

# Festivals

## FESTIVAL OF SAN JUAN

This is the biggest festival in the municipality, and is celebrated on the 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> June, although it also organizes a long list of events that go on practically all through the month. Of special interest are the processions through the ancient city streets, the traditional bonfires and firework displays, as well as the Pilgrimage, in which men and women in typical dress dance to the rhythms of Canary folk music.

## CORPUS CHRISTI FESTIVAL

From the early hours of the morning, more than forty decorative carpets are put together with salt, sawdust, flowers and local natural soil, all along the old town centre of Arucas. As the procession reaches the church, a shower of rose petals are thrown down from the temple's vaults, which are used to make the final carpet on the altar. The Corpus festival is celebrated on a Sunday, although the date changes from year to year, and goes back to just after the Conquest of the island by the Castilian troops. According to the chronicles, the first procession to be celebrated in Arucas was a Corpus Christi in 1555. The carpet laying has truly artistic designs, and goes back to the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century.



Corpus Christi festival.



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# ARUCAS



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## MUNICIPALITIES OF GRAN CANARIA



# Cuisine



## TYPICAL PRODUCTS FROM THE MUNICIPALITY

Rum and Liqueurs from Arehucas  
Cakes and chocolates La Isleña and Bandama Biscuits  
Bananas

## Typical Recipe

### Sancochada with Vieja fish (from the Arucas coast)

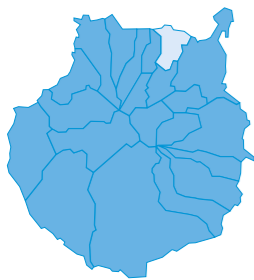


#### INGREDIENTS

1 medium sized vieja  
(parrot fish, 1kg. approx.)  
1 onion  
1 tomato  
1 green pepper  
1 lemon  
Parsley, oil and salt

#### PREPARATION

The parrot fish is cleaned thoroughly and is placed into a low recipient with the whole onion and tomato, these are all covered with water, then the parsley, salt and a little oil are added. It is put on to heat and is left until cooked through. The fish is taken out and placed on a tray with mojo sauce and some boiled salty potatoes. Parrot fish can also be baked in the oven, or opened up and grilled.



The municipality of Arucas takes up a surface area of 33km<sup>2</sup> on the north face of Gran Canaria, and extends from the coast up to the hills to over 600 metres above sea level.



The church of San Juan Bautista.

## Did you know?

The Arucas blue stone is a material of volcanic origin which has been used to build practically all the buildings and houses in the Historic City Centre of Arucas, as well as many others outside the municipality. It is considered an ideal material for construction and has been worked by many quarry stonemasons in the area, as the fine examples of the church of San Juan Bautista, the Water Heritage building or Town Hall buildings go to show.

In Arucas, visitors can go to the Quarry Museum, where they can learn about the characteristics of this traditional trade.

The city's terrain offers an open invitation for visitors to take a walk around the Historic Town Centre of Arucas, since the distance from one side of the city to the other is very short. The town can be reached by car or by public transport, and we recommend that drivers leave their cars at the Congress Fair car park at the entrance to the city, right next to the church.

We begin our journey at the **Plaza de San Juan**, where we can see the development of the architectural style of the houses over four separate centuries, from 17<sup>th</sup> to the 20<sup>th</sup> century. We move on to the church of **San Juan Bautista**, without doubt the most emblematic building in the whole city. It was constructed completely out of local blue stone by the city's stonemasons, in a neogothic style. The first stone was placed on 19<sup>th</sup> March 1909 and the church was opened for worship by 1917. In its interior there are many beautiful works of art with a great heritage value, such as the Recumbent Christ by Manolo Ramos, and the recently restored church windows, of French origin.

Our walk continues along to the **Cultural Centre**, set in a 17<sup>th</sup> century traditional

Canary townhouse, with a wonderful interior patio and ancient dragon tree in the middle. We then carry on the pedestrian street of **León y Castillo**, where the Tourism office is sited, near to the headquarters of the Mapfre Guanarateme Canary Foundation. At the end of the street we come to **Plaza de la Constitución**, where the Council Office, built in 1875, is located. Another standout building in the same square is the **Old Market of Arucas**.

We make our way to the **Municipal Museum**, the former Casa de Mayorazgo of Arucas that later became the home for the Gourié family. The museum is located within the Municipal Park, where visitors can visit itinerant exhibitions all year round, along with permanent exhibitions by the artists Manolo Ramos, Santiago Santana, Guillermo Sureda and Abraham Cárdenes and their students.

While there, why not take a walk around the **Municipal Park**, with botanical exhibits from all five continents. Standing at the end of the park is the majestic building of the **Arucas and Fargas Water Heritage**, built between 1909 and 1912. Close by is the Labrante (Stonemason) Visitors' Interpretive Centre, where

you can find out about the history and development of the stone mason's trade in Arucas.

From here, visitors are recommended to continue on towards the **Arehucas Rum Factory**, where guided tours are available, and where the products can be tasted. The factory has a private parking area for visitors.

Nearby is **La Cantera Museum**, on the site of the firm Piedras La Cantera, where there is a recreation of the environment in which people in the old stone quarries would have lived in. Stone crafts are also available for purchase here.

Arucas is known as the "City of Flowers", partly due to its magnificent gardens, at the municipal park and the **Marquesina Gardens**. This garden can be reached along the road that joins Arucas with Bañaderos, at about kilometre 0.5. The gardens are owned by the Marquess of Arucas, and have over 2,500 species of tropical and subtropical flora. He was the first marquess to bring back plants from his trips around the world.

To finish off our stroll around the town centre, we recommend a trip up to

## How to Get There

### BY BUS FROM LAS PALMAS DE GRAN CANARIA

**Service 202:** Las Palmas de Gran Canaria - Arucas - Fargas

**Service 205:** Las Palmas de Gran Canaria - Tamaraceite - Arucas

**Service 206:** Las Palmas de Gran Canaria - Bañaderos - Arucas

**Service 210:** Las Palmas de Gran Canaria - Pista Cardones - Arucas

**Service 234:** Las Palmas de Gran Canaria - El Hornillo - Arucas



Casco Histórico de Arucas.

the **Montaña de Arucas**, to enjoy the splendid views down to the interior and the coast of Arucas, from the viewpoints located on high.

To round off our visit to the municipality, we can go down to the coast, where we are treated to several places with interesting landscapes, such as **La Punta de Arucas** and **Las Salinas del Bufadero**. The promenade of **El Puertillo** is a privileged spot for walking along the sea front, and for trying out some exquisite fish dishes at the restaurants in the area, as well as enjoying a dip in the Natural Pools of **Los Charcones** and **El Puertillo Beach**, both of which boast the Blue Flag, which guarantees the quality of bathing facilities and other services in the area.



Calle León y Castillo.



Natural Pools of Los Charcones.



Plataneras.