



El Hierro

922 / POP 10,162

Includes ➔

Valverde	205
Echedo	207
Tamaduste & La Caleta	208
Puerto de la Estaca & Las Playas	208
Mirador de la Peña	209
San Andrés & Around	209
Isora	210
La Restinga	211
El Golfo	212
Las Puntas	212
Tigaday	213
Los Llanillos & Sabinosa	214
El Sabinar & Around ...	215

Best Places to Eat

- Casa Carlos (p207)
- Casa Guayana (p208)
- La Taberna de la Villa (p206)
- El Refugio (p212)

Best Places to Stay

- Hotel Villa El Mocanal (p233)
- El Sitio (p234)
- Hotel Puntagrande (p234)

Why Go?

Unesco geopark El Hierro is an island where the impenetrable cliff-lined shores and location in the middle of the Atlantic make it both literally and figuratively remote. It was once even considered the end of the world until Columbus famously sailed the ocean blue from here in 1492 (along with his terrified crew!).

El Hierro will always feel remote, which is exactly what is so addictive about this place. It's impossible not to be entranced by the island's slow pace and simple style; by its craggy coast, where waves hurl themselves against lava-sculpted rock; by the pretty farmland and flower meadows; by the eerily beautiful juniper groves; and by the volcanic badland moonscapes in the south.

In short, El Hierro is unique – so much so that it is planning to become the first energy self-sufficient island in the world through a combination of solar, wind and water power.

When to Go

- In spring (March) the meadows of the highlands are ablaze with poppies and other wildflowers and hiking is a delight.
- For life at lower altitudes, June to early July and September are perfect for lazing around the numerous natural swimming pools or diving into La Restinga's undersea paradise.
- For cultural interest, if you're on El Hierro in late April, be sure not to miss the Fiesta de los Pastores (p215), a colourful religious procession in honour of the Virgen de los Reyes (Virgin of the Kings).



El Hierro Highlights

- 1 Stroll among the towering pines in the pristine **El Pinar** (p210) forest
- 2 Tackle the **Camino de Jinama** (p209), one of the island's best downhill walks, for vast views of El Golfo and the Atlantic
- 3 Walk among juniper trees sculpted by the wind into

- eerie, gnome-like shapes at **El Sabinar** (p215)
- 4 Grab your mask and dive into the warm, calm waters near **La Restinga** (p211), the island's best diving spot
- 5 Splash around in **La Maceta** (p213), an overgrown rock pool battered by Atlantic swells

- 6 Measure up to the giant lizards of El Hierro and explore village houses of old at the **Ecomuseo de Guinea** (p213)
- 7 Picnic among the wildflowers at the **Mirador de Isora** (p210), with its breathtaking views to the ocean far, far below