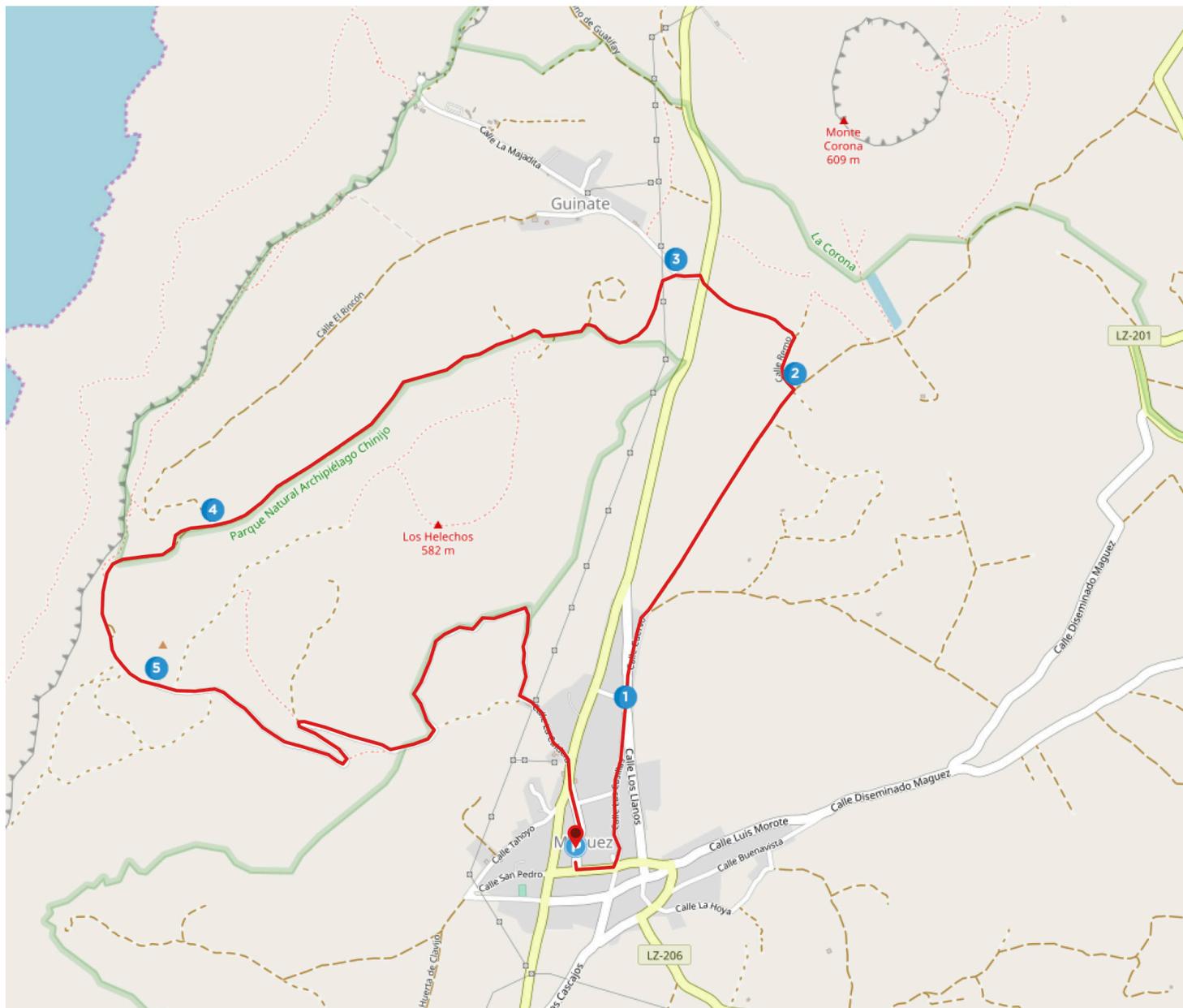


# Maguez and Los Helechos

Distance - 9½ km (6 miles) Ascent: 300m (985ft)



 - Walk

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# Maguez and Los Helechos

Walk 8

Distance - 9½ km (6 miles) Ascent: 300m (985ft)

A fine circuit based on the large village of Maguez, using dirt roads and tarmac, very good underfoot. Splendid views of the mountains and of the sea on both sides of the island, including Famara and Isla Graciosa. The route circumnavigates the Helechos mountain (656m - 1854ft). This can be quite a hard walk if the wind is blowing strongly over the Famara cliffs.

Maguez is a rather workaday village of no particular distinction.

## Start/car parking:

Roadside spaces on the minor road on the west side of the church in Maguez. Maguez can be reached by bus from Arrecife.

## Refreshments:

None en route. Cafes/bars in Haria, a short distance to the south.

**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. *Happy walking.*

## WALK

Walk to the bottom of the little street beside the church. Turn left, heading east. At a junction in 100m turn left, uphill, to head north along a village street, almost parallel with the main road to the left. Near the top of this long street a road joins from the right.

1. Leave the built-up area, forking right along a dirt road, now more level, heading for the huge bulk of Montana Corona, at 611m (2005ft) the highest former volcano on the island. Beside the roadway are cultivated plots and plenty of prickly pears. Ignore a track on the right, continuing towards the foot of the mountain.

2. As the roadway bends to the right in almost one mile, and before reaching a pair of prominent water tanks, turn left to follow a similar dirt road, rising steadily. At a junction stay with the main track, bearing left to pass above a solitary house before reaching the main road.

3. Cross the road to take a road signposted to 'Guinate Tropical Park'. In 100m turn left to start a long ascent along a dirt road rising across the flanks of Los Helechos. To the east are long views over the sea. The track heads for a little pass, an obvious gap on the skyline ahead. Through the gap the views are into the Guinate valley and across the sea to Isla Graciosa on the west side of the island. *There is a short optional diversion to a viewpoint on the right.* Continue to rise

gently towards a small white building; there are picon covered fields in the valley, abundant prickly pears and cultivation terraces climbing up the valley head.

4. Close to the white building is a junction. Go straight ahead, passing two small pits on the left. The roadway bears to the left, still rising. Pass a wonderful viewpoint. *A track to the right provides another possible diversion.* As the roadway bears to the left, inland, pass a meteorological station on the left; in the distance to the right are the buildings of the restricted military area on the highest part of the island. *Fifty metres after the meteorological station a path on the left is a possible diversion to the summit of Los Helechos.* The roadway becomes hard surfaced as the long descent begins, with the huge crater of Los Helechos visible to the left. There are wide-sweeping zig zags and yet another possible diversion as the path to the left gives the opportunity for viewing the crater at close quarters. Continue the descent; Haria comes into view before an outlying terrace of houses is passed.

5. Join the main road, bearing right, downhill. In 70m fork left, passing the (very) part time post office before reaching the parking place in less than 300m.