Norte Grande de Canaria

Patrimonio Cultural y Turismo Sostenible

Espacios Naturales
Historia
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Fiestas...
La Mancomunidad de Ayuntamientos del Norte de Gran Canaria, integrada por los diez municipios del norte y oeste de la isla, se ha trazado el objetivo de potenciar las actividades turísticas de la comarca fomentando el equilibrio entre la conservación de los valores naturales y culturales y el desarrollo económico. Para ello se está desarrollando un Plan de Calidad Turística dirigido a la creación y adecuación de infraestructuras turísticas mediante una serie de propuestas de acondicionamiento, restauración y desarrollo sostenible de la costa, de las zonas rurales y de los espacios naturales de la comarca.

Con esta edición nos complacemos en ofrecer al visitante lo más auténtico y definitorio de nuestra cultura ancestral a través del disfrute de nuestros parajes, nuestra gastronomía, nuestro arte y las costumbres de nuestra gente.

The Association of Town Councils of the North of Gran Canaria, made up of the ten municipalities of the north and west of the island, has drawn up a plan with the objective of expanding the tourist activities of the region by promoting the balance between the conservation of natural and cultural values and economic development. To this end, a Quality Tourist Plan is being developed, directed towards the creation and adaptation of tourist infrastructures by means of a series of proposals for the improvement, restoration and sustainable development of the coast, the rural areas and the natural spaces of the region.

With this edition we are pleased to offer the visitor the most authentic part of our ancestral culture—the part that has most defined it—through the enjoyment of our region, our gastronomy, our art and the customs of our people.
The Association of Town Councils of the North of Gran Canaria: “To Discover it is to Fall in Love”

Agaete

Surface Area: 45.5 km²
Population: 5,613 inhabitants
Length of the Coastline: 11.74 km
Altitude of the Municipal Capital: 43 m
Maximum Altitude: 1.180 m

History

The settlement of Agaete since ancient times is patent in the numerous archaeological remains that are conserved in the municipality, the most well-known being the necropolis of Maipés. During the period of the Spanish Conquest, a tower was built – which served as a garrison to face the nearby island capital – a fortress that appears on the coat of arms of the Town, together with the emblem of Fernández de Lugo, who was the mayor of the same. Amongst the repartition of land after the incorporation is worth a mention those given in Guayadera to Tenesor Semidán, the last king of Agáidar. After the end of the conflict an important sugar mill was installed that made use of the flow of water that ran through the valley and that passed through the lands of various owners, amongst whom was Antón Cerezo, the Genoese who sent to Flanders to bring the triptych of Our Lady of the Snows. There has been a parish church since the XVIIth century dedicated to Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception, segregated from Santiago de Gáldar, although the present building is from the last third of the XIXth century.

Architectural Monuments

In the centre of the Town the peaceful square of the Constitución is worthy of mention, with the Parish Church of eclectic style, near which is the house Casa Manrique de Lara (the present Town Cultural Centre), a typical house with a patio in the traditional architectural style of The Canaries. Another place of great interest is the Huerto de las Flores (Flower Orchard), a garden where different species from different latitudes grow (the camphor tree, the Gúilo or calabash tree, the Australian hazel tree, hundreds of years old palm trees, etc.). This locality is very much linked to the figure of Tomás Morales, the modernist poet who lived in the Town, where he practised as a doctor and received other men of letters of the time, such as Alonso Quesada and Saulo Torín. In the highest part of the locality is the small hermitage of St. Sebastian (XVIIth century), with the image of the martyr, a work by Luján Pérez.
Natural Settings

Outside the Town the attractive landscapes of the Tamadaba Pine Wood, the Guayadera Valley with its beach and the coast of El Risco (The Cliff) are worthy of mention. In the Agaete Valley itself, are several hamlets (San Pedro, La Suerte, Vecindad de Enfrente, El Sano, El Hornillo, etc.), with their tropical and citrus fruits crops, the oranges being very famous, as are the famous waters of Los Berrazales - a place where a hotel is situated that offers health and hydrotherapy treatments. At the mouth of the Valley the Port of Las Nieves is situated, where one can admire the "Dedo de Dios" (Finger of God), a miracle of nature next to the cliffs. The hermitage of Our Lady of the Snows is of great artistic interest, especially for the Flemish panels, which came from Flanders in the XVII century, of the co-patron saint and that are attributed to Joos van Cleve.

Feast Days and Cultural Events

The festivities of the "Rama del Valle" (Branches of the Valley) is held on 28th June and the "Rama de Agaete" (Branches of Agaete) on 4th August. They are multitudinous celebrations, with thousands of people who dance to the sound of music.

PLACES OF INTEREST TO TOURISTS:

1. The Split Rock or The Finger of God: To the left of the Muelle Antiguo (Old Wharf) in Las Nieves Port.
2. Tamadaba Nature Park
4. The Maipás de Arriba Necropolis: On the Carretera General a los Berrazales (Main Road to Los Berrazales) [C/231]. El Chapín, s/n [address]. At the end of the Town Centre.
5. The Church of The Conception: The street C/ Juan Valles y Roa, 1. Visits during mass times, between 18:00 and 20:00 hrs Thursdays to Saturdays, and Sunday mornings.
6. Hermitage of Our Lady of the Snows: The street C/ Nuestra Sra. de Las Nieves, in Las Nieves Port. It is only open on request or at mass times.
7. Hermitage of St. Sebastian: Situated in the Plaza de San Sebastián. It is only open on request or at mass times.
8. Town Cultural Centre: In the street C/ Concepción, 11. As well as being of architectural interest, exhibitions are organised here that are usually open to the public from 19:00 to 20:00 hrs.
9. The Branches Museum: This is not yet open to the public.
10. Limekiln: In Los Nieves Beach, in the area known as El Muelle [The Wharf]. On the terrace of the Dedo de Dios Restaurant. It can be visited when the restaurant is open, from 10:00 to 22:00 hrs.
11. Las Nieves Windmill: It can be seen from the outside; it is private property, situated in the avenue Avda. de Los Poetas, s/n.
13. "La Casa Romántica" [The Romantic House] Restaurant: Situated in La Culebrilla, s/n [address], in Agaete Valley. It has at the back a small ethnographic museum with a garden and exotic birds. The XIX century house contains objects and furniture from that century, as well as having been the home of the poet from Gran Canaria Alonso Querada who spent various summers in the Town.
14. The Flower Orchard: Although it is being renovated at the moment, it can be visited from Monday to Friday from 9:00 to 14:00 hrs. Situated in the street C/ Huertas.
The Association of Town Councils of the North of Gran Canaria: “To Discover it is to Fall in Love”

Artenara

Surface Area: 66 km²
Population: 1,572 inhabitants
Length of the Coastline: 500 m.
Altitude of the Municipal Capital: 1,270 m.
Maximum Altitude: 1,800 m.

History

Artenara is the least populated municipality of Gran Canaria and the municipal capital is the highest of the island. The municipal district is typical of the “cumbre” (mountain tops — highest part of the island) as, although it has a section of coast between the districts of Agaete and San Nicolás, all the inhabitants live in the high region. Artenara has been populated since ancient times and was possibly an important “guarito” (canton, district) of Agádár, as some archaeological remains are witness to (the caves of Acusa Verde, Los Candiles and El Caballero). Since the XIXth century there have been two hermitages dedicated to Our Lady of the Rosary (later, to St. Matthias the Apostle) and Our Lady of Candlemas, in Artenara and Acusa, respectively, that formed part of the Benefice of Santiago (St. James) de Gáldar until the XVIIIth century.

Architectural Monuments

The most generalised dwelling is the cave-home, a habitat that has lasted up to the present day since pre-Hispanic times as the feature that makes the municipality the most different and that can be seen in the different hamlets (Acusa Verde, Lugarejos, Las Hoyas, Las Arvejas, Coruña, etc.). Agriculture and livestock raising are the two aspects of its economy most worthy of mention, with small market gardens, especially of cereals, potatoes, maize and some fruit trees. In the municipal capital is the church of St. Matthias the Apostle, with interesting works of art in its interior, such as the saint of the name of the church. From different points in the locality magnificent panoramic views can be seen that allow one to admire the Tejeda basin, with the Nublo and Bentayga Rocks.
Natural Settings

On the journey around the municipality great landscape contrasts can be seen: quiet reservoirs, leafy pine groves, cliffy coasts, narrow ravines; the strange plain of the Mesa de Acusa stands out. Miguel de Unamuno passed through Artenara and left a description of the curious hermitage of the Virgen de la Cueva, the most emblematic monument in the locality; the writer underlines the characteristic of its being totally carved out of the rock, even the altar, altarpiece, pulpit, confession box, etc. With regard to handicrafts, the traditional pottery in the village of Lugarejos and the palm leaf handicrafts in Acusa are worthy of mention.

Feast Days and Cultural Events

The image of the Virgin is taken each year to the Church of St. Matthias in the month of August, to celebrate in this way the main feast days of the municipal district. The most important act is the procession to return the Virgin to the "Cueva" (small cave) in the afternoon of the last Sunday in the month, with a magnificent display of fireworks. The festive calendar is completed with St. Matthias the Apostle’s Day, from whom the parish takes its name, the Holy Christ and Our Lady of the Candlemas, in her hermitage in the Vega de Acusa, St. John the Baptist and St. Isidore in the municipal capital.

PLACES OF INTEREST TO TOURISTS:

1. The Church of St. Matthias: This dates from 1870.
2. Shrine of the Virgin of the Cave: Excavated out of the rock.
4. Pottery Centre in Lugarejos: manufacture and exhibition of the pottery of Lugarejos.
7. Manuel Díaz Cruz Recreation Area: In the centre of the town.
9. Unamuno Lookout Point
10. La Silla Lookout Point
11. La Atalaya Lookout Point
12. La Solañita Lookout Point
14. Las Arenas Beach

Impressive Views of the Gorges and Ravines in the Mountain Tops.
The Association of Town Councils of the North of Gran Canaria: “To Discover it is to Fall in Love”

**Arucas**

| Surface Area: | 33.01 km² |
| Population: | 32,542 inhabitants |
| Length of the Coastline: | 13.37 km |
| Altitude of the Municipal Capital: | 240 m |
| Maximum Altitude: | 663 m |

**History**

The old Arehucas became Arucas after the Spanish Conquest and reached a notable development by virtue of the cultivation of the sugarcane. To take advantage of the waters, the creation of the “Heredad de Aguas” (Irrigation Association) of Arucas and Fergus was of great importance. It channelled the water resources to the fertile plains and valleys of Arucas and generalised the agricultural use of the land. A note worthy of mention was the constitution of a “mayorazgo” (entailed estate - Inherited by primogeniture) by Pedro Cérón in the XVIIth century that made up a large indivisible estate until its release in the XIXth century. Thanks to the sugarcane, a large increase in the population occurred during the XVIIth century and in consequence Bishop Vázquez de Arce ordered the creation of the parish of San Juan Bautista (St. John the Baptist) in the already existing hermitage. In the fertile valleys of Arucas different crops have followed one another with success and have marked the economic cycles of The Canaries. Some of these have been of primordial importance to the town, like those which began in the XIXth century with the cochineal, and the banana, which continues to be the main agricultural product of the municipality up to the present day.

**Architectural Monuments**

The town centre was declared a Historical Monument in 1976. The most important building is the Church of St. John the Baptist (1909-1977), built in neo-Gothic style in accordance with the plans of the Catalan architect Manuel Vega March. The church is one of the most important examples of religious architecture of the XXth century in The Canary Islands, and is constructed from the typical stone of Arucas, the “blue stone” or “hewn stone of Arucas”. In the interior a series of works of artistic interest are conserved, amongst which are those created by Canarian artists like the painter Hernández de Quintana, the sculptures of Silvestre Bello (XXth century), or the famous Recumbent Christ by the sculptor from Arucas, Manolo Ramos (1899-1971). In the streets and squares one can admire architectural examples from different periods, those pertaining to the end of the XIXth century or beginning of the XXth century being worthy of mention. They all use the hewn stone of Arucas. Amongst these elegant, classic and eclectic buildings are the Consistorial House (1875), the Municipal Market (1882), the “Heredad de Aguas” (Irrigation Association) of Arucas and Fergus Building (1912) and the House of the Marquise in Las Hoya.
Natural Settings

Aricas is a town where one can wander through its cobbled streets, through the squares of San Juan and "de la Constitución" or in the Municipal Park with its cared gardens, where the Municipal Museum is located in a house where the Gourie family lived. Neither can we leave Aricas without visiting the Arechucas Rum distilleries, with their museum, or going up the "Montaña" (Mountain) to see a wide panoramic view of the north of the island and, especially, the neighbourhoods and villages of Aricas: Bahaderos, San Andrés, Cardones, Trapiche, Visvique, Tinocas, Santidad, Trasmontaña, La Goleta, etc.

Feast Days and Cultural Events

The main feast days in honour of St. John the Baptist are celebrated in June, with dances around bonfires and firework displays.

PLACES OF INTEREST TO TOURISTS:

1. Aricas Mountain: from 09:00 to 23:00 hrs.
2. Las Presas del Pinto Lookout Point: C/ Obispo Pilate (La Goleta). Open 24 hours.
3. Hacienda el Buen Sueño Rural Hotel: from 09:00 to 23:00 hrs. Tel.: (928) 62 48 45.
4. Church of St. John the Baptist: Plaza de San Juan. Morning: 09:00 to 12:30 and evenings: 16:30 to 18:30.
5. The Architecture in the Plaza de San Juan: Plaza de San Juan. Opening hours: N/A.
6. Consistorial House: Plaza de la Constitución. From 09:00 to 15:00. Tel.: (928) 62 61 58.
7. Cultural Centre: Gourie, 3. Monday to Friday: 09:00 to 13:00 and 15:00 to 21:00. Saturdays from 10:00 to 13:00 hrs. Tel.: (928) 60 11 74.
8. Municipal Gardens: C/ Francisco Gourie. Every day.
9. Municipal Museum: Plaza de la Constitución. Monday to Friday: 09:00 to 13:00 and 16:00 to 21:00. Saturdays from 10:00 to 13:00 hrs.
10. Municipal Market: C/ Fernando Cañón Porco Street. Monday to Friday: 09:00 to 14:00 and from 17:00 to 20:30. Saturdays from 09:00 to 14:00.
11. Gardens of the Marquis: Monday to Friday from 09:00 to 12:00 and from 14:00 to 16:00 hrs. Saturdays from 09:00 to 12:00 hrs. Tel.: (928) 60 44 66.
12. Arechucas Rum Factory: Enol de San Pedro. Opening hours: from Monday to Friday from 10:00 to 14:00 hrs. Tel.: (928) 62 49 00.
13. Mapfre Guanarteme Canarian Foundation: C/ León y Castillo Street. From Monday to Friday: Mornings from 09:00 to 13:00 hrs and in the evenings from 17:00 to 21:00 hrs. Tel.: (928) 60 48 67.
14. Tourist Office of the Most Excellent Town Council of Aricas: Plaza de la Constitución. Monday to Friday: from 09:00 to 19:00 hrs. Tel.: (928) 62 31 36.
15. *Heredad de Agua* ** (Irrigation Association) of Aricas and F igas: C/ La Heredad, 1.
16. Sculpture "Homage to the Farm Worker": C/ Fernando Cañón Porco. Opening hours: N/A.
17. Loma Jurgón Recreational Area: Information in the Town Hall. Thursdays, Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays and Holidays from 10:00 to 18:00. Tel.: (928) 62 81 71.
18. La Cerro Archenological Remains: A.V. Guanarteme (Residents Association). Extension of C/ General Páfaís s/n. (Aricas Mountain). Opening hours from Monday to Friday from 09:00 to 13:00 hrs and from 13:00 to 20:00 hrs. Tel.: (928) 62 81 58.
19. Sol-Aricas Office (Banana Express): C/ León y Castillo. Monday to Friday: 09:00 to 17:30 hrs. Tel.: (928) 63 35 47.
20. Aricas Street Market: C/ Fernando Cañón Porco. Saturdays from 09:00 to 16:00 hrs. Tel.: (928) 60 04 11.

**Heredad de Agua**: Association of owners of water from wells or other sources, for irrigation.
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**Firgas**

- Surface Area: 15.77 km²
- Population: 6,889 inhabitants
- Length of the Coastline: N/A
- Altitude of the Municipal Capital: 465 m.
- Maximum Altitude: 968 m.

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**History**

Firgas was in ancient times a wooded region of the "Doramas Forest" that answered to the name of Afurgad and that, because of the abusive exploitation of the wood for the sugarmills and the ploughing of the land for cultivation, ended by being deforested. A detail to mention after the distribution of lands and water in the XVIIth century was the construction of a sugarmill by Tomás Rodríguez de Palenzuela, who also built the hermitage of St. John of Ortega, at the beginning of the XVIIIth century. However, as happened in some parts of the island, the estimate of the development was not fulfilled in the future with the crisis that the sugarcane business suffered in the middle of that century. After all this, the village grew very little and continued to be joined to Arucas until the XVth century, sharing with it the "Heredad de Aguas" (Irrigation Association) that had its headquarters in that locality. During the XVIth century another event of a religious nature occurred with the foundation in 1613 of a Dominican Convent in the old hermitage. This convent maintained the denomination of St. John of Ortega, being the second and last convent that was founded in the North during the Old Regime. Firgas separated from Arucas in 1835 with regard to civil matters and ten years later, in 1845, in religious matters.

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**Architectural Monuments**

The characteristics of the municipality are those typical of "medianías" (the middle height regions), having a totally interior character as it lacks a coastline, so its products are typical of these regions, although the watercress is famous. The town centre is pleasant to walk around and one can visit the Church of St. Roch, that was dedicated to the patron saint of epidemics in substitution of the original saint, St. John of Ortega, that it seems never enjoyed much devotion in the locality. In the church there are images that are worthy of mention, as well as its façade with modernist details on the bell gable. Surrounding the square are the Town Hall, the old inn (the Cultural Centre), a "gofio" mill and the avenues "de Canarias" and "Gran Canaria", on whose tiles can be admired the coats of arms and the landscapes of municipalities and islands. At the same time, one can enjoy the stepped fountain that reminds one of the irrigation ditches and "troneras" so abundant in the municipality.
Natural Settings

Water has always had a special significance in the history of the municipality and is the element that is most associated with the name of the locality, both for the fame that in its time the Azuaje Spa had, where people came to take healthy baths, and for the make "Agua de Figras" (bottled mineral water) that is still the most well-known in the Canary Islands.

Feast Days and Cultural Events

With regard to feast days, the most important are those of St. Roch, in August, where the "Romería" is worthy of mention and the "bajada del palo", that serves to raise the flag of the feast day. In June is the feast day of St. Aloysius Gonzaga.

PLACES OF INTEREST TO TOURISTS:

1. Cultural Centre: Plaza San Roque, 3. Tel.: (928) 61 61 20. Fax: (928) 61 62 71. Opening hours: 9:00 to 14:00 hrs. E-mail: casa@wanadoo.es
2. Town Hall: Plaza de San Roque, 1. Tel.: (928) 61 62 36. Fax: (928) 61 61 21. Open to the public during the following hours: 9:00 to 13:00 hrs.
3. Square and Church of St. Roche: Plaza de San Roque. Tel.: (928) 62 53 37. For visits to the church, please contact the Tourist Information Office.
5. Commemorative Fountain: C/ José Santos, s/n. (at the entrance to the town).
6. Monument to the Stock Farmer: next to the mill.
7. "Gofío" mill (XVIIth century): C/ El Molino, 12. Tel.: (928) 61 64 36. Opening hours: Monday to Friday from 11:00 to 19:00 hrs. Saturdays: from 11:00 to 17:00 hrs. Sundays: from 11:00 to 14:00 hrs.
8. Figras Mountain and Osorio Peak.
10. Las Madres and Guadalupe Ravine.

Figras, such as lime kilns and mills, although these are in an abandoned state.

11. Los Dolores and Quintalla Ravine.
12. Aguas Minerales de Figras S.A. (The Figras Mineral Water Co.): on the Road de Las Madres. Tel.: Fax: (928) 62 56 78. Guided visits are available upon reservation.
13. Tourist Information Office: Plaza San Roque, 3. Tel.: Fax: (928) 61 61 20. Fax: (928) 61 62 71. Opening hours: 9:00 to 14:00 hrs. E-mail: ajime@htyt@yahoo.es

- "Heredad de Agua": Association of owners of water, from wells or other sources, for irrigation.
- "Gofío": Ground mixture of flour or corn and water.
- "Troneras": Constructions used to divide and distribute running water.
- "Romería": Pilgrimage to, or festival at, a local shrine, or a procession walk, usually on foot and accompanied by walking alongside, either through, or to, a village or town on a feast day.
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Gáldar

**GRAN CANARIA**

- **Surface Area:** 61,58 km²
- **Population:** 22,335 inhabitants
- **Length of the Coastline:** 20,40 km
- **Altitude of the Municipal Capital:** 124 m
- **Maximum Altitude:** 1,771 m

**View of the Heredad Pineyard.**

**Painted Cave in Gáldar.**

**Image of St. James of the Noblemen.**

**Interior of the Church of St. James of the Noblemen.**

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**History**

Ángáldar was the capital of Gran Canaria since Andamana and Gomüdafa, the first monarchs of Gran Canaria, installed their court there. This is why it is known by the name of "the town of the guanartemes" or island kings. Gáldar is the exponent of the Canarian crossbreeding, as a large number of natives lived here and mixed with people from other origins. This circumstance can be seen in the princesses who once they were baptized changed their names: Tenesoya is Luisa de Betancor and Arminda is Catalina de Guzmán. The first church of St. James was in a Canary building and the name of the apostle was incorporated into the place-name: the Town of St. James of the Noblemen of Gáldar. Here were installed the oldest Parish, Mayorship, Town Clerk's Office, Assessment District, Hospital, Convent, etc. In the North, even the island Government was called "The Town Council of Telde, Gáldar and the "Real" (Camp) of Las Palmas." Descriptions up to the XVIIIth century underline the presence of many cave-homes that existed since before the Spanish Conquest and even the "Palacio del Guanarteme" (King's Palace) was still standing up to that century.

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**Architectural Monuments**

In 1778 the construction of the present day Church of St. James began, a work by the brothers Eduardo, a building that was the beginning of the Neoclassical in The Canaries. It is one of the most impressive monuments of the archipelago, where an artistic legacy of great value is conserved ("The Green Font," American pieces, sculptures by Luján Pérez, etc.), also exhibited in the St. James of the Noblemen Museum of Sacred Art. The Historical Site is centred on the Plaza de Santiago, where, as well as the Church of the Apostle, the Consistorial House stands, with a dragon tree nearly three centuries old in the patio, the Municipal Theatre (1912) and the Antonio Padrón Museum House, where works by this indigenist artist (1920-1968) are exhibited. The Painted Cave is the most famous decorated chamber in The Canaries. Next to it, a large number of old constructions are conserved, as well as valuable objects in the Archaeological Museum.

**Carpet of Flowers at the Testivity of Corpus Christi - Plaza de Santiago.**
Natural Settings

At the El Agujero Beach is the Necropolis of La Guancha, with its spectacular tumulus, and nearby, in the Port of Sardina one can enjoy the sea and some good fish. In this low part there are large extensions of banana plantations, although the most typical product is the red onion. Not to miss are the villages of Los Altos de Gáldar (Hoya de Pineda, Saucillo, Caideros, Fagajose, Juncalillo, El Tablado and Barranco Honda, of historical interest), where the famous cheese is made and the majority of the hamlets are of cave-homes.

Feast Days and Cultural Events

The main feast days, of St. James of the Noblemen, are celebrated in July with a complete programme; the multitudinous "Romeria" ** and Offering are worthy of mention. The celebrations acquire greater prominence when they coincide with the Holy or Jubilee Year of St. James. There are also cultural activities all the year round, amongst which are the Three Kings Mystery Play, the Theatre Week, the Cheese Festival or the Wool Festival.

PLACES OF INTEREST TO TOURISTS:

1. **Antonio Padron Museum:** C/ Drago nº 2. Monday to Friday: 9:00 - 14:00 hrs.

2. **Church:** Plaza de Santo Domingo s/n. Monday to Friday: mornings from 11:00 to 12:00 hrs. Evenings 18:00 to 20:00 hrs.

3. **Sacred Art Museum:** C/ Fernando Guarnierena, s/n. Guided Visits. On request on the Tel. No.: (928) 89 58 55.

4. **Consistorial House:** Plaza de Santiago, nº 1. From Monday to Friday from 8:00 to 14:30 hrs.

5. **Casa Verde de Aguilar:** C/ Guillén Morales Street. Monday to Friday: evenings 17:00 to 20:00 hrs.

6. **La Guancha Archaeological Remains:** Request guided visits from the Historical Patrimony of the Island Government by calling the Tel. No.: (928) 21 94 21.

7. **Barranco Honda Ethnographic Museum:** Request guided visits by calling the Tel. No.: (928) 55 51 20. From 12:00 to 17:30 hrs.

8. **Reptiodia:** El Cerrillal: GC-2 Road, Hoya de Pineda Exit. Opening hours: from 11:00 to 17:30 hrs, every day of the year except Christmas and New Year's Day. Tel.: (928) 55 12 89.

9. **Parque Arqueológico de la Cueva Pintada:** Solicitar visita Tel.: (928) 21 94 21.

** "Romeria" A pilgrimage to, or festival at a local shrine; a procession with floats or cars and people walking alongside either through, or to, a village or town on a fixed day.

Cheeses from Los Altos de Gáldar, very much appreciated for their exquisite flavor.
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Sta. María de Guía

Surface Area: 37.72 km²
Population: 14,174 inhabitants
Length of the Coastline: 10.16 km.
Altitude of the Municipal Capital: 180 m.
Maximum Altitude: 1,565 m.

History

The origins of Santa María de Guía go back to the construction of the hermitage dedicated to the Virgin by Sancho de Vargas y Machuca at the end of the XVIIth century. The population grew rapidly because of the sugar business in the first half of the XVIIth century, achieving mayorship and becoming a parish, which segregated from the Town of Gáldar. After sugar came other products, of which in Guía was worthy of mention the wine during the XVIIth century. In the XVIIIth century the village underwent notable development, concentrating in a centre that was considered to be the second on the island because of this characteristic. It was in the XIXth century that Guía achieved definitively the title of town, to be exact on 1st October, 1871.

Architectural Monuments

St. Mary of Guía in which the most illustrious of its sons, José Luján Pérez (1756-1815), participated. He was the maximum image-maker of the Canaries; one can admire some of his sculptural works in the interior of the church (Las Mercedes, La Dolorosa, St. Sebastian, Christ Crucified and the Preacher). The church, built slowly between the XVIIth and XVIIIth centuries has a mixture of styles, with an exterior of Neoclassical towers and an interior divided into three naves, separated by a double series of arches roofed with a framework of decorated wood in the Mudéjar style, considered to be late Renaissance. The most important and most venerated image is that of St. Mary of Guía, who gives her name to the town and which can be visited in an artistically decorated room, open to the public as a small museum and exhibition.

The centre of the town (a title held since 1871) has been declared a Historical Monument and apart from the Church of St. Mary of Guía, there are a series of buildings from different periods which are noteworthy, like the church of the old Hospice of St. Catherine (the present day Theatre), the Quintana House (XVIIth century), etc., a visit that can be extended to the square and hermitage of St. Roch.
Natural Settings

The journey around the municipality can be completed through different neighbourhoods, and by the important monuments outside the town, which the most noteworthy is the "Cenobio de Valerón", an old preHispanic granary situated in the Cuesta de Silva. On the coast one can enjoy the natural swimming pools at Roque Prieto and the beach at San Felipe, with numerous restaurants with fresh fish. The high regions have as attractions the recreational area of Santa Cristina or the area of El Brezal, a nature reserve of laurels, holly trees, tree heath (or heath trees) and mastic trees. The most famous product of the municipality is the "Queso de Fior" of Guía (a typical cheese), of renowned prestige, that together with other handicrafts products like knives or wood carvings allow one to enjoy our things.

Feast Days and Cultural Events

The feast days of the Virgin are the main ones and are celebrated in August, with a varied programme of events, amongst which is the famous "Battle of the Flowers". The third Sunday in September is the "Fiesta de las Marias" (Feast Day of Mary), with its traditional "Baile de la Rama" (Dance of the Branches) and the "romería" that accompanies the procession, a thanksgiving in the pueblo of locusts. Other feast days are the cheese festival (in the town and in Montaña Alta), St. Peter (La Atalaya), St. Philip Neri in the coastal neighbourhood of the same name, St. Joseph (Montaña Alta), St. Francis of Assisi (Casas de Aguilar), St. John the Baptist (San Juan), etc.

PLACES OF INTEREST TO TOURISTS

1. **Cenobio de Valerón**: Of Archaeological Interest. Old road from Las Palmas to Galdier C-3001, km 32 (Cuesta de Silva). Open from Wednesday to Sunday from 10:00 to 17:00 hrs.

2. **Tagoror del Gallego**: Of Archaeological Interest.

3. **Silva Bridge Lookout Point**.

4. **Moya Ravine Recreational Area**.

5. **Church of St. Mary of Guía and the Virgin's Room**: In front of the Plaza Grande. Open Wednesdays and Saturdays from 10:00 to 15:00 hrs.

6. **Hermitage of St. Sebastian**: C/ San Sebastián Street.

7. **Historical Town Centre**: the Streets: Marqués del Muni, Médico Estévez, Pérez Galdós, Luis Suárez Galán, Canónigo Gordillo, San José, Eusebia de Armas.


9. **Santa Cristina Recreational Area**: Santa Cristina.

10. **Casa Arturo (Bar Los Guisos) ["The Cheese Bar"]: C/ Lomo Guillén, 16.

11. **Casa Chago**: Marqués del Muni, 34.

**"Romería"**: A pilgrimage to, or a festival at a local shrine; or a procession with floats or cars and people walking alongside either through, or to, a village or town on a feast day.
The Association of Town Councils of the North of Gran Canaria: “To Discover it is to Fall in Love”

Moya

Surface Area: 31,87 km²
Population: 8,594 inhabitants
Length of the Coastline: 4,22 km.
Altitude of the Municipal Capital: 490 m.
Maximum Altitude: 1,771 m.

Panoramic view of Moya, the Church of Our Lady of Candelmas stands out at the edge of the ravine.

Sheep
Laurisilva Ecosystem

History

The Town of Moya is situated in a beautiful area of the “medianías” (middle height region) next to the deep ravine of the same name. From ancient times these lands were famous because a large part of their territory was occupied by the “Selva de Daramas,” a mythical laurisilva forest that has been sung about by poets so distant in time as Caírasco de Figueroa and Tomás Morales. In the XVith century, thanks to the sugar industry, the Bishop Vázquez de Arce created in 1515 the parish of Our Lady of Candelmas, that segregated from the “Sagrario” of Las Palmas.

Craftswomen

Church of Our Lady of Candelmas

Architectural Monuments

The town centre of Moya has various important buildings, as well as rejoicing in stupendous panoramic views from the lookout point behind the church. The Church of Our Lady of Candelmas is a contemporary construction, a recreation of medievalist styles, inaugurated in the year 1957, where various images can be admired that belonged to the previous church, especially the image of the patron saint, Our Lady of Candelmas, from the XVIth century. In front of the Church is the Tomás Morales Museum, in the square of the same name, where one can visit the house that was the home of the modernist poet and which has an important collection of objects related to his life and literary work.
Natural Settings

The municipality stretches from the coast up to the highest regions; its coastline having the beaches of La Caleta in El Atillo and the “swimming pools” of the Charcones de San Lorenzo. The most picturesque place on the coast is El Roque, a narrow, “crowed together” hamlet that stands on a basalt spur, near to El Pajador. The countryside of Moya is of great beauty and in its hamlets can be found examples of traditional architecture. There is still a bastion of the old “Doramas Forest” in the area of Los Tíes, a place that was a pioneer in the trials for the recovery of the flora of the laurisilva type. In the highest part of the municipality is the village of Fontanales, which has the old hermitage of St. Bartholomew the Apostle, whilst the image of the patron saint, a work by the sculptor José Luján Pérez (1753-1815) is venerated in the new church. Because of its situation from coast to heights, Moya has many products available, amongst which stand out the by-products from agriculture and livestock, such as cheese. However, the most famous are the celebrated “Moya sponge cakes and suspiros (sighs)”!

Feast Days and Cultural Events

The feast days of the patron saint, Our Lady of Candlemas, are held in February, although the main ones are in June, in honour of St. Anthony of Padua and have on their programme a “romería” with many participants. In the month of August the feast days of St. Bartholomew the Apostle - a saint that is invoked for the protection of the fields and who has been a patron saint against plagues of locusts - in the village of Fontanales are also very famous.

PLACES OF INTEREST TO TOURISTS:

1. Church of Our Lady of Candlemas: In the interior artistic pieces are conserved of a great historic value. Some of noteworthy antiquity and others of recent acquisition. In the Plaza de La Candelaria, s/n. Opening hours: Monday to Friday from 18:30 to 19:30 hrs. Saturdays from 17:30 to 19:30 hrs. Sundays from 10:30 to 12:00 hrs.

2. Hacienda Agua del Moya: A magnificent building of singular beauty. Not open to visitors, but on the façade there are 6 neoclassic matching columns in the central part that are worthy of mention. Address: León y Castillo, 5. Opening hours: The exterior can be seen all day.

3. Tomas Morales Museum House: Museum made up of objects and memorabilia closely linked to the author and of a varied nature. Address: Plaza de Tomas Morales, s/n. Opening hours: Monday to Friday from 9:00 to 20:00 hrs. Saturdays from 10:00 to 20:00 hrs. Sundays and Holidays from 10:00 to 14:00 hrs. Admission: free.

4. Los Tíes de Moya Special Nature Reserve: Bastion of the laurisilva forest that covered the north of Gran Canaria. Address: Barranco del Laurel, s/n (Ravine), Cr. (Road) GC-700 Moya Sta. Mª de Gual. Opening hours: All day.

5. Tourist Office: www.villademoyaa.com Opening hours: Monday to Friday from 8:00 to 15:00 hrs.

6. Montaña Negra y Caldera de los Pinos: Area of gran valor paisajístico and geomorfológico, con dos de los últimos volcanes activos de la isla.
The Association of Town Councils of the North of Gran Canaria: “To Discover it is to Fall in Love”

San Nicolás de Tolentino

- Surface Area: 139 km²
- Population: 8,055 inhabitants
- Length of the Coastline: 33 km.
- Altitude of the Municipal Capital: 33 m.
- Maximum Altitude: 1,426 m.

**History**

The construction in the Valley of La Aldea during the XVIth century of a chapel in honour of San Nicolás de Tolentino (St. Nicholas of Tolentino) by an expedition of Mallorcan, constituted one of the first signs of Christianisation in the Canaries. From that moment on the locality, of which the old Canarian place-name is unknown, became known by the name of the Italian saint. The area was very populated from the pre-Hispanic period and a reflection of this are the archaeological remains at Los Caserones. In spite of the fact that the primitive hermitage was on the beach, possibly at El Roque, the village mainly expanded in the middle area of the valley - far away from the dangers that pirates and enemies of the Spanish crown represented - where the office of the parish priest was built and which had separated from Tejeda in the XVIIIth century. From the XVIth century it became a large estate, which was never recognised by the people from La Aldea, as they understood that a good part of it was illegal because of encroachment. For centuries the inhabitants fought for the right to the waters that flowed from Tejeda and to the ownership of the land, playing the lead in different chapters of history known by the name of the “La Aldea Lawsuit”. This dispute was not resolved until 1927, the year in which Gaio Ponte himself, the Minister of Grace and Justice of the government of Miguel Primo de Rivera, visited the locality and, in consequence, the Decree Law was published which permitted the people of La Aldea to become the legitimate owners.

**Architectural Monuments**

In the centre of the locality the church of San Nicolás de Tolentino is situated, in front of which there is a beautiful tree-lined avenue with Indian laurel trees. Not far away there are various examples of traditional architecture, which joined to a series of mills and other buildings of an ethnographic character, make up the most important part of the historical legacy of the municipality, together with its archaeological remains.
Natural Settings

This spirit of constant struggle has marked the inhabitants who, thanks to cooperatives and a policy of hydraulic infrastructures of reservoirs and canals, have achieved a high agricultural yield, especially of tomatoes, the principal product of the municipality, although tropical fruits are also commercialized (papayas, citrus fruits, mangos, avocados, etc.), that grow in orchards of a tropical nature. Side by side with agriculture, livestock raising produces the well-known goat's milk cheese, whilst on the La Aldea beach and in other coastal areas fishing is the main activity. Amongst other places and villages, Tasarte, Tasartico and Guguy with its beaches are worth a mention.

Feast Days and Cultural Events

The main celebrations are organised in September in honour of the patron saint. The strangest event is the "fiesta del Charco" (Festivity of the Pond), which draws thousands of people to the La Aldea Beach who try to catch - without fishing tackle and fully dressed - the greatest number of grey mullet that swim in the pond.

PLACES OF INTEREST TO TOURISTS:

1. Mirador del Balcón (lookout point)
2. Mountain Pass of La Aldea
3. Güigüi Special Nature Reserve
4. Inagua Integrated Nature Reserve
5. Burial mound at the Lomo de Caserones Hill
6. Native stone houses at the archaeological remains at Caserones
7. La Aldea Church
8. The Casas de Balcón houses from the XVIIIth century
9. Old packing warehouses (Bonny, Fyffes, etc.)
10. Wine Museum
11. Museum School
12. Ethnographic Lecture Room
13. Water and wind powered flour mills

* San Nicolás de Tolentino and La Aldea are both names used to refer to this town. La Aldea means "The Hamlet."
Teror

- Surface Area: 27,200 km²
- Population: 12,144 inhabitants
- Length of the Coastline: N/A
- Altitude of the Municipal Capital: 745 m.
- Maximum Altitude: 1,254 m.

**History**

The name of Teror is inseparable from that of Our Lady of the Pine, patron saint of Gran Canaria and of the diocese of the Canaries (coincident with the province of Las Palmas). According to legend, during the Spanish Conquest the image of the Virgin appeared on the top of a pine tree in the Aterura Wood. Later a hermitage was built and later still this was turned into a church. Under these circumstances the town of Teror was formed. It has always been a place of a marked religious character, with the arrival of the faithful to the feast days in September, especially the 7th with the “Romería”, where carts take part from all the municipalities of the island. The 8th is the big day with the main procession.

**Architectural Monuments**

The centre of the Town is one of the most beautiful places in Gran Canaria. In the main square stands the Basilica of Our Lady of the Pine, a Baroque building from the XVIIIth century. On the exterior its singular Tardogothic tower - a replica of one that disappeared from the Cathedral of Saint Anne - its gargoyles and the dome attracts one's attention; whilst in the interior the most impressive is its splendid main altarpiece in a Rococco style. In the room where the venerated image is, a rich artistic treasure is conserved that is open to visitors. The square of Our Lady of the Pine contains a series of interesting buildings with balconies, worthy of mention being the Manrique de Lara House, churchwardens of the Virgin, where there is a museum. Very near, at the back of the Basilica is the Summer Palace of the Bishops of The Canaries (XVIIIth century), nowadays dedicated mainly to a cultural centre and in front of which a tree-lined avenue opens up that has on one side the Town Hall.
Natural Settings

The whole town is a good exponent of traditional architecture and of contemporary buildings that have maintained these lines. A walk around its streets is very pleasant. A visit to the Convent of Cister is also very enjoyable. The nice cakes that the nuns confect, together with the famous "chorizos de teror" (spicy sausage), constitute the two typical products most well-known of the locality. The town is surrounded by mountains and its landscape is a great beauty with different types of trees and the agriculture typical of the middle height regions (potatoes, maize, etc.). In the hamlets, different examples of traditional architecture of a rural character can be seen, together with some hermitages, like those of St. Isidore the Farmer (end of the XVIIth century), "de la Peña" (from the beginning of the XVIIIth century, where the Virgin of the Snows is venerated) and the Sacred Heart of Arbejales (beginning of the XIXth century).

Feast Days and Cultural Events

In these surroundings a lively Sunday street market is held (also on holidays) where one can find a varied selection of products of the land. 8th September is the big day of the feast days of the Pine, with the main procession.

PLACES OF INTEREST TO TOURISTS:

2. Museum House of the Patrons of the Virgin Foundation. Address: Plaza Nuestra Señora del Pino. Tel.: 928 63 02 29/928 31 80 00. Opening hours: From Monday to Sunday, from 10:00 to 17:00 hrs.
4. Pius XII Square. At the back of Our Lady of the Pine Basilica.
6. Cultural Center. Address: Plaza Pío XII, s/n. Tel: 928 61 35 09.
7. Convent of Cister. (Enclosure. 1888) Address: C/ Alcázar de Toledo, nº 24. Tel.: 928 63 06 32.
8. Osorio Country Estate. Address: Finca de Osorio, s/n. Tel.: 928 63 00 90. Activity: Nature Lecture Hall. Opening hours: from Sunday to Sunday from 08:00 to 18:00 hrs.
10. Los Granadillos Recreational Area.
13. Hermitage of San Isidro.

** Romeria: A pilgrimage to, or festival at a local shrine; or a procession with floats or carts and people walking alongside either through, or to, a village or town on a feast day.
Valleseco belonged to the town of Teror until 1843, the year in which the parish of San Vicente Ferrer (St. Vincent Ferrer) was also created, centred around the hermitage that had been founded in 1740. Amongst the families in Valleseco are in evidence the human relations that have always existed between the Canary Islands and America, such as some of the eminent persons of the Monagas family who left the locality for Venezuela and who reached the presidency. There is even a state named after them in this South American republic.

This municipality is the most humid and with the highest rainfall in Gran Canaria, which seems to be in contradiction to its name (Valleseco: dry valley). Its characteristics are those typical of highlands, based on traditional agriculture and livestock raising. Although it produces a great variety of middle height region crops (potatoes, maize, honey, etc.), amongst the fruit trees, the apple is of great importance and even has an annual festival dedicated to it.

Architectural Monuments

The traditional houses conserve their tiled roofs, some with wooden corridors, following a varied disposition in the floor layout and with a great adaptation to the environment and very much connected to nature. The town centre has as its central point of reference the Church of St. Vincent Ferrer, a building with three naves and eclectic characteristics that is the scene of the main feast days, those of the patron saint at the end of spring, his liturgical feast day being 5th April and that of the Virgin Mary of the Incarnation in October, also known as the “feast day of the apple”, with a typical “romería” ** and offering.
Natural Settings

The landscape values of Valleseco are outstanding, with its leafy chestnut trees and the marvelous views that one can enjoy, like those that can be seen from the Zamora Lookout Point with a privileged panoramic view over Teror. A typical scene are the public wash houses, of which there are various in different parts of the municipality; buildings that together with the dispersed houses next to their adjacent orchards and market gardens filled with crops offer one of the most singular landscapes of the island.

Valleseco is ideal for wandering around its streets and countryside, where it is frequently misty, and where you can relax in the square next to the Church of St. Vincent Ferrer or in the La Laguna recreational area, an area of evergreen trees that formed part of the Doramas Forest, where horse races are customarily held.

Feast Days and Cultural Events

The feast days most worthy of mention are: San José [St. Joseph] (19th March), St. Vincent Ferrer (50 days after Easter), San Luis Gonzaga [St. Aloysius Gonzaga] in Valsendero (last Sunday in June), Our Lady of Carmen in Zumacal (middle of July), "Madrelague" [the Mother or Mother Water] (last week in July), Santa Rosa de Lima [St. Rose of Lima] in Lanzarote (23rd August) and The Incarnation and The Apple in October.

PLACES OF INTEREST TO TOURISTS:

1. Doramas Rural Park.
3. Las Cumbres Protected Landscape.
21. La Laguna Recreational Area. La Laguna. Opening hours: 10:00 – 19:00 hrs. Entrance fee: 1.20 euros/person.
22. Church of St. Vincent Ferrer and Municipal Park. C/ León y Castillo Streets. Mass times: 15:00 hrs / 18:30, 12:00 on Sundays. Tel: [928] 61 82 34.
23. Cultural Centre. Street C/ León y Castillo, 29.
25. Municipal Street Market. C/ Césped Valleseco Street. Sundays from 8:00 to 14:00 hrs.

**Note:** A pilgrimage to, or festival at a local shrine; or a procession with floats and caravanas walking alongside either through, or to, a village or town on a feast day.

31. TOURIST INFORMATION OFFICE: C/ León y Castillo, 29. Tel: 928 61 87 40