

## Festivals

### FIESTAS OF SANTIAGO APÓSTOL

These take place in the second fortnight in July. As Tunte is the capital of the Municipality and as it has a highly charged history of devotion going back to well before the Conquest, its Patron Saint Festivals in honour of Santiago Apóstol (St. James de Apostle) have become a fixed date on the calendar for the islanders who make their way to Tunte, either through tradition or through their faith, to fulfill promises made. The fiestas are especially relevant when they fall on a Saint James year. The acts that stand out, for their ethnographic content and tradition, are the Pilgrimage of Santiago el Chico and the Livestock fair.

### PATRON SAINT FESTIVAL OF MASPALOMAS IN HONOUR OF SAN FERNANDO

This festival is held during the second fortnight in May and the first week in June in San Fernando, the main population area in the municipality. Events worth a special mention are the Pilgrimage of San Fernando el Chico and the Popular Barbecue of Sardines, both held on the same day, 30<sup>th</sup> May; plus the Regional Folklore Festival of Maspalomas.

### FIESTAS OF THE HOLY TRINITY IN EL TABLERO

Held during the first fortnight in May. Main activities here include the preparation of a gigantic paella, which is given out free to all those who come over to the stand.

### INTERNATIONAL MASPALOMAS CARNIVAL

Every year, between the end of February and mid March, Maspalomas Costa Canaria dresses up and puts on a colourful show to celebrate its Carnival. For nearly a whole week musical groups of rondallas, murgas and comparsas go around the streets of the municipality leaving a generalised happy party atmosphere in their wake. The streets become a hive of colour and joy, a fine testament to its cordiality and tolerance.



International Maspalomas Carnival.



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# SAN BARTOLOMÉ DE TIRAJANA



MUNICIPALITIES OF GRAN CANARIA



## Cuisine



### TYPICAL PRODUCTS FROM THE MUNICIPALITY

Baifo (or goatmeat), fried or marinated  
Marzipans and *mantecados* lard cakes  
Olives with red spicy *mojo* sauce

### Typical Recipe

#### Tomatia de Carnaval



#### INGREDIENTS

1 kg. of salty fish  
(sea bass or corvine)  
1 onion  
2 large potatoes  
6 cloves of garlic  
½ red pepper  
1 kilo of ripe tomatoes  
½ kilo of tender beans  
Oil

#### PREPARATION

The chopped garlic, onion, pepper and tomatoes are all fried together in a frying pan with a little oil until lightly browned. The fish is de-salted in water overnight, and is panboiled separately, as are the potatoes and the beans. When everything is all cooked through it is mixed together with the fried ingredients in a larger pot. The potatoes are then peeled and cut into small chunks, then everything is left to let the flavours sink in, at which point it is ready to be eaten.



The municipality of the Villa de San Bartolomé de Tirajana occupies 333.13km surface area and is located right at the south of Gran Canaria.



Arteara.

## Did you know?

It was at Maspalomas, at the satellite surveillance station (INTA-NASA), where the voice of Neil Armstrong came through for the first time, with his historic phrase "It's a small step for man, but a great step for mankind", while at the same time monitoring the increase in his heart beat, and getting live images from the satellite here of the outside of the space ship, which would be sent around the world. That sentence was sent by telephone line to Las Palmas de Gran Canaria, from there via a short wave link to England, where it went by underground cable across the sea to the town of Andover in the United States, to be sent on via micro waves to Houston.

The GC-60 road takes us along the first and most significant route around the municipality of the Villa de San Bartolomé de Tirajana. It crosses the area from south to north and splits the municipal territory in half as it does so. The road is submerged sharply in the arid southern terrain in which *cardón* and *tabaiba* plants dominate. The natural and ethno-historical features this ravine holds, and which we are going to pass through, has afforded it the distinction of **Protected Landscape of Fataga** and its inclusion in the Canary network of Protected Natural Regions. The second leg runs along the inside of the **Caldera de Tirajana**, an enormous crater with a circumference of over 40 km, carved out by erosion over millions of years. It opens out into a ravine with the same name to the southeast. Its monumental size and archaeological importance makes it one of the greatest natural and historic sanctuaries in Gran Canaria.

We enter into the **Fataga Protected Natural Landscape Area** (4.2km) before passing by the **Mundo Aborigen** recreational complex (6.3km) and arriving at the Viewpoint of La Degollada de las Yeguas (7.5kkm). From here we are treated to one of the most wonderful panoramic views of this great ravine, from the sea right up to the summit, thanks to its panoramic angle of more than 190° facing westwards.



Ayacata.

A visit to the theme park at Mundo Aborigen and the pre-hispanic necropolis at Arteara is highly recommendable, and affords us an interesting insight into lifestyle and death of the ancient Canarians. The **Arteara Necropolis** is one of the most important archaeological settlements on the island, an aboriginal cemetery dating back to the 4<sup>th</sup> century BC, in which over 1,000 burial mounds have been identified.

We might be surprised to come across camels and camel owners on our route, they are now used more as tourist attractions rather than the traditional farming labour that their forefathers used them for. With aerial views of the necropolis and the palm groves of Arteara, we continue along to the hamlet of **Fataga**. Farming land, fruit trees and traditional buildings surround this picturesque village which is well worth a visit (with a hermitage, rural architecture, shops, restaurants, petrol station...). Just past the ancient windmill (an important ethnographic remain) and a beautiful palm grove, we carry on upwards. The road continues up the head of the ravine and enters the area of the **Caldera de Tirajana**. We would again strongly recommend a quick stop at the Viewpoint of Fataga, from where we can take in panoramic views of the basins of Fataga and Tirajana. The road flattens out at this point and runs along pine and almond trees towards the



Fataga.

administrative capital of the municipality, at San Bartolomé. Here stands a pre-Hispanic settlement named **Tunte**.

Here we can enjoy all that the municipal town offers. In its town centre there is a mixture of architectural styles covering each moment of its history, from pre-hispanic houses to modern, public buildings such as the Town Hall, combining with fine examples of traditional architecture. Not forgetting religious ones too, in the shape of the **church of San Bartolomé**, a neoclassical belfry which was rebuilt towards the end of the 17<sup>th</sup> century. Inside is the much worshipped equestrian statue of Santiago el Chico, who has become the focal point of Saint James pilgrimage on the island. Here also stands the House Museum of Los Yanez. The typical island cuisine of cheese, wine and traditionally made drinks typical of Tirajana, such as the "Guindilla" are readily available at the numerous bars and restaurants, where there are also examples of local crafts. Likewise, we can also visit the wine cellars of Las Tirajanas and the Cemetery façade.

Our route now takes us along the road to the rock circus of **Ayacata** at the foot of high walls, with tourist restaurants by the roadside. The natural surroundings of the hamlet of Ayacata offers perfect conditions for a break and to round off our excursion around the municipality of San Bartolomé



Soria Reservoir.



Dunas de Maspalomas.



San Agustín beach.

de Tirajana, returning to Maspalomas along the GC- 60 via San Bartolomé de Tirajana and Fataga (34.4 km).

If you would like to carry on along the route, we recommend you go on up the GC-600, which from the crossroads is right next to the church of Ayacata, and takes you up to the Pico de las Nieves and on towards Cruz de Tejada (4.7 km). Here you enter the Rural Park of Roque Nublo, the most extensive of all the protected areas on the island, in which priceless jewels of endemic flora and fauna are carefully preserved (at which point the path up to the Roque Nublo is located, a highly recommended 1 hour walk to stretch your legs). From here on, there are several choices of routes to the northern face of the island.



## How to Get There

### BY BUS FROM LAS PALMAS DE GRAN CANARIA

<b>Service 04</b>	Tablero de Maspalomas Las Palmas de G.C.
<b>Service 05</b>	Las Palmas de G.C. Faro de Maspalomas.
<b>Service 30</b>	Las Palmas de G.C. (Sta.Catalina) Faro de Maspalomas.
<b>Service 50</b>	Las Palmas de G.C. Faro de Maspalomas.
<b>Service 66</b>	Aeropuerto Gran Canaria Faro de Maspalomas.

### MOST SIGNIFICANT TOURISTIC SPOTS

- Maspalomas Dunes
- Special Nature Reserve
- Maspalomas Lighthouse
- San Fernando Maspalomas
- Stately House
- Punta Mujeres Archaeological settlement
- Vega Grande Landholding Estate