

self guided walk

Roque Negro

A town born in
the rock



Parque Rural
Anaga

Roque Negro. A town born in the rock.

The rock in this place allowed the birth of the town. Or rather, was it the town itself that insisted it should be so? During this trail, we invite you to wander into an area of this Rural Park that holds a particular interest.

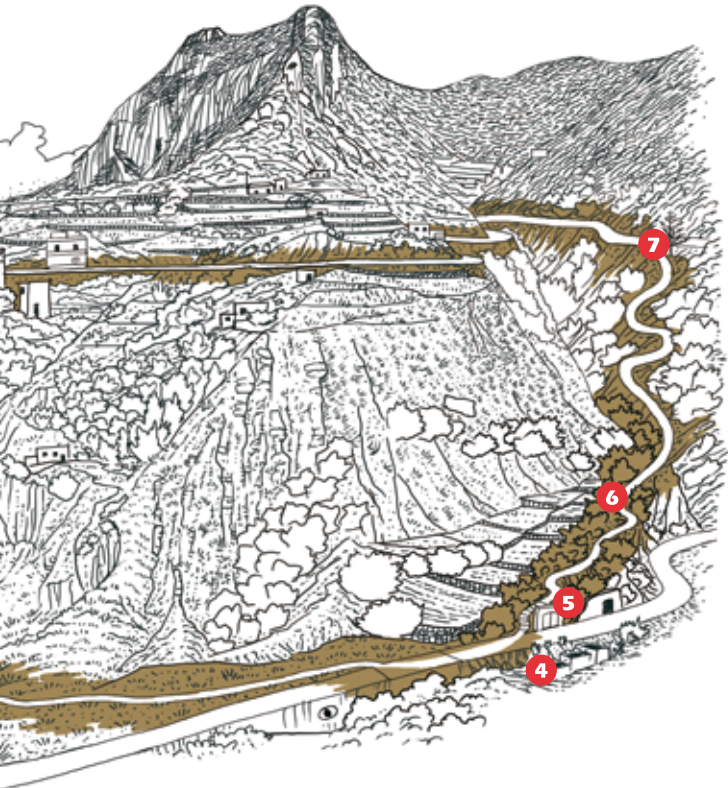
See for yourselves where the houses, the stables or the warehouses have been sculpted, or even the vegetable gardens, the roads, the feeding troughs (dornajos), or the washing areas.

With this walk, we invite you to witness how Roque Negro and its inhabitants are a town born in the rock.

Thank you for your visit and enjoy the trail.



- This trail, of around 1,500 metres long, is very comfortable for most of the route. The last stretch is fulfilled by the roadside. Maximize your precautions.
- It can be completed in approximately 1 hour and 30 minutes.
- Throughout the walk you will find numbered posts that correspond to the comments in this leaflet.
- It is not suitable for persons with reduced mobility.
- We recommend you wear clothes and shoes suitable for walking.
- Using this leaflet you are contributing to the preservation and improvement of this natural space and of our services.



The characteristics of the rock make it possible to sculpt elements of daily life.

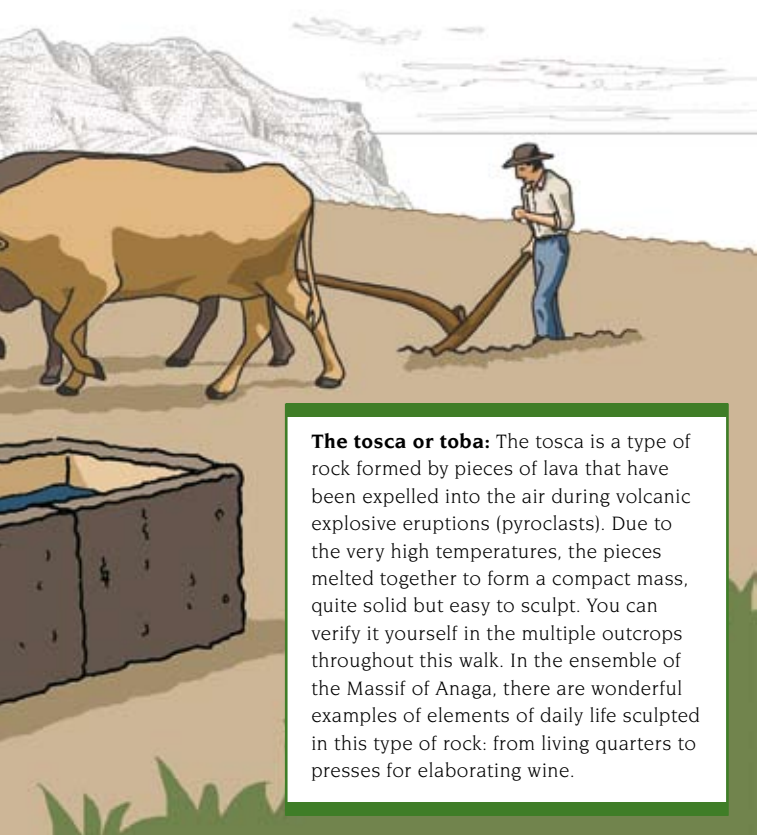
This is a tosca rock, an easily malleable material that, on occasions, can even be broken with the hands. The inhabitants of this spot of Anaga took advantage of this characteristic to make their daily life more comfortable.

You are facing a small and beautiful example of this adaptation to the rock. It is a stable cut in the rock and



a trough for feeding the animals (dornajo). These were absolutely essential elements for the daily work of this rural zone; a place to shelter and feed the animals that helped in the daily labour of the fields.

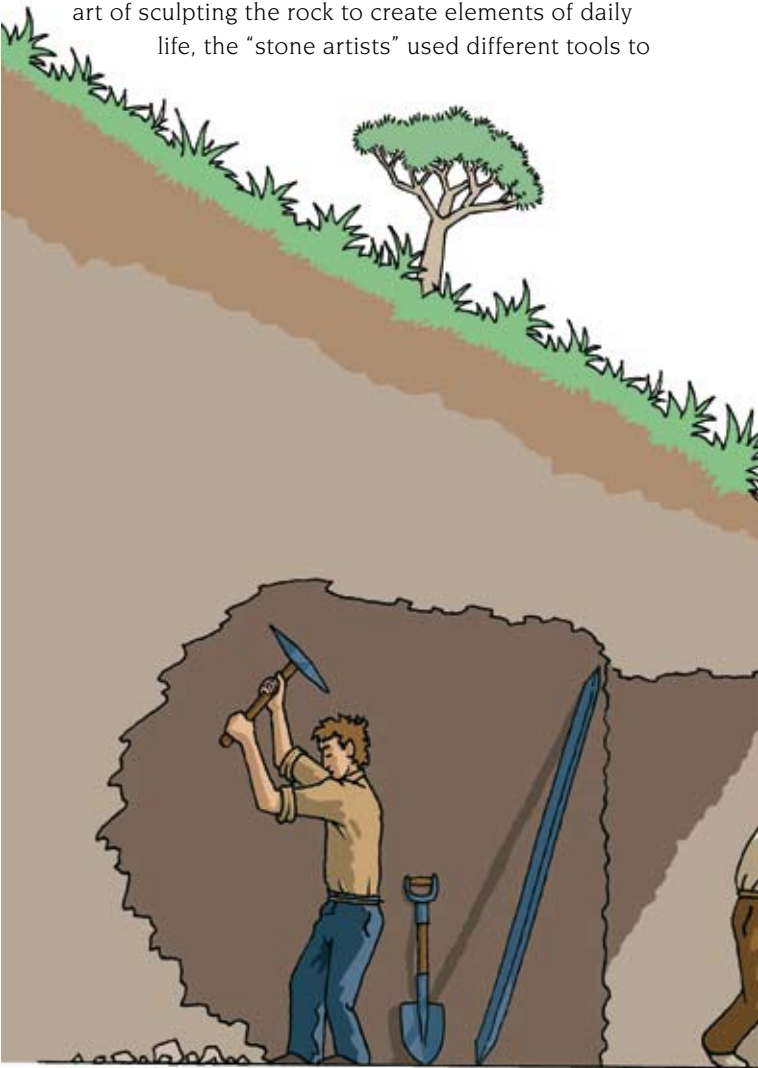
Throughout this walk and in the next stops, you will be able to observe some more examples of this beautiful task.



The tosca or toba: The tosca is a type of rock formed by pieces of lava that have been expelled into the air during volcanic explosive eruptions (pyroclasts). Due to the very high temperatures, the pieces melted together to form a compact mass, quite solid but easy to sculpt. You can verify it yourself in the multiple outcrops throughout this walk. In the ensemble of the Massif of Anaga, there are wonderful examples of elements of daily life sculpted in this type of rock: from living quarters to presses for elaborating wine.

The architecture in the rock was done by “stone” artists.

Observe the surrounding of this abode. Entirely carved in the rock through works of craftsmanship. Masters in the art of sculpting the rock to create elements of daily life, the “stone artists” used different tools to

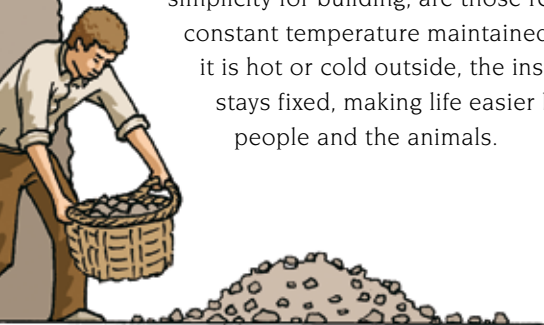


The “hachuela”: It is a traditional tool, used mainly for sculpting the rock in the desired forms. Its name comes from its similarity with the Spanish name for axe: “hacha”. It was used to give shape to the caves and to construct the larders and shelves for placing the earthenware water jug (bernegal) or storing the bread. The quarries were used to sculpt the blocks for walls, corner stones, lintels for doors and windows, or arches for the main entranceways.



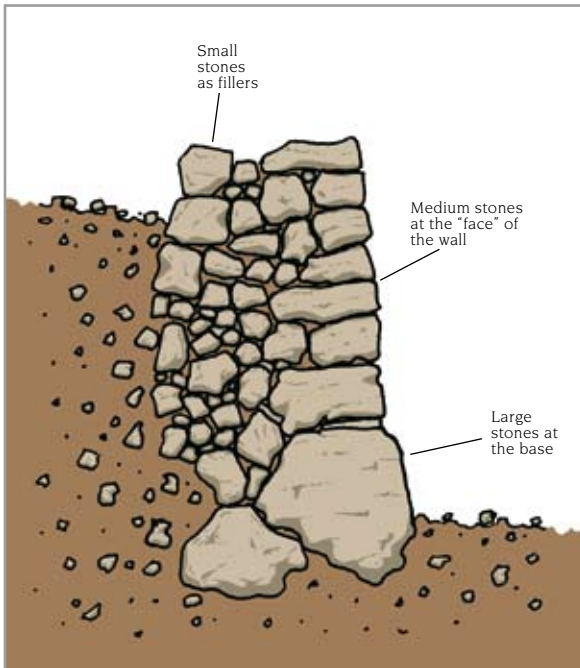
extract what they needed from the rock. If you look closely, in the sculpted walls of this cave you can see traces of the fundamental tool for this work: the “hachuela”.

Amongst the benefits of the construction of dwellings in this type of rock, apart from its relative simplicity for building, are those referring to the constant temperature maintained within. Whether it is hot or cold outside, the inside temperature stays fixed, making life easier both for the people and the animals.



The work of the “stone artists” was essential for adapting places for harvesting food.

How can plots for agriculture be created in a land that is so steep and with so little ground? This need, as any other in the rural world, was resolved with much skill and effort from the farmers. If you look closely, the land in this place is steep enough to dissuade anybody from trying to harvest anything on it. For this reason, walls were constructed to “grasp” the floor as if they were gigantic flowerpots. With the “sorribas”, the name given to this type of activity in this area, they were able to construct these plots in steep slopes



Construction section of a traditional stone wall.



and small ravines. Huge steps in the territory that created a unique landscape.

The “stone” masters had the ability to make perfect blocks to conform in the construction of the wall: the largest ones for the bases, the medium ones for erecting the wall and the smallest stones as fillers between the wall and the ground. Anaga owns an enormously precipitous landscape, where the use of these building techniques reached unforeseen places.

A public and communal washing machine area created in the rock.

Prior to having water in each separate house, the housework that today take little of our time, were essential tasks to which women and children dedicated most of their lives. Some of the tasks for which water was essential were: cooking and washing the dishes; personal hygiene, which many times was done in public places; and for the laundry.



Having washing areas that made use of the clean water running down the ravine at their disposal, was probably a small revolution in the lives of the women who went down to the ravine once or twice each week to do their laundry, sharing chuckles and gossip. A communal work carved in the rock that made daily life a little more comfortable.



Traditional bleaches: The inhabitants of the rural zones, accustomed to living with the resources provided by nature, elaborated disinfecting products with natural elements. An example of this, is the use as a whitening agent of the ashes given out by the combustion of some trees or plants: the traditional bleaches.

Hidden within the rocks lies a valued treasure of Anaga: water.

The galleries were a large advance in the development of the islands; for the first time water supply did not depend on the amount of rainfall. The galleries are slightly sloped tunnels that are constructed towards the interior of the earth, enabling the extraction of the water that has been filtered throughout thousands of years, trapped between layers of waterproof materials. When these waterproof layers are perforated a phenomenon is produced, similar to the way we squeeze a sponge soaked in water, which begins to drip. The water that drips from these holes is transported towards the exterior via a channel.

This is the entrance mouth to the largest and most important gallery of the Massif of Anaga: the Galería Roque Negro – Catalanes, the only one in the island that has two entrances, since the mountain was drilled from one end to the other.





Gallery Data sheet:

Height: 413- 790 metres above sea.

Length: 1.715 m

Volume of flow: 2 l/sec. or 3,52 pt/sec.
(in 1985 it was 8.5 l/sec. or 14,96 pt/sec.)

1897 Start of the works due to the scarcity of water resources to supply the city of Santa Cruz.

1900 Construction of the channel Catalanes-Santa Cruz.

1913 The gallery begins to give water.

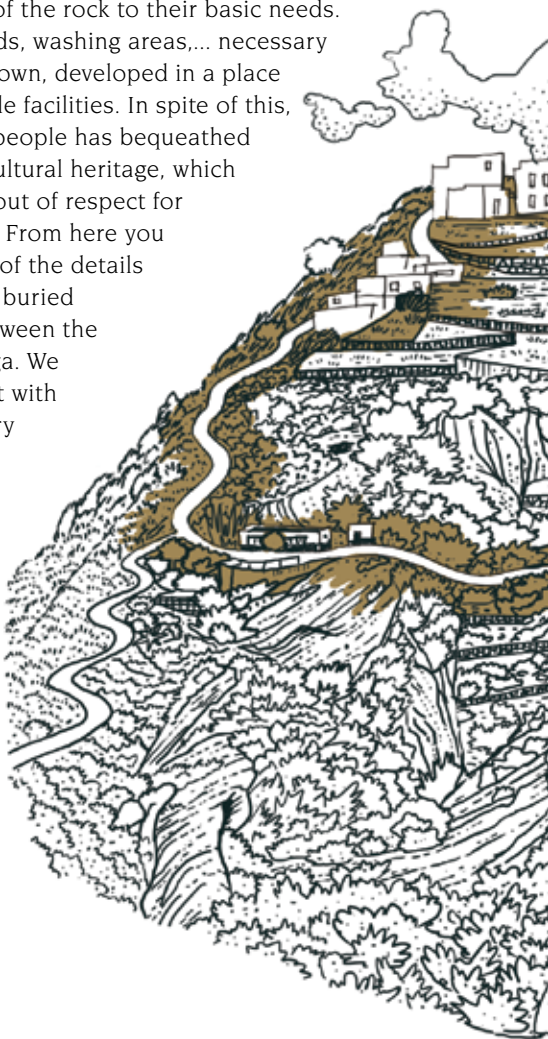
1916 The work is completed after a series of collapses and other dismal events.

Decade of the 30s The works are stopped for good.

This is the only gallery in the island that has two entrances: the pithead is in Catalanes, and the other exit is in Roque Negro.

The inhabitants of Roque Negro created a cultural monument in the rock.

The settlement of Roque Negro has been sculpted in a great tosca rock. Throughout the centuries, the life of its inhabitants has run parallel to the adaptation of the rock to their basic needs. Houses, plots, roads, washing areas,... necessary works to create a town, developed in a place that offers very little facilities. In spite of this, the tenacity of its people has bequeathed us with a unique cultural heritage, which we must preserve out of respect for this ancestral task. From here you can observe many of the details of a singular town, buried and developed between the mountains of Anaga. We invite you to take it with you in your memory and in your heart.



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We arrive at the end of the walk

As you have been able to see, settling in this place was never free from difficulty and harshness. Its inhabitants were forced to develop an entire series of skills to shape the infrastructures basic for life through the use of specialized and communal works, always respectful of the environment that sheltered them. An example of this was the laborious task of modelling the stone. In a sense, the rock allowed them to come to life in this place. And its inhabitants committed their lives to make it happen.



Everything you have observed, in addition to what we have shared with you in this visit, is a small step to recover the memory of this town and highlight its importance within the rich cultural heritage of the Rural Park of Anaga.

Thank you for taking it.

From here you can follow the path in the direction towards the starting point keeping to the left side of the road.

We wish to know your opinion on this visit and the materials we have provided in order to improve our services. For this reason, we would greatly appreciate it if you would fill out the questionnaire and have it sent to us.

Age _____ Sex ☐ M ☐ F
Nationality _____

- Have you visited the Rural Park of Anaga on other occasions?

☐ Yes ☐ No

- Rate from 1 (very bad) to 7 (excellent) the quality of this walk in relation to its environment, cultural and historical interest...:

1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ 6 ☐ 7 ☐

- In your opinion, how could this trail be improved?

- Would you recommend this visit to other people?

☐ Yes ☐ No

- Where have you this leaflet got?

☐ Visitors Centre
☐ Information Points of the Park
☐ Residents Ass. of Taborno
☐ Tourist Information Offices
☐ Others

- Rate the quality of this pamphlet from 1 to 7:

1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ 6 ☐ 7 ☐

- Numbers of people who made the visit with you

**YOU CAN DEPOSIT OR SEND
THIS QUESTIONNAIRE TO THE
FOLLOWING PLACES:**

Cabildo Insular de Tenerife

ÁREA DE MEDIO AMBIENTE Y PAISAJE

Oficina de Gestión del Parque Rural de Anaga

C/ Las Macetas s/n.

Pabellón Insular Santiago Martín

38108 Los Majuelos, La Laguna

Santa Cruz de Tenerife

**Centro de Visitantes
"Cruz del Carmen"**

Parque Rural de Anaga

Carretera TF-12 Km 6, Las Mercedes,
38294, La Laguna, Santa Cruz de Tenerife

USEFUL INFORMATION

- Management Office of the Rural Park of Anaga.
Cabildo de Tenerife **922 23 90 70**
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- Visitors Centre "Cruz del Carmen".
Rural Park of Anaga **922 63 35 76**
-

- City Council of Santa Cruz de Tenerife
922 60 11 00
-

- Museum "La Naturaleza y el Hombre".
Santa Cruz de Tenerife **922 20 93 13**
-

- Museum of History and Anthropology
"Casa de Carta". Valle Guerra. **922 54 30 53**
-

- Emergency Telephone number **112**
-

- Bus Service: **922 53 13 00**
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- Hostel
"Montes de Anaga" **922 82 32 25**
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We appreciate the collaboration of all the people who, by sharing their knowledge and experiences in the area, have enriched the content of this publication and the visit that we have suggested with it. Our most sincere acknowledgement to Don Braulio, to the members of the Residents Association "Nube Gris" de Roque Negro, to Ulises Martín, Isabel Farrujia and José García Casanova. May it be extended to the colleagues who have faithfully contributed with their suggestions to the work process.

TENERIFE

