

I have produced 2 short walks around the village of Fataga, one a 1 hour 45 minute circular walk to the south, the other a two hour circular walk to the north. Both walks are presented as a 4 page booklet. These are available from Henrietta, at her Jewellery Workshop or Art Boutique Fataga the DWG map of Gran Canaria is also available from these shops.

**The South Circle : Approx 1 hr 45 - Ascent and Descent Approx 150 metres - Grade 2.5.** This walk takes you around the village heading south, passing several houses and farms, growing a variety of fruit and vegetables, before going into the low mountains for some excellent views of the area. You then return back to the village by a different route.

**The North Circle : Approx 2 hr 00 - Ascent and Descent Approx 200 metres - Grade 3.** This walk leaves the village on a path heading north, it then descends into the barranco before ascending to Molino de Agua. You then ascend to a couple of great viewing points, before returning to the village of Fataga.

In my two walking guides “Don’t leave Gran Canaria without seeing it” I have split Gran Canaria into 5 zones for walking, there are only a few good walks in the Fataga area but there are many excellent walks in the nearby San Bartolome and Santa Lucia areas, as well as the rest of the island.

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|---|---------|---------|---------|
| 1:- Fataga to Arteara on the signposted <b>S 54</b>         |         | 1 hr 45 | Grade 2 |
| 2:- San Bartolome to Fataga                                 | (Vol 1) | 2 hr 45 | Grade 3 |
| 3:- San Bartolome Short Circle                              | (Vol 1) | 2 hr 45 | Grade 3 |
| 4:- San Bartolome to Santa Lucia via Rosiana                | (Vol 1) | 2 hr 45 | Grade 4 |
| 5:- Santa Lucia Lower Circle via Ansite                     | (Vol 1) | 3 hr 30 | Grade 5 |
| 6:- San Bartolome Triangle via Cruz Grande                  | (Vol 2) | 4 hr 30 | Grade 6 |
| 7:- San Bart Circle via Fataga and Santa Lucia              | (Vol 2) | 6 hr 00 | Grade 7 |
| 8:- Santa Lucia Longer Circle via Guayadeque                | (Vol 2) | 6 hr 30 | Grade 8 |
| 9:- Fataga to Amurga, and onto the Degollada de las Yeguas. |         | 5 hours | Tough   |
| 10:- Arteara to San Bartolome via Degollada de Manzanilla.  |         | 5 hours | Tough   |

I am happy to give free advice on hiking to anyone requesting it. Please contact me either by e-mail at [Roger@Ramblingroger.com](mailto:Roger@Ramblingroger.com) or by phone on (0034) 928 798150 or mobile (0034) 633 399 570. Printed versions of my walking guide are available from me in Fataga, or from Free Motion in Maspalomas. PDF versions are available from me or on-line, visit the web site [www.Ramblingroger.com](http://www.Ramblingroger.com) for more details. All the walks in both of my guide books have full descriptions, maps and downloadable GPX tracks and waypoints.

## Don't Leave Gran Canaria Without Seeing

# The Fataga Valley



Written by Rambling Roger

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There has been a settlement in the Fataga valley for about 2,000 years, mostly due to a natural spring (Fuente Grande) just north of the village. The water from this spring is used to irrigate most of the fields in this area, and is the reason for this green oasis amongst some very dramatic mountains. The Fataga Barranco is a protected area and is known as the valley of a thousand palms. Towards the top end of the valley is the village of Fataga which is a very attractive hilltop village, about 600 metres (2,000 feet) above sea level, and is well worth a visit.

Fataga village is situated on the **GC 60** about 12 miles (or 20 Km) inland from Maspalomas, it is in the county of San Bartolome. To get to Fataga head inland and North from San Fernando. You will reach Mundo Aborigen, **GC 60 Km 43** after about 5 minutes, this site demonstrates life in Gran Canaria before the Spanish conquest. You will then reach a mirador with spectacular views “Degollada de las Yeguas”. The views from here are often called the mini Gran Canyon.



After enjoying the views you continue to wind your way down hill into the Fataga valley, reaching the agricultural hamlet of Arteara about 10 minutes later. **Arteara is well worth a visit**, there are several information boards here. **You may have noticed a large section of brown rocks on your left, GC 60 Km 39**, as you descended towards Arteara, this is actually an old burial ground, and an archaeological site. The rock fall which created this site was about 2,500 years ago. **You get to the site on the GC 601, which ends at the Necropolis, there is an information centre here, open every day except Mondays, and a walking route through the old cemetery.** There are also two camel safaris in Arteara, both have refreshment facilities and much more, **La Baranda having a nice tropical garden.** Arteara has no Church or Shops.

**San Bartolome and Santa Lucia are the two nicest towns in the south of Gran Canaria.** They are both county towns with a rich agricultural history, but are now both dwarfed by the residential and touristic buildings on the south and east coast. Two advantages of walking in this area are that both towns are under an hours drive from the coast, and that the weather is usually warmer, and drier, for walking in winter than the centre and north. Both towns have a reliable if not frequent bus service, but the taxis in this area tend to be mostly on the coast. **In the last couple of years a lot of signposts for hikers have been erected.**

### **San Bartolome locally known as Tunte**

**San Bartolome town is about 900 metres above sea level, it is known locally as Tunte, it is an attractive agricultural town.** San Bartolome county is the largest on the island with an area of just over 330 square Km, just over 20% of the island, stretching from the Maspalomas Sand dunes to the highest point of the island Pico de las Nieves. The county has a population of approx 50,000. The main employment is in tourism, with some agriculture. **San Bartolome has a good web site [www.maspalomas.com](http://www.maspalomas.com) there is also a good tourist guide book for the town of Tunte in English, this is available from the Museum which is behind the Church, and Bodega Tirajanas, which is behind the main school.**

### **Santa Lucia**

**Santa Lucia town centre is approx 700 metres above sea level, it is a very attractive and traditional town.** Santa Lucia county has an area of approx 60 square Km with a population of approx 55,000. There is a Museum in Santa Lucia, at Restaurant Hao, which is well worth a visit, as is the Church. The main employment in this area is agriculture and providing services for tourism. It is worth having a walk around the town and its numerous side streets.

### **Probably the best drive in the area is the GC 654**

From San Bartolome continue North on the **GC 60** for another 5 minutes then turn right at **El Sequero**, near the **GC 60 Km 23** sign, onto the fascinating rural **GC 654** to drive through the villages of **Agualatente, Risco Blanco** and **Taidia**. This quiet rural road is asphalt but rather narrow, it is almost like taking a trip back in time, and is not a road to drive in a hurry. The **GC 654** ends at a T junction with the **GC 65**, just after a donkey sanctuary. **Turn left to continue onto Santa Lucia, before continuing on the GC 65 back to the South Coast.**

## **Molino de Agua Rural Hotel**

As you leave Fataga to head North on the **GC 60**, you will pass an old water mill on your left within 5 minutes. This was one of very few water mills in the south of the island, it has been partially restored recently. A couple of hundred yards further up the road, again on your left is the **Rural Hotel Molino de Agua**. About 20 years ago Molino del Agua was Fataga Country Club; it then became a Camel Breeding Centre, and today is a very pleasant rural hotel.



**Molino de Agua has extensive grounds, a swimming pool, and a large outdoor restaurant and bar area.** There are several guest rooms, furnished traditionally. It is a popular venue for large functions such as weddings, christenings etc. **More information about what Molino de Agua has to offer can be found on their web site.** [www.elmolinodeagua.com](http://www.elmolinodeagua.com)

There are several animal enclosures within the grounds. You can also walk to the Old Water Mill from the main car park; the path is steep and slippery in places.

When you leave Molino de Agua continue north up the **GC 60** to go towards **San Bartolome and Santa Lucia**, which are two very nice towns near the head of the spectacular **Barranco de Tirajana**. **Las Tirajanas Hotel** is also worth a visit, access is from the **GC 603**, web site [www.hotel-lastirajanas.com](http://www.hotel-lastirajanas.com)

For more information about accommodation in this area contact Michaela through her web site [www.vivelorural.com](http://www.vivelorural.com) or contact me through my web site.

The best map for hikers in Gran Canaria is the **Discovery Walking Guides map of Gran Canaria**. This is for sale in Fataga at **Henrietta's Jewellery Shop and Fataga Petrol Station**. See [www.dwgwalking.co.uk](http://www.dwgwalking.co.uk) for more details.

## **Fataga Village**

After leaving Arteara you continue North on the **GC 60** to drive higher up into the mountains with ever improving views. You pass a couple of large fruit farms and then **Finca Tomas and Puri**, which has some rural apartments to rent with food available on site. You pass Fataga reservoir on your left (**GC 60 Km 34**) where you will often see people rock climbing on the cliffs nearby. As you enter Fataga you will see that the main road is almost a village bypass, as most of the village has just narrow streets and footpaths connecting the houses together.

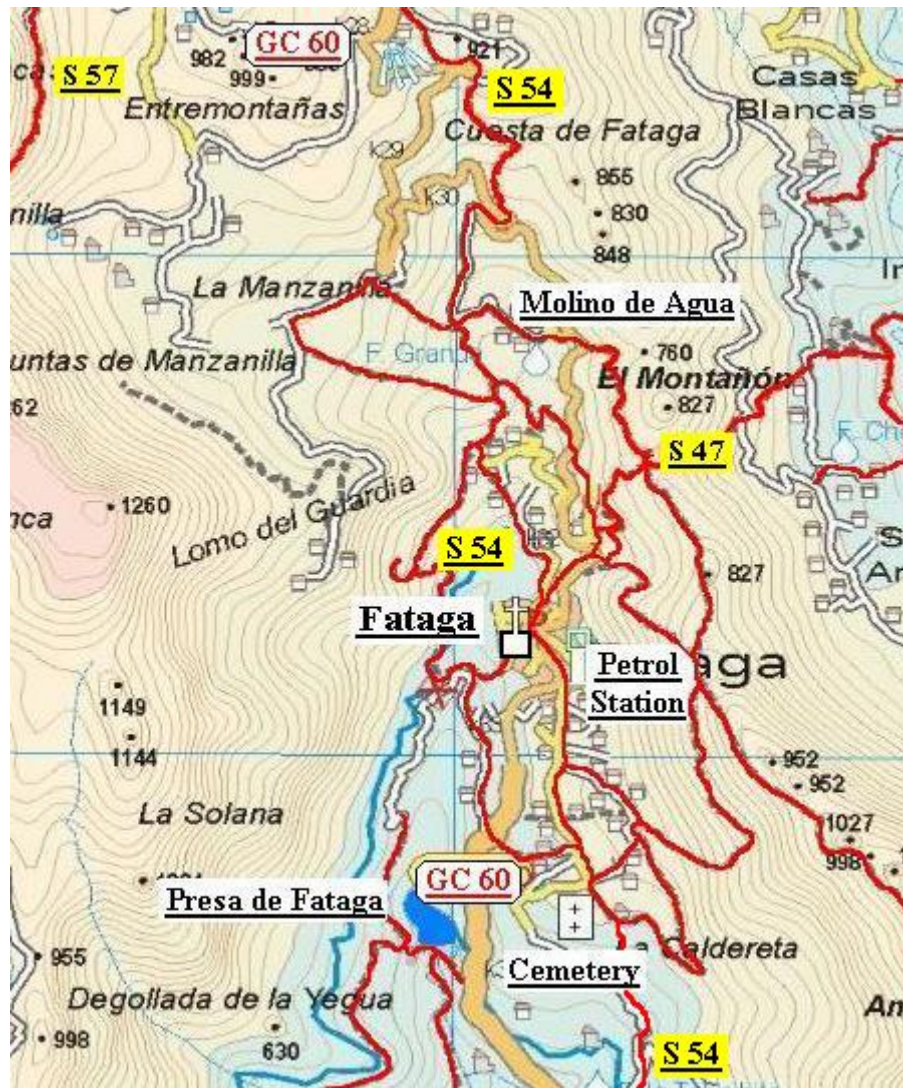
There are parking places on the main street, but there is also a good car park on your right after the Village Church and behind Bar Restaurant El Labrador, which costs 1Euro. In the village there are several good bars and restaurants, such as El Labrador and El Albaricoque. There is also a petrol station, which also has a small bar and restaurant (Los Giles) that serves very good tapas. There are some souvenir shops, a mini-market, a bakery, and a handicraft workshop where Henrietta makes handmade jewellery etc.

**Fataga village church, San Jose**, dates back to 1880, and has a nice plaza with mature and shady laurel trees, and some public toilets. Fataga was a self sufficient community, which thrived on agriculture before tourism became the main industry about 50 years ago. The **GC 60** was only a dirt road until the mid 1970's, this is when mains electricity arrived in the village, private telephone lines arrived in the 1980's. Potatoes are now the main crop grown in the fields, and Fataga has the "Fiesta of the Apricot" in early summer each year. Amongst the other crops grown are Lettuces, Bananas, Mangos, and Grapes for wine, Oranges, Almonds and Nispero etc. There are a couple of small Bodegas in the village (**Bodega El Rincon** and **Bodega Caserio**) and 2 Casas Rurales (rural houses for rent) **Casa Rural Falcon** and **Casa Rural Villa Pino Diaz**.

As in many rural locations the local population has halved in the last century, as people have moved out to work in tourism and its service industries. There were approx 1,000 people living in the Fataga area 100 years ago, now there are approx 400, with maybe 100 of them being from other European countries.

**Fataga is quite well served by the Global bus service No.18**, which departs from Faro de Maspalomas, Monday to Friday at 08.00, 09.30, 11.00 and 15.00. This service continues on to San Bartolome only the 09.30 and 15.00 run on weekends. **The 9.30 and 15.00 continue on as far as Tejeda**. The return buses are at 12.40, 14.10 and 16.10, **the 14.10 does not run on weekends**. There is no taxi rank in the village, but Maspalomas Taxis can be contacted on **928 154777**.

## Map of the Fataga Area



The red lines on the map show some of the walking routes in the area

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## From the church we recommend the following walk around the village.



From in front of the Church Plaza, walk on Calle San Jose past a gift shop on your left. At a junction carry straight onto Calle El Rio to walk past an attractive Casa Rural “Casa Rural Falcon”, continue along this concrete road for a few minutes to get some excellent views back to the village itself. **You then return the same way, this time turning right downhill on Calle Maria del Pilar**, soon to arrive at the village laundrette opposite house No.11. This is where some local people still do their washing in natural spring water. Continue on until you reach a junction where you bear right. Keep straight on past Casa Rural “Villa Pino Diaz” and Bodega El Rincon until you reach house No.24. Here there is an area of flat land to your left, from where there are great views. There are several nicely paved side streets for you to investigate in the village, but in most cases they are dead ends. **Return the same way to “Villa Pino Diaz” this time turn right uphill on Calle Los Diaz**, keep straight on until you reach the end of the path. **Return the same way, this time turning right past a nice garden to walk uphill on Calle La Montañeta**. There are a couple of old houses on your right, and after turning left at house No.6 you pass the house of the local sculptor. **At the bottom of the hill, at a T junction your route continues left**, the village bakery “Panaderia Fataga” is on your right (and a couple of side streets to explore if you wish). After a right hand bend, **House No.5, is where Henrietta makes hand made Jewellery**. You continue along Calle Los Reyes until you come to a T junction, where you turn right to return up to the village centre.