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## PLACES OF INTEREST

### HISTORY (continued)

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

In the mid-19th century the Canaries were given free port status, which lowered duties and trade barriers. Las Palmas and Tenerife became two of the world's busiest ports. The local government, interested in developing tourism, began to improve the basic infrastructure of island facilities including the airport. With the introduction of the banana crop as a major export and the increasing growth of tourism, the Canaries continue to have a stable economic base.

### Places of Interest

- 1 Timanfaya National Park** is a volcanic field where visitors can appreciate the power and beauty of nature. There is a variety of geological phenomena as well as a large biological mix of plant species. The Visitors Center offers insight into this land that is still bubbling beneath the surface.
- 2 Fire Mountain** located within Timanfaya National Park is the center of an eruption that took place in the early 1700's that lasted for six years. A place of great natural beauty, the other worldly landscape seems frozen in time.
- 3 Los Hervidos** is a tiny inlet with thundering surf where hot lava once flowed down to meet the sea and made violent contact. The result is a series of caves, powerful blow holes and strange and unearthly shapes frozen in the lava flow.
- 4 Teguisse** known as the old capital of the island, has a rich history of over 500 years. One of the first urban communities in the Canary Islands Teguisse has carefully preserved its traditional architecture and culture.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

- Admission charges are in local currency.
- When going ashore, guests are advised to take with them only the items they need and to secure any valuables.

**SHORE EXCURSIONS** To make the most of your visit to Lanzarote we suggest you take one of our organized Shore Excursions. For Information concerning tour content and pricing, contact the Shore Excursion Desk.

**LOCAL CUSTOMS Bargaining:** is acceptable in some stores.

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

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

**Drink Specialties:** The Canary Islands are famous for wines cultivated from the volcanic soil.

**SHOPPING FACILITIES** Shopping hours are generally from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm and 4:30 pm to 8:00 pm In 1852 the Canary Islands were declared a duty-free zone in order to

stimulate trade and growth. The Canaries remain duty free to this day and goods are imported without restrictions from all over the world. With a lower luxury tax, you may find some bargains but not as many as one would expect. The items with a slighter lower luxury tax are similar to what one would find in a duty free shop at the airport – cameras, calculator, watches, perfume, jewelry, leather goods, spirits and tobacco.

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

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

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Most stores accept major credit cards.

**POST OFFICE AND TELEPHONE FACILITIES** The main Post Office is located at Correos Avda. De la Marina 8, in Arrecife.

Coins or calling card are required for local phones. You can dial internationally from any public telephone if you have a calling card with one of the companies listed below. Simply dial the access code and give the operator your card number.

AT&T: 900 99 0011 / MCI: 900 99 0014 / SPRINT: 900 99 0013

**TOURIST INFORMATION** There is a Tourist Information Center located in Arrecife at Avda. Blas Cabrera Felipe, s/n Edificio del Parador.

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

### USEFUL WORDS

Good Morning • Buenos Dias  
 Good Afternoon • Buenas Tardes  
 Good Day • Buen Dia  
 How Much • Cuanto Es  
 You're Welcome • De Nada  
 Thank You • Gracias  
 Where is the bathroom • Donde esta el cuarto de baño