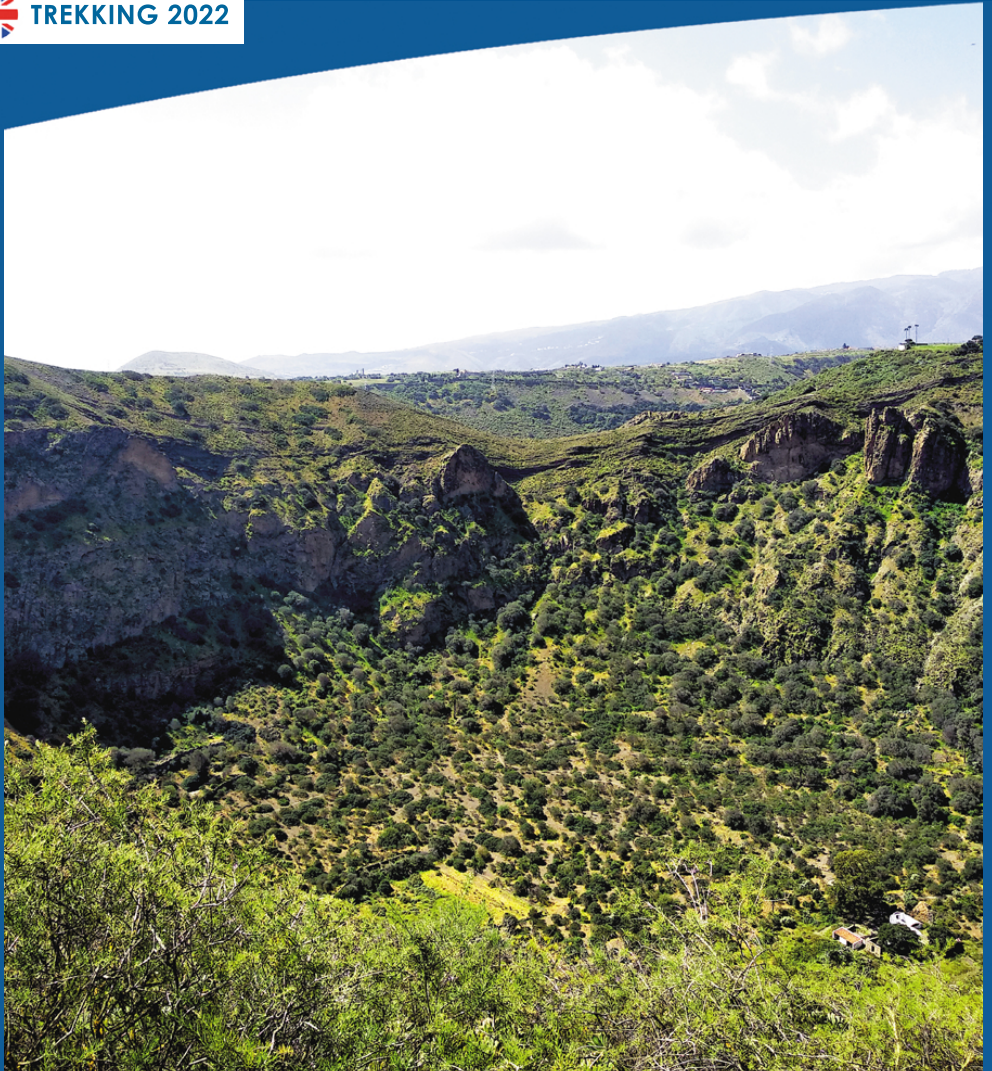




TREKKING 2022



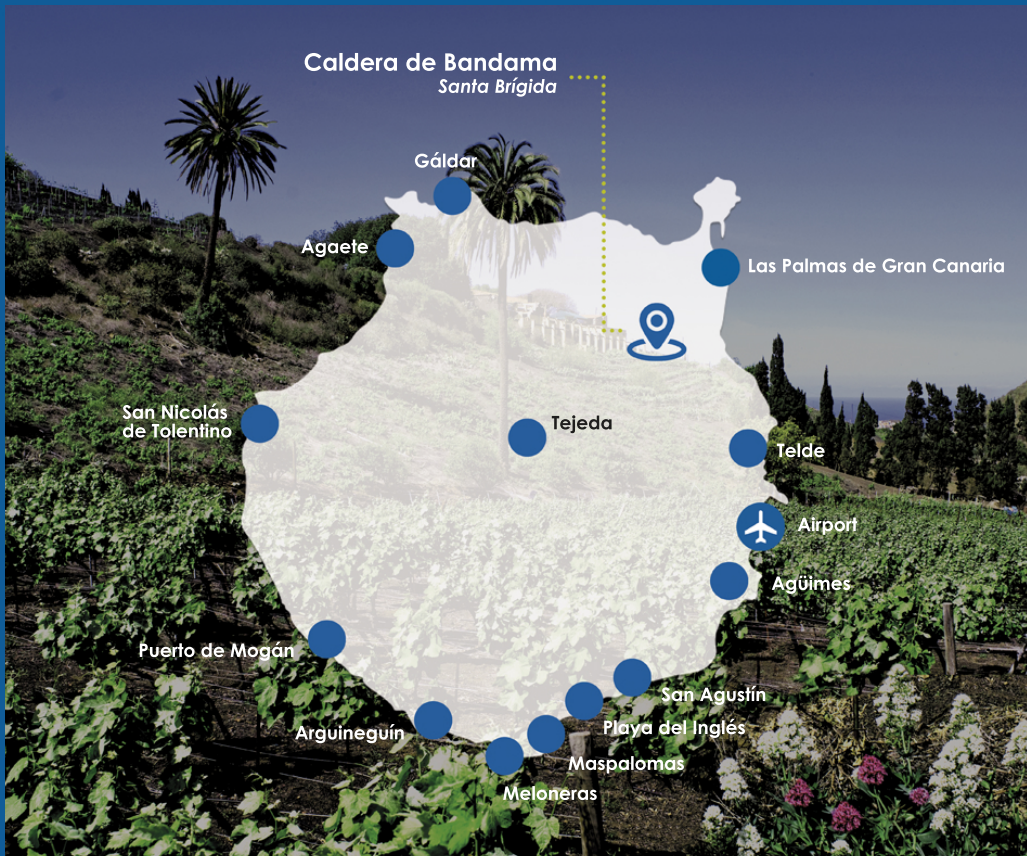
Caldera de Bandama

Santa Brígida

Casas de La Caldera, GC-802 main road



GranCanaria



Municipality of Santa Brígida
Casas de La Caldera, GC-820 main road



Approximate kilometre point
on main road: 3.5 km
Distance covered: 3.4 km



Walking time: 1 hour 45 minutes



Difficulty level: low – suitable for families
Slippery slopes
Climb, return slope 20%



Undulating levels 450-488-443-475-450



Public transport: Global Bus number 311
Taxi rank location: El Monte and
Santa Brígida town centre

Caldera de Bandama is situated 20 km from the island's capital. Where the GC-4 main road comes to an end at the Monte Lentiscal roundabout, turn left and follow signs for Bandama along the GC-802 main road.

This route goes into a Protected Natural Space with strict protection laws. Hikers are not allowed to leave the footpaths.

There is an option to do a circular route around the crater edge, although there are certain points on the way round that may make hikers feel vertigo. In addition, it should be pointed out that the route contains loose volcanic gravel, which may make certain points slippery. The duration of the walk is better, established at 1 hour 10 minutes.

Cueva de Los Canarios

Other points of interest that visitors can discover around the interior of Caldera de Bandama are Cueva del Moro, Cueva Piedra del Horno, Era del Alpendre, Era del Acebuche and the bird observatory. However, the most important site is undoubtedly the archaeological settlement of Cueva de Los Canarios, which is awkward to reach and is a restricted area. The aborigenes built a grain storage site in this enormous cave, containing several silos, bowls, water channels and wall engravings. Other rooms were dedicated to living quarters. The whole area was generally cut out of the volcanic tuff rock, making the most of a number of natural hollows.



Casas de La Caldera Hermitage

This hermitage is an ancient little bodega that was turned into a church, under the advocacy of Sagrado Corazón de Jesús, in around 1961. Its owner gave it to the local residents of the hamlet of Bandama so they could have their own chapel and could go to Holy Mass without having to travel to the church of El Monte, where they had always attended religious events. One of the initiative's promoters was a local resident, who, with the help of others, carried out a series of refurbishments to miraculously transform the bodega into a church. His mother in law acquired a small carving that is the spiritual guide at this oratory, alongside sculptures of Our Lady of El Carmen and a Christ figure that hangs from the altar. The church's current owner is the Bishopric of the Canary Islands.



Itinerary

Bandama, The Great Volcano

Caldera de Bandama constitutes one of the most relevant volcanic elements on the island of Gran Canaria. The geological ensemble is composed of two structures: the Peak, with its crater, and the Caldera, or basin. The eruptions occurred between 47 BC to 123 AD. The Caldera we are visiting today presents a precise uniform basin depression, possesses a slight elliptical shape with a maximum diameter of 927 m and hillsides with average slope changes of 270 m.

We start off our walk alongside the bus stop, at an altitude of 450 metres. There is a signpost close by pointing the way to the entrance to Caldera de Bandama. We walk for a few more metres in this direction leaving behind the hamlet's little hermitage on our right. In just a few seconds we reach a metal gate that marks out the protective boundary to the sloping footpath. We move on towards the gate and we immediately come to the entrance to a viewing point on our right. It is built of volcanic stone and contains an information board that explains the evolution of the volcano.

We go back on ourselves and return to the footpath at the entrance, and walk down a pebbled path straddled on either side by volcanic rock walls. We continue along this path for a further 140 metres or so until we reach the gravel area, with century plants and white gorse on the sides of the path. We quickly descend down a winding black gravel track that bends four times until we reach the Mirador del Cornical viewing point, a place to stop off for a rest and enjoy the peaceful surroundings.

Descent to the heart of the volcano

We continue downwards on the final section of the walk along a highly slippery path, where utmost care should be taken to avoid any mishaps. Some 20 minutes after having started out we come to a place named Las Piedras, due to several large-sized boulders that flank the point where paths cross. We move on to the left towards a stone threshing floor called Era de Victoriano in the shade of several eucalyptus trees and the remains of a former winepress and some demolished houses (Casas de El Fondo).

The route that we must now take passes in front of the winepress building where we have two choices: the longer alternative would be to carry on to a second house (Casa de Agustinito), and the shorter one would be to take a path to the right as far as a second group of eucalyptus trees. Either choice is good, as you cannot get lost, as both of them take us to a wooden information board situated in the shade of the eucalyptus trees, dated November 2008, commemorating the 19th Annual Tree Day in Gran Canaria.

The path rises gently from here towards the southern end of La Caldera, reaching an area featuring an abundance of wild olive trees, white gorse and orobal trees. We then come to a kind of picnic area, in the form of a number of open hollows in the rock, decked with white flowers from the malva de risco plant, called Cuevas de Las Bodegas. We continue along a slightly narrower path now, which continues to rise, where we reach Estanque de El Culatón, under the shade of some enormous wild olive trees. Then, via some steps hewn out of the land, we descend down to the main path, to the point known as Las Piedras, signalling the end of the circular route around the base of Caldera de Bandama.

Now it is time to make our way back, at everyone's individual pace. It is necessary to go up the same path we came down at the beginning of the route. It is barely 1,000 metres walk which, depending on our fitness levels, takes an average of 20 minutes, with a climb of 200 metres.

According to the latest scientific publications, its violent eruptions are calculated to have taken place between around 47 BC and 123 AD.

Optional route around the edge of Caldera de Bandama

This route goes all the way around the edge of Caldera de Bandama, on a volcanic land that fuses with lush vegetation that survives the constantly blustery winds, all of which is accompanied by a cool breeze and some truly privileged landscapes. The footpath is surprisingly well trodden. However, and due to erosion, there is the odd delicate point that makes the track quite slippery. We take an anti-clockwise route around the crater, starting on the footpath at the so called Mirador de Los Cuartos viewing point (the first of these to the right after coming through the entrance gate).

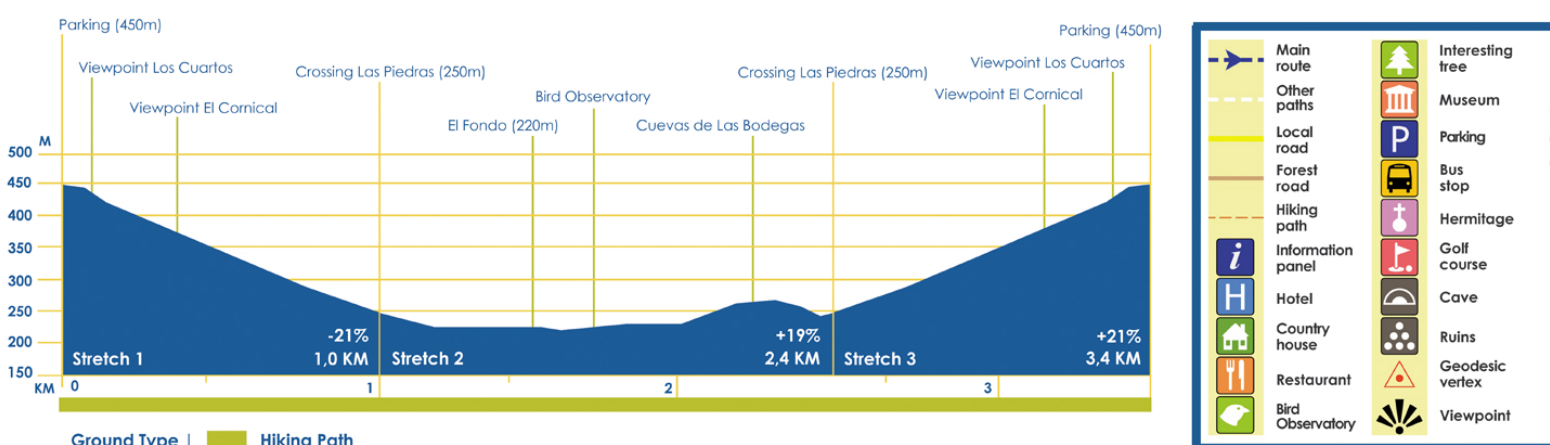
At the end of the viewing point, there is an old carob tree with a white sign that reads "security zone – hunting prohibited". We pass under the tree and the well-trodden path along the edge, on to a dirt track. There is an abandoned tennis court on our right. We continue to go up a little as far as the dirt track that provides access to the back of the golf course hotel. It has taken us around 14 minutes to reach this point.

We carry on the way we are going, turning slightly to the left and onto a descent. Caldera de Bandama is now to our left and the golf club house to our right. We keep moving forward and come to a footpath at the end of the dirt track. The descent is accompanied by views over Barranquillo de Las Pilas, down to our right.

Now to our left we can see huge rocky walls that tumble out of La Caldera; to our right, the above-mentioned ravine, and at the bottom Barranco de Las Goteras comes into view. We are standing at 388 metres altitude, at the point known as Degollada de la Cañada de La Mina. On the edge, the gravel path ascends as far as Lomo de la Caldera, at its southernmost point. Here, the twisted cliffs provide an attractive backdrop at the sides of the footpath.

From this point, and following a slight ascent, the path opens up to a wholly different landscape in the municipality of Las Palmas de Gran Canaria: Marzagán and Jinámar. It now descends once more as we approach Degollada de la Hoya de la Cucharilla, at 385 metres altitude, surrounded by vegetation comprising white gorse and the odd tarajal plant. The footpath then begins to rise once more and changes angle where it reaches a fork. On the right another footpath descends down towards EL Tablero and Los Hoyos: this point is known as Degollada de Don Benito.

We now continue upwards towards a wall of demolished blocks which takes us to the tarmac road, which in turn climbs up to Pico de Bandama. Once on this road we walk on the left-hand side, descending for around 500 metres and back to our starting point for this route.





Best Hiking Practices

Look after the environment

Carry ID and documentation

Always take water with you

Emergency helpline: **112**

Take warm clothing

Avoid lighting cigarettes and dropping cigarette ends

Do not pick plants, or take away animals or other elements along the walk

Avoid noise and respect the tranquility

Never stray from existing trails

Locate your position



Download this map



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Turismo de Gran Canaria

Triana,93

35002, Las Palmas de Gran Canaria

928 21 96 00

Remember that you walk at your own risk

