

TOURIST

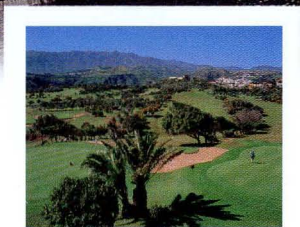
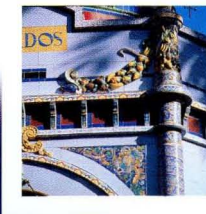
# Las Palmas *de Gran Canaria*

GUIDE



AYUNTAMIENTO DE  
LAS PALMAS DE GRAN CANARIA

# TOURIST GUIDE



# Las Palmas *de Gran Canaria* GUIDE

TOURIST



AYUNTAMIENTO DE  
LAS PALMAS DE GRAN CANARIA



SOCIEDAD DE PROMOCION  
LAS PALMAS  
DE GRAN CANARIA





TOURIST

*Las Palmas*  
de Gran Canaria  
GUIDE

The sun is one Las Palmas de Gran Canaria's leading credentials, but not the only one. This Tourist Guide has been promoted by the municipal authorities to help visitors to get to know the capital of Gran Canaria a little better, so they can make the most of the opportunities offered by this hospitable and cosmopolitan city. Leisure, culture and sports are three of the main options, without forgetting the fact that this is the leading centre of finance and

commerce in the Canary Islands. We in the city council would like to invite you to take this opportunity to discover all the different aspects of this city set in the middle of the Atlantic, between continents.

Another of Las Palmas' basic attractions is the friendly and open nature of the local inhabitants, making the city the ideal place to spend your spare time, or for a business meeting. Apart from the people, there are also the customs of a population that is used welcoming everyone who decides to enjoy the unbeatable climate and fantastic beaches with open arms. This guide, a summary of what the city has to offer, is aimed at all of you who come to visit us.

In recent years, the city has changed, adapting to the demands of a future that is already here. This process of adapting Las Palmas de Gran Canaria to the major changes implicit in the arrival of a new millennium and the progress of society, includes providing all kinds of infrastructure and services to make your stay here an unforgettable one.

In Las Palmas de Gran Canaria, you will find, culture, leisure, sports, a rich folklore and our own particular cuisine, all of which you can enjoy in the city's varied facilities and establishments. Furthermore, this is a city that organises one of the most enjoyable and anxiously awaited fiestas on the calendar; the Las Palmas de Gran Canaria Carnival, a spectacle of fantasy with an international reputation.

This city is committed to ensuring that anyone who visits us will leave with a desire to return, after discovering its charms.

**José Manuel Soria López**

Mayor of Las Palmas de Gran Canaria



Las Palmas de Gran Canaria is meeting the arrival of the XXI century with a new air, convinced that we not only have an outstanding geographic location and the best climate in the world, but also because this is a booming city.

We invite you to discover the most avant-garde and cosmopolitan city in the Canary Islands. This is a city in which you will find a combination of the imprint of the original Castilian settlers and ultra modern art and architecture.

This is a dynamic and modern metropolis, facing the sea on two sides, that is really discovering its own identity.

Las Palmas de Gran Canaria has become one of the best spots in the Atlantic area for an enjoyable visit. Friendly and hospitable, it is remarkable for its well kept infrastructure, unbeatable tourist services, a broad range of year-round cultural and leisure activities and shopping facilities capable of satisfying the most demanding tastes.

**Josefa Luzardo Romano**  
Councillor for Tourism

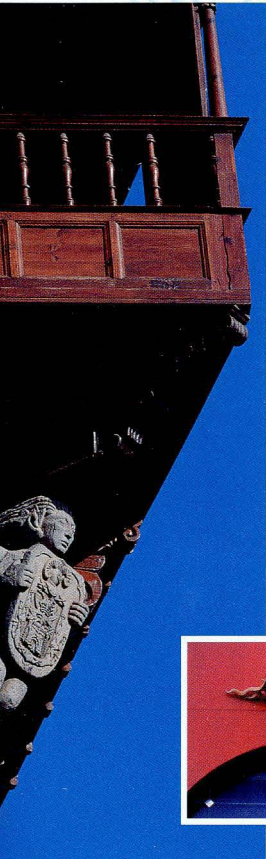






- THE ISLAND OF GRAN CANARIA 11
- THE CITY OF LAS PALMAS DE GRAN CANARIA 13

TOURIST



# Summary

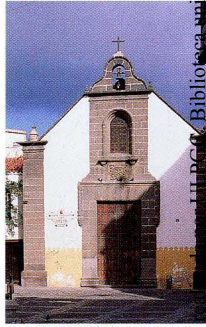
## ■ ARCHITECTURE 15

**The original city**  
 City Hall  
 The Santa Ana Cathedral  
 Bishop's Palace  
 Regent's House  
 Columbus Museum

**The colonial city**  
 Church of Santo Domingo  
 Church of San Francisco de Asis  
 Church of San Telmo  
 Patio de los Naranjos

**The nineteenth century city**  
 Gabinete Literario  
 Pérez Galdós Theatre  
 Pérez Galdós Museum  
 Canary Island Museum

**The cosmopolitan city**  
 Puerto de La Luz Harbour  
 Triana Main street  
 Néstor Museum  
 Gran Canaria Cabildo  
 Alfredo Kraus Auditorium



## ■ MUSEUMS AND EXHIBITION HALLS 23

### Vegueta

The Canary Island Museum  
 Columbus Museum  
 Museum of Religious Art  
 CAAM (Atlantic Modern Art Centre)  
 San Antonio Abad Hall  
 Mapfre Guanarteme Foundation

### Triana

Pérez Galdós Museum  
 CICA (Caja de Canarias Centre for Cultural Initiatives)  
 CIC (Island Cultural Centre)

### City centre

Néstor Museum

### Puerto

Elder Science and Technology Museum  
 La Regenta Art Centre



■ **LIBRARIES AND HISTORIC ARCHIVES**

29

Island Library  
Public Library  
Simón Benítez Padilla Library  
Joaquín Blanco Historic Archive

■ **THEATRES**

31

Pérez Galdós Theatre  
Guiniguada Theatre  
Cuyás Theatre

■ **CASTLES**

33

La Luz Castle  
Mata and San Cristóbal Castles

■ **FIESTAS AND TRADITIONS**

35

Carnival  
Foundational Fiestas (San Juan)  
La Catacumba (Triana)  
Nuestra Señora del Carmen (La Isleta)  
San Lorenzo Fiestas  
Nuestra Señora del Rosario (Vegueta)  
Nuestra Señora del Pilar (Guanarteme)  
La Naval (La Isleta)

■ **LAS PALMAS DE GRAN CANARIA, CITY OF FESTIVALS**

39

■ **LAS PALMAS DE GRAN CANARIA, A CITY OF CONFERENCES**

41

■ **SHOPPING AREAS**

43

Triana  
Vegueta  
El Puerto  
Shopping Centres

■ **BEACHES AND PORTS**

47

Las Canteras  
Las Alcaravaneras  
La Laja  
Puerto de La Luz y de Las Palmas Harbour  
Yacht Marina

■ **NATURAL SPACES**

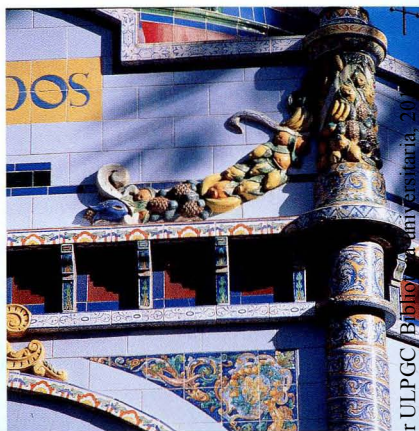
49

Viera y Clavijo Botanic Gardens  
La Isleta Nature Park  
Caldera de Bandama

■ **SQUARES AND PARKS**

51

Santa Ana Square  
Santa Catalina Park  
San Telmo Park  
Cairasco Square  
Doramas Park  
Las Rehoyas Park



■ **TRANSPORT**

53

■ **SPORTS**

55

■ **GOOD EATING**

57



Josef Paiz

■ **NIGHTLIFE**

59

■ **REFERENCES**

61

■ **CITY MAP**

62

# The island of Gran Canaria

TOURIST

Las Palmas  
de Gran Canaria  
GUIDE

It has been called the "Miniature Continent", and it is certainly worthy of the name, as the geology and climate vary to such an extent that, in a few kilometres, you can go from the arid dunes of the South to the alpine region of the Central Massif; from the rugged cliffs of the North, to the gentle beaches of Maspalomas or Las Canteras; from the florid plains of San Mateo and Santa Brigida to the colossal spectacle of the Bandama Crater (Caldera de Bandama), an inactive volcanic crater in which grape vines used to flourish; from the thick pine forests of the high mountains to the lush green banana plantations of the coast.

Almost circular, Gran Canaria covers an area of 1,532 square kilometres. The highest point on the island - Pico de las Nieves, at 1,940 metres above sea-level - is right in the geographical centre, giving the island a profile of an enormous conical mountain full of varied landscapes, sharp contrasts and a temperate climate, due to the interaction of the damp Trade Winds with the mountains and the ocean currents.

The greatest natural attraction of Gran Canaria, the most populated of the Canary Islands, is the climatic and biological diversity to be found here. The island can be travelled in any direction and all the different routes are interconnected, making it possible to organise quick trips into the interior and even modify the

route as you go along without affecting the time taken to do the excursion. Heading north or north west, through Arucas, Guía and Galdar, you reach Agaete. This is a banana-growing region of historic



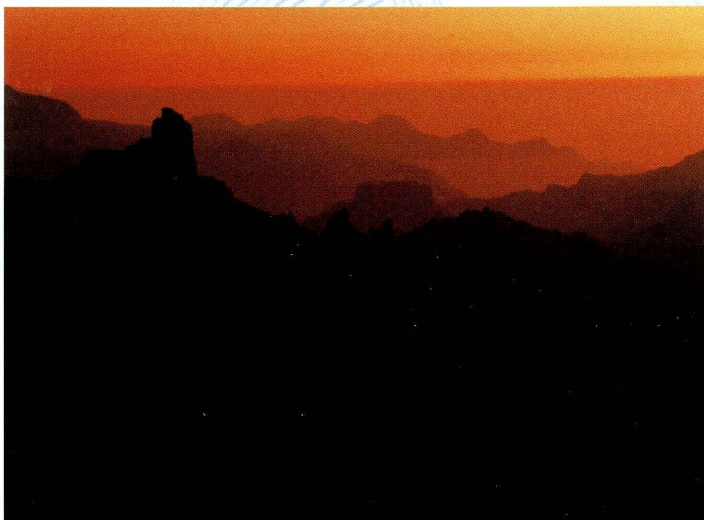
and monumental towns and beautiful countryside of rich fields growing fruit and vegetables for export to mainland Europe. Firgas, Moya, Teror and Valleseco are four inland northern towns with a deep-rooted farming tradition.

Heading towards the centre, through Santa Brigida and San Mateo, on the road to the boroughs of Tejeda and Artenara, you will come to the central mountain peaks. Heading south, the motorway leads to San Agustín-Playa del Inglés-Maspalomas, the most important tourist resort in Spain. The Canary

Islands, visited by more than 10 million tourists a year, account for 33% of Spain's tourist income.

On the route south, you can turn off to the historic city of Telde and the towns of Ingenio and Agüimes.

To the south west, Mogán is an extension of the tourist zone, offering beautiful, sub-tropical settings. To the west, the village of San Nicolás de Tolentino stands isolated, with its traditions and its export farming crops.



# The City of Las Palmas de Gran Canaria

TOURIST

Las Palmas  
de Gran Canaria  
GUIDE

The capital of Gran Canaria, Las Palmas de Gran Canaria, is set on the coast, on the north-west tip of the island, less than twenty kilometres from the airport. The American magazine Consumer Travel Association declared the city one of the top ten cities in the world with the best climate. The access motorway runs along the shore around the old quarters with a view of the mountains of La Isleta, which enclose and protect the mighty Puerto de La Luz harbour, the commercial heart of the archipelago that is the main base for the fishing fleets working the Saharan bank, one of the richest fisheries in the world. European and Asian - Japanese and Korean - fleets stop over here, as it is a vital link on the intercontinental shipping lanes.

The history of Las Palmas de Gran Canaria has always been linked to its port; ever since it was founded in 1478 by Juan Rejón. He was a cap-

tain from the Kingdom of Castile who established the camp on the right bank of the Guinguada Ravine that was used as a bridge head for conquering the island. Nowadays, the church of San Antonio Abad and the Columbus Museum stand on the site, in the district of Vegueta. It took the invading Castilian troops six years to conquer Gran Canaria, which, like the other islands in the group, was inhabited by aboriginal natives who were still living in pre-historic societies in the XV century. The mainstay of their economy was grazing, especially goats, growing cereals and gathering shellfish. They made pottery, but never discovered the potter's wheel, metal or cloth.

Shortly after it was founded, after the conquest was completed in 1483, the city spread from the original site over to the other side of the ravine, thus forming the district of Triana. Right from the beginning, this was a district





of traders, shopkeepers and seafarers - the city's first port was at the northern tip. For centuries, the capital of Gran Canaria remained within these boundaries, within two walls to protect the city from constant attacks by marauding pirates. The danger of an attack from the sea disappeared in the XVIII century, but the city did not start to spread towards La Isleta bay until the mid XIX century. This bay is now the Puerto de La Luz harbour, which was built in 1883 and acted as a catalyst for modernising the entire city. Other city districts began to grow up between Triana and El Puerto, with more crowded districts appearing on the edges of the city, climbing up the surrounding hillsides.

The inner city of Las Palmas de Gran Canaria, from La Isleta to San Cristóbal, covers about six kilometres. To the north, the isthmus of La Isleta forms two beaches: Las Alcaravaneras and Las Canteras. Las Canteras beach is a lovely, three-kilometre long line of golden sand running along the city's northern coast, protected from the tides by a natural bar of volcanic sediment that makes it unique as a city centre beach. At the western end of the beach, the Alfredo Krauss Auditorium Building emerges from the sea.

The city has its origins in the colonial district of Vegueta, in the south, where religious, political and administrative power were concentrated, as can be seen today in the Town Hall, the Bishop's Palace and the Regent's House, which are built around Plaza de Santa Ana, opposite the Cathedral. The streets of this area still conserve the original layout and this is where you will find all the main museums and churches, set among old mansions, cool courtyards and twisting, narrow lanes. The two old bridges that crossed the Guinguada Ravine from Vegueta to the shopping district of Triana, have been replaced by a dual carriageway. Triana is now a pedestrian precinct, lined with modernist buildings, including the Gabinete Literario, an XVIII century building, the Alameda de Colón and the Plaza de Cairasco, that takes you to another main artery; Bravo Murillo. Bravo Murillo marks the beginning of the district of Arenales, followed by Ciudad Jardín (Garden City), based on the rationalist "linear city" model, which contains the Doramas Gardens and the Hotel Santa Catalina. We then come to the district of Santa Catalina, another of the city's main shopping areas, called El Puerto (the Port) and Las Canteras.

# Architecture

TOURIST

Las Palmas  
de Gran Canaria  
GUIDE

## THE ORIGINAL CITY

### City Hall

City Hall, located in the district of Vegueta, in the Plaza de Santa Ana, opposite the Cathedral, has been classed as an example of mayoral architecture and as a continuation of the tradition of porticoed buildings. Its elevation is traditional classical XIX century, as the original constructions, built in 1480 in Gothic style, were devoured by flames after a pirate attack in 1842. After the City Hall was destroyed, the people devoted all their energies to rebuilding it, which was done between 1842 and 1852 by Manuel González.

The neo-classical City Hall has a façade built of solid quarry stone that is still in good condition. The ground floor is divided by nine arches, crowned by broad windows and a balustrade. The three-storey building is built as a quadrangle around a central courtyard, defined by columns and surrounded by chambers housing various administrative offices.



### The Santa Ana Cathedral

The year 2000 was the five hundredth anniversary of when Diego de Montaude started work on building the Cathedral of Las Palmas de Gran Canaria. The Cathedral is a mixture of different architectural styles, from late Gothic to neo-classical and baroque. The building remains unfinished, although most of the work has been done. The Cathedral is a conglomeration of many different architects, each of whom added their personal "touch" to the "Gothic factory", as it is known by several authors who have studied its construction.

Work started in 1500 on the "old" church of Santa Ana and the project was continued by architects like Juan Palacios in the XVI century, Diego Nicolás Eduardo and Luján Pérez in the XVII century, each of whom added touches of the styles of their times to Diego Montaude's work. All this has resulted in a neo-classical façade, baroque altarpieces inside, dominated by baroque chambers and a pure plateresque style sacristy. Inside, you can also see a Genoese silver lamp, an immense organ, pulpits, an important and recently restored baroque altarpiece, pictures of Luján Pérez, the architect and sculptor who revolutionised Spanish imagery, and paintings by Miranda and Losada, as well as all the silver work in the Diocesan

Museum of Holy Art. The Cathedral has three chapels, in which leading figures of the history of Gran Canaria, like the poet Cairasco de Figueroa, Viera y Clavijo and Fernando de León y Castillo, are buried.



### **Bishop's Palace**

The present Bishop's Palace, in Calle del Espíritu Santo in Vegueta, was built between 1575 and 1581, although it was destroyed during the Dutch invasion. Rebuilt in the XVI century, reconstruction was completed in 1630. In the XVIII century a series of houses were added to the west side. In the mid XIX century, the façade was modified to a neo-classical style, based on plans by Manuel Ponce de León y Falcón. This is a two-storey building, with a simple façade whose only adorn-

ment is a lovely balcony with lattice-work breast, that dates back to the early XVII century. This is one of the most important balconies to be found in the city.

### **Regent's House**

Located next to City Hall, in Plaza de Santa Ana, the Regent's House is one of the noble buildings conserved in the old Plaza Mayor of the city. Its origins date back to the XVI century and represents one of the few examples of renaissance architecture that have survived. Inside the Regent's House, there is a lovely courtyard, which is an outstanding element of the historic centre of Las Palmas de Gran Canaria.

Following the tradition, the Regent's House is currently used as the offices of the Canary Island High Court.

### **Columbus Museum**

Located in the original heart of the city - Calle Montesdeoca, Calle Audiencia, Calle Armas, Calle Herrería, Calle Colón, Pasaje Pedro de Algaba, Calle Pelota, Calle Balcones and Calle Mendizábal - the Columbus Museum is a combination of several houses that are as old as this part of the city. They were built a mere fourteen years after the Crown of Castile founded El Real de Las Palmas, in 1478. They were opened as a museum in 1951, with objects that reflect the traditional links between the Canary Islands and America.





The Museum's main gate, behind the Cathedral, opens onto a central courtyard, surrounded by a wonderful renaissance arcade designed by Néstor Alamo. From here, one enters the "patio de armas" (main courtyard) with its original gothic well. Other features of the building are the cloister and the ogee arch. Several modifications have been carried out since 1950, although there are parts of the complex that are original, dating back to the XVI century.

## THE COLONIAL CITY

### Church of Santo Domingo

Although it was originally built in the XVI century, it was destroyed by fire in 1599, during the Dutch invasion. The present building dates back to the XVII century. It contains some fine examples of altarpieces and figures sculpted by Canarian artist Luján Pérez. The church is located in the peaceful Plaza de Santo Domingo de Vegueta, which, with its XVII century fountain, conserves a genuine air of the old city of Las Palmas de Gran Canaria.



### Church of San Francisco de Asis

This church was destroyed during the Dutch invasion and rebuilt in the XVII century. Its best feature is the classical baroque stone entrance. It is a three-nave church, built in a similar style to many of the churches to be found in the Canary Islands. The church of San Francisco de Asis plays an important role in Las Palmas' Easter Week celebrations.

### Church of San Telmo

This old church dates back to the origins of the city of Las Palmas de Gran Canaria. It is located on one corner of the park of the same name and, despite its small size, it contains one of the most beautiful baroque altarpieces to be found on the Island. Although it was destroyed in 1599, it was then rebuilt in the XVII century and the church, along with the park's kiosks, is a landmark to be visited after a strolling along Triana.

### **Patio de los Naranjos**

This courtyard is a traditional Canary Island cloister. Dating from the late XVI early XVII century, it is a rectangular courtyard with beautiful wooden galleries running along two sides. A gate, the late XVI-century renaissance Puerta del Aire, connects the courtyard with the Cathedral de Santa Ana.

## **THE NINETEENTH CENTURY CITY**

### **Gabinete Literario**

Set in Plaza Cairasco, construction started on the Gabinete Literario in the mid XIX century, built on the former convent of San Bernardino de Siena. Since it was founded, in 1844, it has played a leading role in the cultural life of Las Palmas de Gran Canaria. It is a large, neo-

classical mansion with modernist decoration. Its many rooms are furnished in mahogany and decorated with highly interesting paintings. The magnificent ceiling is the work of González Méndez, a painter from the island of La Palma. At the back of the building, there is a bingo hall and dances are often held on the second floor.

### **Pérez Galdós Theatre**

The city's Pérez Galdós Theatre is on the south-east edge of the Triana district, next to the sea, at the mouth of the Guinguada ravine. What is now the city's leading theatre, was designed by architect Francisco Jareño in 1852, but was burned down in 1918 and rebuilt by Miguel Martín Fernández de la Torre in 1921, with the frescos inside being done by his brother Néstor. The rectan-





gular-shaped theatre building was originally designed for plays and as an opera house, with excellent acoustics. The style is a combination of the Alhambra and renaissance, with art nouveau stained glass windows and modernist paintings. It has had several different names over the years, from New Theatre, in the early days, followed by Tirso de Molina Theatre, until it took on its present name of Pérez Galdós Theatre, as a tribute to the famous Gran Canaria author.

#### **Pérez Galdós Museum**

This museum was opened in 1964, as a tribute to the memory of the great local writer, Benito Pérez Galdós. It is the house in Calle Cano where the author was born in 1843. The XVIII century Museum is a neo-classical - classical romantic building, a style that was very popular in the Islands in the mid XIX century. Stonework façade and an interior

courtyard with a wooden, Canary Island balcony, a well and a fountain, overlooked by a second storey that houses the family's private chambers. It is a fine example of a typical XVIII century, Canary Island bourgeois house. The ground floor has three main lounges, one of which contains the author's private library.

#### **Canary Island Museum**

This hundred-year-old scientific institution was founded in 1879 in Calle Doctor Verneau, in the district of Vegueta, close to the Cathedral. For this reason, it forms part of the historical buildings route or the original heart of Las Palmas de Gran Canaria. This neo-classical, rectangular building has a broad gate set at the top of the steps and flanked by two classical columns. It also has an interior courtyard and two floors of chambers facing onto the courtyard. One of its main attractions is the woodwork. It was declared an Historic-Artistic Monument in 1962.

## THE COSMOPOLITAN CITY

### Puerto de La Luz y de Las Palmas Harbour

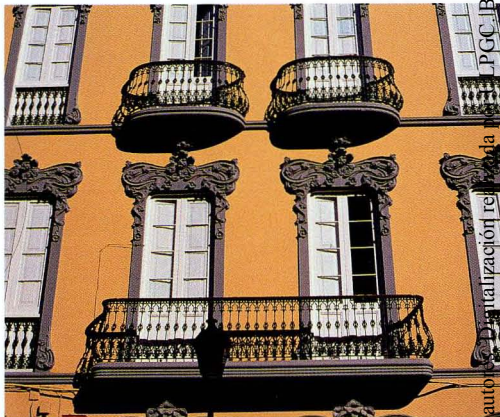
The Puerto de La Luz y de Las Palmas harbour has enabled the city of Las Palmas to give rein to its maritime vocation, profiting from its magnificent geographic location, on a cross roads of the main oceanic shipping routes. Ever since 1830, the city was determined to build a harbour that could handle all the sea traffic that called into the Port of San Telmo, opposite the park of the same name. The present port was built in three stages: from 1880 to 1930, when it was known as Puerto del Refugio. These docks were first expanded in the 30's, when the outer docks were built and the Muelle Grande, or Main Dock marked the boundary of the port until 1980. The Reina Sofia Dock was built in the outer harbour in 1979, to provide added protection to the harbour.

Puerto de La Luz is the gateway to the Canary Islands, powerhouse of the local economy and the mainstay of the city's development. Both economic and physical growth of Las

Palmas have always gone hand in hand with growth in sea traffic and trade, which, in turn, have led to the growth of port infrastructure with the construction of new docks.

### Triana Main street

One of the oldest in the city, along with the district of Vegueta, Triana



main street is lined by historic buildings of great interest. The entire Calle Mayor (Main Street), from San Telmo Park to the old district of Guinguada, has been declared an historic monument. Although the buildings along the



first stretch of the street are basically modernist in style, the Las Palmas de Gran Canaria City Council restored the facades and rescued many architectural designs that were about to disappear forever. In the second and final stretches of the street, the buildings are all XIX century neo-classical in style. This whole area is interesting from an architectural point of view, with buildings such as the Island Library, or the Gabinete Literario, and the kiosks that flanked the old Puente del Palo (Palo Bridge) that crossed the ravine.

### Néstor Museum

The Néstor Museum is one of Las Palmas' leading artistic meeting points. It was officially opened in 1950, but the building is XIX century, with the typical stonework façade and worked balcony on the upper floor. It is part of the Pueblo Canario (Canary Island Village), located in the Parque

Doramas. The church of San Nicolás, opposite the Néstor Museum, another building of great architectural value, has recently been restored as an exhibition hall.

### Gran Canaria Cabildo

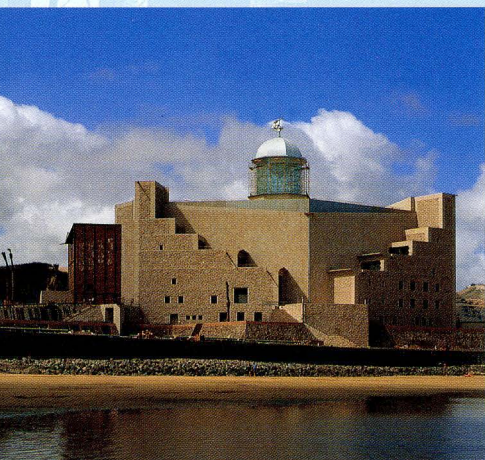
The plans for a building to house the Gran Canaria Cabildo (Island Government) were drawn up towards the end of the "Roaring Twenties". The island government's decision to site the Cabildo Offices on a plot in the Camino Nuevo, in Calle Bravo Murillo, meant that the whole area had to be designed and built. This area of the city thus underwent a series of transformation, all carried out by the same architect; Miguel Martín de la Torre, who gradually built up an area in rationalist style that fitted in with the Cabildo building. This way, the new building, with two small triangular squares in front to provide access, grew into a landmark in the city of Las Palmas de Gran Canaria.



This building is also Miguel Martín's most representative example of modern, Central European style architecture in the Islands, with clear influences of French architect Le Corbusier.

### **Alfredo Kraus Auditorium**

The Alfredo Kraus Auditorium and Canary Island Conference Centre, opened on the 5th of December, 1997, rises from the depths of the Atlantic Ocean, at the north-west end of the Las Canteras beach, like an isolated and independent fortress that stands out from the architectural style of the surroundings. Seeking an image of a castle-type building, the architect, Oscar Tusquets, designed it as an enormous building, with the ground floor set on a plinth of volcanic rock. This fortress image is continually strengthened, not only with the materials used for the exterior finishing, but also by the very volumes of the building, made up of the hexagonal-shaped Main Symphonic Hall, with different geometrical shapes built onto each of its sides.



The two materials that stand out from the texture and colour of the cement work of this building that was opened in the 90's are the stainless steel outline of the hexagon and lighthouse dome and the local wood used to make the great lattice work entrance. Sculptor Juan Bordes, designer of the figures that decorate the building, has drawn his inspiration from the sea and the Las Canteras beach that stretches out from the Alfredo Kraus Auditorium and pays tribute to Néstor with a powerful set of four sculptures entitled "Strolling along the bar".

### **Alfredo Kraus sculpture**

Victor Ochoa was asked to make a sculpture as a tribute to the local tenor Alfredo Kraus, located in the gardens of the Auditorium and Conference Centre that carries his name. The Sculpture, funded by several public agencies and companies of the island, is characterised by the emphasis the artist has given to the man's physical appearance. Ochoa has done the sculpture in bronze, which has allowed the artist to sculpt a figure of Kraus whose body emerges from stone and rises with the power of an artist. Victor Ochoa belongs to a new generation of late XX century sculptors who are known in Spain and throughout the world for their sculptures of famous people like King Juan Carlos I of Spain, Juan de Borbon, Count of Barcelona and Nobel Prize winner Severo Ochoa. The figure of Alfredo Kraus is the only one the artist has done in the Canary Islands so far.

# Museums and exhibition halls

TOURIST

Las Palmas  
de Gran Canaria  
GUIDE

## VEGUETA

### The Canary Island Museum

The Canary Island Museum is a scientific and cultural institution founded in Las Palmas de Gran Canaria in 1879 and devoted to conserving, exhibiting and investi-



Foto Gonçalves

gating nature, pre-history and the history of the Canary Islands. It now concentrates on conserving and exhibiting its archaeological and documental collections. Apart from the exhibition halls, the museum also has a library, newspaper archives and archives specialised in Canary Island matters, all of which are open to anyone wishing to study them. It also has a small shop for visitors and the general public to buy souvenirs of the museum's exhibits and of the culture of the Canary Islands in general. The permanent exhibition on display in the Canary Island Museum is devoted

almost entirely to the native population of Gran Canaria: the Guanches. The exhibition attempts to explain how they lived and thought. They inhabited the island from at least the late first century B.C., up to the XV century, when the island was conquered and settled by the Crown of Castile. Where and how they built their houses, what they ate and how they buried their dead are just some of the aspects of their lives that can be discovered in a visit to the 11 halls that make up the Canary Island Museum. Furthermore, they organise daily guided tours for visitors at different times during the day.

Address: Calle Doctor Verneau, 2 - Vegueta 35001 - Las Palmas de Gran Canaria.

Telephone: 928 336800

Opening times: Monday to Friday, from 10.00 to 20.00. Saturday and Sunday, from 10.00 to 14.00.

### Columbus Museum

The stocks housed in the Columbus Museum cover many different aspects, from an historic journey through pre-Columbine America, information in several halls about Christopher Columbus as a person, his voyages and the context of his times, to Columbus' relations with the Islands on his route to America and the importance of the Canary Islands in the context of the Atlantic and the discovery of America and the his-

tory of the city of Las Palmas de Gran Canaria from the XV to the XIX centuries. Furthermore, the rooms devoted to images of the XVI to the XIX centuries contain a collection of objects from the Prado Museum and from the Columbus Museum. This collection is a chronological exhibition of artistic expression that leads us from religious themes, through portraits and customs, to the mythology and allegorical aspects of the period.



The museum also has a library that specialises in the History of America and Atlantic Relations. It also organises a series of permanent activities, such as publishing its own in-house scientific journal, the Annual of Atlantic Studies. Every two years, they organise the

Discussion of Canary Island - American History, which attracts researchers from all over the world, and the Viera y Clavijo Research Prize.

Address: Calle Colón, 1, Vegueta.  
35001, Las Palmas de Gran Canaria.  
Telephone: 928 311255  
Opening times: Monday to Friday,  
from 9.00 to 19.00. Saturday from  
9.00 to 15.00.

### **Museum of Religious Art**

Located in the Patio de los Naranjos in the Cathedral of the Canary Islands, the Museum of Religious Art, since it was opened in 1984, offers a collection of pieces and objects associated with religious worship. This collection includes valuable sculptures from the XVII to the XX centuries and many pieces of precious metals. The Capitular Room deserves special mention, as does much of the furniture that is of great historical and artistic interest. The Museum has published a guide for school visits and other organised groups.

Address: Calle Espíritu Santo, 20  
Telephone: 928 313600  
Opening times: Monday to Friday,  
from 9.00 to 13.30 and from 16.00  
to 18.30. Saturday from 9.00 to  
14.00.



**Atlantic Modern Art Centre - CAAM**

This gallery, opened in 1989, is located in Calle de Los Balcones, in the district of Vegueta, although the original initiative first saw the light of day in 1974. The museum is housed in a typical building of the original quarter of Las Palmas de Gran Canaria, of which, only the façade and the main courtyard now remain. It houses many different exhibitions of modern art, promoting the idea of the tri-continental nature of the Canary Islands (Africa, Latin America and Europe) and with a view to presenting new movements. The collection thus encompasses the panorama of historical avant-garde movements and the latest trends. To promote investigation, another of the basic principles of this museum is a library of over 24,000 volumes dealing with modern art. There is also a shop offering visitors a wide variety of articles related to the different areas of art, from books to laminas of modern works, post cards, paper and decorations.

Address: Calle de Los Balcones, 11, Vegueta

Telephone: 928 311824

Opening times: Tuesday to Saturday, from 10.00 to 21.00. Sunday from 10.00 to 14.00

**San Antonio Abad Hall**

A meeting point for local, mainland and overseas avant-garde artists. Activities include an exchange of collections with other Spanish galleries.

Address: Plaza de San Antonio Abad, Vegueta.

Telephone: 928 311824

Opening times: Tuesday to Saturday, from 10.00 to 21.00. Sunday from 10.00 to 14.00

**Mapfre Guanarteme Foundation**

Modern art, especially figurative and realist work with impressionist influences.

Address: Juan de Quesada, 10. Vegueta

Telephone: 928 311471

Opening times: Monday to Friday, from 19.00 to 22.00.

## TRIANA

### Pérez Galdós Museum

The heritage site that constitutes the Pérez Galdós Museum, along with the museum exhibits, houses an archive of documents of biographical and literary research about the novelist and the literary and historical context of the Spain of the late XIX century and early XX century. The museum is set in the house in which Benito Pérez Galdós was born. The collection includes the Canary Island author's personal library, his letters and a collection of newspaper cuttings from the Spanish press and specialist publications. There are periodic exhibitions of these articles and every two years, they organise an International Galdós Conference and specialist courses and workshops.

Address: Calle Cano, 6.  
Telephone: 928 366979

Opening times: Monday to Friday, from 10.00 to 21.00. Saturday from 9.00 to 18.00. Sunday from 10.00 to 15.00.

### CICCA (Caja de Canarias Centre for Cultural Initiatives)

Opened in 1990, the CICCA is housed in a mid XIX century building in the district of Triana designed by Manuel Ponce de León. The Caja de Canarias savings bank uses the centre for promoting all kinds of social and cultural activities. Within the building, there is a theatre, an exhibition hall, conference hall and classrooms for cultural activities.

The art galleries are now housed in the building's former store-rooms and cellars, and have conserved the original stone arches, making it a unique setting for exhibiting paintings and other forms of artistic expression. More than 1,000 works make up the centre's collection, valued at 150 million pesetas, including works by Miró Mainou, César Manrique, Juan Ismael and a set of engravings by Francis Bacon.

Address: Alameda de Colón, 1  
Telephone: 928 368687  
Opening times: Monday to Friday, from 19.00 to 22.00.

Tato Gonçalves



### CIC (Island Cultural Centre)

The Island Cultural Centre opened its doors to the public in 1987, when it was created in an attempt to establish a centre in Gran Canaria to act as a catalyst for cultural activities in the island. Its objective is not only to become a meeting point for creators and public, but also to create programmes of regular activities that offer exhibits related to art and culture. These activities encompass five areas of art: audiovisual art, visual art, theatre, literature and music. Cinema, video and photography form the heart of the centre's permanent programme, and, for some years now, the CIC has organised the Canary Islands Video and Multimedia Festival. The centre does an important task of raising public awareness in the field of visual arts, disseminating different trends in this field and has become an institutional yardstick for supporting and promoting artistic creation. In this sense, it offers information, exhibition and training services with highly interesting propositions, especially, though not exclusively, for local artists. The Island Cultural Centre also has its own theatre, which stages works of different kinds.

Address: Calle Pérez Galdós, 53

Telephone: 928 364977

Opening times: Monday to Friday, from 10.00 to 14.00 and from 17.00 to 21.00.

### CITY CENTRE

#### Néstor Museum

The Néstor Museum has been declared a Cultural Asset by the Autonomous Community of the Canary Islands. The gallery forms part of the Pueblo Canario architectural site, along with the restored church of Santa Catalina, a mansion and several commercial premises.



These buildings, set around an open square, mix Mudejar and baroque styles in a combination known as "neo-Canarian". With ten exhibition rooms, a document and teaching centre and the recently restored San Nicolás Church Hall, this centre must figure on the list of places to visit of all art lovers. It also has an artistic expression workshop and an audiovisual room.

Address: Parque Doramas (Pueblo Canario)

Telephone: 928 215135

Opening times: Tuesday to Friday, from 10.00 to 13.00 and from 16.00 to 20.00. Sunday from 11.00 to 13.00.

## EL PUERTO

### Elder Science and Technology Museum

The Museum of Science and Technology covers a useful area of 6,800 square metres, of which, 4,500 are for exhibitions. This museum offers visitors the chance to enjoy an interactive encounter with the exhibits that make up part of this centre of scientific dissemination. They have exhibits that vary from an Air Force F-5 fighter, to a replica of a space station, which are displayed to make them comprehensible, and can be touched by visitors. The museum also has a large format film projection room. They also have the Blas Cabrera Science Workshop, the Agustín Betancourt Space, the Piriñola room for children, the "green ramp" (a teaching green house) and a hall for temporary exhibitions. In all, more than twenty zones used to reconstruct and reproduce the milestones in the history of Mankind. Opened in 1999, this is one of the city's most emblematic

cultural centre, as it is so modern and also because of the diversity of information it explains to the public.

Address: Edificio Elder (Parque Santa Catalina)

Telephone: 928 472047

Opening times: Tuesday to Sunday, from 10.00 to 20.00.

### La Regenta Art Centre

This art gallery offers exhibitions of contemporary Canary Island visual art. It is located in an old tobacco factory, whose name it maintains. The project to transform the building into an art centre was carried out by architect Fernando Delgado in 1945. The activities organised in La Regenta comprise a varied programme aimed at disseminating contemporary paintings, usually painted by Canary Island artists.

Address: Calle León y Castillo, 427

Telephone: 928 277170

Opening times: Monday to Friday, from 11.00 to 13.00 and from 18.00 to 21.00.

# Libraries and Historic Archives

TOURIST

Las Palmas  
de Gran Canaria  
GUIDE



## ISLAND LIBRARY

Plaza Hurtado de Mendoza, number 3. This is one of the best examples of late XIX century architecture. The building was designed by Fernando Navarro in 1898 as the offices of the Las Palmas de Gran Canaria Mercantile Circle. Between 1931 and 1985, it was the property of the Banco Hispano Americano. In 1986, the Gran Canaria Cabildo (Island Government) bought the property and asked Jose Luis Gago to refurbish the building as a library. One of its most important objectives is to promote reading through a service of cultural activities. To this end, it has a complete collection of printed, graphic and audiovisual material and a conference room. Furthermore, it also conserves the bibliographic heritage of the city's leading literary and musical lights. It has a 24-hour service and closes on Saturdays, Sundays and Bank Holidays.

## PUBLIC LIBRARY

It is located in Plaza de la Constitución and was first opened on the 10th of April, 1967. It has a spacious reading room for 250 users and another one with magazines for children and teenagers. It open from 9.00 to 21.00. In 2001, the library will move to Avenida Alcalde Ramirez Bethencourt, 14 (next to the bus station). It has a large collection of material about the Canary Islands and specialises in periodic publications like the Official State Gazette (BOE). The multimedia room is open to the public all day, free of charge, for all kinds of enquiries on the Internet and on CD Rom.



The new Public Library facilities will have more space and specialised sections. Furthermore, the new building will have an assembly hall, new stocks of books for reading, children's books and specialised matters, and more than 100 computer connections and 20 Internet access points on each of its three storeys. The Avenida Maritima building will have room for more than 500 users when the facilities are completed in May, 2001.

## **SIMÓN BENÍTEZ PADILLA LIBRARY**

Located in Plaza del Pilar Nuevo, it contains the valuable bibliographic collection of Simón Benítez Padilla, famous Civil Engineer, plus extensive material that belonged to his son, Cirilo. The 33,000 books and magazines cover many fields of knowledge. The Library opens to the public as a centre specialising in Geology, Biology and Ecology and associated interdisciplinary and applied sciences. To this end, it offers a complete collection, not only of printed material, but also graphic and audiovisual material aimed mainly at university or research users. Simón Benítez Padilla was Chairman of the Canary Island Museum from 1933 to 1936 and from 1947 to 1951, when he distinguished himself as a driving force behind the promotion of the history and the culture of the Canary Islands.

## **JOAQUÍN BLANCO HISTORIC ARCHIVE**

Located at number 4, Plaza de Santa Ana and belonging to the Department of Culture and Sports, its objective is to safeguard historic documentary legacies, with a view to providing records of historical events. In 1996, the 143 books of minutes and plenary meetings of

the Las Palmas City Council were microfilmed. These books covered the period from 1834 to 1994. This work, covering 160 years of the city's history, involved the microfilming of 37,353 pages on 2,340 metres of film, divided into 78 reels of microfilm. The first minutes of the collection date back to the 1st of January, 1834, covering a meeting whose agenda dealt with the auction of the Port mansion. A fire in City Hall, in 1845, turned the municipal information of many years to ashes, leading to the loss of one of the leading documentary sources for the history of the Canary Islands. It was the concern about a the possibility of a similar disaster that led to these documents being conserved, using modern techniques of microfilming, apart from the fire-fighting measures installed in the building. Microfilming all the documents makes it possible for different people to study the same documents from different geographical locations. In this sense, in a widely scattered region like the Canary Islands, the documentary legacy of the region can be used and studied in each and every one of the islands, meaning that people can consult these documents without having to travel to Las Palmas to do so.

# Theatres

TOURIST

Las Palmas  
de Gran Canaria  
GUIDE

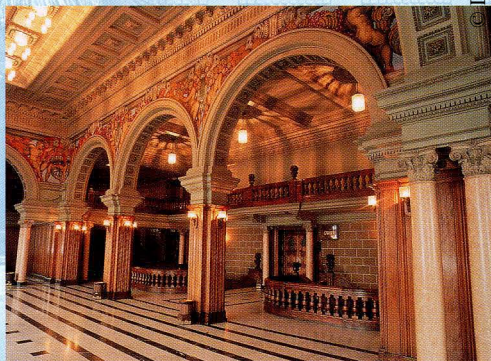


## PÉREZ GALDÓS THEATRE

Of Italian inspiration, the Pérez Galdós Theatre has a brilliant artistic record since it was opened in 1852. Its stage has seen leading theatre companies and famous singers, actors and dancers from all over the world. Located in a strategic site in the city, in the mouth of the Guinguada ravine, it is the usual setting for concerts given by the hundred-year-old Las Palmas Philharmonic Society, the oldest in Spain, and those given by the Philharmonic Orchestra, the Las Palmas de Gran Canaria Opera Festival, with a tradition of more than forty years, and the Festival of Zarzuela (light opera). The Pérez Galdós Theatre is a symbol of the history of Las Palmas, having staged such different events as society balls in the 40's, to brilliant interpretations by tenors like José Carreras and Pavarotti. With acoustics that have been described by experts as

“unique”, the theatre has now diversified its programmes with activities that range from opera to live concerts, from dance to traditional theatre and other shows organised by both public and private organisations. It is currently the Official Venue of the City of Las Palmas de Gran Canaria Festival of Theatre and Dance. It has a capacity for 1,430 people.

Address: Plaza de Stagno, 1  
Telephone: 928 361509



## GUINIGUADA THEATRE

The Official Seat of the Government of the Canary Islands in Las Palmas de Gran Canaria and the offices of the Canary Island Society of Dramatic Arts and Music, it was built along the lines of an Italian theatre. Since 1946, it has staged shows of all different kinds that will fit the dimensions of its stage, 17.5 metres across by 9.7 metres deep. Thus, it has seen theatre, dance, music and even cinema, as part of the Canary Island Film Library seasons. One of the main characteristics of the Theatre has always been its location in the historic heart of Vegueta. The theatre has been recently restored to meet the demands of the new millennium.

Address: Calle Mesa de León s/n  
Telephone: 928 322008

## CUYÁS THEATRE

Recovered two years ago by the Cabildo of Gran Canaria (island government), the Cuyás Theatre is the vehicle chosen by the Island institutions for catalysing cultural activities in the city. The alternative they have chosen is drama, with creative works that recover the traditional, utopian spirit of theatre, dance and music. Modernity and memory are components of a symbolic equation that, in the case of the Cuyás Theatre, where the design of a building that has been used for dramatic arts for a century, has now been given the functional, aesthetic and technical elements it needed. All this has been done for a theatre that has opted for innovating the shows it stages.

Address: Calle Viera y Clavijo, 13  
Telephone: 928 432180



# Castles

TOURIST

Las Palmas  
de Gran Canaria  
GUIDE

The strategic position of the islands and the spirit of conquest of new lands that reigned in Europe from the XV century onwards, have meant that the Canary Islands have constantly suffered attacks from French, Dutch and English pirates. In this context of constant struggle, the defensive bastions played an important role in protecting the most heavily populated areas. Most of these fortresses were simple ones.

## LA LUZ CASTLE

Set in La Isleta bay, for several centuries it defended the natural harbour of Las Palmas de Gran Canaria. This was the first fortress to be built in the Island after it was conquered by the Crown of Castile. Originally, it was a solidly built square-shaped fort, equipped with a platform for artillery. It was built on the southern coast of La Isleta in 1494, when Alonso Fajardo, Marquis de Vélez, was Governor of Gran Canaria. It may have been built on the site of a modest tower that had been raised by the forces

of Juan Rejón when they landed on the island in 1478. During the Dutch invasion by Pieter van der Does, in 1599, the castle suffered serious damage. Over the centuries, the two-storey building was extended, improved and rebuilt in a series of successive reforms. The fortress' thick walls were built of yellow stone masonry. The regular layout, with two cylindrical towers on opposite corners, was done in 1590 by engineer Leonardo Torriani. The design is by another engineer and builder of fortifications, Próspero Cassola, in 1595, which, along with the detailed plans of historian Pedro Agustín del Castillo (1686), mean that we have an exact description of the different floor plans of the castle and its chambers in the XVI and XVII centuries. Engineer Hermosilla later drew plans of the castle in the next century. In 1941, it was declared a national historic monument and is now a cultural centre and exhibition centre for national and international events.



## MATA AND SAN CRISTÓBAL CASTLES

To solve the problem of defending the Canary Islands, the Crown sent a series of military engineers to the Islands, including Juan Alonso Rubián, from Ibiza, the author of the city defence project that was implemented in Las Palmas de Gran Canaria. In 1576, Phillip II dictated a royal decree granting a licence to send one thousand slaves to America for sale there to raise money to pay for building the walls of Las Palmas. The sum raised was twenty six thousand ducats and this was paid to the governor of Gran Canaria and the city council in several instalments over a period of two years. Thus the governors that ruled Gran Canaria in the following years could promote military building works. In the times of Diego Melgarejo, the walls were built to protect the southern and northern flanks of the city. In 1577, the San Pedro Mártir tower was finished, now known as San Cristóbal castle, and the castle of Santa Ana was finished in 1581, thus finishing the northern wall at its western end.

Finally, in 1595, engineer Próspero Casola started work on the foundations of El Rey Castle, on San Francisco hill. This was the city's main fortress. The northern wall ran in a straight line from the cove of San Telmo to the skirts of San Lázaro - where there was a turret -, running along the edge of the Mata gully (through the line along which Calle Bravo Murillo now runs). This was a stone wall whitewashed with lime, which closed the city to the north, separating it from the sands that stretched from there to La Isleta. A gate gave access from Triana to the path to La Luz harbour. To the south, the wall wound its way through the orchards and gardens of this part of the city, from the Santa Isabel fortress, on the shore, to the foot of the San José slopes. These two walls marked the boundaries of the city up until the mid XIX century.

The Mata Castle is on the Mata road, between Calle 1º de Mayo and Bravo Murillo. San Cristóbal Castle is on the coast of the San Cristóbal district.

# Fiestas and traditions

TOURIST

Las Palmas  
de Gran Canaria  
GUIDE

## CARNIVAL

Carnival is the popular fiesta par excellence. One general feature of almost all Canary Island carnivals is the expression of social criticism, be this of the local, regional or national situation. This form of criticism defines and forms part of one of the typical groups of carnival musicians, the murgas. The carnival is held during the winter months, although it is usually held in the days before Lent, but the exact dates can vary and it does not always finish on Ash Wednesday, as it often lasts longer. The spirit of regeneration and death give these fiestas a certain licence for chaos and for upsetting traditional values, leading to the typical street parties, known as verbenas del mogollón, in which thousands of people in fancy dress dance till dawn around the stalls and in Parque Santa Catalina, to the rhythm of salsa music. The main events of the carnival include the gala for choosing the Carnival Queen and the great Carnival parade, which march through the whole city, from one end to the other on one day of the carnival. Parque Santa Catalina is where many stalls are set up at this time of year as this is where the mogollón comes to celebrate, filling the nights with entertainment, fun and colour. Institutional promotion and the magnificent spectacle of some of its main events have now turned

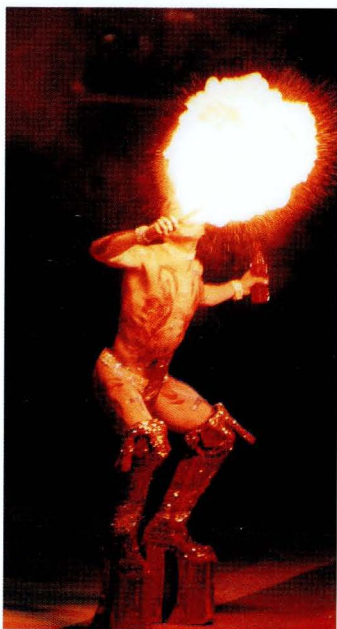
the carnival into an internationally famous spectacle. Each year, the carnival chooses a motif for the fiestas, which is the inspiration for many of the fancy dresses. The main stage is located in Parque Santa Catalina, the venue of the major events: the gala to choose the Carnival Queen, the competitions for murgas and comparsas (another kind of carnival music and dance group) and the Gala to choose the Drag Queen, which has become one of the most popular events in recent years. The carnival parade and the burial of the sardine are also long standing elements of the carnival. The area around the port also offers a wide range of terraces, pubs and discotheques as another option for spending your carnival nights.





### **FOUNDATIONAL FIESTAS (SAN JUAN)**

These fiestas commemorate the foundation of the city of Las Palmas de Gran Canaria, more than five centuries ago. Plaza de Santa Ana, in the heart of the old quarter of Vegueta, is the spot traditionally chosen for reading the proclamation of the fiestas, marking the start of the city's foundational fiestas. From here, the embryo of today's cosmopolitan city, the fiestas spread to the main landmarks of the city. A series of events, which have been promoted by the authorities for some years now, are the main attractions of these fiestas, such as the San Juan Popular Music Encounter, which used to be held on Las Canteras beach and is now organised in Parque Santa



Catalina, with performances by famous celebrities of the national and international music scene in front of huge crowds. The Alfredo Kraus Auditorium also stages jazz and classical music concerts. On the evening of the 23rd of June, thousands of people gather on Las Canteras beach to see the fireworks displays of La Puntilla and the area around La Peña La Vieja, the most popular spots on the beach. The slopes of Risco San Juan, an emblematic district of Las Palmas, also illuminates the night with bonfires and fireworks to receive the summer solstice. Exhibitions, conferences, international theatre and dance events are just some of the activities included in the cultural programme of the Fiestas de San Juan. The City of Las Palmas Painting Festival and the Presentation of Distinctions and Honours, the latter in the Pérez Galdós Theatre, attract leading representatives of the world of art and culture to the island capital.

### **LA CATACUMBA (TRIANA)**

This is a tradition, related to long-standing guild of Seamen of San Telmo, which has been recovered in recent years. It is held on the third Sunday in May.

## NUESTRA SEÑORA DEL CARMEN (LA ISLETA)

This is held on the 4th and the 24th of July. The Ports of La Luz and Las Palmas, the fishermen and the residents of La Isleta pay tribute to their Patron Saint for the first fortnight in July. The popular fervour that the whole city feels for this figure means that all the celebrations are well attended. The biggest crowds are seen at the maritime procession held on the 16th of July, an event that fills the streets of this district from the moment that the figure, born on the shoulders of bearers, leaves the parish church to be taken on board a boat for its annual trip around the waters of the bay of Las Palmas de Gran Canaria. One of the elements that deserves a special mention are the carpets of natural flowers made by many of the local residents for the occasion. The pilgrimage held on the eve of the fiestas and street parties are other typical events of the fiestas del Carmen.

## SAN LORENZO FIESTAS

These are held in honour of San Lorenzo, in the district of the same name. Festive events include a pilgrimage and fireworks, one of the best fireworks displays to be seen in the Canary Islands. The night of the 9th of August is what has made these fiestas famous, when the inhabitants of San Lorenzo commemorate their patron saint becoming a martyr, delivering his spirit to the flames. Other events are

held in the first fortnight of August. The festivities are celebrated with a procession, a livestock fair, with the traditional parade of the animals before the figure of the saint and the saint is toasted with wine at the end. The pilgrimage-offering and the Island of Gran Canaria Folklore Festival are also traditional and popular events of these fiestas.

## NUESTRA SEÑORA DEL ROSARIO (VEGUETA)

This is held on the 3rd of October. It is an old tradition that was restored in 1990, in which the typical customs and folklore of the island are given free rein. The historic Plaza de Santo Domingo becomes the centre of the fiestas. La Virgen del Rosario, patron saint of the upper part of the historic district of Vegueta, is a major cultural event for Las Palmas de Gran Canaria. Pilgrims, dressed in traditional costume, set out from Parque San Telmo, crossing the historic districts of Triana and Vegueta,





to the parish church of Santo Domingo. La Virgen del Rosario has a centuries-old tradition, with pilgrims dressed in typical mantillas and carrying lamps to identify themselves as such. Another major attraction of the Fiestas del Rosario is a stroll around the streets of Vegueta to see how residents have decorated the facades of their houses with cloths, carpets, water gourds and other traditional objects. The decorations highlight the noble and beautiful architectural style of these houses.

### **NUESTRA SEÑORA DEL PILAR (GUANARTEME)**

It is held in the first half of October. It takes place in the popular district of Guanarteme, in honour of their patron saint, La Virgen del Pilar. The offering of the evening of the 11th of October is worth mentioning, as are the musical shows put on by folklore groups. The all-night street party and a mid-night firework display close the fiestas. The figure of the Virgin is traditionally carried in

procession through the main streets of the neighbourhood, decorated with pennants and accompanied by a small band.

### **LA NAVAL (LA ISLETA)**

This fiesta is held in the month of October, in the neighbourhood of La Isleta, in honour of La Virgen de la Luz, the patron saint of the Port and Honorary Mayoress of the city of Las Palmas de Gran Canaria. The fiestas are to commemorate the city's victory in repelling an attempted invasion by British Admirals Francis Drake and John Hawkins, on the 6th of October, 1595. The most symbolic event in these celebrations is when both inhabitants and the municipal authorities go for a swim. Sporting activities include an international beach-volley tournament. On the last Sunday of the fiestas, there is a very popular pilgrimage that winds through the central streets of the neighbourhood. The folklore festival and the new singers competition are the central musical events of the fiestas de la Naval.

# Las Palmas de Gran Canaria City of Festivals

TOURIST

Las Palmas  
de Gran Canaria  
GUIDE

The city of Las Palmas de Gran Canaria, in recent years, has become an international cultural city, with frantic activity throughout the year, including music and theatre festivals and all the events of Carnival, plus the long list of festive activities that take place throughout the year.



well-known Parque Santa Catalina, the nerve centre of events where a giant stage is built each year and decorated with the motif of the fiestas.

Much of the spectacle of the carnival revolves around the Carnival Queen, who is elected in a grand gala that is held on a night that is considered one of the high points of the carnival. The gala held to elect the Drag Queen is another of the main attractions, and one of the great successes of the carnival, both for the crowds it attracts as well as the expectation it creates and its spectacular nature.

Once the Carnival is over, the **Las Palmas de Gran Canaria International Film Festival** starts. The objective of this festival is to disseminate and promote films that do not have the advantage of regular distribution on the conventional circuits and to give the public the chance to see films that have won

The **Las Palmas de Gran Canaria Carnival** is the popular festival with the longest tradition in the city. Apart from the inhabitants of the island, thousands of tourists are attracted by the fun and colour of the carnival celebrations, in search of something more than just the sun, sea and sand that the city can also offer.

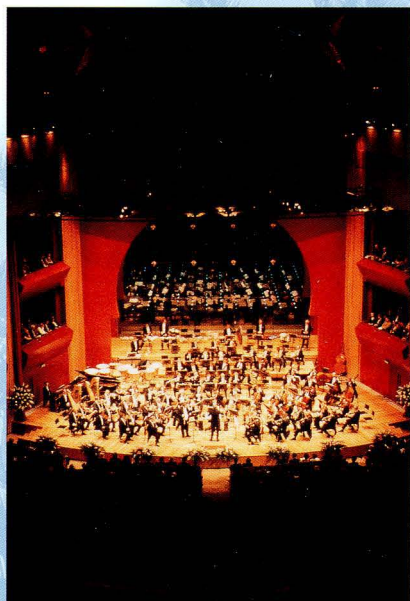
Tropical music is the star of the mogollones, concerts with music by local and international bands, in the



the praise and awards of other famous festivals. The whole city goes to the cinema.

The **City's Foundational Fiestas** mark the start of the summer in Las Palmas de Gran Canaria. These fiestas offer a full programme of traditional and folklore activities backed by the 522-year history of this great, cosmopolitan and hospitable city, as well as leisure and entertainment.

In the summer, the city fills up with terrace bars and nightlife, which continue all year round, but which reach their height at this time of year. The **International Jazz Festival** starts in this unrivalled atmosphere, and the Alfredo Kraus Auditorium, the historic district of Vegueta and the Parque Santa Catalina become the ideal settings for listening to the best jazz music of the moment.



Las Palmas de Gran Canaria has become a city of Festivals. From the beginning of the year, with the famous **Canary Islands Festival of Music**, the **Festival of Opera**, the **Zarzuela Festival** (Light Opera) and the **Festival of Theatre and Dance**, in Autumn, closes a very full cultural calendar that covers the whole year.



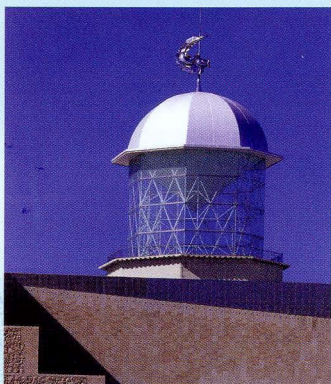
The Festival of Theatre and Dance offers an open and plural view of art. It is a festival that combines the performances of Canary Island companies with national and international ones, classical plays with contemporary ones, in an attempt to reach every kind of audience. That is why you will find classical and Spanish dancing, musicals and the very latest trends in ballet, flamenco, puppet theatre, classical and modern theatre. In recent years, the festival has won a permanent place for itself and has become a national yardstick for the dramatic arts.



# Las Palmas de Gran Canaria A city of Conferences

TOURIST

Las Palmas  
de Gran Canaria  
GUIDE



Gran Canaria International Airport is a mere 20 kilometres from the city, and from here, there are daily flights to the main cities of Europe and West Africa.

The city, which is considered to have the best climate in the world and the birth place of tourism in the Canary Islands, offers a top-class infrastructure of hotels and services.

## THE CANARY ISLAND CONFERENCE CENTRE

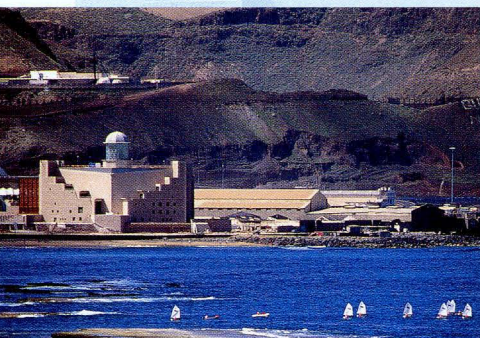
A Conference Centre, in the Alfredo Kraus Auditorium, is sufficient guarantee for holding any kind of convention or business meeting in this city that has grown up overlooking the sea.

The Canary Island Conference Centre - Alfredo Kraus Auditorium is one of the landmarks of the city. It is designed as a place for meetings and musical events, and it is possible to host different activities at the same time, without

Las Palmas de Gran Canaria is a modern and cosmopolitan city with outstanding facilities for conference and convention tourism. Ever since it was founded, it has played the role of a cross-roads between Europe, Africa and America. Furthermore, the Puerto de La Luz and Las Palmas harbour is also a major port of call that attracts a large number of cruise liners.



one interfering with another. It is built on the shores of the Atlantic Ocean, designed by Spanish architect, Oscar Tusquets, and located at one end of the Las Canteras beach. Its facilities can hold up to 2,500 people attending a congress and it has one of the most advanced systems of telecommunications and powerful technical installations that put it on a par with any other centre of its kind in the world.



## GRAN CANARIA CONVENTION CENTRE

This is located inside the Canary Islands Trade Fair (INFECAR), extended over a surface of 70,000 sq.m, in which trade fairs and exhibitions are held.

The Gran Canaria Convention Centre is a modern building equipped with the latest technology. The Convention Centre itself is some 7,500 sq.m that allows for various sizes of halls with varying capacities, which offer a wide range of options to hold all kind of events. Close to the main building

there are different pavilions totalling an exhibition area of more than 10,000 sq.m. Besides the halls, there are various rooms to complete the offer, such as the reception hall, the pressroom and separate offices. In this way, the needs of formal receptions and press conferences are fully met.

The Gran Canaria Convention Centre provides the congress industry and visitors with a range of services that facilitate the organisation of important national and international events, such as conference assistants, technical secretariat, coffee bar, Telephones, stands, rest areas, photographers, exhibition pavilions and parking lot.

Further information: Las Palmas de Gran Canaria Convention Bureau.  
[www.laspalmasgccb.com](http://www.laspalmasgccb.com)

Las Palmas de Gran Canaria also offers a wide range of cultural options to satisfy all tastes, all year round. An extensive calendar of cultural events, plus the chance to try your hand at popular sports like water sports or golf, All this enables you to find the perfect mix of business and pleasure.



# Shopping Areas

TOURIST  
GUIDE

Las Palmas  
de Gran Canaria

## TRIANA

The main street of Triana is the Heart of one of the three main shopping areas of Las Palmas. In this pedestrian precinct, you will find many different shops in this street, mainly boutiques and franchises. Despite the fact that the centre of commercial activity is shifting to the El Puerto area, Triana bustles with activity all day long, and even on the weekends, as the shops stay open on Saturday afternoon. Calle de San Bernardo and Plaza Hurtado de Mendoza, where the Monopol Shopping Mall is sited, along with the streets linking them all together, make up this area, which is usually frequented by locals out to do their shopping, or simply to enjoy a pleasant stroll to admire the colonial and modernist architecture that is typical of the buildings around here. Furthermore, the cafés and terraces of the Alameda de Colón, opposite the Plaza Cairasco, give you the chance to recover before you go out again in the evening.

## VEGUETA

The district of Vegueta is THE historic centre of Las Palmas de Gran Canaria, but it is also the first commercial area that appeared in the city after the Castilian conquest of the island in the XV century. For this reason, in the area around Calle Mendizábal and Calle Reyes Católicos, you will find many old shops that have remained unchanged over the years. The Market of Vegueta, next to Calle Mendizábal, is where trade was focussed in the last century because it was so close to the San Telmo docks. It continues to sell fresh food today on the many stalls inside.

## EL PUERTO

Since the Puerto de La Luz harbour was built in 1883, this area has become the main shopping and commercial area of the city. The area is divided into two main areas: around Avenida Mesa y



López and La Isleta. The former, a broad tree-lined boulevard of large Indian Laurels is the centre of a shopping district of modern shops, boutiques, shoe shops, franchises and department stores. Plaza de la Victoria is right in the heart of this bustling avenue, acting as a gateway to the Port area (El Puerto). The El Puerto area owes its atmosphere to the mixture of cultures that has always characterised a city of intense trading activity. That is why you can find shops selling things from almost everywhere in the world along these streets.

## SHOPPING CENTRES

### Las Arenas

In only seven years of operation, it has become one of the leading shopping centres of the Canary Islands. Its extensive and varied

range of brands, its strategic location and a carefully forged image of service and quality attract large numbers of visitors every day, both from the city of Las Palmas de Gran Canaria and from the rest of the island. It has a leasable surface area of 42,000 square metres on five levels: three levels of shops and two of car parks, open all day from 10 in the morning until 10 in the evening. In the 170 shops, visitors can find everything they need. It also has cafés, restaurants, cinemas, travel agencies and everything you need to enjoy your free time. A hypermarket, covering more than 11,000 square metres, completes the extensive range of shopping facilities. Las Arenas is located on the road to Rincón, near the district of Guanarteme, opposite the Alfredo Kraus Auditorium.



### La Ballena

La Ballena shopping centre is located in the heart of the city of Las Palmas de Gran Canaria, surrounded by high density residential areas, like La Feria, Cruz de Piedra, Cueva Torres, La Paterna, Miller, Escaleritas and Schamann. It has three floors of shops, with more than 150 establishments devoted to clothing, services, household goods and comparative trade. Leading Canary Island companies from different fields have set up shop here, along with other national and international brands.



The shopping centre has spacious leisure areas too, with an eight-screen multiplex cinema, children's fair ground, as well as spacious terraces, restaurants and cafés. It also has a five-storey car park, with room for 2,300 vehicles, some of which are outside. The shape and layout of the

domes and cupolas make a striking and characteristic profile for La Ballena, not only from the outside. There are also spectacular views to be had from inside, with its enormous size and the varying views you are offered from different spots. Finally, it also has a hypermarket that offers consumers a wide range of food products.

### Siete Palmas

The Siete Palmas Shopping Centre is located in Avenida Pintor Felo Monzón, in Las Palmas. It has been in operation since April, 2000, and its many and varied shops have already turned it into an important social attraction. It has a large area devoted to fashion for men women and children. Visitors have a café restaurant and everything they need to fill their leisure time, plus travel agencies, hairdresser's and a photographic studio. It also has extensive areas for free and easy parking for 2,500 vehicles. The hypermarket is also worth a mention, where you can find everything you want for your table and your home, including a home delivery service. The shopping centre also enjoys an elegant and harmonious design and lighting. It is open to the public from 10 in the morning until 10 in the evening, without closing for lunch.



# Beaches and Ports

TOURIST

Las Palmas  
de Gran Canaria  
GUIDE

## BEACHES

### Las Canteras

This is considered one of the best beaches in the world because of its natural conditions and exceptional location. Las Canteras - the quarries in Spanish, owes its name to the sandstone quarries that were used in the first buildings constructed in the city of Las Palmas de Gran Canaria. It is a three-kilometre long cove of golden sand, There is a natural bar, two hundred yards long, which protects it from the waves. The temperate waters make swimming a pleasure in winter and summer, and it is ideal for all kinds of water sports. The bustling Paseo de las Canteras promenade runs along next to the beach, full of terraces, cafés and restaurants. On the left, is the area known as La Cicer, which starts where the natural bar finishes, after La Peña La Vieja. Here the waves come crashing in with no impediment, making this 800-metre area the perfect place for

young surfers. The area is full of shops selling all kinds of water sports articles and accessories.

### Las Alcaravaneras

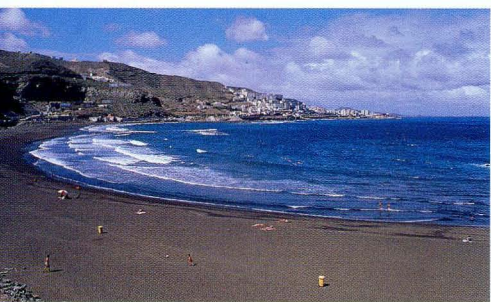
This beach is located on the north-east tip of Gran Canaria. It is a long beach, with over 1,000 metres of golden sands. Here you can go sailing, windsurfing, or play football on the beach. It is flanked to the north by the Real Club Nautico, and to the south by the Varadero Sailing Club. It also has a long promenade, Avenida Marítima (running around the eastern side of the city and an extension of the motorway from the south to La Isleta) for jogging and cycling. Near the southern entrance to the city, you will find the Lady Harimaguada monument, sculpted in steel and painted white by artist Martín Chirino. The work was unveiled in 1996 and its rolling curves seem to set up a dialogue with the waves and the surf of the nearby sea.





### La Laja

La Laja beach is near the city neighbourhoods of Hoya de La Plata, Pedro Hidalgo and San Cristóbal. It used to be a stone beach, but is now black sand, and has been restored in recent years to regain its former attractiveness, especially after the promenade and a break water were built to protect it against the action of the waves. Even so, it is not the most popular beach with swimmers, who are always warned to be careful, as there are some treacherous currents along that stretch of coast. There is a car park, at kilometre 2 of the southern motorway. It is ideal for strolling along the edge of the sea and watching the sea gulls.



## PORTS

### Puerto de La Luz y de Las Palmas

The bay of La Luz, in the very heart of the city, with its well laid out and spacious docks, makes all kinds of port operations possible for ships from every country in the world. It has all the necessary services to meet the demands and needs of the

thousands of passengers that arrive on our island every year. It is a world of its own, within the city, linked to 180 other ports and shipping lines from all over the world. For five centuries, it has been the traditional port of call, stop-over and supply station for ships sailing the Atlantic. Its privileged location has meant that Puerto de La Luz and Las Palmas has born witness to great ocean adventures, including the discovery of the New World. The high terraces of the city offer spectacular views over the sea and the harbour, and at night, the suggestive lights of the countless ships anchored in the Port.

### Yacht Marina

The marina is equipped with all the services required by users of this kind of port facilities. As an excellent stop over point on the trans-oceanic routes between Europe, Africa and America, it attracts yachts and sailing ships from the seven seas. As a leisure area, it offers the inhabitants of the city a quiet walk around the pontoons full of beautiful yachts, or a meal, or just a drink, in one of the many terraces that are open to the public within the marina area. In the Lateen Sail regatta season, these typical boats are the leading players in the Marina's activity. The Marina dresses up in its finest with annual international events, like the ARC regatta, which sets off from the waters of the bay in late November.



# Natural Spaces

TOURIST

Las Palmas  
de Gran Canaria  
GUIDE

## VIERA Y CLAVIJO CANARY ISLAND BOTANIC GARDENS

The Viera y Clavijo, or Canary Island Botanic Gardens, as they are commonly known, are located in the Guinguada Ravine, 7 kilometres from the city of Las Palmas de Gran Canaria, between the districts of Tafira Baja and Tafira Alta. It is devoted to the flora of the Macaronesian Islands (the Canaries,



© Gonçalves

Madeira, Azores and Cape Verde) that constitute one of the hot-spots of world bio-diversity. The Garden is the largest in Spain, with more than 27 hectares, but, it is also a botanical institute of worldwide importance and a centre for the conservation of flora, research and education and a place for relaxing and enjoying oneself. Every year, it is visited by over 250,000 people, including a large number of school children and young people hungry to learn. One can look at the fantastic collections of Canary Island plants and cacti from the arid areas of Africa and America, or one can visit the

Education centre, with its permanent exhibition on the Natural History of Gran Canaria, which recalls the work of Viera y Clavijo. Entering the Garden by the lower gate - Dragonal road - we come across a large square, called Plaza de Matías Vega, in memory of the Chairman of the Gran Canaria Cabildo (Island Government) who understood the project for a Canary Island Botanic Gardens and lent his support to it until it became a reality to be enjoyed by future generations. There is a splendid Canary Island palm (*Phoenix canariensis*) in the square, an endemic species in the Canary Islands. This species is found in all seven islands and is emblematic of the Archipelago. The Botanic Gardens were opened in 1952 at the initiative of Swedish born botanist Enrique Sventenius, who ran it until his death. But it was the present director, David Bramwell, who has really consolidated the Gardens in the period since 1974. A visit to the Gardens is a marvellous experience that can be rounded off with a stop in the Jardín Canario



restaurant. This is a place that combines splendid views with simple but delicious dishes of typical island cooking. The whole garden is open to visitors every day, even Sundays and Bank Holidays, from 9 in the morning until 6 in the evening. It closes on New Year's Day and Good Friday.

#### **La Isleta Nature Park**

Set on the north east tip of the island, it is a small, mountainous peninsular that clearly shows the volcanic origin of Gran Canaria. El Confital beach is well worth a visit.

#### **Caldera de Bandama**

This impressive, natural amphitheatre is located 10 kilometres from the city of Las Palmas. It is the crater of an old, dormant volcano. It has a diameter of over 1,000 metres, a perimeter of 10 kilometres and an average depth of 200 metres. Inside the mountain, half-way up the northern wall, there are pre-Hispanic remains in the form of several caves that were used either as dwellings or for storing grain. From the rim of the crater, you get an unrivalled view. There is also a golf course in the crater.



# Squares and Parks

TOURIST

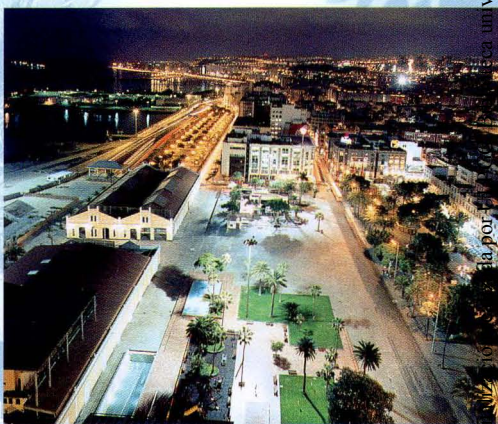
Las Palmas  
de Gran Canaria  
GUIDE

## SANTA ANA SQUARE

This was the third square built in the city of Las Palmas de Gran Canaria, after those of San Antón and Los Alamos. It was built at the beginning of the XVI century to meet the demand for expanding the district of La Vegueta, the first built up area of the city. It is now THE place for organising shows and social events. This historic square is presided over by City Hall, a neo-classical building opened on the 29th of April, 1856, to replace a previous one that had been destroyed by fire in 1842. Set on the sides of the square are the Bishop's Palace, the Provincial Historic Archives and the Cathedral of Las Palmas.

## SANTA CATALINA PARK

A lovely square, full of atmosphere and bustling with life. It is close to the Transmediterránea company's jet-foil terminus. This



is the ideal place for a stroll, have a coffee, read the paper or a game of chess. The adjacent streets are full of Indian shops, hotels, pensions and apartments.

It is also the site of many banks, shipping agents, shops and many other attractions for strollers. In fact, this square is almost a shopping centre, where you can also buy typical products of the city. The lush palms and the vegetation of the gardens give it a tropical air. All the buildings around the square are modern, concrete and glass buildings. The Casa del Turismo stands out, with its elegant lines and cylindrical silhouette.

### **SAN TELMO PARK**

This square is set at one end of Triana main street. It is a spacious park near the Bus Station, with an old church set in it. The church was destroyed in 1599 and rebuilt in the next century. Furthermore, at one corner of the park, there is a beautiful, modernist kiosk, designed by Rafael Masanet Faus. Inside, it holds a cosy café. Opposite the park is the barracks from which General Francisco Franco announced the military coup d'état on the 18th of July, 1936.



### **CAIRASCO SQUARE**

Between the district of Vegueta, an incomparable gallery of traditional style and typical buildings, and the area of Triana, is where you will find this square, with a bust of Cairasco in the centre, surrounded by tiled borders. Two lovely buildings face onto the square: the Hotel Madrid, with a pleasant bar on the terrace, and the magnificent Gabinete Literario, with its rich and unmistakeable eclectic style.

### **DORAMAS PARK**

Its gardens contain specimens of native flowers and it is laid out as a garden city. The fleshy leafed plants and exotic specimens make it an interesting and attractive ornament for the city. The Pueblo Canario and the famous Hotel Santa Catalina, a typical Canary Island building designed by architect Miguel Martín Fernández de la Torre, the brother of the famous Néstor de la Torre, are set within the park. Inside the hotel grounds, is the Las Palmas casino.

### **LAS REHOYAS PARK**

The park is set in one of the most populous districts of the city of Las Palmas de Gran Canaria, Las Rehojas. It has areas of garden and other areas for sports. It is currently being extended, after which, it will become one of the largest recreation areas in the Canary Islands. It used to house a parachute regiment and a recruiting centre.

# Transport

TOURIST

Las Palmas  
de Gran Canaria  
GUIDE

## LA GUAGUA TURÍSTICA (TOURIST BUS)

The guagua turística, or tourist bus, is a great opportunity to get to know Las Palmas de Gran Canaria, a cosmopolitan city with the best climate in the world. During the trip, you can visit museums, parks, shopping centres and some of the landmark buildings of the city. This service, started on the 31st of July, 2000, operates from Monday to Sunday and from 9.30

customer services office of Guaguas Municipales (the municipal public transport company) in the Parque de San Telmo bus station, in Guaguas Municipales kiosks by the Pérez Galdós Theatre and in Alameda de Colón, and in the Tourist Bus itself. It also covers an extensive route through the area of El Puerta, Castillo de La Luz, Alfredo Kraus Auditorium, Las Canteras beach and the old quarter of La Vegueta, with its old buildings and cathedral, and many other interesting sites.

## MUNICIPAL BUSES

The city bus service provides several bus routes to take you from one end of Las Palmas to the other, including the suburbs. The Municipal Bus Station (Estación de Guaguas Municipales) is located in Parque de San Telmo, where time tables for all routes are available. "Global" (Utinsa and Salcai) bus lines cover the south of the island and have routes that cover the north and centre of Gran Canaria.

Ships sail from the Puerto de La Luz everyday for the other islands and also to Cadiz, on the Spanish mainland.



a.m. until 5.45 p.m. Tickets are very reasonably priced and valid for the whole day, and you can get on and off at any stop. Both the driver and the guide speak English, Spanish and German. Tickets for the trip, which starts in Parque de Santa Catalina, are available in the



unística

Las Palmas de Gran Canaria

BT4

# Sports

TOURIST

Las Palmas  
de Gran Canaria  
GUIDE



Las Palmas de Gran Canaria is a city that encourages sporting activities, with a football team that has had many moments of glory in the Spanish first division. The city also has first division basketball and volleyball teams, but what the city is really famous for is water sports and swimming, with excellent facilities like the Real Club Nautico and the Metropole Swimming Club. For many years, Las Palmas de Gran Canaria has provided great sailing and swimming champions and Olympic medal winners. The city has many excellent sports facilities, including the recently built "Centro Insular de Deportes" (Island Sports Centre) to add the already existing ones like the Gran Canaria Sports City, the "Estadio Insular" football stadium, the Metropole Swimming

Club's swimming pool complex and many others. Las Palmas de Gran Canaria is a natural venue for water sports lovers all year round. This is a seafaring city, set in a geographically strategic location, providing shelter for a large number of leisure craft that drop anchor here. The mild temperatures of the Atlantic waters, the low rainfall and favourable winds make Las Palmas an incomparable setting for staging major international regattas and other events. Every October, the city hosts the Prince of Asturias International Sailing Trophy and the ARC (Atlantic Rally for Cruisers) sets out from Las Palmas on the last Sunday in November. It is a port of call for several international regattas, and winter port for the famous sail ships of the International Tall Sailing Association and holder of the Yellow Ribbon speed sailing challenge.

## LATEEN SAIL

This is one of the most typical Canary Island sports in which these lateen sail rigged boats sail close-hauled to the wind. This is sport that has been practised in Las Palmas since the late XIX century, although the first official regatta was held in 1904. There is now a set calendar of regattas each year that coincides with the arrival of the Trade Winds, from the end of March until the end of September. During the season you can either enjoy the sport

aboard one of the boats, or simply watch the regattas from the Avenida Marítima promenade every Saturday at 5 o'clock and on Sundays at 12 o'clock midday, as they always use the same area for the regattas. The boats sail from what they call the "Mar Fea", or "Ugly Sea", by the former La Laja Tunnel, and they head for the area around the yacht marina.

## GOLF

Las Palmas de Gran Canaria has the honour of being the first city in Spain to have a golf course. The Bandama golf course, opened in 1891, has the regulation 18 holes, in compliance with international rules. The course is set out cover-



ing 5,000 hectares. Every year, the Club hosts island-wide, national and international competitions, such as the Challenge Tour, held in 1995 and 1996. The Bandama Golf Club includes an hotel, a horse-riding area, tennis court and a restaurant.



Tato Gonçalves



# Good Eating

TOURIST

Las Palmas  
de Gran Canaria  
GUIDE

The outstanding geographic location and mild climate mean that Las Palmas de Gran Canaria has always received ingredients for an excellent cuisine, which have found fertile ground here. In the port area, there are restaurants that serve food from all over Spain and the rest of the world. Furthermore, there are many places where you can try any of the excellent dishes of the Canary Island cuisine: "sanchocho" (salted fish mixed with lumps of "gofio" - toasted corn flour - and water served with "mojo picón" - spicy sauce - and "papas arrugadas" - potatoes boiled in their jackets, in salt water) and typical stews. "Potaje Canario" (Canary Island Broth) is not only made with cereal, it also contains vegetables and wild herbs and constitutes THE basic dish for any meal served on the island. The favourite broth is presently "Potaje de Berros", Cress Broth. Similar versions of this are made on all the different islands. Cress is also eaten in salads, as a starter. Cress was introduced into the island by Dominican monks, who sewed the seeds in the gullies and ravines with a permanent water supply. Cress grown in mineral water, of which there are many different varieties in Gran Canaria, have a peculiar flavour.

Gofio (toasted and ground cereals) is the Canary Island food par excellence, whose origins date back to the aboriginal inhabitants of the Canary Islands. It is eaten with

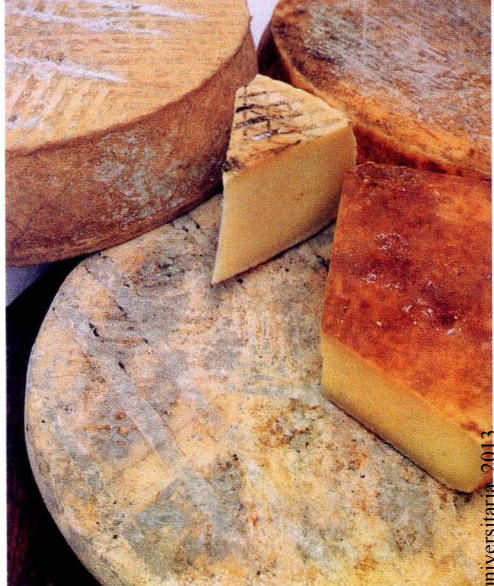
water, milk, honey, broth, etc. and is excellent and nutritional food. Our typical fish broths also deserve a special mention. The broth is based on the one the fishermen used to make on board when they were out fishing off the African coast. At the beginning of the century, there used to be three, clearly differentiated types of cuisine in the Canary Islands; the cuisine of the country-



side, the cuisine of the gentry and that found in convents and monasteries. Very little milk was used in the former, as most of the milk was used to make cheese for market. The daily staple was herb broths, thickened with gofio, served with onion skins, salt fish, pickled sardines and nuts. Only the better off ate bread with any frequency. The other two types of cuisine included

lots of eggs, cheese, butter, meat, fish and grain. There were also excellent desserts and preserved fruit, as there are today. There are many types of cheese in Gran Canaria, both fresh and mature, made from a mixture of different types of milk: sheep, goat and cow. They are all internationally famous for their excellent flavour and peculiar aroma. These include "queso de flor" - flower cheese -, made in the upper districts of cities like Galdar and Guía. They contain 25 per cent sheep's milk and 75 per cent cow's milk, curdled with the flower of the Cynasa Scolimus thistle. It has a smooth, yellow, waxy rind and the well pressed cheese is creamy, with a smooth, buttery taste.

Our wines also have a good reputation. As you would expect, the micro-climates of each area and island produces slightly varying vari-



eties and qualities. The king of the Canary Island wines is the sweet Malmsey, which has been repeatedly praised by experts. It is pleasantly sweet, bitter and acid, all at the same time. Reds are produced on all the islands, except for La Graciosa, and very little is made on Fuerteventura.

The Canary Islands offer the visitor a wide variety of desserts, including Moya sponges, to banana meringues from Telde, "bienmesabe" (almond paste) from Tejeda, pastries from Galdar, anisette cakes from Mogán, sweet potato desserts and egg bread.

# Nightlife

TOURIST

Las Palmas  
de Gran Canaria  
GUIDE

As Spain's seventh largest city, Las Palmas de Gran Canaria has a wide variety of nightlife, with something for everyone. The areas with the best nightlife are basically the busiest areas of the city, i.e., Triana, Vegueta and El Puerto. But, you need to look for your fun, but this is not difficult. In the Triana areas, the Alameda de Colón and Plaza Cairasco have a multitude of pavement cafés and bars, which are the first stop for night owls. Calle

Mendizábal, Calle La Pelota and Calle Espíritu Santo, in the Vegueta area, are also full of places to go and small bars for trying typical Canary Island dishes, or "tapas" of dishes from other parts of Spain and other countries. The area between Avenida Mesa y López and Parque Santa Catalina, in the El Puerto district, is where you will find discotheques, pubs and beer halls, as you will in the streets leading off Las Canteras beach.

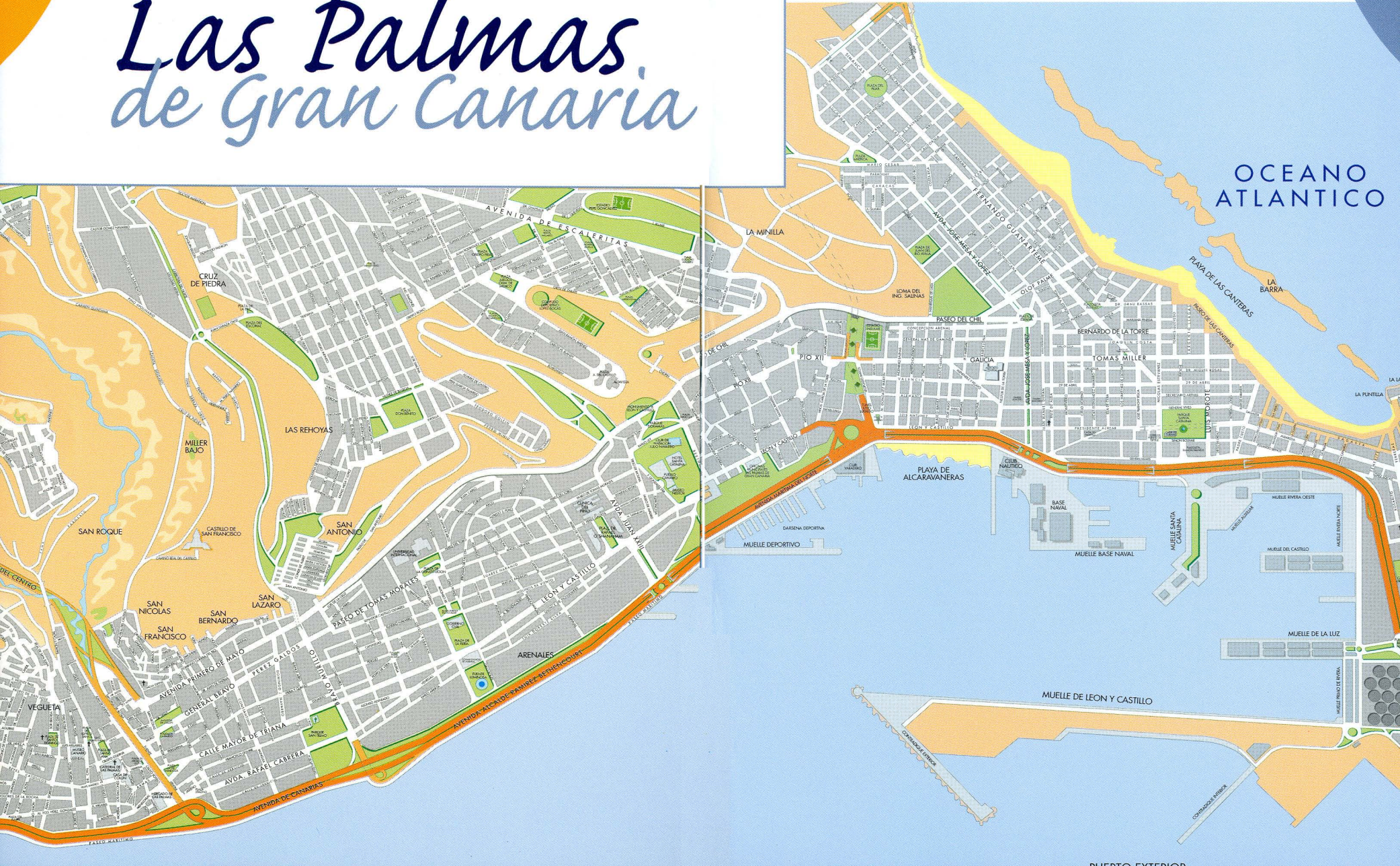
César Honaine





Tato Gonçalves

# Las Palmas de Gran Canaria



# References

TOURIST  
GUIDE

Las Palmas  
de Gran Canaria

- Historia de Canarias. VV.AA. Servicio de Ediciones del Cabildo.
  - Descubra España. Parques Naturales. Ediciones Club Internacional del Libro.
  - Edificios que hicieron historia. Servicio de Ediciones del Ayuntamiento de Las Palmas de Gran Canaria.
  - Guía de Recursos y Espacios Culturales de Canarias 1999. Servicio de Ediciones del Gobierno de Canarias.
  - Zonas Comerciales Urbanas. Ponencias III Jornadas Técnicas de Comercio y Distribución. Editado por la Cámara Oficial de Comercio, Industria y Navegación de Las Palmas.
  - Nuestras Islas. Gran Canaria, Lanzarote y Fuerteventura. Editado por Caja Insular de Ahorro.
  - Gran Enciclopedia del Arte en Canarias. VV.AA. Centro de Cultura Popular Canaria.
  - Retrato de una Ciudad. Las Palmas de Gran Canaria. Servicio de Ediciones del Ayuntamiento de Las Palmas de Gran Canaria.
  - Tamarán. Gran Canaria, un continente en miniatura. Angel Luís Aldaf. Editado por el Patronato de Turismo.
  - La Enciclopedia Temática e Ilustrada de Canarias. VV.AA. Centro de la Cultura Popular Canaria.
  - Los Símbolos de la Identidad Canaria. VV.AA. Centro de La Cultura Popular de Canaria.
  - Mini Guía de Gran Canaria. Editorial Everest.
  - Gran Canaria Paso a Paso. Editorial Globo.
  - Gran Canaria. Editorial Bronechi.
  - Trotamundos. Editorial Salvat.
- Web Sites:
- [www.auditorio-alfedokraus.com](http://www.auditorio-alfedokraus.com)
  - [www.palmasport.com](http://www.palmasport.com)
  - [www.caam.net](http://www.caam.net)
  - [www.cabgc.org/area-cultura](http://www.cabgc.org/area-cultura)
  - [www.guanarteme.org](http://www.guanarteme.org)
  - [www.lacajadecanarias.es](http://www.lacajadecanarias.es)
  - [www.rcanaria.es/museoelder](http://www.rcanaria.es/museoelder)
  - [www.culturacanaria.com](http://www.culturacanaria.com)
  - [www.turismograncanaria.com](http://www.turismograncanaria.com)
  - [www.cedac.org](http://www.cedac.org)
  - [www.promocionlaspalmas.com](http://www.promocionlaspalmas.com)
  - [www.laspalmasgc.org](http://www.laspalmasgc.org)
  - [www.laspalmasgccb.com](http://www.laspalmasgccb.com)
- N.B. Opening times of museums, theatres and exhibition halls are subject to modification.

Edición: Ayuntamiento de Las Palmas de Gran Canaria  
PROMOCIÓN DE LA CIUDAD DE LAS PALMAS DE GRAN CANARIA, S.A.  
León y Castillo, 322 · 4º  
35007 · Las Palmas de Gran Canaria · Islas Canarias · España  
Tels.: 928 263512 · 928 261391 · Fax: 928 262607  
cultura@promocionlaspalmas.com  
www.promocionlaspalmas.com

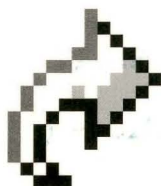

Diseño y Realización: **activa**

Maquetación y Fotomecánica: Daute Diseño, S.L.

Impresión: Gráficas Sabater

Depósito Legal: GC - 67 - 2001



 Go to 

>>|| Introducing the fastest way to get to La Caja de Canarias savings bank.

**[www.lacajadecanarias.es](http://www.lacajadecanarias.es)**.

> You will find the web sites of our branches and cash points, plus complete information about our organisation.

> Come on in and you will find the full programme of the Caja de Canarias Cultural Centre (CICCA).

> To go to La Caja de Canarias, all you have to do now is type

**[www.lacajadecanarias.es](http://www.lacajadecanarias.es)**. ...

end of story.<<

// ■



**LA CAJA  
DE CANARIAS**  
Savings Bank