

FINCA DE LOS PEDREGALES HAS CHANGED WITH THE TIMES

ROUTE 2 THE RECREATIONAL AREA

When Domingo Romero strolls amongst these terraces, the echoes of the time he spent working on the farm estate as a *medianero* (tenant farmer), in exchange for half of the harvest, still resonate. Back then, in the mid-twentieth century, the crops were mainly wheat and potatoes, but other cereals, vegetables, pulses and fruit were also grown.

The entire valley of El Palmar was farmed in those days. Because of this, the woodland was much sparser than it is today.

The wood was also an essential raw material for building, cooking and making tools.

In the 1970s, the estate ceased to be an active farm and, little by little, the abandoned farmland has been reclaimed by plants, not only by native plants but, above all, by others better adapted to a soil that had been transformed by centuries of cultivation. When the farm became public property, some fruit trees, in particular native Canarian trees, were planted, including sabinas (*Juniperus turbinata*

ssp. *canariensis*), palm trees, viñátigos (*Persea indica*) and almácigos (*Pistacia atlántica*).

Today Los Pedregales offers you the perfect opportunity to enjoy this natural setting. Explore the farm in the company of Domingo, where the terrace walls and the cobbled paths still remind us of a recent but profoundly different past.



5 These *tabaibas* (*Euphorbia lamarkii*) have made the abandoned fields their own, growing so much that they look like trees, if someone had told me that I would see them growing in the terraces that used to produce our food, I would not have believed them!

But there are things that have not changed with time: the terrace walls and those large stones scattered all over the farm. If we didn't spot them in time, they would break our ploughs. They are the reason this place is called Los Pedregales ('stony ground').



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3 Although it's called El Palmar valley, when I was young there were hardly any palm trees, but it is thought that before the town and the farmland developed, there must have been a palm grove here. In my youth the most common trees were fruit trees, because we had to grow plants that were of use to us. Many almond trees can still be seen. At the end of summer, we would beat them with sticks so that even the highest almonds in the tree would fall to the ground.

4 When I worked here, I never sat on these benches that are scattered all over the farm. One of the owners had them built so he could sit and admire the views when he came here in the summer. We didn't have time for that, in fact they got in our way when we were ploughing the land. But right now I think I'll make use of one of them and sit down a while to rest! From here onwards the path is steeper and stonier.



Teno Alto



1 I'd like to show you some places on this estate, where I was one of the last tenant farmers. Below are the houses where I was born. Near them were the best plots, but we also had to farm the upper slopes. Here I worked on many jobs from when I was a child, ploughing, mowing, carrying manure up the slopes, and the harvest, grass and firewood back down.

Today I can see how everything has changed but the traces of our past lives are still preserved in Los Pedregales.



2 From here we can see a good part of the El Palmar valley. They say it was formed by a huge landslide millions of years ago. That is why it is so wide and good for planting, compared to the surrounding ravines.

On all the slopes of the valley you can see the old terraces that were used for planting. We used every last inch to sow our crops and when we harvested them, we had to gather every last grain of wheat, every single potato... Today many terraces are abandoned. For this reason, and because we no longer need the wood, the forest has once again regained its foothold on the slopes.

8 Ah, how many times I have walked this path! The Callejón de Teno path was one of the main thoroughfares in the valley. It was always full of people and donkeys as they came and went from Teno Alto with their wares, driving their herds, and, of course, on their way to the local fiestas. When they opened the road, this path fell silent. But now it has come back to life again thanks to the people who come here to walk, to take photos and to sample our local produce, thus reviving a living history. What changes will the future hold?



El Palmar



7 These terraces are contained by solid walls. I don't remember when they were built, it was centuries ago, but they still stand today. When a section collapsed, the neighbours would come and help us rebuild them.

These walls retained the fertile soil and prevented it from being washed away by the rain. That is how a grove of sabinas is now able to grow here. When I was young, only a few still clung on to the craggy slopes as nearly all of them had been cut down for their wood. Now they are being replanted to save them from disappearing.

WALK SUMMARY:

Adapted section

Approximate length: 60 metres
Elevation gain: 4 metres
Estimated time with stops: 15 minutes
Characteristics: Wide cemented surface.

Complete walk (including adapted section)

Approximate length: 700 metres
Elevation gain: 60 metres; Elevation loss: 60 metres
Estimated time with stops: 30 minutes
Characteristics: Uneven surface and some steps.

CONNECTION SELF-GUIDED Itineraries

Self-guided itineraries

Adapted section

Connection
(Callejón de Teno)

Recreational area
(RUTA 2)

Rural Park
Administration Office
(ROUTE 1)

Casas de
Los Pedregales

El Palmar