

La Orotava *SlowTours*

COLOMBO AGUAMANSA



INTRODUCTION

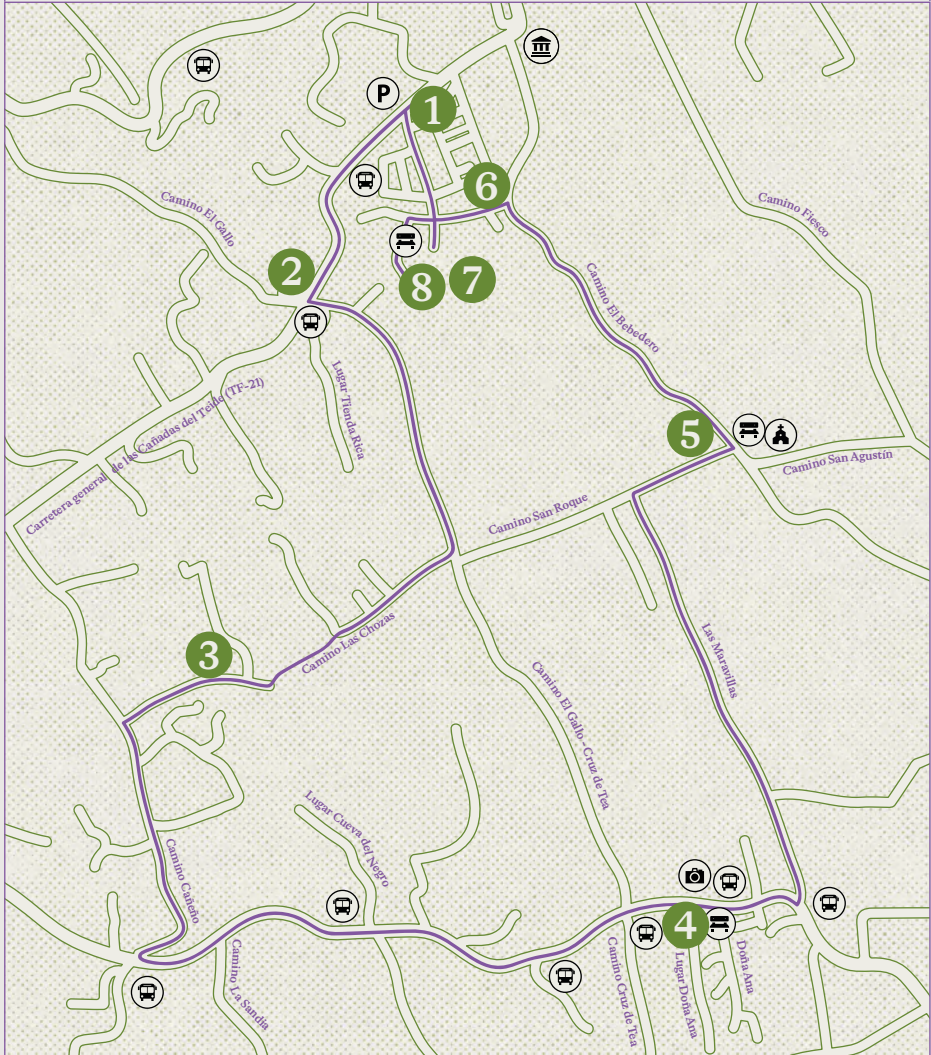
The City Council of La Orotava has devised a local strategy towards sustainable community development in rural areas. This initiative seeks to carry out activities in the most isolated and unknown spots, such as the many groups of farmhouses located in the highlands and midlands.

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.



COLOMBO-AGUAMANSA



- Route
-  Church
-  Museum
-  Viewpoint
-  Bus Stop
-  Car Park
-  Parks

1. Plaza de Colombo
2. Camino El Gallo
3. Cañero
4. Iglesia de Aguamansa
5. Las Maravillas y San Roque
6. La Cruz Chica
7. Ermita de Colombo
8. Acueducto de Colombo

TECHNICAL DETAILS: COLOMBO-AGUAMANSA TRAIL



START:

Plaza de Colombo

FINISH:

Plaza de Colombo

TYPE OF ROUTE:

Circular

LEVEL OF DIFFICULTY:

Intermediate-high

DISTANCE:

4.73 km

DURATION (ON FOOT):

3 hours

HIGHEST ALTITUDE:

1,008 m

LOWEST ALTITUDE:

710 m

POSITIVE SLOPE:

315 m

NEGATIVE SLOPE:

315 m

POSITIVE AVERAGE SLOPE:

11.8 %

NEGATIVE AVERAGE SLOPE:

-14.5 %

MODALITY:

On foot. By car all along the route except for the stretch of path from Las Chozas to Cañeño.

HOW TO GET THERE:

From the main road known as carretera general TF-21, get to the square in the neighbourhood of Colombo.

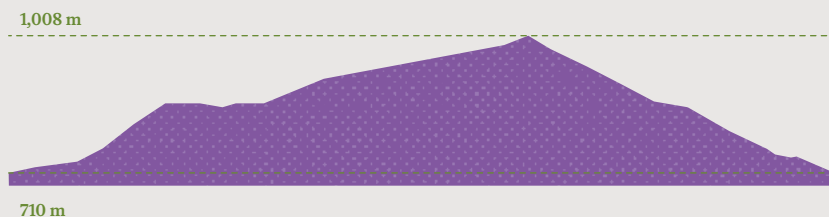
APPROVAL STATUS:

Not officially approved.

NEARBY PUBLIC CAR PARK:

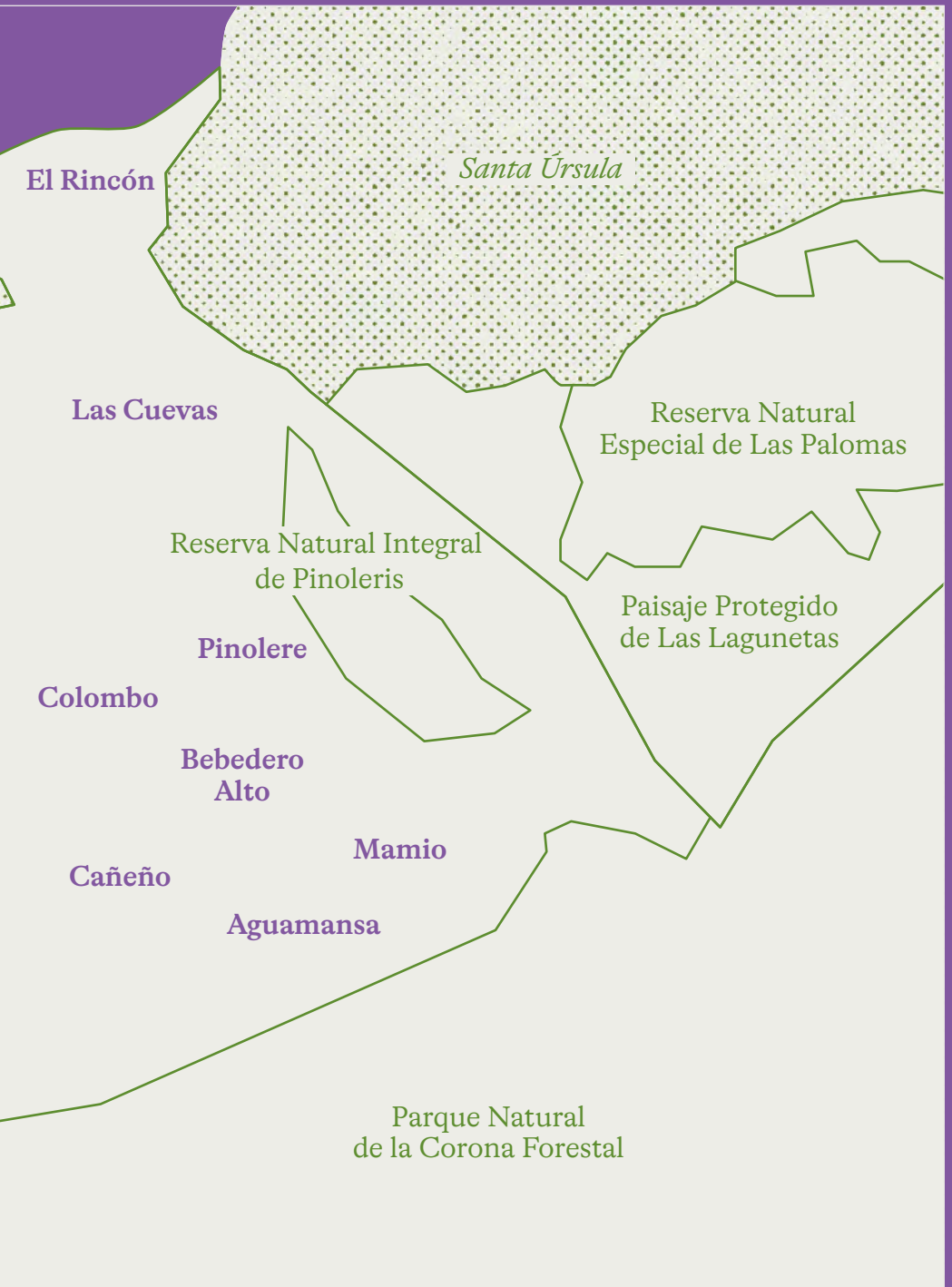
In the area around the square of Colombo.

TRAIL PROFILE:



CITY OF LA OROTAVA





El Rincón

Santa Úrsula

Las Cuevas

Reserva Natural Especial de Las Palomas

Reserva Natural Integral de Pinoleris

Pinolere

Paisaje Protegido de Las Lagunetas

Colombo

Bebedero Alto

Cañeño

Mamio

Aguamansa

Parque Natural de la Corona Forestal

WELCOME TO:

COLOMBO AND AGUAMANSA

In the outskirts of La Orotava you can find one of its most exceptional agricultural landscapes. Conditioned by the slope of the terrain, this place retains the essence of an agricultural past that was essential for the development of the population. Until a few decades ago, growing potatoes and cereals was the main activity for the people of La Orotava.

This circular trail, which starts in Colombo, will take you into one of the highest areas of the town: Aguamansa. During the route you will discover various elements of heritage interest such as chapels, crosses, agricultural paths and historical landmarks linked to electricity generation in La Orotava.

The history of this place is influenced by its proximity to the *monteverde* forest (laurel and *Morella-Erica* heath) and the pine forest. Historical activities such as the harvesting of pine needles (commonly known as *pinocha*), firewood and dry leaf litter (commonly known as *cisco*) led to the development of a very active

traditional rain-fed agricultural system and a terraced landscape, adapted to the terrain.

Discover La Orotava at its most rural, 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.



PLAZA DE COLOMBO

The trail begins in the large square known as Plaza de Colombo. This place, in addition to other singularities, has one of the most charismatic and enigmatic names in La Orotava, as the different investigations carried out have not been able to decipher its origin. As a whole, this neighbourhood has played an important role in the upper part of the town, making it possible to cope with the demand for accommodation that has been present since the end of the last century.

Among the landmarks preserved in this place, there are several elements connected with the hydraulic heritage of La Orotava, which can be visited at the end of this trail. Nearby is the Aula de Etnografía (Ethnography Room) of the Compulsory Education Centre CEO Manuel de Falla, a leading educational centre for its research on popular Canarian culture and the construction of a straw-roofed house which they keep as a museum.



The trail continues towards the path known as Camino El Gallo, passing through Calle El Herrero. This street owes its name to the traditional blacksmith's shop that existed here until a few decades ago.



CAMINO EL GALLO

From the Plaza de Colombo, you will reach the group of farmhouses known as Tienda Rica via the main road or carretera general de Las Cañadas del Teide (TF-21). At this point you will begin an arduous ascent along one of the oldest roads in the area: the Camino El Gallo or Camino Viejo. The original path, which ran through a ravine that carried a large volume of water during heavy rains, gave the population access to lower areas, such as El Sauce or La Piedad, or to higher ones, such as Aguamansa or the mountains.

Along the route you will see scattered houses and terraced plots of land bordered by heather plants and old chestnut trees, a landscape that is representative of the highlands of La Orotava. At the beginning of the 1980s, work began to improve the road surface, leaving some of the old walls intact, on which the remains of a water main (*atarjea*) are still standing.

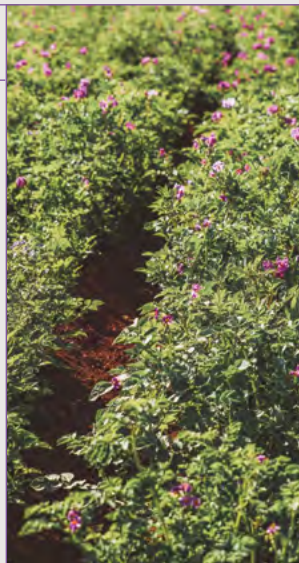
The Tienda Rica area is also known as Los Cesteros (the basket makers) because of three brothers who used to live there and made and sold chestnut split wood baskets.



CAÑEÑO

To continue with the trail, from the Camino El Gallo we take the fork that leads to the group of farmhouses known as Las Chozas. After going through a short stretch of path, we enter the agricultural landscape of Cañeño, a unique neighbourhood that sits around a steep path between two sections of the main road, the carretera general TF-21. Its festivities, held in July in honour of the Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Saint Anthony Abbot and the Holy Cross, mark the beginning of the festive calendar of the highlands.

This place was characterised by the development of traditional rain-fed agriculture with crops such as potatoes and cereals. Until a few years ago, there was an abundance of domestic animals such as goats, rabbits, chickens and beasts, which were needed to work the vegetable gardens. The Lomo La Atalaya area is located in a more hilly spot, towering above the place.



The trail continues uphill towards the junction with the carretera general TF-21, in the area known as Cueva del Negro.



IGLESIA DE AGUAMANSA

From Cañeño, the route follows the carretera general TF-21 to the Iglesia of Aguamansa, the most representative landmark of the neighbourhood. This iconic church, erected to honour Saint Joseph the Worker in 1961, is located on a hill that can be seen from a distance. Its construction was promoted by Andrés de Arroyo y González de Chaves, who was a lawyer and a writer, and also offered his land for this purpose. The building is surrounded by the square that bears the name of its promoter, and its façade and bell tower are worthy of note.

A school was also built next to the church, which played a key role in the schooling of the most disadvantaged population in the middle of the last century. At that time, this was the only place for children to learn.



The original church had a wide staircase made up of several flights, with garden areas at either side.



LAS MARAVILLAS AND SAN ROQUE

The trail descends along the nearby Camino de Las Maravillas, passing through the area of Cruz de Tea. This steep road leads to the neighbourhood of Bebedero Alto, one of the least well communicated areas of La Orotava. The landscape here shows large areas of cultivated land, which were recently abandoned and were once dedicated to the cultivation of potatoes and cereals.

In the late 1980s, the old cobblestone road was buried by the current asphalt pavement, giving rise to the toponym of Las Maravillas. Until then, the local people used to travel on foot, with their loads on their heads, on their backs or on beasts, to reach Aguamansa or the town centre. The Camino de San Roque leads to the chapel, which houses a cross that used to be at a crossroads in the past, as well as an image of the Saint.



The old canal that carried water from the Aguamansa basin to the old hydroelectric plant in Hacienda Perdida to generate electricity is buried under the Camino de San Roque.



The old path had a stone pavement and was a main access route to the mountains.

LA CRUZ CHICA

The trail continues down the path known as Camino de El Bebedero towards Colombo, through a more beaten road. The Cruz Chica marks the entrance to the more developed area of Colombo. Despite the urban growth of the area, this landmark has remained in its original location and is a point of reference in the area.

The Cruz Chica is a small cross made of wood and rests on a masonry altar inside a quadrangular niche, built into the façade of the adjacent building. Its strategic location served as a reference point for the local population who travelled along this way until the middle of the last century, when the road began to be improved.



ERMITA DE COLOMBO

The Ermita de Colombo, a chapel erected in honour of Saint Anthony of Padua, is located in a charismatic place in the upper part of the neighbourhood. The construction of the building, which has a rectangular floor plan and a tiled gable roof, was promoted by the Committee of Festivities in collaboration with the Neighbourhood Association. After its inauguration in 1993, the chapel received the donation of the Virgin of Guadalupe.

Thanks to the citizens' concern and the municipal support, the surroundings of the chapel have undergone significant improvements that have made this place accessible. In this area, various religious events and cultural visits are held, such as those related to the nearby Aqueduct.



Before the construction of the chapel, the image of San Antonio de Padua was kept in a private room in the neighbourhood that was intended for local and cultural activities.



ACUEDUCTO DE COLOMBO

Next to the Ermita de Colombo, one of the most important hydraulic infrastructures related to the first hydroelectric power plant in La Orotava is preserved: the Aqueduct. In 1894, this electricity-generating plant led to the town's becoming the first in Tenerife to have an electricity supply.

The water flow necessary to generate the energy was channelled from the Aguamansa water basin to the hydroelectric plant located in Hacienda Perdida. The increase in demand for the electricity service, only three years later, made it necessary to install a new load pipe supported on these solid masonry pillars, creating one of the most outstanding engineering works in the area.

In 2022, the City Council of La Orotava undertook the recovery works of this industrial infrastructure of paramount importance in the history of the town.

USEFUL INFORMATION:

CHEMISTS:

Farmacia Barroso

Carretera General Las Cañadas

TF-21 178, Barroso, 38310

La Orotava

+34 922 334 483

HEALTH CENTRE:

Centro de Salud de Barroso

Carretera General Las Cañadas

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+34 922 478 434

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,

5, A, 38300 La Orotava

+34 922 323 041

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

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



La Orotava *SlowTours*: Colombo and Aguamansa

Publishing:

Concejalía de Patrimonio Cultural.
Ayuntamiento de La Orotava

With the collaboration of:

Dirección General de Cultura y Patrimonio Cultural.
Gobierno de Canarias

Production:

Trivo Local Solutions

Creative Direction:

Cultania. Gestión Integral del Patrimonio Cultural

Texts:

© Yaiza González Hernández

Translation of Texts:

© Patricia P. González-Barreda

Graphic Design, Layout and Photographs:

© Gabriela Mailet

Page 13: Unidentified author. Archivo de fotografía histórica de Canarias.
FEDAC/ Cabildo de Gran Canaria.

Illustrations and Maps:

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Legal Deposit: TF 304-2024

1st Edition: May 2024

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