

# CANARY ISLANDS

SPRING & SUMMER GUIDE 2009



The best places to eat, sleep and play  
in the Canary Islands this spring and summer

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Think before you print. And if you do print, print double-sided.

# INTRODUCTION



TripAdvisor, the most trusted source for where to eat, sleep and play in thousands of destinations around the world, has collected the best insider tips from its 31 million monthly visitors to produce a unique series of travel guides. In addition to the best hotels, restaurants and attractions for every type of traveler, you'll get great advice about what to pack, how to get around and where to find the best views. Be sure to check out the guides at [www.tripadvisor.com](http://www.tripadvisor.com).



You'll find reviews for more than 270,000 hotels, 78,000 attractions and 469,000 restaurants on TripAdvisor.com. Learn from other travelers what to expect before you make your plans.



## PACKING TIPS

1. Pack “a **sweater** or **cardigan**; it can get a bit chilly.”—TripAdvisor Member, Fuerteventura
2. Take some **euros** to avoid scrambling for cash upon arrival, and remember that few places are open for currency exchange on Sunday.
3. **Water shoes** are “essential, as there are lots of rocks and volcanic debris in the water.”—TripAdvisor Member, Blackpool, England
4. “Get a **Spanish phrase book** and look up the basics: please, thank you, good morning, good night. They are very easy, and it shows that you are making an effort.”—TripAdvisor Member, Durham, England

## Inside CANARY ISLANDS

The sun-drenched Canary Islands, an autonomous region of Spain, actually lie closer to the northern coast of Africa and have an exotic flavor of their own. Hundreds of volcanoes, rolling sand dunes, rich forests and rugged cliffs dapple the landscape of the seven major islands in this Atlantic chain, and the climate is one of eternal spring.

Catch a ferry to easternmost Lanzarote and ride a camel through volcanic Timanfaya National Park. Take on Tenerife, home of Mount Teide, Spain's tallest peak and the historical district of La Laguna. Romp on the beaches of Grand Canary or hike in the mist at La Gomera's Garajonay National Park. More adventures await on tiny El Hierro, verdant La Palma and “the peaceful island,” Fuerteventura.

The Canaries combine all this natural beauty with accommodations for all budgets, international cuisine and fiestas throughout the year. Carnival season is especially hopping! With so much diversity, the hard part is deciding where to begin.

# Top VIEWS



## CANARY ISLANDS' BEST VIEWS

Ride the cable car up **Mount Teide** for a panoramic take on the Canary Islands. (A permit is required to reach the actual summit after disembarking.) "The view on the top was breathtaking. The sky and sea merged; the islands and clouds were 'floating' there. It was incredible!"—TripAdvisor Member

**Teide Cableway, Parque Nacional Las Canadas del Teide, Tenerife, 922 010 445**

Gaze out at the islands forming the Chinijo Archipelago from **Mirador del Rio**. The amazing lookout was designed by Cesar Manrique, "complete with one of his groovy cafés. My son declared it the ideal place for a James Bond villain to live."—TripAdvisor Member

**Mirador del Rio, Peak of Famara Cliffs, near the Ye village, Haria, Lanzarote**

"The remote and scenic Teno Hills, in the far west, show a different aspect of Tenerife, with quiet villages, spectacular vistas and plenty of walking trails. A visit to the lighthouse at **Punta de Teno**, on the far western tip of the island, is a worthwhile trip."—TripAdvisor Member

**Punta de Teno, Teno Hills, Tenerife**

## Where to PLAY

### TOP 10 Attractions

1. Tenerife Zoo Monkey Park, Los Cristianos, Tenerife, 922 790 720
2. Loro Parque, Avenida Loro Parque Santa Cruz de Tenerife, 922 373 841
3. Timanfaya National Park, North of Yaiza, Lanzarote, 928 840 056
4. Cool Runnings, Local 3, Hotel Elba Castillo Suites, Avenida Jose Franchy Roca, Caleta de Fuste, Fuerteventura, 649 938 581
5. Siam Park, Autopista TFE I Costa De Adeje, Adeje, Tenerife, 922 691 456
6. Parque Nacional Las Canadas del Teide, Tenerife
7. Jardin Canario, Carretera del Centro, Km. 7, Las Palmas, 928 353 604
8. Park Las Aguilas Jungle Park, Urbanizacion Las Aguilas del Teide s/n, Arona, Tenerife, 922 729 010
9. Yumbo Centre, Avenida de Espana, Playa del Ingles, Grand Canary
10. Golf del Sur, Avenida Galvan Bello, San Miguel de Abona, 922 738 170



## FAMILIES

"All the parrots and parrot-like birds you might imagine—and you probably haven't even heard of most of them—can be seen throughout **Loro Parque**. But there are also a lot of other beautiful animals, including a white tiger and a black jaguar."—TripAdvisor Member, Zeist, Netherlands

**Loro Parque, Santa Cruz de Tenerife, Tenerife, 922 373 841**

Take in the mind-blowing home of local artistic icon **Cesar Manrique**, designed within lava bubbles. "My children loved it. If only they could have a den like this."—TripAdvisor Member

**Fundación César Manrique, Taro de Tahiche, Lanzarote, 928 843 138**

"The hands-on enclosures at **Parque Ecologico las Aguilas del Teide** are amazing. Feeding time for the crocodiles is well worth watching, as is the eagle show. There is also an assault course and a toboggan run."—TripAdvisor Member, Middlesbrough, England

**Parque Ecologico las Aguilas del Teide, Tenerife, 922 729 010**

"You can't go wrong!"

"...champagne at sunset"

## ROMANCE

"You can't go wrong in **Los Cristianos Harbour**, whether you just want to chill with a glass of wine on the balcony, laze at the pool or explore all the island of Tenerife has to offer—which is much!"—TripAdvisor Member, Chilterns, U.K.

**Los Cristianos Harbour**

UNESCO World Heritage site **Garajonay National Park** "is a beautiful, forested area with a number of marked paths. Don't be fooled because it's very hot elsewhere: Mist can come in and make it a bit chilly."—TripAdvisor Member, Cheshire, U.K.

**Garajonay National Park, La Gomera, 922 800 993**

Special occasions call for a night trip to **Mount Teide** with "champagne at sunset, an excellent four-course meal with wine and stargazing with a qualified astronomer."—TripAdvisor Member, West Midlands, England

**Mount Teide, Parque Nacional Las Canadas del Teide, Tenerife**

# Where to PLAY



## BUDGET

Browse and haggle at the **local markets**, featuring “quite a large number of stalls, some selling slightly different costume jewelry, clothes, tablecloths and souvenirs of all sorts. There are also a huge number of handbag stalls.”—TripAdvisor Member, Fochabers, U.K.

Local markets, Tenerife

**Playa de la Arena** “has everything: beautiful, clean, black sand beach, restaurants serving food from all over the world and two good supermarkets for self-catering.”—TripAdvisor Member, Oxford, U.K.

Playa de la Arena, Tenerife

The three-hour **Barranco del Infierno** walk is easy and “finishes at a pretty waterfall, one of the few continually flowing streams on the island. Sundays are free.”—TripAdvisor Member

Barranco del Infierno, Adeje, Tenerife

“What a sight to see”



## ADVENTURE

Carvot on a camel across the lunar landscape of **Timanfaya National Park**. “What a sight to see—all those camels sitting next to the breathtaking volcanoes.”—TripAdvisor Member, Suffolk, England

Timanfaya National Park, Lanzarote, 928 840 057

Rewards await those who do the “fairly strenuous” **Los Organos** trail hike, “which meanders through pine trees” and presents “sudden views of massive Mount Teide.”—TripAdvisor Member

Los Organos trail, Upper Orotava Valley, Tenerife

**Marina Rubicon** offers a variety of water sports facilities, “all of the highest standard and kept immaculate. It also has a selection of designer shops and classy restaurants.”—TripAdvisor Member, Lancashire, U.K.

Marina Rubicon, Urbanización Castillo del Águila, s/n, Playa Blanca, Lanzarote, 928 519 012

TripAdvisor members have posted more than 1,380,000 photos on the site. The good, the bad and the very candid. It's almost like being there!



## EDUCATIONAL/HISTORICAL

“Presumed to have been a pirate hideaway, the village of **Masca** is a three-hour walk from the coast through dramatic countryside.”—TripAdvisor Member, Tenerife

Masca, Tenerife

“The **Canarian Museum** has exhibitions of mummified remains and historical artifacts, documentary and museographic collections and special activities to keep guests entertained.”—TripAdvisor Member, Puerto Rico

Canarian Museum, Dr. Verneau, 2, Las Palmas, Grand Canary, 928 336 800

**Museo Internacional de Arte Contemporaneo** is a “historic fort restored by Cesar Manrique and housing a collection of contemporary art, mainly Spanish.”—TripAdvisor Member, Loughborough, U.K.

Museo Internacional de Arte Contemporaneo, Castillo de San Jose, Puerto Naos, Arrecife, 928 812 321

“...a pirate hideaway.”

“Unspoiled beach and stunning scenery”



## RELAXATION

“If you like wine and its history,” visit **Casa Del Vino La Baranda**. Tasting is allowed and “you can relax on the huge veranda that has spectacular views, while enjoying a glass or two.”—TripAdvisor Member, United Kingdom

Casa Del Vino La Baranda (El Sauzal), C/ San Simón 49, El Sauzal, Santa Cruz de Tenerife, 922 572 535

“**Parque Albatros** on Golf del Sur is a very nice place to unwind. It feels exclusive and protected from the sometimes lively winds on Tenerife.”—TripAdvisor Member, London, England

Parque Albatros, Golf del Sur, Urbanización Golf del Sur, Avenida Galvan Bello, San Miguel de Abona, Tenerife, 922 738 170

“Unspoiled beach and stunning scenery” make the drive to **Famara Beach** worthwhile. “There are no facilities, so buy supplies at the shops in town.”—TripAdvisor Member, Scarborough, England

Famara Beach, Lanzarote

# What's the **TOUR**

## How to Get Around



"Get up close and personal with the volcanic landscape" with **Canary Trekking**.—TripAdvisor Member  
**Canary Trekking, 928 826 114**

"Many people use **ferry boats** to get from Gran Canaria to the other Canary Islands, because they are considered an inexpensive method of travel."—TripAdvisor Member, San Francisco, Calif.

"While driving is fast and easy on the Autopista highway, other roads need care—especially on the northwest of the island, where roads follow steep curves around mountainsides. For internal travel, the **public bus system** is highly recommended. The buses are efficient, modern and inexpensive."—TripAdvisor Member

Want more information on the Canary Islands? TripAdvisor.com offers free weekly e-mail updates filled with new deals, reviews and articles for the Canary Islands or any other destination you choose.

# WHERE to eat



## FAMILIES

"One of the first and still the most popular Italian restaurant in Los Cristianos," **Little Italy Taberna** is "always crowded with both locals and visitors. A perfect family restaurant, they really cater well for children."—TripAdvisor Member

**Little Italy Taberna, Paseo Marítimo, Los Cristianos, Tenerife, 922 792 570**

"**El Diablo** is a wonderful, circular restaurant designed by Cesar Manrique at Timanfaya National Park. It features lights made out of cast-iron frying pans. Your food is cooked by the heat of the volcano!"—TripAdvisor Member

**El Diablo, Timanfaya National Park, Lanzarote, 928 840 057**

"**Jessi**, down by the small beach and cliffs, has outdoor tables," where you can have a more traditional Canarian seafood meal.—TripAdvisor Member, United Kingdom

**Jessi, Los Gigantes, Tenerife, 922 861 955**

"Your food is cooked by the heat of the volcano!"

## ROMANCE

"For a special evening, go to **El Molino Blanco** up the hill from the San Eugenio Centre. The gardens there are fantastic and they have a singing chef. You'll be spoiled."—TripAdvisor Member, England

**El Molino Blanco, Avenida De Austria, 5 San Eugenio Alto, Costa Adeje, Tenerife, 922 798 987**

Even a husband talking football with the waiter couldn't squelch the romance of **Los Roques**, thanks to "the view of the coast and the sunset," and food that was "fresh, tasty and well prepared."—TripAdvisor Member, England

**Los Roques Restaurante, Calle La Marina 16, Los Abrigos, Tenerife, 922 749 401**

"Try to get one of the tables overlooking the water's edge" at harborfront **Casa Roja**. "It's a real couples' place, especially after dark; the food and service are excellent."—TripAdvisor Member, Bristol, U.K.

**Casa Roja, Avenida Varadero, Puerto del Carmen, Lanzarote, 928 515 866**

"You'll be spoiled."

## BUDGET

Long-running tapas bar **Don Chicharro** "is excellent. Good value, typically Spanish and loads of choices."—TripAdvisor Member, Tenerife

**Don Chicharro, Calle General Franco 9, Los Cristianos, Tenerife, 922 752 058**

"**Marabu** is to die for! Amazing value for the quality, good house wine and many tapas items."—TripAdvisor Member, Kent, England

**Marabu Restaurante, CL Fuente de Hija 2, Esquinzo G.C., Fuerteventura, 928 544 098**

Want fresh, local food? Try one of the many **farmers' markets**, "where you can buy all your fresh fruit and vegetables. Nothing prepackaged here. Choose what you want—dirt and all! You can't beat really fresh food."—TripAdvisor Member, Tenerife

**Farmers' Markets, Las Chafiras and San Isidro, Playa de las Americas, Tenerife**

# WHERE to eat



## HEALTH-CONSCIOUS

“The **Mantra** is an oasis amid the busy San Telmo shopping center. Vegetarians will be thrilled with the selection of dishes prepared from old Tibetan recipes, and meat eaters will find an extensive range of international specialties.”—TripAdvisor Member, Tenerife

**Mantra, C.C. San Telmo, Los Cristianos, Tenerife, 922 797 134**

A steakhouse might not sound like a healthy choice, but **Churrasqueria Rodeo** has “the best salad bar on the island, with over 40 different salads to choose from, and you can go back as often as you want.”—TripAdvisor Member, Tenerife

**Churrasqueria Rodeo, Urbanizacion Playa Fanabe, 35, Playa de las Americas, Tenerife, 922 713 255**

“If you’re a vegetarian or even if you are not, **Gibson’s** is a good bet. It is tiny, but they had the best veggie curry I’ve had in ages.”—TripAdvisor Member, Comrie, U.K.

**Gibson’s Continental Restaurant, Juan Sebastian Elcano, Corralejo, Fuerteventura**

“...on the edge of the beach”

## HIDDEN GEMS

Delight in “delicious tapas served by charming hosts” at **El Chupadero**, which has vineyards set in volcanic black soil. “The sweet Moscatel dessert wine, served with ice and a slice of orange, is particularly recommended.”—TripAdvisor Member

**El Chupadero Finca-Bodega, La Geria 3, Yaiza, Lanzarote 928 173 115**

“The Jardin Tropical Hotel has an excellent seafood restaurant, **Las Rocas**, that juts out over rocks, and you can watch the sun set behind La Gomera.”—TripAdvisor Member, Wilmslow, U.K.

**Las Rocas, Hotel Jardin Tropical, C/Gran Bretana s/n, Costa Adeje, Tenerife, 922 746 000**

“Try **Villa Toledo** on the edge of the beach at Playa Bastian for fantastic food and a beautiful setting overlooking the ocean. It’s lovely.”—TripAdvisor Member, Manchester, U.K.

**Villa Toledo, Avenida Los Cocederos, Playa Bastian, Lanzarote, 928 590 626**

## SPECIAL EVENTS



Experience the pre-Lent carnivals like never before at the **Las Palmas de Gran Canaria Carnaval**. The celebration, which begins three weeks before Lent, features the world famous Drag Queen Day. (February 6 – 28)

**Las Palmas de Gran Canaria Carnaval, Parque de Santa Catalina, 928 446 602, <http://www.lpacarnaval.com>**

The periphery comes to the center of attention at **El Festival Internacional de Cine de Las Palmas**, featuring cutting edge independent fiction, documentary and experimental films. Don’t miss Freak Night, showcasing the creepy, the gory and the bizarre. (March 6 – 14)

**El Festival Internacional de Cine de Las Palmas de Gran Canaria/ International Film Festival of Las Palmas de Gran Canaria, Various venues, Las Palmas, Grand Canary, 928 446 833, <http://www.festivalcinelaspalmas.com>**

Catch innovative short films, including one short that will be written, shot and edited throughout the week of the festival itself, at **El Festivalito**, an intimate, independent event focusing exclusively on digital film. (May 8 – 16)

**El Festivalito International Short Film Festival, La Palma, 922 403 354, <http://www.festivalito.com>**

Cheer on athletes in men’s and women’s events as they swim, bike and run to win cash prizes totaling \$50,000 at the **Lanzarote Ironman**. (May 23)

**Lanzarote Ironman, starts at Club La Santa, course runs throughout Lanzarote, <http://www.ironmanlanzarote.com>**

Take in the breathtaking street designs during the feast of **Corpus Christi in La Orotava**. Although the holiday is celebrated throughout Spain, the municipality of La Orotava is renowned for transforming its streets into brilliant carpets of live flowers and colorful volcanic sand. (June 11)

**Corpus Christi in La Orotava, La Orotava, Tenerife, <http://www.villadelaorotava.org> (Tourism site)**

Catch all the action as top windsurfers from the world over unite on Gran Canaria for one of the world’s most challenging and exciting events, the **PWA Pozo Gran Canaria Grand Prix 2009**. (July 10 – 19)

**PWA Pozo Gran Canaria Grand Prix 2009, Playa de Pozo Izquierdo, Santa Lucía de Tirajana, Grand Canary, <http://www.pwaworldtour.com>**

**Festival de Teatro y Danza Las Palmas** is sure to thrill your senses with a hard-hitting program of street performance, musical theater, ballet and much more taking place at outdoor venues throughout the city. (July – August)

**Festival de Teatro y Danza Las Palmas/Las Palmas Festival of Theatre and Dance, Various venues, Las Palmas, Grand Canary, 928 446 842, <http://www.teatroydanzalaspalmas.com>**

# Where to STAY



## FAMILIES

In addition to “excellent food” and service “always with a smile,” **Bitacora** wins admirers with its “many activities, well-organized and with a magnificent treatment by animators.”—TripAdvisor Member, Porto, Portugal

**Spring Hotel Bitacora, Calle California 1, Playa de las Américas (Arona), Tenerife, 922 791 540**

**ClubHotel Riu Vistamar** “is located on the top of a rock hill,” where you can “admire the most uncontaminated landscapes of the island. At the foot of the hill, there is a wonderful, big, golden beach, with umbrellas and deck chairs.”—TripAdvisor Member, Italy

**ClubHotel Riu Vistamar, Avenida de la Cornisa 23, Puerto Rico-Mogan, Grand Canary, 928 727 700**

“My children, two and five, loved **H10 Lanzarote Gardens!** The animation group worked hard and ensured that the little ones were happy from morning until night.”—TripAdvisor Member, Paris, France

**H10 Lanzarote Gardens, Avenida Islas Canarias 13, Costa Tegui, Lanzarote, 928 590 100**

“...like being at home”



Have questions about the Canary Islands? Get insider advice from local experts in our forums. The majority of questions are answered within 24 hours.

## ROMANCE

**Hotel Riu Palace Meloneras Resort** is an “excellent hotel. Comfortable, clean, with extremely professional staff, fine food, beautiful garden, nice ballroom and bars. Close to everything—beach, restaurants, shopping centers. Such a wonderful experience!”—TripAdvisor Member, Vicenza, Italy

**Hotel Riu Palace Meloneras Resort, Urbanización Las Meloneras, Maspalomas, Grand Canary, 928 143 182**

**Apartments Casablanca** are “very pleasantly furnished, like being at home—very cozy and comfortable. The kitchen is well-equipped with all accessories and necessities, as well as a bottle of rosé on the table to welcome us.”—TripAdvisor Member, Tenerife

**Apartments Casablanca, C/ Calzada de Martianez, 4, Puerto de la Cruz, Tenerife, 922 371 814**

“We had a very relaxed time at **Reveron Plaza**, but you’re in the wrong hotel if you’re expecting action and a lot of entertainment.” The rooftop pool and terrace offer a “nice view on the area and the ocean.”—TripAdvisor Member, Hanau, Germany

**Reveron Plaza, Carretera General Franco 26, Los Cristianos, Tenerife, 922 757 120**

## BUDGET

Guests keep returning to **Kiwi Bungalows**, “an ideal base for families who want to tour the island, in a quiet area away from any nightlife.”—TripAdvisor Member, Leeds, U.K.

**Kiwi Bungalows, Avenida Finmatkat 8, Maspalomas, Grand Canary, 928 766 978**

**La Penita Apartments** were “a good base of departure for exploring the island, but could also meet the tastes of someone who prefers to roast alone beside the pool or take an evening stroll on the spacious promenade.”—TripAdvisor Member, Rome, Italy

**La Penita Apartments, Chalana, 2, Puerto del Carmen, Lanzarote, 928 514 262**

“At first glance, you may think **Cala Nova Apartments** are small and unimpressive, but how wrong you would be! The rooms are light and bright. The kitchen area is well-equipped, and the location is ideal.”—TripAdvisor Member, Wakefield, England

**Cala Nova Apartments, Avenida Gran Canaria, Puerto Rico, Grand Canary, 928 560 848**

“...a jewel in the sun.”

## LUXURY

**Hotel Riu Grand Palace Maspalomas Oasis** offers a “great location, nice pool and excellent palm tree garden and friendly staff. The beach was just a few meters away.”—TripAdvisor Member, Seville, Spain

**Hotel Riu Grand Palace Maspalomas Oasis, Avenida de Tirajana s/n, Playa del Inglés, Maspalomas, Grand Canary, 928 141 448**

**Grand Hotel Residencia** is a “jewel in the sun. All the staff, without exception, were friendly and efficient. We felt totally rested, relaxed and pampered.”—TripAdvisor Member, Krefeld, Germany

**Grand Hotel Residencia, Avenida De Oasis 32, Maspalomas, Grand Canary, 928 723 100**

“**Bahia Real** is simply the best way to spend a good and relaxed holiday—great staff, good food, spacious rooms and a good ambiance.”—TripAdvisor Member, Madeira, Portugal

**Gran Hotel Atlantis Bahia Real, Avenida Grandes Playas s/n, Corralejo, Fuerteventura, 928 536 444**

# Where to **STAY**



## HIDDEN GEMS

“The staff at **Hotel Jardín Tecina** were very efficient and extremely friendly. The beautiful gardens of trees and flowers were the most relaxing place to spend a week, and the food was first class.”—TripAdvisor Member, Lanzarote

**Hotel Jardín Tecina, Playa de Santiago, La Gomera, 902 222 140**

“We wanted some relaxation and no excursions. Just books, swimming pool, a bottle of wine. And that is what we got at **Hotel San Roque**. So... perfect!”—TripAdvisor Member, Lanzarote

**Hotel San Roque, Esteban de Ponte, 32, Garachico, Tenerife, 922 133 435**

“The **Caleton Blanco** is not a complex, just simply apartments with a pool. But everything you'd need was just outside the gates—restaurants, bars, shops and the beach. We had a two-bed apartment with a massive patio/balcony overlooking the main Puerto del Carmen strip and the beach.”—TripAdvisor Member, Málaga, Spain

**Caleton Blanco, Avenida de las Playas 11, Puerto Del Carmen, Lanzarote, 928 513 894**

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