



3

THE ROMPESERONES ROUTE

From Pico de Las Nieves to Rosiana Alta over Mesa de Las Vacas, Rompeserones and Taidía

The relief and the good road links provide the hiker with pleasant routes from the Highlands or Cumbres of the Island towards its Medianías (middle belt between summit area and coast) and low-lying areas. It is one of the most delightful ways to discover the flora and fauna and history of Gran Canaria, and it is one of the most popular routes with local and foreign walkers alike.

Length: **12.7 km**

Estimated time: **4 h 30 min**

Stretches: **2** 1st: Pico de Las Nieves - Cruz de la Helada 2nd: Cruz de la Helada - Rosiana Alta

How to get there: Crossroads at Pico de Las Nieves: 8.2 km from Cruz de Tejada and 11.1 km from Ayacata.





CAMINO DE ROMPESERONES

MASPALOMAS ESPACIO NATURAL GUIA RURAL Y TURISMO ACTIVO

Stretch 1: Pico de Las Nieves, 1915 m - Cruz de la Helada, 1600 m. Length: 5.5 km. Difficulty: Very easy. Max climb: 315 m. Estimated time: 1 h 30 min. - 2 h.

This stretch of the route descends along the southern slope of the Cumbre and acts as an extended lookout point over the Caldera de Tirajana and the whole of the south of Gran Canaria. Its outstanding geological features, flora and, in particular, the landscape make up for the visual impact caused by the antennas on the Cumbre.

The route begins at the crossroads at the entrance to the military installations, which is close to one of the wells that was used to store snow in the past. If you climb up to the Pico de Las Nieves along the Camino de la Raya, from the Degollada de Piedras Blancas, you will walk for some 500 m along the road from the lookout point to the crossroads. The walk begins along a flat stretch of the GC-135 road that leads to the Pico de la Gorra radio-telecommunications complex along the southern edge of the Cumbre. You will be able to enjoy extensive views over the southern part of Gran Canaria from here. The road ends at an esplanade at the foot of Pico de la Gorra (do not take the road that forks to the left and leads to the complex). (1.4 km)

Carry on down the dirt track that winds towards the Degollada Bermeja, which is a popular take off area for bodyflight, and then go towards the SE along a flat stretch along cols and hills (past a series of tracks that fork off to the right). The path now begins to descend through an area of pine trees and ends at the junction with the track from Los Cascajales. (2.4 km)

Continue along the path to the right and past the Cruz del Socorro or de la Raya, which is the point where four municipal districts meet, and a little further on, there is a track that forks off to the right (do not take it). Carry on for a few meters and then past three paths that lead off to the right next to a dry-stone pen for livestock. This flat area under repopulated pine trees is the Mesa de Las Vacas (plateau of the Cows) and is an area where a limited number of tents can be pitched. (0.7 km)

Carry on under the pine trees before making your way down to the panoramic Degollada del Viento, where another track, which you should not take, winds off to the left. (0.6 km)

Continue along this flat stretch until you reach the end of a small plateau with a pine forest. Here the track ends and the Camino de Rompeserones begins. When you get to this spot, known as Cruz de la Gelada, you should leave the path and walk a few metres to the right in order to enjoy an aerial view of the next stretch of the route and magnificent views over the Riscos de Tirajana and the Caldera. (0.4 km)

Stretch 2: Cruz de la Helada, 1600 m - Rosiana Alta, 632 m - Length: 7.2 km. Difficulty: Easy. Max. climb: 968 m. Estimated time: 2 h 30 min. - 3 h.

This stretch goes down the steep slope that separates the highest point of the Island and the depths of the Caldera, and follows the historical path that connected Las Tirajanas to the rest of Gran Canaria over the southern sheer slope of the Cumbre.

The path that goes down the western slope of the Cañada de la Cagarruta, begins here. It then goes past the caves and blocks of Rompeserones, and now in the land of the picón (volcanic ground that retains humidity), it crosses a riverbed to a terrace between crags (be careful), where it flattens out. Carry on along the path past a spring with reeds (the water is not drinkable) until you reach the end of the Rompeserones spur. At the foot of a pile of volcanic rock, the path begins to steeply wind its way down over rocky terrain and between candle plants, Canary Island sorrel, shrubby spurge and narrow-leafed bugloss, until it reaches the Lomo del Tablero. From here onwards, the path descends more gently along the side of the ridge above the Barranco de la Palmita. It

then steeply winds down the Vueltas de Taidía, until it reaches a wide concrete track next to a house. (5 km)

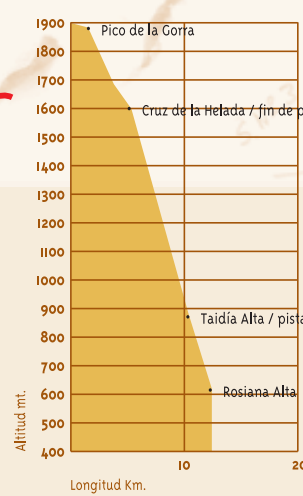
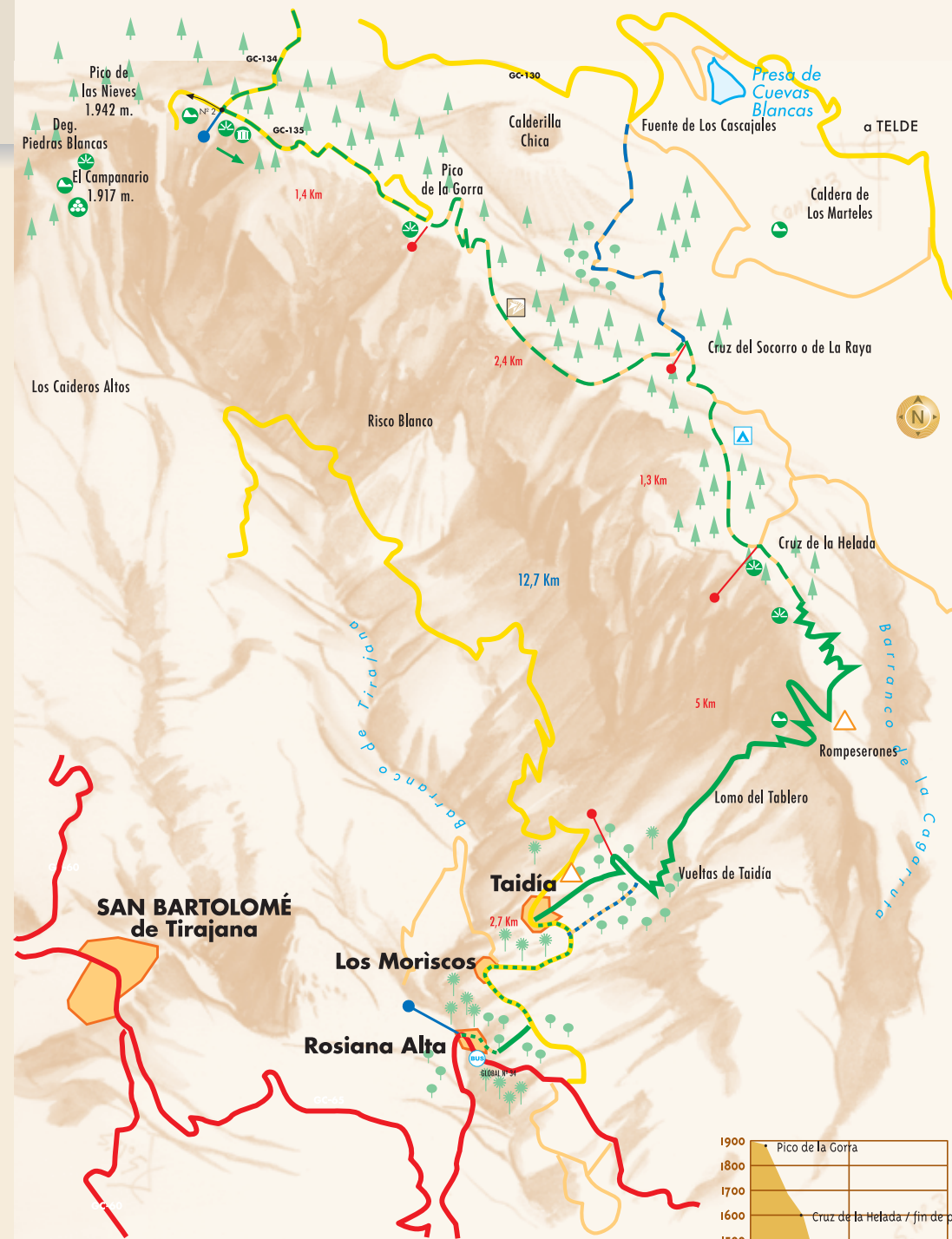
Cross the track and continue going down between houses and crops, until you reach a crossroads, where you can choose between two options:

- The path to the left leads to the junction of the GC-135 road, next to the church. Carry on along the flat stretch beside the retaining wall and past tall eucalyptus trees. Then rejoin the track (if you are going to Santa Lucía, you will go down the track for twenty or so meters and past a large pond, where the Camino del Fiallo forks off to the left). Continue your way down to the church and cross the GC-135 road. (0.4 km)

- Or by taking the road to the right, you can reach the centre of the hamlet of Taidía. Go on for a few meters, before turning to the left and carry on downhill between homesteads and houses. After you have gone along a concrete path for several meters, continue along the path, which is narrow in places, goes down between ponds, walls and fences of homesteads, before coming to an old irrigation ditch. Carry on along beside this ditch until just before the small square in Taidía and the GC-654 road. Turn left down the road and continue until you reach the junction at the electricity station. (0.6 km)

Turn right at the junction and continue downhill until you reach the houses at El Morisco, where you should turn left. The path continues downhill for a while and then begins to flatten out along a straight stretch of the road. There are two large olive trees and a house just a few metres down the road and a concrete track crosses the road. (1.3 km)

Turn right and after a few metres, the track is covered with cobblestones. Carry on down between the walls of homesteads until you reach a new path and then continue downhill towards a large flat area and a building, next to which there is a fork in the path. Do not take the path that goes off to the left, which goes directly down to the GC-65 main road, about 300 metres from Rosiana. Continue along the right-hand fork. The path is flat around the edge of a large pond and above the houses in this hamlet. It then descends further on to the left to the Rosiana petrol station. (0.5 km)



ALTERNATIVES AND COMBINATIONS
You can start the route from the Fuente de Los Cascajales at the foot of the Calderilla. Follow the dirt track that leaves from the bend on the GC-130 road to Telde (about 3 km further on from the junction with the GC-134 at Pico de Las Nieves). This alternative route goes along a forest track for 3.7 km, and in less than 1 hour, reduces the descent involved by 207 m. It connects with the route described above near the Cruz del Socorro.

RUTA DE LA RAYA. This route is the combination of three paths (Ayacata, La Raya and Rompeserones) that run along the northern boundary of the municipal district of San Bartolomé de Tirajana. Its length (approximately 18 km), estimated time (6 - 8 hours) and climb (1.283 m) mean that it is suitable for experienced walkers.

MAPKEY
(Canarian Vegetation)

- Cardonal/ Tabaibal
- Palm Grove
- Fruit Trees
- Canes
- Pine Grove
- Bar
- Restaurant
- Crafts
- Provisions
- Recreational Area
- Camping Area
- Medical Care Services

PLACES OF INTEREST

- LANDSCAPE
- BOTANICAL
- GEOLOGICAL
- ARCHAEOLOGICAL
- FAUNA
- TOURIST

ITINERARY

- Main Road
- Secondary Road
- Track
- Itinerary
- Alternative Itinerary
- Direction of itinerary
- Partial Distance
- Total Distance
- Caution
- Danger