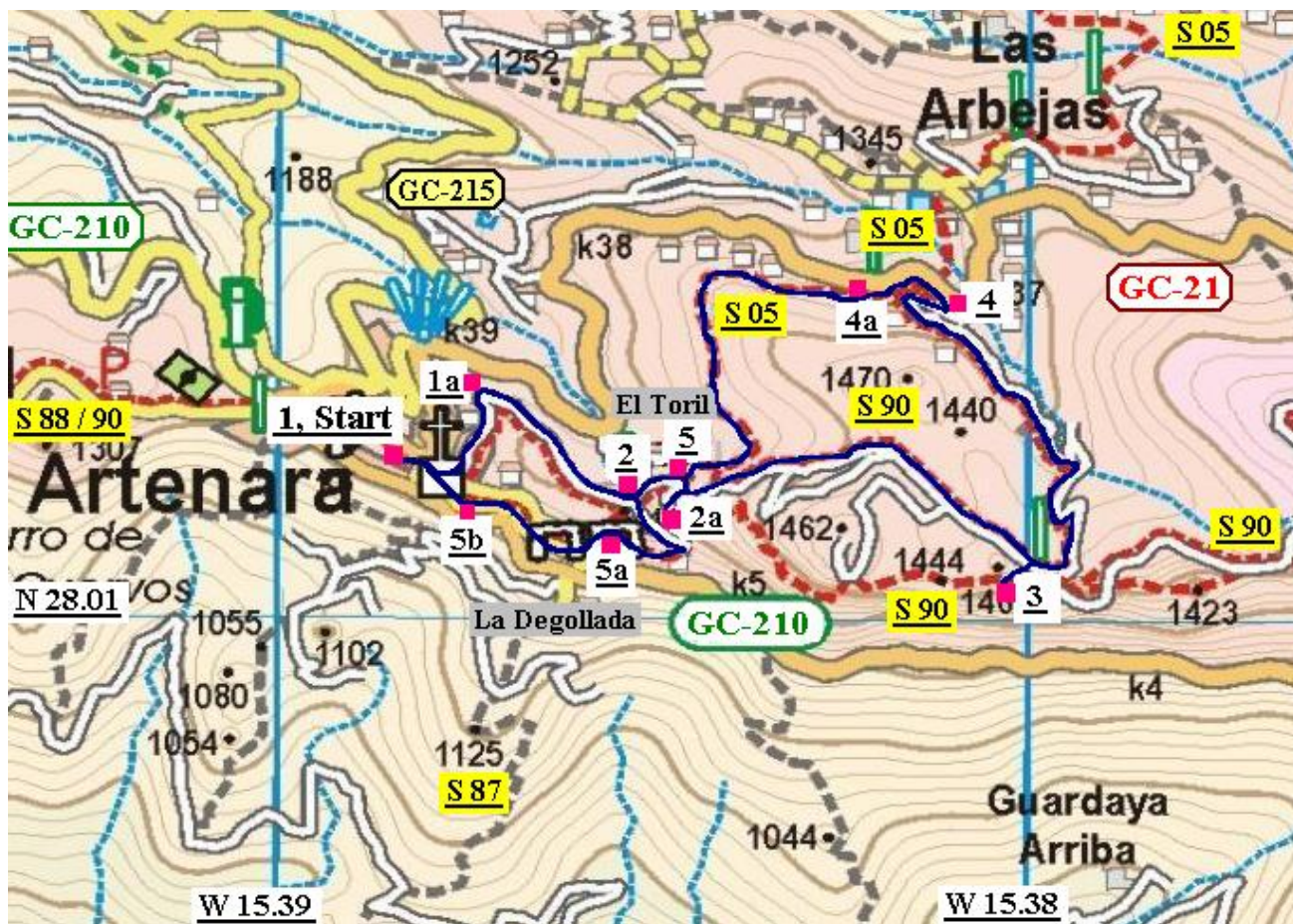


Artenara Short Circle

I consider this 2 hour 20 minutes (Grade 4) walk to be one of the best short walks on the island. Artenara is the highest town in Gran Canaria, and to me this is one of the most interesting areas on the island to walk. You will walk through a pine forest, have spectacular views into the Tejeda valley, then return to Artenara by a different but very attractive route to visit a cave church, and pass many occupied cave houses.



You will need a car to get to Artenara, as buses are very limited. From Maspalomas take the GC 60 from San Fernando through Fataga, San Bartolome, Ayacata and Tejeda. The GC 60 ends at a roundabout just after Tejeda, continue straight onto the GC 210 to Artenara, turn right at a roundabout 15 minutes later and park near the Gama Supermarket about 300 metres up this road, a total drive of about 1 hour 30 minutes.

Artenara is approx 1220m above sea level : GPS 1 North 28° 01.230' West 15° 38.840'

1:- This walk starts from outside the 'Gama' Supermarket, which is usually open if you need any supplies. Head uphill towards the town centre East, walk straight on past bar Tamadaba, go straight on at a junction then pass the local Police Station as you proceed steeply uphill on a nicely paved road. You pass some public toilets on your left then go around a left hand bend, turn left at a fork. This junction has a wooden signpost for the S 90 to Cruz de Tejeda, your route continues North on concrete. After a couple of minutes ignore a left fork, continue uphill until you come to the 'Mirador de los Poetas'. (GPS 1a N 28° 01.300' W 15° 38.740') There are good views back to Artenara from here, and some local information, turn right on concrete and continue S.E. for about 10 minutes when you come to a junction that known as "El Toril", with an information board and more signposts.

Approx walking time 20 mins : Approx Altitude 1300m : GPS 2 N 28° 01.160' W 15° 38.540'

2:- Continue uphill East, still signposted to S 90 to Cruz de Tejeda on a rocky path, bear right at the next signposted junction (GPS point 5) with a sign for Cruz de Tejeda. Just under 10

continue through the trees for a minute or so to come out at a clearing with some great views back to Artenara and much more (**GPS 2a** N 28° 01.140' W 15° 38.490'). **This is a good place for a drinks break, return the same way and this time continue on the forestry track which is signposted S 90 to Cruz de Tejeda.** Five minutes later the track swings right, you continue straight on to a footpath that cuts out a couple of corners of the forestry track. Bear left when you rejoin the forestry track, continue uphill S.E. again following a signpost for Cruz de Tejeda. Ignore a right turn a few minutes later, **Approx 35 minutes from “El Toril” you come to a Y junction of forestry tracks, take a small path on the right up through the trees for some magnificent views into the Tejeda valley, this is an excellent place for your first picnic break.**

Approx walking time 1 hour 00 mins : Approx Altitude 1300m : GPS 3 N 28° 01.050' W 15° 38.020'

3:- Return to the junction of forestry tracks, continue East almost straight on and downhill. This track continues to wind its way downhill through the pine forest. After 20 minutes you reach a couple of houses, then descend to a main road, this is the **GC 21**, the village ahead of you is Las Arbejas.

Walking time approx 1 hour 30 mins : Approx Altitude 1340m : GPS 4 N 28° 01.430' W 15° 38.100'

4:- Turn left on the busy road and walk on the left with care for just about 200 metres, then take a footpath on your left (GPS 4a N 28° 01.370' W 15° 38.130'). This path is the S 05 to Artenara. Turn left onto this camino real with a stone built entrance. **This footpath heads West** ascends slightly at first then levels out to give some great views over the north of the island and over to Tenerife. Continue on this path until you come to a major junction of paths that you will recognise from earlier, about 20 minutes from the **GC 21**, and Las Arbejas.

Walking time approx 1 hour 50 mins : Approx Altitude 1300m : GPS 5 N 28° 01.200' W 15° 38.450'

5:- Turn right downhill here on the S 90 to Artenara and within a few minutes you are back at the “El Toril” junction where you were earlier, where there is an information board (GPS point 2). From this junction turn left, head S.E. through the cutting, soon you will be heading downhill on a steep concrete road that ends at some crash barriers, again there are great views on your right, this time towards the Tejeda valley, Roque Nublo and much more. At the end of the concrete road, bear right down some concrete steps, with a wooden handrail, and follow this path down past more cave houses on your right. Then bear right by house No.10 to go uphill on some concrete steps and soon you will come to a small plaza with a cave church on your right, ‘Virgin de la Cuevita’, the entrance shaded by a large Canarian pine tree (**GPS 5a** N 28° 01.120' W 15° 38.560'). There is usually just a bolt across the door so you can go inside, there is also a local information board here. From the cave church turn left and head downhill on some concrete steps, within a minute turn right at house No. 29, continue downhill until you reach tarmac. Turn right past a nice Casa Rural, No.27 continue on tarmac looking out for house No.13. This is a museum out life in a cave house. There is information about the local area and a display of rooms in a typical cave house. Return to the road, continue uphill for a few minutes past an iron statue of a man, a minute later you come to Bar / Restaurant La Esquina on your left (**GPS 5b** N 28° 01.180' W 15° 38.800') about 25 minutes from the cutting, there are great views from the terrace, and this is a good place to stop for refreshments. The local tapas at this restaurant is highly recommended. To return to the Gama supermarket where you started, walk past the town church and plaza, and turn left at an information board.

Walking time approx 2 hr 20 mins : Altitude approx 1220m : GPS 1 N 28° 01.240' W 15° 38.840'
Ascent and Descent 275m : Length walked 7 Km : RR Grade 4