

# CANARY ISLANDS

FALL & WINTER GUIDE 2011 – 2012



The best places to eat, sleep and play  
in the Canary Islands this fall and winter

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# 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 50 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).



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## 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. Timanfaya National Park, North of Yaiza, Lanzarote, 928 840 056
2. Fundacion Cesar Manrique, Taro de Tahiche, Lanzarote, 928 810 138
3. Garajonay National Park, La Gomera, 922 800 993
4. Loro Parque, Av. Loro Parque, Santa Cruz de Tenerife, Tenerife, 922 373 841
5. Palmitos Park, Barranco de Los Palmitos, Maspalomas, Grand Canary, 928 140 276
6. Parque Nacional Las Canadas del Teide, Tenerife
7. Mount Teide, Santa Cruz de Tenerife
8. Tenerife Zoo Monkey Park, Los Cristianos, Tenerife, 922 790 720
9. Mirador del Rio, Northern Road to Haria, Lanzarote
10. Masca Valley, Tenerife



## 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**

"Don't go to Fuerteventura without visiting **Oasis Park**. It's a fantastic family day out. There's so much to see and do. My eight-year-old thought the parrots were the best. My husband loved the birds of prey show. I can't decide—it was all brilliant."—TripAdvisor Member, Sheffield, U.K.

**La Lajita Oasis Park, Fuerteventura, 902 400 434**

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**

"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**



## ADVENTURE

“I had a great day out with **Backtrax**. The staff were helpful, friendly and professional. We were supplied with all the safety equipment, and the bikes were very well maintained. We rode DR-Z400 motorbikes off-road all over the island. It was a fabulous day, one I’ll always remember.”—TripAdvisor Member, London, England

**Backtrax Off Road Motorcycle Tours, Local 1 Hotel Elba Castillo Antigua, Calle Jose Franchy Roca, Caleta de Fuste, Fuerteventura, 686 627 532**

“The **Jardin da Cactus** seems smaller than expected, but walk around this so cleverly designed garden and you become lost in the huge variety of cactus from all over the world. The cafe is peaceful and relaxing and quite good value, as is the entrance fee of 5 euros.”—TripAdvisor Member

**Jardin de Cactus, Between Guatiza & Mala, Lanzarote, 928 529 397**

During **Cool Runnings** island trike tour, “the views are spectacular. The whole experience is heightened by the fantastic feeling of the open roads and fresh air while touring through the heart of the island. No previous biking knowledge is necessary, and the trikes feel very solid and safe without losing the ‘close to nature’ excitement.”—TripAdvisor Member, Portsmouth, U.K.

**Cool Runnings, Hotel Elba Castillo Suites, Avenida Jose Franchy Roca, Fuerteventura, 649 938 581**

“Tucked away in a side street off the main drag, you will find the **Imagine Live Music Bar**, a little treasure offering live acoustic guitar and singing. There’s no cover charge, and every evening has a different feel to it, a different musical experience.”—TripAdvisor Member, Wales

**Imagine Live Music Bar, Calle Lepanto 7, Corralejo, Fuerteventura, 928 536 568**

**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 8,000,000 traveler 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**

“...a pirate hideaway.”

“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**

“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

"We are a large family who did not want to spend a fortune on lunch, so **Cafe Aroma** was just right. You can get kids lunches for € 3.50, including a drink. They even included Marmite, which was a delight for the kids. The service and atmosphere is brilliant. You always feel welcome, even when it's closing time."—TripAdvisor Member

**Cafe Aroma, CC Papagayo, Playa Blanca, Lanzarote, 660 911 485**

"We've been going to **Emma's** now for years. The food, service and ambiance never fail to impress. The chili is superb, and the Tex-Mex ribs will melt in your mouth. The kids' menu is also good quality and value."—TripAdvisor Member, London, England

**Emma's Cantina Mexicana, Calle Teide 20, Puerto Del Carmen, Lanzarote, 928 514 154**

"**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**

"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, 922 796 282**

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**

"**Restaurante Lilium** is an unexpected gem. The welcome was warm, the food delicious and the Lanzarote wines complemented the food perfectly."—TripAdvisor Member, Edinburgh, U.K.

**Restaurante Lilium, Jose Antonio Primo de Rivera 103, Arrecife, Lanzarote, 928 524 978**

"You'll be spoiled."

### BUDGET

At **Avenida Restaurante**, "the portions were large, and quality was good. The parillada of fish was the best I've ever had and could have easily fed four people. Most meals are from \$5 upwards."—TripAdvisor Member

**Avenida Restaurante, C/General Prim, 11, Corralejo, Fuerteventura**

For "great value food from a very good menu," try **Fado Rock Steak House**. "The best grilled sole ever!"—TripAdvisor Member, Fife, Scotland

**Fado Rock Steak House, Main Street, Caleta de Fuste, Fuerteventura, 928 163 527**

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

“I was so happy to find **El Limon!** You can get a protein hit with a serve of seitan, tempeh or tofu. They make delicious sandwiches, baguettes and veggie burgers. They serve freshly made juices, too. All the food and drinks are prepared on site. Check the dessert menu for some yummy options.”—TripAdvisor Member, Melbourne, Australia

**El Limon, Calle Esquivel 4, Puerto de la Cruz, Tenerife, 922 381 619**

“The **Blooming Cactus Cafe** is music to the ears of any vegetarian in Lanzarote. They really know their stuff. Textures and flavors were just perfect. We could not believe it was vegan!”—TripAdvisor Member, Bournemouth, U.K.

**Blooming Cactus Vegetarian Cafe & Restaurant, 35 Calle Teide, Old Town, Lanzarote, 608 293 873**

“**Surf Corner Vegetarian Cafe** serves a huge variety of homemade vegetarian dishes and fruit smoothies. Our favorite was their taster plate which was made up of a small taste of nearly everything they serve on one plate - delicious!”—TripAdvisor Member, Matlock, U.K.

**Surf Corner Vegetarian Cafe, Las Cucharas Beach, Costa Tegui, Lanzarote**

“...on the edge of the beach”

## HIDDEN GEMS

“Wish we had found **Ristorante Lory del Mar** earlier! A wonderful, intimate restaurant where everything was cooked to order. You can taste the fresh ingredients!”—TripAdvisor Member, Southampton, U.K.

**Ristorante Lory del Mar, Calle La Iglesia, 13, Avenida Maritima, Corralejo, Fuerteventura, 650 854 649**

“**Dovela** serves Basque cuisine with a warm Spanish welcome. My main dish was the cod and black pudding, which had amazing tastes and textures. This is definitely a place for a different type of gastronomic evening.”—TripAdvisor Member, Liverpool, U.K.

**Dovela, La Iglesia 21, Corralejo, Fuerteventura, 928 537 297**

“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



Join kite flyers from around the world on the Corralejo beaches for the **International Kite Festival**. The festival is a three-day event; Sunday is family day and features parachuting teddy bears that drop candy from the sky. (November 10 – 13)

**International Kite Festival, Dunas de Corralejo Natural Park, 928 866 235, <http://www.corralejograndesplayas.com>**

Sailing enthusiasts will enjoy the **Atlantic Rally for Cruisers**, the largest trans-ocean sailing event in the world. The rally begins in Gran Canaria and ends in St. Lucia, where the locals begin partying as soon as the first boat arrives. (November 20 – December 17)

**Atlantic Rally for Cruisers, Las Palmas, <http://www.worldcruising.com/arc>**

Enjoy a festive tradition in Icod de los Vinos during the **Festival of the Boards**, when the local wineries offer their new wines for tasting and local youths slide down a hill on boards greased with tar, in tribute to the town's carpenters. (November 29)

**Festival of the Boards, Icod de los Vinos, 922 239 592 (Tourist Info line)**

You'll find the **International Story Festival** in Los Silos in Tenerife, an event dedicated to nurturing interest in literature that features storytelling sessions with readers from around the world. (December 6 – 10)

**International Story Festival, Los Silos, <http://www.cuentoslossilos.es>**

Hear the best in classical music during the **Canary Islands Music Festival**. The festival, which is in its 28th year, is the only classical music festival in Europe to be held during the winter season. (January 10 – February 19)

**Canary Islands Music Festival, Various venues, <http://www.festivaldecanarias.com>**

Experience the pre-Lent carnivals like never before at the **Las Palmas de Gran Canaria Carnival**. The celebration, which begins three weeks before Lent, features the world famous Drag Queen Day. (February 3 – 21)

**Las Palmas de Gran Canaria Carnival, Parque de Santa Catalina, 928 446 623, <http://www.lpacarnaval.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 Teguisse, Lanzarote, 928 590 100**

“...very unique and atmospheric.”



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

“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**

“**Finca Las Longueras** is very unique and atmospheric. It’s an old colonial-style manor house from 1895 & has tons of historical character. Our room was lovely - really spacious, with an amazingly ornate wooden headboard and huge old wardrobe with secret sides!”—TripAdvisor Member, London, U.K.

**Hotel Rural Las Longueras, Valle de Agaete s/n, Agaete, Grand Canary, 928 898 145**

**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**

## BUDGET

**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**

“My husband and I just wanted a little trip away that was cheap and warm, and **Cordial Green Golf** did not disappoint. We had a brilliant time and were more than happy with our accommodation.”—TripAdvisor Member, Liverpool, U.K.

**Cordial Green Golf, Avda de Tjaereborg s/n, Maspalomas, Grand Canary, 928 721 147**

“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

“I cannot express how special the **Hotel Jardines de Nivaria** is. The location, ambiance and staff are the best anywhere. The decor is faultless, food fantastic. We’ve always had a dream holiday here and could ask for no more than it gives: perfection in every way.”—TripAdvisor Member

**Hotel Jardines de Nivaria, Calle Paris - Playa Fanabe, Adeje, Tenerife, 922 713 333**

**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 Jardin 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 Jardin 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**

“Our stay at **Finca Malvasia** met and exceeded all of our expectations. The apartments are clean, comfortable and equipped with everything you could need. We were welcomed by the owners, the warm glow of a wood burner, a pre-ordered Canarian platter and a bottle of the local wine. Truly a delightful stay!”—TripAdvisor Member, Norwich, U.K.

**Finca Malvasia, Masdache, Lanzarote, 928 173 460**

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Edited/compiled by LoAnn Halden, Michelle Schwartz and Kris Horton

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