

About Tenerife

Today Tenerife enjoys a diverse culture which has a wonderful mix of Spanish and other European influences. The north of the island has a longer history than the south of the island and it was here that tourists first began entering Tenerife due to the international airport. The north is very tropical in its look and feel and lush vegetation is apparent as you head toward La Laguna and Puerto De La Cruz. These towns have a wonderful Canarian charm and you can see some fabulous Canarian buildings. They are great places to visit to experience a more native part of Tenerife. Santa Cruz, the capital, is also a great place to visit. Littered with lovely little shops and in recent years has seen some dramatic landmark buildings appear such as the Opera House.

The south of Tenerife has seen a remarkable development due to tourism. The international airport which was built in the 1970's brought a new interest for tourists to the south of the island. Small little fishing villages such as Los Cristianos and Las Americas have been transformed into major tourist areas. Today south Tenerife is a 7km strip which runs from Golf Del Sur through to Costa Adeje Golf with all the major attractions for people of all ages.

For a lifestyle, Tenerife has it all. For golf lovers, the south of the island alone has five 18 hole golf courses (see below for the courses). For the family there are theme parks (Siam Park, Water Park, Aqua Park) as well as numerous boat excursions to see the island from the ocean and the marine life. The beaches have numerous childrens' activities for the day time and the night time hosts a range of games such as bowling and the cinema. For shopping, the island has two large retail outlets; Carrefour (just outside Santa Cruz) and El Corte Inglés (Santa Cruz). Many other commercial centres in the north and south of the island also have a number smaller boutique shops which makes an excellent day out for shopping enthusiasts. For furniture it has a large IKEA store.

Many affluent areas have also emerged in the south such as Las Americas (by the Mare Nostrum hotel) and Del Duque (Bahia Del Duque hotel) where you can enjoy the lavish luxuries of the designer brands such as Gucci, Cartier and the like. In recent years Tenerife is starting to attract a celebrity clientele and many 'A list' Hollywood celebrities have been spotted there.

Tenerife Culture

The culture of Tenerife is primarily that of the Spanish which control the area. However, Tenerife culture is also heavily influenced by the Guanches tribal culture which originally inhabited the island, the rich history and traditions of the Canary Islands as a whole, and the travel culture which has become increasingly important to the area in recent years.

The island of Tenerife was originally inhabited by the ancient tribal culture known as the Guanches. The Guanches were a primitive people with a complex way of life, including a system of polyandry for (in which women took multiple husbands) and an autocratic government. It is believed that women were highly respected in this culture, and this can be seen today in the culture of Tenerife.

Tenerife was conquered by the Spanish, which is where the primary influence on the culture of the area derives from. The Spanish culture is a machismo culture which interacts interestingly with the importance of women in the Guanches culture. Primarily, this interaction has been one in which the dominant male culture sublimated the female culture until very recent years. In recent years, interest in women's rights, along with the rights of minorities, has grown strong in the area and attention to the female-centered and minority-based original culture of the area has grown strong. This creates a dynamic energy in the area and makes it a hotspot for literature, academia and the arts.

Tenerife Festivals

Fiestas in Tenerife and the Canary Islands come in two varieties: winter and summer. Winter festivals include everything in the Christmas season, plus the Carnival (which itself was renamed under the disguise of "Winter Festival" when Carnival was prohibited in the time of Franco). Summer ones include Corpus Cristi and the vast array of traditional folk festivals (Romerias) and fiestas to honour saints in every town and village and, which despite the seasonal name, start taking place almost as soon as Carnival/Easter/Corpus is over and run right through to the end of October.

Some events, such as the annual celebrations for the Fiestas de La Cruz , San Juan , or the Three Kings parade on January 5th , plus Christmas & New Year , of course, are held on set, numbered, dates every year, irrespective of what day of the week they happen to fall on. Those will be easy enough to list.

There are countless others which revolve around the "moveable feasts" of the Catholic church's calendar, like Easter , for example, which then allows us to work backwards to the dates for lent and for the Carnaval . And others, like Corpus Cristi, where the main things to be seen occur so many days before or after the "religious" dates.

Depending on the calendar, Carnival is generally celebrated in either February or March. Once you know the date of Shrove Tuesday, you can work out when the main events should occur. In Santa Cruz, the main parade of Tenerife's main Carnival is celebrated in the late afternoon / early evening on Shrove Tuesday. There is another parade on the Friday night before that, the Election of the Carnival Queen is usually the Wednesday before and the "finale": the curious Burial of the Sardine on Ash Wednesday. There are other events, both before and after. Then the whole thing moves on to other towns, with Puerto de La Cruz Carnival Parade usually being on the Saturday after Shrove Tuesday and Los Cristianos a week or so later.

Weather

The weather in Tenerife stays moderate throughout the year, making it a perfect travel destination for those visitors seeking a winter holiday hot spot as well as for those travellers who are planning trips which coincide with spring and summer breaks from school and work. In general, the northern part of the island is more cool and wet than the southern part of the island.

The busy season in Tenerife is generally in the winter, with November through to the end of April being the peak travel months. The most of the tourists coming at this time

tend to be an older age group between 50 years old upwards and they are looking to get away from the cold winters in their native countries. The summer months see a different busy season in Tenerife with families and younger tourists visiting the islands between June and September.

Climate data	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Average Sun Hours/Day	6.9	7	7.1	8	9	9.8	11	10	8.5	7	6	6
Day [°C]	21	21	22	23	24	27	29	30	28	26	24	22
Night [°C]	15	15	16	16	17	19	21	21	21	20	18	16
Days with rain	3	3	3	3	1	0	0	0	0	1	4	4

Golf in Tenerife

There are currently eight golf courses in Tenerife with the majority being in the south of the island. Whatever your level, from complete beginner to scratch, there's a golf course in Tenerife to match your needs.

For the casual golfer there are 9 hole courses in Los Palos and Amarilla Golf in the south and La Rosaleta in the north. While the more serious golfer can play Golf Las Américas, Real Club de Golf, Buenavista Golf, Golf Del Sur and Amarilla Golf. Golf Costa Adeje offers a variation of 27 holes with the ocean to one side and a mountain backdrop on the other.

The courses:

- **Buenavista Golf**
- **Costa Adeje Golf**
- **Golf del Sur**
- **Golf Las Americas**
- **Amarilla Golf**
- **Abama Golf**
- **Real Club de Golf**
- **Los Palos**
- **La Rosaleta**

