

Festivals

SAINT MATÍAS APÓSTOL

Held on the last Sunday in February. Saint Matías Apóstol has been the Patron Saint of Artenara since the 17th century and was named the Patron of Pinares de Gran Canaria in 1996.

PILGRIMAGE AND FIESTAS OF SAN ISIDRO

This is celebrated on the last Sunday in May and consists of a great exhibition of Canary traditions through a display of products and customs from each district. On the eve of the fiesta a pilgrimage is held in which carts carrying local products from the land are offered up to the Saint, accompanied by folkloric groups.

VIRGIN OF THE CUEVITA

This is the most important festival in Artenara, since she is the Patron Saint of the Folkloric Groups and Island Cyclists. It starts off on 15th August with the carrying of the Virgin down from her hermitage to the parish temple. The Grand Day of La Cuevita is held on the last Sunday in August.

THE CHRIST OF ACUSA

This fiesta has been held since the beginning of the 18th century, on 14th September in the district of Acusa, bringing together large numbers of pilgrims who come to fulfill promises they have made. And last, but not least, is the Candelaria de Acusa. This is held on the second Sunday in October, with deep-rooted devotion since the 17th century.



Virgin of La Cuevita.



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ARTENARA




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MUNICIPALITIES OF GRAN CANARIA



Cuisine



TYPICAL PRODUCTS FROM THE MUNICIPALITY

Potato bread rolls
Artisan Cheese
Wine and honey

Typical Recipe

Potato Bread Rolls

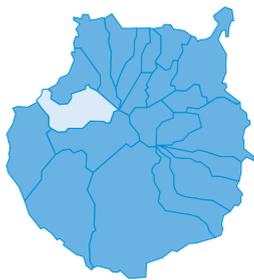


INGREDIENTS

Potatoes from Artenara
Cinnamon
Aniseed
Sugar
Flour
Yeast
Water

PREPARATION

The Artenara potatoes are parboiled and mashed, then cinnamon is added along with the aniseed and sugar. This is mixed together well so as not to leave any lumps. The flour, yeast, water is added to the main mix, and this is then chopped up into portions and made into round rolls, letting them then ferment. It is later baked for about 20 minutes. Then, tuck in!



Situated right at the summit in the middle of the island.



Cave Houses.

Did you know?

Artenara accounts for 17% of the 2,192 caves on the Gran Canaria census, and this island is the only one out of the archipelago that uses them as actual houses. The use of caves for houses in Artenara goes back to pre-European times. Following the Conquest, the aboriginal caves were taken over by the new inhabitants to be lived in, and this custom has continued to the present day.

Houses were built into the caves for several reasons:

- The lack of flat building land available for architectural edification.
- The existence of mountainous slopes and a type of rock that was apt for them to be opened up as caves.
- The durability of the construction, since the caves do not suffer major alteration over time.
- To provide shelter against hazardous weather and extreme temperatures.
- The lack of available transport of building materials until well into the 20th century.

When visitors arrive at **Artenara** they might just fancy dropping the car off and taking a short stroll around the highest village in Gran Canaria. Cars can be left on any of the parking areas surrounding the village streets, and to get an idea of where you are and to make the most of your visit, we would recommend you stop by the Tourist Information Office for the best advice.

Your route can take you round in a circle, starting at the **Atalaya Viewpoint** at the entrance to the village. From this point you can see different districts of the municipality on high, where most of the inhabitants live in modern, adapted cave-houses that are cool in summer and warm in winter. We also see how the village is set in pine groves that surround it. Without moving a step, we can see the sprawl of the **Tamadaba Natural Park** and the outline of Mount Teide in Tenerife. If we look over to the historic town centre we can make out the **Mountain of La Cilla**, where we can visit the famous viewpoint, through a tunnel of over 60m and crowned by the majestic sculpture of the **Heart of Jesus**, with his arms spread wide.

We continue our walk down towards the village, passing through the **Solanita Viewpoint**, from where we can see a large recreational area, the municipal swimming pool and the New Park, with a sculptured work in honour of Canary



Views of the Tamadaba Natural Park.



Church of San Matías.



The Balcony of Unamuno.

folklore representing a *timple* guitar etched out of Tindaya stone.

We now reach the **Plaza de San Matías**, right at the heart of the Historic part of Artenara, to stop and visit the **Church of San Matías**, the most important religious building of the area in which pride of place goes to the pictorial work of famed island painter José Arencibia Gil, constituting a biblical trilogy. Also worth a mention are the coffered ceiling and the church windows.

As we leave the church we climb some 400m until we reach the **Hermitage of the Cuevita**. Along the way we can observe panoramic views of the **Roque Bentayga** and the **Roque Nublo**. On arriving at the hermitage the first thing to draw our attention is the altar, pulpit, the confessional and choir area which are all cut out of rock itself. In this cavern

the Virgin of the Cuevita is revered, in a wooden sculpture 0.80m high and Patron Saint of Canary Folklore and Canary Cycling. Its festival is celebrated on the last Sunday in August with great solemnity and participation by the pilgrims.

Right opposite the hermitage we can go down a path which leads us through a unique troglodyte district as far as the **Santiago Aranda House Museum**, a fine example of a cave-house the type of which the pre-hispanic population of the area dwelled. In this ethnographic museum we can see characteristic furnishings and a collection of traditional alfalfa from the troglodyte settlement of Lugarejos. Following along the street towards the church we find the Balcony of Unamuno and the **Esquina Viewpoint**. The Balcony of Unamuno was built in 1999 to commemorate the illustrious Spanish writer and philosopher's stay here back in



Sculpture of the Sacred Heart of Jesus.



Llano de Acusa Verde con los Roques de Bentayga y Nublo al fondo.

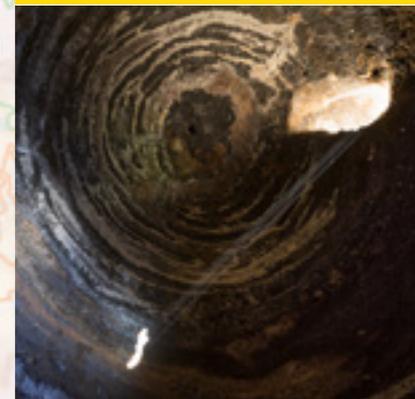
1910. From these strategic spots we can contemplate the impressive Caldera de Tejeda crater, crossed by ravines and at whose centre the **Roque Bentayga** proudly rises, and a little more to the left of this the **Roque Nublo**, the symbol of Gran Canaria.

From the church square itself, we make our way to the **Viewpoint – Restaurant de La Cilla**, (in whose immediate surroundings the Tourism Office is located). We can also take a path up to the summit, where we find the sculpture of the **Sacred Heart of Jesus**.

Other places of interest in Artenara are the **Aboriginal Settlement of Acusa Seca**, next to another collection of prehispanic caves.

How to Get There

BY BUS
FROM LAS PALMAS
DE GRAN CANARIA
Service 220



Risco Caído