

Advice Guide for Visitors on the Island of Tenerife

Tenerife, the largest of the Canary Islands, is a popular tourist destination for its volcanic landscapes, beaches, and unique culture. In addition to enjoying the breathtaking views of Mount Teide, visitors can explore the rich biodiversity and local traditions. Here we offer you a guide with tips to make your visit respectful of the environment and culture of Tenerife, while enjoying to the fullest what the island has to offer.

1. Information on the Local Area, Culture and Heritage

Tenerife has a fascinating mix of Guanche aboriginal culture, Spanish influence and African traditions. The Teide National Park, declared a World Heritage Site by UNESCO, and the historic cities such as La Laguna, also a World Heritage Site, are not to be missed.

- **Historical and Cultural Places:** Visit San Cristóbal de La Laguna, known for its colonial historic center. In the city of Santa Cruz, explore the Auditorio de Tenerife, a masterpiece of modern architecture. You can also learn about Guanche history at the Museum of Nature and Man.
- **Local Culture:** Tenerife is famous for its carnival, one of the most important in the world. Festivities include parades, music, and traditional dances. If you visit during carnival, join the celebration in a respectful way.

2. How to Respect Local Culture and Way of Life

Tenerife's culture is a mixture of Canarian customs and Spanish traditions. It is important to be respectful of local customs to contribute to harmony on the island.

- **Local Etiquette:** Always greet with a "Hello" or "Good morning" and use "Thank you" to show courtesy. Keep in mind the quieter rhythms of life in rural areas.
- **Dress and Behavior:** Dress appropriately, especially in rural areas and when visiting religious sites. Show respect for local life, avoiding excessive noise in residential areas and respecting the privacy of residents.

3. Local Tourism Products, Services and Experiences

Supporting local producers and artisans is a way to contribute to Tenerife's economy while enjoying authentic products.

- **Local Products:** Purchase products such as wine from the D.O. Tacoronte-Acentejo, local goat cheeses, and handicrafts at local markets. The souvenir shops in La Orotava and La Laguna offer a variety of handmade items.
- **Restaurants:** Try traditional dishes such as papas arrugadas con mojo, gofio and fresh fish in guachinches, traditional restaurants that offer homemade food in a local atmosphere.
- **Excursions:** Take part in guided tours of natural parks, or take hiking trails through places such as the Anaga Massif, an area with one of the oldest laurel forests in the world.

4. Low-Emission Transportation Possibilities

Tenerife offers several eco-friendly transport options that will allow you to move around the island in a sustainable way.

- **Public Transport:** Use Titsa's network of guaguas (buses), which connects most of the island's cities and towns. It is an efficient and ecological option for getting around. Ask for routes and schedules at reception.
- **Bike Rental and Hikes:** In Santa Cruz and La Laguna, you can rent bikes to get around in a sustainable way. In addition, the island has numerous hiking trails, such as the climb to Mount Teide or the trails of the Anaga Rural Park, ideal for exploring on foot.

5. How to Protect and Respect Areas of Environmental, Historical, or Cultural Significance

Tenerife has a large number of protected areas that must be treated with respect to preserve its biodiversity and heritage.

- **Protected Areas:** In the Teide National Park, follow the marked trails to protect the endemic flora and fauna. On beaches and coastal areas, respect turtle nesting areas and do not leave trash on beaches.
- **Monuments and Heritage:** When visiting historical sites such as La Laguna or the pyramids of Güímar, follow the rules of heritage preservation and do not touch the ancient structures. In rural areas, respect natural monuments and follow local directions.

6. Support for Local Conservation Initiatives

Tenerife is committed to the conservation of its natural and cultural environment, and visitors can participate by supporting these initiatives.

- **Donations and Volunteering:** Find out about local organizations such as the Fundación Canaria Telesforo Bravo-Juan Coello, which works on the conservation of the landscape and the environment. You can also join volunteer activities, such as beach cleanups or trail restoration.
- **Responsible Tourism:** When choosing tourism experiences, opt for operators that promote sustainable practices and support the conservation of the environment and local culture.

7. Tips for Safely Dealing with Destination-Specific Issues

Like other tourist islands, Tenerife has challenges that require a conscious approach on the part of visitors.

- **Vulnerable People and Abandoned Animals:** If you encounter vulnerable people or abandoned animals, consider helping through local charities. Do not feed stray animals, as this can aggravate the problem.
- **Personal Safety:** Tenerife is generally safe, but always keep your belongings protected and avoid lonely areas at night. Use reputable transportation services and keep your valuables in a safe place.

8. How to Manage Wildlife Encounters

Tenerife has a rich and diverse fauna, both on land and in its waters, which must be protected and respected.

- **Respect for Wildlife:** Keep a safe distance if you encounter animals in the wild, especially in protected areas such as the Anaga Rural Park. Avoid feeding wild animals, as this can disrupt their natural behavior.
- **Wildlife Watching:** If you decide to participate in activities such as whale watching, choose responsible tour operators that respect animal welfare and follow sustainable practices. Tenerife is a popular destination for whale and dolphin watching, and it is essential to support ethical tourism.