



THE CANARY ISLANDS

A WINTER GETAWAY

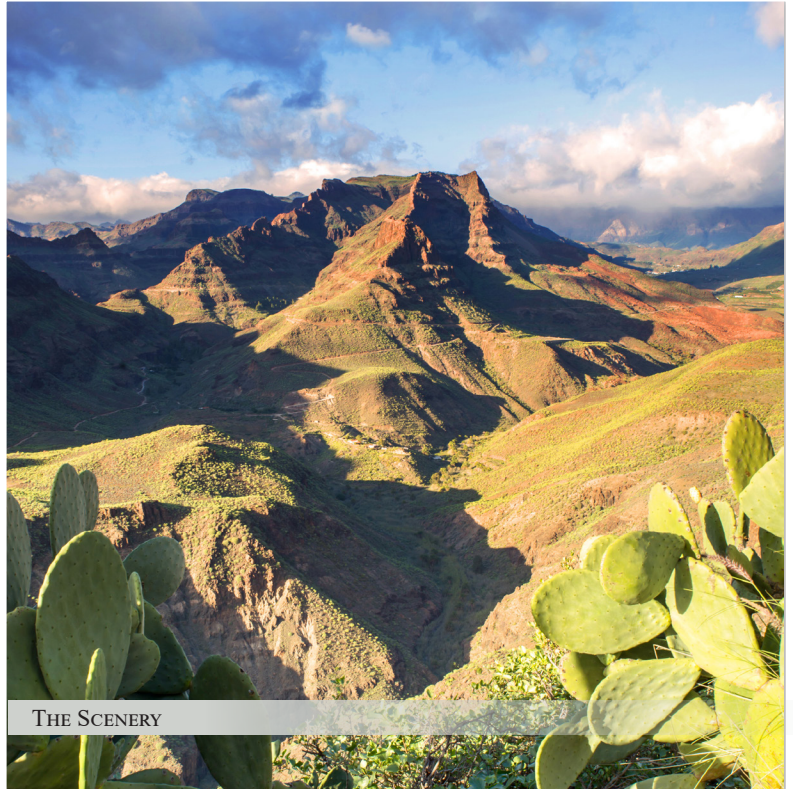
FEBRUARY 22ND - MARCH 1ST 2023

Although politically in Europe (the islands are a part of Spain), the Canary Island archipelago sits in the Atlantic off the northwestern coast of Africa, and thus benefits from a tropical climate. On the same latitude as Orlando, FL, the Canaries have less rainfall and warmer average temperatures than Florida.

Early visitors included the Phoenicians, the Greeks and the Romans, but it was not until 1402 that the Castilian Spanish conquered the islands. When they arrived they found indigenous inhabitants, whose origin remains a mystery.

Our tour divides its time between the two largest islands of the chain of seven – Gran Canaria and Tenerife. There will be free time to enjoy the weather, take tours into the heart of each island to marvel at the incredible volcanic scenery, explore the culture and enjoy Canarian delicacies, such as the local wines and cheeses, and the abundant fresh seafood.

Join Discover Europe and escape the winter for a week in *The Canary Islands*.



THE SCENERY



SANTA CRUZ

THE COST OF THIS ITINERARY, PER PERSON, DOUBLE OCCUPANCY IS:

LAND ONLY (NO AIRFARE INCLUDED):	\$2890
SINGLE SUPPLEMENT:	\$ 490

Airfares are available from many U.S. cities. Please call for details.

THE FOLLOWING SERVICES ARE INCLUDED:

HOTELS:	6 nights' accommodation in first-class hotels including all hotel taxes and service charges
BAGGAGE:	Porterage of one large suitcase per person.
COACHING:	All ground transportation as detailed in the itinerary
MEALS:	Breakfast daily, 3 dinners, 1 lunch
GUIDES:	Discover Europe guide Gavin Miller throughout Local guides for city tours
ENTRANCES:	Entrance fees to all sites as detailed in the itinerary

Please note that travel insurance is not included on this tour. Insurance information will be mailed to each registration on receipt of deposit.

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WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 22ND - Departure from your chosen US gateway city.

OVERNIGHT: PLANE

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 23RD - Your arrival at Gran Canaria Airport will be met for the transfer to your hotel in the main city of Las Palmas. After you have checked in, there will be time to have lunch, unpack, take a rest from the overnight flight and begin exploring the neighborhood. This evening we will gather for an orientation meeting and then have dinner at the hotel. **(D) OVERNIGHT: GRAN CANARIA**

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 24TH - This morning we take a walking tour of the old town in Las Palmas.

We'll walk up past El Corte Ingles, the huge department store, and make our way to the city garden (the Ciudad Jardin), with its echoes of faraway England, and its Holy Trinity Church. Next, we visit

the Pueblo Canario, a reconstruction of a traditional Canarian village. You can return here this afternoon for a free concert of local folk music. We continue along the seafront promenade to the Vegeuta neighborhood. Here we'll visit the Casa de Colon and the Catedral de Santa Ana. Originally a governor's mansion, the Casa de Colon was visited by Christopher Columbus, and is now a museum of island history, including an exhibit on Columbus' voyages. The rest of the afternoon and evening are free for individual exploration. **(B) OVERNIGHT: GRAN CANARIA**

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 25TH - A full day excursion today takes us to the northern part of the island, from the volcanic landscapes and mountain villages of the interior to the rugged coastline. Our first stop will be the village of Teror, an important religious center known for its beautiful basilica and well-preserved old quarter. We'll have time to admire the traditional wooden balconies and romantic corners of the village before continuing on to the mountain village of Tejeda. Upon arriving in Tejeda, we'll stop for a small snack or perhaps a traditional treat from the town's almond candy shop. Those who are up for a hike can head to Roque Nublo for an easy 1.5-hour trek to the fabled mountain, while those staying behind can eat more almond sweets and enjoy the fantastic mountain views, while waiting for the hikers to return. We then head to the picturesque fishing port of Puerto de las Nieves for lunch along the beautiful seafront promenade. We'll sit down to a delicious meal at one of the local fish tavernas and then have time to go swimming at the volcanic beach or natural salt water pools. We'll end the day in the fertile Valle de Agaete for a tour and tasting of unique Canarian coffee at a family-run coffee plantation. We'll learn how the local coffee is produced in a traditional way and enjoy a complimentary cup before returning to Las Palmas for a free evening. **(B, L) OVERNIGHT: GRAN CANARIA**



SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 26TH - We head to the outskirts of the city this morning to visit the Bandama Caldera - a 4,000-year-old volcanic crater smothered in volcanic ash and native Gran Canaria flora. Heading back down the mountain, we'll stop at a local vineyard to sample the spectacular red and white wines of the islands, accompanied by local artisanal cheeses. Later this afternoon we take a short flight to the nearby island of Tenerife, the second largest in the archipelago. On arrival at the Tenerife North Airport, we will take a short ride to our hotel in the nearby town of La Laguna. We'll have dinner at the hotel this evening. **(B, D) OVERNIGHT: TENERIFE**

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 27TH - Today we visit the island's capital city of Santa Cruz de Tenerife, founded in 1494 by the conquistador Javier Alonso Luis Fernández de Lugo. Between 1833 and 1927, Santa Cruz de Tenerife was the sole capital of the Canary Islands, a role it now jointly holds with Las Palmas in Gran Canaria. We'll see the stunning opera house, the Auditorio de Tenerife, designed by the controversial architect Santiago Calatrava and completed in 2003. Home to the Tenerife Symphony Orchestra (Orquesta Sinfónica de Tenerife), the building is located to the north-east of Parque Marítimo (Marine Park) and looks out on to the Atlantic Ocean. We'll then discover the artificial lake, fountain and pavilions of cafes, restaurants, shops and bars in Plaza de España, the city's largest square. Here we'll also see the home of the Cabildo Insular de Tenerife, the island's governing body. The square is also the site of the Tenerife Carnival, held each February and considered the 2nd most important in the world after Rio de Janeiro. We'll visit the main church of the city - the Iglesia-Parroquia Matriz de Nuestra Señora de La Concepción (Church of the Conception), built as an homage to Saint James in a Baroque-Canarian style on the foundations of the first chapel of the conquerors. Among its possessions is a Holy Cross that is carried during the annual procession on May 3 to commemorate the day the city was founded. There will be free time for lunch and to pursue individual interests before our late afternoon return to our hotel. The evening is free in La Laguna. **(B) OVERNIGHT: TENERIFE**

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 28TH - We leave our hotel this morning and venture into the heart of Teide National Park, a UNESCO World Heritage-listed site surrounding the dramatic Mt. Teide volcano, that covers most of the island. We'll

marvel at the 12,198-foot summit as we travel to Vilaflor, one of the highest villages in the whole of Spain. We weave our way through the winding streets of the village and arrive at Icod de los Vinos, a rugged region in which the legendary dragon tree thrives. Towering to a height of 56 feet, the tree is reputed to be 1,000 years old. We continue on to two villages cradled by the spectacular countryside: Garachio surrounded by the lava carved landscape, and the spectacular scenery of Masca. There will be time to stroll through the streets of the villages, find a spot for lunch and absorb the provincial charm. We'll return to our hotel with time to freshen up before dinner this evening.

(B, D) OVERNIGHT: TENERIFE



WEDNESDAY, MARCH 1ST - Morning transfer to Tenerife North Airport for your return flights home. **(B) OVERNIGHT: HOME**

Key to included meals: **B** - breakfast, **L** - lunch, **D** - dinner