

On the Road





Gran Canaria

📍 928 / POP 852,000

Includes ➔

Las Palmas de Gran Canaria.....	45
Telde.....	55
Agüimes.....	56
Barranco de Guayadeque.....	57
Teror.....	58
Arucas.....	59
Santa María de Guía.....	61
Gáldar.....	62
Agæte & Puerto de las Nieves.....	63
Aldea de San Nicolás.....	64
Artenara.....	65
Tejeda.....	66
Playa Del Inglés & Maspalomas.....	68
Puerto de Mogán.....	73

Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Deliciosa Marta (p51)
- ➔ Samsara (p70)
- ➔ Kitchen Lovers (p52)

Best Places to Stay

- ➔ Villa del Conde (p220)
- ➔ Fonda de la Tea (p219)
- ➔ Downtown House (p218)

Why Go?

Gran Canaria is the third-largest island in the Canaries' archipelago, but accounts for almost half the population. It lives up to its cliché as a continent in miniature, with a dramatic variation of terrain, ranging from the green and leafy north to the mountainous interior and desert south. To glean a sense of this impenetrable quality, head to the centre, where the sheer drama of the mountains more resembles the Tibetan highlands than a relatively small island.

Contrasting with these unspoilt peaks and valleys is a rugged coastline interspersed with white sandy beaches and, more famously (and depressingly), a garish tiara of purpose-built holiday resorts.

Beyond the sands, though, Gran Canaria can keep the adrenalin pumping, with scope for hiking, cycling and watersports, while culture-vultures can be similarly satiated, particularly in the historic cosmopolitan capital of Las Palmas.

When to Go

- ➔ Peak season here is spring (February to Easter): the weather is warm, rain is sporadic and the island's stunning interior is green, with the occasional visual blast of almond trees in blossom.
- ➔ Spring is also festival season, with the vivacious February Carnaval celebrations followed by the sombre ceremonies of Semana Santa (Easter).
- ➔ June sees one of the island's largest fiestas, San Juan, and temperatures are perfect, with an average of 24°C.
- ➔ July and August is a busy time, with Spaniards from the mainland and families from northern Europe on holiday.
- ➔ September and October are perfect: the weather is ideal and the crowds have headed home.