

Festivals

FESTIVAL OF SAN ROQUE

The main festival is the Patron Saint San Roque, which takes place on 16th August. For this, many different cultural, popular, traditional and religious acts are organized, with special mention going to the Traditional Pilgrimage of San Roque, the Livestock Fair, and the Night of San Roque.



Procession of San Roque.



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FIRGAS




Gran Canaria

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MUNICIPALITIES OF GRAN CANARIA



Cuisine

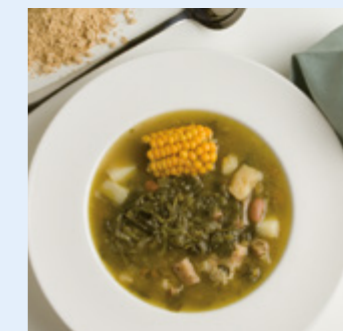


TYPICAL PRODUCTS FROM THE MUNICIPALITY

Cress
Gofio
Natural Spring Water

Typical Recipe

Cress Stew



INGREDIENTS

¼ kg of white beans
½ kg of cress
½ kg of potatoes
2 salty pork ribs or ¼ kg of salted pork meat
1 pineapple
1 piece of pumpkin
1 piece of yam
1 onion / 1 pepper / 1 tomato
3 cloves of garlic
1 splash of oil
Salt

PREPARATION

The night before the stew is to be made, the beans must be left to soak. The next morning the beans are heated up in a pot with water, "shocking" them with cold water when they reach boiling point. Then the cress is added, finely chopped, along with sliced pork meat or ribs, plus the pineapple, yam, and pumpkin, all of these chopped up well. When everything is cooked through, we add the potatoes, onion, pepper and tomato, cut up into pieces. We finally add the sliced cloves of garlic, along with a splash of oil and a small amount of salt to taste. It is left a little while longer until all ingredients are properly cooked. It is removed from the heat and left to settle before serving.



The town of Firgas is located to the north of the island of Gran Canaria, some 28km from the capital. It has a surface area of 15,77km² and is set at an altitude of 465m above sea level.



Paseo de Gran Canaria.

Did you know?

The ravine at Las Madres de Firgas, also known as The Thousand Fountains, gets its name from the large number of natural water springs that came up there, and is the reason for which the Villa de Firgas is also known as the Villa de Agua, or the Water Town.

The historic town centre is well worth a stroll around in order to appreciate the many tourist attractions the municipality offers. The **Paseo de Gran Canaria** and the **Paseo de Canarias** are right in the heart of the town centre and in what was formerly the Central Royal Road. These are pedestrian streets on a natural slope which have been used to full effect with a beautiful 30-metre long waterfall made from quarried stone and finished off with a fine fountain monument that represents the traditional wealth of water resources. The Paseo de Canarias has each of the 7 Canary Islands sculptured out of the ground and displays a representative landscape of each of them. The **Cultural Centre** building is probably the most emblematic of the whole municipality, it is a former hotel or inn, and was built in 1870 to accommodate visitors who came to use the Azuaje baths. The **Plaza and Church of Saint Roque** make up the epicentre of the town and have done so since time immemorial. It was here the "Afurgad" of the ancient Canarians was raised, and on this area of land where the Hispanic Firgas was founded.

The present church of San Roque, which opened with complete autonomy on 19th January 1845, sits on the ruins of what was the first hermitage of San Juan Ortega, dating back to 1502, and adjacent to a dominical convent which no longer exists. Opposite the church we can visit the latest emblematic works in the municipality of Firgas, none other than the refurbished **Royal Water Channel** on its way through the Plaza de San Roque which was opened along one of the sides and to which some washing sinks, made from quarried stone, were added, and which are represented by sculptured women's hands washing clothes, in memory of all the washer women who worked at this water channel.

The **Firgas Town Hall** building is a neo-Canary style town mansion built in the 1940s. Standing out among its fine materials is the blue stonework that came from the famed stone quarries form the lower part of the municipality, and also the Canary pine wood used in the construction of its magnificent balconies. The **16th century Firgas Water Mill**, declared of Cultural Value in 2007, is situated above a water



Ravine of Azuaje.

channel of the Arucas and Firgas Waters Heritage, using the natural water flow to maximum effect to set the sharp stones in motion used to chop up grain.

The main part of the municipality nestles in what was formerly the **Doramas Forest**, and hence offers ravines of great beauty thanks to its lush vegetation and for its abundance of small tributaries that provide water

for the surrounding land, such as the **Special Natural Reserve of Azuaje**, the **Ravines of Las Madres and Guadalupe**.

The natural surroundings of the **Mountain of Firgas** and the **Rayo Peak** make up the borders of the municipality, allowing for stunningly visual panoramic views, as they constitute truly unspoilt, virgin territories for the naturally growing flora of the archipelago.

Other places of interest would be Las Berreras on the road to Las Madres, they are land terraces that are held up by walls filled with water and in whose interior the cress plants grow; an essential ingredient in our most popular dish: cress stew and the **Firgas Viewpoints**: the viewpoints at Las Madres, Las Pellas, La Montaña de Firgas and the Plaza de San Roque. If you are into **hiking**, the municipal has



Ravine of Azuaje.



Firgas Water Mill 16th century.



The Plaza and Church of Saint Roque.

How to Get There

BY BUS
FROM LAS PALMAS
DE GRANCANARIA

Services 201, 202 and 204

FROM ARUCAS

Services 205, 206, 209 and 210
Arucas - Firgas Service 211

FROM THE SOUTH

Services 01 and 30

four beautiful circular routes at your disposal, in which you can learn all about the history of the town, as they are routes that the ancestors would have walked along or ridden on their animals, and where today's visitors can learn about all the ethnographic and architectural elements that are to be seen around the whole of natural terrain.