

TOP **50** **Ruta de los Volcanes**

5.45 hrs.



The Volcano Route – the show-piece walk of the island

The traverse of the Cumbre Vieja is one of the greatest and most breathtaking walks on the island – not only because of the constantly varied landscape and the insight it provides into the volcanic history of the 'isla bonita', but also because of the tremendous views taking in the west and east coasts. If you wish to attempt walking the Volcano Route

you should, however, be aware that it is a strenuous day's walk and sudden, unexpected adverse weather conditions can occur on the crest of the ridge with cloud, fog and a strong to hurricane force wind.

Starting point: Refugio del Pilar, 1440m (no bus service, →p. 153).

Destination: Los Canarios (Fuencaliente), 722m (No.200, 201, 210, 23 bus stop). Return to the Refugio del Pilar by taxi.

Height difference: ascent to Deseada 700m, descent to Los Canarios 1400m.

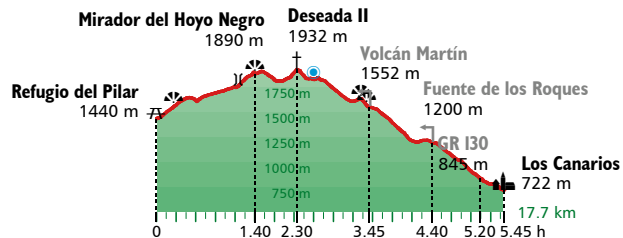
Grade: this is a strenuous mountain walk requiring good physical fitness and sure-footedness. There is often low clouds and extremely stormy winds along the crest of the ridge which can force you to abandon the attempt.

Refreshment: kiosk at the starting

point, bar-restaurants and *bodegas* in Los Canarios.

Alternatives: the Volcano Route can be split into two sections: Refugio El Pilar – Deseada and Los Canarios – Deseada. From the col between Volcán Martín and Los Faros fit walkers can return by descending with the *SL LP 111*, on the right past Montaña Pelada, to a forest road (good ½ hr.) and along this to the right in about 4 hrs. back to the Refugio del Pilar (total time 8–9 hrs.).

Linking tip: this walk can be combined with Walks 45, 49 and 54.



The ascent to the ridgeline of the Cumbre Vieja.

From the road go straight through the picnic area to the **Refugio del Pilar** and 50m after the Visitor Centre (interesting exhibition about the Cumbre Vieja) keep right at the fork in the direction of 'Los Canarios' (*GR 131, white/red*). After 10 minutes keep right again at the fork. The footpath runs at first through marvellous pine wood and the view opens out later of the mountains surrounding the Caldera de Taburiente and of the Aridane Valley. Now cross the gritty volcanic hillside of Pico Birigoyo – only ferns, gorse bushes and pines brighten the landscape which is dominated by black sand. After a total of 40 minutes the path joins a forest road which is followed uphill to the left. 15 minutes later – once again in an open pine forest – the *GR 131*

From the Deseada, you can get an overview of a long stretch of the Volcano Route.

