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GALERIAS DEL AGUA (WATER ADITS) IN CANARY ISLANDS

*exploitation of groundwaters, water adits, water mines,
Canary Islands, Lanzarote, Famara*

In the area of the Canary Islands, there are several thousands of underground objects created by mining activity. There are the adits hollowed since the mid-nineteenth century to the last years of the twentieth century in order to obtain groundwater. Their concentration and location are the consequence of a unique hydrogeological situation, resulting from the specific structure of the rock mass on the islands.

The Communication outlines the geological structure of the archipelago, with a particular emphasis on Lanzarote, as well as information on the history and nature of mining works carried out there. Synthetic study of literature is supplemented by the results of reconnaissance conducted on the island of Lanzarote in two water adits located near the Famara settlement and in the valley Barranco del Chafariz.

Water adits in the Canary Islands are not widely known. They can, however, be of interest to geotourists as they constitute an interesting example of intense mining activity.