The best places to eat, sleep and play in the Canary Islands this spring and summer

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INTRODUCTION

TripAdvisor, the most trusted source for where to eat, sleep and play in thousands of destinations around the world, has collected the best insider tips from its 25 million monthly visitors to produce a unique series of travel guides. In addition to the best hotels, restaurants and attractions for every type of traveler, you’ll get great advice about what to pack, how to get around and where to find the best views. Be sure to check out the guides at www.tripadvisor.com.

Inside CANARY ISLANDS

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.

PACKING TIPS

1. Pack a sweater or light jacket for chilly evenings or drives into the mountains.
2. Take some euros to avoid scrambling for cash upon arrival, and remember that few places are open for currency exchange on Sunday.
3. “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
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. Tenerife Zoo Monkey Park, Los Cristianos, Tenerife, 922 790 720
2. Loro Parque, Avenida Loro Parque Santa Cruz de Tenerife, 922 373 841
3. Sioux City, Canon Del Agulla San Agustin
4. Timanfaya National Park, North of Yaiza, Lanzarote, 928 840 057
5. Golf del Sur, Urbanizacion Golf del Sur, Avenida Galvan Bello, San Miguel de Abona, 922 738 170
6. Jardin Canario, Carretera del Centro, Km. 7, Las Palmas, 928 353 604
7. Parque Nacional Las Canadas del Teide, Tenerife
8. Los Cristianos Harbour, Los Cristianos
9. The Black Bull, Costa Teguise, Lanzarote, 639 520 624
10. Abaco, Urb. El Durazno, Puerto de la Cruz

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

Loro Parque, Santa Cruz de Tenerife, Tenerife, 922 373 841

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

“...champagne at sunset”

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, 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

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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

Playa de la Arena "has everything: beautiful, clean, black sand beach, restaurants serving food from all over the world and two good supermarkets for self-catering."—TripAdvisor Member, Oxford, U.K.

Playa de la Arena, Tenerife

The three-hour Barranco del Infierno walk is easy and "finishes at a pretty waterfall, one of the few continually flowing streams on the island. Sundays are free."—TripAdvisor Member

Barranco del Infierno, Adeje, Tenerife

ADVENTURE
Cavort on a camel across the lunar landscape of Timanfaya National Park. "What a sight to see — all those camels sitting next to the breathtaking volcanoes."—TripAdvisor Member, Suffolk, England

Timanfaya National Park, Lanzarote, 928 840 057

Rewards await those who do the "fairly strenuous" Los Organos trail hike, "which meanders through pine trees" and presents "sudden views of massive Mount Teide."—TripAdvisor Member

Los Organos trail, Upper Orotava Valley, Tenerife

Marina Rubicon offers a variety of water sports facilities, "all of the highest standard and kept immaculate. It also has a selection of designer shops and classy restaurants."—TripAdvisor Member, Lancashire, U.K.

Marina Rubicon, Urbanización Castillo del Águila, s/n, Playa Blanca, Lanzarote, 928 519 012

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 Canarian Museum has exhibitions of mumified remains and historical artifacts, documentary and museographic collections and special activities to keep guests entertained."—TripAdvisor Member, Puerto Rico

Canarian Museum, Dr. Verneau, 2, Las Palmas, Grand Canary, 928 336 800

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

RELAXATION
“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

“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 enjoy 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 57 25 35

“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

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What’s the **TOUR**

**How to Get Around**

“Get up close and personal with the volcanic landscape” with **Canary Trekking**—TripAdvisor Member

Canary Trekking, 928 826 114

Rent a car to zip from one main town to the next on Tenerife, but go with the public bus system for in-town travel on the steep, curving mountainsides.

Use the ferry system as an inexpensive way to jaunt among the Canary Islands.

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**WHERE to eat**

**FAMILIES**

“One of the first and still the most popular Italian restaurant in Los Cristianos,” **Little Italy Taberna** is “always crowded with both locals and visitors. A perfect family restaurant, they really cater well for children.”—TripAdvisor Member

Little Italy Taberna, Paseo Maritimo, Los Cristianos, Tenerife, 922 792 570

**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, 922 798 987

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

**BUDGET**

Long-running tapas bar **Don Chicharro** “is excellent. Good value, typically Spanish and loads of choices.”—TripAdvisor Member, Tenerife

Don Chicharro, Calle General Franco 9, Los Cristianos, Tenerife, 922 752 050

**“Marabu** is to die for! Amazing value for the quality, good house wine and many tapas items.”—TripAdvisor Member, Kent, England

Marabu Restaurante, CL Fuente de Hija 2, Esquinzo G.C., Fuerteventura, 928 544 098

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

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**“Your food is cooked by the heat of the volcano!”**

**“Jessi**, down by the small beach and cliffs, has outdoor tables,” where you can have a more traditional Canarian seafood meal.—TripAdvisor Member, United Kingdom

Jessi, Los Gigantes, Tenerife, 922 861 955

**“You’ll be spoiled.”**

**“Try to get one of the tables overlooking the water’s edge”** at harbortront **Casa Roja**. 

“It’s a real couples’ place, especially after dark; the food and service are excellent.”—TripAdvisor Member, Bristol, U.K.

Casa Roja, Avenida Varadero, Puerto del Carmen, Lanzarote, 928 515 866

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WHERE to eat

HEALTH-CONSCIOUS
“The Mantra is an oasis amid the busy San Telmo shopping center. Vegetarians will be thrilled with the selection of dishes prepared from old Tibetan recipes, and meat eaters will find an extensive range of international specialties.”—TripAdvisor Member, Tenerife
Mantra, C.C. San Telmo, Los Cristianos, Tenerife, 922 797 134

A steakhouse might not sound like a healthy choice, but Churrasqueria Rodeo has “the best salad bar on the island, with over 40 different salads to choose from, and you can go back as often as you want.”—TripAdvisor Member, Tenerife
Churrasqueria Rodeo, Urbanizacion Playa Fanabe, 35, Playa de las Americas, Tenerife, 922 713 255

“If you’re a vegetarian or even if you are not, Gibson’s is a good bet. It is tiny, but they had the best veggie curry I’ve had in ages.”—TripAdvisor Member, Comrie, U.K.
Gibson’s Continental Restaurant, Juan Sebastian Elcano, Corralejo, Fuerteventura

HIDDEN GEMS
Delight in “delicious tapas served by charming hosts” at El Chupadero, which has vineyards set in volcanic black soil. “The sweet Moscatel dessert wine, served with a slice of orange, is particularly recommended.”—TripAdvisor Member
El Chupadero Finca-Bodega, La Geria 3, Yaiza, Lanzarote 928 173 115

“The Jardín Tropical Hotel has an excellent seafood restaurant, Las Rocos, that juts out over rocks, and you can watch the sun set behind La Gomera.”—TripAdvisor Member, Wilmislow, U.K.
Las Rocos, Hotel Jardín Tropical, C/Gran Bretana s/n, Costa Adeje, Tenerife, 922 746 000

“Try Villa Toledo on the edge of the beach at Playa Bastian for fantastic food and a beautiful setting overlooking the ocean. It’s lovely.”—TripAdvisor Member, Manchester, U.K.
Villa Toledo, Avenida Los Cofrades, Playa Bastian, Lanzarote, 928 590 626

SPECIAL EVENTS
Cheer on athletes in men’s and women’s events as they swim, bike and run to win cash prizes totaling $50,000 at the Lanzarote Ironman. (May 24)
Lanzarote Ironman, Starts at Club La Santa, runs throughout Lanzarote, http://www.ironmanlanzarote.com

Take in the breathtaking street designs during the feast of Corpus Christi in La Orotava. Although the holiday is celebrated throughout Spain, the municipality of La Orotava is especially renowned for transforming the streets into a brilliant carpet of live flowers and colorful volcanic sand. (May 29 – June 1)
Corpus Christi in La Orotava, La Orotava, Tenerife, http://www.villadelaorotava.org (Tourism site)

Experience the Canaries from a bird’s-eye view at the El Hierro Paragliding Encounter, when municipalities across the island host paragliding adventures, accompanied by ground-level fiestas, open bars, karaoke, acrobatic exhibitions and concerts. (May 29 – June 1)
El Hierro Paragliding Encounter, El Hierro, 922 550 302 (Tourist office), http://www.clubgueilllas.com

Honor San Antonio del Monte with a festival involving cheese contests, livestock contests, music and a grand procession of revelers carrying fern leaves and statues of the saints. (June 13 – 15)
Festivities in Honor of San Antonio del Monte (St. Anthony of the Mount), Garafia, La Palma

Catch all the action as top windsurfers from the world over unite on Gran Canaria for one of the world’s most challenging and exciting events, the Gran Canaria PWA Grand Slam 2008. (July 3 – 12)

Catch innovative short films, including one short that will be written, shot and edited throughout the week of the festival itself, at El Festivalito. This intimate, independent event focuses exclusively on digital film. (July 12 – 19)
El Festivalito International Short Film Festival, La Palma, 922 403 354, http://www.festivalito.com

Celebrate the patron saint of the Canary Islands at the Festival of Our Lady of Candelaria, when groups of pilgrims flock to Candelaria on foot and reenact the first appearance of the saint to the Guanches. (August 15)
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 Américas (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

ROMANCE
Hotel Riu Palace Meloneras Resort is an “excellent hotel. Comfortable, clean, with extremely professional staff, fine food, beautiful garden, nice ballroom and bars. Close to everything—beach, restaurants, shopping centers. Such a wonderful experience!”—TripAdvisor Member, Vicenza, Italy
Hotel Riu Palace Meloneras Resort, Urbanización Las Meloneras, Maspalomas, Grand Canary, 928 143 182

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, 922 731 814

“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.” The rooftop pool and terrace offer a “nice view on the area and the ocean.”—TripAdvisor Member, Hanau, Germany
Reveron Plaza, Carretera General Franco 36, Los Cristianos, Tenerife, 922 757 120

BUDGET
Guests keep returning to Kiwi Bungalows, “an ideal base for families who want to tour the island, in a quiet area away from any nightlife.”—TripAdvisor Member, Leeds, U.K.
Kiwi Bungalows, Avenida Finmatkat 8, Maspalomas, Grand Canary, 928 766 978

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, 928 514 262

“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 area is well-equipped, and the location is ideal.”—TripAdvisor Member, Wakefield, England
Cala Nova Apartments, Avenida Gran Canaria, Puerto Rico, Grand Canary, 928 561 820

LUXURY
Hotel Riu Grand Palace Maspalomas Oasis offers a “great location, nice pool and excellent palm tree garden and friendly staff. The beach was just a few meters away.”—TripAdvisor Member, Seville, Spain
Hotel Riu Grand Palace Maspalomas Oasis, Avenida de Tirajana s/n, Playa del Inglés, Maspalomas, Grand Canary, 928 141 448

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

“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

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Where to STAY

HIDDEN GEMS

“‘The staff at Hotel Jardín 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 Jardín 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

“The Caleton Blanco is not a complex, just simply apartments with a pool. But everything you’d need was just outside the gates—restaurants, bars, shops and the beach. We had a two-bed apartment with a massive patio/balcony overlooking the main Puerto del Carmen strip and the beach.”—TripAdvisor Member, Málaga, Spain

Caleton Blanco, Avenida de las Playas 11, Puerto Del Carmen, Lanzarote, 928 513 894

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