

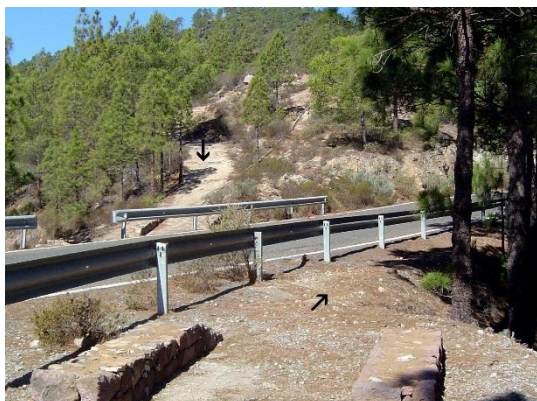
The Altavista Walk

This is a spectacular 4 hour 40 minute (Grade 6) walk on well maintained & signposted footpaths with great scenery throughout the walk. You will be walking on the edge of the Tamadaba forest, looking down on some lakes and the cave village of Lugarejos, before walking on a ridge with some of the best views on the island. It is very rare that I walk a path in both directions but the path to Altavista, and back, on the ridge is a worthy exception.



To get to the start by car from Maspalomas, or from the south of Gran Canaria, head inland on the **GC 60** from San Fernando, up through the mountains passing Fataga, San Bartolome, Ayacata and Tejeda. It will take just over an hour to get to Tejeda, continue on the **GC 60** until you turn left, signposted to Cruz de Tejeda and Artenara, then at a roundabout turn left again, signposted **GC 210** Artenara. In just over 10 minutes you come to a roundabout in Artenara, continue straight on the **GC 210** for another 3.5 Km until you come to some cross roads, this is 'Cruz de Acusa'. Continue straight on, signposted **GC 216** Tamadaba for about 300 metres then park in a small ay-by on your right, this is signposted as Degollada de las Palomas.

Cruz de Acusa is approx 1100 metres above sea level : [GPS 1](#) North 28° 01.680' West 15° 40.460'



1:- You start this walk in a Westerly direction heading towards Tamadaba, walking to the right and parallel with the metal crash barriers on the **GC 216**. There is a wooden walkers signpost here for the **S 96 to Tamadaba**. Bear right and take the stone edged path that descends North, the quality of your path improves after a couple of minutes. Soon ignore a left fork, you will pass several small concrete markers on this walk the first after a couple of minutes; it has a metal plate with the label MP No.2 68. **Within 10 minutes** you come to a Y junction (left uphill would take you back to the road) you bear right downhill. About 100 metres later you must bear left at a Y junction, do not continue downhill. Within 20 minutes you get great views on your right down to Lugarejos which is an agricultural cave village with a lake. After another 10 minutes you come to a signposted junction for the **S 96 to Tamadaba**, ([GPS 1a](#) N 28° 02.070' W 15° 40.680') right would take you steeply down to Lugarejos, left up to the main road, you need to continue straight on, still contouring around the hillside. **You are now heading in a Westerly direction and in another 10 minutes** you come to another small junction, again marked with stone cairns. This is a good place for a drinks break.

Approx walking time 40 mins : Altitude approx 1060m : [GPS 2](#) N 28° 02.080' W 15° 40.820'

2:-You continue contouring around your forested hillside in a S.W. direction. After about 15 minutes you go round a corner with wild roses growing and start your ascent. **5 minutes later ignore a clear path on your right, (GPS 2aN 28° 01.970' W 15° 41.130')** continue on the **S 96** as you to ascend in a S.W. direction. After just over half an hour from your drinks break you reach the **GC 216**. Ignore another Camino Real ahead of you, sharp turn left and head South on tarmac for about 200 metres, to walk gently downhill to FincaTirma, which is on your right. The hills to the South East of you are the direction in which you will be heading.

Views down to Lugarejos



Approx walking time 1 hr 15 mins : Altitude approx 1175m : GPS 3N 28° 01.940'W 15° 41.390'

FincaTirma



3:- From FincaTirma, head uphill on a few stone made steps and follow the line of a metal water pipe, and a signpost for the S 90 to Artenara. Ignore a downhill dirt track on your right, you are heading uphill S.E. soon to pass a concrete marker with no name plate. Bear right at two small junctions. Then at concrete marker MP No.2 124, ignore a small path to your right, ascend up in a S.S.E. direction. **Your path then continues its way up to a Y junction** after just over 10 minutes, bear right. **(GPS 3aN 28° 01.700' W 15° 41.190')** You leave the **S 90** here. Your path now heads S.E. and winds its way up a bit more steeply to a T junction, which you reach within 20 minutes of leaving FincaTirma. This is Cruz de Maria.

Approx walking time 1 hr 35 mins : Altitude approx 1260m : GPS 4N 28° 01.630'W 15° 41.030'

4:- Turn right S.W. and continue to ascend on a good footpath, soon passing the actual 'cross of Maria', on your right. After about 5 minutes bear right at a Y junction, onto the larger path and great views down to the North coast soon develop. **(GPS 4aN 28° 01.500' W 15° 41.140')** Continue walking on this excellent footpath heading roughly S.W. for about half an hour. You then come to a great place for a drinks break with tremendous views on both sides of you. This path should be signposted as the **S 95 to Altavista** and **La Aldea** in the near future.

Cruz de Maria



Approx walking time 2 hr 05 mins :Altitude approx 1300m : GPS 5N 28° 01.070'W 15° 41.970'

The Altavista Walk (Cont.)

Views to Acusa



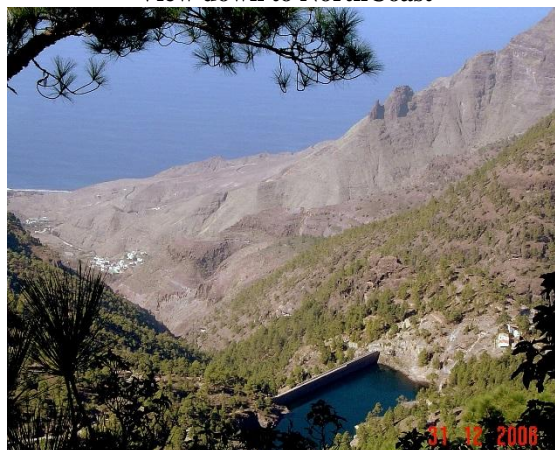
5:- Continue heading S.W. across the ridge, the views only get better. Within 10 minutes you start to descend into a valley with again superb views on both sides of you. This is one possibility for your lunch break. There are great views here to the Acusa plateau and across to several small lakes and mountain villages. (**GPS 5a** N 28° 00.820' W 15° 42.140') From this here **continue up the hill to your West to Altavista, which is about half an hour away.** Ignore a right turn after about 10 minutes unless you wish to walk to La Aldea, San Nicolas.

Approx walking time 2 hr 50 mins : Altitude approx 1360m : [GPS 6](#) N 28° 00.520' W 15° 42.520'

To shorten the walk you can stop and return back to Cruz de Maria before reaching Altavista.

6:-From Altavista head North East to return to Cruz de Maria the same way that you walked earlier, which will take you about 1 hour 20 minutes. Walking back in the opposite direction you will see many different views if you are lucky with the weather. You will again pass [GPS points 5a, 5 and 4a](#). [GPS point 7 is the same as GPS point 4](#). This ridge is one of very few routes that I consider are worth walking in both directions.

View down to NorthCoast



Approx walking time 4 hr 10 mins: Altitude approx 1270m: [GPS 7](#) N 28° 01.610' W 15° 41.030'

Part of Descent



7:-Just after the 'Cross of Maria' bear right at a Y junction downhill in an ENE direction, gently downhill at first, but in places this path is showing signs of erosion. There are great views from the top of a hill on your right that you pass after 5 minutes. When you come to some white rock underfoot, ([GPS 7a](#) N 28° 01.730' W 15° 40.870') bear left through a couple of bushes, then bear right to follow the path downhill by the side of the familiar metal water tube again. Ignore a rocky path on your right about 10 minutes [GPS point 7](#). After about 15 minutes you come to the main road at a small Mirador, on the **GC 216. This is Degollada de Sargentos and a good place for a water break**

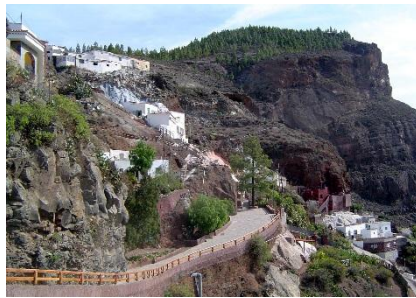
Approx walking time 4 hr 25 mins : Altitude approx 1170m : [GPS 8](#) N 28° 01.740' W 15° 40.720'

Mirador on **GC 216**



8:- You are now back on the **S 90** signposted to **Artenara** and **Cruz de Tejada**. From the Mirador walk on the road gently downhill, in a N.E. direction for about 100 metres, do not try to follow the familiar metal pipe on your right. Turn right S.E. at a wide entrance to a Camino Real with a sign that tells you that you are entering 'Parque Rural El Nublo' (**GPS 8a** N 28° 01.790'W 15° 40.680'). There is also a wooden signpost for the **S 90 to Artenara** here. You are now walking on a good wide footpath, again with very good views ahead of you. You pass another familiar concrete block MP No.2 69. In less than 15 minutes you have descended back to the **GC 216** again, where you will bear left to get back to your car.

Approx walking time 4 hr 40 mins : Altitude approx 1100 metres,
Ascent and Descent approx 600m : Approx length 14 Km : Rambling Roger Grade 6
All GPS co-ordinates use WGS 84 : **GPS 1** N 28° 01.680'W 15° 40.460'



The town of Artenara is well worth exploring, there are several good bars and restaurants, we recommend La Esquina near the Church. If you walk uphill past the Police Station after about 10 minutes you come to a Cave Church 'La Ermita de la Virgen' which is usually open, the gate is normally only closed by a sliding bolt. Also if you walk past bar/restaurant La Esquina for about 200 metres the tourist office is on your left, inside there is more information on walking/hiking and an exhibition of 'life in a cave house'. You can also walk onto the cave church by continuing on this road, turning left uphill soon after a casa rural.

On another hill you can see a large statue of Jesus, the views from this hill are wonderful with clear weather, just follow the road behind the Church Plaza, head uphill after passing the supermarkets, to wind your way up to the top, about 10 minutes each way.

After the walk and your visit to Artenara, which is the highest town in Gran Canaria, you can drive home the same way as you came this morning, or you can head towards Cruz de Tejada, then drive back on the **GC 150** towards Pico de las Nieves, but turning right on the **GC 600** to go past Presa de los Hornos and Roque Nublo, then descending to Ayacata, where you turn left onto the **GC 60** to head back towards San Bartolome and Maspalomas.