




MASPALOMAS-ARTEARA

 In spite of it not being complicated, it is not advisable to do this route on hot days. You should always take enough water with you and take into account there is no mobile telephone coverage along most of the route.

The routes that go through the ravines of Fataga and Los Vicentes will take you through outstanding landscape. There the only blight is the stone quarry on the left at the start of the route, although this is compensated for by a magnificent piece of engineering located opposite the quarry. This is a large aqueduct located in the area known as Muchos Puentes (Many Bridges) and which continues to supply water to the residents of the Maspalomas area. It is about 150 years old. It is not sure who designed the aqueduct, but it is thought to be the work of Juan LeJún Castillo, as it is very similar to other bridges that he built in other parts of Gran Canaria. The path runs along the bottom of the ravine and makes the hiker feel insignificant compared to the rock formations that we can see on either side.

During the hike, you will see magnificent examples of Canary Island cactusspurge (*Euphorbia canariensis*), as it is in this area and on Mount Las Tabairas, where we can find the best examples of this plant, together with the Canarian candle plant and spiny lettuces. The remains of old Canarian houses, such as Casas del Maestro and El Tranquillo, are also to be found at the bottom of the ravine. The fruit of the prickly pear are split in half and baked in the oven or over embers and used to relieve pain in general and stomachache in particular..



Canary Island cactus-spurge (*euphorbia canariensis*)

The tetragonal or pentagonal, greasy stems with short thorns are similar to cacti. The reddish flowers bloom on the end of the stems, but it is the reddishbrown semi-ripe seedpods, that catch most attention.

The sap is caustic and toxic, can cause skin injuries and is every dangerous if you get it in your eyes or on your lips, etc .

It is an endemic species to the Canary Islands, even though it is becoming more and more rare on the eastern islands.



Acueducto.

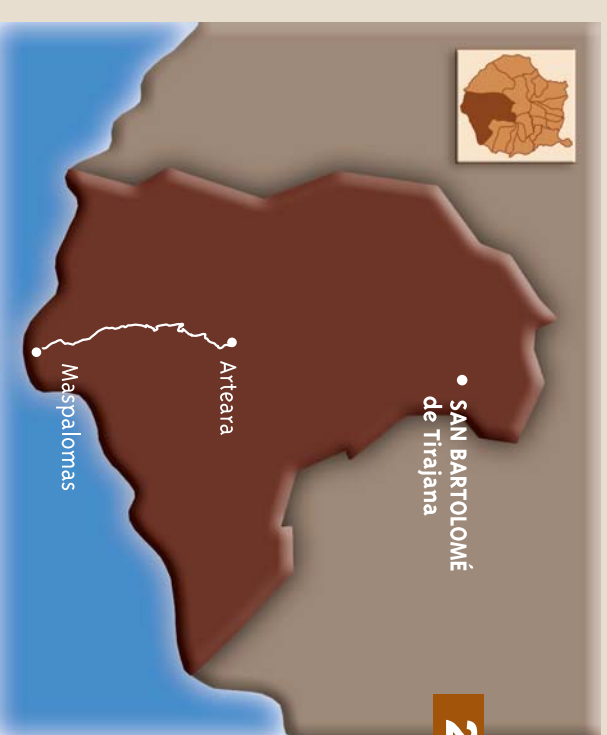
Prickly Pear (*Opuntia ficus*)

The *Opuntia* family is made up of those plants that are generally called Indian figs. In reality, there are over 200 species, all of them originating from the American continent. We can find two species in the warm-arid areas of the Canary Islands and both of them can be classified as plants that form part of the spontaneous flora. They are differentiated by the strength of their thorns, as the *o. dillenii* has long and stiff thorns that are grouped together in bundles of three, while the *o. ficus* has short, fine thorns, that are distributed in larger groups. It is easier to differentiate between them when they are in flower, as the *o. dillenii* has yellow flowers, while the flowers of the other type are reddish brown. The fruit (known as tunos) are yellowish-green when they are ripe. The cochineal breeds on this and other species of the *Opuntia* family. This insect was widely used to make dye and this industry played a very important role on the island in the past, but is now reduced to a collection of anecdotes.



Por José Ignacio Trojaola

MASPALOMAS ESPACIO NATURAL GUIA RURAL Y TURISMO ACTIVO



23

MASPALOMAS-ARTEARA

From San Fernando to ,Arteara along the Barranco de Fataga and Citagana.

This route takes you along the bed of the Ravine of Fataga to Arteara, one of the most picturesque villages in the municipal district of San Bartolomé de Tirajana. This hamlet has remained largely untouched by tourism, and you will also see one of the largest groups of Canary Island Spurge to be found on the Island.

Length: **12,2 km**

Estimated time: **3 h 30 min**

Difficulty: **2 (easy)**

How to get there: How to get there: Along the GC-60 road from Playa del Inglés to San Bartolomé, which runs past the Casa Vieja Restaurant. Turn left when you reach the crossroads next to the ELMASA water purifying plant. The Global bus no. 18 will bring you back from Arteara.





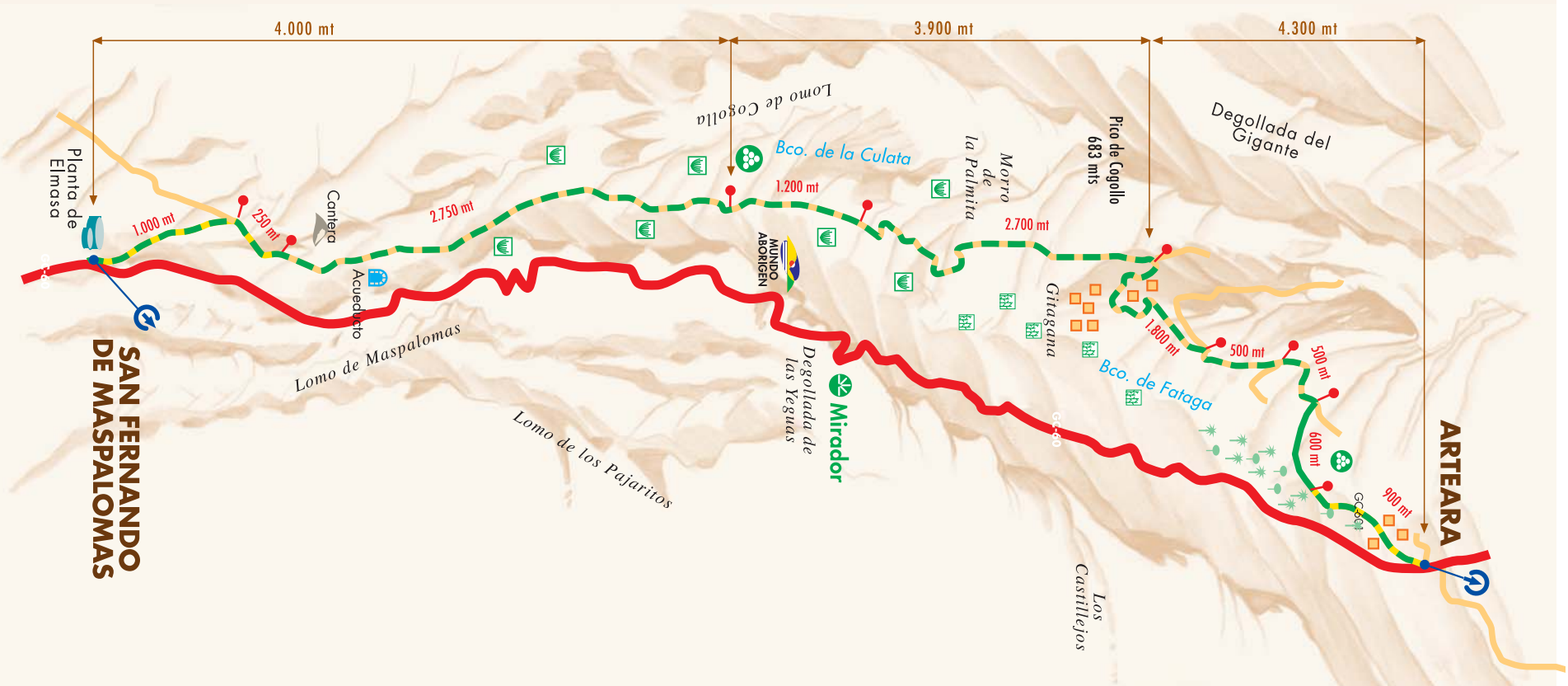
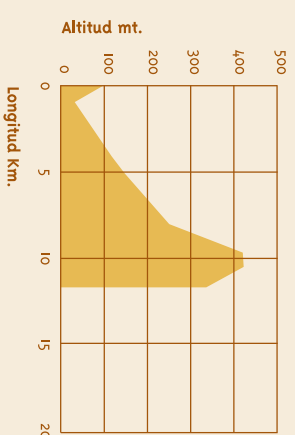
MASPALOMAS-ARTEARA



This route starts from the main road, at the crossroads next to the ELMASA water purifying plant. Go along the tarmac path for 1 km until you reach the bottom of the ravine, where the ravines of Los Vicentes and Fataga meet and where the protected landscape of Fataga starts. Take the track to the right and after 250 metres you will pass another path going off to the left to a stone quarry. A little further on, there is an aqueduct on the right that supplies the water for part of the inhabitants of Maspalomas. The vegetation in this area is mainly made up of magnificent examples of Canary Island spurge and you can also see spiny lettuces and the autochthonous balos (pilocama pendula). The track crosses the ravine several times and it is therefore sometimes on the right and sometimes on the left. Carry on up the dirt track for roughly 4 km, until you reach the point where the Barranco de Fataga joins the Barranco de La Culata, which is to your left. After 2,700 metres, where you will see wonderful examples of other species of spurge, you reach a point where two paths meet. The path to the left has a no-entry sign. Continue along the path to the right for 1,800 metres. After you have gone past some houses surrounded by crops, which include prickly pears, and which make up the village of Gitagana, climb up to the upper track that goes towards Ayagaures. Then turn right towards Arteara, carry on for another 500 metres and go past another path that goes off to the right. Continue for another

500 metres until you reach the fence around the Arteara Necropolis to the right. Go down the path for 650 metres and you will reach the lower tarmac track. Walk for another 900 metres past cultivated plots of lands and a huge palm grove on your right until you reach the bus stop where a Global bus can take you back to your starting point. During this last stretch, you can see two pretty houses, numbers 14 and 18, on your right, which are a beautiful example of traditional Canary Island architecture and which date back to the middle of the 19th century.

500 metres until you reach the fence around the Arteara Necropolis to the right. Go down the path for 650 metres and you will reach the lower tarmac track. Walk for another 900 metres past cultivated plots of lands and a huge palm grove on your right until you reach the bus stop where a Global bus can take you back to your starting point. During this last stretch, you can see two pretty houses, numbers 14 and 18, on your right, which are a beautiful example of traditional Canary Island architecture and which date back to the middle of the 19th century.



- MAPKEY**
 - (Canarian Vegetation)
 - Cardonal/ Tababai
 - 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