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

With more than 50 million reviews and opinions, TripAdvisor makes travel planning a snap for the 50 million travelers visiting our site each month.
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. Carnaval season is especially hopping! With so much diversity, the hard part is deciding where to begin.

You’ll find reviews for more than 520,000 hotels, 125,000 vacation rentals, 155,000 attractions and 715,000 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

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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

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

“...champagne at sunset”
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

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

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 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

Jardín de Cactus, Between Guatiza & Mala, Lanzarote, 928 529 397

“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

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

“Unspoiled beach and stunning scenery”

“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

“Unspoiled beach and stunning scenery”

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

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**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*

**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*

**BUDGET**

“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.

**GETTING AROUND**

“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.

“**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*

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*

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, Southampton, U.K.

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

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, Melbourne, Australia

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

“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 Teguise, Lanzarote

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)


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.cuentossalossilos.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)


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 3 – 21)

Las Palmas de Gran Canaria Carnaval, Parque de Santa Catalina, 928 446 623, http://www.lpacarnaval.com

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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 Americas (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 Teguise, Lanzarote, 928 590 100

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

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

"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

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, 922 514 262

"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 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 Martinez, 4, Puerto de la Cruz, Tenerife, 922 371 814

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.”—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 Martinez, 4, Puerto de la Cruz, Tenerife, 922 371 814

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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

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

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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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