

iPod Traveller



"The Best in European Travel"



▲ A view from 3,400 metres above sea level

Tenerife with flyMonarch.com

Overview

Tenerife, the largest of the Canary Islands is situated off the coast of Africa and has a population of just under one million people. The island is a favourite for holiday makers from all over Europe owing to its moderate year-round climate, diverse landscape - including the highest peak in Spain, Teide at 3,717 metres above sea level.

The landscape of Tenerife is particularly unique because of its volcanic origin - the last eruptions that created the holiday island happened about 3.5 million years ago. Tenerife has 31 different municipalities - each offering something different for visitors to experience. At one end of the scale there is plenty to appeal to those in pursuit of outdoor sports, such as diving, hiking, climbing and gliding, whilst at the other end the resorts, offer a more relaxing option.

Despite having some 3.5 million tourists every year, it's surprisingly easy to 'get away from it all' if that is more your thing. We stayed in a Villa, provided to us by AECAN (www.aecan.com), specialists in accommodation for Rural Tourism in the Canary Islands. A short drive into the mountains to our mountain hideaway and we found complete serenity and a vista to die for.

Santa Cruz de Tenerife, the Island's Capital, is well worth a visit as this is the cultural hive of the Canary Islands, where people come to shop, wine and dine. Like in every city in Spain, Las Ramblas is home to all the high-street shops with popular Spanish brands such as Zara, Mango and El Corte Inglés. As well as this you will find boutiques selling hand-made clothing and jewellery alongside an array of delicatessens, chocolatiers, bars and small coffee houses. Santa Cruz is also home to the annual carnival, thought to be second in the world after Rio - the Carnival takes place every year between February and March.

What To See and do in Tenerife

El Teide & Parque Nacional del Teide

El Teide is the volcano and mountain on Tenerife that dominates the island's landscape. Landing during daylight will guarantee a spectacular panoramic aerial view of the volcano (providing you're sitting on the right side of the plane!).

However, even if you weren't asleep when your plane touched down in Tenerife, it's still worth setting aside a day to visit the volcano. Roads take you to a cable car at 2356 m from where you make your final ascent to the peak at 3717 m. There is a once daily return bus service from Puerto de la Cruz and another from Playa de las Americas.

The national park has a large number of endemic plants, including *Cytisus supranubius*, *Echium wildpretii* and *Erysimum scoparium*.



Pyramids of Güímar

Situated in the village of Güímar, this rare and slightly bizarre archeological find still remains something of a mystery. There are six Step Pyramids, with a rectangular ground plan which have a noticeable similarity to the pyramids built by the Maya and the Aztecs in Mexico.

Until recently, farmers have regarded the stone structures in Güímar as something of an obstruction – many were in fact pulled down because of their supposed uselessness or used as stores for building material.

▲ A diverse landscape and climate

The pyramids were studied by well known researcher Thor Heyerdahl in 1991, who discovered that the pyramids were not merely random heaps of stone, but the working of an ancient civilisation and built from lava rock. He also noted some interesting astrological findings that are well worth reading about.

The pyramids are open to the public daily and entrance incorporates a cactus garden and museum dedicated to the Maya people and findings at Güímar.

Scuba Diving: Tenerife is popular for scuba divers. The waters around the island are diveable throughout the entire year, with the temperature dipping no lower than 18 degrees Celsius in an reaching up to 25 degrees in the summer.

Barranco del Infierno: This splendid natural park of Adeje and Barranco del Infierno offers some breathtaking scenery and much welcomed tranquility just a stones through from the popular resort of Playa de las Americas. You can take organised walks which will take you past panoramic vistas where there are chances to see rare plant species and waterfalls. More information can be found at www.costa-adeje.es

Going Green:

With the planet getting warmer everyday, it's up to travellers to do their part to "go green." Please do everything you can to make your journey carbon neutral.

To offset your carbon emissions, visit www.carbonneutral.com.

Did you find this information helpful?

Website:

www.ipodtraveller.net

Email:

nick@ipodtraveller.net
opal@ipodtraveller.net

Leave a message (USA):

347-427-9323

Send an SMS:

text the word 'travel' & then your message to +44 7766 40 41 42



Follow iPod Traveller...

iPod Traveller travelled to Tenerife with Monarch Airlines (www.flymonarch.com). Monarch operate low-cost scheduled flights from London Luton, London Gatwick, Birmingham and Manchester to Tenerife. For a small charge, passengers can upgrade to extra legroom seats at time of booking, or if they prefer they can decide once on-board. Monarch pride themselves in operating high-service low-cost flights. Flights cost from £62.50 each way - flight time approximately 4 hours.

If you want to break the mould and relax in an idyllic mountaintop hideaway, then do as we did and book your accommodation through AECAN (www.aecan.com). The people behind AECAN are specialists in organising all types of rural accommodation in the Canary Islands from small love shacks to gleaming palaces.