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PORT EXPLORER



LANZAROTE

CANARY ISLANDS

Lanzarote is different from the other Canary Islands, and different from anywhere else on the planet. Lanzarote has an unusually striking appearance. Often described as lunar or Martian-like, the barren landscape is the result of the islands volcanic origins. Because of the dry climate and little erosion, the stunning terrain looks much like it did right after the last major eruptions in the 18th and 19th centuries.

Known as the island with 100 volcanoes, Lanzarote is located 70 miles off the coast of Africa making it the most easterly of the Canary islands. Approximately 12 miles wide and 37 miles long, it is the fourth largest of the islands covering around 350 square miles. The climate is sunny with an average temperature of 77 degrees. Beautiful weather, sandy beaches, dramatic scenery, good wine and food make this a perfect year round destination for those wanting to get away for a holiday.

HISTORY

Since classical antiquity, the Canary Islands have been a land of legends. The existence of the Canaries can be traced back to famous Greek authors such as Homer, Plato and Plutarch. These imaginary islands were known as the Fortunate Islands and remained only a myth and a mystery until after the middle ages.

It is believed the first inhabitants, the Guanches, arrived in the 1st or 2nd century B.C. They were a white skinned, blue eyed, blonde haired race related to North Africa's Cromagnon man. The Guanches were cave dwellers who like the ancient Egyptians, carefully embalmed their dead, presumably for a ceremonial passage to the next world.

The first European visitor was Lanzarotto Marcello, a Genoese sailor, who colonized the Island of Lanzarote in the early 14th century. The real European conquest began in 1402 and was led by Jean de Bethencourt, under the service of Henry III, King of Castile. By the end of the 15th century the Spanish had conquered all seven islands, but not without resistance from the Portuguese who also fought for ownership in the mid 1400's.

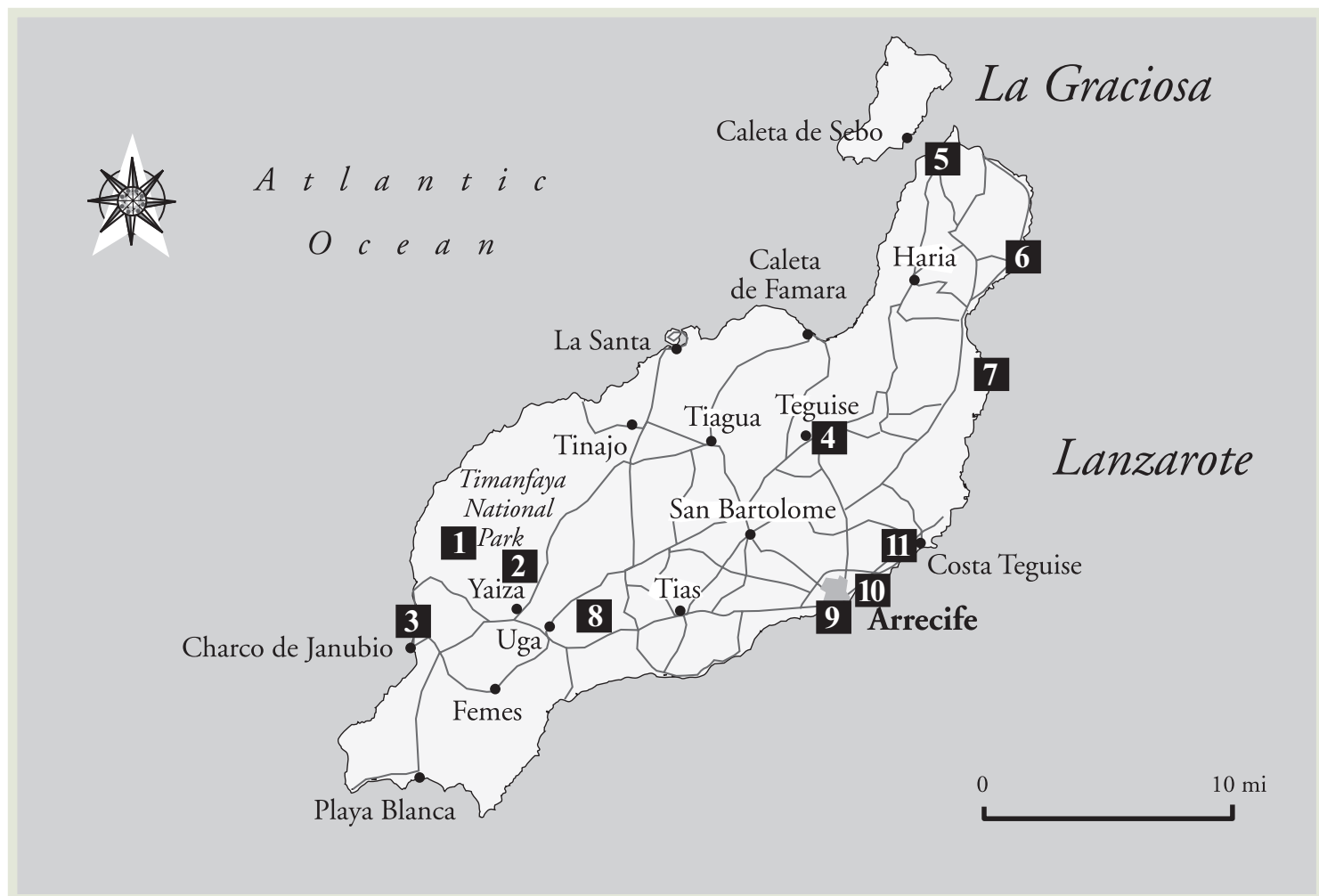
With the Canaries begin the world's most westerly charted point, the islands became the last stopping point for the explorations of Christopher Columbus before venturing into the unknown. For the next several centuries, the islands became a bridge between the Old and New World.

In the 17th-19th centuries, the Canaries experienced economic ups and downs due to their dependence on various crops. Sugar became the first staple crop but profits declined with the arrival of cheaper sugar from the West Indies. Grapes became the main crop producing a sweet white wine called Malmsey, which retains worldwide recognition.



In the mid-19th century the Canaries were given free port status, which lowered duties and trade barriers. Las Palmas and Tenerife became two of the world's busiest ports. The local government, interested in developing tourism, began to

improve the basic infrastructure of island facilities including the airport. With the introduction of the banana crop as a major export and the increasing growth of tourism, the Canaries continue to have a stable economic base.



PLACES OF INTEREST

1 Timanfaya National Park is a volcanic field where visitors can appreciate the power and beauty of nature. There is a variety of geological phenomena as well as a large biological mix of plant species. The Visitors Center offers insight into this land that is still bubbling beneath the surface.



2 Fire Mountain located within Timanfaya National Park is the center of an eruption that took place in the early 1700's that lasted for six years. A place of great natural beauty, the other worldly landscape seems frozen in time.

3 Los Hervidos is a tiny inlet with thundering surf where hot lava once flowed down to meet the sea and made violent contact. The result is a series of caves, powerful blow holes and strange and unearthly shapes frozen in the lava flow.

4 Teguise known as the old capital of the island, has a rich history of over 500 years. One of the first urban communities in the Canary Islands Teguise has carefully preserved its traditional architecture and culture.

5 Mirador del Río has spectacular views of the coastline and weather permitting, you can see neighboring La Graciosa and other small islands.

6 Jameos Del Agua, a cave complex that resulted from volcanic activity now includes a natural concert hall, a subterranean lagoon, a restaurant and museum. The salt-water lagoon is home to a unique species of small crabs.

7 The **Cactus Garden** was created by local artist Cesar Manrique within an old quarry in an amphitheater like setting. The impressive garden contains over 1000 species of cactus along with sculptures and a restored windmill.



8 **La Geria** is Lanzarote's wine growing region. Located a few miles inland in the municipality of Tias, local winemakers are known for using a unique method of cultivation using 'picon', a layer of natural volcanic granules that absorb moisture from the trade winds and nourish the vines.

9 **Castillo de San Gabriel** was originally built in the 16th century to defend Arrecife Harbor. Destroyed by pirates, it was later rebuilt and used until recent history for defense. The fortress is now home to an archaeological museum.

10 **Castillo de San Jose** was constructed in 1799 to defend against pirate attacks. It has now been converted into a Modern Art Gallery and Restaurant.

11 **Aquapark** located in Costa Tegua offers a multitude of aquatic rides. The park has something for every member of the family to enjoy under the sun.

SHORE EXCURSIONS

To make the most of your visit to Lanzarote we suggest you take one of the organized Shore Excursions. For Information concerning tour content and pricing, consult azamaraclubcruises.com or contact the onboard Shore Excursion Desk. When going ashore, guests are advised to take with them only the items they need and to secure any valuables.

LOCAL CUSTOMS

Bargaining: is acceptable in some stores.

Tipping: All prices on a menu include tax and a service charge. It is customary however to leave a tip of 5% -10% if you are happy with the food and service. Taxi drivers generally are tipped approximately 10%.

LOCAL CUISINE AND DRINK SPECIALTIES

Fish is a staple among the islands. Pescado a la sal, a fish baked in salt and Sancocho Canario, a stew made with dried fish are typical local fare. Paella, a combination of seafood, chicken, and vegetable mixed together in a saffron-flavored rice and Tapas (appetizers) are also readily available.

The Canary Islands are famous for wines cultivated from the volcanic soil.

SHOPPING

Shopping hours are generally from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm, and 4:30 pm to 8:00 pm. In 1852 the Canary Islands were declared a duty-free zone in order to stimulate trade and growth. The Canaries remain duty free to this day and goods are imported without restrictions from all over the world. With a lower luxury tax, you may find some bargains but not as many as one would expect. The items with a slightly lower luxury tax are similar to what one would find in a duty free shop at the airport – cameras, watches, perfume, jewelry, leather goods, spirits and tobacco.

The most celebrated local handicraft item is embroidery. You will find excellent and detailed needlework on bedspread, towels, napkins and tablecloths.

LOCAL CURRENCY

The unit of currency in this port of call is the euro. There are 8 euro coins denominated in 2 and 1 euros, along with 50, 20, 10, 5, 2, and 1 cent pieces. Every euro coin carries a common European face. On the obverse, each Member State decorates the coins with their own motifs. No matter which motif is on the coins they can be used anywhere inside the Member States. There are 7 euro notes. In different colors and sizes, they are denominated in 500, 200, 100, 50, 20, 10, and 5 euros. The notes are uniform throughout the euro area; unlike coins, they have no national side. All euro notes are legal tender in all countries of the euro area. Most stores accept major credit cards.

POST OFFICE AND TELEPHONE FACILITIES

The main Post Office is located at Correos Avda. De la Marina 8, in Arrecife.

Coins or calling card are required for local phones. Calls using a personal calling card may be dialed using the following access numbers:

AT&T: 1.800.55.0000

MCI: 1.800.55.1001

TRANSPORTATION

Taxis are in limited supply on the pier. It is advisable to negotiate a fare before departing. There is a local bus system, but it is not designed for tourists. There are infrequent timetables to locations outside the city.

