

La Orotava *SlowTours*

LA FLORIDA PINO ALTO



LA OROTAVA *cittaslow*
Ciudad Internacional por la Calidad de Vida



INTRODUCTION

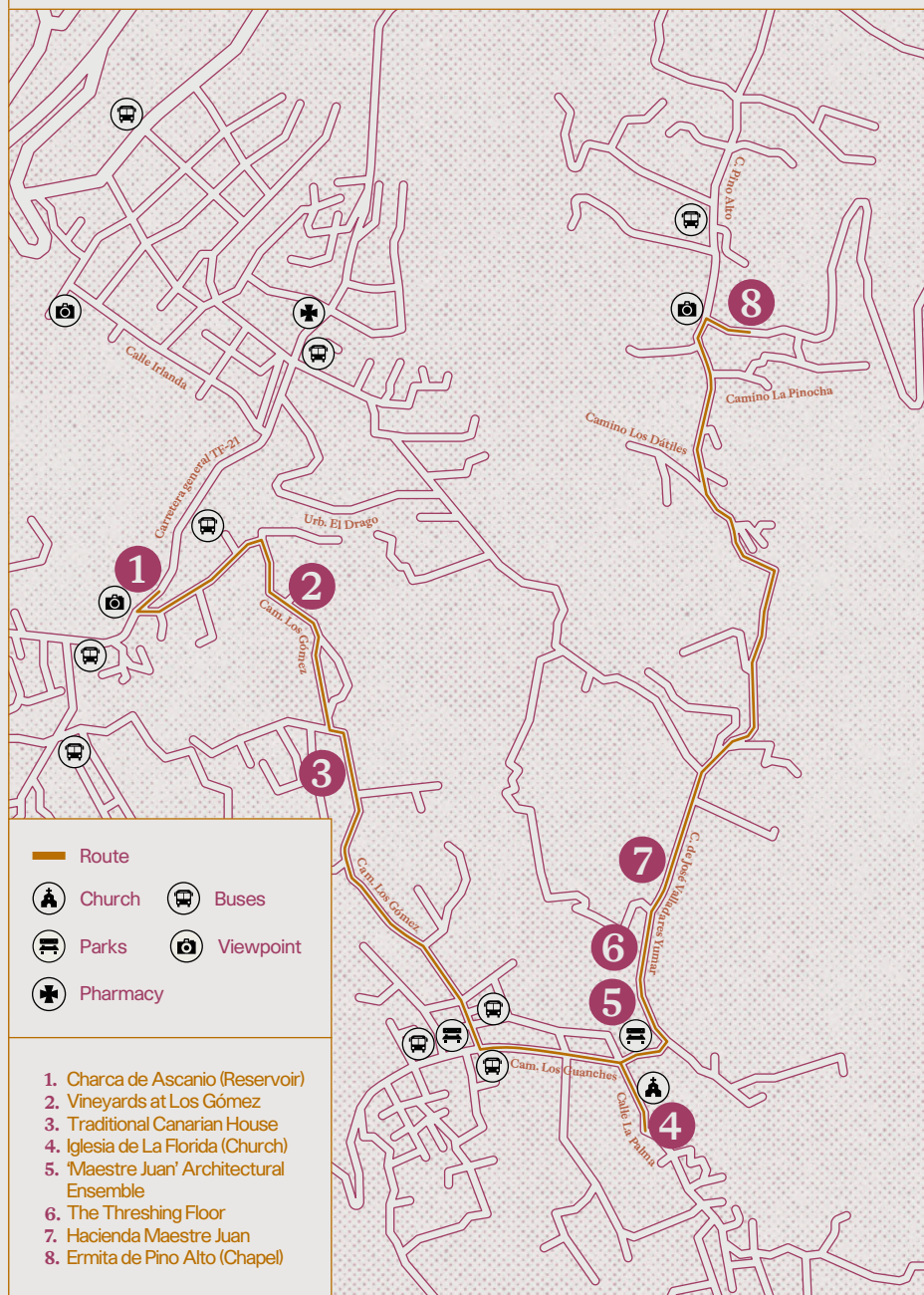
La Orotava is committed to the community development of rural areas in a more sustainable and respectful way. This city strategy involves the carrying out of several initiatives in the most isolated and unknown spots, such as the many groups of farmhouses located in the high- and mid-mountain areas (also known as medianías).

This series of self-guided itineraries —*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 an educational and practical manner.

Each itinerary created invites us to explore seldom-visited spots in La Orotava, each with its own unique character. 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 society in general.



LA FLORIDA - PINO ALTO



TECHNICAL DETAILS: LA FLORIDA-PINO ALTO TRAIL

START:

Charca de Ascanio

FINISH:

Ermita de Pino Alto

TYPE OF ROUTE:

Lineal

LEVEL OF DIFFICULTY:

Alto



DISTANCE:

3.46 km

DURATION (ON FOOT):

2.5 hours

HIGHEST ALTITUDE:

600 m

LOWEST ALTITUDE:

328 m

POSITIVE SLOPE:

325 m

NEGATIVE SLOPE:

45 m

POSITIVE AVERAGE SLOPE:

13.7 %

NEGATIVE AVERAGE SLOPE:

-8.9 %

MODALITY:

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

HOW TO GET THERE:

From the road known as Carretera Cuesta de la Villa (TF-21).

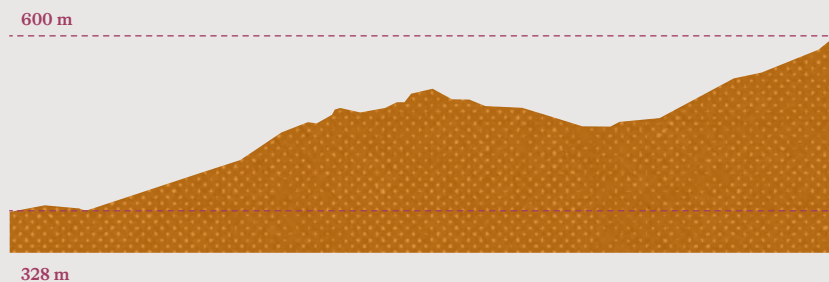
APPROVAL STATUS:

Not officially approved.

NEARBY PUBLIC CAR PARK:

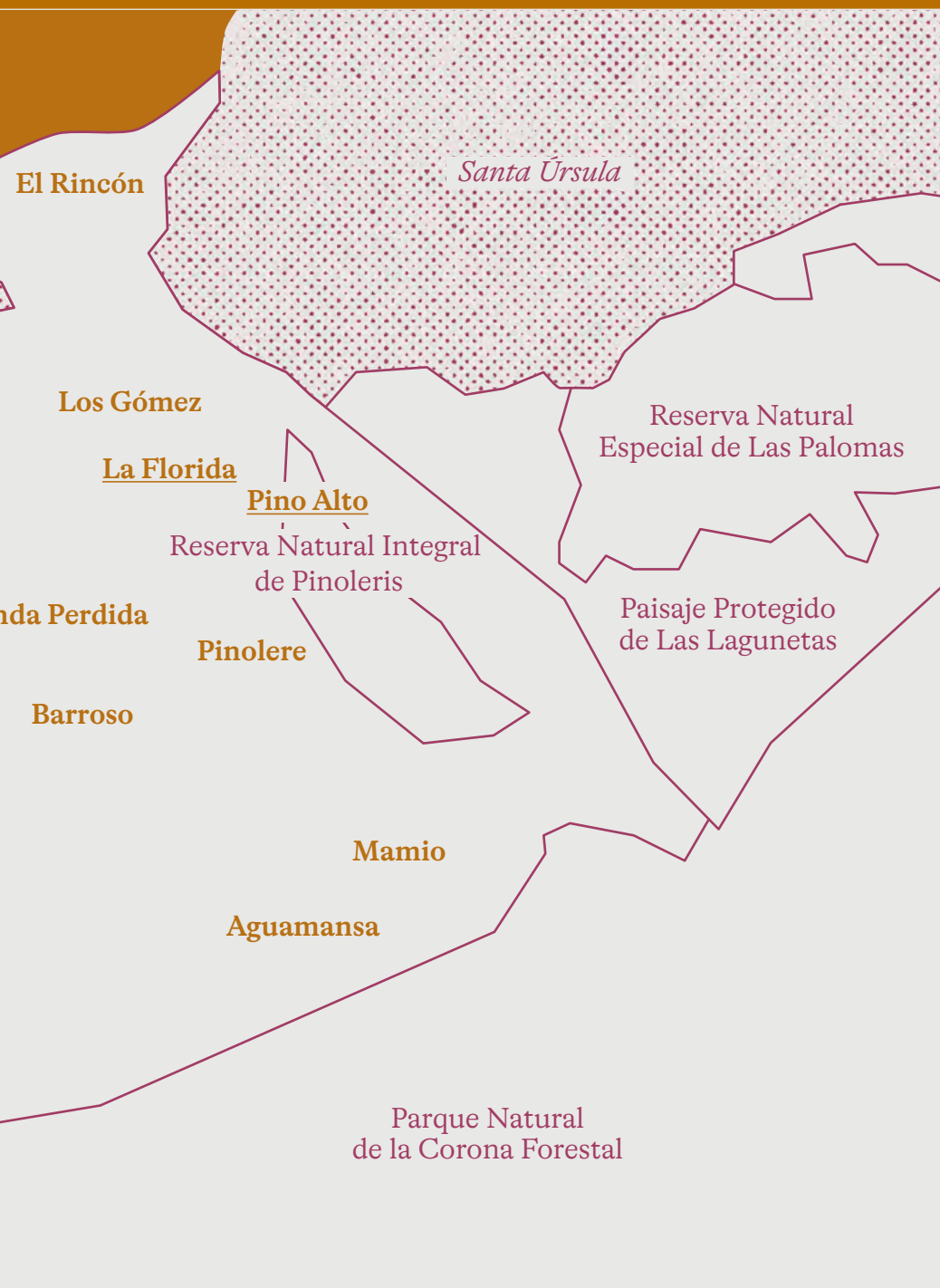
In the vicinity of Paseo las Araucarias (TF-21).

TRAIL PROFILE:



CITY OF LA OROTAVA





WELCOME TO

LA FLORIDA AND PINO ALTO

At the foot of the protected landscape of La Resbala lies a unique area, historically isolated by the course of some of the ravines that form the backbone of the Orotava Valley to the east. Here, several settlements coexist that still preserve various local traditions and make up an extraordinary landscape: the area of La Florida-Pino Alto.

This linear itinerary, which is of high difficulty, will take you into one of the most rural areas of the city's mid-mountain areas or *medianías*. Along the way, you will discover points of interest such as traditional houses, threshing floors and religious temples, built in an agricultural region conditioned by the slope of the land and its proximity to a large natural escarpment.

The use of the natural resources of the hillside, the terracing of the

land and the use of old paths have shaped local history. In addition, the fertility of its soils and its favourable climatic conditions have contributed to the development of a unique culture, reflected in each of the traditions of this dynamic and active community.

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, to get to know the history and reality of a place influenced by its climate and terrain.



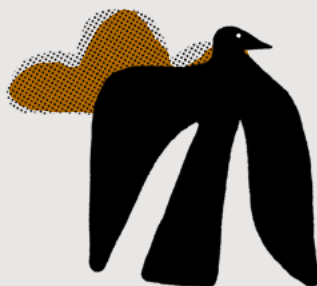
TIPS

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.



CHARCA DE ASCANIO (RESERVOIR)

The route begins next to the old reservoir popularly known as Charca de Ascanio, with a capacity of approximately 0.3 hm³. From the adjoining walkway, you can see part of this historic site, which is built next to the ravine known as Barranco de La Arena or Barranco de Quiquirá, making it the only dam in Tenerife located outside a ravine.

Work on the dam began in mid-1914 and its construction was promoted by the Ascanio brothers with the aim of supplying irrigation water to the banana plantations located in the lower areas of the Valley. Characterised by a monumental 26-metre-high sloping masonry wall, it is considered one of the most outstanding hydraulic engineering works of the Canary Islands' agricultural past.



Since construction began, the Charca de Ascanio was the workplace of many stonemasons until it was blessed in 1927, when water fell inside it for the first time.



VINEYARDS AT LOS GÓMEZ

The route continues along the Camino Los Gómez, an old access road to one of the most emblematic neighbourhoods in the city: La Florida. This road traverses an agricultural landscape featuring terraced vineyards. The *Cordón Trenzado* (braided or plaited cord), typical of the Orotava Valley, is the most common system for training vines in the area. It is done by intertwining the vine shoots, creating long braids that rise above the ground and adapt to the terrain.

In the past, this area was a lush garden with a variety of crops. Its altitude, warmer climate, and fertile soils favoured the local production of fresh foods such as pumpkin, *bubango* (Canarian squash), *milllo* (corn), and cabbage. Today, potatoes continue to be the most prized culinary treasure in this traditional mosaic.

For several consecutive years, the wineries that produced wines with must from Los Gómez won the famous *Concurso de Vinos de La Florida* (La Florida Wine Competition) due to the quality of their products.



TRADITIONAL CANARIAN HOUSE

This house, inhabited by a family of agricultural workers during the first half of the 20th century, is an example of traditional Canarian architecture. The building, covered by a sloping roof of curved tiles, still preserves some spaces such as the kitchen, a living room, several bedrooms, and a large backyard. Its walls, built with stone and clay, show the coating made with lime and sand.

This country house was part of a larger architectural grouping, consisting of a threshing floor and a wine press that no longer exist.



On the left side of the road, on the way up to La Florida, there is a traditional straw house covered with metal sheets, a common solution for preserving thatched roofs.



IGLESIA DE LA FLORIDA (CHUCRH)



On the last Saturday of January, as part of the local festivities, the residents of La Florida prepare the largest *Puchero* stew in the Canary Islands and offer it to thousands of visitors.

The church known as Iglesia de La Florida, as well as the square surrounding it, lie at the heart of one of the most dynamic and active neighbourhoods in the city. Nestled in the shadow of an imposing hillside and isolated between ravines, this rural community preserves numerous traditions such as the *Lucha Canaria* (Canarian Wrestling), the *Danza de Cintas* (Ribbon Dance), the *Tango de La Florida* and the *Juego de la Bola Canaria* (Canarian Ball Game). Today, its festivities in honour of San Antonio Abad and the Virgen de la Esperanza are a regional attraction, having been declared Festivities of Tourist Interest in the Canary Islands.

The church was inaugurated in 2013, almost two decades after its construction began, in response to a long-standing demand from the local community for a parish church.



‘MAESTRE JUAN’ ARCHITECTURAL ENSEMBLE

From Calle La Palma, one of the most important streets in the neighbourhood, you can access one of the most exceptional agricultural areas in La Orotava: ‘Maestre Juan’. Here you can see the stone walls of terraced vegetable gardens—historic structures that made it possible to grow potatoes, vines and cereals on the sloping land.

On both sides of the road there are several buildings of heritage interest, outstanding examples of traditional Canarian architecture. Some of the houses have gable or hip roofs covered with Arabic tiles. These single-storey buildings, with a rectangular floor plan, are surrounded by patios and other relevant features, such as the straw house with a gable roof that has been preserved on one of the properties.



The architectural ensemble is located next to the ravine known as Barranco de Los Barbuzanos and the road leading to Pino Alto, which is one of the groups of farmhouses nestled on the hillside.



THE THRESHING FLOOR

At this stop, you can see one of the best-preserved threshing floors in La Orotava. It belongs to the 'Maestre Juan' architectural ensemble and it was once a place of vital importance for obtaining cereal grains. Here, in the high temperatures of summer, the neighbourhood would gather to thresh, shred the straw and separate the grains from the ears. During the winnowing process, the crushed straw was thrown into the air so that the wind could separate it from the seeds.

This example illustrates the characteristics of threshing floors in La Orotava. It is located on flat ground, enclosed by a two-sided basalt-stone wall. The circular interior space is covered with stones, laid in a rough pattern, which facilitate the threshing of the straw.



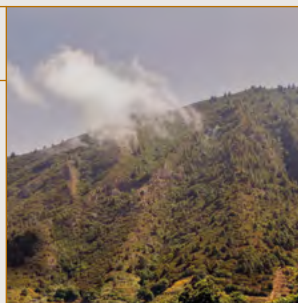
Pairs of cows or beasts of burden, such as mules, donkeys or horses, were essential for threshing. They were responsible for pulling the threshing board, a wooden plank with stones embedded in it.



HACIENDA MAESTRE JUAN

At this stop, you can see the estate known as Hacienda Maestre Juan, owned by the Salazar Méndez brothers and their heirs. Its name, which is also used to refer to this area, appears in historical documents from the late 16th century. Today, oral tradition attributes the origin of the place name to a noble military man who owned the house and the surrounding land.

The house has a single-storey front section facing the main road, while the rear section has three levels. It is worth noting the combination of roofs, with three hip roofs and one flat roof. Old terraced fields surround the building, serving as an enduring example of the historical transformation of the landscape.



This steep hillside was once used for grazing and harvesting firewood, *horquetas* (forest residues), *cisco* (brushwood) and *pinocho* (pine needles). Today, it is home to two protected natural areas.



The cross known as Cruz de La Lajita, located on the ridge of the hillside, is still preserved, a place of pilgrimage and devotion for the people of Pino Alto and La Florida.

ERMITA DE PINO ALTO (CHAPEL)

The road known as Camino de Pino Alto leads to the neighbourhood of the same name. This emblematic huddle of farmhouses, nestled on the slopes of Tamaide, is a unique example of settlement in steeply sloping areas. Despite its historical isolation, the hamlet was home to significant agricultural activity, a bakery, two *ventas* (small shops) and a school named after María Martín Mora, the teacher who dedicated part of her life to public education in this place.

The chapel is a single building with a small sacristy attached. It was built in the late 1970s and houses the Virgen del Pino and Santo Tomás, among other images.

USEFUL INFORMATION

PHARMACIES:

Farmacia La Orotava

Paseo Las Araucarias, 6, 38300

La Orotava

+34 922 332 100

Farmacia Los Pinos

Camino de Los Guanches, 4,

38311

Los Pinos

La Orotava

+34 922 333 777

HEALTHCARE CENTRE:

Centro de Salud Las Dehesas

Calle Labradores de San Isidro, 2,
38300

Las Dehesas

La Orotava

+34 922 478 425

TAXI STANDS:

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 OFFICE:

Calle Cólogan, 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)



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