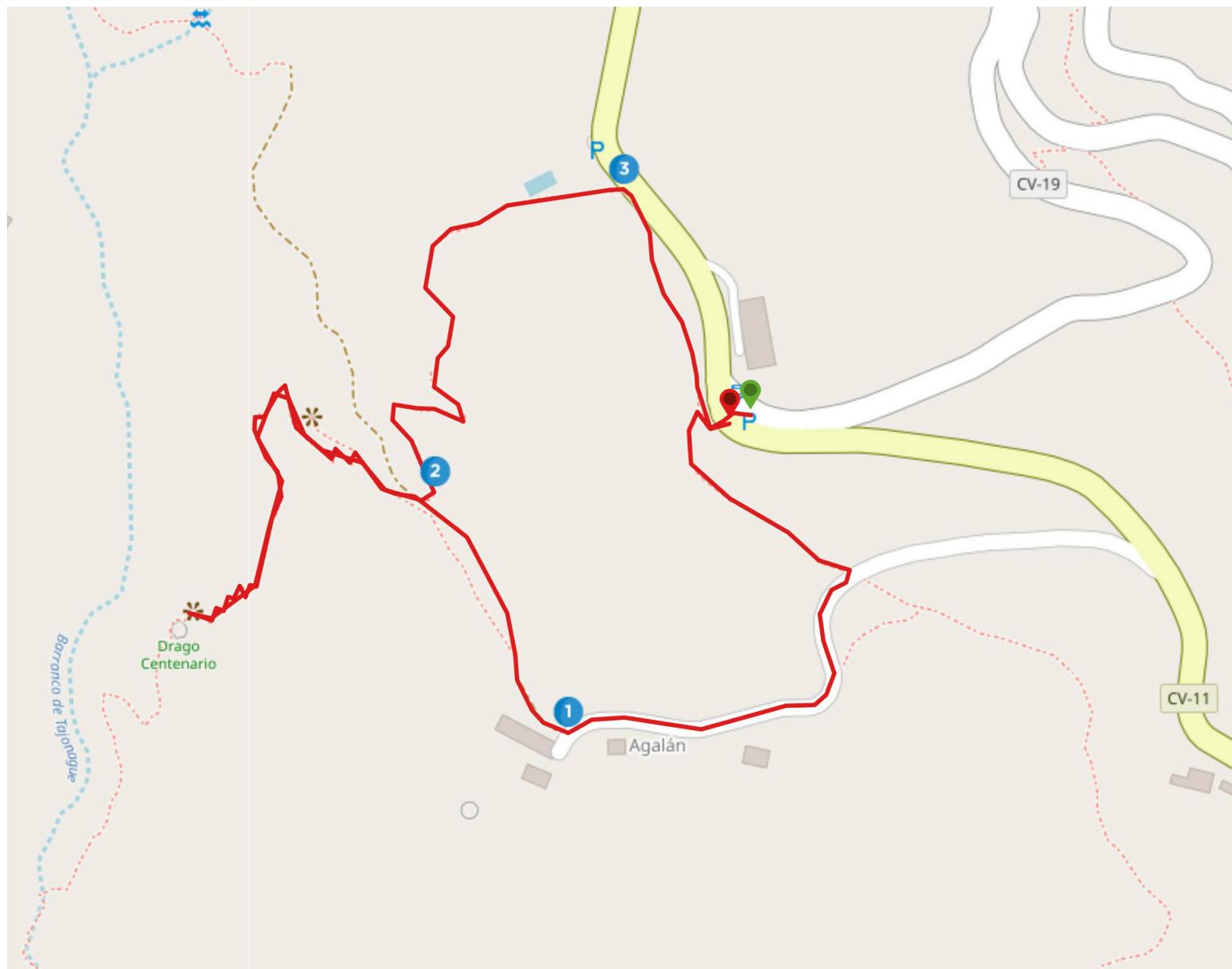


The Dragon Tree

Distance - 1½ miles (2½ km) Fall: 400ft (122m)

Walk 7



— - 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.

The Dragon Tree

Distance - 1½ miles (2½ km) **Fall:** 400ft (122m)

Walk 7

The Dragon tree (*Dracaena draco*) is a very rare tree indeed, the only mature specimen on the island, reputedly more than 400 yards old. There are said to be other Dragon trees cultivated in gardens, possible in the wild on other Canary Islands, in the mountains of Morocco and a few small trees on Madeira, but nowhere is there a Dragon tree to rival this one.

This mainly circular little walk includes both old and new routes - a former mule trail and a more recently engineered path which is obviously based on the format of the mule trail. Although this is a very short walk, as the tree is situated close to the bottom of a barranco there is a fair amount of rise and fall involved. Fortunately for the less energetic, there is a viewpoint part way down from which the tree can be clearly seen.

Start:

Several spaces on the right at the junction of the main road with the little road signposted to Imada. From El Balcon de Santa Ana this junction is about 20 minutes by car along the main road, by-passing Alajero, or take the bus from Playa de Santiago or the stop by the Las Trincheras junction. Alight at the Imada road junction.

Refreshments:

Cafe and bar on the Alajero by-pass road

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

Cross the main road to the small mirador and go down a flight of steps to join an old mule trail. Turn left to go downhill, passing several palm trees. Reach a narrow, surfaced road, turning right towards the Casas Agalan, a few scattered houses.

1. By the last house on the right turn right, along a narrow path behind the house, signposted 'Camino de El Drago'. After passing the house join a broad earth track leading to a narrow path where the track has been close and emerging at a junction with an engineered path. Turn along this comparatively new path to another junction in less than 100 yards. This is the point of decision - either go a few yards to the right for the viewpoint or turn left to continue the descent on the engineered path, winding down the hillside to the Dragon tree.

2. Return from the tree to the last junction. Turn right for less than 100 yards to the first junction, bearing left here to stay with the 'new' path, though it is now heavily overgrown for some stretches, as it twists and turns, rising steadily with some steps through lovely natural rock gardens, rich in cacti and rock roses to join the main road by a large water tank.

3. Continue right, then immediately right again to descend along another section of the old mule trail, back to the start point at the foot of the flight of steps. Turn left, up the steps, to the main road and the parking area/bus stop.

Updated September 2014