

THROUGH GÜÍMAR VALLEY

Craftwork and nature

ITINERARY

From exit number 20 towards La Hidalga-Arafo from the TF-1 motorway to the Historical Site of Chinguaro

Distance: 2.9 km Estimated driving time: 8 minutes Approximate time of visit: 30 minutes

To reach the Chinguaro Historical Site, take exit 20 from the TF-1 motorway and continue towards La Hidalga-Arafo. To do so, take the main El Volcán - La Hidalga road, the TF-281. Before you actually get to this point, you come to a roundabout and take the first exit. Now on the TF-281, continue along this road for 1.5 km. Here you will see a branch-off to the left, a junction indicating the way to the Historical Site of Chinguaro. Turn left here and enter Camino El Taro Street. Drive along this street on which after approximately 350 m you will come across another junction on the right-hand side, El Camino de Chinguaro. Disregard this and continue along the Camino El Taro. After 750 m, on the right is the Chinguaro Historical Site. You can park the car on the roadside. The trip to Chinguaro is along narrow lanes with traffic in both directions so it is recommended to reduce speed and pay special attention to oncoming traffic.

From the Historical Site of Chinguaro to Arafo (Town Centre)

Distance: 5.5 km Estimated driving time: 10 minutes Approximate time of visit: 1 hour

To get to the next stop on the route you drive down about 900 m along Camino El Taro road to the junction with the TF-281. There, turn left onto this road and continue along it about 3 km after which you will reach the intersection with the main TF-28. Turn left and keep straight ahead for half a kilometre until you come to the next intersection, that with the TF-525. Turn right and drive 1.7 km to reach your destination, the little town of Arafo. The start of the built-up area is marked by the signs and a petrol station on the left-hand side.



INFORMATION

Estimated completion time:

4 hours, 10 minutes

Estimated driving time

1 hour and 5 minutes

Total distance:

38 km.

Stopping points:

Historical Site of Chinguaro
Casco de Arafo (Town Centre)
Mirador de Chivisaya (viewpoint)
Las Miquelas Pottery Centre
Malpaís de Güímar (Badlands of Güímar)

Other points of interest:

Farmer's Market in Candelaria
Farmer's Market in Güímar
Farmer's Market in Arafo
"Lo de Ramos" Recreation Park and Ruins
Farmer's Market Puertito de Güímar

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From Arafo (Town Centre) to the Mirador de Chivisaya (viewpoint)

Distance: 9 km Estimated driving time: 12 km Approximate time of visit: 15 minutes

To drive to the Las Miquelas pottery centre, return to the main town of Arafo. When you reach the intersection where previously you drove up to the viewpoint, turn left and drive 3.3 km downhill to meet the junction with the old main road to the south, the TF-28. At the junction, turn left onto the TF-28 and continue your journey towards Candelaria. After 6.5 km, on the right you will see the junction signposted Autopista del Sur-Candelaria-Polígono de Güímar [south motorway-Candelaria-Güímar Industrial Estate] After driving through a small residential development and over the bridge crossing the motorway, turn left, towards Candelaria, and then drive into the Barrio (suburb) of Santa Ana which is on the right-hand side. You come to a mini roundabout close to the Instituto de Enseñanza Secundaria de Santa Ana (Santa Ana secondary school) and the Colegio Príncipe Felipe (school) where you will see a sign pointing out the direction of the pottery centre. Take the first exit and drive down Santa Ana Street. Still on the same street, turn right. You pass the church of Santa Ana on your right and soon after, at the next junction, you will find a pedestrian street which leads towards the pottery centre, situated on the right-hand side and which is visible from Santa Ana Street. You will be able to park your vehicle in the surrounding area.

From the Mirador de Chivisaya (viewpoint) to the Las Miquelas Pottery Centre

Distance: 16.1 km Estimated driving time: 25 minutes Approximate time of visit: 20 minutes

To drive to the Las Miquelas pottery centre, return to the main town of Arafo. When you reach the intersection where previously you drove up to the viewpoint, turn left and drive 3.3 km downhill to meet the junction with the old main road to the south, the TF-28. At the junction, turn left onto the TF-28 and continue your journey towards Candelaria. After 6.5 km, on the right you will see the junction signposted Autopista del Sur-Candelaria-Polígono de Güímar [south motorway-Candelaria-Güímar Industrial Estate] After driving through a small residential development and over the bridge crossing the motorway, turn left, towards Candelaria, and then drive into the Barrio (suburb) of Santa Ana which is on the right-hand side. You come to a mini roundabout close to the Instituto de Enseñanza Secundaria de Santa Ana (Santa Ana secondary school) and the Colegio Príncipe Felipe (school) where you will see a sign pointing out the direction of the pottery centre. Take the first exit and drive down Santa Ana Street. Still on the same street, turn right. You pass the church of Santa Ana on your right and soon after, at the next junction, you will find a pedestrian street which leads towards the pottery centre, situated on the right-hand side and which is visible from Santa Ana Street. You will be able to park your vehicle in the surrounding area.

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From the Las Miquelas Pottery Centre to the Malpaís de Güímar (Badlands of Güímar)

Distance: 4.5 km Estimated driving time: 10 minutes Approximate time of visit: 1 hour

The next stop on the route takes you to see the Güímar Badlands, located only a few kilometres from the Las Miquelas pottery centre. To get there, head back to Santa Ana street and drive down. At the end of the road you will see a car park close to the Basilica of Our Lady of Candelaria, where you turn right. Then drive up La Magdalena street. 500 m up ahead you will reach the junction with the TF-283 where you turn left and drive straight on for 2.4 km. The route takes you through the Güímar Industrial Estate. At the end you reach a roundabout where you take the second exit and follow the course of the road. Roughly another 1.7 km will take you to your destination. The road then turns into a dirt track and a few metres up ahead, at the entrance, there is an information panel about the Güímar Badlands Reserve. Park the vehicle nearby and continue the visit on foot.

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STARTING POINT

GÜÍMAR VALLEY

Güímar Valley, located in the east of the island, forms a geographical identity with a strong presence in the territory and is one of the most important regions in the island of Tenerife. Its development is mainly due to the existence of water in the ravines and its extraction from underground springs, which promoted an important agricultural activity dominated by grape vines and fruit trees.

Güímar Valley is located in the east of Tenerife Island, in the area downwind of the large ridge that crosses the island from northeast to southwest from La Esperanza to the Cañadas del Teide. It is a volcanic valley, produced by the sliding of large quantities of material into the sea. It is flanked by important point, as the imposing Pico Cho Marcial, 2026 meters above sea level, the guardian of the valley and crossed by major canyons that are home to numerous large cutwater galleries and a strong representation of native flora. It also houses a representation of recent volcanic activity at the base of Pico Cho Marcial made in 1705 emerged the Arena Volcano, whose cast went to almost reach the sea and threatened villages like Arafo.

Güímar Valley includes the municipalities of Güímar, Arafo and Candelaria and due to the existence of all its underground springs, is the precursor to the arid *south* of the island. It has become, thanks to the abundant water supply, one of the most relevant regions of Tenerife and has been involved in major agricultural activity including the cultivation of bananas, vineyards, tomatoes, papayas and avocados among others.

We will discover the history of this unique part of the island by visiting the historic centres of Arafo and Candelaria. We will travel along part of the old main south road, major form of communication before the construction of the motorway, and we will learn about the most relevant traditional and ethnographic values of this region.

Güímar:

UTM coordinates:

28.315708, -16.41125

Geographical coordinates:

28°18'56.55"N, 16°24'40.50"O

Further information:

www.guimar.es

Candelaria:

UTM coordinates:

28.351789, -16.370044

Geographical coordinates:

28°21'6.44"N, 16°22'12.16"O

Further information:

www.candelaria.es

Arafo:

UTM coordinates:

28.339817, -16.418694

Geographical coordinates:

28°20'23.34"N, 16°25'7.30"O.

Further information:

www.araf.es

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STOPPING POINT

HISTORICAL SITE OF CHINGUARO

On this visit, you will get to know the Historical Site of Chinguaro. According to the spoken tradition, and historical and archaeological sources, Chinguaro was the place where the *menceyes* (aboriginal kings) of Güímar lived when they moved down to the coast during the winter months.

As the legend recounts, the image of the Madonna of Candelaria appeared on the beach at Chimisay, nowadays known as the beach of El Socorro, and was carried to Chinguaro, the residence of the *mencey* (aboriginal king) by the *guanches* themselves.

This is the first church devoted to the Virgin Mary on the Island which from the time of the Conquest (by the Spanish) became an important centre of pilgrimage.



Address:

Camino del Taro, 1. Güímar

Tel: 922 514 820

UTM coordinates:

28.323764, -16.395689

Geographical coordinates:

28°19'25.55"N, 16°23'44.48"W

Further information:

www.chinguaro.com

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STOPPING POINT

ARAFO

In the shadows of the imposing Cho Marcial Peak and the Volcano of Las Arenas, the town of Arafo can boast of an important historic centre founded at the end of the Conquest due to the existence of various water sources. Its growth was strongly affected by the eruption of the Volcano of Las Arenas (also known as Volcano of Arafo) in 1705.

Our visit to the historic center of Arafo will begin right at its centre, in San Juan Degollado Square, where there is a kiosk and a shrine. This route offers a walking tour that begins in Llano Square or Esquina de los Carros where we follow Manuel Herrera Street and after entering the streets Andres Orozco Batista and La Vera, we will end up at the Añavingo Ravine where the La Piedra del Barranco is found as well a small recreation area. This ravine is one of the most representative of the south of the island and walking through its bed reveals an impressive variety of native flora.

Then, as we retrace our steps, we will come out onto La Vera Street and will then follow San Antonio Street, taking the opportunity to admire the striking traditional architecture of the buildings as we pass by. Our route continues along the same street in the same direction as traffic, and we will be able to distinguish the different crops growing in the area. Once we reach Eduardo Curbelo Street we will have to go up some 200 m (650 ft.) until we encounter an old water mill built in 1885. We will see the well-conserved aqueduct by which the water activated the machinery. The water exiting the mill was then used in public washing places located below.

In the shadow of the mill and accompanied by the sweet murmur of the water leaving for the washing places, it is an ideal place to relax, discuss what we have seen and enjoy the scenery and uniqueness of this area. We will notice why the Town of Arafo has received several awards for its cleanliness and meticulous care of its environment.

When we leave, we will follow the same street that we took, but this time downhill, until we come out at the side of one of the most emblematic buildings in this municipality, built in traditional Canarian architecture. The house is known as the Casa de la Esquina, or Corner house, where Secundino Delgado, father of Canarian nationalism, had lived.

Therefore, we will have come full circle to Llano Square, the starting point of this short tour, which has revealed some of the little-known places near the town centre of Arafo.



Address:

TF-245, Ctra. La Hidalga - Arafo

UTM coordinates:

28.339817, -16.418694

Geographical coordinates:

28°20'23.34"N, 16°25'7.30"W

Further information:

www.arafo.es

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STOPPING POINT

MIRADOR DE CHIVISAYA (VIEWPOINT)

Located in the Siete Lomas [Seven Hills] Protected Landscape, the views over the Valley of Güímar will not leave anyone indifferent. From this beautiful spot you can admire the views over the towns of Candelaria, Arafo y Güímar.

In the not too distant past, the area was mainly devoted to agriculture, in particular to vines. During the seventeenth to the nineteenth centuries there were many wineries, now disused, which were famous for their production of white and rosé wines.



Address:

Carretera Arafo—La Cumbre, TF-523

UTM coordinates:

28.371703, -16.427533

Geographical coordinates:

28°22'18.13"N, 16°25'39.12"W

CENTRO ALFARERO LAS MIQUELAS

The Pottery Centre of Las Miquelas presents an excellent exposition on this ancient trade and offers the visitor the opportunity to discover firsthand the entire work process as well as to purchase items made there.

The centre includes two exhibition halls. One presents the more common traditional trades among the people of Candelaria and shows an informative documentary on the work process by which the potters prepare the raw materials, produce their wares and manage their distribution. The other hall displays the different kinds of vessels according to their function as well as the traditional clothing. In the courtyard there are two kilns and a workshop, where you can watch the young potters work with clay with utmost respect for tradition. You can also see their creations which you can purchase and thus contribute to the preservation of this ancient trade.



Address:

Calle Isla de la Gomera, 17
Santa Ana, Candelaria

Tel.: 922 505 216

E-mail: alfareria@candelaria.es

Business hours:

Monday-Friday: 9:30-14:00 hours

17:00-19:00 hours

Saturday: 10:00-14:00 hours

UTM coordinates:

28.351447, -16.371214

Geographical coordinates:

28°21'5.21"N, 16°22'16.37"W

- Member of the Rural Tenerife Foundation Quality Network

STOPPING POINT

MALPAÍS DE GÜÍMAR (BADLANDS OF GÜÍMAR)

The Malpaís de Güímar Special Nature Reserve is a protected natural area situated, as its name suggests, in the municipality of Güímar in the south of Tenerife. With its volcanic landscape and being so close to the sea, it provides an insight into a fascinating area with beautiful, unique geological formations.

The badlands cover an area of 290.3 hectares and consist of an unusually beautiful, volcanic landscape. The cone, of considerable size, with the lava flows are a magnificent example of volcanic activity on Tenerife. What stands out is the "Montaña Grande" [Big Mountain] which created this area. Its summit, located at an altitude of 276 m, gives spectacular views of the Güímar Valley.

There are several ways of enjoying a visit: follow the existing trail and experience the heart of the reserve, enjoy the panoramic views that can be seen from the summit, admire the beauty of the area and witness the history of southeast Tenerife. From pre-hispanic times the area was used for winter grazing. After the conquest by the Spanish, this tradition of use for livestock was maintained, even up to the present day. Besides this, both the crater and the hillsides have been used for farming. As evidence of such activity, there still remain terraces, stone walls, water channels, and the occasional water reservoir.



UTM coordinates:

28.318728, -16.378281

Geographical coordinates:

28°19'7.42"N, 16°22'41.81"W

OTHER POINTS OF INTEREST

FARMER'S MARKET IN CANDELARIA

The farmer's market provides the opportunity to purchase excellent farm products from the region directly from their producers. Fruits, vegetables, cheeses, artisanal liqueurs, wines, sweets and flowers are only some of the products which can be acquired at the many stalls, all managed directly by the farmers of Candelaria.

Address:

Plaza del Centro comercial Punta Larga

Business hours:

Saturday from 9:00 to 13:00 and
Wednesday from 17:00 to 21:00.

UTM coordinates:

28.364892,- 16.366517

Geographical coordinates:

28°21'53.61"N, 16°21'59.46"W

Further information:

mercavalle.blogspot.com

FARMER'S MARKET DE GÜÍMAR

This open air farmer's market in the town hall square is the perfect opportunity to acquire fresh, top quality products from the region. Honey, nuts, fruits, vegetables, wines, cheeses and flowers are among the many products offered directly from their producers in Güímar.

Address:

Plaza del Ayuntamiento

Business hours:

Sunday from 8:00 to 13:00

UTM coordinates:

28.314533,- 16.411192

Geographical coordinates:

28°18'52.32"N, 16°24'40.29"W

Further information:

mercavalle.blogspot.com

FARMER'S MARKET DE ARAFO

This establishment is a place for sampling and selling of typical items from the region. There are not only growers and livestock farmers, but also traditional craftworkers here finding an outlet for their products.

Address:

Area of El Pino

Tel.: 922 514 281

Business hours:

Friday from 16:00 to 20:00.

UTM coordinates:

28.340311,- 16.415317

Geographical coordinates:

28°20'25.12"N, 16°24'55.14"W

Further information:

mercavalle.blogspot.com

LO DE RAMOS RECREATION PARK AND RUINS

This recreation park is located in a historically intriguing setting, the ruins of an old rural estate built by Augustinian monks. After its confiscation and change of ownership, it was set afire in retaliation and left in ruins until the present.

Curiously enough, the location survived a volcanic eruption when the flow split shortly before arriving at the scene. The process has been initiated to preserve these ruins as Heritage of Cultural Interest under the Historic Site category.

The park is equipped with grills, picnic tables and benches as well as a chapel dedicated to St. James.

Address:

Calle Virgen de Candelaria, s/n.

UTM coordinates:

28.337636, -16.432247

Geographical coordinates:

28°20'15.49"N, 16°25'56.09"W

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OTHER POINTS OF INTEREST

FARMER'S MARKET IN PUERTITO DE GÜÍMAR

The Puertito de Güímar Farmer's Market is located in Plaza de San Pedro, in the coastal town of El Puertito. It was inaugurated in December 2019 and allows the acquisition of local products such as vegetables, fruits, cheeses, wines, etc. Saturdays and Sundays: 7: 00-13: 30 hours

Address:

Plaza de SAn Pedro, Puertito de Güímar. Güímar

Business hours:

Saturdays and Sunday from 7:00 - 13:30 hours.

UTM coordinates:

28.364892,- 16.366517

Geographical coordinates:

28°21'53.61"N, 16°21'59.46"W