

Canary Islands **Spain**

# Tenerife



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Canary Islands

Tenerife

Atlantic Ocean

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# TENERIFE



- Freeway
- Highway
- 2nd order regional road
- Local road
- National Park
- Parador
- Shrine/Monastery
- Castle
- Monumento
- Historic ruins
- Panoramic view
- Golf course
- Camp site
- Marina
- Lighthouse
- Airport



## Where winter never comes

The Canaries are a group of seven islands situated in the Atlantic ocean, above the tropic of Cancer, 1,500 kilometres south of the Spanish mainland. From ancient times these islands have been associated with the myth of the garden of the Hesperides and of the Elysian

year (within a few hours flight and without even leaving the European Union).

The magnificent climate of the Canary Islands with no winter and where, even in summer the heat is not sweltering, is due to various factors which together have given rise to the rich nature of the islands, full of native flora and fauna. The position of these islands, under the influence of the



*Puerto de La Cruz*

fields due to the enviable climate which they enjoy all the year round. The fame these islands have had since Greek times has turned them into an attractive tourist spot, above all for European visitors who can find beautiful beaches, exotic volcanic subtropical landscapes and a spring climate throughout the

subtropical anticyclone and the current of El Golfo (which at these latitudes flows from north to south) as well as the altitude of its mountains has contributed to this peculiar climate which is hard to find anywhere else in the world and which is characterized by its uniformity throughout the

year with an average annual temperature of 22° on the coast and without great seasonal variations.

Situated in the very centre of this group, the island of Tenerife shares this mild climate with the other six islands and also has peculiar landscapes which have turned it over the centuries into a place haunted by both scientists and artists.

The impressive size of the Teide volcano 3,718 meters high, its lush vegetation and the uniqueness of its volcanic landscape make Tenerife a special attraction in the world. It is said that the famous German naturalist Alexander von Humboldt on his return journey from the new world knelt down and wept before the beauty of the Orotava valley, a green, flowered carpet stretching from the north coast of Tenerife up to the foot of the Teide.

In fact the whole island is a natural monument, starting obviously with Teide National Park where at the highest point of the Spanish land the volcano presides over the strange volcanic landscape of las Cañadas. But Tenerife is not just the Teide: the bountiful agricultural north,

the sharp outline of its green carpeted ravines in Anaga and the desert-like aridity of Teno, the dense forests of native species and the beauty of its coasts are in themselves a good enough reason to pay the island a visit.

The choice of accommodation in Tenerife is varied and of good quality. The 120,000 tourist places are found among hotels and apartments, the majority of which are in the coastal areas of Puerto de La Cruz and Playa de Las Americas beach, where there is a whole infrastructure of facilities to meet all the visitors' needs: restaurants, shops, shows, night clubs, sports centres, golf courses, marinas, entertainment for children, nature and cultural outings and endless other alternatives.

#### TABLE OF AVERAGE TEMPERATURES

**SPRING** (May)  
20,5 °C

**SUMMER** (August)  
25,0 °C

**AUTUMN** (November)  
21,5 °C

**WINTER** (February)  
18,2 °C

## North and South: two ways to enjoy the sea

Relaxing on the island of Tenerife not only has the irrefutable attraction of a pleasant climate and the opportunity to swim in the sea throughout the year but it also offers the chance to choose between two ways of enjoying the sea.

Puerto de la Cruz in the north, the oldest of the tourist estates of the Canary islands, has been for a century a relaxing place by the sea for those who look for a pleasant climate in an exceptionally beautiful natural environment. Here the Valle de La Orotava is, along with the sea, the essential feature. In this town built up around a quiet port, one can enjoy the nearby attractions of the island in a climate which, without being as sunny as that of the south keeps a pleasant temperature all year round.

At present most of the tourist accommodation is found mainly between the centre of Playa de las Americas – los Cristianos and other coastal resorts of smaller size among which los Gigantes stands out for its wonderful position at the foot of the cliffs of the same name.

Playa de las Americas, the major tourist town of the south has a variety of accommodation and first rate facilities. Here there are all sorts of entertainment specially those associated with the



*Garachico*

sea; windsurfing and sea sports. From las Americas it is equally possible to go on organized excursions, or by oneself to the most beautiful areas on the island.

## The Northern Landscape

Since the last century the North of Tenerife has been a place of relaxation chosen by travellers from many countries. The Valle de la Orotava where Puerto de la Cruz lies, has always been revered as an ideal holiday resort for it combines an

excellent climate with an extraordinary landscape. With admiration like that felt by Humboldt, who called this valley the most beautiful on earth, many artists have chosen the north of Tenerife to retire to and contemplate. The picture of the snow-capped Teide above a green carpet of banana trees and blue sea is without doubt a unique landscape in the world.







At the end of the last century the first large luxury hotel was built so originating what is today the most distinguished tourist town in the islands. Many places of great beauty and well worth a visit surround it: the villages of Icod, la Orotava, Garachico, the Botanical Gardens and the Loro Park.

### **Puerto de La Cruz**

Puerto de la Cruz is the second largest tourist city on the island with accommodation for around 30,000 tourists. In contrast with the modern resorts of the south, El Puerto has had a great tradition as a place of relaxation since the end of the last century when the spa, which today is the Hotel Casino Tauro, was built. The accommodation offered in Puerto de la Cruz is also different from most of the other places in the islands since hotels predominate over apartments.

*Puerto de La Cruz*

The lushness of the gardens and the agreeable atmosphere are very special features of this city, which has lively places to stroll around. In the evening the streets near the Plaza del Charco and the promenade are pleasant places of enjoyment where one can eat at any of the many open air restaurants, all this in a pleasant climate and with the ever present sea.

The city houses a number of buildings of great historical and artistic value such as the church of Nuestra Señora de la Peña, la Ermita de San Telmo, el castillo de San Felipe, la casa de la Aduana and the old quay where small fishing boats are still moored.

One of the greatest attractions of el Puerto is without doubt the Lago Martiánez. This series of seawater pools conceived by the Canary artist Cesar Manrique forms an extraordinary spot for bathing and resting in the sun. Harmonizing his architecture with the exotic vegetation of the volcanic coast Cesar Manrique created his most beautiful project.

Besides the Lago, Puerto de la Cruz has small beaches of volcanic sand, the best ones being Playa Jardin and Martianez. On the outskirts of the city the botanical gardens and the Loro Park are a must for the nature lover. The botanical gardens founded in 1788 harbour an enormous number of trees and plants from every corner of the planet thanks to the benign climate of Tenerife. Loro Park is another tropical garden with the largest collection of parrots in the world, a parrot show and an excellent dolphinarium.

### **Playa de Las Teresitas**

This beach is situated 8 kilometres northeast of the capital Santa Cruz de Tenerife next to the little village of San Andres. The sand brought from the Sahara and its well kept surroundings make it one of the most attractive beaches on the island. The nearby Santa Cruz has a variety of hotels and features ideal for walks with extensive gardens and all the facilities of a town of 200,000 inhabitants.





## The Southern Climate

The sun and scarcity of rainfall, which for centuries were the enemies of the island population, have today converted the south of Tenerife into one of the islands most well developed tourist areas. The unsurpassable climatic conditions of the south isolated from the clouds and northern winds have contributed to the growth, especially after the construction of a second airport nearby, of a number of tourist resorts. Along the south and west coasts and with the ever present exotic neighbouring island of la Gomera, the holiday centres Costa del Silencio, los Cristianos, Playa de las Americas and los Gigantes have developed along with other smaller estates. In all these places one can swim in the sea, sunbathe and do all kinds of water sports. This is an area which is particularly suitable for sailing because of its fine climate. The chance of excursions and entertainment from the south encourages

*Teresitas Beach*



*Playa de Las Americas*

enjoyment of both sun and sea as well as all the countryside of Tenerife which is easily accessible by road in one day.

The climb to the Cañadas through Vilaflor, a visit to the cliffs of los Gigantes and the little village of Masca and a hydrofoil or ferry excursion to the neighbouring island of la Gomera from los Cristianos port are particularly recommendable.

### **Playa de las Americas**

Playa de las Americas is the main tourist town of the island. It stretches along the coast which is sprinkled with small beaches which lie alongside an attractive promenade.

One can find everything in its streets: shops, bars, restaurants etc. There is always a lively atmosphere at night with scores of pubs, discotheques, shows and a casino to go to. Playa de las Americas also has a sports port, Puerto Colon for lovers of water sports as well as a wide choice of entertainment, among which is the outstanding aquatic Octopus fun park.

### **Los Cristianos**

Although nowadays los Cristianos and the Playa de las Americas are together, the former keeps its own personality having been built around an old maritime villa. In its bay there is a nice beach and bustling harbour with ample

sailing facilities. Everyday boats depart from the port of los Cristianos to the island of Gomera and el Hierro. There are also a variety of inexpensive pleasure trips from the quayside. Some come close to watch the colony of Calderon whales that live in the straits between Tenerife and la Gomera.

### **Los Gigantes**

This resort lies at the foot of the imposing cliffs of los Gigantes at an average height of 500 metres and 30 km northwest of the playa de las Americas. This spot which is not as crowded as las Americas or los Cristianos, has first class

hotels associated with a sports port, excellent views of the sea and cliffs and a very nice beach of volcanic sand.

A short distance away there is another tourist spot, Puerto Santiago with its wonderful beach la Arena and a varied choice of restaurants.

### **Costa del Silencio**

Separated from the Cristianos towards the south west by the nature park Malpais de La Rasca, Costa del Silencio is another tourist area with several beaches of volcanic sand

*Cristianos Harbour*



grown up around the Belgium complex Ten-Bel and the fishing village las Galletas.

On the quay of las Galletas a small submarine submerges everyday to discover the secrets of the bottom of the sea.

## **El Médano**

This beach, one of the best and largest in the island is an ideal place for windsurfing. As it is orientated to the southwest it is exposed to the gusts of trade winds which makes it an excellent spot where a number of championships have been held in different sailing classes. El Medano is



*Puerto Santiago*

undoubtedly one of the most remarkable places in the world for windsurfing. The hotel facilities developed to accommodate the sportsmen who do it are evidence of this.

*Gigantes Beach*



## *Leisure and Sports*

### **Sea trips**

From Tenerife one can go on excursions by sea, either in boats visiting other islands on organized cruises or by renting sailing crafts. The southwest of Tenerife is ideal for these purposes, as its coast overlooks a quiet strait 27 kilometres wide separating the island from La Gomera. This stretch of sea not only provides for easy and sunny sailing but also gives beautiful views of the mountains of both islands.

### **Trips to la Gomera**

There is a ferry (☎ 922 79 05 56) and a hydrofoil (☎ 922 79 61 78) which makes several trips daily from Los Cristianos harbour.

### **Submarine**

In Los Galletas harbour there is a submarine which makes short immersions every hour. (☎ 922 71 50 80)

### **Craft rentals**

In any of the marinas, crafts are rented with or without crew.

### **Sports:**

#### **Marinas:**

Tenerife Royal Sailing Club

Santa Cruz de Tenerife

☎ 922 27 37 00

Colon Marina

Las Americas Beach (Adeje)

☎ 922 71 42 11

Los Gigantes Marina

Los Gigantes (Santiago del Teide)

☎ 922 86 06 01

Los Cristianos Fishing Port

Los Cristianos (Arona)

☎ 922 79 11 63

### **Golf clubs**

Amarilla Golf Club

San Miguel de Abona

☎ 922 73 03 19

Golf del Sur

San Miguel de Abona

☎ 922 73 81 70

Golf Tenerife El Peñón

Tacoronte

☎ 922 63 01 15

### **Windsurfing**

Tenerife Insular Maritime Sports

Centre. Ctra. Santa Cruz - San

Andrés ☎ 922 24 09 45

Sunwind El Médano ☎ 922 17 62 40

### **Leisure spots:**

#### **El Portillo visitors centre:**

Teide National Park. Excursions

from Monday to Friday at 9:00 and 13.30.

☎ 922 29 01 29

**Teide Cable Car:** from 9:00 to

17:00. ☎ 922 53 37 20

**Botanical Gardens :** Puerto de

La Cruz, from 9:00 to 17:00

☎ 922 38 35 72

**Loro Park:** Puerto de La Cruz,

from 8.30 to 17:00.

☎ 922 37 38 41

**Taoro Casino:**

Puerto de La Cruz. ☎ 922 38 05 50

**Octopus Aqua Fun Park:** Playa

de Las Américas. ☎ 922 71 52 66

**Playa de Las Americas Casino:**

☎ 922 79 37 12



## ■ The domains of the Teide

The Teide volcano is the most characteristic feature of the landscape. This great mountain which today dominates the whole island and from the summit of which all the islands can be seen, arose about 600,000

covered the eroded surface of the island until it turned into the enormous mountain which it is today.

Of that island which arose out of the ocean 7 million years ago and which due to its antiquity should seem more like Gran Canaria or La Gomera - comparatively more eroded- only the



years ago after violent eruptions which covered almost the whole island of Tenerife. The landscape which is seen today is quite different from that which existed before the formation of the Teide because lava

highlands of Teno and Anaga remain in the northwest and northeast of the island respectively. These two regions together with others of lesser importance give an idea of what Tenerife was like and the magnitude of

the volcanic process. The mixed nature of Tenerife, a product of its particular geological history, give the island an exceptional landscape. The incredible heights and unique volcanic formation of all the centre of the island enhance the sharp relief of Teno and Anaga

*The Teide seen from Roques de García*



which, due to their different positions are also of two quite different landscapes: one desert-like, the other wooded. One should consider both the geological and climatic diversity.

*Volcanic Strata*

## ***How the Teide was formed***

The Teide volcanic cone is about 600,000 years old. Its origin may be found in a cycle of eruptions that covered two thirds of the island causing a volcanic formation which reached a height of 5,000 metres. Later this formation caved in on itself forming what is today the volcanic depression of Las Cañadas crater

A crack in the north border of the crater gave way to continuous emissions of lava. Like the rest of the great volcanoes of the world (Fujiyama, Etna) the Teide is a strata volcano formed by layers of lava and pyroclasts which accumulate progressively. Although the last eruption occurred in 1798, today features of its activity can still be seen in the sulphurous emissions and in the high temperatures at the peak.



The oceanic humidity is prevented from passing to the south of the island by the high mountains of Tenerife so that it remains without rainfall. Both north and south are conditioned in this way by their climate with two different types of vegetation, one leafy in the north with tropical growths, flowers and woodland and the other arid with native plants of great variety.

Proceeding from the coast to the impressive heights of the Teide climbing above the clouds contemplating the grandeur of Los Gigantes cliffs, exploring the dense Anaga woods of laurisilva, strolling through the pine woods in the centre or just contemplating the beauty of the Orotava valley are singular experiences which need no more effort than to travel a little way.



*Teide National Park. Ucanca Plain*

Visiting Tenerife and travelling over its 2,057 square kilometres is to delight in one of the worlds most unique landscapes where one of the most beautiful volcanoes on earth complements exotic vegetation and stunning views.

## Las Cañadas

The Teide National Park was created in 1954. It has a surface area of 135 square kilometres which includes the great volcanic crater 2,000 meters high where the volcanic cones of Pico Viejo

and the Teide are located at 1,105 and 1,718 meters above it respectively. All is of great geological, botanical and landscape value.

The circus las Cañadas a gigantic sunken crater 12 by 17 kilometres conceals within it various volcanic formations :dozens of deposits of lava of different ages, textures and colour, unlikely stone sculptures, such as Roques de

Dominating all this from its impressive height of 3,718 meters above sea level is the Teide volcano. A cable car operates to the peak every day from 9 to 17. unless it is windy. The view from above is awe inspiring and on a clear day one can see all the Canary islands.

Las Cañadas nature park can be approached from anywhere on the island,



Garcia and mysterious plains such as Ucanca. Alongside these grows a very peculiar native vegetation in which tajinaste, margarita de Tenerife and the beautiful violets of Teide, the only plant surviving above 3,500 meters stand out. The Teide blue tit is the most conspicuous of the endemic animals in the park for its outstanding beauty.

*Hermitage Las Cañadas del Teide*

although perhaps the most exhilarating climb is La Esperanza from the town of la Laguna. At the entrance to the park there is a visitors centre (El Portillo) from which excursions are organized every day at 9 and at 1.30.

## *La laurisilva*

The laurisilva wood that covers the Anaga highland and other parts of the north of Tenerife is considered by scientists to be a genuine living fossil. This forest which 20 million years ago covered all the south of Europe during the Miocene and Pliocene periods disappeared with the glaciers of the quaternary era. However in the Canary Islands due to the latitude and the oceanic winds this vegetation has been preserved and remains as the last example of this flora which has not evolved for millions of years.

The growth of this forest is limited by its dependence upon very specific conditions of humidity and temperature to a belt between 500 and 1,400 meters in steep regions of the north. The laurisilva consists of 20 species of trees all native to the islands which form an intricate coat of vegetation.

In Anaga there are various signposted paths which run beneath the tree tops like the one from la Casa Forestal (kilometer 4 of the



La Laguna –Taganana mainroad ) which runs down to the village of Taganana. This road has a signpost marked “Vueltas de Taganana ” and yellow signs as a tourist route. The time taken to travel in one direction is approximately an hour and a half.

## Anaga

Anaga is the mainland in the northwest of the island whose surface was not covered by lava in the eruptions at the time when the Teide was formed. Its relief is that of a very eroded mountainous highland with many deep and narrow valleys that run down to the sea. Visitors find a very different landscape from that of the rest of Tenerife. There the uneven surface is covered by an almost impenetrable cloak of vegetation which is one of the last remnants of the laurisilva forests.

The Monte de las Mercedes, the name given to the crests of the highland, is often shrouded in mist as the highest points of the Anaga mainland are just at the same level as the oceanic clouds. Travelling through las Mercedes is to immerse oneself in a subtropical forest whose flora and fauna have existed nowhere else in the world since the tertiary era. Its fragile ecosystem is preserved by the "horizontal rainfall" phenomenon which means that the ground always remains moist thanks

to the condensation of the droplets on the boughs of the trees.

Leaving la Laguna the road climbs up to the Monte de las Mercedes which a few kilometres later penetrates the thick forest. The way continues along the back ledge among dense vegetation as far as the Pico del Ingles, the highest point of Anaga at 1,024 meters from where one can contemplate an excellent view if the mist allows it.

There are other roads that go over this highland many of which end in quaint "caserios" perched on the



*Landscape – La Laguna*

## *Walk over the Teno ridges*

This walk covers the highlands of Teno until it reaches the sea at a natural beauty spot. The highland of Teno is an area of great natural wealth which harbours many native plant species.

The starting point should be at Teno Alto, accessible by road from El Palmar which is halfway between Masca and Buenavista. From there the road should be followed on foot for a hundred meters as far as the end of the tarmac. Then straight on for a little more than a kilometre to Jabuche where you turn right at the sign post to "La Cueva". On reaching this point take the left turn towards "La Manta" where you must turn to the right. The path goes straight on for another two kilometres crossing the "Finca de los Lindes", until it reaches another beauty spot looking out over the Punta de Teno with its splendid scenery.

The return journey to Teno Alto is made the same way, the whole route being covered in about three hours.

mountain which until recently were isolated such as Afur, Chamorga or las Bodegas. Without doubt the most interesting of these is the village of Taganana hidden in a very delightful valley which conserves pretty examples of traditional architecture.

## Teno

The Teno mainland situated in the northwest of the island constitutes together with Anaga the main example of what Tenerife was before the Teide. Its steep and rocky surface is scoured by deep ravines whose walls rise from sea level to 1,348 meters in Pico de la Gala. Perched on these cliffs, like the one of Masca are some "caseros" which feature in one of the most beautiful postcards of Tenerife. This group of white houses with flowers was virtually isolated until not so long ago so it has kept the beauty of simple traditional architecture and the enchanting atmosphere of a long forgotten place. Approaching from Santiago del Teide the view of Masca is really breathtaking descending the winding road down a steep slope and ending facing the village



which is suspended from a ridge between two very deep ravines.

*Cliffs – Los Gigantes*

The mountains of Teno end abruptly in the sea on some impressive cliffs called “de Los Gigantes” because of their size. At a height of 600 meters these rocks are a must to be seen from the harbour or preferably from a boat on one of the sea trips.

Another attractive spot is Punta del Teno at the western end of the island where a light house is embedded in a deserted landscape of black volcanic rocks onto which the waves break.

## The North

The north of Tenerife is understood to be the area between the central ridge on which the Teide stands and the west coast of the island. The islander usually considers it to be an area with conditions favourable to farming. In fact its fertility is the result of its volcanic history as its location coincides with the emissions of lava which accompanied the formation of the Teide and which covered all the north of the island except the highlands of Teno and Anaga. This area was transformed into a great



slope which rises sharply from the sea over 10 kilometres up to 2,000 metres.

The north is the most densely populated area as for centuries its land has been used for agricultural purposes. Today it is still of considerable importance, dedicated mainly to the growth of bananas and

most accessible pinewoods are found in the upper Orotava (mainroad C-821) and in la Esperanza, on the road going from la Laguna to las Cañadas (C-824).

The valley of la Orotava is without doubt the most typical scenery of north Tenerife. The beauty of



so the larger part of the low regions of the north are mantled in the deep green of the banana trees.

The type of cultivation has always been determined by the altitude, the crops ending brusquely at 600 meters to give way to mountain green and higher up to pine woods. The lush vegetation of this area makes it ideal for hiking as many roads pass through the woods. The lushest and

*Orotava Valley*

Tenerife is partly responsible for its renown as a paradise island. The admiration for this valley felt by travellers in past centuries and the well known story of Humboldt who supposedly wept when contemplating its beauty have turned it, together with the Teide, into a symbol of the island. In fact the valley of La Orotava is not a river valley with a characteristic "V"

## *El drago*

Among the predominating trees of the Canary Islands, the drago (*dracaena draco*) stands out for its rarity and longevity. Its name alludes to its strange monstrous shape and appearance causing it to be likened to a dragon. The legendary aspect of this tree goes back to before the Castilian conquest. Since the old days the drago has been known in Europe, its sap being valued for wax making, paint and medical ointments. It is said that its weight was paid in gold for its healing properties for haemorrhoids, ulcers and dysentery. The drago is a very slow growing tree which can live a few thousand years. It is scarcely found on the islands

only growing in the wild in hard to reach places. As it needs specific environmental conditions few specimens can survive many years. However in the right conditions dragos turn into millenary trees of exceptional shape and size.

In Tenerife the old dragos of Seminario de La Laguna, los Realejos and above all the Icod de los Vinos, which is thought to be 2,000 years old, are famous. The drago of Icod is the last great drago after the death of the drago of la Orotava in 1867 whose trunk had a perimeter of 15 meters and which Humboldt calculated as 10,000 years old.

*Milenary Drago – Icod de los Vinos*





## ***Excursion to Barranco del Infierno***

*Hotel Establishment – Adeje*

Barranco del Infierno in the locality of Adeje is perhaps the most impressive ravine in Tenerife. Its narrow course passes between vertical walls which become covered by abundant and exotic vegetation as it climbs, ending in a breathtaking triple waterfall carved out of the rock bed.

There is a path which runs through the ravine from the village of Adeje up to the waterfall from where it is impossible to go further. It takes about three hours there and back and nature lovers are well advised to take this route.

The path starts to the right of a restaurant which is found shortly after the Casa Fuerte de Adeje, a sixteenth century manor house standing about 300 metres from the village. From there one goes on foot along a paved path which leads to a place called “Cuevas del Marques” where it descends to the bottom of the ravine. Continuing until a signpost indicates “Cueva del Agua” one finally reaches the waterfall some metres further on.

There is also the chance of taking a guided tour through the ravine. Information is available from the Adeje council (☎ 922 71 01 20).

shape but rather a depression of over a 100 square kilometres whose geological origin (volcanothectonic...) is still open to discussion.

## The South

As with the north, the south by name does not necessarily correspond to its orientation. It occupies the parts of the island whose coasts are orientated to the south east and south west. The height of the central mountains prevents the transfer of humidity to either area so maintaining a dry and splendidly sunny climate which has given rise to a very different landscape from that of the north.

The scarcity of rainfall favours the existence of a semi-desert environment where the generous northern vegetation gives way to another type, xerofitic, ie adapted to dry areas, which forms groups of very rare fleshy plants such as the tabaibel- cardonal.

The dryness of the south which makes it unsuitable for traditional farming as well as its uneven relief which is more subject to erosion due to a lack of plant cover have made this area an area of low

density population, until the recent arrival of tourism.

This has permitted the conservation of large virgin areas which keep all their natural wealth. The Wildlife Park Macizo de Adeje and Barranco del Infierno are also near this area of great scenic and botanical worth.



*Playa de Las Américas*

On the highest grounds very beautiful landscapes are seen on the southern side near Vilaflor. This little village situated at an altitude of 1,500 metres houses nearby one of the oddest places on the island, the so called "Paisaje Lunar": a group of rocks eroded into peculiar shapes. When continuing towards Las Cañadas, one finds a pinegrove very different from those of the north, since the trees grow on the lava itself, giving rise to an unusual landscape of contrasting black and green.

## ■ Villages, towns and cities

### La Orotava

Lying in the fertile valley of the same name, the streets and buildings are monuments to its past cultural splendour. The old part of the town replete with the manors of traditional Canary architecture has been declared a Monument of Historical and Artistic interest.

A walk through the villa is a must when visiting Tenerife especially if it is made during the celebration of Octava del Corpus at the beginning of June when its streets are covered with flowers. What is of special note in this, the most important festival in the locality is the tapestry

displayed in the town square woven in many colours and shades of volcanic earth from the Teide.

The most important monuments of La Orotava are the churches of La Concepcion and San Juan both dating from the eighteenth century and the fine Casas de Lercaro, Monteverde and los Balcones.

### Icod de los Vinos

This pretty spot lies 22 km west of Puerto de la Cruz in the north of the island. Its delightful old part has a special charm as it combines like no other the traditional architecture of the colonial past with lush tropical

*La Orotava*





vegetation. Its steep paved side streets around the Plaza de la Pila house important historical buildings such as the sixteenth century church with its beautiful baroque interior. Also worth visiting are the churches of San Agustin and las Angustias and the San Francisco convent.

Icod is famous for having been the centre of production of malvasia wine which in past centuries was considered the best in the world and even praised by Shakespeare himself. After many centuries of oblivion the wine is at present recovering its ancient reputation and bears a prestigious mark of origin.

*Garachico*

In Icod there is also one of the greatest attractions of the island, the thousand year old drago tree whose strange and enormous presence in front of the Teide is shown on one of the most well known picture postcards of Tenerife.

### **Garachico**

This town, founded in 1499, which had been at one time the most important part of the island was buried in 1706 by a volcanic eruption which ended its days of splendour. At present Garachico is a town full of colour and contrasts with paved streets and buildings of great historical value. It stands in a peculiar semi-circular shape

## *Eating out in Tenerife: "los guachinches"*

Of all Tenerife attractions, its traditional cooking is one which is still little known to the visitor. There are so many good restaurants with international cuisine in the tourist areas that simple island cooking based on fresh local produce (excellent fish, meat, vegetables and fruit) becomes difficult to find.

For the first course mixed vegetable stews and fish casseroles, both accompanied, if one wishes, by the traditional toasted Canary flour: (El Gofio) and chickpea dishes are the most typical.

The most appreciated fish is, an island species, "la vieja", which has fine white meat like the sama and the cherne. The sardine and the chicharro are among the most popular fresh water fish. The king of the

meat is undoubtedly pork, one of the most requested. dishes being pickled pork, here called "festival meat" and also "conejo en salmorejo" served mainly in the countryside.

The "papas arrugadas" with green or red garlic sauce stand out above the rest as a side dish. The small and buttery potatoes that the island produces, have an extraordinary flavour and by themselves are a delicious dish.

The young wines of the north of the island of Tacoronte-Acentejo origin are an excellent accompaniment to Tenerife cuisine.

A good way of tasting the traditional dishes with a glass of the local wine is to follow the island custom and visit the "Guachinches". These are typical establishments to which the people of Tenerife flock like pilgrims at the weekend. Most of the Guachinches are found along the roads in the regions of Geneto, la Esperanza, Tacoronte and Acentejo on the outskirts of la Laguna.



*Wine cellars*

on the tip of a tongue of lava. A few dozen metres out to sea there is a small rocky volcanic isle which a past violent volcanic eruption left in its wake.

Among the most important monuments of Garachico are the castle of San Miguel built by the sea to repel piracy in the sixteenth century, the church of Santa Ana, the convents of San Francisco and Santo Domingo and the palace of Conde de la Gomera.

## La Laguna

San Cristobal de la Laguna is the historical town par excellence of the Canary islands. It was founded in 1497 on the shores of a lake which finally dried up during the last century. For centuries it was the most important town of Tenerife being an administrative, political and military centre. La Laguna was also the cultural centre of the Canary islands as the first educational institutions were set up there which would later become the University of San Fernando, at one time the only one on the islands.

The city began to lose its leadership when the port of Garachico was destroyed by the volcano so causing the fast development of Santa Cruz



*Church Of San Francis – La Laguna*

which would finally take away its status as the capital at the beginning of the nineteenth century. However la Laguna kept both its status as a religious capital being the seat of the bishopric as well as its cultural dominance as the university town.

The detailed town layout, bearing witness to its famous past, houses an endless number of buildings of great beauty and grandeur. Many mansions of the 17th and 18th centuries with their fine facades stand along the historic streets of San Agustin de la Carrera (bishop Rey Redondo), Herradores and Nava Grimon. Of these the



Casa de Lercaro (History Museum) the Casa del Corregidor (Town Hall) or the palaces of Salazar and the Nava are of considerable interest. As the city has been of such importance as a religious centre there are a lot of church buildings of great artistic value such as the Cathedral, the church of la Concepcion, the church of Cristo de la Laguna, the hermitage of San Miguel or the convent of Santa Catalina.

*Plaza de España – Santa Cruz de Tenerife*

## **Santa Cruz de Tenerife**

The capital of Tenerife is the second most populated city of the Canary Islands with more than 200,000 inhabitants. Its present importance comes from the development of its port and its commercial calling which made it progressively absorb the civic centres of la Laguna until it reached the status of capital at the beginning of the last century.

Its greatest development was originated by the decree of free ports in 1852 when the consequent intense commercial



## *Carnival*

According to many people the carnivals are one of the most well known features of Tenerife and the best after those of Rio de Janeiro. All the islanders gather together at these annual festivities in a mass outburst of collective gaiety.

The main celebrations take place in Santa Cruz de Tenerife in the areas near the port where people dance to the sound of the best Salsa groups. Few are the inhabitants of Tenerife who do not prepare their fancy dress to show off during these happy days.



During the twenty seven days of the carnivals many important festivities are held such as the election of the Queen, competitions of street bands, processions and above all the impressive cavalcade which blends "Caribbean" and "European" into a garland of colour and spectacle.

Whoever visits Tenerife during the month of February should not miss the vibrant and bustling celebrations and if possible join the crowd in fancy dress.

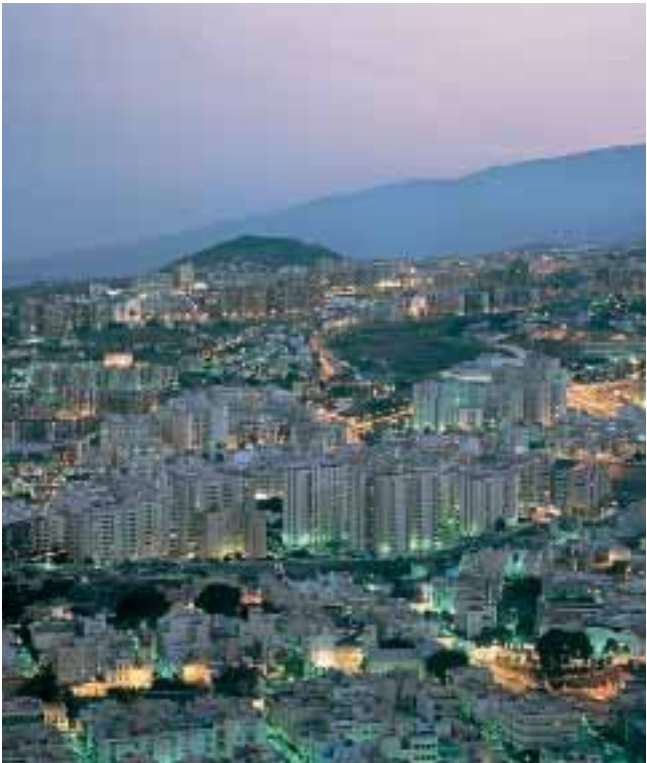
traffic contributed to the progress of a middle class intent on making the city grow. Today Santa Cruz de Tenerife is a city with large landscaped areas which preserves the charm of the modernist architecture. Its tree-lined avenues, parks and squares are ideal for strolling because the green of Santa Cruz complements its peacefulness and the sunny climate which it enjoys all year. For a few years the city has also

*Night scene of Santa Cruz de Tenerife*



*Santa Cruz de Tenerife. Casino*

had a maritime park designed by Cesar Manrique, where the old trade docks are used for recreation.



PLAYA DE LAS TERESITAS 8 km



LA OROTAVA 23 km

LA OROTAVA 23 km

LA OROTAVA 23 km

-  Tourist Information
-  Post Office
-  Guaguas Station

### Places of Interest

- 1 Cabildo Building
- 2 Archaeological Museum
- 3 La Concepcion Church
- 4 Guimera Theatre
- 5 San Francisco Church
- 6 Municipal Museum of Fine Arts
- 7 Site of Parliament of the Canary islands
- 8 Pilar Church
- 9 Town Hall

## Map of Santa Cruz de Tenerife



*Santa Cruz de Tenerife  
Island Council House of Tenerife  
Our Lady of Africa – Market*

The most frequented place in Santa Cruz is La Plaza de España by the sea, where the building Cabildo de Tenerife stands. Castillo, the commercial street par excellence, of the city starts from Plaza de la Candelaria which is at the side. Behind it is the sixteenth century church







*Conception Church – Santa Cruz de Tenerife*



*Street Café – Santa Cruz de Tenerife*

eighteenth century church of the same name stands, starts from this square. This street leads to what is possibly the finest place in Santa Cruz, the park of Garcia Sanabria where lush trees from all over the world stand out from dense exotic vegetation.

of “La Concepcion”. Higher up stands the charming Plaza del Principe, next to which is the eighteenth century San Francisco church and the convent which houses the Municipal Museum of Fine Arts. Pilar street, where the

## **Culture and Entertainment**

### **Main Festivals:**

**Carnivals** (February) most important celebrations in all the districts of Tenerife particularly in the capital Santa Cruz.

**Corpus Christi** (June) Carpets of flowers and volcanic earth in la Orotava and la Laguna.

**Nuestra Señora de La Candelaria** (14/15 of August) Festival of patron saint of the island in Candelaria.



**San Andres** (29/30 of November) New wine tasting festival in Icod, la Orotava and Puerto de la Cruz.

### **Cultural Events:**

**Music Festival of the Canary Islands** (June) One of the most prestigious European classical music festivals with the best performers and orchestras taking part.

**Opera Season** (October, November and December) Organised by the Tenerife association of Friends of the Opera. ☎ **922 27 25 35**

**Sabandeño Festival** (September) Folklore Music Festival with Canary and Foreign groups in la Laguna during the festivities of Christ.

*Typical Costume*



## Itinéraires

### Las Cañadas via La Esperanza. Return via La Orotava

This route goes along the dorsal range of Tenerife climbing slowly from la Laguna up 2,000 metres of las Cañadas in 43 kilometres. This is the most advisable way



Conception Church – La Laguna

to go to the National Park as it gives an opportunity to get continuous views of the Teide above the sea of clouds.

Leaving el Puerto de la Cruz by the motorway to Santa Cruz de Tenerife one must take the C-824 at la Laguna, just after los Rodeos airport in the direction of la Esperanza and las Cañadas. From this point on, the road starts to rise slowly through green countryside which then changes to a pine-wood for almost all the way. The tree tops of the Canary pines have a lot of foliage in la Esperanza where it is possible to take strolls along tracks and paths.





Going on towards las Cañadas, impressive views are seen on both sides of the road. The best scenery of Valle de la Orotava and the Teide can be enjoyed here. The sights of

*Las Cañadas del Teide*

Pico de las Flores and the Ortuño are well known.

As we go above 2,000 metres the pine trees disappear and the landscape becomes volcanic with colours of ochre, yellow, black and green.

Eventually one enters the National Park making a stop at the visitors centre el Portillo. After visiting las Cañadas and climbing the Teide by cable car if one wishes one returns towards the park entrance where one takes the road which turns left towards la Orotava (C-821). Going in this direction for 32 kilometres one approaches Puerto de la Cruz again among many pine trees, with many spots to stroll through or have a picnic in.



*House of Balconies – La Orotava*

## Las Cañadas via Vilaflor. Return via Los Gigantes

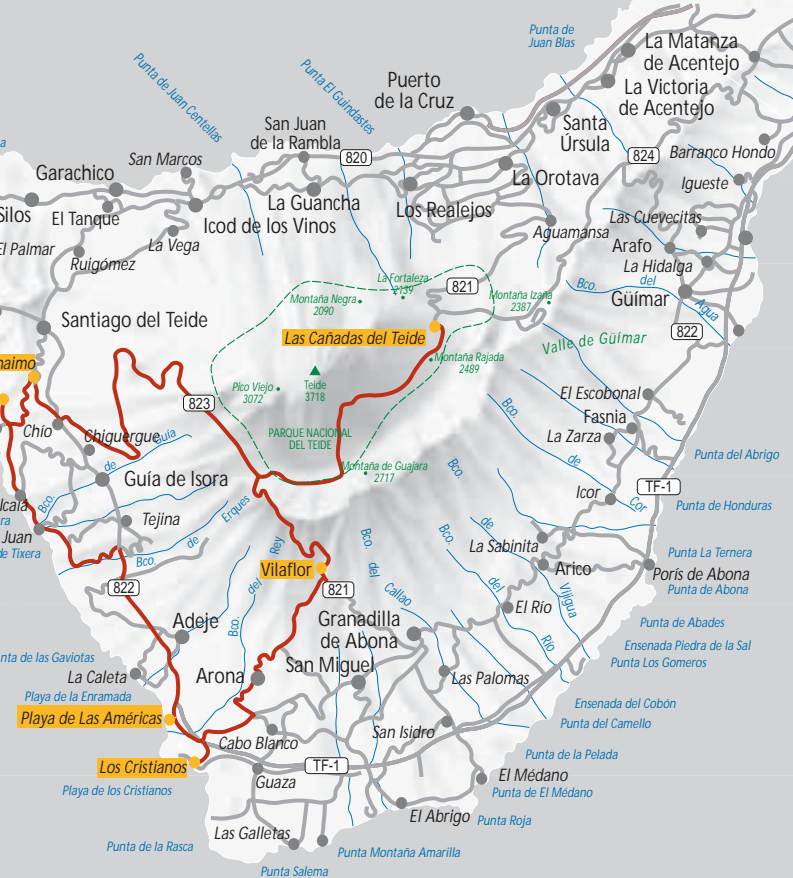
Leaving the Playa de las Americas or los Cristianos via C-822, the route rises up to the pretty village of Vilaflor at 1,500 metres. For this one should take the road fork at Arona at 5 kilometres and continue another 13 kilometres further along this road. At Vilaflor it is possible to see the Paisaje Lunar although to get there it is necessary to go 8 km as far as the camp La Madre del Agua along a track which turns right 4 kilometres after leaving the village towards las Cañadas and then walk for an

hour. From Vilaflor we turn towards las Cañadas along a road between pines until we reach a right turn 16 kilometres later which we must take to get to the National Park. Crossing the beautiful Ucanca Plain, we arrive at Roques de Garcia where there is a place to go for a walk and afterwards to the base of the Teide where a cable car goes



Vilaflor





to the summit. Once we have visited the park, we must return by the same route leaving the road to Vilaflor on the left and continue 30 kilometres through the deserted landscape as far as Tamaimo along the C-823. At this point one goes to the left in the direction of Los Gigantes. Six kilometres further on one reaches the coast, from where one can contemplate the grandeur of

the cliffs of los Gigantes and bathe in the sea. To return to Playa de las Americas it is necessary to proceed 30 kilometres further south along the coastal road.

## Punta del Hidalgo and Macizo de Anaga

Leaving Puerto de la Cruz towards la Laguna by the highway, one takes the detour to Tacoronte. From there one goes 10 kilometres further to Bajamar and another two kilometres to Punta del Hidalgo where one gets beautiful views over the sea of the Anaga highland ridges.



Loro Park – Puerto de la Cruz

One turns back 5 kilometres along the same route as far as Tejina where one goes in the direction of Tegueste. Six kilometres later one finds the



road forks to la Laguna on the right and on the left to las Mercedes which is where one is heading for. The road climbs among dense vegetation of laurisilva up to the beauty spots of la Cruz del Carmen and then Pico del Inglés a few kilometres away. From this point one must return some hundred metres along the





*Puerto de la Cruz  
San Andrés*

way one came and take the left turn towards el Bailadero. From el Bailadero it is possible to go down to Taganana and Almaciga to the left and go straight on as far as Chamorga, approaching the peak of the highlands or do both things. The three options mean returning to el Bailadero from where one travels south towards San Andrés. This village shelters the beach of las Teresitas where one can bathe. The beach lies at a distance of eight kilometres from Santa Cruz and from there another thirty six kilometres to Puerto de la Cruz.



*Fuera  
Dentro*

*a  
Punta  
de Anaga  
Punta de  
Antequera  
le  
nos*

## Northern villages Masca and Punta de Teno

This route covers the north and the Teno highland and so the most beautiful villages of the island can be seen together with the rugged appearance of Teno.

One starts an excursion at Puerto de la Cruz where one can make a stop at the botanical gardens or bathe in lake Martiánez. From el Puerto one climbs six kilometres to la Orotava and after strolling through the old part of the town one heads for Icod de los Vinos, 20 kilometres away, stopping should one wish at los Realejos.

After visiting its Drago tree one takes the road to Santiago del Teide. In this locality twenty kilometres from Icod one takes the road which turns right and climbs the hill from where one can discern the entire Teno highland. Here the road descends sharply five kilometres as far as the Caserío of Masca a pretty spot one must visit.

One continues over the steep highland until one finally descends to the coast at

*Martiánez Lake – Puerto de la Cruz*





Buena Vista from where one turns 9 kilometres to the west to see the deserted landscape of Punta de Teno. One returns to Buenavista and from there one continues along the coast until one finds the village of Garachico, 10 kilometres later,

*Garachico*

which one pays a lengthy visit to before returning to the starting point.





## Useful data

### How to travel among the islands

From Tenerife it is easy to reach the rest of the islands, either by plane, ferry or jetfoil. La Gomera and Grand Canary having the best services. Both are reached by sea in less than an hour and a half so



*Reina Sofia Airport – Santa Cruz de Tenerife*

they are highly recommended for an excursion.

**Plane:** Binter (☎ 922 75 92 85)

daily flights to all the islands except La Gomera.

**Ferry:** Daily Trips to all the islands with Trasmediterránea

(☎ 902 45 46 45) and to

La Gomera and Agaete in Gran Canaria with Fred Olsen

(☎ 922 62 82 31)

**Jetfoil / Hydrofoil:** Five daily trips to Las Palmas de Gran Canarias, one to Morrojable, Fuerteventura, and daily trips to San Sebastian de la Gomera (☎ 922 79 61 78)

### Transport

**How to get there:** Daily flights linking the main cities of Spain with the rest of Europe (International airport Reina Sofia/Tenerife Sur). Daily plane, ship and / or Jetfoil trips from the rest of the Canary islands (Los Rodeos airport, Transmediterranea Jet-foil and Fred Olsen Ferries).

### How to get about the island

**By bus (guagua):** TITSA provides a service almost all over the island.

**Car hire:** It is relatively cheap to rent a car. There are many agencies in the tourist areas, Santa Cruz and in the airports.

### Time tables and currencies

**Time:** The Canary islands keep to Greenwich meantime, the same as London and one hour less than the rest of Western Europe.

**Trading hours:** In general from 9:00 to 13:00 and 16:00 to 20:00

**Currency:** Peseta.

Exchange at banks open from 9:00 to 14:00

## USEFUL ADDRESSES AND TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Telephone code Country: 34

### TOURIST INFORMATION

**TURESPAÑA** ☎ 901 300 600

www.tourspain.es

**Tourism and transport office**

Plaza de los Derechos Humanos.

Edificio de usos múltiples 6ª and 7ª

Floor. 35003 Las Palmas de Gran

Canaria. ☎ 928 30 60 00,

fax 928 45 21 87.

**Information Bureau:**

**Santa Cruz de Tenerife:**

Plaza de España, ☎ 922 23 95 92

**Reina Sofia Airport:** Granadilla

(Abona) ☎ 922 17 60 02

**Adeje:** Playa de las Américas, avenida

Marítima, ☎ 922 75 06 33

**Arona:** Las Ramblas (Las Galletas),

☎ 922 73 01 33

**El Médano:** Plaza del Medano,

☎ 922 17 60 02

**Santiago del Teide:** Avenida

Marítima, edificio Seguro de Sol,

local 36-37, ☎ 922 86 03 48

**Puerto de la Cruz:** Plaza de Europa,

☎ 922 38 60 00.

### TRANSPORTE

**Reina Sofia International**

**Airport** (South Tenerife):

☎ 922 75 90 00

**Los Rodeos Airport:**

☎ 922 63 56 35

**Trasmediterránea:**

☎ 902 45 46 45

**Fred Olsen:** ☎ 922 62 82 00

**TITSA buses (guagua):**

Avenida Tres de Mayo,

☎ 922 21 56 99/922 21 93 99

**Radio Taxis:** ☎ 922 64 11 12

**Traffic:** Highway Information

☎ 900 123 505

Police-Civil Guard

☎ 922 25 55 48

### POSTAL AND OTHER SERVICES

Post and Telegraph: Plaza de

España, ☎ 922 24 51 16

Public Telephone Booth:

Paseo Milicias de Garachico,

☎ 922 29 03 92

### USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Emergencies: ☎ 112

Police-Tourist Attention:

☎ 922 21 25 11

Citizen Information: ☎ 010

Lost Property: ☎ 092

### PARADORES

**(State Owned Hotels)**

**Reservation Centre**

www.paradores.es

Calle Requena, 3. Madrid 28013.

☎ 91 516 66 66, fax 91 516 66 57.

**Cañadas del Teide**

Isla de Tenerife, ☎ 922 38 64 15,

fax 922 38 23 52.

**Santa Cruz de La Palma**

Isla de la Palma, ☎ 922 41 23 40,

fax 922 41 43 02.

**San Sebastián de La Gomera**

Isla de La Gomera,

☎ 922 87 11 00, fax 922 87 11 16.

**El Hierro**

Isla de El Hierro,

☎ 922 55 80 36, fax 922 55 80 86

**La Palma**

Isla de la Palma,

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### Great Britain

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☎ 91 319 02 00, fax 91 308 10 33

### Japan. 109 Serrano.

☎ 91 590 76 00, fax 91 590 13 21

### Russia

155 Velazquez.

☎ 91 562 22 64, fax 91 562 97 12

### United States

75 Serrano.

☎ 91 587 22 00, fax 91 587 23 03

## CONSULATES IN TENERIFE

### Great Britain

8- 1 Weyler Square,  
Santa Cruz de Tenerife.

☎ 922 28 68 63,

fax 922 28 99 03

## TOURIST OFFICES ABROAD

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TOURIST OFFICE OF SPAIN

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e-mail: tokyo@tourspain.es

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"Galeria Aktor" 6º floor

Moscow 103009

☎ (7095) 935 83 97

Fax (7095) 935 83 96

e-mail: moscu@tourspain.es

### SINGAPORE. SINGAPORE

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541 Orchard Road. Liat Tower # 09-04.  
238881 Singapore

☎ (657) 37 30 08

Fax (657) 37 31 73

e-mail: singapore@tourspain.es

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☎ (1323) 658 71 95

Fax (1323) 658 10 61

e-mail: lasangeles@tourspain.es

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East. 845, North Michigan Avenue.

Chicago, Ill 60-611

☎ (1312) 642 19 92

Fax (1312) 642 98 17

e-mail: chicago@tourspain.es

### MIAMI

TOURIST OFFICE OF SPAIN

1221 Brickell Avenue. Miami,  
Florida 33131

☎ (1305) 358 19 92

Fax (1305) 358 82 23

e-mail: miami@tourspain.es

### NEW YORK

TOURIST OFFICE OF SPAIN

666 Fifth Avenue 35 th floor.  
New York, N.Y.10103

☎ (1212) 265 88 22

Fax (1212) 265 88 64

e-mail: nuevayork@tourspain.es

Text:  
**Hugo Palacios**  
Translation:  
**Doreen Bette Hicken**  
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Spain  
Canary Islands

# Tenerife