



La Gomera

📍 922 / POP 21.952

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Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Restaurante Breñusca (p169)
- ➔ Casa Efigenia (p171)
- ➔ Bar-Restaurante El Puerto (p179)
- ➔ Restaurante Junonia (p176)

Best Places to Stay

- ➔ Parador Nacional Conde de la Gomera (p230)
- ➔ Apartamentos Los Telares (p230)
- ➔ Finca Argayall (p231)
- ➔ Apartamentos Tapahuga (p231)
- ➔ Apartamentos Quintero (p230)

Why Go?

From a distance La Gomera appears as an impenetrable fortress ringed with soaring rock walls. Noodle-thin roads wiggle their way alongside cliff faces and up ravines, and the tiny white specks that represent houses seem impossibly placed on inaccessible crags. Viewed from up-close, however, that rough landscape translates into lush valleys, awe-inspiring cliffs and stoic rock formations sculpted by ancient volcanic activity and erosion.

La Gomera does not offer the standard tourist resort trappings of golden beaches and an animated nightlife. It is also relatively laborious to reach; the ferry from Los Cristianos is a filter of sorts, and visitors here tend to be walkers heading for the myriad hiking trails that weave across this lush and spectacular island.

La Gomera also has a tangible bohemian air; and you will spy plenty of grey ponytails from foreign residents who arrived here in the 1960s flower power days – and stayed.

When to Go

- ➔ March and April are the best months for hiking with an ideal temperate temperature coupled with a dazzle of subtropical flowers on the hillsides.
- ➔ During the summer months August can reach a sizzling 30°C and sees the most day-trippers from nearby Los Cristianos, while June and September are a tad cooler and good fiesta months with El Día de San Juan (23 to 24 June) and the week-long Fiestas Fiestas Columbina (from 6 September) street party taking place.
- ➔ In winter expect some rainfall in December and January with an average temperature of around 17°C. Look for wild mushrooms on local menus in February.

ATLANTIC OCEAN



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La Gomera Highlights

- 1 Explore the fern-filled trails of the **Parque Nacional de Garajonay** (p171), the *laurisilva* (laurel) forest at the island's heart
- 2 Be amazed by the tropical flowers, plants and fruits of the lush **Vallehermoso** (p175)
- 3 Soak up the beauty of **Valle Gran Rey** (p178), with its plunging valleys and picture-perfect terraced hillsides
- 4 Take a cruise to visit **Los Órganos** (p175), a rock formation that resembles a titan's set of pipe organs
- 5 Unwind at the **Playa de Alojera** (p175), the island's remotest beach
- 6 Peer into the well that 'baptised America' and explore the colourful backstreets of the pint-sized capital **San Sebastián de la Gomera** (p166)
- 7 Munch seafood on the seashore in the laid-back beach resort of **Playa Santiago** (p176)