

Festivals

SAINT JAMES THE APOSTLE

The Festival in honour of St. James the Apostle on 25th July is the most important in the municipality, and throughout the month many religious, fun and festive acts are celebrated, one of the highlights being the Pilgrimage Offering in honour of the Patron Saint and the Battle of the Flowers.

Fiestas Mayores de Santiago.



Romería Gáldar.



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MUNICIPALITIES OF GRAN CANARIA



Cuisine



TYPICAL PRODUCTS FROM THE MUNICIPALITY

Cheeses
Onions
Bananas

Typical Recipe

Goat's Meat

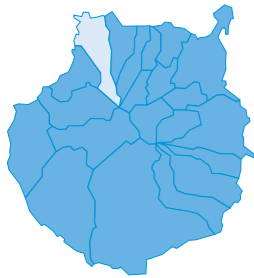


INGREDIENTS

1 kg of goat's meat
1 onion
1 spoon of oil
1 red pepper
1 spoon of red wine
1 hot pepper
1 paprika, thyme, clove and cumin
Water and salt

PREPARATION

The meat is chopped up into chunks and is seasoned. The onion is fried in the oil and the meat is added until it is browned. Then the red pepper and the hot pepper, together with the paprika, thyme, clove, cumin and wine are all added, and left on heat for a further 15 minutes. Finally water is added to cover the meat and it cooks through for around an hour and a half. This dish may be accompanied by salty boiled potatoes.



Gáldar is located to the northwest of the island of Gran Canaria, with a municipal surface area of 67.6 km², making it the largest of the North Region.

The entrance to the municipality reminds us of the former capital city status that Gáldar boasted on the island of Gran Canaria, a supremacy it held on to despite the kingdom later being divided into two, as the Great Island Council kept meeting in Gáldar with the presence of the *12 Guairés* leaders, six of them corresponding to Telde.

At the access to the City, the **Guayarminas Monument** (aboriginal princesses), by local sculptor Borges Linares, highlights the importance of women in the family and the dynastic organization of the Ancient Canarians.

Just before we reach the Historic Town Centre, to the left we come to the district of **San Sebastián**, which grew around an ancient hermitage from the 16th century, and protected the access to the City, along the Royal Road, from possible diseases. In its interior there are many interesting pieces preserved, among which is the *Talla del Santo Titular*, one of the best works by religious imagery sculptor Luján Pérez.

As we reach the last stretch of the Royal Road, our walk takes us to the **Capitán Quesada** street, popularly known as the “Long Street”, which has become the most important shopping area in the region. In the mix of architectural styles we can highlight, to the left, a small edification from the 17th century, perhaps the oldest in the street, and immediately to our right the

Municipal Market (known as “La Recova”), where most of the fresh produce from the municipality is traded. At the entrance gallery there are the sculptures of “La Pescadera” and “El Labrador” and the Murals, as allegories to the products from the sea and from the land. Moving further up the street we can observe other diverse eclectic and rationalist buildings.

The **Plaza de los Faicanes** is dedicated to the prehispanic high priests and is presided by a mural fountain set on a gigantic bronze *pintadera* or painting, which symbolizes the island’s identity. Near to this square is the **Antonio Padrón House Museum**, which was set up in what used to be the indigenous Galdar painter’s study. Antonio Padrón Rodríguez (Galdar 1920-1968) is one of the most important artists in contemporary Canarian artistic circles, and here in the museum we can admire nearly all of his works (oils paintings, drawings, engravings, sculptures, pottery, etc.), that display his interesting artistic synthesis.

Coming back to the Main street, on the other side of the Plaza de los Faicanes, we come across the **Water Heritage Building**, an institution whose origins date back to Conquest times, in which the distribution of all municipal water channels were managed. The sculpture here of **Tenesor Semidán**, the last Guanarteme king, is the work of Galdar sculptor Juan Borges Linares.

As we go further along the Long Street, we come to the tiny **Placeta de Santa Lucía**, tucked away on the grounds of the former hermitage of the same name; and to the right, one of the finest examples of the municipality’s eclectic architecture, **El Casino**, the current headquarters of the Sociedad de Fomento y Recreo, founded back in 1847.

From this point we can see the **Plaza de Santiago**, whose garden areas bear testament to projects of the circular tree-lined pathways so in vogue in the second half of the 19th century. Its style is the best example of its kind in Gran Canaria and one of the best in the whole of the Archipelago.

The square has a noble structure on its western side in the shape of the **Church of Archpriest Santiago**, a key piece in the history of Canary art, as it constituted the start of the neo-classical style on the islands. It was built between 1778 and 1826. In its interior is the Green Baptismal Font, where most of the pre-Hispanic population were christened. The church’s art collection is completed by some fascinating pieces of religious figures, paintings, ornaments and pieces of gold and silver of several different styles, together with other unique pieces at the Gáldar Sacred Art Museum, access to which is available on the side street of Fernando Guanarteme.



Faro de Sardina.

In its interior there is a variety of interesting imagery sculptures, paintings, ornaments and works of precious metals in diverse styles, as well as other especially unique pieces such as the Pila Verde, where practically all the pre-Hispanic population of the historic region of Gáldar were christened.

To the south of the square stands the 18th century former **Town Hall** building, official headquarters for the Local Government and in whose indoor patio the oldest Drago tree can be admired, dating back to around 1718. Access to the Town Theatre can also be gained from this building, which was founded in the middle of the 19th century, and whose present appearance responds to recent refurbishments recently carried out. It was an original project from 1912, and is one of the finest historical theatres in the whole Archipelago.

From the corner of the theatre you catch your first glimpse of the **Cueva Pintada Museum and Archeological Park** (Painted Cave), home to possibly the most important settlement in the Canaries. It is the finest collection of edifications of living quarters in the Archipelago, (there are over thirty of them), and is perfectly complimented by the Cueva Pintada, the best example of rock paintings done by the Ancient Canarians, and its documental significance is further

enhanced by the considerable collection of material that was dug up during excavations.

Other places worth visiting are the coastal areas, where there are plenty of spots to enjoy the sea, both for active pursuits or for just enjoying the seaside. From the bay of Sardina, with its privileged setting for divers or for resting on its golden sands, or the views from the Sardina Lighthouse at the island’s most westerly point, to the natural swimming pools that splash up against the rocky north coast, and the big waves perfect for surfers and bodyboarders at **La Guancha** or **El Frontón**, which are internationally famous.



El Frontón.



Cueva Pintada.

Did you know?

Right in the middle of town are the most important archaeological settlements in the Canaries, at the Museum and Archeological Park of La Cueva Pintada (Painted Cave).



Antonio Padrón House Museum.



Plaza de Santiago Apóstol.



Caldera Pinos de Gáldar.