



Fuerteventura

📍 928 / POP 69,500

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Best Places to Eat

- » El Cangrejo Colorao (p74)
- » Casa Santa María (p77)
- » Frasquita (p80)
- » Restaurante Avenida (p84)
- » Casa Rústica (p86)

Best Places to Stay

- » Hesperia Bristol Playa (p214)
- » Casa Isaías (p214)
- » Hotel Rural Mahoh (p214)
- » La Gaviota (p214)

Why Go?

Fuerteventura lies just 100km from the African coast, and there are striking similarities in the landscape, as well as the houses, with their North African-style flat roofs for collecting rainfall. In other ways, Fuerteventura emulates its neighbour Lanzarote, only with more colours. Its volcanoes resemble piles of saffron, chilli and coriander; surreal triangles of exotic spices.

Most visitors, however, are more interested in mastering the waves and the wind than contemplating the abstract aesthetics of its scenery. The second-largest island in the archipelago (after Tenerife), Fuerteventura has year-round sunshine and the biggest and best beaches in the Canaries.

The main tourist resorts lie at opposite ends of the island. At the northern tip is Corralejo, beloved of the British sun-seekers, while deep down south lies Morro Jable, largely frequented by Germans, and a markedly staid place.

The island was granted the status of a Biosphere Reserve by Unesco in May 2009.

When to Go

There's no bad time to visit Fuerteventura; it really does live up to its year-round spring reputation. The winter months, December to February, can be slightly cooler with prevailing winds, but are still pleasant. April to May is ideal, temperature-wise, although Easter can equal crowded beaches.

During the autumn months, the average daytime temperature hovers around the agreeable 20°C mark, while the nights gradually become cooler. July and August are busy with Spanish holidaymakers, as well as families travelling with school-age children.

Getting Around

Tiadhe (www.tiadhe.com) provides a limited bus service, with just 17 routes covering the whole island.

Driving is a pleasure here; the terrain is flat and the roads excellent. **Cicar** (www.cicar.com) is a reliable car-rental choice.

Cycling similarly presents few hilly challenges and, provided you avoid the hottest time of the day, can be an enjoyable transport choice.

Taxis are handy for short hops, but costly for exploring further.

THREE PERFECT DAYS

Day One

Heading north from the capital, take the coast-hugging FV-1 passing the **Parque Natural de Corralejo**, with its miles of pristine golden beaches. After stopping for a swim, continue on to Corralejo's harbour and a ferry jaunt to **Isla de Lobos** for a stroll along trails and beside coves. Enjoy freshly barbecued sardines at the *chiriniguito* before ferrying back and continuing on to **El Cotillo**. Here, kick back on the sand, check out the surfers and have a harbour-front sun-downer and snack.

Day Two

Start off in leafy **Pájara**, with a quick confessional at the extraordinary Aztec-inspired church. Wind your way on the scenic mountainside FV-30 road to lush **Betancuria**. Take your pick from the two intriguing museums here, but make **Casa Santa María** your lunch spot. Continue north to **Tefía**, via more camera-clicking scenery, and visit the **Ecomuseo la Alcgida**. Carry on to beachside **Los Molinos** for a seafood *tapa* and a sunset over the sea.

Day Three

After an early-morning coffee in lovely **La Oliva**, check out the current contemporary art exhibition at the **Casa de los Coroneles**, a perfect example of traditional 18th-century architecture. Just round the corner, there are more superb canvases at the **Centro de Arte Canario**. Next stop is the capital, **Puerto del Rosario**, for a stroll around the centre, graced by more than 100 sculptures, and a look at the classic early-20th-century **Casa Museo Unamuno** historic museum.

Getting Away from It All

» **Pozo Negro** (p80) Enjoy fresh seafood, a quiet beach and the surrounding craggy peaks.

» **Corralejo** (p82) Desert-like dunes that are never crowded: don't forget the drinking water (or compass).

» **Playa de Barlovento de Jandía** (p91) The antithesis of the beach resorts, with a wild, dramatic beauty.

DON'T MISS

Ordering a plate of local goat's cheese when you see it on the menu. Creamy, nutty and utterly delicious, it is often served with olives as tapas.

Best Beaches

» **Playa de la Mujer** (p81) Unspoiled sandy beach on the northwest coast, popular with surfers and swimmers.

» **Bubbles** (El Cotillo; p86) Windswept wild beach on the north coast, attracting an enthusiastic surfing crowd.

» **Playa del Matorral** (p89) A holiday brochure-style 4km of golden sand with family-gearred activities.

Best Museums

» **Casa de los Coroneles** (p81) Home to some fascinating historical and art exhibitions.

» **Museo Artesanía** (p76) Intriguing museum with 3D films, crafts – and cheese.

» **Museo de la Pesca Tradicional** (p86) An insightful look at traditional fishing on the island.

Resources

» Official tourism site: www.fuerteventuraturismo.com

» Rural tourism and accommodation: www.acantur.es

» Current affairs: www.sunnyfuerteventura.com

» Online news: www.fuerteenews.com