Gran Canaria
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The Canary Islands have been known since ancient times for the mildness of the climate. Here it was that the Classics placed the Elysian Fields or Garden of the Hesperides and, for many centuries, the archipelago bore the name “The Fortunate Islands”. Homer, Hesiod, Plato, Pliny and Plutarch, all brought tidings -mythical or historical- of some islands where the clemency of the winds was reputed to have successfully banished, not only the seasons but also the climatic rigours of heat and cold. Indeed, the climate of the Canaries, often described as
“eternal Spring”, registers an annual fluctuation of only 6-8ºC between the average maximum and minimum temperatures. This reduced range means that the temperature is much the same throughout the year. On the coast -where the tourist resorts are situated- temperatures range from 18-20ºC in winter, and 24-26ºC in summer.

Within this climatic bonanza, the rugged and broken nature of the island topography makes for a multitude of co-existing microclimates which determine its curious scenic variety, in terms of vegetation and relief. Hence, the north is characterised by being cooler and wetter, and is home to a lush vegetation decked in exuberant greenery. The south on the other hand, isolated from the trade winds by the high mountain barrier, has a climate that is warmer and sunnier. It is here, where most of the tourist beaches and resorts are located, the skies being clear almost all year round, due to the fact that the clouds from the north are trapped by the mountain watershed further inland.

Gran Canaria possesses all the climatic blessings characteristic of the Canary Island group along with some peculiarities that make it a privileged tourist destination. With 236 kilometres of coastline, a diameter of 50 kilometres and a maximum height above sea-level of 1,950 metres, the Island of Gran Canaria (i.e., Grand Canary, whose name, by extension, is used to designate the

Agaete Valley
archipelago as a whole) displays in its geography a synthesis of the scenic contrasts found on all the islands. Situated as it is, between the islands of Tenerife and Fuerteventura, Gran Canaria lies astride the dividing line separating the two island-types that make up the Canary Island group: on the one hand, there are the western isles comprising Tenerife, La Palma, La Gomera and El Hierro, marked by more pronounced contour lines and variety, islands that are green and, in a word, “Atlantic”; and on the other, Lanzarote and Fuerteventura, characterised by a greater aridity, a lower relief profile and greater geological age, responsible for the formation of long sweeping beaches.

The altogether special position enjoyed by Gran Canaria enables its 1,532 square kilometres of deeply folded surface area to play host to both the greenery and lushness of the western islands as well as the tranquil sandy coasts of its eastern counterparts. Its renown in this regard is such, that it has brought it recognition as a “continent in miniature”, since one would be hard put indeed to find such a variety of different types of scenery in a territory so small and so accessible.

In addition, Gran Canaria possesses top-flight tourist facilities, with a 150,000-plus hotel and holiday-flat bed-capacity, and all the amenities and entertainment to be expected of one of Europe’s top tourist destinations. It is an island where the visitor does not have to choose between countryside and beach; based at any of its seaside resorts he/she can enjoy stupendous beaches, go hiking, indulge in “green” tourism amidst exotic and varied natural surroundings, or simply get to know a people with a very special history and character, a pot-pourri of Europe, Africa and America.

And all this at the balmy temperature of 22º C.

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<th>Chart of Average Temperatures</th>
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<td>SPRING (May)</td>
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Gran Canaria’s 236-kilometre-long shoreline means that the sea is a constant presence. In these latitudes, the Atlantic has an intense blue and a singular wave formation, owing to the Canary Islands’ narrow coastal shelf. As a result of this, the action of the sea has sculpted the Canary coast, carving out sheer cliffs of awesome height and beauty. The Andén Verde cliffs, on the north-west coast, afford some of the most spectacular examples of this combination of marine erosion and tectonic plate building. Running the length of this area, a “must” for those who are not prone to fear of heights, is a corniche road which, from the town of Agaete, climbs and winds along the cliff face, until finally descending to the beach of San Nicolás, a village over 30 kilometres away.

Along with its steeply rising shoreline, Gran Canaria can boast a great quantity of beaches of all types. In fact, due to the island’s geological variety, a series of different beaches account for some 50 kilometres of seaboard. This must undoubtedly be one of Gran Canaria’s most attractive facets: while enjoying sea and sun at any of its seventy beaches, one can simultaneously delight in the
island’s exotic and varied scenery. Some beaches, such as the Playa del Inglés (literally, *English Beach*) and Maspalomas Beach, with its 250 hectares of shifting dunes and palm tree oasis, are internationally known for their unrivalled beauty.

While the latter are undeniably the most attractive beach areas on the island, throughout the entire length of the Gran Canaria coast there are many more where one can laze in the sun. Of these, four have been singled out for special mention: these are the resorts of San Agustín, Puerto Rico, Mogán and Las Canteras. Like Playa del Inglés and Maspalomas, all are equipped with a wide range of accommodation, restaurants and attractions of every kind.

**San Agustín**

San Agustín is one of the leading tourist centres lying on Gran Canaria’s southern flank. Although nowadays it tends to form part of the generalised sprawl that spreads through the Playa del Inglés and Maspalomas areas, it is nevertheless an entity in its own right, located around the beaches of San Agustín and Las Burras. Of the three tourist...
resorts in the extreme south of the island, San Agustín is the nearest to the capital, Las Palmas, and the first to be seen on coming from the airport. On spying the San Agustín resort area from the top of the hill on arrival, one is rather taken aback by the unexpected subtropical lushness of its gardens, that come in sharp contrast to the desert scenery crossed until then.

Tourism in this area is characterised by both the quality and preponderance of first rate hotels, as opposed to the holiday flats and bungalows that mark the neighbouring Playa del Inglés. Along its shrub- and...
**Nightlife**

A good part of the tourist appeal of the Playa del Inglés lies in its lively nightlife. Along with Las Palmas, it is the most popular nightspot with the islanders themselves, who come down “south” to enjoy an nightlife ambience of endless summer, with temperatures that make it unnecessary to wear a warm garment of any kind even in winter.

Yet, the vast majority of night-owls are tourists. The choice is infinite: pubs, discotheques, bars, floor shows, bowling alleys... scattered about a number of leisure and entertainment centres.

The main haunts are to be found in and around the “Kasbah”, “Metro” and “Maspalomas” centres in the main downtown district of Playa del Inglés. The “Cita” centre, located in another area, caters to a somewhat more sophisticated clientele.

San Agustín also offers a wide choice of restaurants and entertainment venues, among which the Gran Canaria Casino and Scala Music Hall & Theatre deserve special mention.

**Playa del Inglés**

The Playa del Inglés is the largest seaside resort area on Gran Canaria, with all the services of a small city: shopping malls,
restaurants, shows, aquapark, fun-fair, etc. Nonetheless, it successfully manages to maintain an equilibrium between its built-up area and beach capacity, thanks to the size (length as well as breadth) of the actual Playa del Inglés beach. The preponderance of bungalows and two-storey houses over high-rise buildings, together with the abundance of landscaped areas, lend this city a peaceful and relaxed air.

The comprehensive range of accommodation available covers all manner of tourist establishments, from quiet small-sized holiday-home complexes to luxury hotels complete with all possible services. Most property owners and hotels work with tour operators, thus enabling bookings to be made at points of origin through travel agencies.

The Playa del Inglés residential area lies parallel to the beach of the same name, stretching for three kilometres lengthwise and almost two kilometres inland at its widest point, terminating just where Maspalomas begins: both places are really just two sides of one and the same beach. From any point on the seaside promenade running from one end of the Playa del Inglés to the
Golf

Golf enthusiasts have a course at the Maspalomas Beach resort itself, a few yards in from the dunes. The Maspalomas Golf Club offers a 6,216-metre-long, 18-hole, par-72 course. The other course on the island, the Bandama Golf Club, is situated 14 kilometres inland from Las Palmas and has 5,679 metres of greens and fairways, and a par 71 for its 18 holes.

Club de golf Maspalomas ☎ 928 35 10 50
Club de golf Bandama ☎ 928 76 25 81

other, one can contemplate the immensity of the dunes, which are particularly stunning at dusk. Without doubt, the best point from which to admire them is the belvedere that stands at the end of the Avenida de Tirajana; to get to it, simply follow the pedestrian precinct leading from the Plaza de Fuerteventura to the beach.

Maspalomas

Maspalomas is the oldest and longest-established of Gran Canaria's southern resort areas, and its beach is possibly the best known and most photographed
in all of the islands. The small collection of select hotels is set in the middle of a natural, now officially protected, area formed by a large grove of leafy Canary palms and a small lagoon fed by underground sea-water seepage.

The greenery of this natural setting, situated on the fringe of giant golden dunes, has long justified its being dubbed the “Oasis of Maspalomas”. The ecosystem here is currently in a phase of recovery and recuperation, particularly as regards the return of the flocks of waders, water fowl and other birds that formerly used the lagoon as a nesting site and made it an important bird haven.

Maspalomas Beach begins over to the east, at the point where Playa del Inglés ends, in an unending sea of dunes; it then extends northwards as far as the golf course, and comes to an end four kilometres to the west, at the lighthouse. The width of the beach -some two kilometres- and its hundreds of dunes allow one to lose oneself and not see another soul for miles, and thereby enjoy this veritable desert in miniature to the full. It is so spectacular in fact that it has often been used as a set for movies requiring a Saharan backdrop.

Maspalomas
Excursions from the south

Trips inland

Organised tours: a number of agencies offer organised tours into the interior of the island from the south. While the majority of these take in Gran Canaria’s areas of greatest scenic interest, the most popular runs are those visiting the towns and villages in the southern municipal districts: Fataga, San Bartolomé and Santa Lucía.

Individually-arranged tours: hiring a car on Gran Canaria is easy. There are many car rental agencies and rates are relatively cheap. Given the size of the island, the routes suggested below are equally applicable to private travel. Other interesting

Mogán. Traditional architecture
places accessible from the south are the Ayagaures, Arguineguín and Mogán ravines, which can also be explored on foot.

**Trips along the coast**

Organised or individually-arranged: the best short trip is that going from San Agustín, Playa del Inglés or Maspalomas to Mogán, via Arguineguín and Puerto Rico. Another standard choice for a one-day outing is a round-trip of the island.

**Trips by sea**

Trips out to sea can be arranged on different vessels: the bigger ocean-going yachts, smaller sailing craft, launches and powerboats, catamarans, submarines, etc. The best places for this are the harbours of Puerto Rico and Mogán. One can also privately rent vessels, crewed or not, as well as arrange for a day's deep-sea fishing. Bookings can be made from any hotel/holiday flat or travel agency, or directly, by going down to the quayside.

**Things to do with the kids**

**Aquaparks:**

Aquasur: on the road to Palmitos Park. From 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. 928 14 05 25
Ocean Park: at the Campo Internacional. From 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. 928 76 43 61

**Go-Karts:** 6 kilometres outside San Agustín, on the Las Palmas road. 928 76 00 90

**Palmitos Park**

Fun-fair: Tuesday to Sunday, from 6 p.m. to midnight. 928 76 71 76

**Miniature train:** along Playa del Inglés. At Avenida de Italia, 12.

**Camel safari:** adjoining Maspalomas oasis. 928 77 20 58
**Sailing**

Gran Canaria offers a wide range of possibilities for sailing, whether under canvas or powered. Dotted about the coast, its six marinas and yacht basins provide something like 2,500 berths for pleasure craft of all types.

The excellent sailing conditions off Gran Canaria - benign weather and steady winds - are borne out by the number of world and Olympic champions which the island has produced in the different sailing categories. Added to this, is its strategic position on the transatlantic route, being the intermediate point on the Gulf Stream as it flows westward from Europe to America. This makes it an obligatory rest stage for the various international races, such as the prestigious ARC (Atlantic Rally for Cruisers).

Along with Mogán, Pasito Blanco and Las Palmas, Puerto Rico is the perfect port from which to set sail. All four harbours have berths for pleasure craft, plus all necessary ancillary services: fuel, electricity, running water, slip docks, workshops, restaurants, supermarkets, etc.

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**Puerto Rico Marina**  
531 berths. Max. draught: 11 m.  
☎️ 928 56 11 41

**Mogán Marina**  
225 berths. Max. draught: 10 m.  
☎️ 928 56 56 68

**Las Palmas de Gran Canaria Marina**  
840 berths. Max. draught: 5/8 m.  
☎️ 928 24 41 01.

**Pasito Blanco Yacht Club**  
830 berths. Max. draught: 5/8 m.  
☎️ 928 14 21 94

Other watersports available are outboading, water-skiing, paraskiing and scuba-diving. There are scuba-diving schools in Puerto Rico, Playa del Inglés, San Agustín and Las Palmas.
Nearby places of interest:

**Palmitos Park:** a botanical and bird park, nine kilometres from Maspalomas. An unexpected Garden of Eden of tropical and indigenous plants, with over 1,200 exotic birds, a butterfly house and a parrot show. Open daily from 9.30 a.m. to 6 p.m. Buses every half-hour from Playa del Inglés. 📌 928 14 02 76

**Mundo Aborigen (Aboriginal World):** Re-creation of a pre-Hispanic indigenous settlement. At the 6-kilometre mark on the Playa del Inglés-Fataga road. Open daily from 9.30 a.m. to 6 p.m. 📌 928 17 22 95

**Sioux City:** Also known as Cañón del Águila. Replica of an American Far West town. Located 300 metres from Águila Beach in San Agustín. Open Tuesday to Sunday. Shows at 12 noon and 6 p.m. 📌 928 77 09 66

Puerto Rico is a medium-sized tourist town in the south-west of the island nestling in a lovely valley, where the town’s profusely flowered buildings
straggle up and along the hillside. From its very inception, Puerto Rico sought to distinguish its attractions from those of the other coastal resorts, devoting itself entirely to water sports and sailing.

The valley opens out to the sea in a pleasant and cozy man-made beach, flanked by a marina where pleasure craft bob at their moorings. The quays lend the place a seafaring character and, with their six hectares of enclosed shelter, provide the visitor with an area for leisurely moolching and relaxation by the sea. At the marina, the possibilities for fun and recreation are legion: boat trips, sailing, jet- and water-skiing, para-skiing, deep-sea fishing, eating out, etc.

A stay in Puerto Rico, mainly in holiday flats and homes, also holds out other attractions, such as shopping malls, an aquapark, sports facilities and a hectic nightlife.

Puerto de Mogán

Puerto de Mogán is one of the most attractive tourist resorts in the Canaries, as it combines a typical fishing-village atmosphere with a marina built in the local style. In this seafaring village, the original-looking houses -traditional straight lines,
Ocean-fresh fish

A good number of small boats still engage in inshore fishing along the Gran Canaria coastline. Freshly caught fish can therefore be enjoyed if one goes to the right places. To this end, it is important, though by no means essential, that the place where one goes to eat has a small fishing harbour, since the day’s catch is fairly small and normally distributed among the restaurants in the vicinity.

The most usual types of locally caught fish are: cherne (grouper), sama (gold sea-bream), abae (a white fish similar in taste to grouper), cabrilla (comber), morena (moray) and vieja (parrot fish). The lattermost is the most prized; it is a shorefish with shellfish-like fine white flesh. Ways of preparing fish may vary, but in general it is cooked in the Canary style, i.e., fried or grilled, and preferably served with papas arrugadas (new, jacket potatoes boiled in sea- or highly salted water, then baked) and mojo verde de cilantro (a spicy sauce seasoned with garlic, coriander, oil, vinegar, salt and cumin).

Apart from Las Palmas, Puerto de Mogán and Puerto de las Nieves, in Agaete, in the north-west of the island, are places where it is easiest to find restaurants serving fresh fish. Both localities boast a good number of specialist fish restaurants, mostly situated on and around the quayside.

Besides the fish dishes, the remaining specialities of Gran Canaria cuisine merit mention: potaje de berros (watercress soup containing spare rib, corn, potatoes, and beans) served with ball-shaped gofio corn bread; rancho (a stew of chickpeas, potatoes, pork, poultry and veal); roast leg of pork; carajacas (liver in marinade sauce); fried pork; the Guía and La Cumbre cheeses; and for dessert, bienmesabe (ground almonds and honey, usually eaten with ice-cream), suspiros (meringues) or frangollo (pancakes).
For many years, tourists visiting Las Canteras divided their time between the beach and the many shops in the area. The existence of a free port in Las Palmas de Gran Canaria since 1852 led to the growth of an important commercial sector, which benefited from the low levies and continuous movement of merchandise coming from all parts of the world. As a consequence, shops sprouted up, specialising, above all, in the sale of electronic consumer goods, imported clothing, cigarettes and cigars. These stores, the so-called “Indian shops” (mostly belonging to Indian immigrants who arrived in the first half of this century) have a reputation for selling goods at bargain prices.

Following full integration into the European Union, the free port has now disappeared, and duty on imported goods is levied at the top rate. Even so, most of these shops are still in business, since, although they are unable to offer prices quite as advantageous as before, they continue to benefit from the special tax regime enjoyed by the Canaries, with rates appreciably lower than the rest of the E.U., including mainland Spain. Accordingly, the items on offer are still varied and competitively priced, and the famous “Indian shops” are still to be found on any of the streets between the beach and Santa Catalina Park.
whitewashed walls, brightly painted doors and windows—seem to cling to the cliffside. Beneath, sits the new town, constructed over a lacework of canals, overlooking a yacht-filled harbour and a charming seaside promenade.

Fishing boats and pleasure craft alike are docked at the harbour, the latter category consisting mostly of 12-metre (or longer) ocean-going vessels, since this port specialises in the transoceanic sailor. Mogán Beach is situated a few hundred yards further on, at the mouth of the gorge of the same name. Heading inland along this deep valley by road, one gets to the town of Mogán: a pleasant run which, in the space of a few kilometres, reveals the swift change in scenery from the aridity of the coast to the verdant leafiness of the island hinterland.

Las Canteras

Las Canteras is the main beach serving the capital, Las Palmas. Its more than three kilometres of golden sand stretch the length of the western side of the isthmus on which the city stands and
which joins the island with the group of volcanic cones, known as “La Isleta”. Fifty years ago this whole area was still covered by sands like those of Maspalomas. Nowadays the isthmus of Las Palmas, just a few hundreds yards wide, is the site of the “El Puerto” shopping centre, which owes its name to the fact that it rose in the shadow of the city’s harbour, located on the eastern side of the isthmus.

Las Canteras Beach is a favourite with many islanders because of its easy accessibility, its fine sand and placid waters. The promenade running from one side of the beach to the other is one of Las Palmas’ most lively areas and an ideal place to go for a stroll at any time of the day or night. The sand is of superb quality, and the water is like some massive natural swimming pool, due to a tongue of lava from one of the extinct volcanoes on La Isleta that runs parallel to the coast a few hundred yards out to sea. This natural barrier, La Barra de Las Canteras, breaks the full force of the waves, calming these northern waters and, at low tide, forming a kind of lagoon that is replenished with the arrival of the next high tide.
Perhaps Gran Canaria’s most surprising feature is the spectacular variety of its scenery. Its accessible terrain affords as many kinds of landscape as would a whole continent, something that is undeniably appealing to lovers of spectacular views, flora, geology or simply the joys of driving or walking through the countryside.

The Island of Gran Canaria was formed some fourteen million years ago in a series of volcanic eruptions of enormous violence which caused the gigantic circular cone that is the island today to surge from the sea. Gran Canaria volcanism, which embraces an extraordinary variety of processes, has traditionally been the focus of attention of scientists from around the world.

In conjunction with the rest of the archipelago, the island forms an area of natural interest that is unique on Earth. Its geological features and the peculiarity of its flora, marked by an extremely high number of endemic species of a botanical rarity equivalent only to the Galapagos or Hawaiian islands, have, since the last century, made it an important Mecca for the
naturalist. Several of the multifold species of Canary Island flora and fauna are internationally known, such as the mythical and long-living drago (dragon tree or draecena), the Canary palm, present in gardens the world over, or the canary, arguably the most famous songbird of them all.

In addition to the many nature routes that one can do on Gran Canaria by car, along winding roads that unveil a different type of scenery with every passing kilometre, there is an infinite number of hiking trails on the island which can be walked without any fear of coming across dangerous animal species, be they snakes -non-existent in the Canaries- or poisonous insects. For this express purpose, there is a network of caminos reales (royal ways), the former tracks that once linked the island towns and which have now been cleared and re-opened to hikers.

To venture on foot through the hinterland, an area of abrupt changes, dramatic contours and plummeting ravines, often produces the feeling of being in an unexplored territory, far removed from the slightest hint of civilisation. This is due to the fact that innumerable mountain ridges isolate one part of Gran Canaria from the next, and that 90% of the island’s population is concentrated in 30% of the territory, near and along the coast.
The Volcanoes

This island’s volcanic origin confers upon it certain scenic peculiarities of great rarity. The main distinguishing feature of Gran Canaria volcanism is the superimposition of modern structures upon old, giving rise to myriad forms of cones, depressions and volcanic lava flows. The last-mentioned, rivers of solidified lava, are present in a variety seen in no other place on Earth.

The island is geologically divided into two zones: the south-western half, older and characterised by having undergone explosive episodes of immense force which account for the singular shapes of the rock spikes, veritable geological symbols of Gran Canaria; and the north-eastern half, younger and the site of more defined volcanic shapes, such as craters and black lava cones.

The former zone is outstanding for the presence of two gigantic basin-shaped volcanic depressions or calderas (caldera: cauldron): the Tirajana Caldera, caused by erosion, and the Tejeda Caldera, 15 kilometres in diameter and born of the sinking of a volcanic structure, which can be seen in all its majesty from the Cruz de Tejeda look-out point. Highlights in the other zone are the Arucas, Gáldar, Guía, La Isleta and Bandama volcanic cones, as well as the Pinos de Gáldar, Los Marteles, Pino Santo and Bandama craters.

Subtropical Lushness

Very few places on Earth can lay claim to such a diversity of plants as the Canaries. In fact, insofar as biological species are concerned, the islands are considered to be one of the planet’s richest areas. Of the roughly 2,000 plant species catalogued in the Canaries, 600 (that is to say, almost one third) are endemic, i.e., they do not exist in any other part of the world. The importance of this figure takes on meaning if seen against the endemic species of, say, England and France, which number 15 and 91 respectively.
Excursion to Bandama

One of the most fascinating and spectacular volcanoes on the island is that of Bandama. It is formed by a well-defined cone, 574 metres high, and an impressive depression, measuring 1,200 metres in diameter and 220 in depth. This enormous caldera, the result of a violent explosion, is one of the biggest craters of its kind in the world.

The Bandama Caldera is easily accessible from Las Palmas, a distance of only 12 kilometres. To get there, catch bus no. 39 at the Bus & Coach Station (estación de guaguas) or, if travelling by car, follow the C-811, a road known locally as the carretera del centro, to the turn-off at the 10-km mark. A further three-kilometre drive takes one to the peak of the volcano, from which excellent views can be had of the caldera and the central part of the island.

A short tour on foot can be made along the lip of the caldera and/or down to the crater bottom. For the former, one has to go behind the small golf-course hotel, visible from the peak, to find the path that circles the crater wall. To see the crater interior, there is a track that begins to the left of the chapel in the hamlet at the edge of the caldera. At the bottom is an old press where Malvasía wine (Malmsey) was formerly made.
Canaries’ flora is very different to that of its two nearest continents, Africa and Europe. Its exotic nature can be traced to the privileged position of the Canaries during the Ice Age of the Quaternary period, when glaciation caused all the vegetation in Southern Europe and North Africa to disappear, leaving these islands as the only redoubt for plants which on the continental mainland are today solely found in fossil form. If “enormous” describes their scientific value, no less can be said of their beauty and variety.

The island’s northern reaches are the most verdant, displaying all the lushness of a subtropical region. Together with the indigenous plants, there is an abundance of exquisite ornamental species introduced from the tropics: bouganvillaea, hibiscus, coconut palms, strelitzia, etc. The Vaselleco, Teror and Moya areas are plainly the most fertile. From Moya it is worth making a side-trip to the Los Tiles ravine, where species almost extinct on Gran Canaria are being protected and repropagated.

The Desert

On crossing the mountain watershed from north to south, a totally different landscape opens

The Viera y Clavijo Botanical Gardens

Seven kilometres from Las Palmas are the interesting Viera y Clavijo Botanical Gardens. On the C-811 (carretera del centro), a sign at the 7-kilometre mark points the way through a vale of palms. The Gardens cover a considerable area and, in addition to their scientific interest, possess great scenic value in that they cling to the sides of a stunning ravine. The plants on show are all endemic to the Macaronesian botanical region (the Azores, Madeira and Cape Verde), of which the Canary archipelago is the most prolific representative. A stroll through these well-tended botanical gardens is a highly agreeable and recommendable introduction to Nature on Gran Canaria. Entrance is free of charge and the gardens are open daily from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. (☎ 928 35 36 04).
up before one’s eyes: arid, rocky, rugged and broken. If the day has been overcast in the north, the clouds will be seen to stay on this flank, leaving the southern skies free of northern humidity.

The landscape in the south of Gran Canaria, in areas hugging the coast, is one of semi-desert, very much akin to that in neighbouring Africa. It is in these southern parts where one can appreciate exactly what the island would be like without the sea breeze. Its latitude is in fact the same as that of the Sahara Desert, and some of its scenery not very unlike it, such as the date-palm oases, the small “erg” (sand desert) which form the Maspalomas dunes, or the Amurga desert massif, whose desolate beauty dominates the entire southern coast of the island.

The south’s scant annual rainfall not only favours the tourist sector, but also a curious native
xerophile vegetation, of which cardón (cacti) and tabaiba (sapium jamaicense) are the outstanding examples.

The Forests

Of the approximately 600 identified Canaries’ plant species, 32 correspond to trees. Their

Güigüí

Güigüí (pronounced “wi-wee”) means something very special to the islanders. It is a mountainous massif on the island’s west coast which, owing to its sheer topography, has managed to remain unspoilt. Over a number of years, this desert bastion has become a nigh mythical symbol of the desire to conserve a wilderness area on Gran Canaria. The existence of two attractive sandy beaches on its coast has doubtless played an important role in its mythification as a place for excursions. Yet despite this, in its interior the Güigüí massif still preserves all the harsh unspoilt beauty of the Gran Canaria semidesert, with its exotic vegetation and the mystery of its relative inaccessibility.

Maspalomas. Dunes
A stroll in Tamadaba

The Tamadaba pinewood is not only the best conserved, but it also offers one of the most beautiful panoramas to be seen on Gran Canaria. This pinewood stands at a height of 1,300 metres on a coastal plateau, at a point where the shoreline rises in a series of truly imposing crags that fall away almost vertically to the sea far below.

For a walk through Tamadaba, start by car from the nearby town of Artenara. At the 8-kilometre mark, take the right-hand fork - the only one permitted - in order to circle the pinewood. About four kilometres on, turn right in the direction of the camp area. When this track peters out, continue on foot, keeping to the left of the campsite, and making for a flattish area. Here, carefully approach the edge of the cliff face, from which one gets an absolutely spectacular view of the Risco Faneque and the Island of Tenerife. Continuing a few hundred metres northwards along the edge, one comes out on the very tip of the outcrop, with the ocean visible and audible over three thousand feet below.

It is still possible to find examples of the seven typical Canary forest-types: tamarisks, palm groves, stands of juniper, broom and heather thicket, laurel forest and pinewoods. Of the ancient laurel forest that once covered the whole northern part of the island, only small protected areas
remain, such as the Los Tiles de Moya ravine. The pinewoods are by far the most widespread of all the island forest varieties. Their distribution coincides with the largest protected areas on Gran Canaria, all of which are officially designated “Nature Parks”. The principal park areas are: Pilancones, Inagua, Ojeda and Pajonales, in the south-west; Llanos de la Pez, in the peaks; and Tamadaba, the most verdant, in the north-west. Any of these is perfect for hiking purposes.

The Canary Island pine, a tree indigenous to these islands, can grow to a height of more than 60 metres. Its singularity lies in its large needle clusters, grouped in threes, and in its ability, acquired over thousands of years of volcanic activity, to bloom anew after being burnt. Curiously, its only living relative grows in the Himalayas.

The Rock Spikes

The rock spikes are, possibly, the single most representative landmark of Gran Canaria scenery. These enormous blocks of volcanic rock that project and...
protrude from the Gran Canaria peaks, bestow a singular beauty on the landscape as a whole. The omnipresence of the rocks, as one gazes towards the mountain summits from many spots around the island, explains why these monoliths were regarded as sacred mountains by the pre-Hispanic inhabitants. Nowadays they continue to retain profound sentimental value for the locals, who see them as symbols par excellence of their island. The blocks are in reality the

remains of huge plates of volcanic agglutinate left exposed by weathering and erosion. The origin of these sheets goes back some four million years, to one of the most violent eruptive processes in the volcanic history of the Canaries.

A hike to the Nublo

The starting point for this short hike is the col known as Degollada de la Goleta (1,578 metres). To get here, one must have a vehicle: two kilometres before reaching the town of Ayacata (coming from the north), look out for a place where the road drops sharply away, with the Nublo in plain view on the right. Park the car and climb westwards along the clearly signposted, central path. This makes a beeline for the massy base of the spike, which can be spotted in the distance. Something like fifty minutes will bring one out at the base of the Nublo without any difficulty. From this point, the boulder soars another fifty metres - negotiable only by rock climbing - to attain its full height of 1,830 metres. The views of the Tejeda caldera are excellent.

A longer variant, for those who do not have a car at their disposal, is to start from La Culata de Tejeda, at a height of 1,225 metres (bus no. 29 from the Las Palmas Bus & Coach Station), and thence ascend the bed of the ravine to the Degollada de la Goleta by a well-marked path. This stretch adds an extra fifty minutes each way.
The best known are “Roque Nublo” and “Bentaiga”, and the best viewing spots are Cruz de Tejeda, Pozo de las Nieves, and the picturesque towns of Artenara and Tejeda. From any of these points, and preferably at sundown, the sight of these natural monuments is overwhelming. They have never been better described than by Miguel de Unamuno, who, after seeing them, coined the phrase, “petrified storm”.

The Dams

Among the elements that go to make up this island’s scenery, there is one which, because it is not natural, endows Gran Canaria with a personality distinct from any other island in the archipelago...the dams. The many dams and artificial lakes on Gran Canaria were built to take advantage of the island's deeply indented and incised topography, which sluices seawards the entire run-off from the scant rain of substance that falls during the year. So swift is this process that it would otherwise allow no time for collection.

In this land of plunging ravines and sharply uneven terrain, the dams assume some very peculiar shapes indeed, always hanging from the most unlikely crags and appearing where least expected. Nowadays, some -the larger and more easily accessible ones- are
A tour of the dams

One of Gran Canaria’s most beautiful and solitary road routes is the so-called ruta de las presas. In addition to a succession of impressive dams, on this route the visitor will discover some of the wildest and most spectacular scenery on the island.

To do this tour, one has to start from the town of Artenara where one takes the road to the Tamadaba pinewood. Three kilometres after leaving the town, turn down a branch road to the left, bound for Acusa and San Nicolás. From here onwards, and for the next 25 kilometres, the road descends steep slopes as it winds through a vast canyon, until entering the narrow defile which takes it as far as San Nicolás. The route is isolated, as there are no towns after Acusa, and it is not recommended for those who do not feel easy at the thought of mountain driving. Once in San Nicolás de Tolentino, it is well worth carrying on for a further six kilometres to Puerto de la Aldea, a charming pebble beach where one can sit down to a meal of fresh fish. The best thing from here is to take the coast road northwards, if heading for Las Palmas, or southwards, if returning to Maspalomas.

Chira Dam
leisure areas. Prominent among this latter sort are the Chira and Cueva de las Niñas Dams, although there are many others of comparable or even greater beauty, e.g., the Los Pérez, Hornos, El Mulato, Soria, Ayagaures, Tirajana, Parralillo, Siberio Dams, among others. All are worth a trip.

The Ravines

The ravines are the one feature of the landscape that most intensely shapes life on Gran Canaria. Millions of years of powerful erosion have gouged and scoured the island’s many ravines, gorges and gullies which radiate out in all directions from the mountain heights down to the coast. This relief pattern, of continuous changes in slope direction and pronounced differences in level, makes the relative distance between any two points infinitely longer than would normally be expected on an island of these dimensions.

For centuries, this phenomenon has isolated islanders living in one part of the island from their fellows in another, to such an extent in fact, that until relatively recently, it was easier for many townspeople to get to the capital of another island (Santa Cruz de Tenerife) by ship than to Las Palmas, overland. These shifts in slope direction also serve to create a series of microclimates in different areas of the island, and so, by the same token, the ravines have likewise been the determining force as regards plant life, favouring multiple and varied types of vegetation.
Exploring the Agaete Valley and Guayadeque Ravine

Agaete and Guayadeque are two of the most stunning ravines on the island. Each lies in a different area, with the result that they offer two different sorts of vegetation and human population.

The Agaete valley begins at the whitewashed town of the same name in the north-west of the island and ascends rapidly inland. In a short space of time the landscape changes from coastal aridity to the intense green of tropical fruit plantations, until finally climbing on and up to the level of the pinewoods. The road comes to an end in the spa of Los Berrazales, overlooking splendid views of the craggy heights of Tamadaba.

The Guayadeque ravine comes within the municipal boundaries of Agüimes, to the east. From this town, with its long-standing handicraft tradition, take the fork leading to the canyon-like course of the ravine. If at all possible, the ascent along this valley presents even greater contrasts than that of Agaete, and the views are similarly of great beauty. The vegetation hereabouts is essentially xerophile, and the inhabitants peculiar in that they are troglodyte, living in caves, an aspect inherited from their pre-Hispanic forebears, of whom many vestiges still remain in the area.
Villages, towns and cities

The north

Itinerary: Arucas • Teror • Valleseco • Moya • Guía • Gáldar • Agaete • Puerto de las Nieves.

Being the most fertile area, the north of the island has also been the most densely populated since the time of first human habitation. An itinerary through this locality, one with a long farming tradition, will take the visitor to some of Gran Canaria’s most gracious and distinguished towns, amidst a leafy landscape of banana palms and orchards.

To set out on the first leg, leave Las Palmas by the northbound C-810 and make for the historic city of Arucas, third in importance on Gran Canaria. Arucas grew and developed in the early part of the century thanks to then buoyant banana plantations, of which it still preserves sizeable tracts that ring the town with their rustling greenery. Outstanding sights in the town are the massive Neo-Gothic Basilica of San Juan (St. John’s) and the Gourié Mansion (municipal museum). On the outskirts, the Montaña de Arucas sugar-loaf volcano commanding excellent views of the north coast, also deserves a visit. Continue on for another 15 kilometres to Teror, possibly the loveliest town on Gran Canaria, where a visit should be paid to the Church of Nuestra Señora del Pino (Our Lady of the Pine), the island’s Patron Saint. The imposingly beautiful surroundings, a magnificent example of traditional Canaries’ architecture, house the interesting Casa de los Patronos de la Virgen museum.

From Teror the route now takes us to Valleseco, six kilometres away, through the most verdant part of the island, with a short stop to admire the view from the Balcón
de Zamora. Keep on heading inland as far as the Pinos de Gáldar caldera, a volcano that dominates the whole of the north of Gran Canaria, and then immediately descend to Moya, to visit the Los Tiles ravine. From this remaining stronghold of the retreating laurel forest, drive on for 13 kilometres to Guía, a town famous for its delicious cheese and for the remarkable pre-Hispanic cave in its environs, reputed to have been a convent of sorts and therefore called the Cenobio de Valerón.

The city of Gáldar, the erstwhile Guanche (indigenous) capital, lies three kilometres from Guía at the foot of a bald volcano. Standing in the City Hall quadrangle is a centuries-old dragon tree and in the main square, the historic Church of Santiago de los Caballeros (St. James of the Knights). Not far off is the Cueva Pintada archaeological site, with
the best examples of Canary indigenous rock paintings. In the surrounding area are two more important sites: the Guancha Necropolis and El Agujero.

Proceed along the C-810 for ten kilometres to Agaete, a whitewashed town ensconced in a lush valley, worth exploring by the simple expedient of following the road to Los Berrazales. Back on the coast, a two-kilometre detour leads to the port of Agaete or Puerto de Las Nieves, a small fishing village where fine fish is to be had. Sights to see here include the Chapel and its famous 16th-century Flemish triptych, and looking seawards, the volcanic needle known as the Dedo de Dios (Finger of God), the awesome Faneque and Tirma cliffsides, and the harbour, from which ferries sail daily to the capital of Tenerife. To return to Las Palmas, rejoin the C-810 and follow the coast for 38 kilometres.
The central zone

**Itinerary:** Tafira Alta • El Monte • Santa Brígida • San Mateo • Cueva Grande • Ayacata • Tejeda • Artenara • Cruz de Tejeda.

This itinerary makes use of the islands’ most popular thoroughfare, the *carretera del centro*, to explore the interior towns and the highlands. It is a panoramic tour that traverses the more mountainous districts, revealing the rich variety of Gran Canaria scenery.

Heading out of Palmas on the C-811, a nine-kilometre drive brings one to the outlying localities of Tafira Alta and El Monte, traditional residential areas with flowering gardens. Nearby are the Botanical Gardens and the Bandama crater. Proceeding inland through resplendent countryside, one soon comes to Santa Brígida, encircled by palm groves, where the town church is worth seeing. Seven kilometres away, at 950 metres above sea-level, is San Mateo, set amidst a fertile plain planted with...
orchards. This farming town has some beautiful examples of Canaries’ handicraft on display in the Cho Zacarias museum.

Leaving San Mateo behind, the road begins to rise sharply towards the peak area. Just over a kilometre distant, a fork to right will bring one out at Montaña Cabreja, a look-out point commanding fine views. After rejoining the main road, branch off to Cueva Grande, and a steep climb of a few kilometres leads to an intersection where, those wanting to reach the highest point on the island, the village, at the foot of enormous mountain rockfaces, is renowned for its almond blossom.

The next stage is to head for Tejeda and Artenara, along a road affording superb views of the Tejeda caldera and the Bentaiga Rock. In Artenara, the highest town on Gran Canaria, be sure to visit the curious Shrine of Our Lady of the Cave (Santuario de la Virgen de la Cuevita). From here it is a 12-kilometre climb to Cruz de Tejeda, situated at a strategic panoramic point. It is worth making a short stop to take in the pleasant terrace of the Cruz de Tejeda Hostería, and enjoy some of the typical local specialities. With one’s batteries suitably recharged, the return trip to Las Palmas follows the C-811 in a continuous downhill drive of 34 kilometres.
The south

Itinerary: Telde • Ingenio • Agüimes • Temisas • Santa Lucía • San Bartolomé • Fataga • Arteara

The southern part, through which this route guides the traveller, is somewhat reminiscent of Africa. The greater aridity of its terrain kept the region thinly populated until the recent tourist boom. For years it was the “forgotten district”, a backwater when compared to the more cosmopolitan and “Atlantic” north.

San Bartolomé
The starting point for this itinerary is the city of **Telde**, the second largest town on the island after Las Palmas. Preserved in this historic city, which was the capital of one of the two pre-Hispanic Kingdoms of Gran Canaria, are two of the best and oldest examples of Canaries’ architecture: the San Juan and San Francisco Quarters. In the former, the outstanding feature is the Church of San Juan Bautista (St. John the Baptist), dating from the 15th century. The San Francisco Quarter as a whole is one of the island’s gems, its original 16th-century layout surviving almost fully intact.

The next town en route is **Ingenio**, 13 kilometres from Telde. Its name alludes to its condition as a sugar refinery in centuries past. Nowadays however, this town is renowned for its handicrafts, particularly its embroidery -the famed “calado canario”- which can be admired in the Museo de Piedra. Three kilometres on is the town of **Agüimes**, entry point to the **Temisas**
Guayadeque ravine, a site of great scenic and archaeological interest, due to the many pre-Hispanic grottoes to be found there.

A winding road takes one the ten kilometres from Agüimes to the village of Temisas, doubtless one of Gran Canaria’s most exotic corners, whence it continues for another nine kilometres to Santa Lucía. Here a pleasant surprise is in store: well-tended whitewashed buildings emerge from a sea of palm fronds and a great profusion of flowers fill the surroundings with their colour. The Museum of Guanche Culture, a private collection of indigenous remains, is a sure guarantee of an interesting visit.

The next destination is San Bartolomé de Tirajana, a good spot from which to see the magnificent walls of the Tirajana caldera and the volcanic spike of Risco Blanco. One now takes the road in the direction of Maspalomas, through the splendid Fataga ravine, as it descends between towering walls dotted with hundreds of palm trees. Fataga and Arteara, both ringed by palm groves of great beauty, are the last towns to be passed before reaching the coast, 24 kilometres after leaving San Bartolomé. To return, one has to drive the 52 kilometres of highway that separate Maspalomas from Las Palmas.
The city of Las Palmas de Gran Canaria is the biggest in the archipelago, with a population of 375,000. It was founded on 24th June 1478 at the express instance of Queen Isabel, the Catholic monarch. Its present importance stems from the development of its harbour, Puerto de la Luz (Light), following its designation as a free port towards the middle of the last century, making it into one of the most important ports on the Atlantic. Thenceforth, the city began to acquire commercial pre-eminence, favoured above all by its trade links with Great Britain. It is from this era that Las Palmas’ lovely Modernist buildings date.

The second urban expansion took place in the seventies, when Swedish tourists discovered the beauties of Las Canteras Beach. The cosmopolitan, beach-loving Santa Catalina Park area and the old colonial Vegueta and Triana Quarters are the two opposite poles of a city that lies open to the sea along seven kilometres of shoreline.

The old colonial Vegueta
Las Palmas Cathedral (1): Begun in 1497 in Late Gothic style, continued and completed in Neoclassical style. Not to be missed are the high altar and the treasures exhibited in its “Diocesan Museum of Sacred Art” (Closed lunchtime). ☎ 928 31 49 89). 

Plaza de Santa Ana (2): Opposite the Cathedral. The old City Hall building and Modernist façades are the outstanding features. The bronze dogs are the city symbol. 

Plaza del Espíritu Santo (3): Behind the City Hall. Delightful buildings and an exquisite chapel. Canary Island Museum (4): Adjoining the Plaza del Espíritu Santo. It brings together the largest collection of remains of the Canaries’ indigenous Guanche civilisation, with galleries of great archaeological and anthropological value. A “must” (opening times: Monday to Friday, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Saturdays and Sundays until 2 p.m. ☎ 928 31 56 00). 

City plan of Las Palmas

Vegueta: The old city

The Vegueta Quarter, the true core of Las Palmas, preserves all the charm of its 15th- and 16th-century colonial architecture, with its cobbled streets and exquisite courtyards and balconies. It is here that the sights of most interest in Las Palmas are to be found, its loveliest buildings, corners and museums, all set around the Chapel where Columbus is said to have prayed immediately prior to setting sail for the New World.
Iglesia de Santo Domingo (St. Dominic’s) (5): Behind the museum. 18th-century architecture.

Casa de Colón (Columbus’ House) (6): Behind the Cathedral. Former 15th-century governor’s residence where Columbus is reputed to have stayed. Interesting museum of the discovery of America and the New World’s links with the city (opening times: Monday to Friday, 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.; Saturdays, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. ☎ 928 31 23 84).

Plaza de San Antonio Abad (St. Anthony’s) (7): Alongside the Casa de Colón. Legend has it that Columbus prayed in the chapel here. Centro Atlántico de Arte Moderno (Atlantic Modern Art Centre) (8): On calle de Los Balcones (calle; street), behind the Cathedral. Collections of contemporary art housed in a beautiful 18th-century building (opening times: Tuesday to Saturday, 10 a.m. - 9 p.m.; Sundays, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. ☎ 928 1 18 24).

Pérez Galdós House-cum-Museum (9): The writer’s birthplace in the nearby commercial Triana district. Personal belongings and library (opening times: 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. ☎ 928 6 69 76).

Atlantic Modern Art Centre
Culture and entertainment

Principal Festivities

**Carnival**: February. The island’s biggest and best attended event. The main festivities are held in Las Palmas de Gran Canaria, in the Santa Catalina Park area.

**El Pino**: 8th September. Feast day in honour of the island’s Patron Saint, in Teror. Pilgrimage on foot from all parts of the island and a *romería* (pilgrimage fiesta) in the streets of Teror.

**La Rama**: 4th August. Curious celebration harking back to pre-Hispanic times, in Agaete. Devotees descend from the hills to the sea, bearing branches as an offering to bring rain.

Cultural events

**Canaries International Music Festival**: (January and February) One of Europe’s most important classical music festivals, featuring leading performing artists and orchestras. Venue: the Pérez Galdós Theatre in Las Palmas.

**Opera Festival**: (February-March) Organised by the Canary Friends of the Opera. ☏ 928 37 01 25

**“Atlántica”**: (January) Music Concert Festival at Maspalomas Beach. ☏ 928 72 34 44

The Centre Insular de Cultura (Island Cultural Centre) organises scores of cultural activities throughout the year: cinema, theatre, video, courses, workshops, discussion groups, etc. Calle Pérez Galdós, 53 - ☏ 928 37 10 23/11

The CAAM (Centro Atlántico de Arte Moderno) schedules major contemporary art exhibitions within its annual programme of events. Calle Los Balcones, 11 - ☏ 928 31 18 24

Traditional folk dance
USEFUL INFORMATION

Island hopping
Access from Gran Canaria to the remaining islands in the archipelago is easy, whether by plane, ferry or jet-foil.

**Plane:** Binter (☏ 928 44 01 00) runs daily flights to all the islands (to La Palma and El Hierro via Tenerife) except La Gomera, which has no airport.

**Ferry:** Trasmediterránea (☏ 928 26 56 50) operates a daily ferry service from Puerto de Las Palmas to the seven islands in the group. Fred Olsen (☏ 928 23 46 11) offers four daily sailings from Puerto de Agaete to Santa Cruz de Tenerife.

**Jet-Foil:** Five crossings daily to Santa Cruz de Tenerife and one daily to Morro Jable, Fuerteventura (☏ 928 27 38 84).

Transport

**How to get there:** Regular daily flights connect the island with principal cities around Spain and the rest of Europe (Gran Canaria Airport, ☏ 928 57 90 00). Buses link the airport with Las Palmas every 20 minutes.

**How to get around the island:**
- **By bus** (guagua, pronounced “wa-wa”). Island transport is divided up between two companies: UTINSA (☏ 928 36 01 79) in the north, and SALCAI (☏ 928 38 11 10) in the south. From the Las Palmas Bus and Coach Station (Estación de Guaguas) opposite San Telmo Park, buses can be caught to any point on the island.
- **By taxi:** some taxis offer island trips at special excursion rates.
- **By rental car:** there is an abundance of car hire agencies, many with offices at the airport, offering cars at relatively cheap rates.

**Times and currency**

**Time:** The Canaries are on Greenwich time, i.e., the same as Great Britain and an hour behind the rest of Western Europe.

**Opening times:** In general, shops in the Canaries open from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and again from 4 to 8 p.m.

**Currency:** The Peseta. Money will usually be exchanged by all banks, open Monday to Saturday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

USEFUL ADDRESSES AND TELEPHONE NUMBERS

**International Dialling Code:** 34

**TURESPAÑA TOURIST INFORMATION** ☏ 901 300 600

**Regional Tourist and Transport Authority**
Plaza de los Derechos Humanos. Edificio de Usos Múltiples (6th and 7th floors), 35003 Las Palmas de Gran Canaria. ☏ 928 38 42 48, fax 928 36 95 39

**Gran Canaria Tourist Board:** León y Castillo, 17, Las Palmas. ☏ 928 36 22 22 e-mail: dpromoc@ilecanet.com

**Tourist Information Offices:**
- Las Palmas de Gran Canaria: Santa Catalina Park. ☏ 928 26 46 23
- Maspalomas: Island Tourist Centre: Yumbo Shopping Mall. ☏ 928 76 25 91
- Palacio de Congresos (Convention Centre): (Las Palmas) 6 halls. Venue with maximum seating capacity: 800 persons. ☏ 928 41 17 00 / 928 41 60 20 Fax 928 41 17 10

**TRANSPORT**

**Airport:** ☏ 928 57 90 00
**Bus and Coach Station:** Avenida Rafael Cabrera. ☏ 928 36 01 79
**Taxis:** ☏ 928 46 22 12
**Ferry:** Dársena exterior (outer dock). ☏ 928 46 32 40
**Jet-foil:** ☏ 928 27 38 84
**Road Traffic:** Road & Highway information. ☏ 900 12 35 05

**GUARDIA CIVIL (Traffic Dept.),** ☏ 928 32 04 00

**COMMUNICATIONS**

**Post & Telegraphs:** ☏ 928 36 13 20

**USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS**

**Red Cross (Cruz Roja):** ☏ 928 22 22 22
**Hospital Emergencies:** ☏ 061
**National Police:** ☏ 091
**Municipal Police:** ☏ 092
**Public Information Service:** ☏ 010

**PARADORS (State-run hotels)**

**Central booking office:**
**Hosteria Cruz de Tejeda.** Cruz de Tejeda, ☏ 928 66 60 50, fax 928 66 60 51
**Fuerteventura:** Playa Blanca, 45, ☏ 928 85 11 50, fax 928 85 11 58
SPANISH TOURIST INFORMATION OFFICES ABROAD

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**Great Britain:** Fernando El Santo, 16  
☎ 91 319 02 00, fax 91 308 10 33

**Japan:** Serrano, 109  
☎ 91 590 76 00, fax 91 590 13 21

**Russia:** Velazquez, 155  
☎ 91 562 22 64, fax 91 562 97 12

**United States of America:** Serrano, 75  
☎ 91 587 22 00, fax 91 587 23 03

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Translation:  
Michael D. Benedict  
Photographs:  
Turespaña Photographic Archives  
Layout and design:  
Florencio García

Published by:  
© Turespaña  
Secretaría de Estado de Comercio y Turismo  
Ministerio de Economía

Printed by:  
D. L.:  
NIPO:  
Printed in Spain

Second Edition