



This itinerary runs through the most important *haciendas* in Anaga, such as the farms of Roque Bermejo, Las Breñas, los Orobaleos, the provision of water and the mild fincas in a small area was due to two main factors: the closeness of the sea. Throughout the journey you will find different constructions linked to these properties. Some of them like Casas Blancas, La Casa del Cura or La Hacienda de Las Palmas were the main residences which the tenants used temporarily. Other smaller buildings were the workers' residences or were used as storage, this was the case of Las Casas de Tafada. You may also find a wine press, examples of which are scattered around the old farming terraces. They were very necessary to be able to press the big quantities of grapes which were produced. In the gully of Roque Bermejo you will be able to appreciate how they used the water from the gully in a sustainable way. They deviated part of the channel towards a reservoir and letting the rest flow to the sea. All of this, in a route where the coastal agricultural scenery is the boundary to the most remote area of Anaga.

A ROUTE AROUND THE NORTHEAST HACIENDAS OF ANAGA

CHAMORGA AND ROQUE BERMEJO

Chamorga is located to the northeast of Anaga's Rural Park and at more than a hours journey, it is the farthest settlement from the cities of Santa Cruz and La Laguna.

The local population dates back to the prehistoric times. The Guanches (Aboriginals from Tenerife) used this area because several springs in the valley provided a constant supply of water and grazing.

After the Conquest water aided the development of an important agricultural activity which produced potatoes, courgettes, pumpkin, corn, yams, grains, grapes and other fruits. The pear trees stand out with more than five varieties, which have disappeared in other places and it could become endangered in the future due to recent plagues.

The sea broke the isolation and remoteness of the main settlements. In a little more than an hours journey through the Roque Bermejo gully there is a natural cove. It was used as a port where fuel, goods and outside information arrived and where the local products, other goods and passengers left to Santa Cruz. It was also used as a port of entry for all the materials used to build the *faros* in the nineteenth century. Nowadays it is still used by the few residents of Roque Bermejo as their main communication link.

Chamorga can be described as a coastal village in the middle of the mountain, and proof of this is its typical dish of rice and limpets.

1. Lighthouse

ROUTE INFORMATION:

- **Distance:**
 - **Main journey** (Chamorga-El Draguillo-Chamorga): 11,25 Km
 - Chamorga-Tafada-Faro-Chamorga: 6,9 Km
 - Chamorga - El Draguillo - Playa del Roque de Las Bodegas: 15,3 Km
 - Playa del Roque de Las Bodegas - Benijo - Paso del Jaidondo - Benijo: 9 Km
- **Duration:**
 - **Main journey** (Chamorga-El Draguillo-Chamorga): 7,5 h
 - Chamorga-Tafada-Faro-Chamorga: 4 h
 - Chamorga - El Draguillo - Playa del Roque de Las Bodegas: 6,5 h
 - Playa del Roque de Las Bodegas - Benijo - Paso del Jaidondo - Benijo: 3,5 h
- **Public transport:**
 - Line 247 of TITSA Santa Cruz-Chamorga
 - Line 246 of TITSA Santa Cruz-Almaciga
- **Suggestions:** Use appropriate footwear. Be aware there are steep drops along the path which can be dangerous. Take a waterproof jacket, jumper, hat, food and water. If you need more supplies, you can buy them on weekends at the Anaga's market at 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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Punta de Anaga

(Chamorga - El Draguillo - Chamorga)

Self Guided Route

Parque Rural
Anaga

ROUTE DESCRIPTION

The route starts in Chamorga's main square, it then descends through the Roque Bermejo gully until it reaches a crossroad. From there, leaving the main path, you can reach the Roque Bermejo beach in about 20 minutes or continue to Anaga's *faro* in a hard climb on a wide dirt road. From the *faro*, the route passes by the *Hacienda* de Las Palmas de Anaga and reaches the settlement of El Draguillo. It then climbs again to a crossroad known as the Cruz del Draguillo which links back to the path to Chamorga. On the other hand, you can follow a shorter route departing from Chamorga and climbing up to the Casas de Tafada descending to the *faro* and climbing up the steep gully of Roque Bermejo to return to Chamorga. It is also possible to follow it from El Draguillo continuing on the dirt track until the village of Benijo, descending to the beach and following the coastline until Almaciga beach. Then climb to the village, pass through it and end up at Roque de Las Bodegas beach. From this last place, it is possible to do the route in a backwards direction until Benijo and once there, to arrive at Piedad del Draguillo passing through Paso del Jaidondo. In the inside plan of this leaflet you will find an outline of the route with recommended stops labelled. In every one of those stops, there is a brief history or interesting information about the place. Through this route you can enjoy beautiful scenery, the culture and the local gastronomy as well as the kindness of the people of Anaga. We recommend that before you start this route, you read the important information enclosed at the back of this leaflet. This way you can attempt this route with all the safety and quality guarantees due to its total distance and time.



ALMÁCIGA, BENIJO AND PLAYA DEL ROQUE DE LAS BODEGAS

The gullies and the agricultural activities have conditioned Almaciga and Benijo since their establishment.

Almaciga was built on a coastal platform sheltered from flooding and landslides. This became clear in one of the most important historic events of the village. In 1944 a flood devastated the forest and crops, dragging all the material towards the coast and leaving once lush hills completely bare. Even though it was tragic only one person died. The Playa del Roque de Las Bodegas ended up completely covered with soil and wood and over the next few months the skies were filled with signs that there was coal being made.

This beach, as its name suggests, has been very closely linked to wine and it was used to export the local drink.

On the other hand Benijo, a smaller village, had a constant stream of water in its gully which allowed the agricultural land to be generously irrigated every ten days. This contributed to a more agriculturally rich and varied village which developed all sorts of crops that relied on irrigation from fruits to vegetables. In fact, the origins of this village are linked to the establishment of a sugar refinery, the crops and infrastructure of which demanded huge amounts of water.

Nowadays the most important crop is the sweet potato, a real local gourmet treasure. There are more than 15 different varieties growing in the valley. Some have only been grown here.

This zone also stand out for their coastal restaurants, ideal to taste well prepared fish dishes and local goat's cheese.

3 EVERY SINGLE WATER SPRING IN ANAGA WAS USED

Even though this land is steep and difficult to use the locals of La Punta de Anaga converted the least steep hills into terraces useful for agriculture. The problem was the lack of water. To get water the landowners of finca Las Breñas built this fountain called "del Junquillo", channelling an old spring towards the agricultural areas.

4 THE GRAPE WAS PRESSED CLOSE TO TAKE THE WINE FAR

You are now in the middle of Finca de Los Orobales which stretches from the hill tops to the coast. A big part of its surface is covered with grapevines. The complicated task of transporting the grapes without them going off is the reason why a wine press like this one was built as close as possible to the area being harvested. After, the wine was taken to the beach in front of the Roques de Anaga to be transported by sea.

5 A ROQUE RESERVED FOR THE DEAD AND NATURE

The *guanches* used this area to lay their dead on the top of the roque in a "guanchera" or sepulchral cave. Nowadays, access to the Roques is forbidden except for scientific activities. They are both Protected Natural Areas called Integral Natural Reserve of Roques de Anaga.

6 THIS HACIENDA WAS AN AGRICULTURAL, DOMESTIC AND SPIRITUAL CENTRE

During the seventeenth century the wine trade became a lucrative business. The land available for crops stretched from the hill tops to the coast and the *Hacienda Las Palmas de Anaga* was built to manage them.

Its architecture contrasts with the period as it has only one floor. For this reason its owner divided it in two parts around the central patio to demonstrate social and economic status: the "noble" wing with paved floors and coffered ceilings; and the workers homes, as well as the agricultural buildings, made out of more modest materials and not decorated. On the outside there are several wine presses, bread ovens and a tile making oven as well as a private chapel dedicated to Saint Gonzalo.

We encourage you to imagine how hard it was to work and live in an isolated area which seems such a desirable place today.

7 THE CONSTANT SEA ACTION AND THE RAIN CRUMBLE THESE OLD ROCKS

Anaga, at 10 million years old, is an area that is one of the oldest in Tenerife. Its rocks have fought all that time to keep intact, but the lashing of the water and the wind loaded with sea salt have been in the battle.

This has left deep scars on the hills and big land slides like the ones you are seeing, this made this part of the massif break down slowly.

8 EL DRAGUILLO WAS FOUNDED AS A SMALL FAMILIAR HAMLET

The hamlet of El Draguiillo owes its name to the numerous dragon trees in the area. This land belonged to only one person who left it as inheritance to his 14 sons and daughters. They decided to move to it to live off the wealth of the valley. There has never been more than 10 families living here and today (2008) there are only three full time residents, gripping to their life long traditions.

9 THIS CROSSROADS WAS A VERY GOOD PLACE FOR BUSINESS

The crossroads of Cruz del Draguiillo was a common place to rest from the journey but it was also used for business. People from El Draguiillo and Benijo came to trade animals and seeds with the people from Chamorga, El Lomo de Las Bodegas and Las Casillas. The crossbreed of stock and crops was guaranteed with this exchange and thus the success of the production in the area.

A THE RUINS ENDURED CROPS, LIVESTOCK AND FAMILIES

Las Casas de Tafada, dating from the seventeenth century belonged to the finca de Las Palmas de Anaga and were used as their grain storage. Later on they became property of finca de Los Orobales and their owners used them to stay in over long periods of time, moving their livestock and possessions. Lastly they were converted into a warehouse for local crops.

B See the text of the fifth stop.



C THE ARREBOL' OR TAJINASTE BLANCO GROWS WILD, EXCLUSIVELY ON THE NORTH SIDE OF ANAGA

If you have been lucky enough to be attempting this journey in the springtime you will be able to enjoy the beauty of the flowering *tajinaste blanco*. If this was not possible, you can enjoy the surroundings of this stone "bench" and discover the skeleton of some of these plants and close to them some new sprouting leaves. It stays like this, three years before flowering. Its stem of flowers can reach 3 meters high.

3 THE FARO SUBSTITUTED THE BONFIRES AND FLAGS

This *faro* was built in 1861 and it is located in a strategic area where you can see most of the coastline. During 500 years places like this one were used firstly for military surveillance against pirate attacks and foreign armies then later to guide traders on their way to the Peninsula or America.

1 CASAS BLANCAS CHANGED FROM NOBLE RESIDENCE TO WORKERS HOME

These houses, known as Casas Blancas, belonged to an important landowner who lived in the city of La Laguna. He used them as a summer residence and to closely supervise the well running of his land. Their location on top of a hill protected them from flooding and it was strategic to supervise the land.



A PIEDRA DEL DRAGUILLO INVITES US TO MAKE A STOP IN OUR JOURNEY

The footpath of Paso del "Jediondo" was named after a Canarian plant which was very common in the area. This path connected Benijo and Valle del Draguiillo passing past this rock known as Piedra del Draguiillo. Although it was not a stop for the locals, nowadays us walkers cannot resist the temptation to stop at this rock and admire the spectacular views of the valley.

A A PATRON CAME FROM FAR

The chapel of Virgen de Begoña, has a peculiar story. In 1948, in Santiago de Compostela they threw out to the sea a bottle with a picture of the virgin and a message. 8 months later, it arrived at this coastline. The locals answered back and welcomed the image of Virgen de Begoña which since then has been the patron of Almaciga.