

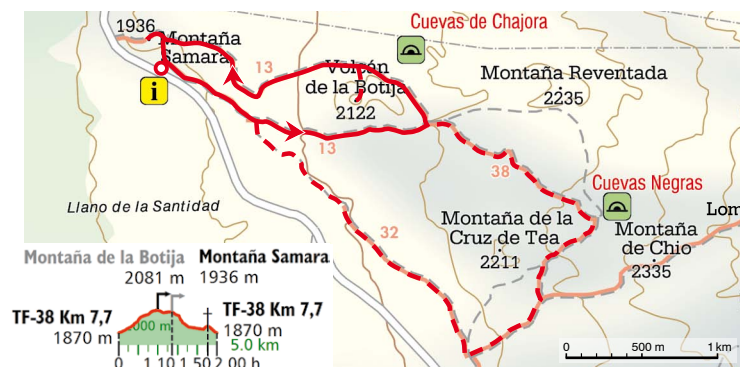
18 Montaña de la Botija, 2122m, and Montaña Samara, 1936m

2.00 hrs



Volcano walk at the foot of Pico Viejo

Montaña de la Botija and Montaña Samara tower up from the expansive lava landscape at the foot of Pico Viejo. This circular walk passes several craters and lava flows.



Starting point: Mirador/car park at km 7.7 on the Cañadas road Chío – Boca Tauce (TF-38), at the southern foot of Montaña Samara.

Height difference: A good 350m.

Grade: Mostly leisurely walk on trails and paths. The rim of the crater of Montaña Samara is narrow in the upper section and precipitous – in stormy weather you should therefore not continue on to the summit. In poor visibility there could be route-finding problems.

Alternative: Extended circular walk via Cuevas Negras (an additional 1¼ hrs): After 10 mins, turn diagonally right onto

trail No 32. Soon cross over a lava flow and, 40 mins later, reach a little pine wood. Here, trail 9 forks off to the left. A good 10 mins later, on a plateau with stone walls, trail No 38 turns left towards Cuevas Negras. 15 mins more, at the hook in the trail, pass the first *tubo* (lava tube) and, subsequently, even more of these. Afterwards, the trail crosses a field of lava and merges with trail No 13 at the Reventada turn-off (see below).

Tip: At km 10 on the TF-38 (at the km signpost) a path turns off to the east leading, 100m further on, to a lava tunnel, about 3m high and 30m long.

From the *mirador*, follow the distinct trail that forks, 30m on, at a signpost – turn right onto trail No 32 which leads eastwards towards Teide. The sandy trail runs fairly parallel to the road and after 5 mins leads left past a rain gauge. 100m on, ignore a path forking off to the left. A few minutes later, at the next fork, bear diagonally left along trail No 13, following the left hand



At the start of the walk – Montaña de la Botija with Pico Viejo and Pico del Teide.

edge of a lava field (trail No 32 turns off diagonally right in the direction of Pico Viejo, →Alternative). The trail ascends through a gully on the right of the black volcanic cone of Montaña de la Botija. Behind you, in the distance, you can see the island of La Gomera, behind this to the left, El Hierro, and further right, with the double hump, La Palma. 15 mins after the last fork, the trail levels out – the massive Pico Viejo now appears and the Pan de Azúcar of Teide is just emerging behind it. The path continues towards these peaks and soon leads along the left hand edge of another vast lava field in a flat valley. Gradually, after a total of a good three quarters of an hour, reach the top of a volcanic sand ridge – to the left and somewhat below, you can see a young, solitary pine tree. Here, the trail turns sharply off to the left in the direction of Montaña de la Botija (the trail straight on to the nearby Montaña Reventada has been closed off due to conservation). The path descends along the edge of a rugged lava flow coming down from Montaña Reventada. After a good 5 mins, keep left on the main path with trail No 13 which now diverges further away from the lava flow on a slight incline and a few minutes later reaches a small col. The summit detour onto **Montaña de la Botija**, 2122m (5 mins) has also been closed off, but you can instead climb up the neighbouring summit and from there enjoy a far-reaching view of western Tenerife. The path now dips slightly, keeping to the left, down across the gritty volcanic flank of Montaña de la Botija. After a quarter of an hour, reach a junction (straight on, after a few metres, meet up with the approach trail) – turn sharp right here with trail No 13 to a small group of rocks. Then the trail, edged with lines of stones, leads for the most part leisurely descending towards Montaña Samara and soon follows a wide right hand bend. After a quarter of an hour, the trail forks just before the volcanic crater. On the left, the return trail turns off to the starting point nearby but before that, you can continue straight on to the crater and ascend directly left across the wind-exposed ridge up to the highest point of **Montaña Samara**, 1936m (just under 10 minutes).