

Gran Canaria - Canary Island & Atlantic Isle Cruises

The Canary Islands have some of the most striking and diverse scenery of any islands on earth: dry volcanic deserts, a snow-capped mountain, lush fields with banana and pineapple plantations, plus spectacular beaches! Only 70 miles from the coast of Africa, the Canaries were a way station for Spanish galleons and Las Palmas was the provisioning stop for Columbus on all four of his voyages.

Excursions

Please note: The shore excursions listed are typical for this port. The full programme of shore excursions available for your cruise will be displayed on Cruise Personaliser at least 12 weeks prior to departure.

- **Volcano Hike**

Discover the beauty and unique landscape of La Palma during a volcanic hike.

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Relax and enjoy the changing scenery as you head to the southern end of the island, lush green landscapes make way to stark black and ochre lava formations.

Your hike will set off from the small village of Los Canarios, which boasts the 2nd largest wine cellar of the Canary Islands. With your guide you'll descend the 3000 year old San Antonio volcano crater. Continuing along the cinder trails you'll hike up the majestic red mountain, Teneguia, the youngest volcano in the Canaries. In certain places you can still feel the warmth of the magma and smell the sulphur filtering through the rocks. The fertile volcanic soil provides the ideal conditions for vine growing and produces around one million litres of wine each year. From the highest peak you'll have spectacular views over the south and west coast.

Following the lava streams you'll head down to the southern most tip of La Palma to the patchwork of the saltpans and Fuencaliente Lighthouse. The small bay also offers inviting crystal clear waters for a refreshing dip.

Tour code

LPA_029

Features

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ACTIVITY LEVEL: MEDIUM

Duration

5 HOURS

- **Volcanoes & Wines**

Enjoy a cocktail of contrasting scenery with some 'local flavour' on a leisurely introduction to this beautiful island.

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Drive through vineyards and lava streams passing pine trees and small villages towards the deep south - the area where the volcanoes take charge. Arriving at Fuencaliente, a famous wine-producing region, you will visit the San Antonio volcano. Here you may be able to walk over the crater border and stroll around the Visitor Centre.

A visit will be made to a typical bodega, where you will have the opportunity to sample some of the local red and white wines. You may also wish to purchase the wines that you have sampled.

A short drive brings you to the pottery centre of 'El Molino' in Mazo. Located in an old windmill, this pottery is unique to the Benahorita people, which is to this day lovingly reproduced. There is a gift shop for you to purchase those all-important souvenirs.

Tour code

LPA_005

Features



ACTIVITY LEVEL: LOW



REFRESHMENTS INCLUDED



SHOPPING

Duration

4 HOURS

• La Palma Buggy Adventure

Climb behind the wheel of a purpose-built, tubular frame dune buggy and experience a fun-filled and adventurous ride.

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Enjoy a scenic drive to the village of El Llanito where your buggy awaits you. After a quick safety and orientation briefing, you will don your helmets and climb aboard your self-drive buggy.

Your journey will depart towards Mazo via the main road, before reaching the upper mountain road, where your off road experience will begin. As you follow the lead buggy, you will traverse across the rocky and rugged terrain of the Brena Alta and Brena Baja regions and the geological area of Cumbre Nueva. Enjoy the thrill of the ride as you pass through rich vegetation and abundant flora. You will also have the opportunity to take in panoramic views and admire the surrounding beauty of La Palma.

After your buggy adventure, it is time to take the minibus back to the port.

Tour code

LPA_017

Features



ACTIVITY LEVEL: HIGH

Duration

2½ HOURS

• Santa Cruz Trolley Train & Walk

Discover the treasures of Santa Cruz during a trolley train ride and stroll around its pretty plazas.

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Hop aboard the 'trolley train' and enjoy a panoramic tour of the town, along Santa Cruz de La Palma's main avenue, Avenida Maritima. The hustle and bustle of this tiny capital will melt into the background as your guide narrates fascinating tales by way of wireless headsets.

Upon arrival at the Barco de la Virgen, a replica of Columbus' Santa Maria, it's time to stretch your legs and take a stroll. Discover the streets and squares including Plaza Alameda, Plaza San Francisco, and Placeta Borrero. Admire the attractive two-story Renaissance style Town Hall and the 17th century church, Iglesia del Salvador.

In the heart of Santa Cruz, you'll visit a traditional tapas bar to sample some of the local tapas dishes accompanied by a refreshing glass of wine, beer or a soft drink.

Tour code

LPA_010

Features



ACTIVITY LEVEL: MEDIUM



REFRESHMENTS INCLUDED

Duration

2¼ HOURS

• The Heart of La Palma

Visit the National Park of La Caldera de Taburiente, in the heart of La Palma, and enjoy spectacular vistas.

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Sit back and relax, as you embark on a scenic drive to Santuario Virgen de Las Nieves. Inside the small whitewashed church you will find the island's most sacred icon, the Virgin Mary of the Snows, the patron saint of the island.

Travelling through the mountain roads, which offer spectacular views, you will arrive at La Caldera de Taburiente. Designated a National Park, this particular volcanic crater is five miles wide and its rims reach right up to the mountain ridge that runs from the north to the south of the island. The crater was not actually formed as a result of volcanic activity, but from subsequent erosion, and it is forested with the exceptional fire-resistant Canary Pine.

Afterwards, take some time to relax and enjoy some local refreshments. On the way back, a brief photograph stop will be made at the viewpoint Mirador de la Concepcion, where you may admire the stunning views along the coast and to the north of the island.

Tour code

LPA_002

Features



ACTIVITY LEVEL: MEDIUM



REFRESHMENTS INCLUDED

Duration

4½ HOURS

• Silk, Scenery & Sugar Estate

Experience the elegance and natural beauty that the island of La Palma has to offer.

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Sit back, relax and enjoy the lush scenery, as you travel along the mountain roads, passing vineyards and banana plantations to the small town of El Paso.

A short stroll takes you to the unique Silk Museum, where you'll see the 500 year old tradition of silk weaving. This is the only place in Europe where the old processes have been preserved. During your visit you'll have time to admire the stunning garments that have been crafted. Manolo Blahnik, the famous shoe designer, who is from the island, has created exquisite footwear using the local silk.

Then it's time to experience the beautifully restored 17th century sugar estate, Hotel Hacienda de Abajo. Surrounded by rich vegetation and botanical gardens, the manor buildings display a varied collection of fine arts, furniture and porcelain, and boasts the largest collection of tapestries. With your guide, you'll explore a selection of the public rooms, followed by tea and pastries overlooking the Atlantic Ocean.

Finally, before heading back to Santa Cruz, enjoy a brief photo stop at La Glorieta Square to admire the stunning mosaics created by a local artist, Luis Morera.

Tour code

LPA_028

Features

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ACTIVITY LEVEL: MEDIUM

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REFRESHMENTS INCLUDED

Duration

4¼ HOURS

• Leisurely La Palma

This panoramic introduction to La Palma is ideal for those who prefer to tour at a slower pace.

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Embark on a scenic panoramic drive to the west of the island and through the upper region of the Aridane Valley. The area is the highest point of the island and is also home to the charming town of El Paso. Upon arrival, a short stop will be made for you to enjoy the town's surroundings.

You will leave El Paso and take a short drive to the delightful La Glorieta Square. The square is the work of local artist, Luis Morera, who was once a pupil of César Manrique. Here, you can enjoy a photograph stop and view the unique and colourful mosaic floor, reminiscent of Manrique's designs found in Lanzarote.

Afterwards, you will head to the southern tip of La Palma and on to Fuencaliente. There will be some time to relax with a tea, coffee or soft drink refreshment at a local restaurant, before the return drive to the port.

Tour code

LPA_018

Features

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ACTIVITY LEVEL: LOW

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REFRESHMENTS INCLUDED

Duration

4 HOURS