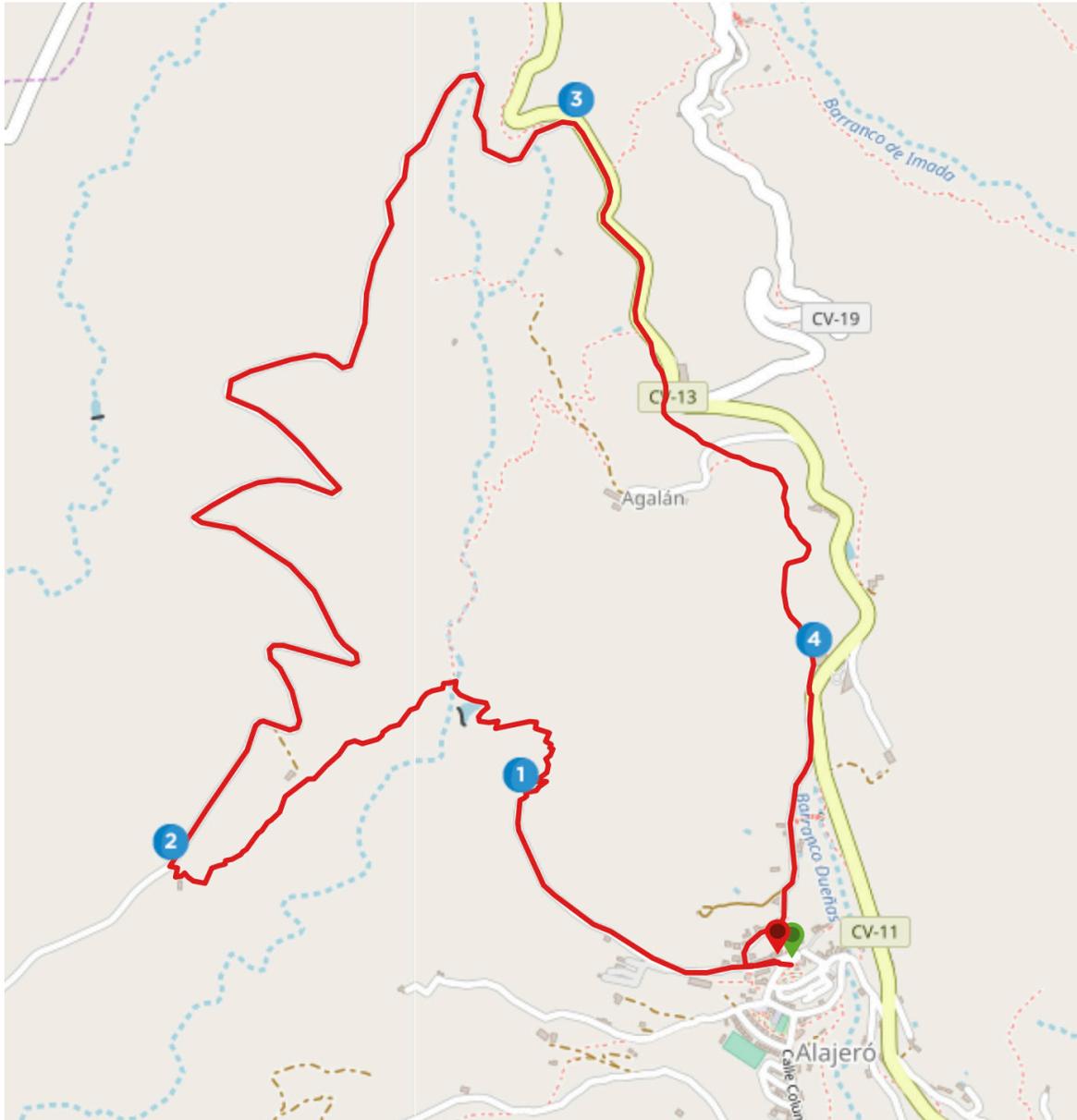


# Alajero Circuit

Distance - 5¼ miles (8½ km) Fall: Almost 1,200ft (366m)



 - Walk

Disclaimer: This route was correct at time of writing. However, alterations can happen if development or boundary changes occur, and there is no guarantee of permanent access. These walks have been published for use by site visitors on the understanding that neither HPB Management Limited nor any other person connected with Holiday Property Bond is responsible for the safety or wellbeing of those following the routes as described. It is walkers' own responsibility to be adequately prepared and equipped for the level of walk and the weather conditions and to assess the safety and accessibility of the walk.

# Alajero Circuit

**Distance** - 5¼ miles (8½ km) **Fall:** Almost 1,200ft (366m)

Walk 5

For obvious topographical reasons opportunities for circular walks on La Gomera are very limited.

This circuit is based on the attractive village of Alajero, a comparatively short ride up the road from El Balcon de Santa Ana. The route uses a variety of roads and footpaths. The path crossing the Barranco Charco is steep but safe on each side. The long ascent on the very minor road leading from Magana up to the main road is arduous but the road is traffic-free. There is a short section by the side of the main Alajero road.

## Start:

Parking area in front of Town Hall (Ayuntamiento) in Alajero. From El Balcon de Santa Ana drive up the main road, turning left at the 'Alajero' sign to reach the village centre. Follow the village street, bearing right after passing the school. Or take the Alajero and Imada bus from either Playa de Santiago or the stop by the Las Trincheras junction. The bus stop at the middle of the three roads which lead from the by-pass into the village centre is the nearest to the start of the walk at the Town Hall.

## Refreshments:

Two bars in Alajero, plus Meson de Clemente and a cafe opposite.

**Note:** It would be a great help to future walkers if you could record any inaccuracies you come across during this walk and report them to reception so that appropriate amendments can be made.

*Thank you for your help and happy walking.*

## WALK

Head for the front of the Town Hall. Pass to the left of the building, above the church. Head across the church plaza, towards the cemetery. Fifty yards before the cemetery turn right, up concrete steps, with a little reservoir on the right. Join a tarmac road, bearing left to continue above the cemetery. The wide views include the Calvario Hill (walk 4), the sea and, above right, Montana Castilla above former cultivation terraced. The tarmac road goes all the way along, ending at a turning circle on the lip of the Barranco Charco.

1. A rough stony path now weaves its way steeply down the side of the barranco, through natural rock gardens rich in prickly pear and other cacti, as it heads for the tiny reservoir in the bottom. From the top of this path the houses of Magana are in view across the barranco, whilst to the right Casa Agalan can also be seen. On reaching the reservoir, follow the Red signposted route, left, rising along the valley edge. At a junction below the derelict houses of Magana, turn right to walk along a narrow track, behind the first house, turning left onto a wider track to reach a tarmac road in about 100 yards.
2. Turn right, for the long uphill slog as the road climbs the hillside in a series of zig zags, rather monotonous but relieved by the long views. At appropriate points there are views of the Agalan houses; the famous Dragon tree (walk 7) may also be seen in the valley bottom. Eventually the road straightens somewhat before bearing right to join the main road.
3. Turn right at the main road to walk by the roadside, close to the impressive Roque de Imada, one of the characteristic volcanic 'plugs'. In a short distance reach a roadside mirador above a large water tank, 200 yards before the Imada

road junction. Fork right here, taking the left of two paths, signposted Alajero (the other a 0.9km detour to El Draco). Follow a descending path, initially paved between walls, soon passing beside palm trees and staying more or less parallel with the main road. This is probably an old mule trail, with the rough stone surface typical of such trails. Reach the little tarmac road which serves the Agalan houses and go straight across, down a steep bank, to continue along the mule trail. The route crosses a few yards of bare rock, rising slightly, with a stone wall on the left.

4. Pass an industrial building and rejoin the road in 60 yards, right on the junction with the most northerly of the three roads which connect Alajero with its by-pass. Turn right to follow this road back to the village centre, passing a mirador, with seats, on the left. At a road junction turn left to descend directly to the car park. The Venezuela bar is very conveniently placed!

**Updated July 2018**