

ROUTE LA MATANZA, LA VICTORIA AND SANTA ÚRSULA Nature, ethnography and history

ITINERARY

LA MATANZA, LA VICTORIA AND SANTA ÚRSULA

From exit 23 on the TF-5 motorway to the Fuente del Pino (La Matanza)

Distance: 2.1 km. **Approximate driving time:** 8 minutes. **Estimated time of visit:** 20 minutes.

The route starts at exit number 23 on the TF-5 motorway. From there you take the road to La Fuente del Pino (Spring), in the Cabrera Ravine, situated in the municipality of La Matanza de Acentejo.

Leave the TF-5 at exit 23, signposted La Matanza. You come to a roundabout where you take the third exit. Immediately afterwards you cross a bridge over the motorway and turn right to join the TF-224. The trip continues along this road for roughly 1 km. After this distance, you arrive at a junction with San Diego Street. Turn left into the above-mentioned street. Travel approximately 95 m and turn right into Obispo Pérez Cáceres Street. At the end of this street turn left, drive on a few metres and turn right into Real Street. Your route continues along this street for some 500 m. On the way you pass the Church of San Salvador on the right-hand side. After this distance, you will see the junction with Canales Street and you have reached your destination. On the left-hand side of the road you will find the ideal spot to park your vehicle. Your visit now continues on foot along an unpaved road for 300 metres which you reach from Canales Street. Wearing comfortable clothes and footwear is recommended.

From la Fuente del Pino to the agricultural area of Los Nateros (La Matanza)

Distance: 2 km. **Approximate driving time:** 5 minute. **Estimated time of visit:** 1 hour, 20 minutes

The next stop takes you the farming landscape of Los Nateros in the town of La Matanza de Acentejo. Continue along Real Street by turning left. Drive up this street and at the first junction that you come to, turn slightly left to join Canales Street. 500 m further on you will find a new junction where you turn right into Real Orotava Street, the old main highway to La Orotava. Your trip now continues along this road for 1.5 km to reach your destination. After this distance you will find a children's playground, a circuit for jogging and car parks



INFORMATION

Estimated completion time:

2 hours, 22 minutes

Estimated driving time:

47 minutes

Total distance :

16.1 km.

Stopping points :

La Fuente del Pino (Natural spring)
Paisaje agrícola de Los Nateros (Farmland area)
Mirador de La Vica (Viewpoint)
San Antonio
Lavaderos del Barranco de Los Sauces (Public Laundry)

Other points of interest: Mercadillo del Agricultor de La Matanza (Farmers' Market)
Casa Museo Insular de la Vid y el Vino de Tenerife (Wine Museum)
Las Manchas (Path)

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Nature, ethnography and history

ITINERARY

From Los Nateros area to the viewpoint at La Vica

Distance: 2.1 km **Approximate driving time:** 9 minutes. **Estimated time of visit:** 15 minutes

At the next stop on the route you visit La Vica Viewpoint. To get there, drive to the junction with San Cristóbal Street, where you will find a small roundabout. Take the third exit and turn down San Cristóbal Street. After a distance of 450 m, turn right at the junction with Tabares Street. Drive along this road for roughly 900 m. Towards the end of the road, you are passing through the suburb of La Vica. Soon after you arrive at a junction and turn left. This street is called Camino Nuevo and you travel 750 m along it. This distance will take you to our destination.

From La Vica Viewpoint to San Antonio

Distance: 3.4 km **Approximate driving time:** 8 minutes. **Estimated time of visit:** 20 minutes

Your next stop takes you to discover the suburb of San Antonio, in La Matanza de Acentejo. In order to get there, return to San Cristóbal Street following the same route you came along to reach the viewpoint at La Vica. When you reach the junction of San Cristóbal Street with Tabares Street, turn left. When you arrive back at the roundabout, take the second exit and continue straight ahead along San Cristóbal Street. A drive of roughly 1.5 km brings you to the suburb of San Cristóbal. Continue straight ahead without deviating from this road and you come to the suburb of San Antonio. On the right-hand side you will see the Church of San Antonio. You will be able to park your vehicle in the surrounding area.

ITINERARY

From the suburb of San Antonio to the open-air laundry at the Barranco de Los Sauces (Santa Úrsula)

Distance: 6.5 km **Approximate driving time:** 17 minutes. **Estimated time of visit:** 20 minutes

The next stop takes you to see the ancient laundry in the Barranco de Los Sauces (literally Willow Ravine), in the municipality of Santa Úrsula. In order to head there, you need to return to San Cristóbal Street which, after a short distance, changes its name to become Toscas de San Antonio. Descend this street for some 350 m. After this distance, turn right into Real Street (the old highway), the TF-215. Continue along this road as far as a roundabout. Here, take the third exit towards the TF-217 leading from La Victoria to Santa Úrsula. The town of Santa Úrsula is 3.5 km away, always keeping to the main road. On the way, you leave the town of La Matanza and pass through the municipality of La Victoria. Just at the entrance to Santa Úrsula, you will have to cross the "Puente del Rey" (King's Bridge), also known as the "Iron Bridge". Keep driving straight ahead 350 m beyond the bridge. At this point, turn right into the street called Las Toscas Barrio. Drive along this street for 220 m until you come to the first junction, namely with Morra Los Sauces Street. Thereafter drive another 300 m, turn left and continue uphill. At the next junction, turn slightly left and continue straight ahead 200 m to arrive at your destination. As you will see, you are on a ridge located on the left side of the Willows Ravine. Your excursion now continues on foot along the path that descends towards the place where formerly the washerwomen came and which is situated a short distance up ahead from where you parked. The path is some 100 m long, running under the shade of the trees. Access to the ravine by car is along an extremely steep, unpaved track. To walk the path we recommend wearing comfortable clothes and footwear.

ROUTE LA MATANZA, LA VICTORIA AND SANTA ÚRSULA
Nature, ethnography and history

STARTING POINT

LA MATANZA, LA VICTORIA Y SANTA ÚRSULA

The route between La Matanza, La Victoria and Santa Úrsula is an excursion along the north slopes of Tenerife and the area known as Acentejo, where you will discover a region of contrasts, with craggy cliffs reaching down to the coast and riven by gorges and ravines. History and tradition are present at every corner along the route which gives you the opportunity of becoming familiar with some of the Island's most deeply-rooted customs, and discover the natural and cultural heritage of the land and its people.

Each of the three municipalities that form the route possesses a rich past, with renowned episodes of history which date from the ages prior to the conquest of Tenerife by the Spanish. In the territory of Acentejo, the famous "Battle of Acentejo" took place where, in the year 1494, the aborigines inflicted a crucial defeat on the Castilian armies. This land too, was the scene, one year later, of the victory of the troops led by the King's representative Alonso Fernández de Lugo over the *guanches*.

The fertility of its land has fostered the development of a substantial agricultural and cattle-raising activity, and so farming has come to be a symbol of identity to the inhabitants of this area of northern Tenerife. The scenic value of the area is exemplified by unique natural areas such as that of Los Nateros, where the rural habitat is displayed in all its magnificence. The vines and chestnut trees, together with plots devoted to growing vegetables, maize and potatoes, create a setting with its own special charm. Likewise, the streets of the urban centres of the municipalities and of the various outskirts and villages are home to a great many examples of typical Canarian architecture.

Here, tradition, nature and the world of the small farmer are all intimately intertwined. You will visit areas of great value in terms of cultural heritage that guard vestiges of former country life in the area, such as La Fuente del Pino and the public laundry at the Barranco de Los Sauces.

These municipalities, from the coast to their mountaintops, are home to surprising excursions that allow you to admire breathtaking views over the Atlantic, across to the Orotava Valley and up to Mt. Teide and discover geological formations of unexpected beauty, such as those along the coast. Its rural middle slopes keep alive to this day the essential elements of bygone times, where the agricultural and stock-raising traditions are still part of present-day life. And let us not forget the mountaintops which provide an unrivalled view of the Island and panoramas of the wonderful simplicity of these slopes with their nature, unspoilt and peaceful, from the small enclaves of evergreens to the pine forest that adorns the higher zones.

Further information:
www.matanceros.com
www.lavictoriadeacentejo.es
www.santaursula.es

ROUTE LA MATANZA, LA VICTORIA AND SANTA ÚRSULA
Nature, ethnography and history

STOPPING POINTS

LA FUENTE DEL PINO, natural spring

The Fuente del Pino (Pine-Tree Spring) is located in the Cabrera Ravine, in the middle slopes of the municipality of La Matanza. The place is intimately related to the customs of the town, because this is where the residents came to satisfy their need for water.

The spring is not only worthy of mention as an example of the past and of the traditions of the area, but also gives visitors the possibility of discovering an incomparable spot to enjoy the tranquillity and the quietness of the ravines of La Matanza.

Even in the period prior to the conquest of the Islands, water was an essential pre-requisite when choosing the location of any settlement.

This fact meant that after the arrival of the Castilians, hamlets and villages began to develop where aboriginal populations had previously existed or in places close to water springs.

Near to the spring, you will find the Real Street (former highway), which crosses the town centre, where you can see some specimens of traditional Canarian architecture.



Location:
Canales Street. La Matanza de Acentejo
UTM Coordinates:
28.454278, -16.4438
Geographic Coordinates:
28°27'15.40"N, 16°26'37.68"W
Further information:
www.matanceros.com

LOS NATEROS FARMLAND AREA

From the earliest times, agriculture or farming has been closely linked to the development of these towns and this is why farmland has shaped the landscape you will be travelling through on a good part of our trip.

In the upper part of the suburb of San Antonio, in the municipality of La Matanza, is where Los Nateros agricultural area is located, an ideal illustration of the importance that farming has had and still has in the area.

The landscape around Los Nateros as a whole is a manifestation of a charming, untouched natural area that is made up of small plots of traditional crops in which the characteristic brown of the San Antonio mountains combines with the soft shades of the chestnut trees, plots of potatoes, vines and maize, and the pine forests further up.

On this visit you can ramble through the area and become familiar with its main agricultural features. Its vineyards stand out among the other crops which permits the observant visitor to learn something of the vine-growing traditional to the area and see different types of vineyards.

The beauty of the area is made complete by the majestic cone of Mt Teide rising above and the wonderful views over the Atlantic.



Location:
Calle Real Orotava (former highway to La Orotava). La Matanza de Acentejo
UTM Coordinates:
28.443464, -16.444039
Geographic Coordinates:
28°26'36.47"N, 16°26'38.54"W
Further information:
www.matanceros.com

ROUTE LA MATANZA, LA VICTORIA AND SANTA ÚRSULA
Nature, ethnography and history

STOPPING POINTS

LA VICA VIEWPOINT

In this area of the north of Tenerife, farming and nature have both shared in creating an environment of particular importance. In the areas of the municipality at the highest altitude; the pine forest paints a green backdrop which contrasts with the volcanic earth of the San Antonio Mountains, with the chestnut trees and the vines.

From La Vica viewpoint, a short distance from the village of same name, located close to Los Nateros, the views are spectacular. The panoramic views that it affords allows you to survey a bucolic scene of plots of potatoes, vines and many different kinds of fruit trees. What is more, its advantageous location gives you an unparalleled opportunity to survey the northern slopes of Tenerife and discover the erratic shapes that its rugged coast has acquired and the singular relief of its mountains and ravines. The views reach as far as the Orotava Valley, the lowlands around Los Silos and Mt. Teide.



Location:
Camino Nuevo Street, La Vica. La Matanza

UTM Coordinates:
28.439797, - 16.430633

Geographic Coordinates:
28°26'23.27"N, 16°25'50.28"W

Further information:
www.matanceros.com

ROUTE LA MATANZA, LA VICTORIA AND SANTA ÚRSULA
Nature, ethnography and history

STOPPING POINTS

SAN ANTONIO

The suburb of San Antonio is one of the villages belonging to La Matanza most deeply rooted in its history of subsistence farming. Its origin is linked to one of the most famous events of the Island conquest, the Church of San Antonio being erected soon after records began. The church was constructed by the conqueror Antón Vallejo as a promise to the saint [Saint Anthony] after saving his life during the Battle of Acentejo .

In the town the farming and stock-raising tradition remains part of present-day life. Near the church there is an open space where the livestock weight-pulling competitions are held and opposite the church is the "gofio" mill (roasted, ground grains), still in use today. Gofio is one of the most typical features of the local cuisine. It consists of different cereals roasted and finely ground. In fact its origins go back to the pre-hispanic period, although it was not until the conquest of the Islands and the later introduction of other cereals from the Americas, such as maize, that it came into common use.

San Antonio preserves traditional buildings, allowing visitors to appreciate examples of typical Canarian architecture as it is seen in country areas of the north of Tenerife.

The village's rural essence is preserved in the traditions of importance to country folk. The "San Antonio cattle market" is a well-known festival, one of the most time-honoured farming festivals on the Island, which every year brings together thousands of people who throng the former "Royal Highway" in procession from La Laguna to the Church of San Antonio Abad for the blessing of the livestock.



Location:

Toscas de San Antonio Street, San Antonio. La Matanza de Acentejo

UTM Coordinates:

28.438567, - 16.456581

Geographic Coordinates:

28°26'18.84"N, 16°27'23.69"W

Further information:

www.matanceros.com

ROUTE LA MATANZA, LA VICTORIA AND SANTA ÚRSULA
Nature, ethnography and history

STOPPING POINTS

PUBLIC LAUNDRY IN THE BARRANCO DE LOS SAUCES

Traditionally, in rural zones, the method used for washing clothes was in ravines, where the washerwomen made use of the running water, or in springs, streams or irrigation channels.

It was not until the XIXth century that the first public clothes washing basins were built and they soon acquired an important role in the society of the period. The women of the area came several times a week to wash the clothes of their own families or those of the wealthier families round about. These gatherings were the perfect opportunity to exchange the news and views, and of course gossip, about the village and its residents.

These buildings have remained impervious to the passage of time and nowadays exist as a reminder of stories from the past and as a reflection of part of everyday peasant life in the area.

In the Barranco de Los Sauces (Willows Ravine), you can still see an old public laundry which, thanks to its excellent state of preservation, allows one to imagine something of the local customs.

Access is via a path that wanders down to the bed of the ravine from a ridge located on one side of the ravine.



Location:

Morra Los Sauces Street, Toscas de Ana María. Santa Úrsula

UTM Coordinates:

28.418442, - 16.468864

Geographic Coordinates:

28°25'6.39"N, 16°28'7.91"W

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Nature, ethnography and history

OTHER POINTS OF INTEREST

LA MATANZA DE ACENTEJO FARMERS' MARKET

The La Matanza de Acentejo Farmers', Wine and Craft Market likes to think of itself as the symbol of the rural aspects of the Municipality. It is situated near to the Town Hall, on the main north highway.

It was launched with the aim of promoting the local agricultural sector and giving farmers and craftsmen the opportunity to sell their crops and products directly to the consumer. The great quality and variety of products such as potatoes, vegetables, fruit, etc. is worth a second look. Equally, local handicraft products are on sale.

Every year in October the market celebrates its famous "La Matanza Handicraft Fair".

-We recommend confirming the opening times of the centres

Location:

Main road to the north TF-217, La Matanza de Acentejo.

Tel.: 922 577 120 (Ext. 312 / 313)

E-mail:

sdagricultura@matanceros.com and
sddesarrollorural@matanceros.com

Opening times:

Saturday: 9:00 to 15:00

Sunday: 9:00 to 14:00

UTM Coordinates:

28.448667, -16.457581

Geographic Coordinates:

28°26'55.20"N, 16°27'27.29"W

Further information:

www.mercadillodelamatanza.com

CASA MUSEO INSULAR DE LA VID Y EL VINO DE TENERIFE (Island Grapevine and Wine Museum)

The Tenerife Grapevine and Wine Museum is housed in a former traditional country house in the municipality of El Sauzal, in the north of Tenerife. The mansion, which dates from the XVIIth century, nowadays houses an exhibition covering the winemaking tradition of the Island as well as the history and present of wine on Tenerife. Next to the Casa del Vino, you will find the Visitor Centre devoted to Tenerife Honey, where there is a modern display explaining the importance of bee-keeping on the Island. To complete the visit, another exhibition room has a display devoted to "Tenerife, an Island of Agricultural Biodiversity".

The country mansion, situated in the Finca La Baranda, preserves parts of the original buildings just as they were, which gives it a special historical and artistic interest, notably the hand-painted, coffered ceilings of the chapel roof or the winepress situated in the central patio.

On the visit, besides discovering Tenerife's rich winemaking heritage, you can enjoy wonderful views of the Atlantic Ocean and of Mt. Teide.

- Centre belonging to the Tenerife Rural Quality Network

- We recommend confirming the opening times of establishments

Location:

San Simón Street , 49. Access from the north motorway TF-5, km marker 21. El Sauzal- La Baranda exit, El Sauzal

Tel.: 922 572 535 / 922 572 542

E-mail: casa-vino@tenerife.es

Opening times:

- Tuesday and Sunday from 10:30 to 18:00

- Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday from 10:00 to 21:00

- Closed Mondays.

UTM Coordinates:

28.470425, -16.434681

Geographic Coordinates:

28°28'13.53"N, 16°26'4.85"W

Further information:

www.tenerife.es/casa-vino

ROUTE LA MATANZA, LA VICTORIA AND SANTA ÚRSULA
Nature, ethnography and history

OTHER POINTS OF INTEREST

SENDERO DE LAS MANCHAS

This path, recently restored, runs between Santa Úrsula and Ancón beach, through the protected landscape of Acentejo. It is 1 km away and, in addition to enjoying the magnificent views of the north of the island, it allows you to know an area of special biological sensitivity.

Location:

Las Manchas, Santa Úrsula

UTM Coordinates:

28.448667, -16.457581

Geographic Coordinates:

28°26'55.20"N, 16°27'27.29"W