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Lanzarote Walk – Hidden Garden of Casita From Playa Quemada

Starting point	Playa Quemada – Large rough parking area in the village centre.
Distance	4.4 miles (2.2 miles each way)
Date of Walk	25 January 2018
Traffic light rating	

Introduction: This walk is not one you are likely to find in the main stream walking books. I have called it the Hidden Garden of Casita simply because it sits at the foot of the Barranco of that name. You are unlikely to resist a “Wow” when you see it!

It is an easy, short walk from Playa Quemada and is a linear “there and back” walk. If you wanted a longer day, you could combine it with my other walk from Playa Quemada to Puerto del Carmen.

The walk gives good views of the mountains inland from Puerto del Carmen before passing Playa del Pozo and arriving at this remarkable hidden garden at the foot of the Barranco de la Casitas, virtually on the beach. Quite why this garden is there or who created it seems something of a mystery but clearly it is well tended, so its origins must be known by someone. It is remarkable “oasis” of garden and art in a pretty barren landscape. Alongside the planting is something of a grotto under the overhang of the cliff, where people leave “stuff” ranging from toys to ornaments and there were a couple of visitors books.

It seems to be common practice to write names/messages on pebbles and indeed a felt tip pen was provided, if somewhat worn flat, so if you want to do this I suggest you take your own.

It is a testament to all visitors that the garden and grotto are respected, so please continue the tradition.

The beach at the Barranco de la Casita is a quiet spot and you are not likely to see many (any) people. Unusually, there is some shade to be had, from the cliffs.

You barely need a route description – just follow the coast – but there several paths and I have described the most straightforward which minimises the ups and downs.

The walk starts from Playa Quemada although there is a trail down the Barranco de la Casita via Femes if you wanted a more substantial walk.

As you walk along the cliffs, out to sea is the clearly visible fish farm which, produces some 2000 tonnes of seabass (dorada) and seabream (lubina) each year.

To get to Playa Quemada, turn south off the LZ 2 (signposted). The walk starts from the large earth parking area on the right just as you turn into the village (where the dustbins are).

Start: From the parking, facing the sea, turn right along the tarmac road. When it bends right, stay parallel with the coast until you can branch off right up a rough path, to what is almost a separate part of the village. At another tarmac road (Calle Playa de la Arena), turn left along it.

At its end, turn left by a notice board to climb the dusty path.

Arrive at a sign proclaiming the Monumento Natural Los Ajaches. Follow the path to the right of this.

The path descends gently to the head of a little valley. Follow it up the other side. It soon forks. Take the right fork which avoids a steeper descent to the beach. (Playa de la Arena) and subsequent climb up.

Pass and ignore a path on the left which is the climb from the beach.

Pass a trail coming in from the right marked by a flat steel post.

You reach the wide Barranco de la Higuera, which has a broad track running along the bottom. At the other side of the barranco, you should see a broad climbing path, to the right of a derelict building, which is your onward route. However you might like to venture left along the valley bottom track first, to see the Playa del Pozo (Well's Beach), a black beach where there is another ruined building, a shelter with seat (though without any roof when I visited) and an old well.

Return to the junction and climb the broad path to the right of the derelict building. Just beyond the building is a junction marked with a fingerpost turn left here. It is worth mentioning that the direction of some of the fingers looked questionable!

Quickly arrive at another fingerpost and again keep left.

The next barranco is your target, the Barranco de la Casita. The path zig-zags down the side. I recommend you follow the zig-zags rather than trying a more direct approach. The path turns inland for a hundred yards or so before arriving at the valley bottom. Turn left along the track at the bottom to the beach and the garden

The return to Playa Quemada is a case of retracing your steps.

