

La Orotava *SlowTours*

CAMINO REAL DE CHASNA



INTRODUCTION

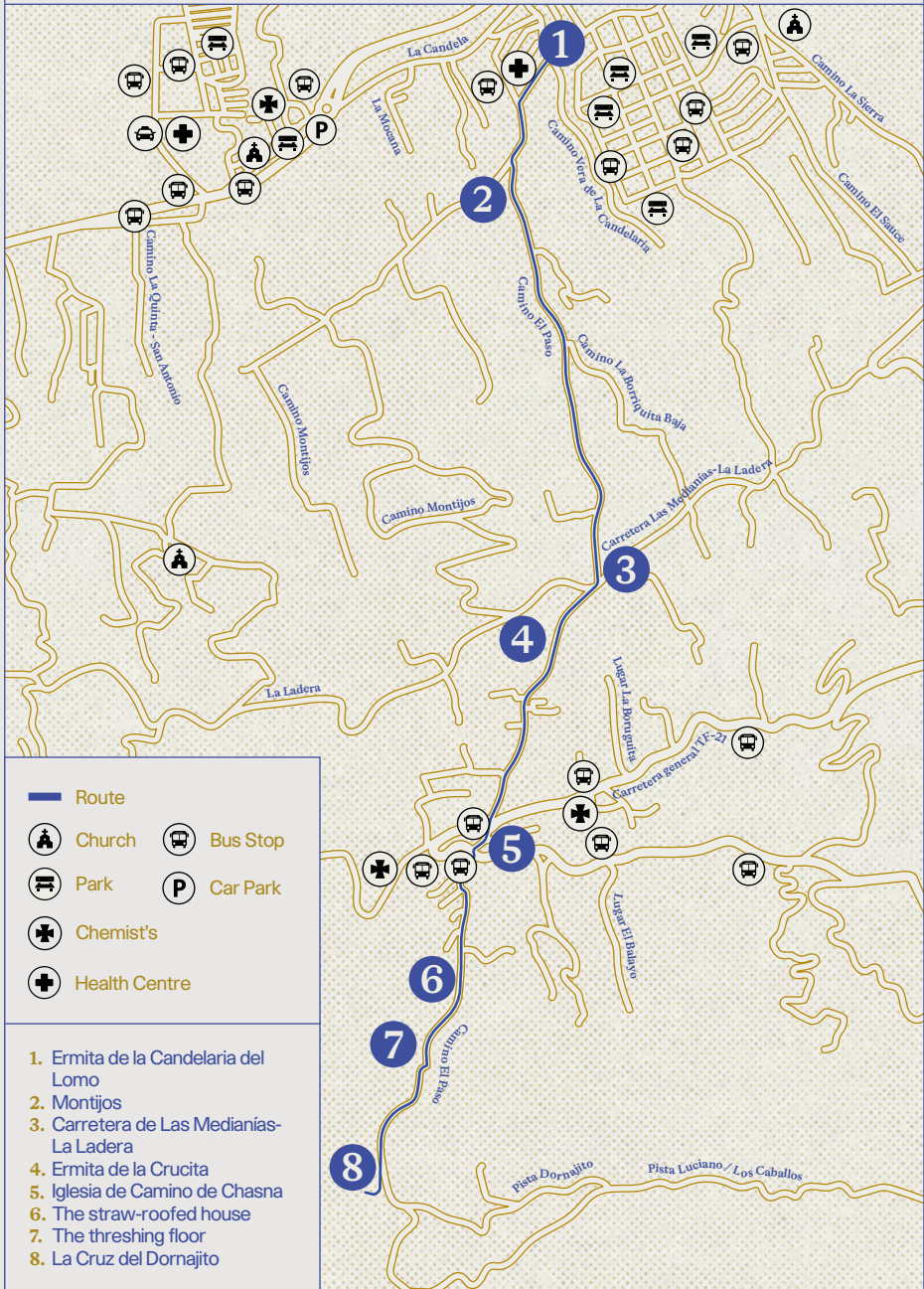
The City Council of La Orotava has devised a local strategy towards sustainable community development in rural areas. This initiative seeks to carry out activities in the most isolated and unknown spots, such as the many groups of farmhouses located in the highlands and midlands.

This collection of self-guided trails under the name *La Orotava SlowTours* is among the initiatives framed within the aforementioned strategy of economic, social and cultural development of rural areas. Their purpose is to serve as a useful tool to disseminate the rich natural and cultural heritage that we have in our land, in a didactic and practical manner.

Each trail created invites us to explore seldom-visited spots in La Orotava, which have their own idiosyncrasies. In these areas there are still many cultural expressions and elements of heritage value which stem, precisely, from the historic isolation they have endured. We hope that the dissemination of this information contributes to raising awareness as to the importance of rural areas in the progress of our society.



CAMINO REAL DE CHASNA



TECHNICAL DETAILS: CAMINO REAL DE CHASNA TRAIL

START:

Ermita de la
Candelaria del Lomo

FINISH:

Cruz del Dornajito

TYPE OF ROUTE:

Linear

LEVEL OF DIFFICULTY:

High



DISTANCE:

2.98 km

DURATION (ON FOOT):

3 hours

HIGHEST ALTITUDE:

1,014 m

LOWEST ALTITUDE:

455 m

POSITIVE SLOPE:

561 m

NEGATIVE SLOPE:

2.94 m

POSITIVE AVERAGE SLOPE:

18.7 %

NEGATIVE AVERAGE SLOPE:

-11.1 %

MODALITY:

On foot. By car in all sections of the trail.

HOW TO GET THERE:

From the historical ensemble of La Orotava, take Calle Doctor Domingo González García and turn into Calle Candelaria del Lomo until you reach the chapel.

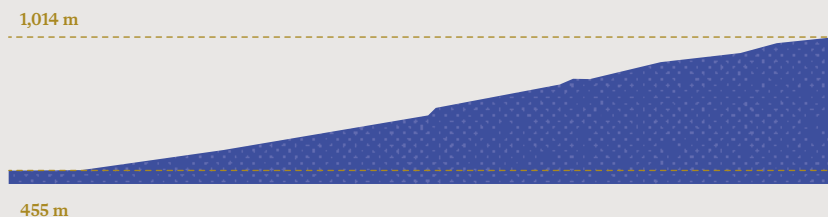
APPROVAL STATUS:

Not officially approved.

NEARBY PUBLIC CAR PARK:

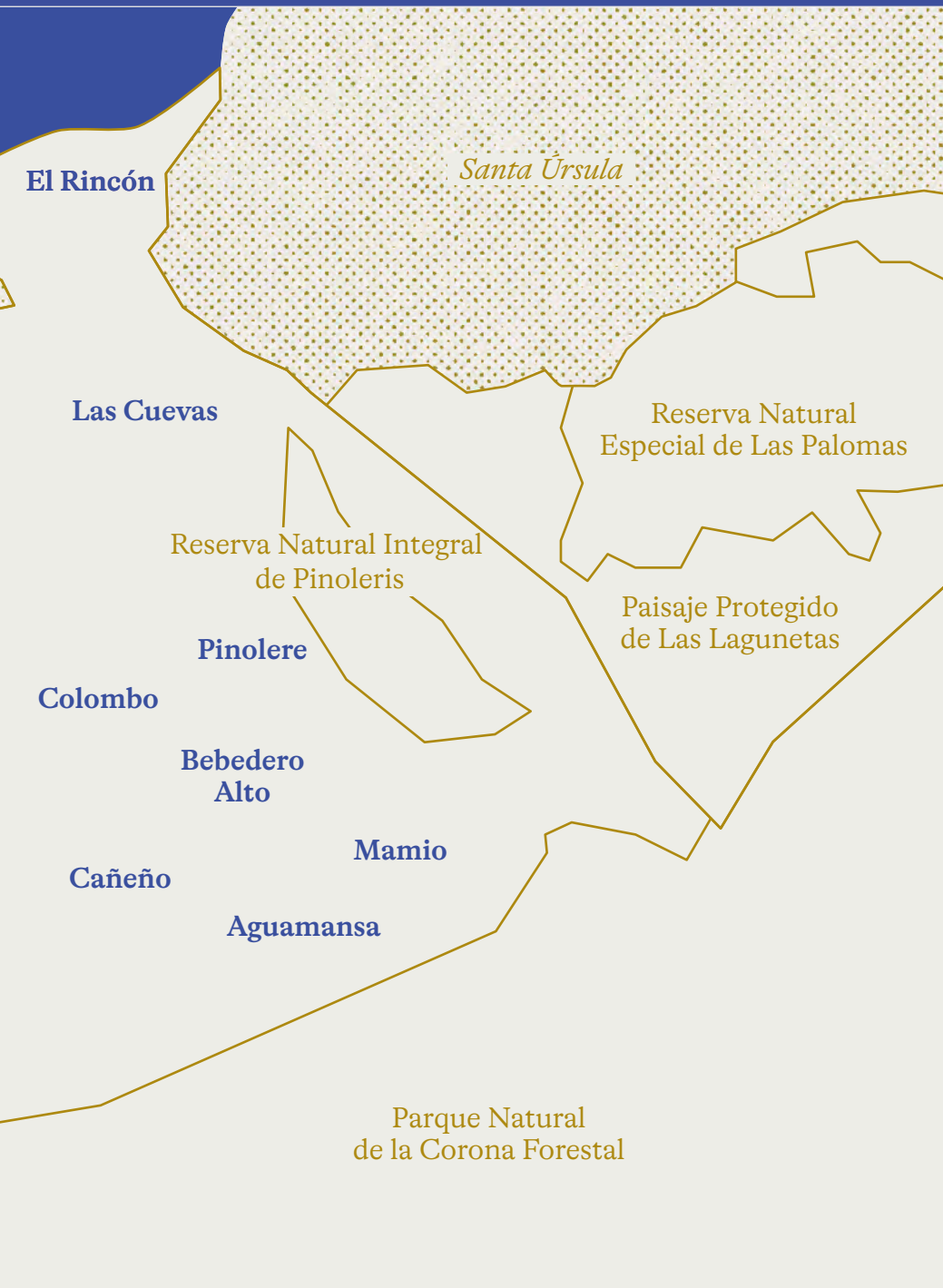
In the area around the chapel.

TRAIL PROFILE:



CITY OF LA OROTAVA





WELCOME TO:

CAMINO REAL DE CHASNA

La Orotava still preserves the original shape of one of the most important communication routes in Tenerife: the Camino Real de Chasna. This long route connected the Island from north to south, allowing the exchange and transfer of food, seeds and products obtained from the mountains and pine forests.

This linear trail, of high difficulty, runs along the lower section of the first stage of the route, starting near the historical ensemble of La Orotava and ending at the Cruz del Dornajito. This trail will take you back to a time when animals and people travelled on foot on a cobblestone pavement, negotiating a steep slope.

The history of this place is recorded in the descriptions written by renowned naturalists and travellers on their ascent to the peak of Teide, such as Alexander von Humboldt. This ancient path became a botanical laboratory that allowed many of them to analyse climatic variation according to altitude and its influence on the plant landscape.

Discover one of the most iconic paths in La Orotava, its people and its culture, through this trail that features the most representative heritage landmarks. Immerse yourself in this land, in a respectful and conscious way, and learn about the history and reality of a place influenced by its climate and terrain.



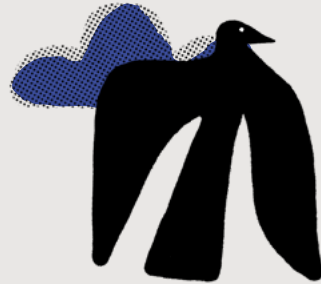
TIPS

During your self-guided visit to this rural setting, you will walk along very steep asphalted roads. If you enjoy this trail, we would like you to show a responsible attitude with a commitment to our environment. You will find some tips here:

1. Wear appropriate footwear and clothing for the type of activity that we are offering you.

2. Do not alter the environment that you are visiting, do not disturb the species or their habitats—leave no trace.

3. Do not damage the heritage elements that you are visiting. Help preserve the cultural legacy of this place.



4. Do not leave rubbish along the route, take your waste with you and place it at the designated points.



5. Support rural development by consuming in local businesses and buying local crafts.

6. Respect the animals and crops you find along the way. For your own safety, do not enter into restricted areas.

For an outstanding experience, do some research and learn about the place and its people beforehand. Immerse yourself in the history, culture and tradition of one of the most unknown areas of La Orotava.

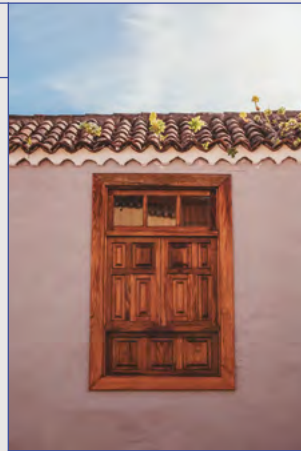


ERMITA DE LA CANDELARIA DEL LOMO

The trail begins at the chapel known as Ermita de la Candelaria del Lomo, a representative landmark in the town, close to the historical Camino de Chasna. There used to be an old chapel on this site, with a semi-circular stone arch-headed entrance door, a belfry and a hip roof.

The old chapel was replaced by the current neo-Canarian style building, which was renovated in 2011 and houses the image of the Virgin, a *vera effigies* of the primitive icon of the Virgin of Candelaria, by Jerónimo de Cabrera Betancourt, a painter from La Orotava.

Opposite this stop is the Casa del Drago, a traditional-style architectural ensemble which is home to one of the best-preserved centennial dragon trees in La Orotava.



The neighbourhood of La Candelaria del Lomo was the historical entrance to the ascent of the Camino de Chasna.



MONTIJOS

The second stop on this trail is located at the junction with the Camino Montijos. At this point it is possible to take a diversion that allows you to travel through one of the most outstanding rural wine-growing landscapes of La Orotava. In Montijos you can admire vine growing using one of the most unique training systems in the world: the traditional braided or plaited cord (*cordón trenzado*). This centuries-old technique consists of intertwining the vine shoots, forming longitudinal vines separated from the ground by half a metre and supported by heather forks.

If you visit Montijos, you will walk among vineyards, delimited by stone walls, which change with the passing of the seasons. Several traditional buildings of architectural interest are still preserved in this area. If you return to our trail, you will begin the arduous ascent of the historical Camino de Chasna which, in this stretch, is known as Camino El Paso.



The inhabitants of the highlands used this historical route to take the cereal grains to the water mills of La Orotava and make *gofío* (cereal flour).



CARRETERA DE LAS MEDIANÍAS – LA LADERA

At this stop, the road known as Carretera Las Medianías-La Ladera crosses the itinerary of the Camino de Chasna. From here it is possible to enjoy a panoramic view of the surrounding agricultural land plots and the Valle de La Orotava. The road, which traverses one of the most rural areas of the town, runs through fields planted with potatoes and cereals, from the area of El Sauce to the Camino de El Brezal, in the neighbouring town of Los Realejos.

From this point you can enjoy a view of the great depression in the valley, which, according to scientific evidence, was caused by the action of large gravitational landslides of volcanic rocks from Las Cañadas del Teide. At this altitude, the slope of the terrain is uneven, showing a steeper gradient due to the accumulation of lava from previous eruptions.



The Carretera Las Medianías-La Ladera is the backbone of the rural areas of La Orotava, since it connects the neighbourhoods of Camino de Chasna and Benijos with La Perdoma and La Candelaria del Lomo.



On this path there was frequent movement of people from the southern villages, who came to sell seasonal fruit and cheese.

ERMITA DE LA CRUCITA

The chapel named Ermita de La Crucita is located at the beginning of the small alley that bears its name. This landmark is a stopping point on the route and a reference point for the local people, who take care of it. The building has a rectangular floor plan and a tiled gable roof, with a wooden door on its façade. Inside, there is a small cross that used to be at a crossroads in the past, which is the emblem of the neighbourhood and is decorated for the festivities of the Cross in the month of May.

In this area there are many houses on the side of the sloping path, which was a very busy route in the past. Until the last third of the 20th century, there were some traditional convenience stores, commonly known as *ventas*, along this stretch, which supplied the inhabitants of Chasna Abajo, the popular name used in the area, with provisions.



IGLESIA DE CAMINO DE CHASNA

In this section, the historical route crosses the heart of the neighbourhood that bears the same name: Camino de Chasna. The main road, that is, the carretera general TF-21 towards Cañadas del Teide, crosses this path, which continues its upward course. The church known as Iglesia de la Virgen de Candelaria stands here, with the typical features of contemporary churches, where the floor plan is laid out in the form of a fan with a flat, stepped roof. Access is through a simple façade. It is worth noting the wall crowned by a large cross facing the main road.

On one side of the staircase leading to the square there is an old street water tap, a vestige of the public water supply system of the last century, which could be found all over town before the 1970s and supplied drinking water to the neighbourhood.



The Camino Real de Chasna was used to take livestock to Las Cañadas del Teide during the spring and early summer.



THE STRAW-ROOFED HOUSE

The neighbourhood of Camino de Chasna sprang up on the edge of the steep historical path. Along this steep path there used to be several houses with straw or tiled roofs, where the inhabitants who cultivated the nearby land used to live. Due to the economic, social and cultural development that took place in the last third of the 20th century, these humble houses were replaced by the larger dwellings found today.

In some spots of the town, you can still see remains of the traditional dwellings with thatched roofs: these straw-roofed houses were commonly known as *pajares*. At this point on the path, the walls of a straw-roofed house that was used as a shelter for animals still remain. Its stone walls are in good condition and the wooden elements of the entrance opening are still in place.

In La Orotava, the thatched roof of traditional straw-roofed houses could be made of chestnut twigs, rye or wheat straw.



THE THRESHING FLOOR

The trail continues ascending until it reaches a threshing floor, an element of ethnographic interest that is preserved next to the old path. This landmark preserves a large part of its stone structure and is an integral part of a residential complex that was home to several families. This site, located in a hilly area, was ideal for taking advantage of the trade winds, which were so necessary during the threshing and winnowing processes over the course of the last century.

In this place, as in other areas of Tenerife, there was a system of tenant farmers called *medianeros*. The peasant families were obliged to hand over half of their harvest to the people who owned the land. In the past, there was a significant production of potatoes, cereals and cabbages.



The stones of the threshing floor are rubbed by the stones of the threshing machine, thus allowing the threshing of the ears of grain.



This historical path linked La Orotava with Vilaflor de Chasna, Chasna being the oldest place name in this Island town.

LA CRUZ DEL DORNAJITO

The last stop on our trail is at the iconic Cruz del Dornajito, which marks the beginning of the *monteverde* forest (laurel and *Morella-Erica* heath), leaving the private properties behind. There used to be a natural spring here that quenched the thirst of many hikers and travellers, especially those who climbed to the peak of Teide. For centuries, this natural spot, where a lot of humidity can still be found, became an obligatory stop.

Today, this location continues to be a place where people can relax and meet. At this point, the trail connects with the Camino Natural de Anaga-Chasna or GR-131, the long hiking trail that crosses the island of Tenerife.

USEFUL INFORMATION:

CHEMISTS:

Farmacia Barroso

Carretera General Las Cañadas

TF-21 178, Barroso, 38310

La Orotava

+34 922 334 483

Farmacia Camino Chasna

Camino de Chasna, 24, 38310

La Orotava

+34 922 336 426

HEALTH CENTRES:

Centro de Salud de Barroso

Carretera General Las Cañadas

TF-21, Barroso, 38310 La Orotava

+34 922 478 434

Centro de Salud de Camino

de Chasna

Camino de Chasna, 73, 38310

La Orotava

+34 922 478 524

TAXI:

Taxi stand

Calle Inocencio García, 15, 38300

La Orotava

+34 922 323 737

Taxi stand

Calle San Juan Bosco, 1, 38300

La Orotava

+34 922 323 737

EMERGENCY:

112

LA OROTAVA LOCAL POLICE:

Policía Local

Calle Cologan, 2, 38300 La Orotava

+34 922 330 114

TITSA (BUS STATION):

Av. Ob. Benítez de Lugo, s/n, 38300

La Orotava

+34 922 332 702

TOURIST INFORMATION OFFICE:

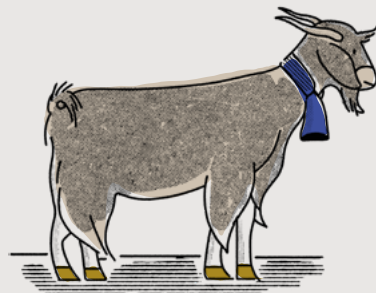
Calle Carrera del Escultor Estévez,

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**Check the city's tourist information
on its official website:**

[https://www.laorotava.es/es/
turismo](https://www.laorotava.es/es/turismo)



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