



SELF-GUIDED PATH

# Cubo de la Galga

## PUNTALLANA

This trail goes through one of the most frail and valuable places of nature in La Palma. It is a route that allows us to admire one of the best examples of the Laurisilva of the Canary Islands. The stops are specific marked spots which offer you the possibility to know landmarks of interest.

The trail has the following characteristics:

- 4 KM ⇄ Round trip
- 120 MIN. ☉ Approximately
- LOW — Difficulty



# An island that we must preserve together

### 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.



Unión Europea  
Fondo Europeo Agrícola de Desarrollo Rural  
*Europa invierte en las zonas rurales*



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

**LAS NIEVES NATURAL PARK**

☎ Cabildo de La Palma: 922 423 100

📍 PIA de La Galga: 922 412 954

☎ Centro de visitantes de Los Tilos: 922 451 246

**OPENING HOURS**

Environment information point of La Galga  
9:00-16:00 h.





This path allows you to know the main natural and cultural values of the environment of the recreational area. 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 SCANT WOOD



At the beginning of the trail we have a scant green area. Fruit trees coexist with myrica faya and tree heaths, which tells us that we are not in a pure laurel forest. We can also see blackberries, a species that informs us here of the human presence.

## 2. THE BARBUSANO OF EL CUBO



The scaly cortex of this gigantic tree tells us that it is a barbusano. It is a magnificent example that is 25-metres high. It is on a border area of the forest, which is a characteristic of the species. Barbusanos are not very common, since its reddish wood has been highly valued, especially by woodworkers to make furniture; In fact, in the past it was called "Ebony of the Canary Islands".

## 3. THE GREEN CLEARING OF THE MARMOLÁN



A series of small trees, with intense green leaves, at the right margin of the gully when ascending look for the light in this clearer area. It is the marmolán, a tree which we usually find in the lower limit of the laurel forest. Its popular name comes from the hardness of its wood, probably from comparing it to marble (mármol).

## 4. THE THOUSAND CHILDREN OF THE VIÑATIGO



This tree at the side of the path, looks surrounded or protected by lots of branches that come from its base. These are its children, known as suckers. It is a characteristic of the viñatigo (*persea indica*) an endemic species typical of the laurel forest. Even if the central trunk dies, its base is a big stump which gives rise to a large number of suckers that keep the tree alive.

## 5. WALKING UNDER WATER



El Cubo de la Galga has a landscape which is notable for the presence of water, and as we go deeper into the ravine, we will notice more humidity as the green canopy closes. We will go under a water canal that transports this valuable resource for its use in agriculture and for public supply, a responsible use of which is essential for the preservation of this landscape.

## 6. A ROCKY BALANCE



The ravines originate from erosive processes throughout time. This rock in delicate balance reminds us of this. Ravines such as the one in Cubo de la Galga, narrow as canyons, indicate that we are in a young island, in which erosion is still shaping the landscape. That is why this rock will eventually lose its balance one day and will end up at the bottom of the ravine. (Even though we may have to wait hundreds of years).

## 7. A SOUNDING BIFURCATION



The intersection of the path invite us to a moment of silence. The sound of the water competes against bird singings. We can easily hear the harsh calls of the endemic pigeons of the Canary Islands, that sound based on our U vocal. If we stand still in silence, we can even see pigeons flying over the trees.

## 8. "LA FAJANA" OF THE TILES



The splendour of the laurel forest of the valley with til (*Ocotea foetens*) is present in this final part of the path before returning. The vegetal canopy at a great height keeps us in the constant gloom and humidity. The light is hardly able to reach the ground. The tiles (*Ocotea foetens*) are the absolute protagonists in this place, with their long trunks of green and hard wood. This species only appear in those places ideal for the laurel forests, which indicates the privileged place that we are in.

## 9. THE OLD FOLIAGES OF THE FERNS



The shadiness of the tiles practically impedes the appearance of bushes under their majestic tops. It is the favourite environment of the ferns, which take shelter in the walls, showing the sinuous, green and fresh forms of their leaves or foliage. The ferns form true vegetal fabrics that suggest a time travel, which should not come as a surprise, since they are true survivors from remote times in the history of our planet.

## 10. THROUGH THE BOTTOM OF THE RAVINE



We go through the bottom of the ravine, where the rounded form of the rocks reminds us that water is digging this deep canyon. Intense streams have historically dragged materials down from the higher area of the basin in the top with less vegetation, which explains the characteristics of the bottom of the ravine.

## 11. HOLES WITH LIFE



The wall of the ravine appears in front of us, where we can see some caves. Without a doubt, these are the refuge of birds that make their nest inside these holes, giving life to them. In addition to the pigeons and other forest birds such as the Eurasian woodcock or the finch, other birds live in El Cubo, like for instance birds of prey such as the long-eared owl.

## 12. A LEAFY CANYON



This colossal wall makes us look smaller in the middle of the path and shows us another treasure of el Cubo: the vegetation of the humid walls, known as rupicolous. Ferns with hanging leaves, verodes (*Kleinia neriifolia*) with the shape of green cakes fixed to the rock or sow thistles with their wavy leaves create a true natural hanging garden.

## 13. AERIAL WOOD



The wonderful laurel forest of el Cubo de La Galga shows us the regenerative ability of nature. In this lower area of the ravine there were forest exploitations, in times in which the forest was the fuel, fertilizer and complement of the cattle industry. The cable that goes through the ravine tells us that the trees of these hillsides were cut down. Now, the exploitations are residual and the forest recovers its natural state.

