

TAGANANA

In 1501, after Tenerife was conquered, Taganana was founded as the first settlement in Anaga.

This land was given to people from Fuerteventura and Lanzarote with the condition that they had to install a sugarcane factory in the area of Los Molinos. To transport this sugar to the main markets Las Vueltas road was built and stoned paved and it became the main communication link with La Laguna. The sugarcane production was in use until 1571 when America started producing cheaper sugar. This emblematic road was left as a witness to those times and it continued to be used for about 400 years to transport different products, on animals or on people's shoulders.

From that moment on, another crop gained importance in the area: the grapevines. After 500 years, Taganana has become a refuge to old varieties of Canarian grapevines. 19 out of 21 existing types are kept in the path of El Chorro. Another special feature is the location of the old wine cellars, which had to be built near the coast due to the difficulties brought by land transport. From the beginning of the XVI century there was wine being transported to Santa Cruz from the port of Juan Tachero.

Taganana offers us today a magnificent wine which survives together with an important architectural and artistic heritage, of which the church of Nuestra Señora de las Nieves and surroundings stand out. This sanctuary began to be built at the beginning of the XVI century and it holds images and gold and silver work compiled over five centuries of history. Some pieces like the Flemish board of the Adoration to the Kings triptych, are a result of the commercial links established through the sugar export.

A ROUTE OF CONTRASTS

Throughout the stretch to Afur, the sound of running water will accompany you until you reach the sea. This gully has one of the few constant water streams in Tenerife where you will find a variety of plants adapted to this environment. Hereafter, the way between Tamadiste and El Chorro turns through a path from which you will be able to observe the remains of the docks. After the descent to the hamlet of Portugal, the route enters the Mountain of Las Vueltas, where you will find a constant feeling of freshness provided by the dense monoverde until you reach the Casa Forestal (warden's cabin). Through a small stretch of road, you will reach lomo de Inchires. From here you can descend through some woods which will rapidly disappear due to their forestry use. The end of the route runs next to the gully channel and out in open space, where you can fully feel the changing climate of Anaga.

ROUTE

This route is part of the Network of Paths of the Tenerife Cabildo (island government) and starts in the plaza of Afur and descends through the gully of the same name until it almost reaches the beach of Tamadiste. From here, the path climbs up to the hamlet of EL Chorro and the village of Taganana. It then continues through the mountain of Las Vueltas until the warden's cabin and then comes back to Afur through the path of Inchires. On the inside of this leaflet you will find a sketch of the route with labelled recommended stops. You will also find a little bit of history and other interesting information about the area at each of the stops. On this trip you will enjoy the beautiful scenery, local gastronomy and kindness of the locals of Anaga. This trip has been divided into 3 stretches to follow all guarantees of quality and safety. You will have access to public transport at the start and finish of each stretch. We recommend that before you leave you read the information section on the back of this leaflet. This is due to the total length and the time you must invest in completing the trip.

ROUTE INFORMATION:

- ✦ **Distance:** 13,7 kilometres.
 - Afur-Taganana: 7 kilometres.
 - Taganana-la Casa Forestal (by Las Vueltas): 3,2 kilometres.
 - La Casa Forestal-Afur by Inchirés): 3,5 kilometres.
- ✦ **Duration:** 8 hours without stops. 10 hours with stops.
 - Afur-Taganana: 4,5 hours with stops.
 - Taganana-la Casa Forestal: 3 hours with stops.
 - La Casa Forestal-Afur: 2,5 hours with stops.
- ✦ **Public Transport:** Line 076 of TITSA La Laguna-Afur. Line 246 of TITSA Santa Cruz-Taganana.
- ✦ **Suggestions:** use appropriate footwear. There's danger of vertigo between the beach of Tamadiste and the hamlet of El Chorro. Take a waterproof jacket, jumper, hat, food and water. If you need more supplies, you can buy them on weekends at Farmers market of Cruz del Carmen. You must take your litter with you until you reach an area with litterbins. Avoid unnecessary noise. Inform somebody of your route.

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Self Guided Route

Afur
-
Taganana
-
Afur

Parque Rural
Anaga

AFUR

The village of Afur is found walking in the valley of the same name. In this unique place, farming and the charcoal making were the daily bread during centuries.

The locals probably created their homes in caves as a tradition inherited from the aboriginals, and they are still used today. With time, barns were built and these gave place to more modern cement and flat roof houses, although there are three traditional canarian style houses, more than 100 years old, built with stones, wood and roof tiles.

Even though the terrain is very abrupt, it was surrounded by a number of paths that lead to Santa Cruz and La Laguna, but they mainly linked closer settlements such as Roque Negro, Taborno or Taganana.

It has always had a good relationship with Taganana, as it is the main settlement in the area, where the locals went, through the path of La Cumbrilla, to mass, to get married or to bury their dead, until the chapel of Afur was built.

The gully has been an important part of this settlement, allowing a path to the beach of Tamadiste and the many vegetable patches which covered the hills. Also, its permanent water supply has provided water for cattle and cattail sticks, wicker and cane that were used to make everyday objects used in the house or the farm.

Eels were fished in the deepest water of the gully, only present in few gullies in the island and very appreciated in the local gastronomy or as a traditional remedy for hangovers.

The enchantment of Afur attracts numerous tourists who walk for pleasure in the same paths that the locals used by necessity to satisfy their family needs.

9 A stop for the dead and alive

The cave at the cross of Taganana was used as a refuge and resting point in the route between Taganana and La Laguna. The charcoal burners, the locals or the gangocheras (person that mediated between the farmers and the markets) were among the people who used this but also the funeral corteges that were on their way to bury their dead in the city.

8 A rock that helped breathing

The locals used big rocks strategically positioned along the route to deposit the heavy loads they carried on their shoulders or head. This way they avoided having to lift their load from the floor and could unload with less effort bend after bend. This rock is called a descansadero (a resting point).



7 The tradition says 365 bends

At around 1506, with the setting up of the Sugar Cane industry in Taganana there was a need for more than one route to take the sugar to the city. A very narrow path was transformed into a stoned track wide enough to allow a horse carrying sugar.

To cope with the drop that separated Taganana from the peaks, the Camino de Las Vueltas design was winding and according to the tradition "it had as many bends as days in the year".



6 Portugal established the village of Taganana

Taganana was established from a handful of houses in the hamlet of Portugal, name taken from the numerous Portuguese who worked in the sugar cane industry and settled here. This place shows excellent examples of Canarian traditional architecture, with one or two storey buildings, traditional pyramid shape roofs, limestone corners and whitewashed walls.

5 Cattails and limestone rocks oozed the products of the vineyards

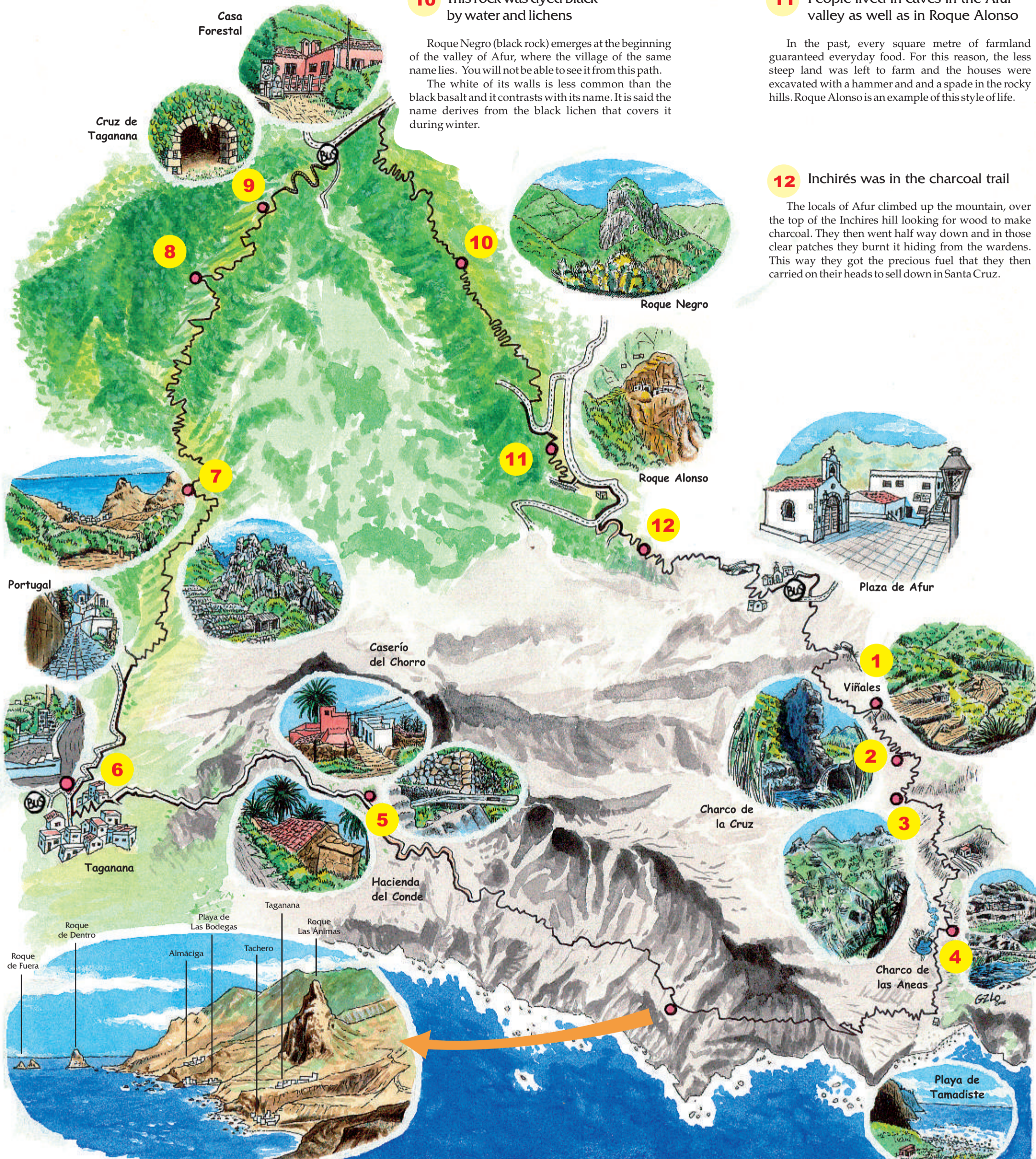
During centuries, the grapevines have been the main crop of the area. Their fruits were pressed in winepresses like this one. Inside of them a cattail rope was coiled in a ring that oozed the pressed juice of the grapes.

The numerous winepresses excavated in the limestone, the remains of the Hacienda del Conde and the hamlet of El Chorro are witnesses to the significance of wine in these hills.



4 The cattail pond was closely linked to the wine

The locals of Taganana and Afur used to come to this pond to cut down the plentiful cattail sticks to make baskets and ropes. They firstly, let the sticks dry and then they moisten them to soften them and therefore form plaits. The thinner ropes were used to tie the grapevines and the thicker ones in the winepress procedures.



10 This rock was dyed black by water and lichens

Roque Negro (black rock) emerges at the beginning of the valley of Afur, where the village of the same name lies. You will not be able to see it from this path.

The white of its walls is less common than the black basalt and it contrasts with its name. It is said the name derives from the black lichen that covers it during winter.



11 People lived in caves in the Afur valley as well as in Roque Alonso

In the past, every square metre of farmland guaranteed everyday food. For this reason, the less steep land was left to farm and the houses were excavated with a hammer and a spade in the rocky hills. Roque Alonso is an example of this style of life.



12 Inchiros was in the charcoal trail

The locals of Afur climbed up the mountain, over the top of the Inchiros hill looking for wood to make charcoal. They then went half way down and in those clear patches they burnt it hiding from the wardens. This way they got the precious fuel that they then carried on their heads to sell down in Santa Cruz.



Canarian willow *Salix Canariensis* Southern cattail *Typha dominguensis*



3 The willows resettle in their old territory

The wood from the willow is very resistant and incorruptible and it was used in Afur to build the beam for the traditional winepress and sticks for farming tools. Although, it was coal making, their main use, that almost finished the colonies of willows off. Gas butane use allowed these trees resettle in their old territory, forming the largest forest of willows in Tenerife.

2 Water directs a life orchestra

This pond represents the ideal environment for species such as the Canarian willow (*Salix canariensis*), the Southern cattail (*Typha dominguensis*) and the rush, which need to dig their roots into permanent water channels. Here you can also find, shiny dragonflies, loud frogs and several small birds whose songs follow the movement of the branches. Together they compose a relaxing symphony of life that invites you to have a break on your route.

1 Vineyards: the fertility heaven

Water has accumulated materials that it dragged around the big bend of the gully to create one of the most fertile places in Afur, the vineyards. Nowadays, it is only the grapevines that grow there, but not so long ago, potatoes, sweet potatoes, corn, cabbage and courgettes also filled the plates of many local families.