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Festivals

THE POND

This is the symbol of this town and is celebrated on the Playa de La Aldea every 11th September at 17:00 hrs. This grand fiesta is derived from an aboriginal fishing technique known as “embarbascada” (a kind of ambush consisting of splashing the water around with tabaiba and cardón plants and making them dizzy and confused, and then picking them out of the water by hand with no difficulty). This fiesta is unique for its originality and constitutes one of the biggest festive displays in the whole of the Canary Islands.



Festival of The Pond



Festival of The Pond

Cuisine



TYPICAL PRODUCTS FROM THE MUNICIPALITY

“Ropa Vieja” with octopus dish
Fish broth with “gofio” maize meal
Boiled “mojo” spicy sauce

Typical Recipe

Sweet Tomatoes



INGREDIENTS

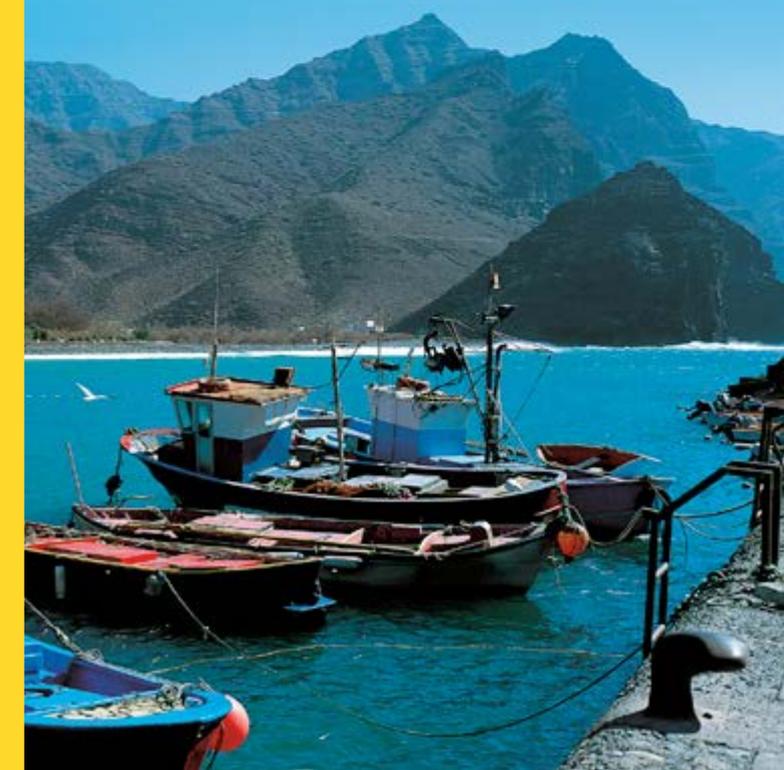
2kg. ripe tomatoes
2kg. brown or white sugar

PREPARATION

The tomatoes are peeled, cut down the middle and the pips removed; the tomatoes are then chopped up finely and weighed to obtain 2kg of clean tomato pulp. This is placed in a pot on low heat and the sugar is added bit by bit and mixed in well. A lemon skin is then added, and the sauce is stirred from time to time to stop it from sticking and it is kept on this heat for about one hour. A small amount of cinnamon leaf is added half an hour before turning the heat off. When it has the consistency of marmalade, the heat is turned off, and the cinnamon leaf and lemon peel are removed. It is left to cool at which point it is ready to be served.



La Aldea de San Nicolás



If you approach La Aldea de San Nicolás from the south we suggest you stop off at the **Degollada de Tasarte Viewpoint**. From here you can see a fertile valley surrounded by mountains and beaches, with 98% of its surface area protected by the Biosphere Reserve.

The cactus theme park, Cactualdea, is where a huge variety of species can be seen, which have been brought in from places all over the world, including Madagascar, Guatemala, México, made up of palm trees, dragon trees and aloe plants.

Your itinerary through the town centre starts at **Calle Real**, a pedestrian street where we can see the current Parish temple, built in 1972, as the more primitive Hermitage of San Nicolás was erected at the Playa de La Aldea beach around the middle of the 14th century by the mallorquin friars. All along this street, visitors can appreciate the popular Canary architecture: the Municipal Cultural Centre, Town Hall, the Stone and Mud Houses from the 17th and 18th centuries, and the Balcony Houses.

THE BEACHES OF LA ALDEA.

There are two distinct areas along the beach of La Aldea: One of these is **Las Barquillas**, It is a stony beach and is easily reached. It has a solarium for sun bathing and showers. The other is **La Caletilla**. This is a sand and stone beach which can be easily reached by going through the tunnel that divides the area in two. **The little port cove**.- One of the great surprises is to discover the little port cove with its black sand. It has this name because it was the first natural port in La Aldea, until 1990 when the harbour was built at its present day location. Access is gained to it by walking along the Ruta del Puerto path. It has stunning views. Tasarte Beach. Tasartico Beach.

Beaches of Guguy (Gúi-Güi) Access is only available on foot or by boat.

This is the most attractive hiking route on the island of Gran Canaria. A visit to this beach, which cannot be reached by vehicles, is a real challenge and



Centro de visitantes Micro Área marina El Roque.

Until 1939-1942, the natural port of La Aldea was the main exit and entry point for all agricultural produce, fish products and merchandise in general from the western county of Gran Canaria, because the distance and rough terrain made it impossible to build suitable roads. Port traffic in La Aldea grew rapidly with the introduction of the tomato crop in 1897. German business man Ernst Karl Jack took the initiative to construct a wharf and packing factory. This move was part of the new trend of agrarian development, which saw the introduction of the banana as well as the tomato, both of which were begun by the German entrepreneur.

The old factory is now the El Roque Marine Mini- Area Visitors Centre, which features an exhibition about the sea bed, displaying its flora and fauna in detail; there is also a Tourist Information desk.

The wharf was built directly on the main beach, on a rocky platform in a shallow area. It is made with natural stones held together with a mortar made from limestone and sand with a pebbledash rendering. The decking is irregular in shape, attached to what was formerly the cliff face with a ramp that takes you up to the former packing factory.

adventure. It is the magic of one of the most remote and wildest idyllic spots in Gran Canaria. **THE POND** as a natural and ethnological area is the symbol of the local people. The place itself is wetland ecosystem situated right on the sea shore, where a popular fiesta is held on the 11th of September every year.

The Distillery, the ancient rum factory. Rum is a liquor derived from sugar cane. The factory was set up by Don Manuel Quevedo Alemán and Miguel León Jorge between 1935 and 1936. Production first started up as Rum from La Aldea before later being renamed as “El Charco Rum”. The distillery closed its doors for the last time in 1959. Currently the Quevedo family continue to manufacture rum and liqueurs at their factory in San Andrés y Sauces (on the island of La Palma), while maintaining the name of “La Aldea Rum”.

Los Caserones Archaeological Complex. This is one of the most important archaeological enclaves in Gran Canaria and a paradigmatic example of models of human occupation during the pre-Hispanic period on the island. They were made up of a diverse range of human settlements, in the form of both house-caves and stone houses, cruciform on the inside and oval-shaped on the outside, as well as burial mounds.

The Micro Marine Area of El Roque is located at La Aldea Beach. This protected area provides a chance to see many different species and is well worth a visit. Examples of these are the many types of fish, including roncadores, barracudas, sargos and its shoals of wonderful gorgonias. On the sandy beds it is not uncommon to see animals such as chuchos, angelotes and mantellinas. It is a truly privileged place for spotting the wealth of marine life on the sea beds of this Gran Canaria Biosphere Reserve.

El Roque. This is an erosive rock that overlooks the receding cliffs. It is made up of ancient basalt rocks that are around 14 million years old. It is a natural and emblematic monument on La Aldea’s landscape. **Military Fortification** or Machine gun Nest. At the base of the Roque is a fortification that dates back to the Second World War, built by the army for the fear of invasion by the Allies.



Guigui beach



Panoramic view

Did you know?

The Aldea Courtcase

On 14th February 1927, the Government Justice Minister of General Primo de Rivera, Mr. Galo Ponte, turned up in La Aldea in order to find out about a problem the locals of La Aldea had. The root of the conflict lay in the fact that neither the owners of the Great Hacienda of Aldea de San Nicolás, nor the locals, had documents to credit them with ownership of the Hacienda, resulting in a fight between the two. The locals had been farming the land for many years, passing the business down from fathers to sons. The Minister was able to bring the case to a satisfactory conclusion.



Andén Verde

La Aldea de San Nicolás



The municipality of La Aldea de San Nicolás, at the most westerly point of the island, stretches from north to south along a windy strip some 139kms².

How to Get There

From Las Palmas de Gran Canaria to La Aldea de San Nicolás there are 69km, and from San Bartolomé to La Aldea de San Nicolás there are some 59km.

You can travel by car:

NORTH ROUTE

Las Palmas de Gran Canaria to Agaete along **GC-2** motorway, then Agaete to La Aldea de San Nicolás along **GC-200** main road.

CENTRAL ROUTE

Las Palmas de Gran Canaria along **GC-4**, then **GC-15** Cruz de Tejada, **GC-210** Artenara and **GC-210** La Aldea de San Nicolás.

SOUTH ROUTE

Las Palmas de Gran Canaria **GC-1**, Puerto Rico **GC-500**, Cruce del Puerto de Mogán **GC-200**, La Aldea de San Nicolás.

BY BUS

Service 38 Las Palmas de Gran Canaria- Puerto Rico- Mogán- La Aldea de San Nicolás. **Service 105** Las Palmas de Gran Canaria- Gáldar, **Service 101** Gáldar- Agaete- La Aldea de San Nicolás



La Aldea beach