



SAN MIGUEL DE ABONA-ALDEA BLANCA  
CANARIAS Tenerife Island  
TF 231  
SL

# SL-TF 231 SAN MIGUEL DE ABONA-ALDEA BLANCA

Most of the San Miguel de Abona-Aldea Blanca trail follows the path of the former Camino Real del Sur (Royal Road of the South). Along the way you will learn about the rural life that characterised the southern part of the island that is embedded in the hillsides, dotted with rocks and volcanic cones. Below is a description of the downward route.

The trail starts from Plaza de San Miguel along the cobbled La Iglesia street. After going past Casa Museo de El Capitán and El Calvario crosses you will come to Tamaide neighbourhood, one of the oldest hamlets of the municipality, where Cruz de Piedra or Cruz de la Morena is located, marking an ancient crossroads.

Continuing along La Cruz street, the tarmac surface gives way to the original stone-paved road before descending towards the boxed-in bed of El Lomo ravine. Plant life is more abundant here because of the protection and humidity afforded by the ravine.

The trail takes you up the far side of the ravine along a narrow path until you reach the ridge of El Mojó. Here you will find the best-preserved stone-paved part of Camino Real in the municipality. This stretch

continues until you reach a road just before it bends round to the right. You will then come to a fork in the road where Camino Real branches into two. We suggest that you take the left branch as it is the more interesting route. In this zone you will see different structures such as small channels and deposits for rainwater collection, transport and storage.

A few metres further on you will come to the edge of the ravine called El Drago or Las Mesas. Even from here you can hear the gurgling of the Tamaide spring, which has flowing water almost all year round, except in very dry summers.

A few metres from the spring are some caves that were carved out of the limestone rocks. These caves were used as a refuge for people and animals as well as for storing food and tools, taking advantage of the constant temperature that this volcanic material provides.

The road continues towards La Hoya, a hamlet that has a well-conserved tile-making oven at its entrance. After passing through the hamlet, the trail climbs upwards, going past La Hoya spring.

The road will gradually take you into a markedly rural land, reflecting the agricultural landscape of the arid south of the island. The agricultural terraced land, now mostly in disuse, almost completely covers the hillsides along the trail.

After going past the Casa del Gato house, the trail goes through an area abounding with remains from the prehispanic occupation of the region.

The trail continues to make its way along the ancient Camino Real track, reaching the ridge of Los Cabuqueros, where you can enjoy panoramic views of San Lorenzo Valley and Aldea Blanca, with a large number of eye-catching volcanic cones.

After making your way over the TF-657 road at the crossing, you will reach the resting place called Las Crucitas. Along the last stretch you will cross through the small valley of El Ahijadero before taking the agricultural track into Aldea Blanca centre.

**TECHNICAL DATA**

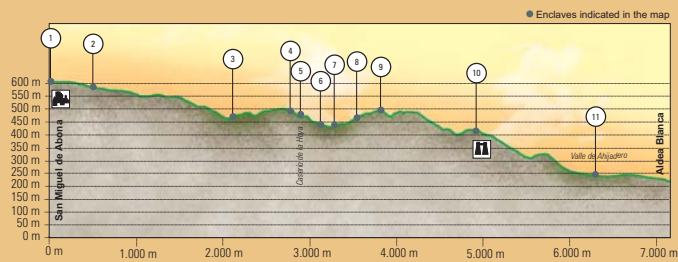
**Itinerary (recommended direction):** San Miguel de Abona square – Tamaide – Barranco del Lomo – Lomo de El Mojó – Barranco de El Drago o Las Mesas – Caserío de La Hoya – Lomo de Los Cabuqueros – Valle del Ahijadero – Aldea Blanca.

**Estimated length:** 7.500 m

**Estimated unevenness:** 400 m

**Estimated duration:** (descending): 3 hours 30 minutes

**Difficulty:** Low



# SAN MIGUEL DE ABONA

The historic quarters of San Miguel represent the best-preserved traditional town centre in the South of Tenerife. The trail follows a straight line along the old Camino Real del Sur, which crosses the present-day La Iglesia street.

At the back of these houses there are small kitchen gardens, some of which are still in use.

The houses that line the street and nearby vicinity are beautiful examples of an architecture style that is half rural, half urban. They were built during the 18th and 19th Centuries for landowning families and for the bourgeoisie farmers in the region. The walls of these buildings are characterised by the use of volcanic materials. Of particular note is the stonework that can be seen on the corners of many of these houses, and also their tiled or flat roofs.

When Carretera General del Sur was built at the beginning of the 1940s it did not affect the town centre of San Miguel de Abona, allowing it to preserve both its urban layout and traditional buildings.

It is definitely worthwhile taking time to wander through the streets, because San Miguel de Abona is in the process of being assigned the designation as a Place of Cultural Interest, within the Category of Historical Area, because of its heritage and landscape.



# Not-to-miss places

La Iglesia street provides the backbone for exploring San Miguel centre and visiting some of its most characteristic buildings.

- 1 Iglesia de San Miguel Arcángel
- 2 Los chorros
- 3 Municipal library
- 4 Birthplace of John Bethencourt Alfonso
- 5 Casa Azul (town hall)
- 6 El Aljibe (hall)
- 7 San Miguel rural hotel
- 8 Casa Museo de El Capitán (museum)
- 9 Calvario (crosses)



# CAUCE SUR PROJECT

Since 2005, the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development of Tenerife Island Council has been promoting a project to dynamise the mid-altitude lands of the South of Tenerife in order to economically and socially revitalise area that stretches from Candelaria to Arona.

Today, the road provides an ideal starting point for discovering the historic quarters, hamlets, terraced farming land, ravines, volcanoes and hillsides that make up the distinctive landscape of the mid-altitude land of the South.

The project is called CAUCE SUR, in reference to the **Carretera General del Sur** (General Southern Highway). The road took more than a century to build (1859-1975), and it became the true backbone of the South. As the roadworks developed, the highway transformed the way the zone was used and the personal and economic interaction of the

The set of four walks that are offered along this main road will allow you to discover for yourself the strength, simplicity and beauty of a land that is hostile by its very nature, but where human beings have used all their ingenuity to build a place to live.

**SL-TF 263 El Escobonal-Fasnia**  
5,5 km 2 hours

**PR-TF 86 Mar a cumbre de Arico (Section: Arico-Arico El Viejo)**  
4,5 km 2 hours 30 min

**SL-TF 242 Camino de Las Vegas**  
7,7 km 3 hours 15 min

**SL-TF 231 San Miguel de Abona-Aldea Blanca**  
7,5 km 3 hours 30 min

Trails that form part of the Cauce Sur project

# SERVICES

- Citizens Service Center: 901 501 901
- San Miguel de Abona City Council: 922 700 000
- El Aljibe exhibition hall: 922 700 000 ext 258
- Tourist Information Office: 922 738 664
- Center of Tourist Initiatives: del: 922 793 312 (Adeje)
- Tenerife Tourism: 922 635 192 / 922 239 500
- Local police station: 922 700 807 / 629 232 623
- Health centre: 922 700 040
- Civil Protection Service: 922 700 861 / 629 846 915
- Weather forecast: 922 213 222
- TITSA buses:  
Route 484: GRANADILLA – Charco del Pino – San Miguel – Llano del Camello – Las Socas – LAS GALLETAS (Costa del Silencio) – El Fraile.

# YOU ARE A PART OF THE TEAM FOR THE CONSERVATION OF THE NATURE RESERVES AND ROADS OF TENERIFE

- Walk on the signposted roads and be careful of the way of living, the privacy and the properties of the inhabitants.
- If you avoid noise, you will be able to discover much more life around you.
- Take all the rubbish with you, even the organic one. Therefore, you will contribute to keep the beauty of the landscape and you will avoid the spread of rodents. Be especially careful with the cigarette ends.
- The collection of plants, animals and other objects from the environment can lead to the loss of irreplaceable resources.

Prohibited uses:

# FOR YOUR SAFETY...!

- When you prepare your backpack, do not forget to include: mobile phone, sunscreen, hat, coat, raincoat, enough water and food.
- Look up the weather forecast in order to be sure that it is adequate.
- Wear suitable clothes and footwear.
- Walk always with somebody and only along the signposted path.
- Tell your relatives or friends about the route you are going to follow.
- Bear in mind the daylight hours that you will need to finish your itinerary.

Remember: Walking in the countryside can be dangerous. You do so at your own risk. So take care.



### The importance of having a parish

Until 1796, San Miguel de Abona did not have its own parish, and so its inhabitants had to travel to Vialfor to attend religious services and funerals.

Today, **San Miguel Arcángel Church**, also known as «the cathedral of the South» with its baroque Canary Island style, is a symbol for the people of San Miguel.



### Meeting Point

Tamaide and La Hoya springs originate from underground water flowing out of natural breaks in the land. But putting their origin to a side, these springs have traditionally been great hot spots, where people would catch up on the latest gossip, and even where people would fall in love. Now that water is on tap at home, these springs have fallen silent, but they have many stories to tell from the depth of their memories.



### The tile factory

This tile-making oven presides over the entrance to La Hoya hamlet. This very oven made most of the tiles that were used to roof the traditional houses in the vicinity. In time, making handmade tiles stopped being a profitable venture and the oven fell into disuse. Its restoration ensures the conservation of one of the key elements of Tenerife's traditional architectural heritage.



### Half life

**Casa del Gato** stands at the side of the track, depicting what life was like in this region just a few decades ago. It presides over a dry stone terraced hillside. But its sober elegance should not make us forget the hardships of the sharecroppers who lived there rearing the animals and working a land that they did not own, which meant they were only allowed to keep half the produce of the land.



### The stone watchman

**Roque de Jama** imposes its presence over the landscape. Since aboriginal times it was a symbol and a reference for the inhabitants of the region, as attested by the numerous prehispanic remains found in the area. Roque de Jama has been declared a Protected Natural Area under the category of Natural Monument, not only because of its archaeological heritage, but also because of its geological age and its unique species of flora and fauna.



### An orchard in the arid south

This small protected valley is known as **El Ahijadero**. In these areas, where farm life was so hard, this oasis offered a welcome change. The valley received all the rain water like a funnel, along with the fertile soil of the surrounding land. And this is why the valley orchards, which have now fallen into disuse, were like the breadbasket of the south of Tenerife.



### A house with a history

The **Casa Museo de El Capitán** (museum) is one of the most emblematic buildings in the area. In the 19th Century it was home to Mr. Miguel Alfonso, who not only was captain of the militia, but also served as local mayor for several terms of office. Today it houses a museum that specialises in different ethnographic topics related to life in the region.

Near the house stands **El Calvario**, a simple religious construction to seek divine protection at the crossroads.



### Living in the mid-altitude lands of South Tenerife

**La Hoya hamlet** is a good example of the different elements that make up a rural village in the southern mid-altitude land. Located beside the road and close to the springs, La Hoya is believed to be the oldest hamlet in the municipality. Its houses are grouped together around the structures that reflect farming life in the past, such as terraced farmland supported by dry stone walls (without any mortar) and threshing floors where the grain was beaten every summer.



### A mine-cum-room

The landscape of the South is full of small cave-like holes like this one, called **jableras**, the result of mining jable, a whitish volcanic sand that was strewn over vegetable gardens to protect crops from the strong sun, retain moisture and enhance the soil's properties.

At the same time, these caves were reused for different purposes, as a stable, store or even for housing.



### Volcano parade

From this vantage point you can enjoy the panoramic view of a long line of small volcanoes. Although some of them have been mined and exploited in different ways throughout history, they are still the highlight of the landscape, lined up along a crack in the ground. Can you imagine what an amazing sight it must have been to witness these eruptions?



### Legend

- SL TF 231 SAN MIGUEL-ALDEA BLANCA THROUGH LA HOYA
- SAN MIGUEL-ALDEA BLANCA THROUGH LAS LAJAS (Negotiable track, but not officially approved or signposted)
- RESTAURANT
- ACCOMMODATION
- BUS STOP
- TOWN WITH HISTORIC INTEREST
- OBSERVATION DECK
- RAVINE
- BUILDINGS
- ROAD
- LIMIT OF THE MUNICIPAL AREA

