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Agaete

Tourist Guide

We appreciate what's important.



For that reason, our commitment
to the cultural heritage
of the Canary Islands is strong.

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Geographical Aspects

Situation / How to get to Agaete

The seafaring village of Agaete is located on the northwest coast of Gran Canaria, only 30 kilometres away from the capital of the island, Las Palmas de Gran Canaria. Among the municipalities which extend along the North of Gran Canaria, Agaete is situated more to the west. Its limits are to the North and East with Gáldar, and to the South and West with the municipality of Artenara.

There are two ways of access to this Municipality:

- From Las Palmas de Gran Canaria on GC 2 road.
- From the Village of San Nicolas or the South part of the island, bordering the island along its west coast on the road GC 200.

Both ways lead you to Agaete either by car or on regular busses.

Size and Topography

In spite of its reduced surface, 45,49 square kilometres, its topography in general is very steep, and there are



three main valleys which stand out: El Risco, Guayedra and Agaete, with a maximum altitude of 1.180 metres in the highest zone of the Pinewood of Tamadaba.

Climate and Vegetation

With a predominant orientation to the Northwest, the municipality of Agaete is not as exposed to the trade winds, except the zone of Tamadaba, which results in less rainfall. This situation along with the steep topography, make this place have a summer lasting the whole year round. Due to its orientation to the Northwest, this village does not receive much rain during the whole year, and it is also marked by a great quantity of sun hours, with an annual average of 2.415 hours. Due to these reasons, Agaete has a nice warm climate throughout the year.

The rain is very irregular and scarce, with the exception of Tamadaba which can get around 700 litres per square

metre. Other places in Agaete that get very little rain are: 265 litres per square metre in Guayedra and less than 200 litres per square metre in Agaete and El Risco. This drought determines the vegetation in each zone, for example in places lower than 400 metres there are spurges and rests of cactus-spurges (*Euphorbia Canariensis*). In the valleys there are some palm trees (*Phoenix Canariensis*), this happens in Guayedra, El Risco or in the Valley, and only in the highest zones of Tamadaba a wood of pine trees (*Pinus Canariensis*) can be found.

Although most of the vegetation has suffered from the felling of trees in the centuries before, this pinewood conserves an important variety of flora in Gran Canaria. The height and the humidity as a result of the trade winds, ascending very fast along the cliffs from the sea, let us speak about a humid pinewood, where the pine trees live together with tree heath (*Erica Arborea*) and Canary Islands Wax-Myrtle (*Myrica faya*).

Finally, the upper limits of Guayedra contain vegetation full of interesting endemic flora and some species of Laurisilva. In El Risco two important and unique species of flora are: *Dendriopoterium Mendezii* and *Centaurea Arbutifolia*.

Fauna

Birds represent the most important group in relation to fauna, normally meant to be in pinewoods. The bird picapinos (woodpecker) (*Dendrocopos major*), which is found in this area is a type of bird from Gran Canaria. Other common birds in the pinewood zone are: the herrerillo (*Parus caeruleus*), the falcon Tagarote or from Berbers, this last one is almost extinct and is only found in isolated zones of Lanzarote, Fuerteventura and Gran Canaria. This falcon can easily be confused with the cernicalo (*Falco tinnunculus ssp.canariensis*), which is also a bird of prey, that can only be distinguished



from the falcon by its bigger size and its shorter tail. It is possible to find it in the cliffs of Tamadaba where they make their nets.

Other birds found in the coastal zone are Pardela Cenicienta (*Calonectris diomedea borealis*), which lives at sea and only gets close to the coast when it is time to reproduce; and the other one is the yellow seagull (*Larus cachinnans*), which live on the cliffs near the Finger of God, where they make their nets.

The lizard from Gran Canaria (*Gallotia stheleni*) can also be found in this area, it is native of Gran Canaria, and the adults can measure 50 centimetres long.

Geological Aspects

Its scarce extension – 45,49 square kilometres – extends between a very steep mountainous area, which occupies the largest part of its surface and which extends between two different sectors, one is the most recent geological site and the other one is the oldest geological part of the island. Most of the surface is volcanic and it dates back to 14 million years ago, the period when the volcanic eruptions took part on this island.



From the Valley as well as from the cliffs which go directly to the sea, it can be seen that the lower volcanic surfaces are approaching the interior of the island. This is a product of erosion. There is a big erosive action on the coast which can be seen either in these lower surfaces, the high cliffs, or in the existence of isolated rocks like "The Finger of God" and also the absence of plain surface in the lower side of the valleys of Guayedra and El Risco. This erosive action has led to its limits decreasing many kilometres in the last million years.

The municipality gets to its maximum altitude in the range of Tamadaba, which is formed by sound-stones, on its North and Northwest side is the Valley of Agaete, El Risco is on its Southwest side, and on its west part there are two valleys or ravines: Guayedra and La Palma, among all these valleys the main peak of Tamadaba stands at 1.444 metres, covered by a pine forest (*Pinus Canariensis*) with a great variety of flowers and of beautiful landscapes.

Between the mountain of Tamadaba and the one called Altavista, the head of the valley El Risco can be found, this is the widest one that surrounds this range and in its lower parts, it gives place to a wide valley opened to the Northwest, with high mountains that lead to softer plateau in its lower part. At the beginning of the Cuaternary era, the volcanic activity erupted new material that surrounded the range of Tamadaba on its East side, giving place to the valley that goes from los Berrazales to Agaete. The volcanic area called Malpais de la Necrópolis (Malpais de Arriba) is the result of the meeting of part of the eruption of this volcanic action and the Deepness of Fagagesto, these materials covered the deepest part of this valley, flowing to its plain part and then to the sea.



Population

The settlement of people in this zone dates back to the Pre-Hispanic times, when this part of the island was populated by aborigines as it can be seen at the archaeological sites of diverse types that have been found along the whole municipality.

On the other hand, its situation to the Northwest of Gran Canaria facilitated the settlement of people from the very first times of the conquest by the Castilians. The existence of one of the best natural ports on the North coast of the island facilitated, first, the entrance of troops into the interior to the Kingdom of Gáldar, and also contributed to quick communication with the island of Tenerife, which is 60 miles away from this port.

The population was basically concentrated in the lower area of the valley, which is also the plain zone and with better resources such as water, better lands to cultivate and also close to the sea, where they could fish. Nowadays the population still

concentrates in those zones where the main places are the centre of the village which gathers 68% of the population, other important areas are the neighbourhoods of San Pedro in the Valley and Vecindad de Enfrente, and after those El Puerto de las Nieves stands out. Out of Agaete Valley there are two little neighbourhoods in the mountainous part of Agaete, these are El Sao and El Hornillo, both have lost most of their population in the last years.

More to the west coast El Risco stands out, which is a little neighbourhood in the lower part of the valley with this same name, and its people live on agriculture and cattle raising. It has a population of 237 people.

Population of Agaete

Places	Men	Women	Total	%
Agaete's Centre	1.836	1.799	3.635	63,74
Valley of Agaete	602	556	1.158	20,30
Guayedra	8	6	14	0,24
El Hornillo	16	12	28	0,5
Los Llanos	29	23	52	0,91
Puerto de Las Nieves	304	271	575	10,08
El Risco	120	115	235	4,12
El Sao	5	1	6	0,1
Total	2.920	2.783	5.703	99,99



Historical Data

Origin of its Name

The name of Agaete appears in the written history about the conquest of Gran Canaria and reference is made to the main village or aborigine site settled in the present municipality with the same name. The Pre – Hispanic name was then changed into the Spanish name of Laguete during the modern period, and afterwards it changed again into the primitive name of its origins.

Agaete in the Pre – Hispanic times

The first people that occupied this territory was the aboriginal community integrated into the kingdom of Gáldar, in a social as in a political way, at that time and near the conquest from Castilla (1478), the island had been divided into two main aboriginal kingdoms: Gáldar, basically formed by the North – west side of the island; and Telde formed by the East and South part of the island. The great quantity of archaeological rests found in this locality confirms the existence of important Pre–Hispanic settlements before the conquest of Gran Canaria, so it was important in the Kingdom of Gáldar, and it was due mainly, to its coastal location and to the great quantity of resources that its valleys enjoyed. The archaeological investigations over its patrimony done up to date, and which has suffered a continuous deterioration

through the centuries, confirm the richness of this aboriginal society. This territory presented favourable conditions for the aboriginal economy. Its vast pastures fed the flocks of goats and sheep, and the irrigated terraces in the valley also allowed the development of agriculture in humid lands, with legume and barley, which was the main cereal in the aboriginal diet. The coast also offered conditions for fishing activity, which during the coming period, maintained its prestige in the economy of the island.

We do not know about the first meetings between the European sailors dedicated to slave traffic. The exchange of orchilla and drago's blood with the indigenous kings was to obtain manufactured goods, especially the ones made out of iron, before the Castilians reached Gran Canaria. But if the people from Mallorca reached the coasts of San Nicolás Village, they did also reach the coast of Agaete. In fact, some studies speak about a construction in the zone of Las Nieves Port, over which the Castilians constructed their Fort House. The first construction is meant to have been made by the people from Mallorca, before the Castilians arrived.

Agaete and its Role in the Conquest of Gran Canaria

In 1478 the conquest of this island took place in the hands of the Castilian troops led by Juan Rejón, and afterwards led by Pedro de Vera in 1480, who built a fort in Agaete, with the aim to submit the aborigines. In 1481, this Village of Agaete constituted a crucial site from which the Castilians through its natural port, nowadays known as Puerto de las Nieves, ended the conquest of this island. This port was the one chosen by the Castilian people to bring their

fleets and to proceed with the capture of the Guanarteme from Gáldar, its aboriginal king, as well as to establish an operational base, which is why the fort was built, which was later denominated Fort House.

This Fort had as first mayor Alonso Fernández de Lugo, whose main deed was the capture of the Guanarteme from Gáldar (King of Gáldar) Thenesor Artemi Semidán, who was then baptized with the name of Fernando Guanarteme by the Catholic King and Queen from Spain. This man, Fernando Guanarteme, worked then as the mediator between Castilians and the aboriginal resistance.

Agaete and its Importance after the Conquest

After the conquest in April 1483, Alonso Fernández de Lugo was the mayor of Agaete and governor of this area, and he had a great devotion to Las Nieves' Virgin, whose image accompanied him in his conquests, not only here, but later, in the islands of La Palma and Tenerife. The devotion to this Virgin led to the name, Port of Las Nieves.

Concluding the wars and starting from the Castilian victory, a new economic and social order was settled. At this time, the distribution of lands was carried out, and the family of Alonso received the best lands and richer springs in this valley. Years after, these lands were acquired by the Genoese Antón Cerezo and his son Francisco Palomar. They planted vineyards and constructed a sugar refinery. The good running of this activity allowed the quick growth of the population, due to the manpower demand, formed not only by workers but also by slaves, and on the other hand, it connected Las Nieves' Port with the European markets, especially in the trade of sugar with

Flanders. At this time the population of Agaete was formed by Genoese, Castilians and the rest of the aborigines that survived, constituting a society, whose economy was based on agriculture.

The port of Agaete was an important stop-off point for ships going to the North of Europe. Besides that, it served as anchorage to the ships that traded with the island of Tenerife; it was the nexus of a vital union with San Nicolás' village, located on the West coast of Gran Canaria.

Due to the prosperity of this sugar trade, Antón Cerezo and his wife Sancha Díaz de Zurita brought a Triptych from Flanders devoted to Las Nieves' Virgin, Triptych of great artistic value that today is worshipped in the chapel that takes its same name.

The urban constructions arose in the surroundings of La Concepción's Church, built in 1515.

After this period of splendour at the end of the 16th century, a crisis in sugar exports took place due to the competition with the American sugar. At the beginning of the 17th century,



Agaete fell to a process of economic and social deterioration. Part of its population moved to other areas causing a block in its demographic development. The lands, dedicated to the cultivation of cereals, corn or vineyards became property of the powerful group that redeemed the best lands leaving reduced spaces for exploitation by the rest of the population. During the 17th century, the place tried to recover its demography, and due to this slow recovery emerged the main nucleus of El Valle, El Sao or El Hornillo. But the situation became worse in the 18th century; and it was in the 19th century when Agaete lived a time of commercial splendour again, especially because of the introduction of the cochineal and later on, the tomato. Also during this century, the construction of the old jetty took place, and it facilitated the trade with the rest of the islands and especially with Tenerife.

From this time an important commercial bourgeoisie was developed, and both these and the agrarian landowners formed the elite people of the Municipality. It was in fact at that time with the development of this bourgeoisie class, when the construction of different buildings with social and economic objectives, took place. The agricultural and fishing activities created a stage of relative economic wellness and an ascent in class conscience among the farmers, which exploded with violence during the world crisis of 1929, which ruined the exporting local economy. During the decades after 1940 there was a time of a little economic recovery, due to the tomato and banana markets, which nowadays are totally outside the local economy. Nowadays and due to the shortage of water and tourist development on the island, the activities of the tertiary sector prevail over the primary ones.



Economy

Agriculture, cattle raising, fishing and tourism

Historically, the main economic activity has been agriculture, marked in its beginning by the exportation of sugar cane, and then the cochineal and tomato to foreign countries, and the cultivation of grains for the local population. At present time, cattle raising has a place in the economy of this municipality with the production of cheese made with traditional techniques.

Nowadays, the traditional crops are destined for the local consumption, and cattle have been left to marginal zones, of small properties and dried land. On the other hand, the best lands, situated in the deepness of the Valley, are dedicated to cultivation of trees and tropical fruit (mangos, oranges, papayas, coffee, avocado pears).

The shortage of water and the urban development outline serious problems for agriculture. The old water-springs that used to cover water needs, nowadays are dry, giving place and land for the activities of the tertiary sector, hotels and restaurants above all, which are also a result of the tourist

development experienced by the whole island.

Fishing, localised in the Port of Las Nieves, was important until a few years ago, being right now in a process of retrocession, and it is mainly supplying the local consumption of the region. Just a small percentage of the population in Agaete lives on this activity.

The construction of the port with a commercial-fishing and sports orientation has led the village into an important form of maritime communication between Gran Canaria and the island of Tenerife.

On the other hand, rural tourism is playing an important role in the development of the tourism activity in this area. The natural richness of this place, characterised by a varied landscape and full of contrasts, along with cattle, handmade and agriculture activity attract visitors. At the present time there are houses dedicated to this type of tourism, throughout the whole municipality: the Valley, El Risco and the old town, which joined to the hotels situated in Agaete in making an approximated total of 200 tourist beds in the whole municipality.

Handmade Products and Ethnographic Patrimony

A historic reference:

The different economic activities that have been developed in Agaete have left an ethnographic patrimony worthy of mention. Agricultural activity has taken advantage of dams, water and wind mills for the grain, warehouses, wells, irrigation ditches and reservoirs. In the fishing activity the most varied arts have been used, these are all kinds of different nets; the cattle activity has left caves, barns, corrals and so on; other structures that are included into this patrimony are: washing places, ovens of lime and of roofing tile or bricks.

In relation to the handmade goods from the place it is mainly based on the handmade elaboration of nets and utensils to fish, and made by the fishermen from the zone.

It is possible to find typical handmade crafts of the island in different shops in Puerto de Las Nieves.

Population: demographic evolution in the last century

1.900	1.930	1.950	1.970	1.981
2.835	4.208	4.366	4.414	4.427
1.986	1.995	2.001	2.002	2005
5.088	5.560	5.610	5.648	5.703

Places of Interest

Places of Natural and Landscape Interest

Natural Park of Tamadaba

The massive range of Tamadaba and the one called Altavista conform one of the two Natural Parks in Gran Canaria. It is situated in the Northwest side of the island and it is constituted of the most ancient materials of Gran Canaria, which were erupted in the first Eruptions Cycle 14 million years ago. To the sea the massive range descends through very steep slopes, deep valleys and steep cliffs creating a landscape of extreme beauty. Here, Faneque Rock highlights. It is a cliff of 1.008 metres high which goes right into the sea, and which is considered to be one of the highest active cliffs in the world.

On the highest part, over 1.000 metres high, there is a plain zone occupied by a dense wood full of Canarian Pine-trees (*Pinus Canariensis*), which ascends to its maximum altitude of 1.444 metres at the Peak of the Flag. This Pine wood is one of the biggest found in Gran Canaria and it is influenced by the trade winds which supply a lot of humidity, produced by the horizontal rain which at this height leaves all its humidity on plants and trees. This humidity has allowed the development of species apart from the pines, like: tree heath, Canary Islands wax-myrtle, fern so as abundant liquens, moss, and mushrooms. There is also an interesting local plant species called Thyme from Tamadaba, only localised in this pinewood.

This natural park is a protected space, which has a double function: recreation for people and the conservation of the natural resources. This Natural Park has a recreational, scientific and educational use. It offers: two camping areas, a



youth camping and a recreational zone for picnics. To be able to camp there you have to get permission from the Department of Natural Environment in the Government of the island (Cabildo de Gran Canaria), telephone number: 928. 219229.

Valley of Agaete:

Visiting the neighbourhoods of San Pedro, Vecindad de Enfrente, Casas del Camino, Los Berrazales, El Sao and El Hornillo one will be able to contemplate the beauty of its rural landscapes, along the road that winds to the right riverbank of the Ravine of Agaete. The parallel view is that of the summits of Tamadaba with its leafy pinewood. This Valley is of note because of its properties of orange trees, tropical fruits and coffee.

Also, this place has a great variety of traditional constructions that have been restored to become rural houses, among them two rural hotels are offered. One of them also offers Natural Health treatments in Los Berrazales, very near the miner-medicinal old Cure centre, which is closed at present time.

Villages of El Sao and El Hornillo:

They are respectively located at an altitude of 520 and 750 meters from sea level. El Hornillo has a group of house-caves that prevail in opposition to the traditional house of El Sao where houses with plain roves are the most common. The access to the area of El Hornillo is through a traditional path from El Sao, or by car, ascending along the neighbourhood of Caideros, in Gáldar.



El Sao and El Hornillo are little neighbourhoods, remnants of past civilisations. Nowadays they are rural places in a state of almost abandonment. The house in El Hornillo, as we said before, takes place in caves perforated in the rocks of strong cliffs that reach 100 meters. Their way of life is agriculture, they take advantage of small and flat land plateaus that, by means of patches of ordinary masonry they stagger the strong slope and they allow the crops to be developed in order to subsist.

Port of Las Nieves:

The view of impressive cliffs that arise from the sea until the Pinewood of Tamadaba highlighting the vision of the Finger of God or Broken Rock, which was separated from the cliffs through a process of erosion, is the most impressive view one can get in this Port. Las Nieves' Port is a suitable place to enjoy a good swim in the clean waters of the Atlantic Ocean and to practise all types of nautical sports like: surfing, windsurfing, diving and sailing.

Huerto de las Flores (Garden of Flowers):

This garden arose in the 19th century thanks to the desire of the family de Armas, owners of the mentioned garden at that time. Their desire was to plant seeds brought from all over the world, especially from America, forming a tropical garden with more than 100 tropical species that have perfectly adapted to the place. Among these species the macadamia or Australian Hazelnut, the Maracca Tree, the mamee, or the tree of the camphor are found here. At one time, outstanding Canarian poets like Saulo Torón, Tomás Morales and Alonso Quesada used to meet in this garden to walk, meditate and write poetry. Opening timetable: 9.00 to 14.00 from Monday to Friday.

La Palmita:

This is a park with a sample of the typical Canarian vegetation of spurges and a group of sculptures, among which one can find the Gran Canarian artist Tony Gallardo's work. Here a public hostel for groups, which is handled by

the Environmental Department of the Island Government, is also located.

Ravine of Guayedra:

It was declared a Natural Place because of its geological, nature and landscape. In this ravine, the abundant presence of endemic flora and fauna are of note. Historically, this valley had a great importance because it was the place chosen by Fernando Guanarteme, aboriginal king, to exile himself after his cooperation as a mediator between Castilians and aboriginal people in the conquest of Gran Canaria.

El Risco (The Cliff):

It is the most western neighbourhood in the municipality, 14 km. away from the centre of the village. The people in this place mainly live on agriculture and cattle raising. This neighbourhood is important due to the existence of companies which produce goat cheese and goat yoghurt, and also because of the incipient development of Rural Tourism. In this area, there are several houses in traditional Canarian style, dedicated to this type of tourist product.

Beaches of the Municipality:

There are several beaches in the area, among them:

- The Beach of El Juncal or of the Little Port that limits with the municipality of Gáldar, stony beach with calm waters. Access on foot.
- Beach of La Caleta or El Turmán, bay located between El Juncal and Las Salinas, it is a creek of stones, with moderated swell. Access on foot.
- Las Salinas: situated at the end of the ravine of Agaete, stones and with moderate swell. Its access is on foot from the Avenue of the Poets. In this zone there are three natural swimming pools, connected by tunnels, which not only offer a leisure area but also it lets lovers of diving, observe the sea flora

and fauna from the place.

- Beach of Las Nieves: beach located in front of the current jetty, of stones and calm waters. Easy access.
- Beach of Las Nieves or of the Jetty: located to the left of the old jetty, of stones, sand and moderated swell. Easy access.
- Beach of Guayedra: located in the outlet of the Ravine of Guayedra, stony beach and with black sand, open and with strong swell. Access only with a 4 by 4 vehicle and on foot.
- Beach of Sotavento: access through the Ravine of Guayedra, located on the left of the beach of Guayedra, sand and stones, with strong swell and windy. Access with 4 by 4 vehicle and on foot.
- Beach of El Risco: located in the neighbourhood of El Risco, of sand, stones, opened beach and with strong swell, easy access.

Visits of Cultural Interest

The Old Town

The construction of the primitive church of la Concepcion around 1515 was the element that acted as a guide for the construction of the first streets and the main square of the village, absorbing in its surroundings all the properties. The growth of population took place in the 19th century with the economic development of the municipality.

Traditional Architecture of the 19th Century

In this style it is the current Cultural Centre of the Village, which is an old large house in typical Canarian style. The building, built in the 19th century, belonged to the family Manrique de Lara.

The rooms are disposed around an interior patio totally joined on the upper floor by a built wooden corridor which is sustained on some columns that start up directly from the floor. Another example of this type of house, which belonged to the family de Armas, is the current building of the Town Hall. This property conserves some elements of prominent architectural interest, as the interior patio around which, the different rooms are distributed. It follows the style of the Canarian traditional architecture.



Ecclesiastical Patrimony

Church of La Concepción

The current temple dates back to 1874, the date when the Bishop Urquinaona placed the first stone, replacing the primitive destroyed construction in June 28th, 1874 due to a devastating fire. The characteristics of this sanctuary are summed up in its high proportions, its eclectic character, in the distribution of its facade in three streets, as well as in the sobriety and monumentality of its interior distributed in three parts, the central part is the widest one. All the elements are made out of red stone, which contrast with the white colour of the adornments.

Church of Las Nieves:

The construction of the chapel of Las Nieves in Agaete was concluded in the second half of the 16th century by

Antón Cerezo. This construction is located in Las Nieves' Port, constituting a space in whose surroundings, the houses of fishermen were built, taking this hermitage as a main axis. An enlargement of this church was made by Mr. Cristóbal García del Castillo in the 18th century and the towers are works of the 19th century, carried out in the time of the churchwarden Antonio de Armas. In its inside there is a Flemish triptych from the 16th century of great artistic value, the Triptych to the Virgin of Las Nieves.

Hermitage of San Sebastian:

Its construction, whose patron was the Captain Alonso Imperial, took place in the second half of the 17th century. The location of the hermitage, at the entrance of the municipality, does not respond to an arbitrary feeling. As Saint, He is worshipped as the protector against pests, therefore it was common to locate these hermitages at the entrance of the municipalities in the Canaries. Its construction is linked with the Muslim style evident in the masonry walls and roof with three slopes and in the decoration of its wooden coffer.



Church of San Pedro:

San Pedro's foundation is relatively recent. San Pedro's Apostle Parish, in the Valley, was founded March 19th, 1943 by the Bishop of the Canary Islands, Doctor Pildain and Zapiain. The neighbourhoods of: El Hornillo, Tamadaba, El Sao, Berrazales, Vecindad de Enfrente, Casas del Camino and San Pedro make up this parish.

Hermitage of El Hornillo:

Built in the 20th century and whose main devotion is the Virgin of Teresita, received a prize of embellishment in the year 1981, by the Tourist Board of Gran Canaria.

Historical Patrimony**Triptych of The Virgin Las Nieves:**

This Triptych was commanded to be brought from Flanders by Antonio Cerezo and Mrs. Sancha Díaz de Zurita in the 16th century. It consists of a central panel under the invocation of Las Nieves' Virgin, and two lateral panels with San Antonio's Abbot patronage



and San Francisco from Assisi. Two oval lockets complete the panels, with the portraits of the donors. These last parts were disrupted presumably in the second half of the 19th century. For analytical and pictorial qualities this piece constitutes one of the most outstanding artistic samples in the archipelago. It is attributed to the Flemish painter Joos Van Cleve.

Sculpture of San Sebastian:

San Sebastian's image is located in its homonymous hermitage, construction of the 17th century, located at the entrance of the municipality. This sculptural piece constitutes one of the most important works of religious images in the Village. This work is attributed to the sculptor and architect José Luján Pérez, a remarkable artist, born in the neighbouring municipality of Santa M^a de Guía in the 19th century. Its dimensions are reduced and proportionate. San Sebastian is considered to be the protector against plagues.

Fort House:

To speed up the conquest of Gran Canaria, the governor Pedro de Vera ordered the creation of a second action front in the Northwest area of Gran Canaria, being located in Agaete. In this place, he made in September of 1481 a fort over some aboriginal foundations, known as "Fort House". As he finished his commitment, he left Alonso Fernández de Lugo as the captain of the Fort. He built near the same one the first sugar refinery that later on, he had to sell to finance the expenses of the conquest of Tenerife. Once the conquest of Gran Canaria was concluded, he was the first governor of the place. This edification is located between Las Nieves' Port and Agaete.

Archaeological Patrimony

A long list of Pre – Hispanic archaeological locations forms the rich patrimony in the Village of Agaete. Among these, we can find examples of all the cultural manifestations of the primitive inhabitants of Gran Canaria: some of them show how life was in stone homes, as well as in caves, not only the natural ones but also the artificial ones; the Village has one of the most important aboriginal cemeteries on the island, in which we can observe 645 graves of round structures, there are of different types and variable dimensions. This site has been declared a Historical and Artistic Monument and will also become an Archaeological Park in the future.

Another important location was the one of Las Nieves' site, today destroyed, and of which we find a reproduction in the area of Las Nieves' Port (Avenue Alcalde José de Armas). The second nucleus of archaeological interest is found in the Rock of Guayedra and in the Valley, where the different models of settlement have been found: settlements of houses of dried stones and natural caves, caves used as graves and round grave structures. An example of the dried stony- houses is reproduced in the recreational complex La Palmita. Other places of great interest are the caves in El Juncal and El Moro, this last one with ancient paintings, or the ones in Visvique, which are antique barns dug in the rocks.

Museums Patrimony**Ethnographic Museum and Exotic Garden Casa Romántica:**

It is situated in the Valley of Agaete, in the place called La Culatilla.

This little museum shows us how the traditional Canarian life was at the end of the 19th century and beginning of the 20th. It is located in the house which belonged to the Canarian modernist poet Tomás Morales and you can find there furniture and utilities of that time, such as handcraft and agriculture tools. You can also obtain information about the wool work in Gran Canaria and the uses of the cochineal in the elaboration of tints. In its gardens you can observe different exotic plants, with plantations of coffee. Coffee from the Valley of Agaete is well known because of its taste and flavour and in this place you will have the chance to learn the process of roasting and mashing of coffee, and taste it. Opened daily from 10.00 to 18.00.

Museum of La Rama:

This is a little museum where the visitors are shown what the festivity of La Rama (the Branch) consists of: history, tradition, music, images of it, and elements which are part of this popular festivity. At the end of it you can also appreciate the religious sense of this Festivity in honour of Our Virgin of Las Nieves.. It will be opened shortly.

Cultural Complex Finger of God:

Monument dedicated to the symbol and tourist logo in the municipality, and in which important artistic samples of the famous painter from Agaete Pepe Dámaso, can be found. The building will also represent the Finger of God itself as it will have its antique form on its outside. It is located between the Sports Center and the antique monument Fort House. It will be opened shortly.

Museum Poet Javier de la Rosa:

Place of cultural encounter for poetry and all those aspects related to the art sector and general culture. Opened from 10.00 to 14.00 and from 17.30 to 19.00 from Monday to Friday.

Social and cultural manifestations

Popular and Traditional Festivities

Festivity of Las Nieves:

The main festivity of the Village in honour to the Virgin of Las Nieves takes place in August, 5th. The image of the Virgin is in the hermitage located in Las Nieves' Port. The picture is there the whole year, with the exception of the days between the 5th and 17th of August when it goes to the Parish of La Concepción, in the centre of the Village. The Festivity of the Slope of the Branch (Bajada de la Rama) takes place on August, 4th, where thousands of dancers dance to the rhythm of one of the two bands in the municipality, leave from the upper part of the town to catch pieces of branches and then to dance with them to the sanctuary of Las Nieves' Virgin in the port. The festival cortege goes headed by some Bigheaded figures or papagüevos, made out of cardboard and that represent popular characters of the town.

These ones dance rotating and with big cloth hands, they push their way through the crowd opening up space for them to walk and dance. This Festivity was declared of National Tourist Interest in 1972.

Festivity of La Concepción:

It takes place December 8th. It is the festivity of the parish of the Village, since the patronage of Agaete is the Immaculate Concepción's Virgin, with Las Nieves' Virgin, the co-patronage.

Festivity of San Pedro:

It takes place June 29th in San Pedro's Parish in the Valley of Agaete. The most prominent act in this celebration is the festivity of the Slope of the Branch, where the neighbours, the night of the 27th go up the mountain to the pinewood of Tamadaba to cut the branches that they themselves will bring down, when the day dawns and then they will dance with the branches in the air through San Pedro's neighbourhood, leaving them to the Saint at the end of the dance, with the

exception of the Canary Islands Mint and thyme branches that will stay in the houses to combat colds and flu.

Carnivals:

This is a festivity of great tradition in the municipality, even taking place in the years of the prohibition. The most prominent act is the Funeral of the Sardine, a retinue of laughs and cries accompany the sardine to its burning, opening the way to Lent.

Festivity of La Milagrosa:

This takes place in the month of October in the neighbourhood of El Risco.



Festivity of Saint Teresita:

It takes place on the third Sunday of June in the neighbourhood of El Hornillo.

Festivity of El Pilar:

It takes place 12th of October in the neighbourhood of El Pilar.

Festivity of Fátima:

It is celebrated 12th of October in the neighbourhood called Vecindad de Enfrente in Agaete Valley.

Festivity of Saint Sebastián:

It is celebrated 20th of January in the neighbourhood of San Sebastian in Agaete Village.

Christmas Time:

At this time of the year and just nine days before the celebration of Christmas, there is a special tradition in this municipality which consists of the so called Light Masses, where people from Agaete everyday at early morning and before the mass starts, go singing Christmas songs around the village, to call the other neighbours to the mass.



Leisure Offer

Agate offers a lot of possibilities to practise sports and leisure activities, there is the Sport's centre and many other sport installations where competition sports can be practised. To practise swimming there are covered Municipal Swimming-pools. To practise opened air sports, this municipality has optimal conditions, especially for the practise of nautical sports on its coasts and hiking and trekking in its mountains.

Trekking Paths in the Municipality:**Peak of the Flag:**

Duration: 50' to 1 hour

Length: Approx. 4 km.

Difference of altitude: 187 m.

Forest Houses of Tamadaba; 1.257 meters.

Beheaded of the Smoke: 1.310 m.;

Beheaded of Chiqueritos: 1.322 m.;

Peak of the Flag: 1.444 m.

Difficulty: Very easy, with some confusing track among the bushes

Access: by car, from Artenara 11 km.

This itinerary goes through the Pinewood and goes to the summit of the Mountain of Tamadaba. It is a spiral track, of short duration and gentle slope. It is extremely easy and has spectacular views.

Los Berrazales:

Duration: 2 h. 30'.

Length: Approx. 9,5 km.

Difference of altitude: 1.010 m. in total.

Beheaded of the Smoke: 1.308 m.;

Plain of the Haya: 1.100 m.;

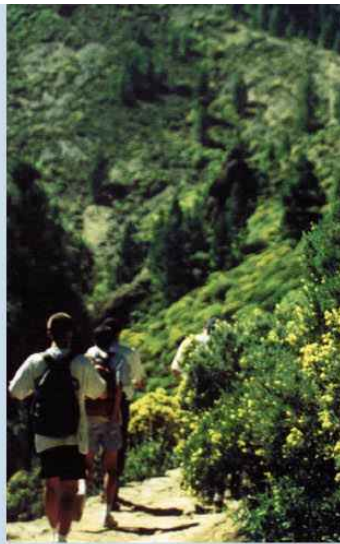
Wall of Los Pérez Dam: 832 m.;

El Hornillo: 760 m.;

Path of El Sao: 500 meters;

Mountains of Las Vueltas: 525 m.;

Los Berrazales: 370 m.



Difficulty: Easy. In spite of the excellent quality of the path, the journey is long; and with great differences of altitude

Access: Along the road 3-1 around Tamadaba. At about 2 kms. Away from the Crossing of Las Lajas and at 1,4 km. from the Forest House.

La Rama o Camino de los Romeros:

Duration: 2 to 3 hours

Length: Approx. 8,5 km.

Slope: 1.055 meters:

Forest Houses of Tamadaba: 1.255 m.;

Lomo del Laurelillo: 1.055 m.;

Beheaded Montaña Berbique: 627 m.;

San Pedro: 200 m.

Difficulty: Easy. Excellent walk, of considerable length and duration; but with strong differences of altitude.

Access: Following the road 3-1 around Tamadaba.

This is an itinerary that starts from the Valley. It has strong and sustained differences of altitude. It is an easy route. It has great views and flora as well as great archaeological value.

Path to Agaete:

Duration: 1 h. 45' to 2 h. 15'

Length: Approx. 7 km.

Difference: 600 meters in total.

Beheaded of the Era Berbique: 628 m.;

Beheaded of the Sand: 437 m.;

Cross with the general road GC -200

in the kilometre 39: 165 m.;

Rural Refuge of La Palmita: 28 m.

Difficulty: Saving the moderate difference of slope, the journey is long with confused or not very clear tracks on the way and with delicate places.

Access: Following the previous itinerary in the route to La Rama (the Branch). This path goes from Agaete to the Valley.

It is part of La Rama Path but this one goes to Agaete. It has moderate differences of altitude. It is in general easy, except some parts which could be slippery. It has great geological value, as well as beautiful landscapes and interesting flora.

El Faneque:

Duration: 1 hour approx.

Length: Approx. 4,5 km.

Difference of altitude: around 200 meters

Difficulty: A way of easy access and without difficulty

Access: From the Pinewood of Tamadaba This itinerary goes through the Pinewood. It is not a circular route, so you must return on the same path. It has little differences of altitude. In general it is very easy, except for some tricky parts. It has very stunning views and interesting flora and fauna.

Path of La Caleta:

Duration: 20 minutes

Length: 1 km

Difficulty: way of easy access

Access: Taking a path from El Turmán. From the traditional path to the beach of La Caleta, leaving from " Las Chisgueras",



and going by both sides of the cemetery and Turmán. La Caleta is one of the rests in the insular coast of incalculable value. It is composed by a series of natural pools varying in depth. It is a very popular place with young people.

**Path to Guayedra:
(From La Palmita to Guayedra)**

Duration: 30 minutes.

Length: 3km

Difficulty: easy walk, being a part of the path through the asphalted road GC-200

Access: Taking the road that begins in La Palmita

It leaves from the point called "Las Candelarias" (road to Las Nieves' Port), going by the place called "The Cave Adelina", "Lomo del Manco", "El Sombrerillo", Guayedra" to the "Beach of Guayedra".

This path breaks down into three stages:

- From "Las Candelarias" until "Lomo del Manco", where it joins to the general road GC-200 that goes from Agaete to la Aldea de San Nicolás.

- From "Lomo del Manco" until Guayedra where it joins the GC200

This stage goes through the access to the Beach of Guayedra.

- This road would join three beaches: the Beach of Sotavento, the Tip of Guayedra and the Beach of Guayedra. These are a group of well-known beaches; although little explored. They are popular with lovers of solitary beaches. Their importance rests in the landscape of their environment.

Annual Cultural Events in Agaete

- Carnival in Agaete (March)
- Closing of the Sports Schools (May – June)
- Closing of the Music School of Agaete with Concert by its pupils (June).
- Closing of the Village University of Agaete with exhibition of Crafts (July).
- Summer University Courses (second half of July).
- National Festival of Folklore (August).
- Meeting with the Seafaring Song (August).
- Classical Guitar Festival (August)
- Memorial Alfonso Estupiñán (August)
- Chess Competition (November – December)
- Masses of the Light (Christmas)
- Meeting of Christmas Music in the Centre for the Third Age (December)
- Along the whole year varied exhibitions: paintings, photography, handcraft, are shown in the Cultural Centre of the Village.

Gastronomy

The gastronomy of Agaete is especially known for its fresh fish, where you can find: fish soup, grilled fresh fish, grilled sardines and seafood paella. There are many restaurants in the municipality which offer this type of food. In El Puerto de las Nieves one can taste the traditional meals of this village. Agaete is also unique in Spain and Europe because Coffee crops are grown in sufficient quantity as to be important.

It is cultivated together with oranges, papayas, mangoes and guavas. Along the Valley of Agaete coffee is planted, in general it is planted surrounding the different lands dedicated to agriculture and joined to other crops especially tropical and citrus fruits. At present, the production is still limited so to a small amount of coffee grown for family consumption.

Through the history of Agaete's coffee, as Mr. José Antonio García Álamo tells us, "the cultivation of this crop was brought at the end of the 19th century. The mild and homogeneous temperature throughout the year, the abundance of water and the fertile volcanic soil offer the best conditions to consider the coffee in Agaete: "The best of the Island", as Verneau said.

The only data of which we have over the cultivated type of coffee, comes from an analysis done in the 70's by the Brazilian Institute of Coffee, which qualifies it as "of great quality, sort caracolillo, type Paraná, with a high quantity of caffeine".

About the characteristics of this crop, it's important to observe the conclusions done by Mr. Albert Solá I Trill, who,

after going around the world studying and trying the different coffees grown all over, said of the one from Agaete: "It is of great quality. It has a nice colour between yellow and green. It smells as green fruit. When it is roasted, it develops fine and swallows well. The drink has fruity and sweet taste hinting of chocolate or liquorice. It has low acidity. It has an acceptable body." At present, the Association for the Developing of Agriculture in Agaete (Agroagaete), together with the Town Hall of the municipality and other institutions collaborating with this project like Aider and the Government of the island (Cabildo de Gran Canaria) has the general aim of valuing and promoting the cultivation of Coffee in the Municipality of Agaete, through a process focused on how to manage quality and how to be competitive so as to get bigger and the best production in order to be able to commercialize it in the near future.



Data of Interest

LIST OF LODGING ESTABLISHMENTS IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF AGAETE:

Name of the Establishment	Situation	Contact Telephone/ Fax
Finca Las Longueras	Valley of Agaete	928. 898145 Fax: 928. 898752
Rural House Bermeja	Valley of Agaete	928. 898145 Fax: 928. 898752
Houses La Calera	Valley of Agaete	902. 157281
Finca La Mareta	Valley of Agaete	619. 287111 Fax: 928. 480913
Rural House Molino de Viento	Valley of Agaete	928. 462547 Fax: 928. 460889
Rural House La Asomadita	Valley of Agaete	928. 886204
Hotel Princesa Guayarmina	Valley of Agaete	928. 898009 928. 898525
House La Pintora	El Risco	928. 894022
Rural House El Patio	El Risco	928. 886161 Fax: 928. 886162
Rural House Las Rosas	El Risco	928. 462547 Fax: 928. 460889
Rural House Luna	Centre of the La Villa	Tel/Fax: 928. 554481 902. 157281
Hotel Puerto de las Nieves	Port of Las Nieves	928. 886256 Fax: 928. 886267
Apartaments El Angosto	Centre of the La Villa	928. 554192
Hotel El Cabo	Port of Las Nieves	928. 887520

RESTAURANTS IN AGAETE:

Name of the Restaurante	Situation	Telephone
Restaurant La Palmita	Port of Las Nieves	928. 898704
Restaurant Dedo de Dios	Port of Las Nieves	928. 898000
Restaurant Las Nasas	Port of Las Nieves	928. 898650
Restaurant El Cápita	Port of Las Nieves	928. 554142
Restaurant Cooperativa Laguete	Port of Las Nieves	928. 554001
Rest. La Granja-Casa Yoyo	Port of Las Nieves	928. 887597
Restaurant Mi Hermano	Port of Las Nieves	928. 554230
Restaurant Bar Avenida	Port of Las Nieves	928. 898244
Restaurant Bar La Rama	Port of Las Nieves	928. 886030
Restaurant Casa Chano	Port of Las Nieves	928. 898102
Restaurant Faneque	Port of Las Nieves	928. 886256
Restaurant Los Papayeros	Agaete - Casco	928. 898046
Restaurant Casa Pepe	Agaete - Casco	928. 898227
Piscolabis La Cabaña	Port of Las Nieves	928. 898759
Bar Cafetería Medina	Agaete - Casco	-
Bar Perola	Agaete - Casco	928. 554260
Bar Juanón	Agaete - Casco	928. 554447
Restaurant Casa Lol	Valley of Agaete	928. 554113
Restaurant Grill La Suerte	Valley of Agaete	928. 898314
Restaurant Princesa Guayarmina	Valley of Agaete	928. 898009
Restaurant Casa Romántica	Valley of Agaete	928. 898084
Restaurant Casa Tino	Valley of Agaete (San Pedro)	928. 898646
Bar La Palma	Valley of Agaete (San Pedro)	-
Bar Miguel	Valley of Agaete (San Pedro)	-
Kiosko Nieves	Valley of Agaete (San Pedro)	-
Pizzería Figueroa	Port of Las Nieves	928. 554486
Pizzería Guayarmina	Port of Las Nieves	928. 898739
Restaurant Los Remos	Port of Las Nieves	928. 886261
Hamburguesería La Ola	Port of Las Nieves	928. 898161
Asadero El Pollo Surfiero	Port of Las Nieves	928. 898353
Rest. Chino Las Delicias	Port of Las Nieves	928. 886101
Mesón del Bocadillo	Port of Las Nieves	928. 886225
Restaurant Casa Ico	Port of Las Nieves	928. 886034
Rest. Cofradía Pescadores	Port of Las Nieves	928. 886318
Restaurant Casa Nando	Port of Las Nieves	928. 898420
Restaurant Terraza El Oliver	Port of Las Nieves	928. 886179
Restaurant Aytucatanaja	Agaete - Casco	620. 558149
Cafetería Casa Elena	Agaete - Casco	928. 554097
Caf. Dulcería La Esquina	Agaete - Casco	928. 886217

TELEPHONES AND INFORMATION OF INTEREST:

Centre	Time	Telephone
Town Hall (Central)	08.00 - 14.00	928.898002
Tourist Information Office	09.30 - 16.00	928.554382
Agency of Local Development	08.00 - 14.00	928.554318
Youth Information Centre	08.00 - 14.00	928.898776
Municipal School of Music	16.00 - 21.00	928.898681
Sports Council	08.00 - 14.00	928.554266
Municipal Sports Centre	10.00 - 13.00 and	
"Concejal Alberto Alamo"	17.00 - 23.00	928.554266
Sports Centre Fuente Santa	08.00 - 22.00	928.887620
Municipal Public Library	11.00 - 13.00 and	
"Manuel Alemán"	17.00 - 21.00	928.554428
Public School "José Sánchez y Sánchez"	08.00 - 14.00	928.898568
Public School "Maestra A. M ^a Betancor"	08.00 - 14.00	928.886234
Public School of Risco	08.00 - 14.00	928.894045
Secondary High School Agaete	08.00 - 14.00	928.554240 / 898691
Social Services Department	08.00 - 14.00	928.898002/898256
Municipal Radio Station "Radio Agaete" FM 107.2	08.00 - 14.00 and 17.00 - 21.00	928.554460
Cultural Centres		
Cultural Centre of the Village	08.00 - 14.00	928.898409
Agaete valley Society	18.00 - 20.00	-
Cultural Association Antigafo	-	928.898064
La Luz Club	10.30 - 13.00 and 04.30 - 23.00	928.898028
Association of Güi-Güi	-	928.894044
Centre of the Third Age	08.00 a- 14.00 and 16.00 - 20.00	928.898318
Emergency and Health Centres		
Civil Protection	-	928.886257
Local Police	07.30 - 01.00	928.898348 / 610.798348
Civil Guard	24 hour service	928.898006
Red Cross (Gáldar)	-	928.552004
Emergencies	24 hour service	112
Urgencias	21.00 - 09.00	928.886233
Health Centre of Agaete	08.00 - 15.00	928.886232
Health Centre of El Valle de Agaete	08.00 - 15.00	928.898425
Women's office		928.886229

TELEPHONES AND INFORMATION OF INTEREST:

Centre	Time	Telephone
Chemistry in Agaete	8.30-13/16-20	928.898219
Chemistry in Puerto de las Nieves	9.00-13/17-20	928.886004
Veterinary	16.00 - 20.00	928.898647
Rehabilitation Centre of La Esperanza	08.00 - 15.00	/ 653.824223 928.554150
Petrol Station BP	06.00 - 22.00	928.898154
Petrol Station Cepsa	05.30 - 22.30	928.898532
Gas service DISA	08.00 - 14.00	928.898081
Waters of the North	-	928.898556
Watering Community	-	928.898736
Mancommunity of the North	08.00 - 15.00	928.627462 / 63
Post Office	08.30 - 14.30	928.898313
Concepción's Parish	Registry timetable: Monday & Wednesday, 17.00 a 18.00 Saturdays from 11.00 - 13.00	928.898262
San Pedro's Parish	-	928.898590
La Palmita youth hostel	08.00 - 15.00	928.219470
Camping Places (Tamadaba)	08.00 - 15.00	928.219470
Fishermen Association	16.30 - 19.30	928.886319
Ports of Las Palmas (office of Agaete's port)	07.30 - 17.00	928.554227
Hotels		
Hotel Princesa Guayarmina	-	928.898009
Hotel Puerto de las Nieves	-	928.886256
Hotel El Cabo	-	928.887520
Hotel Rural Las Longueras	-	928.898145
Banks		
Caja Insular de Ahorros de Canarias	08.00 - 14.00	928.898029
La Caixa	08.30 - 14.00	928.886210
BBVA	08.30 - 14.15	928.887515
Santander	to consult	928.554066
Transport		
Radio Taxi	07.00 - 22.00	928.554475
Maritime Transport (Fred Olsen)	07.15 - 14.30 and 16.30 - 20.30	928.554005
Public busses service GLOBAL	08.00 - 14.00	902.381110

THE PUBLIC BUS SERVICE IN AGAETE MUNICIPALITY COVERS THE JOURNEYS:

Line 103: Puerto de las Nieves - Las Palmas de Gran Canaria

From Puerto de las Nieves

06.30 - 23.30 (every hour)

From Las Palmas de Gran Canaria

06.00 - 22.00 (every hour)

Line 102: Gáldar - Valle de Agaete

From Gáldar

at 10.30 - 14.30 - 18.30

From the Valley

at 11.30 - 15.30 - 19.30

Line 101: Gáldar- Aldea de San Nicolás (From Monday to Saturday)

From Gáldar

at 07.30 - 11.15 - 15.45 - 19.30

From La Aldea

at 05.45 - 09.00 - 14.05 - 17.30

Sundays

From Gáldar: at 07.30 - 15.45

From La Aldea: at 09.00 - 17.30

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35480 Agaete

C/ Franchy Roca, 13- 4º - 32
35007 Las Palmas de G.C.
Tel. 928 22 59 28 Fax: 928 26 24 35
Email: paraisosos.agaete@ncs.es