

It is only a 4 ½ hour flight to the Canary Islands – and thus the most southwestern outpost of Europe lies surrounded by the sparkling Atlantic only approximately 100 km before West Africa. Trading ships used to stop in the ports of the archipelago, adventurers set out to discover new shores and found cities like Buenos Aires, Montevideo or Havana. People here are warm-hearted, open-minded and full happiness. Without a doubt – The Canary Islands are a paradise of water, wind, nature and light.

Amongst sailing-enthusiasts the archipelago surrounded by the Atlantic with its constant weather conditions counts as perfect sailing area though out the whole year; if short-, mid-, or long-distance – here unique routes and experiences for every mood, desire and sailing skills await you 52 weeks per year. On 100nm lee side cruise, longer strokes to Tenerife, Gran Canaria, or the small western islands like La Palma, La Gomera or El Hierro. There are more than enough routes to plan in all weathers and at the end of a sailing day, turquoise green to steel blue anchor bays invite you to stroll and to spend the night under a unique night sky. Experiencing the Canary Islands under sails means enjoying, relaxing, discovering.

The Canary Islands – a sailing paradise in trade wind

Creation of diversity.

The life on and around the seven “big” and the many small islands of the Canary Islands has always been shaped by the ocean and the trade winds. Like the Azores, the Cap Verde or Madeira the archipelago belongs to the Macaronesian region and is lucky to have emerged in the middle of the subtropical high-pressure belt. About 15 – 20 million years ago the eastern islands Lanzarote and Fuerteventura rose from a depth of 3000 meters from the bottom of the Atlantic Ocean, followed by Gran Canaria, La Gomera and the third highest volcanic island in the world, Tenerife. The smaller westernmost islands La Palma and El Hierro are, with 1-2 million years, the youngest of the volcanic archipelago which counts as one of the most biodiverse areas worldwide.

Weather in trade wind

The temperatures on the “Islands of eternal spring” fluctuate between 20°C and 23°C all year long. The Azores’ high mostly lies well-behaved where meteorologists expect it to be. This causes the islands constant NE trade wind in summer (in July it’s strongest from NNE) and wonderfully mild winters which make you forget that you are only 4 1/2 hours away from Germany. You can moor in one of the 35 marinas around the seven islands. Occasionally, local weather occurrences take place. The “Calima” then blows from SE or “temporally” from S/SW.

Lanzarote / Fuerteventura / Gran Canaria

Welcome to Lanzarote – the most north-eastern of the Canary Islands and part of the province Las Palmas de Gran Canaria. The landscape is speckled with craters, black, reddish, brown volcanic rocks and alternates with tender green to contrast with a steel-blue Atlantic Sea. Here you can feel the energy of the elemental forces, experience nature as a work of art and arrive – an ideal starting point for exploring the Canary Islands.

Pure nature

A really unique place is the “Chiniko archipelago” 1nm north of Lanzarote. Consisting of the islands La Graciosa, Alegranza, Montaña Clara, Roque del Este, Roque del Oeste and the cliffs of Famara. This area is also known as Europe’s biggest maritime nature reserve. No asphalted roads exist here, visitors can explore La Graciosa on foot, by bike or within guided tours. It is the ideal place to relax and to forget the noises of the civilisation for the length of your stay. Ferries for day trips depart regularly from Órzola - <https://turismolanzarote.com/en/la-graciosa-island/>.

If you want to explore this unique place with your own or a chartered sailing ship, it is recommended to book in advance at Puertos Canarios. Guest berths in the harbour of Caleta de Sebo just as the permission to anchor in Playa de Francesa need to be requested four weeks before arrival.

Lanzarote – European Sports Destination

A lot of people know the Canary Islands as a vacation paradise for winter-weary North Europeans, adventure playground for botanists, meteorologists, divers and geologists. Or just as a stop-over and springboard for circumnavigators and adventurers. Visitors will find all this and much more: the coasts, beaches, landscapes and dreamlike wind- and weather conditions have made Lanzarote the centre for active vacationers and ambitious athletes – the “European Sports Destination” (www.lanzaroteesd.com). Here, surfers will find the “European Hawaii”, sailors and windsurfers will enjoy the fantastic wind conditions and the summerly temperatures – 365 days a year. In short: A Mecca for marathon runners, divers and athletes of all kinds.

Trade winds in the back

For charter guests who want to explore the Canary Islands with a sailing yacht, the modern Marina Lanzarote is the ideal starting point. The open Atlantic Sea ahead and sporty 190 nautical miles to Tenerife (Marina del Sur), surfing the Atlantic wave with space wind, dolphins leaping into the air in the bow wave, 10 million years of evolution in the wake– you may call it magically, but those adventures wait to be found everywhere around here.

Those who prefer to proceed along the coast around Lanzarote will be rewarded with a total of 160nm t-shirt sailing along steep coasts, small bays and unique landscapes. In the course of the first 35 nautical miles the crew will need to cross the NE trade winds, but in the end of the day the small fishing harbour in Caleta de Sebo or the anchor bay Playa Francesa wait with its breath-taking scenery of the Famara-massif. Places like the Chinijo Archipelago have become rare, that’s why it is recommended to spend the second day circumnavigating Europe’s largest marine reserve. After two days of incomparable peace and freedom, most people find it hard to set off on La Graciosa for the second stage towards Marina Rubicón in the south. But the 45 nm with the warm Atlantic breeze in the back along Lanzarote’s impressing west coast quickly remind you why you are here. Additionally, it is estimated that approximately 1/3 of all maritime mammals living worldwide live at least temporarily in the waters around the Canary Islands. Thus, Crews regularly are lucky enough to be accompanied by dolphins while sailing southwest with space wind and full sails. Nothing but the strait between Lanzarote and Fuerteventura ahead, one arrives in the evening in the Marina Rubicón to end another sailing day in a picturesque ambience. The marina is inspired by the typical architecture of the island and, with its lively bars, small squares and cafés, makes you feel comfortable like at home instantly.

The way back to the Marina Arrecife leads by another place where time seems to stand still – the Isla de Lobos 6 nm south of the Marina Rubicón and the Papagayo beaches (!). A sheltered lagoon to

spend the night at anchor and admire a unique night sky. The next day it goes back along Lanzarote's southeastern coast via Puerto Calero to Arrecife.

Navigation

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For navigation via iPad we recommend Apps like Transas ISailor or the navigation software Navionics.

As a lively cruising guide, interested sailors should keep an eye on the new “Cruising Guide to the Canary Islands (2017). Written by Oliver Solanas Heinrichs (Founder 8Islas / www.8islas.com) and Mike Westin, the first edition of this IMRAY pilot with its countless tips and hints concerning marinas, anchorages and local information about the district, offers a valuable and detailed supplement to previous nautical information about the Canary Islands.

Marinas

MARINA LANZAROTE / 28° 57' 41.13" N 13° 32' 29.48" W / info@marinalanzarote.com / VHF: 09/16

PUERTO CALERO / 29° 54' 93" N 13° 42' 29" W / reservas@puertocalero.com / VHF: 09/16

MARINA RUBICON / 28° 51' 5" N 13° 49' 0" W / info@marinarubicon.com / VHF: 09/16

CALETA DE SEBO / 29° 13' 35.91" N 13° 30' 05.40" W / solicitudespl@puertoscanarios.es / VHF: 09

Further places of interest

Timanfaya national park - www.gobiernodecanarias.org/parquesnacionalesdecanarias/es/Timanfaya/

wineyards of La Geria – <http://www.spain-lanzarote.com/en/places/south/la-geria.html>

Cesar Manrique – www.fcmanrique.org

Cueva de los Verdes & Jameos del Agua - www.turismolanzarote.com/de/centros-turisticos/

Mirador del Rio - www.turismolanzarote.com/de/

Las Salinas & El Golfo - <https://turismolanzarote.com/en/>

Tenerife / La Gomera / La Palma / El Hierro

With its 3718m height, the Teide on Tenerife is Spain's highest mountain and towers above the Canary archipelago, it is the only subtropical high mountain range in Europe and even the third highest volcano worldwide. In 1954, the landscape around Tenerife's striking trademark was declared the national park “Las Cañadas del Teide” and has been part of the UNESCO World Cultural Heritage since 2007. Visitors on Tenerife can literally choose the weather because on the largest of the Canary Islands there is an incredible variety of microclimatic weather zones – oceanic, mediterranean, continental or subalpine within short distances.

Just like on its 6 neighbored islands, the constant trade winds are the weather machine and means of transport on Tenerife as well. Therefore, it is not surprising that nautical history has been written on the Canary sea for ages.

Fascinating nature

First time visitors on Tenerife will undoubtedly get to know a mini-continent of energetic places, forests, sand dunes, volcanic landscapes and unique ecosystems and admire nature with its countless contrasts that stretches as far as to the steel-blue Atlantic. In total, 48% of Tenerife are natural reserves—untouched and spectacular places that allow you to experience the secrets of this privileged piece of earth in the middle of the ocean.

As diverse as the climate zones are, visitors on Tenerife will find a broad range of activities, gastronomy and cultural sites to experience the island in all its facets. On foot through colonial towns listed for preservation or through centuries-old laurel forests by bike, looking at the landscape from a bird's eye view via paraglider or drifting along the impressive steep coasts under sails – the highest and biggest of the Canary Islands will fulfil all your expectations. Visitors will find extensive and detailed information on attractions and (destinations for) excursions on land at <https://www.webtenerife.co.uk>

Sailing around the volcano

In the 13th century already the word stem “alis” has been used to describe the gentle, friendly character of the moderate trade winds which blow constantly, but never with excessive force. Those who are sailing between the western Canary Islands may think it's a fairytale when the wind suddenly increases by 10-15 knots in acceleration zones. At the southern tip of Tenerife at the “Costa del Silencio” sailors will find well-protected anchorages in front of Las Galletas (28°00'N 16°39'W) and in the bay of Los Cristianos (28°02'N 16°42'W) during north – northeast winds.

The Marina del Sur “Las Galletas” which is located at the southern tip of Tenerife is to be recommended as perfect starting point for a charter trip on Tenerife. Only a stone's throw away from the international airport “Reina Sofía” (TFS), the exploration of the western Canaries can start here in a relaxed manner. From Tenerife to La Gomera, the short strokes in the south of the islands are tempting. After circumnavigating the Punta Salema, the strait between La Gomera and Tenerife lies in front of the crew. Here, the jet effects are some of the strongest, which should be taken into consideration during further trip planning along the north coast of La Gomera when approaching the beautiful Marina San Sebastián in the north-east. On the way to Punta del Gigante (28°15'82 N 016°50'54 W) on Tenerife it is advisable to gain altitude in order to spend the night at anchor in front of a breathtaking scenery. Along Tenerife's west coast a lot more anchorages and Marinas can be found, so short strokes are possible here as well to enjoy Tenerife's wild west coast, or sail further towards the northern coast and the picturesque town Garachico with its new harbour (28°22'48 N 16°45'04 W). From Punta del Gigante it then is 20 relaxed nautical miles with half wind to San Sebastián (28°05'33 N 17°06'51 W). Crews regularly report sightings of extremely large dolphin schools in the strait, which definitely turns the sailing day into a magical experience. For ambitious and adventurous crews there are further routes to La Palma (60nm from San Sebastián to Santa Cruz de La Palma 28°40'62 N 17°45'42 W), 50 nm from Puerto de la Estaca on El Hierro (27°47'00 N 17°54'00 W), or longer strokes including a night trip around the three little ones (La Gomera, La Palma, El Hierro).

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MARINAS

Tenerife

MARINA DEL SUR / 28° 00'42 N 16° 39'69 W / info@marinadelsur.es / VHF: 09

GARACHICO / 28°22'00 N 16°45'00 W / alcaldia@garachico.es / www.puertoscanarios.es

LOS GIGANTES / 28°15'00 N 16°50'00 W / info@puertolosgigantes.com / VHF: 09/16

La Gomera

SAN SEBASTIÁN DE LA GOMERA / 28°05'00 N 17°06'00 W / info@marinalagomera.es / VHF: 09/16

VALLE GRAN REY / 28°04'66 N 17°19'76 W / www.puertoscanarios.es

La Palma

SANTA CRUZ DE LA PALMA / 28°40'67 N 17°46'07 W / info@marinalapalma.es / VHF: 09/16

PUERTO DE TAZACORTE / 28°40'00 N 17°57'05 W / info@marinalapalma.es / VHF: 09/16

El Hierro

PUERTO DE LA ESTACA / 27°47'00 N 17°54'00 W / web@puertosdetenerife.org / www.puertodelhierro.org / VHF: 09

PUERTO DE LA RESTINGA / 27°37'05 N 17°59'05 W / puertolarestinga@puertoscanarios.es / VHF: 16

Chartering:

When selecting a yacht it is recommended to pay attention to the state of care and the equipment. In addition, one should find out which charter offers a good service. It is important that the charter can be reached in case of problems in order to get help as quickly as possible. Some of the yachts on the Canary Islands were operated in summer season in the Med Sea at an average rate and are chartered directly after 1300nm transfer from the Med Sea to the Canaries. Information on this can be obtained from online evaluations and the charter agency of your trust. Alternatively, the “Seal of Approval for Canary Islands Charter Yachts” also provides proof of quality.

If required, a skipper can be booked in addition. This also applies to individual days in order to familiarise oneself with the yacht and the area. It is advantageous to have a preliminary talk with the skipper to get a first impression and to see if he is suitable for you on a human basis. The charter companies can establish the contact to the skipper.