

THROUGH GRANADILLA DE ABONA Ethnography, nature and traditions

ITINERARY

From the TF-1 South Motorway exit 20 km 49 towards Chimiche, El Río. To the hamlet of Las Vegas.

Distance: 8,5 km **Estimated completion time:** 14 minutes. **Approximate time for visit:** 30 minutes.

Upon exiting the motorway, you will ascend towards Chimiche on a secondary road. You will travel through an arid landscape, mainly due to the abandonment of the farmlands, evidenced by the large amount of terrace walls and stone channels. This route passes through the small town of Chimiche and crosses the TF-28, the Main South Road towards Las Vegas on the TF-555. You will see the Bar Chimiche on the left-hand side and the Agricultural Cooperative on the right. Continue along until reaching the hamlet of Las Vegas, at which point you will turn left into Santa Ana Street, which is an excellent place for your first stopping point.

From the Hamlet of Las Vegas to the town centre of Granadilla de Abona

Distance: 7.8 km **Estimated completion time:** 11 minutes **Approximate time for visit:** 1 hour

The next stop on your route takes you to see the historical town centre of Granadilla. You leave Las Vegas on the same road (TF-555) that you arrived on, but returning downhill until you get back to the main road, the TF-28. Turn right towards Granadilla de Abona and follow the course of the road. After travelling 7 km, you cross a bridge and you have arrived at the built-up area of the town of Granadilla. Continue straight ahead about 700 m: on the right-hand side you will pass the Church of San Antonio de Padua and immediately come to Mena González Square on the left. You will be able park your car nearby. The visit continues on foot through the streets of Granadilla.



INFORMATION

Estimated completion Time:

4 hours, 15 minutes

Estimated Driving Time:

1 hour

Total Distance:

39.9 km.

Stopping points:

Hamlet of Las Vegas
Centre of Granadilla de Abona
Mirador de Chiñama (viewpoint)
The “eres”, or watering holes, of the Chiñama Ravine
Hermano Pedro Cave

Other points of interest:

Farmer’s Market in San Isidro.
History Museum of Granadilla de Abona.
La Mareta, Tejita Beach and Montaña Roja. Lunar Landscape
Footpath Las Vegas

ITINERARY

From the town centre of Granadilla de Abona to Mirador de Chiñama (viewpoint)

Distance: 4 km **Estimated completion time:** 10 minutes **Approximate time for visit:** 20 minutes

To reach your next stop, the Mirador de Chiñama, you return to San Francisco street, leave the built-up area of Granadilla and head towards San Miguel de Abona along the main TF-28. After travelling a few kilometres, you will come to the entrance to the Instituto de Granadilla (Granadilla Secondary School) and a little further on you arrive at Charco del Pino. On your route along the TF-28 you will cross a bridge and a few metres further on, on the left-hand side of the road you will see the Church of Charco del Pino. At this point, you turn left into Chiñama street, passing the wall of the church on the right-hand side. A few metres further ahead you will see a junction, where you turn right. Roughly another 300 m will take you to your destination.

From the Mirador de Chiñama to the *eres*, or watering holes, of the Chiñama Ravine

Distance: 1 km **Estimated completion time:** 5 minutes **Approximate time for visit:** 40 minutes

To go from the Mirador de Chiñama to the next stop on the route, the Eres de Charco del Pino, you return to the junction with the TF-28 where you turn right. After about 200 m you cross a bridge and at the first intersection you come to, turn right into Charcay street. The route now continues about 170 m along that road to reach your destination.

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From the *eres*, or watering holes, of the Chiñama Ravine to the Hermano Pedro cave.

Distance: 18.6 km **Estimated completion time:** 20 minutes **Approximate time for visit:** 45 minutes

The route continues down the same street, calle Charcay, until you must bear to the right and continue down calle Yaiza. You will cross calle Hermano Pedro and keep going down calle Yaiza until you come to the stop sign at the TF-647 Road de los Muros. At this point, turn to the right towards las Zocas. After about a mile it will end at the junction with the TF-65 Road of Los Abrigos. Turn left at that stop sign towards Autopista Sur - Los Abrigos. Follow it all the way down to the TF-1 South Motorway. Drive straight on, pass over the motorway and continue towards Los Abrigos, which is at very bottom of the road. At the roundabout turn to the left taking Avenida de Los Abrigos, TF-643, which runs parallel to the coast towards El Médano. As you continue on you will pass the Red Mountain Campsite on the right. Afterwards you will reach a T-junction where there is a parking lot on the right for the Red Mountain and a sign indicating that the Hermano Pedro Cave is to the left. This road will lead to the cave shrine.

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STARTING POINT

GRANADILLA DE ABONA

The planned route goes through the municipality of Granadilla de Abona, located in southern Tenerife; you will have the opportunity to discover its natural beauty, magnificent examples of traditional architecture and town centres replete with history. You will walk along centuries-old roads and through historic centres which will not only allow you to enjoy the typical southern landscape of the island, but to also discover much of this region's past and many local traditions.

The visit will begin in the hamlet of Las Vegas, the first population centre of Granadilla, where there are exceptional examples of the island's typical rural architecture. You will also be able to admire the lovely views of the ocean and mountain peaks of the municipality. The economy has been mainly driven by agriculture, especially cereals, fruit trees and potatoes cultivated in volcanic sand. Farmers built stone walls to protect their crops and stone channels to transport water, and in so doing transformed the landscape. You will also be able to experience natural spaces of fascinating beauty such as the intriguing Lunar Landscape and unique Red Mountain Natural Reserve in addition to history-laden places such as the Chiñama Ravine, of great archaeological wealth and the Cave-shrine of Santo Hermano Pedro.

Address:

Carretera General del Sur (TF-28)

UTM coordinates:

28.125742, - 16.576603

Geographical coordinates:

28°07'32.67"N, 16°34'35.77"W

Further information:

www.granadilladeabona.org

THROUGH GRANADILLA DE ABONA Ethnography, nature and traditions

STOPPING POINTS

HAMLET OF LAS VEGAS

In the mid-altitude regions of Granadilla de Abona is this small and picturesque hamlet. The first colonists settled here in the early 1600's, making it the oldest population centre in the municipality.

The hamlet of Las Vegas is an exquisite example of traditional, rural island architecture. The shrine of Our Lady of Hope is found in the middle of this hamlet's main square, which also serves as an excellent vantage point to admire the magnificent landscapes: from the coast up to the hamlet itself and on to the summit. One of its peculiarities is the bell tower which grows taller every year, due to the fact that it is located in a pine tree. You will be able to walk along a part of the centuries-old Southern Royal Road which enjoys an exceptional state of conservation.



Address:

Carretera Chimiche—Las Vegas (TF-555)

UTM coordinates:

28.145119, - 16.5468

Geographical coordinates:

28° 8'42.43"N, 16°32'48.48"W

Further information:

www.granadilladeabona.org

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STOPPING POINTS

CENTRE OF GRANADILLA DE ABONA

The city centre of Granadilla de Abona emerged near the end of the 16th century. It had previously been a refuge for numerous native Guanches who rebelled against the Spanish conquerors. Many important archaeological sites bear witness to this fact such as the caves of Chiñama, La Jaquita and el Tagoror del Rey.

San Antonio Square will be the starting point of this visit, and the first stop will be the 18th century San Antonio de Pádua Church. As you ascend the pedestrian-only Iglesia Street, your attention will be drawn to several recently renovated buildings which grant a clear vision of traditional Canarian architecture. Upon reaching the top, turn left and descend San Francisco Street until arriving at the González Mena Square. This used to be the city centre in the 17th century when the San Luis Obispo Convent was constructed along with other emblematic buildings in the vicinity.

The convent is popularly known as the San Francisco Convent, being as it is of the Franciscan order. Construction began in 1665, and it was subsequently destroyed in a fire in 1745. It was rebuilt, and when it was closed down by the monks in 1821, the building served as town hall until it collapsed in 1963 killing 23 local residents and injuring more than a hundred; there is a commemorative plaque in the interior courtyard. It was once again restored and has been declared a Historic-Artistic Monument.

City Hall is located in the square, and there is also a bust in the image of Saint Hermano Pedro. The visit continues along the pedestrian-only street named in honour of the architect José Enrique Marrero. Take notice of the many fine examples of traditional Canarian architecture, especially the History Museum of Granadilla de Abona.

MIRADOR DE CHIÑAMA (VIEWPOINT)

From the Chiñama viewpoint there are views of the coast, the middle slopes and mountaintops of Granadilla as well as of the neighbouring municipality of San Miguel de Abona. This exceptional spot located on Chiñama Mountain allows spectators to survey a landscape formed by various small villages and areas of crops, where small plots primarily intended for the owners' own consumption are interspersed with greenhouses.

In turn, it allows you to view the topography of the south of the island and the famous "ere" at Charco del Pino (a cavity in the rock in the bottom of the ravine for storing water).



Address:

Carretera General del Sur (TF-28)

UTM coordinates:

28.125742, - 16.576603

Geographical coordinates:

28°07'32.67"N, 16°34'35.77"W

Further information:

www.granadilladeabona.org



Address:

Chiñama Ravine (access from Charco del Pino Street)

UTM coordinates:

28.107644, - 16.594478

Geographical coordinates:

28° 6'27.52"N, 16°35'40.12"W

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STOPPING POINTS

THE “ERES”, OR WATERHOLES, IN THE CHIÑAMA RAVINE

The Chiñama ravine is one of the most important historic sites of the municipality of Granadilla. Within its boundaries are numerous features of natural, archaeological, ethnographic and anthropological importance of which the invaluable indigenous rock engravings are an exquisite example.

Eres can be defined as natural or manmade hollows formed in the rock of the ravine beds which allow rainwater to collect, usually under small occasional waterfalls. The geological substrate of the ground consists of a compact ash material called tuff which allows for a very gradual filtration. The native Guanche goat herders knew that when other water sources disappeared from the ravines, they could rely on these *eres* to replenish their supplies. Thus, the seasonal use of these watering holes was established; they are still used to this day to supply water to the grazing livestock.



Address:

Chiñama Ravine (access from Char-
cay Street)

UTM coordinates:

28.109011, - 16.592597

Geographical coordinates:

28° 6'32.44"N, 16°35'33.35"W

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STOPPING POINTS

HERMANO PEDRO CAVE

The Hermano Pedro Cave is a cave shrine dedicated to Pedro de San José Bethencourt, the first saint of Tenerife. Within there is a wooden statue in the image of the saint and an area for the faithful to leave their offerings. There are restrooms on site as well as a small souvenir shop.

The cave can be accessed by two short paths that run along the slopes of a small ravine. There are several attractive resting spots along the way which are ideal for contemplating the typical landscape of the south of the island.

The use of the cave dates back to the 17th century, when it served as a dwelling and place of prayer for Pedro de San José de Bethencourt on his goat herding route between the mountains and the coast.

Pedro de Bethencourt or Betancur was born in 1626 in the town of Vilaflor. At age 23, he left Tenerife to begin his intense humanitarian and missionary work in Guatemala. His extreme dedication and contribution to the underprivileged led Pope John Paul II to canonise him on 29 July 2002.

The cave has been declared an Asset of Cultural Interest, and given that it receives more than 300,000 visitors a year, it is considered to be one of the island's most important pilgrimage destinations.



Address:

Camino Cueva Hermano Pedro km.
1.8

UTM coordinates:

28.051558, - 16.553358

Geographical coordinates:

28°3' 5.61"N, 16°33' 12.09"W

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OTHER POINTS OF INTEREST

FARMER'S MARKET IN SAN ISIDRO

The Farmer's Market in San Isidro, Granadilla de Abona, began operating in 1996. The main objective was to recuperate and promote rural areas, resulting in the survival and modernisation of the area's agriculture, especially in the mid-altitude regions. The weekend Farmer's Market is a sales point for growers, bakers, livestock breeders, fisherman and artisans to offer local, high quality products directly to the customer at competitive prices.

There is a cafeteria, parking, childcare services, and playground available

Address:

Southwest border of the TF-1
Motorway connection in San Isidro
off the TF-64 Road. Granadilla de
Abona

Tel.: 922 770 431

E-mail:

mercadosdelagricultor@granadilladea
bona.org

Business hours:

Saturdays and Sundays from 8:00 to
14:30

UTM coordinates:

28.069858, - 16.5544

Geographical coordinates:

28°4'11.49N, 16°33'15.84"W

Further information:

www.mercadosdelagricultor.com

HISTORY MUSEUM OF GRANADILLA DE ABONA

The History Museum is located in a splendid two-story Canarian home which has been renovated and equipped for museum use. You will learn about the history, traditions and lifestyles of the people of Granadilla de Abona from the time of the native Guanches onwards. Moreover, you will discover this old home from the inside and therefore know what the people were like and what their customs were.

After passing through the large entrance door, you will be in the central courtyard around which all the rooms are distributed. A wooden staircase and passageways lead to the upstairs exhibition spaces.

The museum displays include photographs, explicative panels and objects such as handcrafted pieces, tools, medicinal plants, typical clothing, documents and farming implements among others. There is a wealth of information about both the indigenous culture of the Guanches and the inhabitants of the more recent past.

Address:

Calle Arquitecto J. Marrero, 11.
Granadilla de Abona.

Tel.: 922 770 431

Business hours:

To visit the museum, a 24 hour
advance reservation is required by
calling the following number:
922 770 431

UTM coordinates:

28.123439, - 16.576356

Geographical coordinates:

28°7'24.38"N, 16°34'34.88"W

Further information:

www.granadilladeabona.org

- We recommend confirming the opening times of establishments

OTHER POINTS OF INTEREST

LA MARETA, TEJITA BEACHY MONTAÑA ROJA

Heading towards El Médano from Los Abrigos is the coastal strip occupied by the Red Mountain Special Nature Reserve, the only well-conserved area of dunes on the island. In this coastal desert, life is conditioned by wind, high temperatures, scarce rainfall and the influence of the damp sea air. Under these harsh conditions it is incredible that more than a hundred plant species can thrive, many of which are unique to this area. There is also a great number of fauna, particularly birds.

The Mareta: This is a unique case being as it is an artificial saltwater environment created by the extraction of beach sand. Its value lies in the fact that it represents landscape elements quite typical of low lying coastal areas, and the shallow waters appear as a smooth sheet of glass as there is very little agitation.

La Tejita: This beach is nearly two-thirds of a mile long of continuous natural sand, making it the longest of the island. It has the added attraction of being protected by the Red Mountain, whose immediate coastline is dotted with small coves. The beach of La Tejita and surrounding areas are of invaluable interest as they can help us understand nature's complex relationships in southern Tenerife.

Red Mountain: The original name given to this most remarkable and unique geological monument and landmark of this part of the coastline is *Monterosso*, Italian for *Montaña Roja*, or Red Mountain. Jutting out into the ocean, this cinder volcano gets its red colour from iron oxide. The fact that it erodes quite easily has created small beaches along the immediate coast of this unusual tone.

Its eastern side is dominated by a large fossil dune made of consolidated organic sand from the Quaternary period. It had previously been exploited as a quarry in order to create stone filters for the island's traditional water purifying systems called *bernegales*.

Its western side is an abrupt cliff, a virtually inaccessible vertical drop of some 170 m (560 ft.), yet of ornithological interest due to certain birds of prey which nest there.

Address:

Carretera General (TF-643) between
El Médano and Los Abrigos

UTM coordinates:

28.032656, - 16.553364

Geographical coordinates:

28°1'57.56"N, 16°33'12.11"W

Further information:

www.granadilladeabona.org

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OTHER POINTS OF INTEREST

LUNAR LANDSCAPE

This spectacular landscape of rock formations resembles the lunar surface, and although it is located in the municipality of Granadilla, it is accessed by way of Vilaflor.

It is located at the beginning of the mountain slope of Guajara, which at an altitude of 8,917 ft. is the second highest peak of the island after Mount Teide. At its summit the wind has sculpted curious shapes into the white volcanic pumice stone, forming chimneys and other formations reminiscent of the moon's surface. Nearby, on the edge of the ravine there are strategically located viewpoints so as to obtain the most stunning views of this remarkable landscape. There is also an informative panel which explains the formation process of this geological phenomenon in detail.

Address:

Carretera General de Vilaflor, at the Lomo Blanco turnoff

UTM coordinates:

28.190864, - 16.603956

Geographical coordinates:

28° 11' 27,11''N 16° 36'14,24''W

Further information:

www.granadilladeabona.org

FOOTHPATH LAS VEGAS

This rural route runs through the Caserío de Las Vegas which makes it possible to learn about the traditional architecture of the south of the island. Likewise, the tour allows you to see springs of water as well as galleries, so fundamental in the past for the survival of the local population. Its location makes it possible to know the natural features of the area, among which the Canary Island pine and other species of the understory stand out, such as rockrose and broom and other endemic species such as tabaiba, verode or tajinaste, and other heritage values. such as an oven and a washing sink in the area known as Las Toscas. It consists of approximately 8 km of route, with hardly any unevenness. Its starting and ending point is the hermitage of the Virgen de la Esperanza, it crosses the nucleus of Las Vegas and enters through cobbled roads and forest tracks

Address:

TF 342, Las Vegas, Granadilla de Abona

UTM coordinates:

28.190864, - 16.603956

Geographical coordinates:

28° 11' 27,11''N 16° 36'14,24''W

Further information:

www.granadilladeabona.org