**Tenerife**

**Overview**

Tenerife is undergoing something of a metamorphosis. Long synonymous with crass commercialism, the island has been pursuing a more discerning clientele in a bid to confine its pies, fries, and beer image to the history books.

Offering a closer and cost-effective alternative to the Caribbean, its verdant peaks and sandy shores are indeed attracting more refined pilgrims; those who come in search of sun and solace, rather than cheap booze and casual sex.

The hotel scene is changing, too. Once dominated by pile-them-high-and-sell-them-cheap apartments, the island’s accommodation offering has been enhanced by luxury resorts, where guests can practice yoga on manicured beaches, tee-off overlooking the Atlantic or go horse riding in the surf.

In line with its image change, Tenerife's gastronomic scene is also experiencing a revolution. Promenades still tempt sunbathers with all day British breakfasts and cheap beer, but in hotel dining rooms and chic restaurants a culinary movement is gathering pace. The island's excellent wines are also finding a new faithful amongst the tippling cognoscenti of Europe.

Tenerife, the largest and most populous of the Canary Islands, was formed in the aftermath of a mighty volcanic eruption. Mount Teide is a reminder of its fiery past, looming large over the island.

A UNESCO World Heritage Site, Teide is the third largest volcano in the world and, while she sleeps a deep slumber, she remains active. During the winter her obsidian flanks turn white with snow and in spring her dark surface is streaked scarlet by the dazzling spikes of tajinaste plants.

Mother Nature's less explosive contributions include the mountain rainforests of Anaga; the sandy beaches of El Medano; and the vertiginous cliffs of Los Gigantes in the wild west.

Bathed in year-round sunshine and possessing an impressive diversity of landscapes and micro climates, visitors to Tenerife can go from snowboarding to surfing in the space of a few hours and still have time to sip fine wine over a scarlet sunset and stargaze in some of the world's clearest skies.

**Getting There**

**Air**

Spain's national airline is Iberia ([www.iberia.com](http://www.iberia.com/)), which provides frequent flights to Tenerife from mainland Spain and destinations across Europe. Monarch Airlines ([www.monarch.co.uk](http://www.monarch.co.uk)) schedule flights daily from Manchester, Birmingham and London Gatwick. Budget airlines including EasyJet ([www.easyjet.com](http://www.easyjet.com/)) and Ryanair ([www.ryanair.com](http://www.ryanair.com)) have frequent flights to Tenerife from across the UK.

Flights are cheaper and more frequent during the winter high season from September/October to March/Easter.

**Air Notes**

XXX

**Flight Times**

From **London** to Tenerife is approximately 4 hours 20 minutes.

**Air Passes**

XXX

**Departure Tax**

None

**Road**

XXX

**Road Note**

XXX

**Rail**

XXX

**Rail Passes**

XXX

**Rail Note**

XXX

**Water**

Tenerife has a major port in its capital city of Santa Cruz ([www.puertosdetenerife.org](http://www.puertosdetenerife.org/)) which is currently the only port of entry for goods ships and passenger liners. There are plans to build a second port, in Granadilla in the south east of the island, but there is strong local opposition to the project.

**Water Note**

XXX

**Cruise Ships**

Tenerife is a popular stopover for transatlantic cruise liners, including the QM2, with more than 600,000 passengers disembarking into Santa Cruz in 2012.

**Ferry Operators**

Trasmediterranea (tel: 0871 222 3312; [www.trasmediterranea.es](http://www.trasmediterranea.es/)) operates a weekly service between Santa Cruz and Cadiz in mainland Spain (journey time: 49 hours). Armas (tel: 0034 928 33 600; [www.navieraarmas.com](http://www.navieraarmas.com/)) sail weekly from Huelva to Santa Cruz (journey time: 36 hours).

**River Routes**

XXX

**Getting Around**

**Air**

All seven Canary Islands have their own airports. Tenerife has two; Reina Sofia in the south and Los Rodeos in the north. Most European flights land at Tenerife South airport while Tenerife North is better served by flights from mainland Spain and elsewhere in the Canaries.

Inter-island connections are served by BinterCanarias ([www.bintercanarias.com](http://www.bintercanarias.com/)) and CanaryFly *(*[www.canaryfly.es](http://www.canaryfly.es/)*)*. Although routes run between Tenerife South Airport and airports on the other islands, they are infrequent compared to the multiple daily services that depart from Tenerife North Airport.

**Air Notes**

XXX

**Air Passes**

XXX

**Departure Tax**

XXX

**Road**

Tenerife’s established road infrastructure and clear signposting makes it an easy island to drive around. It helps to beware that local drivers use their indicators instead of hazard warning lights to warn of dangers or even to warn they will be stopping at a pedestrian crossing. Roundabouts appear to be a mystery to local drivers with most using the outside lane only.

**Side Of Road**

Right

**Road Quality**

Motorways and major roads are of a high standard with smooth surfaces and clear markings. Mountain roads can be narrow and winding and some surfaces can be rough, especially in more rural locations.

**Road Classification**

Tenerife has a toll-free motorway network which connects the capital city and airports with most major resorts on the island and there are plans to extend it to completely circumnavigate the island.

**Car Hire**

There are more than 100 car hire companies on Tenerife including most of the major car hire companies who have offices at the two airports and in the main urban centres. Car hire is good value for money on the island and most cars are less than two years old. Drivers must be over 21 to hire a car.

**Taxi**

Taxis ([www.officialtaxitenerife.com](http://www.officialtaxitenerife.com)) are metred and regulated. They can be found in all resorts, cities, towns and even most villages across Tenerife. You can flag down taxis in the street.

**Bike**

Road and mountain bikes can be hired from resorts and towns across the island, but be warned; there are some very steep hills in Tenerife. Not that that bother Britain's Olympic cycling team or Bradley Wiggins, who use the island as a training ground.

For something more powerful, motorcycles and mopeds are available for hire in most major towns and resorts. Riders of motorcycles over 75cc must be at least 18. Crash helmets are compulsory.

**Coach**

XXX

**Regulations**

Two red hazard triangles and a reflective vest or jacket must be kept in all vehicles – the latter in the car, not in the boot. Hire cars are equipped with all necessary legal requirements. Parking laws are rigorously enforced and illegally parked cars are often towed away.

The speed limit for motorways is 120kph (80mph). In built-up areas it's 50kph (30mph) and on other roads it's 90kph (56mph). Speed cameras are in operation on motorways and major roads. Safety belts are compulsory front and rear. Drink driving is a serious offence in Tenerife. The legal limit is just 0.25%, equivalent to less than one pint of beer or two glasses of wine.

**Breakdown Service**

**Emergency breakdown service:** Real Automóvil Club de España (RACE) (tel: 902 404 545; [www.race.es](http://www.race.es/)).

**Documentation**

Most foreign licences including Canadian, EU and US are accepted. Minimum third party insurance is compulsory. An original driving licence and proof of identity must be carried in the car at all times.

**Road Note**

XXX

**Towns And Cities**

Most coastal resorts have central pedestrianised areas. Metered taxis are readily available and taxi ranks abound. The public bus service, TITSA ([www.titsa.com](http://www.titsa.com)), is a cheap and reliable way of getting around, and so is the tram that runs between Santa Cruz and La Laguna.

Bono prepaid cards offer a 50% discount on bus and tram journeys. They can be bought at any bus station or in kiosks displaying the green Bono circle.

**Rail**

There is no rail network in Tenerife, although a tram service operates between the northern cities of Santa Cruz and La Laguna ([www.tranviatenerife.com](http://www.tranviatenerife.com/)).

**Rail Passes**

XXX

**Rail Note**

XXX

**Water**

An alternative means of travelling from island to island is by ferry. Two companies operate the various routes: Lineas Fred Olsen ([www.fredolsen.es](http://www.fredolsen.es/)) and Naviera Armas ([www.naviera-armas.com](http://www.naviera-armas.com/)).

In Tenerife the ferry terminals are in Santa Cruz and Los Cristianos. Ferries to the western Canary Islands of La Gomera, El Hierro and La Palma operate from Los Cristianos and ferries to the eastern islands of Lanzarote, Gran Canaria and Fuerteventura depart from Santa Cruz.

**Water Note**

XXX

**Business**

**Business Etiquette**

XXX

**Office Hours**

XXX

**Economy**

XXX

**GDP**

XXX

**Main Exports**

XXX

**Main Imports**

XXX

**Main Trading Partners**

XXX

**Sightseeing**

**Trek through the Anaga Mountains**

The ancient peaks of the Anaga Mountains are the perfect spot for some hill-walking. Carved by plunging ravines, peppered with white-walled hamlets and coated in lichen-dripping laurisilva forests, life in the Anagas has changed little in centuries. Challenging and dramatic, the mountains test and reward hikers in equal measure.

**Take a city break in Santa Cruz**

Capital of the Western Canary Islands, the city of Santa Cruz is a great weekend city break venue. Impressive architecture, leafy plazas bustling with cafes, art galleries and museums are all in easy strolling distance. City highlights are Parque Garcia Sanabria, Museum of Man & Nature, Plaza España and TEA art gallery. Evening entertainment centres around the trendy bars and restaurants of the Noria District.

**Get lost in underground lava caves**

Formed by lava flows from the nearby Pico Viejo volcano, Cueva del Viento is a 17Km (10 mile) labyrinth of underground tunnels. Located at Icod de los Vinos, the subterranean network is home to fascinating lava formations and 48 species of troglobites including blind cockroaches. Daily tours are available and reservations essential.

**Bathe in rock pools at Garachico**

Once Tenerife’s wealthiest town, Garachico's fortunes were swept away by a volcanic eruption in 1706, which destroyed the harbour and buried many of its fine buildings. Today the town's rock pools, hewn from solidified lava, are a popular with locals and visitors alike, and are a brilliant place to swim amongst the tropical fish.

**Ride the waves in El Medano**

A magnet for surfers, windsurfers and kitesurfers, El Medano has the best natural beaches on the island, several of them favoured by naturists. The resort's laid back, Bohemian culture and its great cafes make it an attractive alternative to the busier southwest coast resorts.

**Question the history books at Guimar**

Guimar is home to Tenerife's most enigmatic and enduring mystery; ancient pyramids. Some theorists believe the Pyramids of Guimar are proof that the Egyptians could make long sea voyages and may have discovered America. Most historians dispute this theory. Whatever you believe, the pyramids make for a compelling day trip.

**Imbibe culture at Candelaria**

Well off the tourist trail, charming Candelaria is the spiritual capital of Tenerife. Its landmark basilica is certainly worthy of a visit and is most notable for its murals and statue of Black Madonna. The Plaza de la Patrona is another must see, with its grand bronze statues that represent the nine kings that ruled Tenerife prior to Spanish conquest. Tapas bars and great bakeries add to the town’s appeal.

**Saunter around Puerto de la Cruz**

Tenerife's original resort (before the south airport was constructed), Puerto de la Cruz still retains its Canarian culture and roots. Photogenic plazas surrounded by bars and restaurants; a fishermen's quarter which has morphed into the town's restaurant district; and a pretty harbour hosting year-round cultural events make it worthy of a visit.

**Go whale watching**

In the warm Atlantic water between Tenerife and La Gomera, pods of bottle-nosed dolphins and pilot whales gorge on a constant tide of unsuspecting fish making this one of the best places on the planet to see these cetaceans in their natural habitat. Boats go out three times daily from the harbour at Los Gigantes.

**Step back in time in La Orotava**

Tenerife's most aristocratic town, sited in the lush valley from which it takes its name, La Orotava has a picturesque old quarter where you can see some of the best examples of traditional balconied mansions. Pavement cafes, tapas bars, gardens and antique shops add to its colonial attractions.

**Hike the Masca Ravine**

The village of Masca is perched on a rocky outcrop and flanked by towering massifs on the edge of the Teno Mountains. Inaccessible until the 1970s, Masca is the starting point for a challenging, three-hour trek down the Masca Ravine to the sea, where boats take weary hikers to Los Gigantes. Make sure you pick up tickets for the boat in the village before you set off.

**Cool off at Siam Park**

Siam Park is one of Europe's biggest water parks ([www.siampark.net](http://www.siampark.net/)). This Thai-inspired aquatic complex has some of the highest, fastest and longest water rides in the world including a wave machine that supplies surf-sized waves alongside a white sand beach. There’s also the appropriately named Tower of Power, a vertical water slide that plunges 28m (92ft) into a pool below.

**Scuba dive at Las Galletas**

The warm, clear Atlantic waters off Las Galletas conceal a submerged wonderland of volcanic arches, tunnels and caves teeming with tropical marine life and offer some of the best diving in Europe. Other excellent dive locations include Los Gigantes and Puerto de la Cruz, where you can explore the wreck of a DC3 plane crash.

**Admire the architecture at La Laguna**

Former capital and now a UNESCO World heritage Centre, La Laguna's layout was the blueprint for many Latin American cities, including Cuba. Its old quarter has fine architecture from the 16th, 17th and 18th centuries and its Cathedral is newly refurbished. Excellent daily market on Plaza Cristo and some mighty fine eateries.

**Climb Mount Teide**

Visitors can get just below the summit of the world's third largest volcano by cable car ([www.telefericoteide.com](http://www.telefericoteide.com/)). Get there early to avoid queues. Take the path west to Pico Viejo for satellite views over the old crater and to La Gomera, El Hierro and La Palma shimmering on the horizon.

**Explore Teide National Park**

Teide National Park has a plethora of walking trails, the toughest and most rewarding being the hike up all 3,718m (12,198ft) of Mount Teide to watch the sunrise. A night in the Altavista mountain refuge ([www.telefericoteide.com/altavista](http://www.telefericoteide.com/altavista)) avoids the need for bureaucratic permissions.

**Attractions**

**Attraction**

XXX

**Thoroughfare**

XXX

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

XXX

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

XXX

**Country**

XXX

**Telephone**

XXX

**Website**

XXX

**Opening Times**

XXX

**Admission Fees**

XXX

**Disabled Access**

XXX

**UNESCO**

XXX

**Shopping**

The largest shopping centres are in Santa Cruz and La Laguna where visitors will find a wide range of familiar fashion outlets, hypermarkets and restaurants. In La Laguna at the Centro Commercial Santa Maria del Mar you'll also find hyper stores such as Decathlon and Ikea. In the south, Las Chafiras is the closest hypermarket to the main resorts and gets very busy from 6pm.

For a more artisanal experience, drop in on one of the small, local markets which pop up on Saturday and Sunday mornings across the island. Amongst the most popular are the Sunday morning flea market near Señora de Africa Market in Santa Cruz; the Costa Adeje Thursday and Saturday morning markets (opposite Costa Adeje Gran Hotel) and the Los Cristianos Sunday morning market (alongside Arona Gran Hotel). You'll find a wide selection of arts, crafts and clothing at these markets.

**For fresh** fruit and vegetables, honey, cheeses and fine local wines, head to one of the island’s famers’ markets. The best are in Plaza del Cristo, La Laguna every morning except Sunday; Tacoronte (on the Tejina road) every Saturday and Sunday morning; and at the Señora de Africa Market in Santa Cruz every morning until 1400.

With no VAT on the island, alcohol and tobacco are most people's favourite buys and you'll get far better prices in shops and supermarkets than at the airport. Cameras and IT are also good buys, but it pays to research UK prices before you arrive. Only use large, established companies such as Visanta, and check guarantees, instructions and merchandise thoroughly before leaving the shop.

**Shopping Hours**

Most department stores and supermarkets are open Monday to Saturday 1000-2200 and closed on Sundays and festivals. Outside of the resorts and in traditional towns smaller shops still observe the siesta, closing between 13.30 and 17.30pm.

**Note**

As Tenerife is a VAT free island it falls outside of the EU duty free allowances at Customs. Check allowances carefully to avoid paying unexpected duty on arrival back in the UK.

**Nightlife**

Tenerife may have calmed down in its old age, but the island’s hedonistic alter ego is still lured by the bright lights and pumping beats of Playa de Las Américas. Now confined largely to the Veronicas and Starcos commercial centres, the clubbing resort continues to attract raucous young revellers.

The older crowd, meanwhile, head for Papagayo Beach Club ([www.papagayobeachclub.es](http://www.papagayobeachclub.es)), where sunset cocktails segue into a night on the dance floor. Others are drawn to The Patch by karaoke, pub quizzes and jazz.

Locals rarely venture out before midnight, so nightclubs open late and close early in the morning. The best of the southern resort venues is Faro Chill Art ([faro.chillart.org](http://faro.chillart.org/)) where the sounds and surroundings are as chic and sexy like the clientele.

Head north and you'll find a more localised party scene dominated by Latino sounds and salsa. Puerto de la Cruz is where the capital's hedonists go. Blanco Bar ([www.blancobar.com](http://www.blancobar.com)) and Limbo are popular warm-up venues, and then it’s on to Azucar, Joy Disco and Vampis, where gays and straights share the dancefloor.

If clubbing long ceased to ring your bell, there are plenty of seafront terraces and candlelit tables where you can linger over dinner and cocktails.

**Events**

**Santa Blues**

Top blues artists from the Europe and the USA perform at a free concert outside Iglesia de la Concepción in Santa Cruz. Artists such as Robert Cray, Andy J Forest, The Deans and The Delta Saints fill the hot city night with cool sounds until midnight, when music fans head to the bars of the Noria District to continue the party.

**Theme**

Entertainment

Music

**Start Date**

09 Jul 2015

**End Date**

09 Jul 2015

**TBC**

Yes

**Date Description**

XXX

**Venue Name**

Plaza de la Iglesia

**Thoroughfare**

XXX

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

XXX

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

XXX

**Country**

XXX

**Website**

XXX

**Frequency Period**

yearly

**Frequency Number**

1

**Cost**

Free

**Importance**

Low

**Fiesta de Los Corazones de Tejina (Hearts of Tejina)**

This fiesta is one of Tenerife's quirkiest. Residents of three streets in Tejina compete to create the most spectacular hearts and then taunt each other's results. The hearts are constructed on beech frames and consist of fruits and flowers adorned with three dimensional pastry tarts depicting local crafts such as carpentry. The hearts weight almost 800kg and are raised outside the church amidst song, dance, poetry and much carousing.

**Theme**

Culture

Religion

Spectacle

**Start Date**

26 Aug 2015

**End Date**

26 Aug 2015

**TBC**

Yes

**Date Description**

XXX

**Venue Name**

La Laguna

**Thoroughfare**

XXX

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

XXX

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

XXX

**Country**

XXX

**Website**

http://www.corazonesdetejina.com

**Frequency Period**

yearly

**Frequency Number**

1

**Cost**

Free

**Importance**

Low

**Fiesta de Los Reyes (Epiphany)**

The Feast of the Epiphany is celebrated across Spain and other Latino countries. It is the day the Three Kings brought their gifts to the baby Jesus, and it's also the day Spanish youngsters get their Christmas presents. On Tenerife the Kings (Los Reyes) arrive in towns and cities on the evening of January 5 – some on camels, some in boats and some by helicopter – and the following day they parade through the streets showering crowds with candy. The best parades are in La Orotava, Garachico and Puerto de la Cruz.

**Theme**

Religion

**Start Date**

05 Jan 2016

**End Date**

06 Jan 2016

**TBC**

Yes

**Date Description**

Eve of the Epiphany

**Venue Name**

XXX

**Thoroughfare**

XXX

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

XXX

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

XXX

**Country**

XXX

**Website**

XXX

**Frequency Period**

yearly

**Frequency Number**

1

**Cost**

Free

**Importance**

High

**Festival Of San Andres**

On the eve of San Andres, the first wines of the new season are ready and the harbour of Puerto de la Cruz holds a wine and food fair to celebrate. Producers from local vineyards open their wines for trying and buying, while food kiosks provide roasted chestnuts and barbecued pork kebabs (*pinchos*). In Icod de Los Vinos teenagers careen down the steep streets on greased boards at breakneck speed to emulate the sound of the wine barrels being rolled to the sea to be washed.

**Theme**

Culture

Food & Drink

Spectacle

**Start Date**

29 Nov 2015

**End Date**

29 Nov 2015

**TBC**

Yes

**Date Description**

Eve of San Andres

**Venue Name**

Puerto de la Cruz

**Thoroughfare**

XXX

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

XXX

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

XXX

**Country**

XXX

**Website**

XXX

**Frequency Period**

yearly

**Frequency Number**

1

**Cost**

Free

**Importance**

Medium

**Perseid Meteor Shower**

The annual Perseid Meteor Shower is a beautiful natural spectacle where shooting stars zip through the sky. Mount Teide, where there is minimal light pollution, makes for a great viewing point to witness this phenomenon.

**Theme**

Nature & Wildlife

**Start Date**

10 Aug 2015

**End Date**

13 Aug 2015

**TBC**

Yes

**Date Description**

XXX

**Venue Name**

Teide National Park

**Thoroughfare**

XXX

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

XXX

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

XXX

**Country**

XXX

**Website**

XXX

**Frequency Period**

yearly

**Frequency Number**

1

**Cost**

Free

**Importance**

Low

**Feast of Corpus Christi**

During this vibrant festival, the streets of La Orotava are decorated in colourful carpets made from flower petals and volcanic sands. The centrepiece of the work is an 800sqm (8,611sqft) tapestry, which covers the plaza in front of La Orotava's town hall and is made out of multi-coloured sand from Teide National Park. The whole day has a carnival atmosphere and in the evening, the Corpus Christi procession walks over the carpets and destroys them.

**Theme**

Food & Drink

Religion

Spectacle

**Start Date**

19 Jun 2015

**End Date**

19 Jun 2015

**TBC**

Yes

**Date Description**

Thursday after Trinity Sunday

**Venue Name**

La Orotava

**Thoroughfare**

XXX

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

XXX

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

XXX

**Country**

XXX

**Website**

XXX

**Frequency Period**

yearly

**Frequency Number**

1

**Cost**

Free

**Importance**

Medium

**Romeria De San Marcos**

This festival, held in charming Tegueste, is a colourful harvest festival in celebration of the town’s patron saint. Thousands of revellers dress in traditional costumes to honour St. Mark the Evangelist, while colourful floats are paraded down the village streets, drawn by oxen. Participants liberally dispense potatoes, hard boiled eggs, barbecued meat and wine to onlookers.

**Theme**

Food & Drink

Religion

Spectacle

**Start Date**

26 Apr 2015

**End Date**

28 Apr 2014

**TBC**

No

**Date Description**

Sunday closest to 25 April

**Venue Name**

XXX

**Thoroughfare**

XXX

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

XXX

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

XXX

**Country**

XXX

**Website**

XXX

**Frequency Period**

yearly

**Frequency Number**

1

**Cost**

Free

**Importance**

Low

**Tenerife Carnival**

Tenerife's biggest fiesta, the annual Santa Cruz Carnival sees colourful parades and thousands of revellers taking to the streets to dance until dawn. Featuring a cremation service for a giant sardine, men in drag, and costumes so heavy they're mounted on wheels, this politically incorrect festival sees hedonistic mayhem every night for a week. A slightly more intimate but equally surreal carnival takes place in Puerto de la Cruz at the same time, while smaller events run in towns across the north.

**Theme**

Entertainment

Food & Drink

Spectacle

**Start Date**

15 Feb 2016

**End Date**

26 Feb 2016

**TBC**

Yes

**Date Description**

XXX

**Venue Name**

Santa Cruz

**Thoroughfare**

XXX

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

XXX

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

XXX

**Country**

XXX

**Website**

http://www.carnavaltenerife.es

**Frequency Period**

yearly

**Frequency Number**

1

**Cost**

Free

**Importance**

High

**Fiesta de San Juan (Midsummer's Day)**

Following the bonfires and parties of the night before, at first light local goatherds take their flock to the harbour in Puerto de la Cruz to bathe them in the sea – the water at San Juan is believed to ensure the animals' health and improve milk yields. Witnessing this bathing ritual – watching thousands of goats being carried, kicking and screaming to the sea – is one of the oddest spectacles in the fiesta calendar.

**Theme**

Culture

**Start Date**

24 Jun 2015

**End Date**

24 Jun 2015

**TBC**

Yes

**Date Description**

Midsummer's Morning

**Venue Name**

Harbour, Puerto de la Cruz

**Thoroughfare**

XXX

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

XXX

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

XXX

**Country**

XXX

**Website**

XXX

**Frequency Period**

yearly

**Frequency Number**

1

**Cost**

Free

**Importance**

Low

**Fiesta de San Juan (Midsummer's Eve)**

The celebration of the summer solstice has been taking place since before the Spanish conquest. This time of magic, change and rebirth is celebrated heartily in towns across the north; bonfires are lit on the night of June 23 before residents head to the beach for a midnight dip. The biggest party is in Puerto de la Cruz, where thousands take to Playa Jardín to light bonfires, picnic and party to live music until the early hours.

**Theme**

Culture

**Start Date**

23 Jun 2015

**End Date**

24 Jun 2015

**TBC**

Yes

**Date Description**

Midsummer's Eve

**Venue Name**

XXX

**Thoroughfare**

XXX

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

XXX

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

XXX

**Country**

XXX

**Website**

XXX

**Frequency Period**

yearly

**Frequency Number**

1

**Cost**

Free

**Importance**

Medium

**Food and Drink**

**Introduction**

Blessed with fertile soil and an abundance of fish, Tenerife cuisine is being given a gourmet makeover by some of Spain's most exciting young chefs, who ply their trade in upmarket restaurants and five-star hotels.

There are currently only two Michelin-starred restaurants in the Canary Islands and they are both located in the five-star Abama Golf and Spa Resort in Playa San Juan. However, several more establishments are snapping at their heels.

In the resorts of the south and west, you'll find everything from full English breakfasts to Japanese sushi. For more traditional fare diners should head inland or to the north. Here they will find authentic island cuisine, which typically features grilled meat or fish accompanied by the ubiquitous *papas arrugadas con mojo* (Spanish wrinkled potatoes). Vegetables are usually conspicuous by their absence, turning up in stews where they supplement meat leftovers and chickpeas. Salads often run simply to fresh tomatoes and raw onions.

**Specialities**

• Seafood including: *Cherne* (wreckfish)*, Sama* (red sea bream), *vieja* (parrot fish), *dorado* (gilthead sea bream), *lubina* (sea bass), *calamari* (squid), *atun* (tuna), *camarones* (shrimp), *choco* (cuttlefish), *pulpo* (octopus) and sardines  
*• Conejo* (rabbit)  
*• Cabra con papas* (goat with potatoes or fries)  
*• Carne con papas* (beef with potatoes or fries)  
*• Rancho Canario* (salted ribs, chorizo, chickpea, potato and noodle stew)  
*• Ropa Vieja* (a thick paste of shredded chicken or beef with chickpeas, potatoes and garlic)  
*• Conejo al Salmorejo* (rabbit in sauce)  
*• Puchero* (chorizo sausage, bean and potato stew)  
*• Morcilla* (sweet black pudding)  
*• Papas arrugadas con mojo* (small, salty, wrinkled potatoes served with coriander and sweet red pepper sauce)  
*• Gofio* (a flour made from toasted cereal crops), appearing in everything from soup to ice cream  
*• Leche asada* (milk flan)  
*•* A*rroz con leche* (rice pudding)

**Things To Know**

Look out for three course lunch menus, which are commonplace and offer fantastic value for money.

**Tipping**

Few restaurants include a service charge in the bill. Tipping is discretionary and usually involves rounding up the charge to around 10% in restaurants, and just small change in bars.

**Regional Drinks**

Tenerife's wines are making a comeback on the world stage, but low yields keep prices high and export few and far between. There are many vineyards across the island, most of them in the Tacaronte and La Orotava regions to the north, where much of the island's red wine is produced. For some of the best, try Viña del Norte and Lomo.

A relative newcomer to the stage is a fruity white wine produced in the south called Brumas de Ayosa. Light and refreshing it's perfect for drinking in the sunshine. Dorada and Reina are the two favoured island beers.

**Drinking Age**

18.

**History**

Although territorially belonging to Spain, Tenerife and the Canary Islands have more similarities and closer ties to the Americas than to their mainland rulers. Before their invasion by the Spanish in the 15th century, the islands were populated by a primitive race of fishermen and farmers, who were still wearing animal skins and living in caves when the Europeans arrived to conquer them.

The new settlers quickly planted sugar cane which thrived in the tropical climate of the north of Tenerife and soon brought financial rewards. A near-perfect climate, an alluring landscape and the prospect of new horizons attracted merchants, artisans and holy orders in their droves.

In the 17th century, when the sugar trade was undercut by cheaper production in the Antilles, vines were planted and Tenerife's Malmsey wine became the best in the world – William Shakespeare received a barrel as part of his annual salary.

Strategically placed at the crossroads between Europe and the New World, Tenerife became a frontier land, grown rich with the spoils of trade and a constant target for every brigand, pirate and navy working in the Atlantic Ocean, including one Admiral Nelson who lost his arm during an unsuccessful attempt on the capital in 1797.

But when market forces drove crops into decline and hunger followed, it was to the new American colonies that the population fled, seeking work and an escape from hunger. It was Tinerfeños (natives of Tenerife) who, in the 19th century, founded the cities of Montevideo in Uruguay and San Antonio in Texas.

Others fled to Cuba and Argentina, returning to their homeland once they’d made their fortunes. Today, most families have strong ties to Argentina, which is affectionately referred to as 'the eighth Canary Island.

In the late 19th century banana production was introduced to Tenerife and remains the largest single food export, its giant leaves adorning plantations across the island. In economic terms however, agriculture has long since played second fiddle to the new cash crop of tourism.

In 1936 when a Commander-in-Chief of the Spanish army was suspected of plotting to overthrow the Government, he was posted to Tenerife as Governor of the Canary Islands to keep him out of the way. The plan didn't work, and it was from here that General Francisco Franco launched his offensive that began the Spanish Civil War.

**Did you know?**  
• Nelson lost his arm attempting to take the Tenerife capital, Santa Cruz.  
• As part of his annual salary, William Shakespeare was paid with one barrel of wine from Tenerife.  
• Whodunnit writer, Agatha Christie, wrote much of *The Mystery on the Blue* *Train* while holidaying in Tenerife.  
• Queen’s hit song *Tie Your Mother Down* was written by Brian May while he was studying astronomy in Tenerife.

**Data**

**Calling Code**

+34

**Area**

2034

**Population**

889936

**Population Density**

438

**Population Year**

2014

**General**

**Area**

2,034 sq km (785 sq miles).

**Population**

889,936 (2014).

**Population Density**

437.5 per sq km.

**Capital**

Santa Cruz de Tenerife.

**Geography**

Tenerife is the largest of the seven Canary Islands and lies in the Atlantic Ocean approximately 320km (200 miles) off the border between Morocco and Western Sahara, and 1,300km (812 miles) from the Iberian Peninsula. At its centre is Mount Teide, the highest point in Spain at 3,718m (12,198ft).

**Government**

XXX

**Head Of State**

XXX

**Head Of Government**

XXX

**Electricity**

XXX

**Note**

XXX

**Travel Advice**

XXX

**Passport Visa**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Passport Required** | **Return Ticket Required** | **Visa Required** |
| Nationality | XXX | XXX | XXX |

**Table Note**

XXX

**Passports**

XXX

**Passport Note**

XXX

**Visas**

XXX

**Visa Note**

XXX

**Types And Cost**

XXX

**Validity**

XXX

**Transit**

XXX

**Application To**

XXX

**Schengen Visas**

XXX

**Temporary Residence**

XXX

**Working Days**

XXX

**Sufficient Funds**

XXX

**Entry Documents**

XXX

**Extension Of Stay**

XXX

**Entry With Children**

XXX

**Entry Restrictions**

XXX

**Entry With Pets**

XXX

**Healthcare**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | **Special Precautions** |
| Vaccination | XXX |

**Table Note**

XXX

**Healthcare**

XXX

**Food And Drink**

XXX

**Other Risks**

XXX

**Money**

**Currency Info**

XXX

**Credit Cards**

XXX

**ATM**

XXX

**Travellers Cheques**

XXX

**Banking Hours**

XXX

**Currency Restrictions**

XXX

**Currency Exchange**

XXX

**Language**

**Language**

The principal language is Spanish.

**Phrases**

XXX

**Duty Free**

**Overview**

The Canary Islands are not part of the EU. The following goods may be imported into the Canary Islands without incurring customs duty:  
  
• 200 cigarettes or 100 cigarillos, 50 cigars or 250g tobacco.   
• 1 litre of spirits or strong liqueur if exceeding 22% volume.  
• 2 litres of fortified wine (such as sherry or port), sparkling wine or any other drink that is less than 22% volume.   
• In addition you may also bring back 16 litres of beer or 4 litres of still wine.  
• Goods up to the value of £390 (e.g. perfume, coffee) OR goods up to the value of £270 if arriving by private boat/plane.

**Banned Imports**

XXX

**Banned Exports**

XXX

**Important Addresses**

**Embassy and Consulate of the Kingdom of Spain in the USA**

**Thoroughfare**

2375 Pennsylvania Avenue

**Neighborhood**

NW

**Locality**

Washington

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

DC

**Postcode**

20037

**Country**

Spain

**Telephone**

XXX

**Website**

XXX

**Opening Times**

XXX

**Spanish Consulate General in the UK**

**Thoroughfare**

20 Draycott Place

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

London

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

SW3 2RZ

**Country**

Spain

**Telephone**

XXX

**Website**

XXX

**Opening Times**

XXX

**Spanish Embassy in the UK**

**Thoroughfare**

39 Chesham Place

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

London

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

SW1X 8SB

**Country**

Spain

**Telephone**

XXX

**Website**

XXX

**Opening Times**

XXX

**Tourist Offices**

**Spanish National Tourist Office in the UK**

**Thoroughfare**

Second Floor, 79 New Cavendish Street

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

London

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

W1W 6XB

**Country**

United Kingdom

**Telephone**

(020) 7486 8077 or 0891 669 920 (24-hour brochure request line; calls cost 60p per minute).

**Website**

http://www.spain.info/uk

**Opening Times**

XXX

**Tourist Office in Tenerife**

**Thoroughfare**

Avenida Constitución, 12

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

Santa Cruz de Tenerife

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

Tenerife

**Postcode**

38005

**Country**

Spain

**Telephone**

902 321 331.

**Website**

http://www.webtenerife.com

**Opening Times**

XXX

**Spanish Tourist Office in the USA**

**Thoroughfare**

666 Fifth Avenue, 35th Floor

**Neighborhood**

XXX

**Locality**

New York City

**Sub Admin Area**

XXX

**Admin Area**

XXX

**Postcode**

NY 10103

**Country**

United States of America

**Telephone**

(212) 265 8822.

**Website**

http://www.spain.info

**Opening Times**

XXX

**Communications**

**Telephone**

Emergency calls: 112. Area codes are incorporated within a nine digit number.

**Mobile Phone**

Roaming agreements exist with most international mobile phone companies. Coverage is good throughout most of the country.

**Internet**

Internet cafes can be found all over. Wi-Fi is usually available in hotels but costs vary.

**Post**

There are efficient internal and international postal services (*correos*) to all countries. Airmail within Europe usually takes around five days.

**Post Office Hours**

XXX

**Media**

*Tenerife News* is another English-language fortnightly paper, more orientated to the north of Tenerife whilstLiving Tenerife is a glossy, English-language island lifestyle magazine published monthly.El Dia is a nationalistic Spanish-language daily printed in Tenerife whilstDiario de Avisos provides a more mixed view of Canary Island news.La Opinion also provides a more mixed view of the goings on in the archipelago. On the televisionTV Canaria and TV Canaria 2 are local channels for the Canary Islands. RNE radio is state-runa and operates Radio 1, Radio Clasica, Radio 3 and Radio 5. Cadena COPE is a radio station controlled by the church.

**Press**

XXX

**Television**

XXX

**Radio**

XXX

**Where to stay**

**Hotels**

There are literally hundreds of hotels in Tenerife, most of them located in the southern coastal resorts. Many belong to international chains and are block-booked by package tour operators through the busy summer and Christmas seasons. Accommodation options range from room only through to all inclusive.  
  
Grading: Hotels and *pensiones* in Tenerife are graded from 1 to 5 stars, with the exception of the ultra-luxurious which are classified as 5-star GL (*Gran Lujo* or Grand Deluxe).

**Bed And Breakfast**

*Pensions* are family-run guest houses. In Tenerife they usually offer basic facilities on a bed and board-only basis.

**Camping**

No unauthorised camping on beaches or areas covered by the Canary Islands Protected Natural Spaces Act is allowed. Permits can be obtained to stay in any of the 19 government-run campsites, most of which are in the mountain pine forests. There are also several privately run campsites complete with comprehensive facilities.

**Other**

Many apartments and villas in Tenerife are available to rent either directly through the owners or via online rental directories. The level of accommodation available is as varied as the differing hotels with everything from simple studios to 10-bedroom gated villas.  
A small selection of hostels are available, principally aimed at backpackers and trekkers.  
Casas Rurales are government-run cottages in a rural setting. They range from one-bedroom units tagged onto an existing house, to exclusive use of rustic villas with private swimming pools.

**Culture**

**Religion**

There is no official religion, but the majority of the population is Roman Catholic.

**Social Conventions**

Spanish life has undergone rapid change in recent decades and many of the stricter religious customs are giving way to modernity, particularly in the cities and among women. In spite of this, traditions remain strong; hospitality, chivalry and courtesy thrive. Handshaking is the customary form of greeting between men, while women to whom one has already been introduced may be greeted with a fleeting kiss to either cheek. Normal social courtesies should be observed when visiting someone's home and a small gift is always appreciated. Conservative casual wear is widely acceptable. Outside resorts, scanty beachwear should be confined to beach or poolside.   
  
The evening meal is taken late, generally 2100-2200. A law banning smoking in offices, shops, schools, hospitals, cultural centres and on public transport was introduced on 1 January 2006. Bars and restaurants must declare whether they permit or prohibit smoking. The vast majority have opted for the former.

**Weather**

**Best Time To Visit**

Tenerife has a relatively stable climate throughout the year with average daytime temperatures varying between 15°C (59°F) and 25°C (77°F). August is generally the hottest month, January and February the coolest, during which time snow can appear on the highest ground. The north of the island tends to be a little cooler with more chance of cloudy days.

**Required Clothing**

Lightweight except in winter when the evenings can be cool. Warm clothing is required for visiting the mountain areas in winter.