

Lanzarote Tourist Guide

YOUR INVALUABLE GUIDE TO ALL THINGS IN LANZAROTE



PARADISE ISLAND

A 'Jewel in the Crown' of the archipelago of the Canary Islands. Palm trees, miles of golden sandy beaches set in a moonscape landscape, luxury developments, vineyards and volcanoes this is Lanzarote. UNESCO has declared Lanzarote a World Biosphere Reservation for its protection and conservation. Lanzarote is very different to the other Canary Islands, and this is mainly due to two influences. Firstly the surface is covered in 900 square km. of solidified lava and volcanic rocks, and secondly, the works of the great Canarian architect and artist César Manrique, whose influence created the island we see today. Together with its almost perfect year round climate and amazing volcanic craters Lanzarote ensures an unique holiday experience.

OUT AND ABOUT

HIRE CARS: Car hire on the Island is inexpensive compared to the UK. However, you must be aged 21 (some companies state 25), and possess a full driving licence.

ON THE BUS: There is a regular bus service between the main towns, Arrecife, Puerto del Carmen and Costa Tegui, which run every half hour.

TAXI RIDE: There are plenty of taxis around the island and they are reasonable to hire. The receptionist at the large hotels will call a cab for you. Alternatively there are numerous taxi ranks.

ON THE FERRY: To visit Fuerteventura, contact Armas Boat on 928 517 912 or Fred Olsen on 902 100 107 or their website www.fredolsen.es

WALKING: This is the best way to see the natural flora and fauna. Discovering walking guides, and Field guides to plants and flowers are available at 'Bookshop 1 & 11', Puerto del Carmen.

NIGHT LIFE

Check out the many discos in Puerto del Carmen, Costa Tegui or Arrecife. Most don't start until Midnight and go on until the early hours.

If you happen to be on the island when a local fiesta is taking place, join in and party. Many of the bars, restaurants and hotels offer live music of many kinds. Maybe you just want to go out for a meal. With plenty of restaurants to choose from, why not experiment with some of the excellent local dishes.

ON THE BEACH

Wherever you stay on the island you will never be far from one of the 89 beaches that extend over 54 kilometres.

EMERGENCIES

Take your Euro Health Insurance Card, which entitles you to free or subsidised essential medical treatment. All family members must hold a card.

AMBULANCES: The Spanish emergency ambulance service is called CRUZ ROJA (Red Cross). Dial 112; if you can't get through to the Red Cross service, call the nearest private clinic who will arrange one for you.

TOOTHACHE?: All the dental clinics on the island are private (not covered by the Spanish National Health System). There are clinics to be found in all of the resort areas, and in Arrecife.

CHEMISTS: Look out for a large green cross, and if the light is on, then they are open. Most pharmacies are open shop hours (9-1 and 5-9). There is always one open for longer hours, (advertised on the door of any 'Farmacia').

DOCTORS & CLINICS

BRITISH SURGERY OF LANZAROTE, offers a 24 Hour Medical service. If you need to see a doctor, just call in to the surgery or call us on 928 514 274 or our Freephone 900-811555. (Only from Spanish telephones) for a home visit.

DEUTSCH BRITISH CLINIC is situated in Costa Tegui, next to Pueblo Marinero. 24 hour emergency service. English, German and Scandinavian spoken. Modern technological equipment. Home visits; call 928 592125.

DR MAGER'S CLINIC Puerto del Carmen
Tel: 928 512611

BRITISH CONSULATE

If you have any passport enquiries, or require consular assistance E-mail: barbara.reyes@fco.gov.uk.

PLACES TO GO IN LANZAROTE

ARRECIFE is the political and commercial capital of the island. It boasts a population of around 40,000. Banks, shops, restaurants and bars are found along the promenade, and the two main streets of Calle León y Castillo and Avenida Generalísimo.

ARRIETA A delightful fishing village, with a small quay where you can find typical cafes and sample some excellent fresh fish.

CÉSAR MANRIQUE FOUNDATION The world famous artist César Manrique built a house in Tahiche on the site of five volcanic bubbles. He bequeathed it to the public to view his stunning collection of paintings, drawings, ceramics, photographs and plans. Open Mon to Fri 10.00 - 19.00 hrs and Sat-Sun 10.00 - 14.00 hrs.

CACTUS GARDEN Toward the North of the island, the cochineal beetle cultivated to produce a red dye. Near Guatiza, César Manrique designed a garden where you can see 1,420 different species of cactus. This beautiful garden is open from 10am-6pm.

COSTA TEGUISE One of the main tourist areas with long golden beaches. There are plenty of shops, restaurants, bars and banking facilities. For golf lovers, there is an international 18-hole course.

EL GOLFO A stunning contrast of black beach and deep green lagoon, this unique sight is spectacular. The large volcanic crater is filled by the sea from underground. There are only a couple of restaurants in the small village of El Golfo, but if you enjoy freshly fish this is the 'place to go'.

FAMARA On the West coast of the island, this beach is one of the prettiest with its magnificent backdrop of mountains. The sea is not recommended for swimming as the undercurrents are strong but surfing and surfboarding are great fun. Walk over the rocks to La Caleta, a quaint village nearby with a few bars and restaurants.

GUINATE TROPICAL PARK A tropical park featuring exotic birds, mammals and reptiles set in 45,000sq metres of waterfalls, lagoons and gardens. Parrot shows, children's play area and snack bar. Open 10am-5pm daily.

HARIA - THE VALLEY OF THE THOUSAND PALMS There once was a tradition that a palm tree was planted when a child was born, or two if it was a boy. Set deep in a valley

is the town of Haria, with lovely restaurants and bars.

LA GERIA is the biggest wine growing region on the Canary Islands. The vines are planted in sand and ash, and grown within semi circular stonewalls.

LA GRACIOSA One of the smallest of the Canary Islands, La Graciosa is a nature reserve. To visit the island, take a ferry from Orzola. Leave at 9.00 & 10.00 hrs and return at 15.00 & 16.00 hrs.

LOS HERVIDEROS Watch the power of the sea in all its glory. A solid lava mass at the cliff edge, has sheer drop to the sea. Rolling waves crash through multiple crevices and lava bubbles, which expel the water with great force.

JAMEOS DEL AGUA A prehistoric eruption created natural caves with roofless bubbles of lava (Jameos). A beautiful lake is connected to the sea from underground, and is home to a rare species of blind albino crab. César Manrique created a setting of artistically arranged flora with a complex of restaurant, bar cafeteria, and a concert cave with wonderful acoustics.

MIRADOR DEL RIO Yet another of Manrique's creations. From the top of a cliff, hundreds of metres above sea level, is a lookout point. The views over the island of La Graciosa are breathtaking.

MONUMENT OF THE CAMPESINO In the geographical centre of the island stands a 15 metre high modern sculpture of the Campesino (Farm worker), with his cat, dog and rat. Nearby is the 'Casa de Campesino', a converted farmhouse with an agricultural museum, shop and restaurant.

ORZOLA A delightful small fishing village at the North of the island, here you can see the locals returning from the sea with their catch every afternoon. A ferry to La Graciosa leaves from the harbour daily.

PAPAGAYO At the southernmost tip of the island are the crystal clear waters and white sands of Papagayo. It's a bumpy ride to the beach on the unmade road and will cost you 3.00g for admission, but it is well worth it. There are no services, so take some supplies and prepare for a climb down to the beach.

PLAYA BLANCA The southernmost tip of Lanzarote was once a small fishing village. With recent luxury developments, Playa Blanca is now a major tourist resort. Ferries depart daily to Fuerteventura from the harbour.

PUERTO CALERO Between Puerto del Carmen and Playa Quemada, the brothers Calero designed and built a beautiful marina. Restaurants line the harbour front and there are a growing number of shops.

PUERTO DEL CARMEN Lanzarote's main tourist resort offers 12 kilometres of golden sandy beaches and is the hub on the island night life. Clubs, discos, casino, bars, restaurants and shops galore can be found along the length of the beach.

TIMANFAYA - THE FIRE MOUNTAINS Fifty-one square kilometres of volcano and lava fields have been turned into a National Park. A coach will take you across the volcanic landscape to the restaurant, where the kitchens are heated by volcanic power.

TEGUISE MARKET A visit to the Sunday market at Tegui town is a must for visitors to the island. Starting at 09.00 hrs, the market is the ideal spot to hunt down souvenirs and gifts at bargain prices.

YAIZA An exceptionally pretty town to be found en route to Playa Blanca. There are a few traditional restaurants and cafes.