



BARRANCODEFATAGA

BARRANCO DE FATAGA

The Barranco de Fataga begins at the southern border of the Caldera de Tirajana at 900 m above sea level, where it descends in a straight line southwards for 16 km and ends at Maspalomas. It divides the municipal district of San Bartolomé de Tirajana in two, and separates the ramps of Amurga and La Santidad.

Its upper section forms a wide valley trough that separates the Amurga from the hills and stockyards in the Ayagaures basin. In the surrounding lands and reservoirs, the strong stream excavated a narrow bed in the old phonolite passes, with borders cut in such a way that they are ideal for climbing.

Further down, the middle section narrows and forms a canyon that widens after the Lomo de la Cogolla. Several tributary ravines meet (Los Vicentes, Negro, Chamoriscán...) with sedimentary materials that form part of the coastal platform of Maspalomas.

There are two villages in the ravine, Artea and Fataga, traditionally dedicated to agriculture and cattle raising, although Fataga, with interesting architecture and situated on the GC-60 road, has been an important tourist and residential spot throughout this last decade. Except for these two areas, the ravine is part of the Fataga Protected Landscape, a natural area included in the Plancones Rural Park, due to its high geomorphologic and aesthetic value. It has important riverbed natural habitats, such as palm groves to be found there. It also has escarpments where we can find rare endemisms, such as the everlasting flower (*Limonium preauxii*) or the ruda (*Ruta oreojasme*) and sabinas (*Juniper - Juniperus phoenicea*). Throughout the riverbed, and especially on its slopes, there are many archaeological deposits, with numerous burial mounds and funerary cists, scattered under in the rocky deposits produced by a big landslide. The interesting samples of architecture and the rural way of life endow the ravine as a whole with an exceptional ethnohistoric value.



LA PEDRERA OR PICONERA

A climbing area that is not used by many people, where there are about twenty routes. Other features make up for this lack of routes, such as its proximity and easy access, which make it an ideal leisure spot to spend the evening. The general difficulty is quite varied, with paths ranging from V to some of 7b or even 7c.

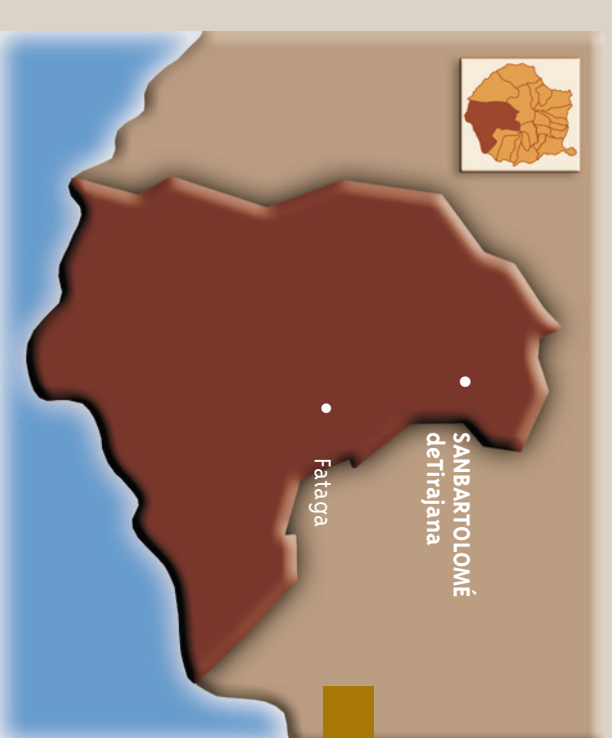
ACCESS: Take the GC-60 road that leaves from the Viuda de Franco roundabout and goes northwards to San Bartolomé de Tirajana. After you have reached San Fernando de Maspalomas, continue for one kilometre, where the road forks next to the ELMASA (Water company) building. Turn left and make your way down to the riverbed of the Barranco de Fataga, then towards the aggregate plant that gives its name to this climbing area. After you have past this plant, which is easily seen, the tarmac road turns into a dirt track in a good state of repair. Carry on along the dirt track for 1.7 km to the climbing area. On the western side of the riverbed, there are some small white spots on the wall, where you will be able to see a small artisan boulder when you reach the foot of the wall.

THE FATAGA ROCK

The volcanic origin of Gran Canaria has generated different types of rocks according to the different eruptive cycles. Therefore, trachytes and phonolites are the dominant types of rock in the south-western section of the island, called Paleo-tamaran as it was formed with the material corresponding to the I Eruptive Cycle. They are very old and strong materials that break into big blocks or slices rather than into fine surface desegregation. They conserve an adherent porosity and provide the climber with excellent foot and finger holds.

The differential erosion and, especially, the strong stream, have revealed, torn off and modelled the outflow borders of the southern ravines, which usually are more than 20 m thick. These walls offer a world of possibilities to open up difficult routes and new modalities such as boulder and block climbing.

MASPALOMAS ESPACIO NATURAL GUIA RURAL Y TURISMO ACTIVO



SANBARTOLOMÉ
de Tirajana

Fataga

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For over ten years, the recent history of Gran Canarian climbing has been written on the obscure basalts and phonolites of the southern ravines. The outstanding quality of the rock and also the beauty of the natural scenery, the good climate and easy access to climbing areas that start from its riverbeds, offer a promising future to climbing as a sport and to new modalities like the boulder or block climbing.

The Barranco (ravine) de Fataga is one of these privileged areas with features that have ensured this area its place among the island's most important climbing areas.

The two climbing areas next to the village of Fataga are relatively recent. Fatagonia is the older of the two and is considered by some to be an alternative and others are enthusiastic for the new walls, but especially due to its excellent rock quality.





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MASPALOMAS
ESPACIO NATURAL
GUIA RURAL
Y TURISMO ACTIVO

ROCKDROME OF SAN FERNANDO

The rockdrome at the Pabellón de Deportes Municipal de San Fernando de Maspalomas (Municipal Sports Pavilion) is a meeting place for local climbers and a source of information on climbing areas, routes, material... Climbing courses are provided to students of all ages, from beginners to advanced, on its panels and walls. These walls are 9 m high by 12 m wide and have a range of routes of various degrees of difficulty, which are also used for training, meetings and championships of different levels.



FATAGONIA

It is a very popular area due to its numerous well-equipped routes, of varied difficulties and lengths, in a typical southern environment, with palm trees and cliffs even though the nearby industrial plant has had an impact on this setting. Other attractive features of this spot are the great possibilities for the future offered by its walls, the easy access and its nearness to Fataga in order to stock up on food and drink (Fataga is only 1.5 km away after you have gone up the steps and bread, cheese, beer are available there).

There are over fifty routes that range in difficulty from V to 8th. They are not too long, although some are 15 m long, but they are very pleasant to climb. Examples are the paths of La Cueva, 6a and 6b, Via Krucis 6c, c+, Vizarpa 6b+. These include the ones next to the stairway descending from the wall of the Fataga dam, which are the hardest.

HOW TO GET THERE: Follow the GC-60 road and 1 km before reaching Fataga, take the dirt track that goes off to the left. The entrance to the dirt track has a chain across it, which prevent cars from entering. Continue on foot to the Fataga dam, where there is a stairway that will take you down to the riverbed and the climbing area, on the right of the riverbed, which can be seen from the road.



Fatagonia walls

