

ROUTE ARONA AND VILAFLOR

Nature, agriculture and history

ITINERARY

ARONA AND VILAFLOR

From exit 27 of the TF-1 motorway to the Historical centre of Arona

Distance: 8 km. **Approximate driving time:** 10 minutes. **Estimated time of visit:** 30 minutes.

Leave the TF-1 motorway at exit 27 towards Arona and join the TF-28. Continue climbing along this road for 3.9 km, drive through the suburb of Chayofa to reach La Camella. As you enter the village you will see a sign indicating that you have reached La Camella and a short distance further on you will come to a roundabout. Take the second exit towards Arona-Vilaflor, joining the La Camella-Vilaflor road, the TF-51. 4 km along this road will take you to Arona. Entering the built-up area, the main road (TF-51 towards Vilaflor) bears slightly left. The street you need to enter the town centre continues straight ahead so to speak, but as it is technically a turn-off, take care with oncoming traffic. This is Duque de la Torre Street. Along the way you will see a number of signs indicating the direction to the town centre. Continue along the above-mentioned Duque de la Torre Street that will lead you to the old town centre. After a few minutes, on the left-hand side you will find the Plaza del Cristo de la Salud (square) and the church of San Antonio Abad. The Arona Town Hall stands on one side of the square. Park near the square, for example in El Calvario Street.

From the Historical centre of Arona to Ifonche

Distance: 10 km. **Approximate driving time:** 12 minutes. **Estimated time of visit:** 30 minutes

To leave the old town of Arona, return to the TF-51, towards Vilaflor. Drive into El Calvario Street, in the upper part, on the right-hand side of the square. Follow El Calvario Street to the junction with La Bodega Street. Once there, turn right into this street. Drive down this street which later changes its name to Túnez Street. Continue straight ahead; after a short distance bear slightly right, and without leaving this street, continue a few more metres to reach the junction with Domínguez Afonso Street. Turn left and continue down to the junction with the Avenida de la Constitución. Continue driving down this avenue which 200 m further on becomes La Mejora Street. After some 250 m you arrive at a junction. Turn left here and join the TF-51; a 400 m drive uphill will take you to the junction towards Vilaflor-El Teide which previously we had passed on the left-hand side. When you reach the said turn-off, turn left and continue along the TF-51 towards Vilaflor. Now your trip continues as far as the Ifonche junction. Keep on up along the TF-51 for 6 km until you come across a sign indicating the turn-off to Ifonche on the left-hand side. Turn off left and join the La Escalona-Ifonche road, the TF-567. Drive straight ahead for 3 km and you are in Ifonche. You will see a restaurant called "El Dornajo". You can either park the car nearby or turn right and drive a short distance and park there before continuing your visit on foot. Now it is time to stretch your legs in the village.



INFORMATION

Estimated completion time

2 hours, 32 minutes

Estimated driving time

47 minutes

Total distance

36.96 km

Stopping points:

Historical centre of Arona
Ifonche
Hamlet of Las Casas Altas
Vilaflor
Viewpoint of San Roque

Other points of interest:

Hamlet of La Fuente
Roque del Conde (rock formation)
Natural Site of Pino Gordo
Route Altavista

ITINERARY

From Ifonche to the Hamlet of Las Casas Altas

Distance: 7 km. **Approximate driving time:** 8 minutes. **Estimated time of visit:** 15 minutes

To leave the old town of Arona, return to the TF-51, towards Vilaflor. Drive into El Calvario Street, in the upper part, on the right-hand side of the square. Follow El Calvario Street to the junction with La Bodega Street. Once there, turn right into this street. Drive down this street which later changes its name to Túnez Street. Continue straight ahead; after a short distance bear slightly right, and without leaving this street, continue a few more metres to reach the junction with Domínguez Afonso Street. Turn left and continue down to the junction with the Avenida de la Constitución. Continue driving down this avenue which 200 m further on becomes La Mejora Street. After some 250 m you arrive at a junction. Turn left here and join the TF-51; a 400 m drive uphill will take you to the junction towards Vilaflor-El Teide which previously we had passed on the left-hand side. When you reach the said turn-off, turn left and continue along the TF-51 towards Vilaflor. Now your trip continues as far as the Ifonche junction. Keep on up along the TF-51 for 6 km until you come across a sign indicating the turn-off to Ifonche on the left-hand side. Turn off left and join the La Escalona-Ifonche road, the TF-567. Drive straight ahead for 3 km and you are in Ifonche. You will see a restaurant called "El Dornajo". You can either park the car nearby or turn right and drive a short distance and park there before continuing your visit on foot. Now it is time to stretch your legs in the village.

ITINERARY

From the Hamlet of Las Casas Altas to the town centre of Vilaflor

Distance: 10.8 km **Approximate driving time:** 14 minutes. **Estimated time of visit:** 20 minutes

To reach the village of Las Casas Altas, you will have to go back to the TF-51. Return to the junction with this road, turn left, (give way to oncoming traffic) and join the main road. You pass through part of the suburb of La Escalona and 750 m after the Ifonche junction, you come across a new junction, this time on the right-hand side, leading towards Jama-San Miguel. Turn right and join the road from El Roque-La Escalona (via Jama), the TF-565. Descend this road for some 2.7 km. After passing the 4 km marker on the TF-565, on the right-hand side you will see a turn-off. Pay special attention at this point because this turn-off is not signposted. Turn right and park your vehicle just in the entry to a dirt road. You have to walk downhill approximately 650 m to reach your destination. Take care as you walk downhill as the path leading to the village is beaten earth and very steep.

From Vilaflor town centre to the Viewpoint of San Roque

Distance: 1.16 km **Approximate driving time:** 3 minutes. **Estimated time of visit:** 10 minutes

To get to the Vilaflor town centre you will have to get back on the TF-51. Take the road back to the junction with the TF-565. Turn where you parked the car, turn left and drive back along the road, this time uphill. It is 2.7 km to the junction. Turning right you are back on the TF-51. Follow this road for 6.5 km. This distance will take you to the outskirts of Vilaflor. First of all you arrive at a junction with the TF-21. Turn left, join the main road and travel a short distance. At the first junction that you come to you will have to turn right, namely into Santa Catalina Street. Continue straight along this street which after a short distance changes its name to Avenida Hermano Pedro. After another 100 m, this avenue changes name again to Dolores Street. Carry on straight ahead to the junction with Castaños Street where you branch left. Keep on along this street as far as the rear of the square and parish church of San Pedro. You can park somewhere round the church. Your visit continues on foot.

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STARTING POINT

ARONA AND VILAFLOR

The suggested route crosses part of the municipalities of Arona and Vilaflor de Chasna and offers the opportunity of getting to see some beautiful spots in the middle slopes area and the peaks of the southern part of Tenerife.

Arona and Vilaflor are two towns that share geographical areas of great beauty, filled with contrasting landscapes where farmsteads, villages and "caminos reales" ("Royal highways", an old network of bridle-paths financed by the Crown), together with ancient rocks, mountains and ravines. Here, the green of the pine forest mingles with almond trees, vines and other fruit trees.

The old farmsteads, the threshing yards, the ovens, the terraced plots on the mountainsides, etc., demonstrate once again the significance and influence that farming has had in the area and reflect the traditional peasant way of life.

On the visit you will also become familiar with urban areas steeped in tradition and history. You will stroll through their streets, enjoy the peacefulness of their squares and admire their most notable buildings, both civil and religious.

This route brings you closer to the past and present of two towns characterised by farming, whose development owes everything to this activity and which continues to play an essential role even today. On the route you will discover natural open spaces of great beauty that coexist side by side with plots and cultivated areas that have permitted the creation of a unique countryside where you will be able to learn something of the traditions and customs of this delightful spot in southern Tenerife.

Arona

UTM Coordinates:

28.099647, -16.680917

Geographic Coordinates:

28° 5'58.73"N, 16°40'51.30"W

Vilaflor de Chasna

UTM Coordinates:

28.159894, -16.63695

Geographic Coordinates:

28° 9'35.62"N, 16°38'13.02"W

Further information:

www.arona.org

www.vilaflordechasna.es

STOPPING POINTS

HISTORICAL CENTRE OF ARONA

The first stop on the route takes you to discover the lovely old town of Arona. You will have the opportunity of strolling through its streets, enjoying the tranquillity of its gardens and squares and admiring its buildings, faithful examples of the traditional Canarian architecture of the southern middle slopes of Tenerife.

The heart of the historical centre has been declared a Site of Cultural Interest and is bounded by Duque de la Torre and Domínguez Afonso Streets. Worthy of note are the Plaza del Cristo de La Salud, whose environs contain the most distinctive buildings such as the chapel of San Antonio, from the XVIIIth century (reconstructed in the XIXth) and the Arona Town Hall, situated along one side. Close to the town centre you will find part of the "Royal highways" such as the one that connected Arona and Vilaflor, which still retain stone-paved sections, and remains of former country buildings such as farmsteads, terraces, ovens and so on, a reflection of the traditional rural way of life in the area. Equally there still exist exceptional examples of traditional Canarian dwellings of different types from the most humble to large country mansions such as that of the Tavío family. Outside of the town centre, located in the upper area you will find one of the oldest suburbs of Arona, the village of Altavista. From there, in addition to viewing ancient traditional houses, you can enjoy panoramic vistas of the municipality and of the San Lorenzo Valley.

During this visit the Casa de La Bodega, which has recently been restored, is an essential stop. It is an old building, a symbol of the past and an example of the traditional noble style architecture which is quite typical in the rural areas of the south of Tenerife.

Casa la Bodega:

The house, known locally "Casa la Bodega de los Tavío" (House of the Tavío family bodega), belonged to one of the big landowners in Arona, José Sierra Pérez before being purchased by Mr José Tavío Sierra in the early 20th century. Only the original frontage remains of the original structure, in which the winepress and wine cellar were on the ground floor. The building is classified as having the architectural style of a traditional noble Arona townhouse, which were predominantly two storeys high and would have belonged to well-off farmers or to landowning families.

Recently restored, the house contains an interesting exposition of Arona's cultural heritage. The use of new technologies, such as virtual reality, video recreations, aerial filming or an immersive kiosk offer a chance to get to know the municipality's ethnographic, historical and natural characteristics. Undoubtedly the building's beauty as well as the exhibits inside mean that the Casa de la Bodega is an essential stop on the route.



Location:

Main road La Camella-Vilaflor, TF-51,
km 4

UTM Coordinates:

28.099647, -16.680917

Geographic Coordinates:

28° 5'58.73"N, 16°40'51.30"W

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STOPPING POINTS

IFONCHE

Ifonche is a Protected Natural Area of unusual beauty, situated between the municipalities of Adeje and Vilaflor de Chasna. In it you will discover a rural countryside of farmsteads and crops grown on terraces, set in a green landscape and bounded by ravines, pine-covered hills and imposing rock formations such as Imoque, Los Brezos, etc.

On this visit you will get to know some aspects of the traditional farming life of the area. In this area old farmsteads, threshing yards and terraces long abandoned coexist with fields still in use, where the most common crops are potatoes and vines.



Location:

Main road from El Bailadero to Benijo (by way of Taganana), TF-134. Taganana.

UTM Coordinates:

28.560489, - 16.217022

Geographic Coordinates:

28°33'37.76"N, 16°13'1.28"W

STOPPING POINTS

HAMLET OF LAS CASAS ALTAS

The hamlet of Las Casas Altas, situated in Jama, between the municipalities of Arona and Vilaflor, is an excellent example of the typical Canarian architecture peculiar to the middle slopes of the south of Tenerife. Declared a Site of Cultural Interest, it allows you to experience a beautiful spot where the main feature is the numerous buildings which formed part of the peasant way of life.

It is situated on a ridge at 700 m above sea-level, giving the impression of being suspended in mid-air between ravines. It is made up of eight buildings that were once old farm dwellings. In the farmstead you will discover traditional country buildings such as barns, tool sheds, ovens for baking bread and drying figs, etc., that give you the chance of learning how the small farmers and their families who inhabited it once lived. The buildings are made of blocks of red tuff with masonry walls constructed of blocks of basalt and volcanic tuff. The roofs are tiled with 1, 2 and 4 pitches. In the farmstead what attracts attention is a complex system of drains made of hewn stone that leads the water to two cisterns. Another point of interest is that an old "Royal highway" passes through it which in former times joined Vilaflor and the north area of the Island with the south.

The place itself allows you to take in astounding views and discover a beautiful spot, where time seems to have stood still.

Access to the hamlet is on foot along a steeply-sloping dirt track so that comfortable, sturdy footwear and clothing are recommended.



Location:

Main road La Escalona-Ifonche, TF-567, km 3

UTM Coordinates:

28.119753, -16.672364

Geographic Coordinates:

28° 7'11.11"N, 16°40'20.51"W

STOPPING POINTS

VILAFLOR

Vilaflor de Chasna is the municipality in Spain which is located at the greatest height above sea-level and is surrounded by green forest, among mountains and ravines. Its streets and squares preserve the charm of bygone times. During the visit you will discover lovely natural areas and spectacular views, such as that offered by the almond trees in blossom in the winter months of January and February, see valuable examples of civil and religious architecture, many of them from the XVIth and XVIIth centuries and enjoy the peacefulness of the pure air of the Tenerife mountain tops.

In pre-Hispanic times Vilaflor belonged to the Menceyato (aboriginal kingdom) of Abona and after the conquest of the Island remained under the influence of the Soler family. This link is reflected in the Soler family house, also known as the House of the Marquis, situated behind the parish church of San Pedro Apóstol. Right next to the church is the Convento del Hermano Pedro (convent), constructed on the site of the birth house of Pedro de San José de Betancourt. Many of the buildings still standing in its historical centre reflect an important artistic and architectural heritage, the reflection of an important economic past that is combined with country areas, dominated by small peasant dwellings, terraces and plots, some of them still cultivated to this day. Apart from this, from the XVIth century onwards, Vilaflor was notable as a destination for numerous travellers who came to this area in search of its tranquillity and climate; among these illustrious travellers, the most notable were the botanist Philip Barker Webb and the French naturalist, Sabine Berthelot.

Furthermore, another of Vilaflor's outstanding features is its wealth of water resources which facilitated the development of the village and of its main economic activity, namely farming. Water was, in addition, the cause of dispute between the great noble families such as the Solers, at loggerheads with the residents over the use and administration of the land.

Vilaflor is also one of the principal entry points to the Teide National Park, so that it is particularly interesting to visit the interpretation centre sited near the town centre where the most important features of the Teide National Park are explained with emphasis on its wealth of wildlife.



Historical town centre of Vilaflor:

Location:

Main road La Camella-Vilaflor, TF-51,
km 17

UTM Coordinates:

28.159894, - 16.63695

Geographic Coordinates:

28° 9'35.62"N, 16°38'13.02"W

Interpretation Centre:

Location:

Camino de San Roque, 7

UTM Coordinates:

28.159894, -16.639283

Geographic Coordinates:

28° 9'33.91"N, 16°38'21.42"W

Further information:

www.vilaflordechasna.es

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STOPPING POINTS

THE SAN ROQUE VIEWPOINT

The San Roque Viewpoint is located on a hill close to the town centre of Vilaflor. From it you see panoramic vistas of the historical centre and of all the valley where the town lies.

At the viewpoint you will find the small chapel of San Roque, built at the beginning of the XVIIth century and which gives its name to the viewpoint. The construction features floors made of Chasna stone slabs, a ceiling in Mudéjar style under a two-pitched roof, masonry walls and a door in a semi-circular archway.



Location:

Camino San Roque

UTM Coordinates:

28.158708, -16.638731

Geographic Coordinates:

28° 9'31.35"N, 16°38'19.43"W

OTHER POINTS OF INTEREST

HAMLET OF LA FUENTE

Situated in San Lorenzo Valley, in the municipality of Arona, the hamlet of La Fuente offers the chance to discover how small farmers lived in this area of the south of the Island. Its streets and houses preserve the charm of country life and allow one to discover the most significant features of traditional architecture of this area in the middle slopes.

Location:

Carretera General del Sur (Main road to the South), TF-28. Camino de La Fuente. Valle San Lorenzo.

UTM Coordinates:

28.093339, -16.648872

Geographic Coordinates:

28° 5'36.02" N, 16°38'55.94"W

ROQUE DEL CONDE (ROCK FORMATION)

The Roque del Conde belongs to the municipality of Adeje and is an important geological structure, well-known as a prominent beauty spot and dating from the earliest geological formation of the Island. Its highest point is in fact a platform, used in former times for growing cereals.

To visit it, we recommend a path which sets off from the historical centre of Arona, crossing the Barrio de Vento (suburb) and crossing the ravines of Las Casas, El Ancón and El Rey, the last of these being the boundary between the municipalities of Arona and Adeje. The path to the Roque del Conde is in fact only a short distance but of medium difficulty as there is a steeply sloping section in the final climb to the top. Part of the path is formed by an ancient farm track used to reach the fields cultivated on the slopes and level areas of the rock and which today still preserves, in some sections, the original stone paving. Both on the slopes and at the base of the rock there remain examples of this farming activity, where terraces, threshing yards and a farmstead can be seen.

Location:

(Starting point of the path) Plaza del Cristo de La Salud, Arona.

UTM Coordinates:

26.108533, - 16.695169

Geographic Coordinates:

28° 6'30.72"N, 16°41'42.61"W

Further information:

[www.todotenerife.es/
imagenes_noticias/
mapaSenderos_ESP.pdf](http://www.todotenerife.es/imagenes_noticias/mapaSenderos_ESP.pdf)

Information on the path to the Roque del Conde:

Distance: 7 km

Walking time: 6 hours

Difficulty: Medium

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OTHER POINTS OF INTEREST

NATURAL SITE OF PINO GORDO

The Pino Gordo Nature Site is located in the area above the municipality of Vilaflor, namely on the route up to the Teide National Park, at around 1,500 m. above sea-level.

It is right in the Corona Forestal Natural Park in a green setting, surrounded by pine forest. The so-called "Pino Gordo" ("big pine") is a specimen of considerable dimensions, with a circumference of some 8 m and 60 m in height, and is believed to be most ancient pine tree on the Island.

Location:

Carretera Comarcal (regional road)
C-821, km 67

UTM Coordinates:

28.165044, -16.636033

Geographic Coordinates:

28° 9'54.16"N, 16°38'9.72"W

ROAD ALTAVISTA (Sendero Altavista)

The Altavista path has its starting and ending point in the Plaza del Cristo de la Salud, in the town of Arona. It consists of 3.5 km distance and is of low difficulty. The itinerary begins in the center of the nucleus of Arona, in the Plaza del Cristo de La Salud, in whose vicinity are located the Church of San Antonio Abad and the Town Hall of the town. Its route takes us into the origin of the settlement of Arona, as it connects the current nucleus with the primitive settlement, known as "Casas de Altavista". From this point, the views are unbeatable, as well as the possibility of discovering buildings scattered along the route, examples of traditional Canarian architecture and the characteristic features of the island's past.

Location:

Main road La Camella-Vilaflor, TF-51,
km 4

UTM Coordinates:

28.099647, -16.680917

Geographic Coordinates:

28° 5'58.73"N, 16°40'51.30"W