

ATTENTION: New regulations on footpath access to Mount Teide

On Saturday, 30 November, the Cabildo de Tenerife started to implement access controls on the trails that provide footpath access to Teide now that new regulations have come into effect. This is a pioneering measure in Spain that will ensure the safety of people and the conservation of the Teide National Park, which was declared a World Heritage Site by UNESCO in 2007.

Permits are processed on the website TENERIFE ON: <https://www.tenerifeon.es>

NEW REGULATIONS ON FOOTPATH ACCESS TO TEIDE

Ascent conditions. - Visitors must be aware that they will be undertaking a high mountain activity, and therefore, it is mandatory to register online via the TENERIFE ON application. Access to the trails will be subject to an advanced reservation system, with communications being made through the reservation centre in the TENERIFE ON platform. Once the reservation/permit document has been issued, it must be printed on paper or saved on the hiker's mobile device. Hikers must keep it on their persons and show it to the park authorities when requested. Hikers will be asked to show their permits at the checkpoints located at the trailheads.

This permit only allows travel from the starting point to the upper cable car station (La Rambleta) and return on foot. This means that the permit does not include the ascent to the Teide peak or the descent in the cable car.

The routes that will require a permit will be the following:

PNT 07 Trail: Montaña Blanca - La Rambleta.

PNT 09 Trail: Teide - Pico Viejo - Narices del Teide Viewpoint.

PNT Trail 23: Regatones Negros.

PNT 28 Trail: Chafarí.

Required equipment. - Trail users, hikers and mountaineers must have equipment that meets certain minimum requirements for the trail. They will have to show this equipment to checkpoint personnel. Access will be denied to anyone whose equipment does not meet minimum standards.

Required equipment consists of:

- 1.- Mountain footwear.
- 2.- Long pants or leggings suitable for the mountains and a warm jacket

3.- Gloves and hat (especially in winter)

4.- Water or other fluids for rehydration

Likewise, and for the safety of the people engaging in the activity, it is recommended that trail users also bring:

1.- Charged mobile phone

2.- Headlamp or flashlight with spare batteries

3.- Sun protection (hat, sunglasses and sunscreen)

4.- Thermal blanket

5.- Energy-rich foods

6.- Whistle

This mandatory equipment list has been compiled by the Special Mountain Intervention Rescue Group (GREIM) of the Civil Guard and the Consortium for Prevention, Fire Extinguishing, and Rescue of the Island of Tenerife.

Monitoring and surveillance. - Park staff will carry out 24-hour monitoring and surveillance at certain checkpoints. This is to ensure compliance with the regulations and conditions on equipment and required trail access authorisations.

Fines and penalties. - People who fail to comply with the regulations may be fined 600 euros. On top of this amount, there may also be rescue costs incurred by the Canary Islands Government or the Consortium for Prevention, Fire Extinguishing and Rescue of the Island of Tenerife. These costs range between 2,000 and 12,000 euros.

Establishment of a maximum quota by time slots. - A maximum quota of people who can access the mountain will be established. This has been provisionally set at 300 people, divided into three time slots (which means 100 people per slot).

The schedules are as follows:

From 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

From 4:00 p.m. to 12:00 a.m. (midnight)

From 12:00 a.m. (midnight) to 9:00 a.m.

This system may vary depending on results following rollout. Companies and legal guides trained to lead groups in high mountains will have a reserved quota to be able to conduct their activities. Adventure tourism companies will have 20% of the places available.

Ascent limitations and prohibitions. - Weather conditions will be taken into account. When there are no weather alerts, trail users will have to follow the normal conditions for visits. These include having one of the mandatory permits with a time slot, plus the equipment check at the trailhead.

These rules will still apply in official alert situations for Adverse Meteorological Phenomena (PMA) as declared by the Government of the Canary Islands, which use the PEFMA (Pre-alert, Alert and Maximum Alert) system. These alerts would be issued for weather conditions which affect the area of the aforementioned trails in Teide National Park and may be issued due to rain, snow, wind and/or storms.

Under Pre-alert conditions, access to the general public will be prohibited between 4:00 p.m. and 9:00 a.m. while the declaration is in force. This means there will be no nighttime use of the mountain trails. On the other hand, in Alert and Maximum Alert situations, access to the general public will be prohibited and trails will be closed for all time slots while the declaration is in force.

We also wish to highlight that the National Park Management may prohibit access to said paths due to adverse weather conditions, even if an alert has not been issued. This would most likely be due to the presence of ice, snow, wind and frost, or could be the result of any other circumstance that makes it impracticable or impossible to travel the paths leading up to or ascending the Teide peak without minimum safety guarantees. The park management would close the trails for as long as necessary. This decision would extend to not allowing access to those people who previously obtained a permit or authorisation.

Specific signage. - The regulations governing and controlling access to Teide include the strategic placement of signage that explains the rules governing trail use and warning of the penalties for violations. The signs will be in various languages and will be placed at the corresponding trailheads.

Special cases. - Under the above conditions, mountaineers who are members of FEDME and adventure tourism companies will be subject to special terms. If FEDME mountaineers appropriately confirm their ability and have the suitable and necessary means to make their ascents, then they may request a special permit when the terrain is covered with ice or snow.

As for adventure tourism companies, they must be legally established and recognised by the regional Canarian government and have mountain guides who are authorised and qualified to lead groups in the high mountains of the Teide National Park under the required conditions.

There will be no exceptions to the registration requirement for people who want to access Teide peak. All trail users must comply with the permit and equipment requirements.

Access to Teide peak from La Rambleta. - Currently, access from La Rambleta (upper station of the Teide Cable Car, 3,555 metres) to the Teide peak (3,718 metres) is possible via the Telesforo Bravo trail. To ascend on this trail, hikers must obtain the necessary permit, as per longstanding policy. Information about permit procedures can be found on the website: <https://www.volcanoteide.com/en>