

13 Playa Blanca - Las Breñas - Yaiza

A big walk in Lanzarote's context, which follows the new **GR131** across vast plains, allows us to enjoy expansive views of the south. Once we get out of the not-too-inspiring streets of **Playa Blanca**, we are about to experience a wild vastness and solitude of sheer plains and *malpais* on our way to **Las Breñas**, where we have a choice of great refreshments, before setting off for the second leg of the route to **Yaiza**, a section quite rich with splendid panoramic vistas. Check the weather forecast before planning this trip - in case of strong northern wind it is better to postpone this one - you don't want to end up battling against the wind as the route in its entirety follows a north-easterly course.



Access by car: Park in **Yaiza** at a car park 100 metres **SW** of Wp.24 next to the plaza and bus to the start in **Playa Blanca**; the bus stop in **Yaiza** is 200 metres **E** along **Calle Vista de Yaiza**. Or park in **Playa Blanca** behind the bus station, and return by bus from **Yaiza**.

Access by bus: The 60 runs between **Arrecife, Yaiza and Playa Blanca**, and the 161 between **Puerto del Carmen, Yaiza and Playa Blanca**.

Starting from **Playa Blanca** bus station (Wp.1 **0M**), we follow the pavement **Wp.3 start of trail** (**NE**) to the large roundabout, which we cross via a zebra crossing to join **Avenida a Femés**. We follow the pavement (**NE**) along the road past another roundabout then **Cay Beach Sun Hotel** (Wp.2 **13M**), before coming out of town. 30 metres after the '**Playa Blanca**' sign, we find a GR signpost and a trail (Wp.3 **22M**) heading north.



Taking the boulder lined trail (**N**) we swing left before springing over rubble onto a dirt track (Wp.4 **27M**). We follow the track (**N**), skirting an abandoned compound and piles of rubble. Our surroundings improve as our track swings left to round the corner of the compound before turning right (**N**) 100 metres later, leaving the ghost town behind.

A track joins us from our left before we cross an eroded dirt road, 30 metres after which we bear right at a Y-junction (Wp.5 **42M**) onto a trail, passing under an electricity line. We are on a broad trail, which heads to a farmstead. Joining a stone wall of the farm and the dirt track that lines it, we bear left at a Y-junction at the corner of the wall. Small cairns guide us to cross the farm's access track (Wp.6 **55M**) to leave the very last homestead until **Las Breñas** behind, our track soon dwindling to a trail. Ignoring a broad stone-lined track to our right, we cross two ruined stone walls, after which our trail swings left. We round a large cairn on a rise before descending briefly, having views of **Las Breñas** far ahead of us.

Crossing a faint dirt track (Wp.7 **67M**), our trail levels off before we find ourselves climbing again. We circle a hillock before crossing two

watercourses (Wp.8 77M). Hints of old terraces line our trail as the houses of **Las Breñas** get closer with each step. Passing a notice board on ancient settlements in the area, we join a stone wall (Wp.9 87M) on our right side. Traces of bygone farming are becoming more obvious as we have walls on both sides, before climbing to join a rough dirt track (Wp.10 94M). Bearing left, careful footwork is needed as our track is heavily eroded and rough, taking us up to join a dirt track at a signpost just before stepping onto the tarmac and the first house, '**Casa del Roble**'. Past the house we come to a road junction (Wp.11 103M) in **Las Breñas**.

Bearing right, we take **Calle los Roques** to walk



Approaching Las Breñas

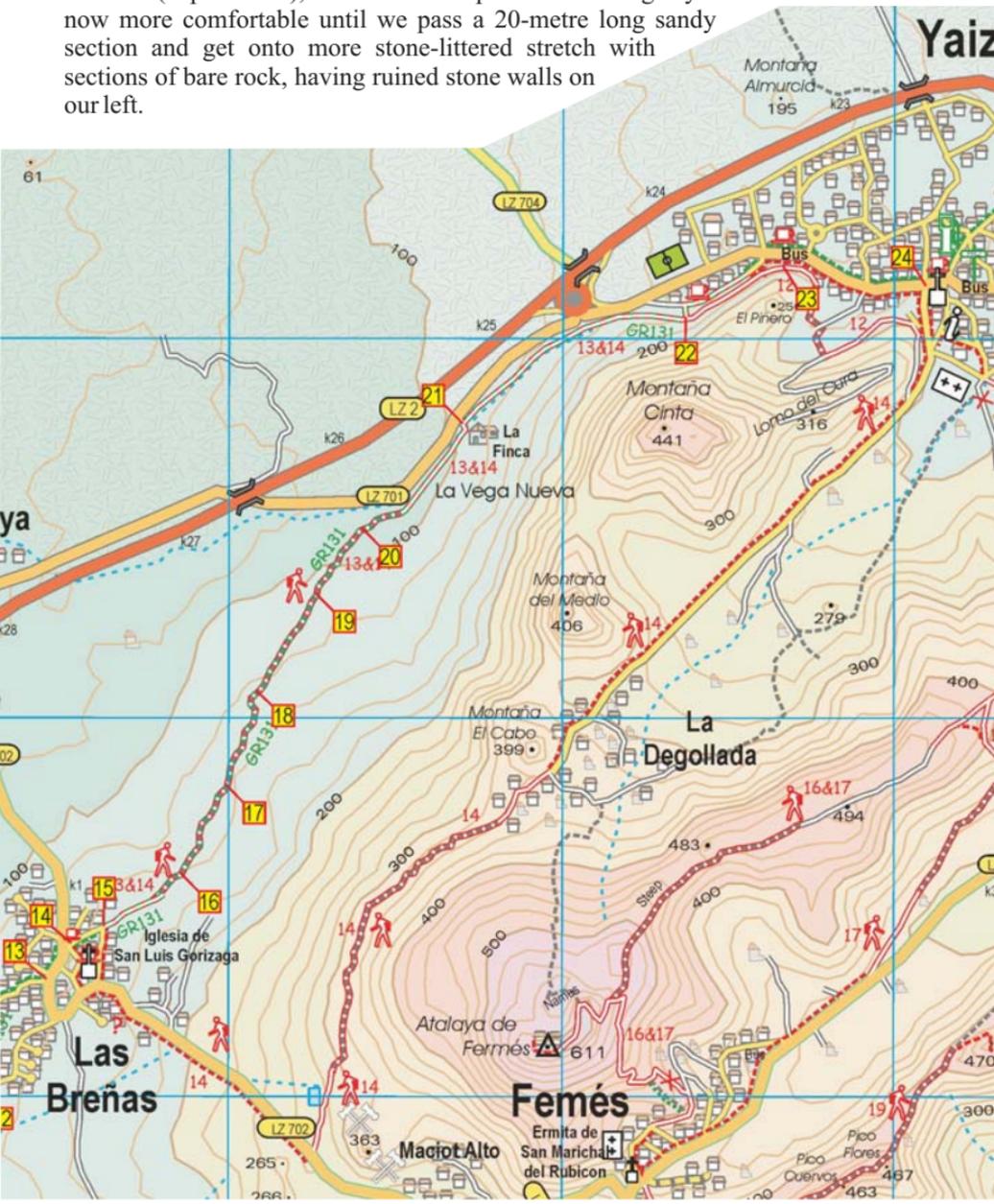


through the quiet village, passing a Manrique style cactus garden. 40 metres after a transformer tower we bear left at a Y-junction (Wp.12 108M) into **Calle Victor Fernandez Gopar**. Twelve minutes later, we turn left at a T-junction (Wp.13 120M) with **Calle El Arado**, to walk past **Plaza San Luis** with the school and playgrounds before coming to a junction at a bus stop (Wp.14 124M), where we have a choice of refreshments. Beyond the bus stop on our left is **Bar Tres**, while up on our right we find Casa Marcos.

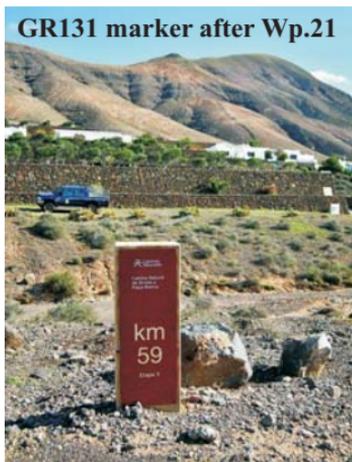
After a break (0M), we

continue from the bus stop junction up **Calle La Canceleda** to a sharp dogleg bend where a dirt track goes off to our left (Wp.15 **4M**) by a GR signpost. Here we are joined by Walk 14. Taking to the track, we pass the village's last white house, before passing the wall of a farm. We are out on our own again, following the rough stone littered track as we pass an electricity pylon (Wp.16 **12M**), our track dwindling to a width of a walking trail. We cross several watercourses, our trail broadening again, before crossing a water-eroded gully with fine sand (Wp.17 **20M**) amongst neglected terraces. The track becomes smooth and well walkable for us to enjoy the splendid panorama ahead as we walk through another eroded sandy section.

A short gentle climb is followed by a descent from where we have views of the **La Finca** white farm, our next objective, now still far in the distance. A track from the right joins us before we cross a rough gully with cracked slabs of old concrete (Wp.18 **29M**), the remains of a paved trail. Our gritty track is now more comfortable until we pass a 20-metre long sandy section and get onto more stone-littered stretch with sections of bare rock, having ruined stone walls on our left.



Crossing a watercourse, then another one (Wp.19 38M) twenty metres left of a lava wall - quite a feature in the otherwise barren land - we walk down the fine gritty track, crossing a series of gullies. We come down into a depression where we join a dirt track (Wp.20 44M) to bear right; its surface is so smooth that we can stride out as we parallel an embankment of the LZ-701 road.



old main road. From here we have a choice of following our 'Yaiza's Volcanic Gardens' route (in reverse) to Wp.24 or sticking to the **GR131**, our choice, by descending the steps to the road (refreshments in **Bar/Rest El**

Campo opposite) before walking up the road, **Calle Vista de Yaiza**. Passing a bus stop, GR mapboard and art gallery we finish our route symbolically at **Bar Stop** by the church on **Plaza de los Remedios** (Wp.24 99M). A bus stop (along with a supermarket) is 200 metres ahead along the main street.

Climbing gently, we cross the access track for the **La Finca** houses (Wp.21 57M) before coming to overlook Yaiza's western roundabout; a true road design art when viewed from above. Continuing on the dirt track as it curves around below **Montaña Cinta**, we come to the end of our Walk 12 route (Wp.22 77M), which we follow along to the wide stepped descent between two pillars (Wp.23 85M) leading down to the

