

## INTRODUCTION

The route you are about to start is split into two sections that did not used to be related at all.

The first section used to be the journey between the hamlet of Las Carboneras<sup>1</sup> and Cruz del Carmen<sup>2</sup>, that used to go on to La Laguna through the Camino Real de Los Loros<sup>3</sup>. La Laguna was then, the capital of the island and the people of Anaga used to travel there to sell or exchange farm products and charcoal; to bury their dead or transport their sick; and also to acquire metal tools and clothes.

The second section, used to connect Las Carboneras and Chinamada<sup>4</sup> with Punta del Hidalgo, where the locals used to climb down to fish. Although it was the people of La Punta who climbed up to the settlements of Anaga to trade or to continue their way to La Laguna.

Both footpaths functioned as main communication links for the people of the area to travel daily to other areas. All along the route you will discover part of the history of these settlements. They are geographically close to each other but far from the important settlements of the island. ●

1. The charcoal kilns
2. The cross of Carmen
3. The Royal path of the laurels
4. Guanche name



### ROUTE INFORMATION:

- ✕ **Distance:** 10,5 Kilometres, approximately.
- ✕ **Duration:** 4 hours without stops, 5 hours with stops.
- ✕ **Gradient:** 916 m.
- ✕ **Maximum height:** 924 m.      ✕ **Minimum height:** 8 m.
- ✕ **Risk level:** low. In the rainy season, the first part of the route can be slippery.
- ✕ **Public transport:** line 073 of TITSA La Laguna-Cruz del Carmen. Line 105 of TITSA Punta del Hidalgo-La Laguna- Santa Cruz.
- ✕ **Suggestions:** use appropriate footwear. Take a waterproof jacket, jumper, hat, food and water. If you need more supplies, you can buy them on weekends at the 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

## Cruz del Carmen

## Punta del Hidalgo

(through Las Carboneras)

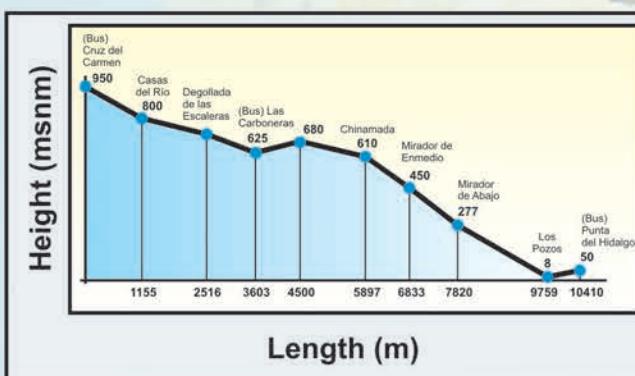
Parque Rural  
Anaga

## SPECIFICATION SHEET

The journey begins to the right of the “Cruz del Carmen” restaurant, through a footpath that climbs down through the monteverde (local forest with unique species), as well as some stretches of road, that lead to the hamlet of Las Carboneras. From this point, continue until the hamlet of Chinamada and finally, aim for Punta del Hidalgo using a wide, carved stone path. You will be able to enjoy a rural setting with imposing cliffs beaten by the Atlantic Ocean.

You will find a picture of the route on the map inside the brochure. It shows you a number of recommended places to stop. Each stop has a brief history or relevant data about the area.

Throughout this trip you will also be able to enjoy the local gastronomy and the kindness of the people of Anaga. ●



**A CHAPEL WAS BUILT WITH STONE TRADED FOR WOOD**

Cruz del Carmen is protected by a cross blessed by the Virgin Carmen. This is common religious practice at the intersection of route, even nowadays. This site was the most convenient first stop for the people of Anaga on their way to the city. For this reason, at the end of the nineteenth century, the local forest ranger made a deal with them: they would receive a bundle of wood for each stone they brought him. The first chapel for Cruz del Carmen was built with these stones.

**CHINAMADA IS A HAMLET OF CAVE- HOUSES**

The guanches lived in natural caves in the area of Chinamada. From 1506 after the conquest, the new landowners built straw-houses, with stone and mud walls and with roofs made of branches and straw. The strong winds and the flammable nature of these houses made the landowners abandon this building style and they started copying the guanches, digging new cave-houses.

**A ROCK FRACTURED BY THE PAIN**

The rock's name comes from a legend of two guanche brothers. When their love was forbidden they climbed up in the night to the highest rock and plunged themselves into the void. The legend tells us about the cliff that crying of sadness, it fractured and split into two, like the two lovers who could never be together. Since then, it is known as the Roque de los Dos Hermanos.

**WATER AND SHADE TO REST**

In the first half on the twentieth century, water was conducted to La Laguna from the several sources of the Barranco del Rio.

This was a receiving container but also a fountain for the people of Anaga. It was also the last stop before completing the climb up to Cruz del Carmen with heavy goods.

**LA PUNTA WAS AN INHERITANCE OF LITTLE VALUE**

The coastal platform that you can see is the La Punta del Hidalgo Pobre and it is part of the inheritance received by the illegitimate descendant of the Mencey Tinerfe.

Water is the only wealth for this rocky and barely fertile land. When the local government of La Laguna channelled the water from the Barranco del Rio, the locals from La Punta initiated a lawsuit, which they won. The water and land brought from the mountains of Anaga allowed tomatoes and bananas to grow. Tourism in the seventies revived this coast located among cliffs pounded by the gleaming ocean.

**WELLS LIKE THIS ONE APPEAR FROM UNDERGROUND RIVER**

This well, and also others that you will see ahead, are "test bores" to extract the water of a gallery that, under your feet, enters the channel of the Barranco del Rio. The owners of the orchards in the area, excavated a gallery (buried at the beginning 20<sup>th</sup> century) due to the water shortage. Further down, you will find the engine rooms which made the water of this "underground river" rise.

**THE CARBONERAS WAS A FOOD STORE FOR THE PEOPLE OF ANAGA**

Las Carboneras is one of the dampest areas of Anaga. There used to be a thick forest where all the locals looked for wood to make charcoal. As the trees started disappearing, they planted vegetables, cereals and fruit. The constant mist protected the area from the summer droughts. About the fifties, people from other areas came looking for potatoes, corn etc. to satisfy their hunger.

