

GRAN CANARIA FROM 2 TO 16 OCTOBER 2021

Last trip abroad was to Fuengirola in Spain. We were there from November 2, 2018 to March 19, 2019. After this trip, we have been prevented from traveling abroad due to the Covid pandemic. When the infection began to decrease in Norway and the authorities no longer advised against traveling to countries within the EU for those who were vaccinated, we found out that we should take a trip to [Gran Canaria](#). We looked at many possibilities, but we finally decided on a trip with [Apollo](#). We booked an apartment in [Sunsuites Carolina](#) in [San Agustín](#) which is located south of the island.

There were a number of formalities that had to be done. We had to have an EU vaccine passport and we had to fill out an entry form to Spain before we left. We had to show the vaccine passport at check-in at Gardermoen and we had to show the entry form at the airport in Gran Canaria.

We drove to Gardermoen on October 2 and dropped the car off at [Dalen Parkering](#). Dalen Parkering has a bus that runs to and from the airport. At the airport, there was a long queue at check-in at Apollo. The flight left Oslo [Airport Gardermoen](#) according to plan at 11.10. [SAS](#) was chartered by Apollo for this trip.



Here I'm sitting on the plane. To make time go by, I play solitaire on my mobile.



Here we sit in the taxi from the airport to the hotel.

We had booked a taxi online from a company called [Suntransfers](#). When we have booked a transfer before, the driver has been waiting for us in the arrival hall with our name on a poster or on a tablet. We found none, so we had to go around and look. We finally found our name on a poster with many names. It turned out that the company had a lot of drivers, and the driver we were supposed to have was out for another job, so we had to wait almost half an hour. Apart from these remarks, this worked just fine, but we will consider another company another time.



[The Canary Islands](#) belong to Spain and are located off the coast of Morocco. The islands were mainly populated by various groups of Berbers from North Africa. The oldest settlement on the islands is dated with the C-14 method to approx. 500 BC

[Gran Canaria](#) is the third largest island after Tenerife and Fuerteventura. The largest industry in Gran Canaria is tourism.



These are pictures of the apartment hotel. It is located right by the sea and the seafront. At the back of the hotel it is only 100 meters to walk to a large shopping center where there were a couple of grocery stores. We shopped at the nearest and largest store called Spar.



The apartment looked something like this. The photo is taken from the web. It shows an apartment on the ground floor while we had the apartment one floor up with a balcony. A combined kitchen and living room in addition to a bedroom + bathroom.



The kitchen.



This photo was taken from the balcony.



The main entrance.

All entrance gates had locks that could be opened with the key card.



Outside the main entrance there is a large parking lot. It was used extensively, especially on weekends. Then it was full almost all day. Most of the people were going to the beach that was located just below.



These are the stairs that go down to the reception.



Row of apartments. Picture taken from the balcony.



The entrance to our apartment was from the back. From here we look up towards the shopping center.



From the entrance we get a glimpse of the beach. In the background we see the dunes of Maspalomas.



Here we have zoomed in a bit on Maspalomas.



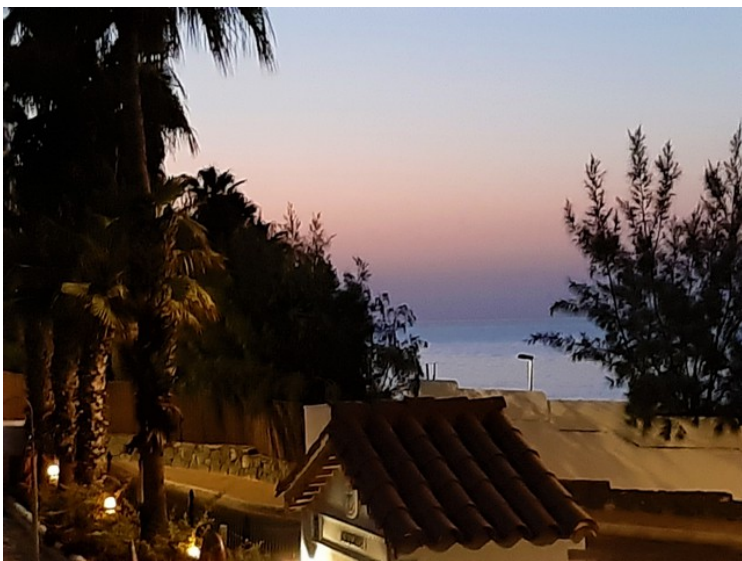
View from the terrace over the sea.



The entrance in the evening.



Some evening photos and morning photos taken from the terrace.



Here are some that are about to be pulled up in the air by parachuting.



Here they are up.



We saw this fishing boat every day.



We saw only one big boat while we were there. It went far out to sea.

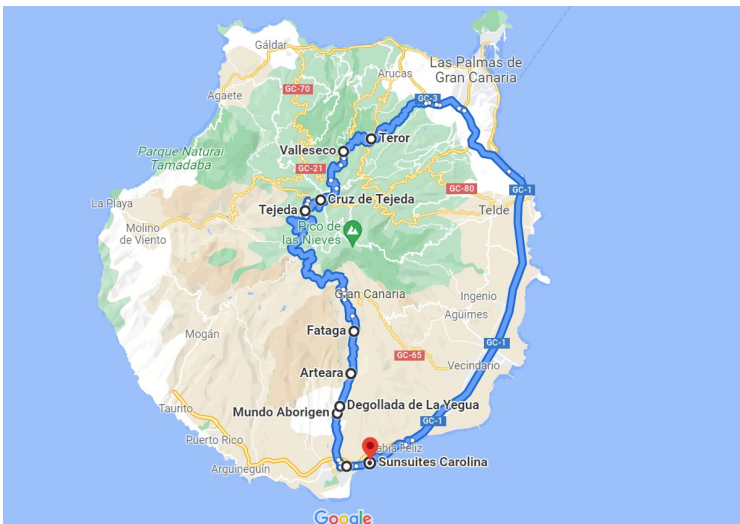


This pigeon was outside many times each day. It often drank water from the pool.



We wanted a car for three days to drive around the island. We asked the hotel owner if he could get us a rental car. We asked for a medium-sized car. Then there were only two choices, either Volkswagen Polo or Seat Ibiza. I chose Polo. It's really just trifles that differ the two cars. They are both built on the same basis, but by different factories in the Volkswagen Group.

It turned out that the rental car company was located in the shopping center, so it was a short way to go to pick up the car.



On October 9, we drove this round.



Some pictures of nature along the way.



Along the way we saw this figure on the mountain top.



Here it is.



Here was also a bush with very red flowers.



The place here is called [Mundo Aborigen](#). It is an open-air cultural museum that deals with the native inhabitants of the Canary Islands. There are over 100 figures that show how people worked with daily activities at that time.



We stopped at a viewpoint called [Mirador Degollada De La Yegua](#).

Here we look down the valley. That was the road we drove up here.



A rock formation down in the valley.

Here we look further up the valley.



There is a road down in the valley as well.



Anne Berit has got me in the picture while I take a picture of the poster.



Here we have come to a place called Arteara. It was not allowed to drive further than here.



The sign that welcomes to Arteara and that tells in brief about Arteara.



Signpost.



Lemon tree.



Pomegranate.



Cave.

In [Arteara](#) there is a prehistoric cemetery and a museum. Arteara Necropolis is the largest Aboriginal cemetery of its kind on the island, both in terms of size and number of burial mounds there. It has an area of 137,570 m² and houses 809 burial structures, with both individual and collective burial mounds. It is located on a dry and rocky area of volcanic rock. Arteara has also been a center for astronomical studies, and it shows what extensive knowledge the ancient Canaries must have had about the stars, to such an extent that they built the 'King's Tomb' in such a strategic place that the sun lit it up right on the day of the equinox.

[Link.](#)



The innermost houses of Arteara.



Here we drive on.



We drive past [Eco Aloe Vera](#). It is a farm that grows Aloe Vera organically.

Aloe Vera is not native to the islands, but it has been grown here for many hundreds of years.



Cultivation field.

The juice and pulp from the leaves are used, among other things, as medicine and in cosmetics.



Here we come to Fataga.



The place by the church.

Fataga is located about 608 meters above sea level and the number of inhabitants is 370. [Canariposten](#). There are several shops and restaurants here.



Here we have found a place to park and are on our way down to the church.



Nice houses.



There are supposed to be remnants of an old watermill here, but we did not go that far. It is located a good distance further up the valley.



Crafts shop.



Statue outside the church.

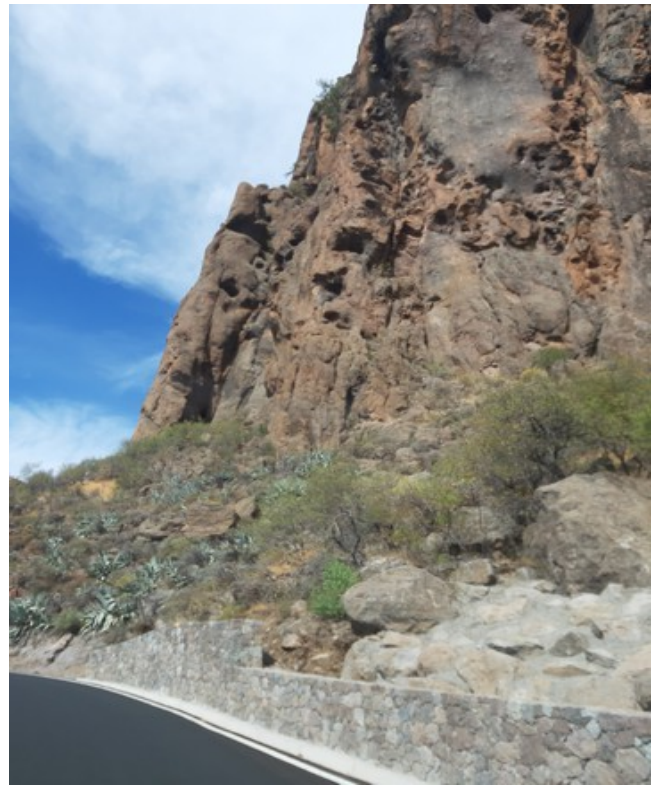


The church.



View from the road down to Fataga.

The road continues through hilly and rocky landscapes. The road is winding and at times narrow, but with a very good standard otherwise.





Here we come to San Bartolomé de Tirajana which is the municipal center of the municipality of the same name. It is the largest municipality on the island and the municipality with the most tourism. Before the arrival of the Spaniards, this village was called Tunte and many still call it that. The city has no more than around 600 inhabitants. San Augustin, Playa del Inglés and Maspalomas are the most famous tourist destinations in the municipality. There are about 53,500 permanent residents in the whole municipality, but in the course of a year, San Bartolomé de Tirajana hosts over 1.5 million tourists.

[Wikipedia](#) [Gran Canaria](#)



The church was built in the 19th century from stone from local quarries.

Some pictures from the city.





Then we drive on.



Roque Nublo



Morro de la Agujereada

Just before we get to Tejeda it is possible to see this cliff from the road. We were not aware of it, so I have taken a picture from the web.

There is a volcanic rock called [Roque Nublo](#) («Rock in the Clouds »).

It is 80 meters high, and the top is 1813 meters above sea level. It is one of the island's most famous landmarks, and is a protected natural monument.

Next to it is the smaller Roque Rana («Frog Rock»).

There are several high peaks on Gran Canaria. The highest peak is called [Morro de la Agujereada](#) which is located 1956 meters above sea level. A little to the east is [Pico de las Nieves](#) (peak of the snows) which with its 1949 meters above sea level was previously considered to be the highest.



Then we come to Tejeda.

The city is located in the Caldera de Tejeda, the ancient volcanic crater between Roque Nublo and [Roque Bentayga](#). The crater has given its name to both the municipality and the municipal center. In 1960, 4477 people lived here, in 1918 only 1921. The reason may be difficult communication with narrow and winding roads. In addition, it is difficult to engage in extensive agriculture due to scarcity of water. However, many almond trees grow in the area.

[Wikipedia](#) [Grancanaria](#)

Some pictures from the city.





Here the road continues.



Here we come to Cruz de Tejada.



Here the rooster is out walking.

Cruz de Tejada is located in a mountain pass 1580 meters above sea level. The square is named after a sculpture called 'Cristo de Piedra' (Christ of stone).

This is about the center of the island.

Here is also the only [parador](#) in the Canary Islands, [Parador de Cruz de Tejada](#). It was built in 1932.



Here is a man offering kids to ride the donkey.



This is the parador.



The courtyard of the Parador.



This is the sculpture.



This is the way forward.



Here we are on the north side of the island. It is normally a little more rain here and thus a little more lush than on the south side.



We drove through [Valleseco](#). The name means 'dry valley', but the fact is that it is the area where most precipitation falls on the island.

After being in Valleseco, we drove towards the highway and back to San Agustin. Some pictures along the way.

