

# An island that we must preserve together



SELF-GUIDED PATH

## Discovering a hidden cone

### EL PILAR

This route allows you to know the characteristics of the pine forests of the summit, as well as to admire the vegetation changes and the amazing views from a volcanic cone that usually goes unnoticed.

1.5 KM ⇄ Distance

60 - 75 MIN. ⊕ Approximate duration

LOW — Difficulty

There is only a certain slope to overcome in the final ascent to the mountain of La Venta. Start and finish: El Pilar Recreational Area (next to the shelter)



### PLEASE REMEMBER THE FOLLOWING BEFORE STARTING THIS EXPERIENCE

- Use the proper gear, avoiding transit during meteorological alerts.
- Stay in the main trail, and do not lean on rails.
- Respect wildlife.
- Do not leave anything that you bring; The environment does not need it.
- Admire it, but please leave what you find
- Take the other visitors into consideration.



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These texts are only an approximation to the environmental richness of this area. If you wish to receive further information about this or other self-guided paths, as well as about environment education activities, please contact the Environment Service

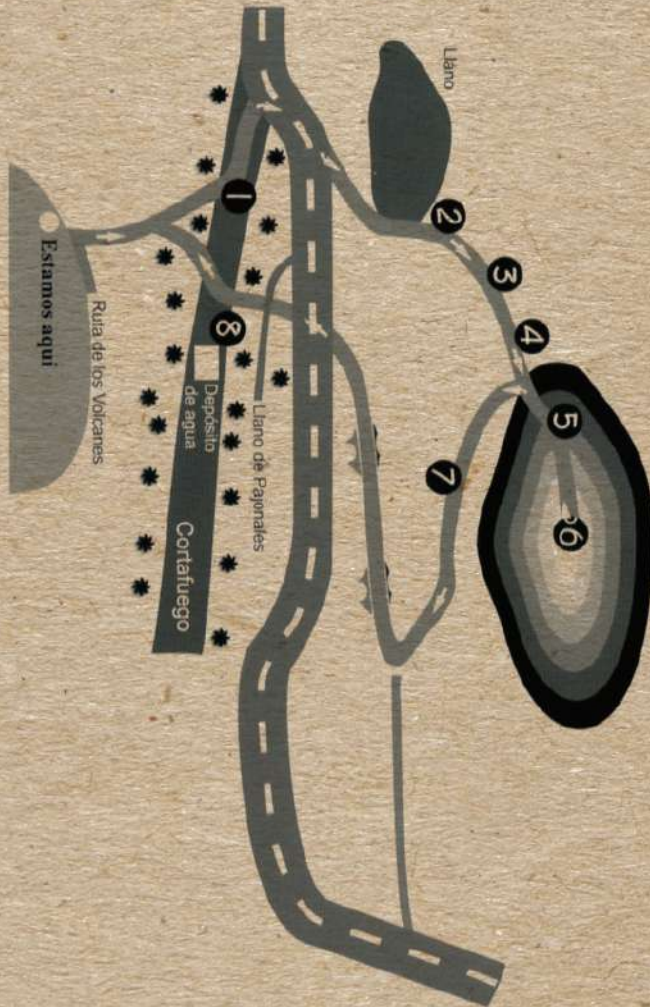
PARQUE NATURAL CUMBRE VIEJA

TELEPHONE CONTACT

☎ Cabildo de La Palma: 922 423 100

OPENING HOURS

8:00 - 14:00 h.



» This path allows you to know the main nature and culture values of the environment of the recreational area and Cumbre Vieja nature park.

» Its difficulty is low and you only need about one hour to walk it.

» The stops are specific marked spots which offer you the possibility to know landmarks of interest.

### 1. A SCAR AGAINST FIRE

This area without vegetation is not natural. It is a barrier which acts as a firewall to prevent a forest fire from occurring from one side to the other. That is why it is on the summit area. It also serves as a support point for the fire brigades' work.

### 2. A PINE FOREST LINKED TO WATER

This summit area is usually surrounded by fog. It is humid and the temperature is cool, even in summer. The trees indicate us where the coolest area is. How? We just need to look at the humidity signs: the moss indicates us the direction from which the wind regularly comes and therefore where the clouds loaded with humidity and the cool temperature come from.

### 3. A SEASONAL TREASURE AT OUR FEET

During autumn and winter, especially after the rainfalls, a small touch of colour appears among the horsetail plants. Yellowish umbrellas, yellowish potatoes... which are mushrooms. This hill is a pleasure for the eyes. You can see the rhizopogon vulgaris, the red pine mushroom and other species at the foot of the trees and among the fallen leaves.

### 4. MORE HUMIDITY, OTHER TREES

We notice that the forest becomes narrower all of a sudden. The branches are closer together and the path looks smaller. We have gone from the pine forest to the fayal-brezal (a formation with myrica faya and tree heaths), with lower, denser and more ramified trees. It is the strong vegetation in this area, adapted to humidity conditions and winds that lash these high areas and make difficult the appearance of more fragile trees that can be found in more sheltered areas. Examples of these are the persea indica, the laurels or the barbusano (canary laurel).

### 5. A REGION FROM A BIRD'S EYE VIEW

From the mountain of La Venta we can see the Eastern region of La Palma from above as if we were flying over it. We can see the cliff of La Concepción that embraces Santa Cruz de La Palma or the foothills of Parque de las Nieves, with the ravines that go down from the exterior side of La Caldera de Taburiente, as for example those of la Madera or Las Nieves. Further South we can see the mountains of the middle region, like the mountain of la Breña or the mountain of la Tosca. And in the coast we can see the beach of los Cancajos and the airport.

### 6. A DELICATE VOLCANIC CONE

As we observe the landscape, we may have not noticed that we are at the edge of a volcano. There is a crater on the mountain of La Venta, which is colonised by laburnum. The name of the mountain (Venta = Sale) comes from a nearby establishment were passersby from las Breñas and Aridane used to take a break and have a snack.



### 7. REHIELO, A NAME TELLING YOU TO PUT WARM CLOTHES ON

This plain has a name which speaks about its climatic conditions: the plain of Rehielo (Hielo = Ice). It is not just cold, but really cold, because the sea of clouds places itself between the mountain of La Venta and the mountainside that goes up to El Pilar. The humidity and the cool temperature that the clouds that come from the ocean bring, make this plain the most ice-cold place of the area.

### 8. WATER ON WHEELS

Water is an especially scarce asset in the islands, although La Palma has a good provision of it, in comparison with other islands. But it is not always available where it is going to be used. This deposit is proof of this. It has a double function: It provides water to the recreational area and it can be used in case of forest fire. The water comes from the Fuente Guaydil, which is located several kilometres away, and it is brought by truck. Another reason not to waste it in the recreational area. The recent volcanic cone of Cumbre Vieja does not have an aquifer for this reason.

