




VUELTA A CHIRA

 The only difficulty is the descent towards the Chira reservoir, where you have to make sure that you pay attention to the signs so that you can find the path.

Cercados de Araña was the most important village in the south and west area of Gran Canaria at the end of the 18th century. Its role was so important that when they wanted to build a parish church in the area, they planned to build it here. The points they put forward were the flat land, abundance of water and perfect climate.



Cercados de Araña is located in a magnificent valley, next to a pine forest and close to the old Chapel of Santiago. Los Canalizas is to the north of Cercados. The dam of the reservoir that has covered much of its former agricultural land is to the south. To the west, there is Lomo La Paloma and the Plancones Natural Park to the east.

The small mountain situated in the centre of the valley divides the village into Cercados de Araña (literally Upper Cercados) and Cercados de Abajo (Lower Cercados), and the Chapel of San Juan was built on its upper slopes. The name of Santiago was written on the foundations, in memory of the chapel to be found in the pine tree.



BITTER SPURGE (*euphorbia obtusifolia*)

As is the case of the other species of the euphorbia family that can be found in the most arid areas of the Canary Islands, the euphorbia obtusifolia is a small shrub. It is characterised by a short trunk,

which can always be clearly seen, and a wide, nearly round, crown. The leaves are grouped together at the tip of the branches. It is a common plant, above all in the warmer and drier areas, grows up to 2 metres and has a straight trunk. The leaves are linear, with a sharp tip, and grow up to 7 centimetres long and not wider than 6 millimetres. The flowers are arranged in false groups and with pale green bracts. It is a species that is found in North Africa and on the Canary Islands.

The name of Cercados de Araña comes from the surname of the first owners of this land. Records show that masses were said in a church of las Palmas in the 17th century, which "had to be paid with the goods of the Cercados del Melchora de Araña". There is evidence that the land was owned by Captain Antonio de Araña in 1672 and that his goods were seized as he stood surety for Francisco Hemández Suárez.

Subsequently, in 1698, the land was transferred to the Bernadette nuns in las Palmas, as Captain Araña had not paid three annuities to this convent. In this same year, the Monastery sold this tribute to Lorenzo de Campo and his wife, María Cazorla Araña.

Cercados de Araña is 9, nowadays a very prosperous area, where the land is ideal for growing fruit.



Grabado cercano a la presa.

Por José Ignacio Trojaola

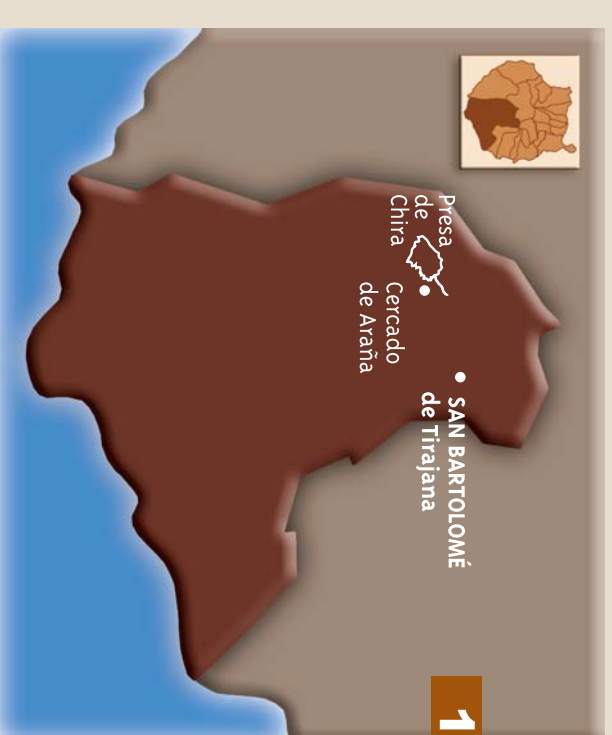
MASPALOMAS ESPACIO NATURAL GUIA RURAL Y TURISMO ACTIVO



• SAN BARTOLOMÉ
de Tirajana

Presa
de Chira
Cercado
de Araña

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VUELTA A CHIRA

From Cercados de Araña through Cruz de Los Caminos and Chira to Cercados de Araña.

It is an agreeable and not excessively complicated walk. From Cercados de Arena, you will walk all the way around the reservoir and through two different types of countryside, depending on which bank you are walking along.

length: **7,3 km.**

Estimated time: **2 h. 30 min**

Difficulty: **1 (Very easy)**

How to get there: **It is very easy to get there if you have a car and there are no problems with the return journey as the route starts and ends from the same spot.**





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The route round the reservoir starts from the telephone box at the crossroads with the GC-604 road, which takes you towards Cercados de Araña. You will end at almost the same spot. The route begins along the tarmac track. After walking for 550 m, take the cement road that you will find on your left. There is a sign warning that you are entering private property, but you can walk along this track. Further along this path, you will come to house no. 33 on your right, which is the birthplace of Santiago Cazorla León, canon, university professor and the official chronicler of San Bartolomé. Carry on up the path, which will take you to the upper dirt track, where there is a small cross. It is called Cruz de Caminos (Cross of the Paths). After 20 m, turn right down the path and carry on for 350 m. Cross the dirt track and carry on along the path for a further 350 m, practically following the posts, until you return to the dirt track and carry on for a further 800 m and go past the path on the right that goes to Lomo La Palma. Turn left about 150 m before you reach some electricity pylons. You need to pay attention here as it is easy to miss the turning, even though it is marked by a pile of stones. The descent towards the Cañada de la Vaca begins here, where there is a small reservoir, which you should cross by walking along the dam and then follow the round pipe and canal. This stretch is not more than 120 m and is not at all difficult. Then, return to the path that will take you to the dam and walk across its 250 m and you will then reach the tarmac road, at the height of the Allergies de Chirac. You will see some cement pipes, that run beside the path, some meters further on to your right. Cross a dirt track and continue uphill until you reach a pond, 750 m. Turn left down a clearly marked track and alongside which runs a black pipe. Continue for 1,850 m until you come to two ponds on tour left. The path you have to take runs between the ponds and continues downhill until you reach the first houses and a track that will take you to the tarmac road, opposite the telephone box, 650 m, where you will have left your means of transport when you set off.



MASPALOMAS ESPACIO NATURAL Y TURISMO ACTIVO

MAPKEY

- (Canarian Vegetation)
- Cardonal/ Tabaibal
- Palm Grove
- Fruit Trees
- Canes
- Pine Grove
- Bar
- Restaurant
- Crafts
- Provisions
- Recreational Area
- Camping Area
- Medical Care Services

PLACES OF INTEREST

- LANDSCAPE
- BOTANICAL
- GEOLOGICAL
- ARCHAEOLOGICAL
- FAUNA
- TOURIST

ITINERARY

- Main Road
- Secondary Road
- Track
- Itinerary
- Alternative itinerary
- Direction of itinerary
- Partial Distance
- Total Distance
- Caution
- Danger