



# Lanzarote

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## Best Places to Eat

- » Liliium (p97)
- » La Bodega de Santiago (p110)
- » La Cantina (p102)
- » El Risco (p107)

## Best Places to Stay

- » Hotel Diamar (p215)
- » Finca de Arrieta (p216)
- » Caserío de Mozaga (p216)

## Why Go?

A Unesco biosphere reserve, Lanzarote is an intriguing island with an extraordinary geology of 300 volcanic cones, yet ticks all the right good-time boxes. There are great beaches, interesting sights and plenty of restaurants and hotels. The landscape has a stark and otherworldly appearance, with the occasional bucolic, palm-filled valley juxtaposed with surreal crinkly black lava fields. Long associated with package tourists and pie-and-chips resorts, times are finally changing and there has been a marked increase in the number of independent travellers to the island. In response, the government has undertaken an island-wide initiative to signpost walking trails, and rural accommodation options have increased.

The island's major sights have been aesthetically developed by the late César Manrique, a Lanzarote native and artist. He still has a considerable impact on the island via a cultural foundation that promotes Lanzarote's conservation, culture and architectural integrity.

## When to Go

Lanzarote is, happily, a year-round destination due to its consistent spring/summer weather. Busier months tend to be July and August, when Spaniards take their holidays, while cheaper airfares from other European destinations are normally most plentiful during the autumn and spring (aside from Easter week).

The island's annual carnival in February–March pales very slightly compared to that in Tenerife or Gran Canaria, but is still celebrated with great gusto. There are processions, music and general merriment.

## Getting Around

Driving on Lanzarote is a cinch. A good car-hire choice is **Cabrera Medina** ([www.cabreramedina.com](http://www.cabreramedina.com)), with branches all over the island. Alternatively, the bus network is fine for major towns.

### THREE PERFECT DAYS

#### Day One

Head for the extraordinary **Parque Nacional de Timanfaya**, where a bus trip gets you up close and personal to this otherworldly landscape. Next, appreciate a more benevolent side of nature at nearby **El Golfo** by enjoying a seafood lunch overlooking the surf. Take the coastal road south past surreal caves and emerald-green ponds, winding up at the man-made and modern **Marina Rubicón** with its designer shops, classy bars and relaxing restaurants overlooking the bobbing boats.

#### Day Two

Wise up on Manrique at the **Fundación César Manrique** and admire its extraordinary lava-field setting. Next, head for the **Jardín de Cactus**, displaying a myriad of prickly cacti. Many consider your next stop, the **Jameos del Agua**, to be Manrique's pinnacle achievement, while nearby **Cueva de los Verdes** is a natural wonder. Next, take in the awesome views from the **Mirador del Río**, before returning south to Arrecife for dinner in a castle at **MIAC Restaurant**, with its adjacent contemporary art gallery – another feather in Manrique's entrepreneurial hat.

#### Day Three

Designate your driver and start your tipple trail at the **Monumento al Campesino restaurant**, enjoying local food and wines. Nearby, wine cellar **Bodega Mozaga** dates from 1880 and has won awards for its deliciously fruity *malvasía*. Another excellent wine cellar, **Bodega Tinache**, has 20 hectares of vines en route to Timanfaya; go for the dry Malmsey and *moscatel*. Take a hiccup of a sidestep to **La Geria** with a visit to **Bodega Stratvs**, a new, young winery with excellent fruity reds. Wind up your trip at the adjacent **Bodega Rubicón's** small viticulture museum, which also offers free tastings.

## Getting Away from It All

- » **Puerto Calero** (p112) Enjoy a gentle, sea-hugging stroll to the secluded Playa Quemada.
- » **Explore the interior** (p111) Ditch the map and drive inland, discovering unspoiled hamlets and stunning views.
- » **Orzola** (p104) Escape the sunbed-striped beach resorts and check out the natural, white sandy coves on the far northeastern coast.

### DON'T MISS

Taking a hike, walk or even a short stroll in the island's volcanic interior, where there are signposted trails to encourage you to stride out.

## Best Beaches

- » **Playa Quemada** (p112) Picturesque, black volcanic beach with excellent seafood restaurants.
- » **Playa Mujeres** (p114) Golden sandy beach, popular with surfers.
- » **Playas Caletones** (p104) Series of wild, natural beaches and coves in the far northeast.

## Best Markets

- » **La Recova Market** (p98) Daily produce and crafts market.
- » **Haría Market** (p106) Weekly produce and *artisanía* (crafts) market.
- » **Marina Rubicón** (p113) Twice weekly souvenir and crafts' market, overlooking the harbour.

## Resources

- » Restaurant website: [www.eatlanzarote.com](http://www.eatlanzarote.com)
- » Annual sports events: [www.clublasanta.com](http://www.clublasanta.com)
- » Rural eco-friendly accommodation: [www.stayecochic.com](http://www.stayecochic.com)
- » Online magazine: [www.lanzarotemagazine.co.uk](http://www.lanzarotemagazine.co.uk)