

ISLAND OF SAN MIGUEL DE

**LA PALMA**

(CANARIES)

**THE BEAUTIFUL ISLAND**



he Noble and Loyal City Santa Cruz de la Palma — title assigned by Philip the Second — related to Cantón Guancho de Tedote and called afterwards Villa de Apurón. Its story is the same of the island.

Alonso Fernandez de Lugo, conqueror of the island, who debarked on the boarders of Tazacorte on September 29th, 1492, culminated his conquest on May 3rd, 1493. The first meeting of the Cabildo — rector organization — took place in the cave called nowadays Carías, the lodging, by that time, of the last Prince Banahorita Bentacaice.

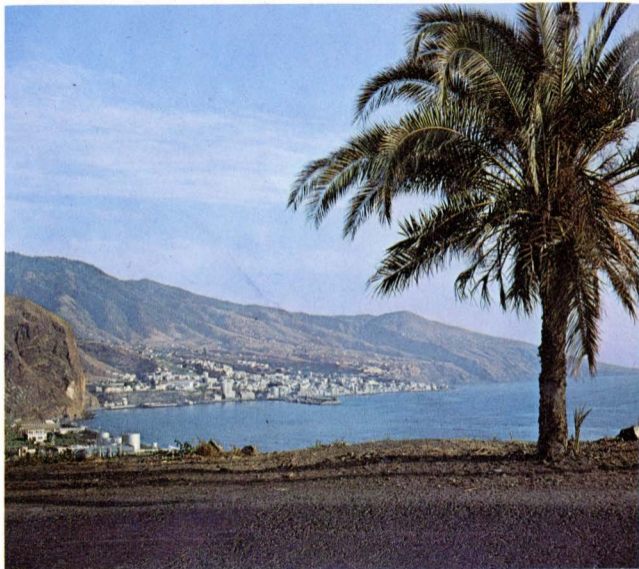
Two factors prevail upon the development of the town: the commercial power of the exportation of demerara sugar all along the XVIIth century and the ships construction, necessary for the sugar transportation based on the quality and quantity of wood of the forest in the island.

The port is the third busiest port in the Empire — after Seville and Antwerp — able to send ships to America since 1558.

That wealthy centre encouraged the attacks from pirates, during whose struggles the town passed through a chain of vicissitudes, like the pillage by Clerc in 1553, and the victory of the famous Drake.



## **SAN MIGUEL DE LA PALMA**



General view of Santa Cruz de la Palma, from the south road.

### **PORTADA:**

National Park of the Caldera de Taburiente.



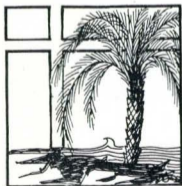
Such blooming and exterior contacts are reflected in the nobility of its buildings, like the Casa Capitular, Parroquia Matriz de El Salvador, Palace of the Condes in the Valley of Salazar, and many other buildings in which the characteristic canarian architecture obtains a special significance.

Santa Cruz de la Palma, situated on the eastern coast of the island in the crater of the volcanoes called "La Caldereta" offers a beautiful and picturesque view. Its present population has risen to 15.000 inhabitants.

Its picturesque "Calle Real" is the commercial centre of development, coming into the Plaza de España. In the "Calle Real", we find two monuments of great architectural value of the XVith century: La Parroquia Matriz de El Salvador and El Ayuntamiento. (Town Hall).

The town possesses a Natural History Museum, with wonderful zoological pieces, aboriginal rests, and a rich library.

Santa Cruz de la Palma, called often the Toledo of Canary Islands, is a likeable and hospitable town.





Los Cancajos offers a succession of little pools of clear water, which continue up to La Hoya de Mazo.

A panoramic view of the ancient Villa de Mazo, where we appreciate beautiful buildings.

The beach of Los Cancajos, by its nearness to Santa Cruz de la Palma, is the favourite of the bathers for profiting of the sun, in this beach of fine sand.



The view of the vale offers to us a picturesque landscape, where we find the "Caserio de las Indias", with its famous rocks called "The seven islands" from its aerial appearance with the Canary Islands.

The road continues among wonderful pinewoods, way of the incomparable vale of Aridane, in whose entrance it drops a singular lava river from the top into the sea. It is a vestige of the last volcanic eruption which happened in 1949, on San Juan's day, wherefore this river received the name of this saint.







Prehistoric cave La Zarza in Llano Negro.

In San Miguel de la Palma, they exist two important caves with aboriginal vestige. The cave of Belmaco, situated southwards, has been on time lodging of primitivs inhabitants. There are rupes-trines inscriptions with an imprecident originality. The cave of La Zarza, on the opposite of the Island, presents alsaw inscriptions with the same style. We can admire an interesting collection os prehis-torical rests, in the Natural History Museum, in Santa Cruz de la Palma.

Cave Belmaco, also prehistori, situated in the vicinity of Mazo.







By statute of October 6 th, 1954 this National has been erected.

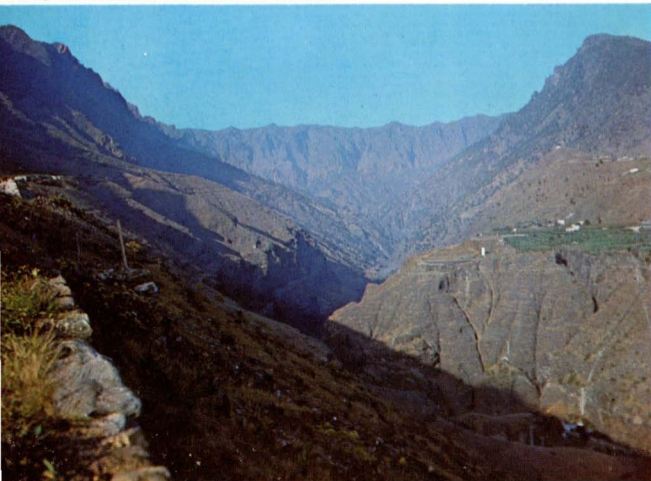
"Nature has given certain merits to this vast volcanic and mountainous circus, where geological and hydraulic particularities harmonize, with beautiful landscapes of cliffs and valleys; colossal coloured stones, monoliths, all clothed in extensive pinewoods; slits in the mountains, cracked by the explosion of the big volcanic crater; wonderful waterfalls; ponds with clear water; all this in an area of about 3.500 hectares, with the sharp points of the mountains, at about 2.000 mts. high, culminating in the highest "Roque de los Muchachos", 2.423 mts.

The flora is characterized by the canarian pinewoods, which clothe a great extension of sheds and cliffs". In this way the lawful disposition of this park, is described which awarded the National Park with official dignity.

Anyway, all the descriptions are poor compared with the wonderful view of

# THE NATIONAL PARK OF THE CALDERA DE TABURIENTE

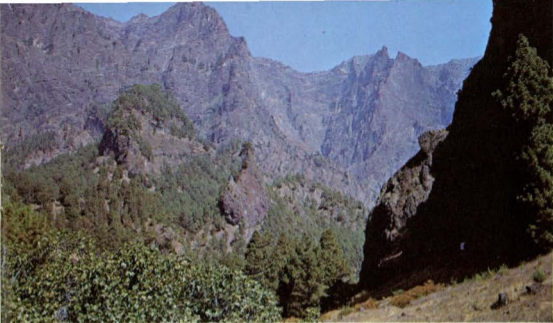
In the ascension of El Time, we appreciate the majesty of the Canyon de las Angustias, with the circus La Caldera on the bottom.



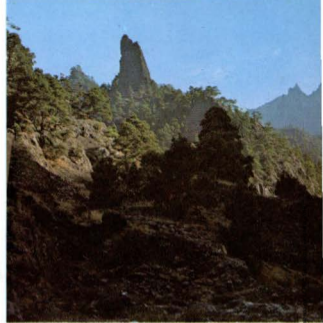
A capricious waterspring in La Caldera.

View of the Caldera from La Cumbre cita.

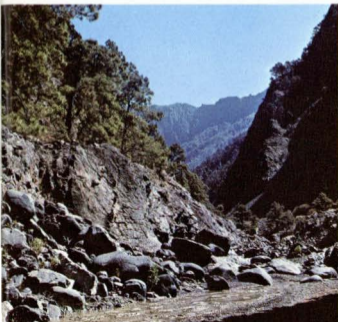




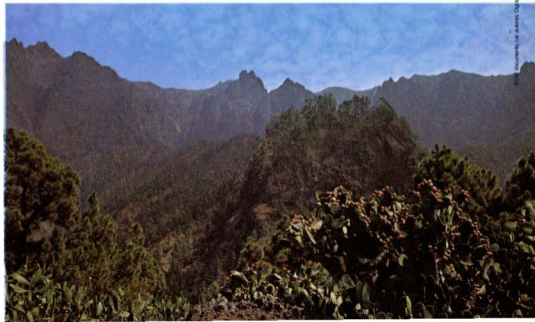
North closure of the Caldera from The Capadero or Llano de los Capadores.



The Rock Idafe, religious monolith of the aborigines.



The mineral salts dye the water running through the deep clefts.



Eastern closure of the Caldera from the House of Taburiente.



the crater, which could be described as a deep and gigantic wound splitting open its earthly skin.

Inside, in the center of the Caldera, there is a large rock called "Idafe", before that rock the aborigines celebrated their religious ceremonies, fearing that its fall would bring with it their destruction; so they sacrificed animals to "Idafe", asking the following words: "Iguida iguan Idae"? (Idafe, is she going to fall down?), and answering "Guerye iguan tano" (Give to Idae what you have brought, and she won't fall down).

The Cabildo Insular has an institute "Idafe" as a symbol of prosperity on the Island, particularly in its tourist development.

During the invasion by the spaniards, it was the refuge for the brave original inhabitants.

Cumbrecita is an admirable view point. Excursions may be made inside in order to contemplate this geographical accident, unique all over the world.



Partial view of the beach in Puerto Naos.

trast in a suggestive coloursgame. The beach of Puerto Naos never becomes hot in spite of the sun. It always maintains an agreeable humidity, and has about 3.000 hours of sunshine a year.

The clean sea water, characteristic of the Atlantic beaches, is wonderful at any season. The temperature during the winter is comparable with the one in any European beach in summer.

Partial view of the beach in the port of Tazacorte, in which we appreciate the start of the sea in the Canyon of las Angustias.



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## THE VALE OF ARIDANE

Inside the incomparable frame of the Vale, is the Villa of Los Llanos de Aridane, which is the second town in importance. It has much traffic, unique in little towns, and pleasantly surprising for visitors.

It is a very well arranged city, with an agreeable aspect, beautiful buildings and avenues, showing an urbanistic decor and cleanliness.

Passed Barranco de las Angustias, where the Caldera comes into the sea, we find at 590 mts. high a wonderful view of the Valley of Aridane, La Caldera de Taburiente and the Valley of Tijarafe. El Time, as the place is called, offers to us a fabulous landscape, which causes the visitors to pass away the time in placid contemplation.

Situated westwards, among the palm beaches, the one in Puerto Naos has got a grand report. The sand is very fine, and the atlantic waves slip onto the beach quietly, with a pure blue colour. Located in a picturesque and quiet place, it has all the characteristic charm of the canarian beaches. The long and large basaltic black band of sand, the whiteness of the foam and the blue sea, con-

Panoramic view of the Vale de Aridane with Los Llanos and El Paso, from the Mirador El Time.



The Vale of Aridane joining with the sea, from the pinewoods of Fuencaliente.



A beautiful corner in Los Llanos de Aridane.



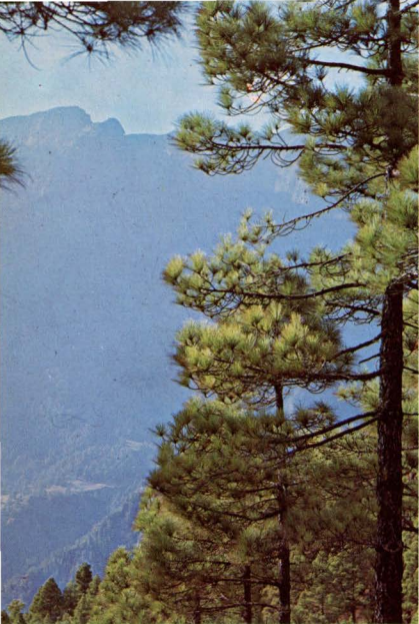


Tazacorte is situated where the vale Aridane joins with the sea. It is the chief production centre of bananas in the Island of La Palma.

Tazacorte has a little port with a big typical flavour. Beside its beach at the entrance of the Gorge of "Las Angustias", is a wonderful gully, formed by the fluvial erosion of the water, which was collected in Caldera de Taburiente and slipped into the sea.

El Paso, the highest place in the Valle de Aridane, is the cultural centre of the island, whose silk is in great demand for markets. The fields full of blooming almond trees offer a beautiful view, because the land becomes lilac in colour. It is the best point for the one who wants to profit from the incomparable background of Caldera de Taburiente and see from that Point "La Cumbrecita", situated in a valley about 1.833 mts. high. The ascension to this point is a feeling that you will never forget.



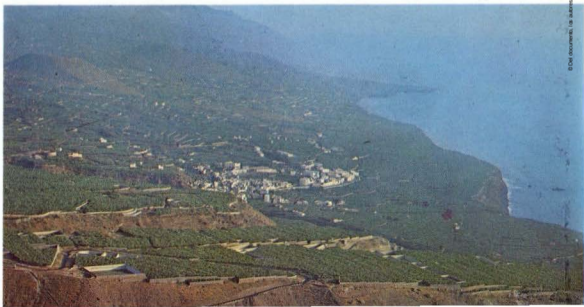


View of the Caldera from the Mirador de la Cumbrecita.



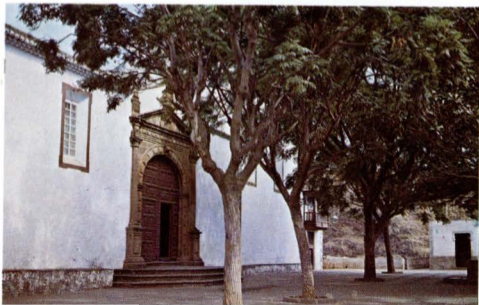
View of the Vale de Las Cuevas, with the Cumbrecita at the heart.

Tazacorte, from El Time.



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The strange spectacle of a ship on land offers to us this protagonist of "La Bajada de la Virgen".



The hermitage Las Nieves, Mariancenter in San Miguel de la Palma, mansion of

# The Lustral FEAST



ur Lady of the Snow" is the patroness of the island. Since 1.680 "La bajada de la Virgen" constitutes a great event in the Island. The Virgin is carried over in a procession from her chapel to Santa Cruz de la Palma, situated at the very foot of the mountain, every 5 years. The shrine, which is small and like a hermitage, was erected in the XVIth century. Its belltower and the porch is one of an ancient chapel. Likewise its solitude and silence are like a hermitage, but the door is always open, and there is at all times a priest, as in a parochial church.

Las Fiestas Lustrales, celebrated in honour of the patroness, are so famous, that they have been declared to be of great interest to tourists, and their most remarkable characteristic is the strong typical and traditional taste. Prominent feasts in the programme are "The Gay Chariot", "The Dance of the Dwarf", "Dialogue between the Castle and the nave". "The entrance of the virgin from Matrix El Salvador",

The origin of the image is unknown, traditionally they say that she already existed when the spanish conquerors arrived on the Island.

low tide, the water in Cueva Bonita is smooth and crystalline and it is easy to walk ashore on the fine sandy beaches, which are formed inside.

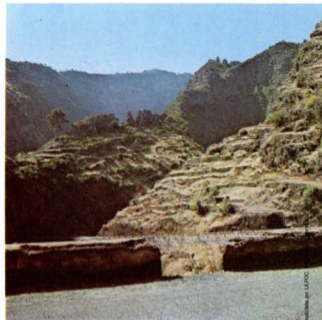
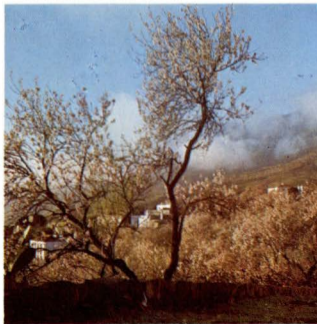
The sunlight introduced across the gangways falls on the water, producing a thousand wonderful details. The fish shine in a game of colours which produce a matchless plasticity. Excursions can be made by sea, and they make an unforgettable experience. Between Garafia and Barlovento, is Gallego, a picturesque little town, which defying dizziness is up on the height of a rock, surrounded by deep cliffs.

The North of the island is characterized by its deep and big cliffs. Nature has made a troublesome game with height and depth. The spacious and dense pinewoods are another beautiful motive in the North of this Island.

Inside view of 'The Beautiful Cave'.



The almond trees in Punta Gorda are, besides a beautiful spectacle, a cause of richness for this town.



The deep cliffs are characteristic of the North of the Island.

On the other side of the island, is Barlovento, one of the crowns North of the Island. It has wonderful green scenery, with beautiful cliffs, which do not cease until the capital is reached.

On the coast are San Andrés and los Sauces both manufacturing towns. Nearby is a picturesque and pleasant refuge for the fishermen: Puerto Spindola.



Leaving El Time, we penetrate into the Vale of Tijarafe. It looks as if we would go into a magical vale. There seem to be all the almond trees from all over the world together. The sweet beauty of the almond trees covers an extension which arrives at one of the most picturesque towns of La Palma: Puntagorda, a kind of white carpet with rose tones from the almond trees, which develops a singular attractiveness.

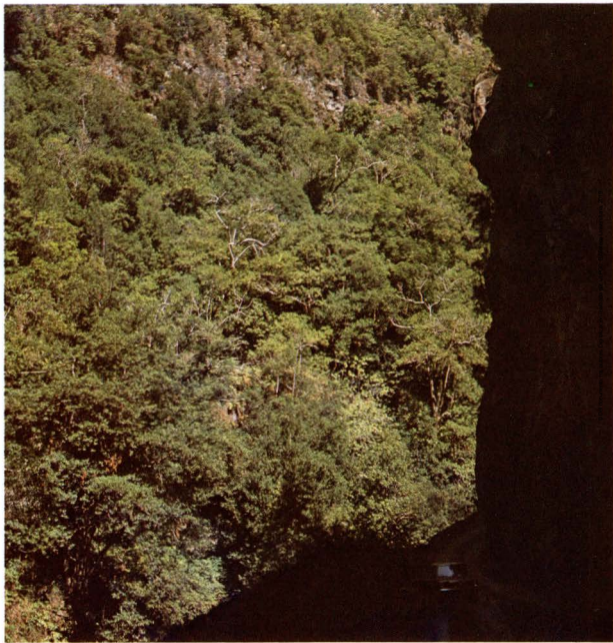
Along the coast of Tijarafe is the cave Bonita a beautiful and strange caprice of nature, which gives the visitor great pleasure. The Cueva Bonita has got great dimensions, in the middle of the cliff, at sea-level. Its entrances look like big gangways, through which it is possible to travel by ship. During the

Pinewoods in Roque de Faro, higher than 1.000 mts, on the North coast.

The Wood of "Los Tilos", with its tropical growth, diverse flora, where it draws ones attention to the gigantic ferns, the singing of thousands of birds, is a paradise for the visitors. Puntallana, Southwards, will be the finale of this insular travel, that we'll never forget. From the top, appears the luminosity of the port Santa Cruz de la Palma and the insular airport, which mean, as well as good-bye, a new welcome.



Partial view of Los Tilos.





Two beautiful corners in the fishermen's refuge in Puerto Spindola.



View of Puntallana, near Santa Cruz de la Palma.  
Wood Los Tilos.



## HOW TO ARRIVE AT LA PALMA



LA ISLA DE LA PALMA (whose complete name is San Miguel de la Palma) is one of the four islands which constitute the province Santa Cruz de Tenerife, in the Canary Islands, Spain. Situated in the Northwest of the Archipelago, among the Greenwich meridian  $17^{\circ}, 43', 43''$  and  $180^{\circ}, 00', 15''$  and Northwards of the parallel  $28^{\circ}, 26'$ , and  $28^{\circ}, 51', 152$ . Covering 726 square kilometres, it has a population of 76.000 inhabitants, joined in 14 municipalities in the judicial sects of Santa Cruz de la Palma and Los Llanos de Aridane. Prevailing throughout the year at about 19 degrees, the thermometer neither rises above 25 in summer nor falls below 14 in winter. It is 700 miles from Cadiz, and its port is 100 kilometres from Santa Cruz de Tenerife, and 140 from Las Palmas.





Typical "Puchero" in La Palma.

toasted before milling. It is eaten in the form of dumplings or gruel instead of bread with certain dishes.

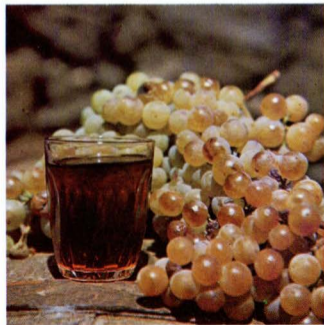
There is an immense number of delicious sweets, like "bienmesabe" "rapaduras" (honey and "gofio"), "miel de caña con ñame" and "queso de almendras".

The wines have an important place in the canary gastronomy. There is the "caldos de Mazo", "vino de tea", and the celebrated "Malvasia de Fuencaiente".



The cuisine of the island of La Palma is based on fish of various types, because it is obtained in abundance all round the coast. It is generally served with the celebrated "wrinkled" potatoes, and a piquant sauce called "mojo picón". Typical canary dishes are "el puchero", "los potajes", the popular "chernada", the "mojo colorado" and the roasted pig.

"El gofio" is the most important element in the insular gastronomy; it is flour, made of wheat, maize or barley, and



Terminal station in the airport in La Palma.



Typical dress of Garafia.

View of the port in Santa Cruz de la Palma.



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## COMMUNICATIONS

The island of La Palma has very good communications, by air or by sea. The port of Santa Cruz de la Palma has direct communication with the one of Santa Cruz de Tenerife through the most modern unities of the interinsular service.

Beside the aforesaid interinsular service with regular schedules, they put into port weekly ships, which develop the regular service with the peninsular Spain. In the same way, the port communicates with several peninsular and foreign ports through the fruit and cargo ships.

The port Santa Cruz de la Palma has very good conditions. During the sail navigation period it was the best of the Archipelago in the New World route.

The island has communications by air with Tenerife through the planes of the Spanish airline IBERIA, which make 3 flights each day. The airport San Miguel de la Palma has a modern building, with all the aeronautical and technical advances. Its runway is 2.000 mts. Any travel agency is able to inform you about excursions to the Isla de San Miguel de la Palma, as well as supply the tickets for plane or ship.





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