

CANARY ISLANDS

FALL & WINTER GUIDE 2009/2010



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

With more than 30 million reviews and opinions, TripAdvisor makes travel
planning a snap for the 35 million travelers visiting our sites each month.



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 35 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.



You'll find reviews for more than 450,000 hotels, 90,000 attractions and 560,000 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. Cool Runnings, Local 3, Hotel Elba Castillo Suites, Av. Jose Franchy Roca, Caleta de Fuste, Fuerteventura, 649 938 581
2. Parque Nacional Las Canadas del Teide, Tenerife
3. Loro Parque, Av. Loro Parque, Santa Cruz de Tenerife, Tenerife, 922 373 841
4. Tenerife Zoo Monkey Park, Los Cristianos, Tenerife, 922 790 720
5. Timanfaya National Park, North of Yaiza, Lanzarote, 928 840 056
6. The Claddagh Irish Bar, Calle San Telmo #6, Los Cristianos, Tenerife, 677 374 244
7. Siam Park, Autopista TFE I, Adeje, Tenerife, 922 691 456
8. Animal Encounters Swim with Sealions, Maspalomas, Grand Canary, 666 124 776
9. La Lajita Oasis Park, Fuerteventura, 902 400 434
10. Playa de Cofete, Pajara Morro del Jable, Fuerteventura



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

“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

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



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

“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 stopping for lunch, drinks and for photo opportunities. It was a fabulous day, one I will always remember.”—TripAdvisor Member, London, England

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

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 2,000,000 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

“...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

"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 Maritimo, 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

"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

"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

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

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, 626 245 274

“...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



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 7 – 9)

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 22 – December 19)

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

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. (November 23 – December 4)

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

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)

Hear the best in classical music during the **Canary Islands Music Festival**. The festival, which is in its 26th year, is the only classical music festival in Europe to be held during the winter season. (January 8 – February 7)

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 Carnaval**. The celebration, which begins three weeks before Lent, features the world famous Drag Queen Day. (January 6 – February 20)

Las Palmas de Gran Canaria Carnaval, 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

“...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

“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

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

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

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

“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 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

About **TRIPADVISOR**

TripAdvisor is the largest travel community in the world with 35 million monthly visitors and featuring more than 30 million reviews and opinions of 540,000 hotels and attractions. TripAdvisor.com is the most trusted source for travel recommendations about where to go, where to stay and how to play for 70,000 destinations around the world. TripAdvisor.com also provides easy access to the major online travel sites to make booking your next vacation, your best vacation, easier than ever.



Edited/compiled by LoAnn Halden and Sheila Koenig

Cover photo: Beach by gemini16Padova, Padua, Italy

This brochure and its contents are copyright © 2009, TripAdvisor, Inc., all rights reserved. TRIPADVISOR, the owl logo and all other marks displayed herein are registered and/or common law trademarks of TripAdvisor and/or third parties. Representations made in this brochure are current as of its publication date. This brochure contains reviews, comments, photographs and other content regarding destinations, accommodations, airlines and other travel products and services submitted by users of tripadvisor.com. Reviews and ratings represent the opinions of such users. TripAdvisor does not sponsor or endorse any user content and therefore is not liable for any statements, representations or other information contained in such user content.

Further, reference to any products, services, processes or other information of any third party does not constitute or imply endorsement, sponsorship or recommendation of or affiliation with, such third party by TripAdvisor. Such third parties are owned and operated by independent retailers or service providers, and TripAdvisor cannot ensure that you will be satisfied with their products, services, business practices or provided information. TripAdvisor recommends that you pursue any and all investigation you feel necessary or appropriate before transacting with any third party.