

EXPLORE!

BEST SELLER

Walking The Gran Isla
8 days

Spain - Trip code LOC



Walking The Gran Isla

The Canary Islands offer some of the best walking anywhere in Southern Europe. The volcanic island of Gran Canaria in particular offers far more than the beaches it is best known for. Staying off the beaten track in Agüimes on the eastern side and La Aldea de San Nicolás on the western side of the island, we discover dramatic volcanic landscapes, steep gorges, high peaks, semi-tropical valleys and unspoilt hillside villages as we explore the 'Gran Isla' by foot.

Trip highlights

- ★ **Agüimes** - A traditional Canarian village
- ★ **La Aldea de San Nicolás** - Hiking in the remote west of the island
- ★ **Guayadeque Canyon** - dramatic ravine with stone age cave dwellings
- ★ **Roque Nublo** - a distinctive rock formation and Gran Canaria's most famous landmark
- ★ **Pico de las Nieves** - Hike up Gran Canaria's highest peak
- ★ **Historic trails** - Follow 'caminos reales' and ancient paths between hillside villages

ACCOMMODATION GRADE:

Standard

Our standard, mid-range accommodation offers a good level of service, often with other amenities such as a restaurant, bar, garden or swimming pool. Generally rooms will be comfortable with en suite facilities.

WALKING GRADE:

Moderate

For those who are fit and active, these moderate walks are normally on good paths and tracks at low altitude. Days may include some fairly demanding ascents and descents, so previous experience is preferable but not essential.

GROUP SIZE:

10 - 16

Maximum group size ranges from between 6 to 20 people, depending on the type of trip, the transport and accommodation used and activities included. We rarely have groups that are smaller than five or six people and the average is 12 people plus an Explore leader.

Itinerary

Itineraries on some departure dates may differ, please select the itinerary that you wish to explore.

DAY 1 - Arrive to Agüimes

Our trip starts in Agüimes a small, traditional town in the east of Gran Canaria, about twenty minutes from the island's airport. If you arrive early you may wish to explore the historic narrow streets with pretty painted houses of the 'old town', or find a quiet cafe to sit in to acclimatise to the pace of life.



Accommodation: Hotel Rural Casa de los Camellos (or similar)



Standard Hotel



Single room available



Meals Provided: None

DAY 2 - Circular walk to the Guayadeque Canyon

Today we make a walk along the main landmark of this side of the island - the stunning Guayadeque Canyon that runs south east along the slopes of Pico de las Nieves. There are lots of endemic plants, but the volcanic landscape has a lunar feel as we get closer to the deep gorge, reminiscent of Northern American canyons. This area has been inhabited since the stone age and the remains of cave dwellings from these times are still visible. As we walk we will also see some traces of lava fields from an ancient eruption of a smaller volcano. After the gorge we head back to Agüimes on foot. Please note there is little shade in the countryside around Agüimes, so strong sun protection is needed. Our walk today is approximately 4 hours and covers 12kms. Approximate total ascents and descents are +550m / - 550m.



Accommodation: Hotel Rural Casa de los Camellos (or similar)



Standard Hotel



Single room available



Meals Provided: Breakfast

DAY 3 - Walk from tejeda to Artenara and the Acusa Cliffs

This morning we drive west to Tejeda, a small mountain village (1076m) with white washed buildings which for many is the prettiest hill village on Gran Canaria. There will be time for a walk around the town and a coffee before continuing to Cruz de Tejeda. We walk from here with spectacular views across Roque Nublo and the central valley to Artenara and the Acusa cliffs with its white washed cave dwellings dating back to stone age times, some of which are still occupied (short bus transfer to connect both walks). We then head for our next hotel in the west of the island, our base for the next three nights. Our walk today is approximately 2 hours and covers 7kms, with approximate total ascents and descents of +200 / - 650m.



Accommodation: Hotel los Cascajos (or similar)



Standard Hotel



Single room available



Meals Provided: Breakfast

DAY 4 - Ancient village trail

Hopping on the local public bus, we travel a short distance to the start of today's walk at the Aldea Pass (700m). From here we follow an ancient pathway that in former days connected the villages of La Aldea, Tasarte and Veneguara. It is an undulating trail with one steep but short downhill section. On our left-hand side we enjoy the impressive walls of Los Azulejos, green layered rock sheets topped by the Inagua Forest. When we reach the village church of Veneguara we take a short break for lunch before continuing our walk over the last pass that leads us into the Barranco de Mogan. Here there will be time for a coffee break while waiting for the public bus that will take us back to La Aldea. Today we walk for approximately 4.5 hours and cover 14kms with total ascents and descents of approximately +250m / - 400m.



Accommodation: Hotel los Cascajos (or similar)



Standard Hotel



Single room available



Meals Provided: Breakfast

DAY 5 - Free day. Opportunity to relax or walk to Siberio Reservoir

Today has been left free. You may wish to relax around the hotel, enjoying the village life in La Aldea, or decide to go to the unspoiled nearby beach five kilometres away. Further afield you could visit the city of Galdar and see the Cueva Pintada Museum to learn about aboriginal life on these islands - On your way back stopping off for a dip in the ocean. Alternatively keen walkers may wish to take the optional demanding walk through the Inagua Forest to the Pico Castellet, a flat rock outcrop with a spectacular view. Optional walk 5-6hrs, 13km and total ascents and descents are approximately +500m/-700m



Accommodation: Hotel los Cascajos (or similar)



Standard Hotel



Single room available



Meals Provided: Breakfast

DAY 6 - Walk to the summit of Roque Nublo

After breakfast we drive below the Picos de las Nieves (1949m) from where we make a gentle walk up to the summit of Roque Nublo, the landmark rock of Gran Canaria and offering great views across the island and - weather allowing - across to neighbouring islands of the Canaries. From here we drive back to down to Aguiques. Our walk today is approximately 3 hours long and covers a total of 8kms. Total ascents and descents are approximately +215m / - 500m.



Accommodation: Hotel Rural Casa de los Camellos (or similar)



Standard Hotel



Single room available



Meals Provided: Breakfast

DAY 7 - Descend from village of Santa Lucia to Aguiques

Today we travel by local bus (50 min) to Santa Lucia for our long but scenic walk back down to Aguiques. As we start our descent we pass an old maize mill, before walking down into the Hondo Ravine and up to Lomo de Don Pedro. We continue eastwards to Temisas village following signed trails, then part of a 'Camino Real' marked out by stones to Aguiques town. Today we walk for 6 hours and cover approximately 17kms, with total ascents and descents of +300m / - 700m.



Accommodation: Hotel Rural Casa de los Camellos (or similar)



Standard Hotel



Single room available



Meals Provided: Breakfast

DAY 8 - Tour ends in Aguiques

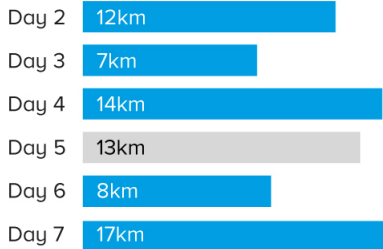
Our tour ends after breakfast, in Aguiques.



Meals Provided: Breakfast

Walking and Trekking information

DAILY DISTANCE



Optional Walks

Walking grade

Moderate

Trek details

Walk on 5 days for between 3 to 6.5 hours, plus an additional optional walk on Day 5. We generally trek on mountain trails with some occasional short, steep ascents. Vertigo sufferers need to be aware that some of the walks will be along paths next to steep drops. We have graded this trip as moderate.

Max walking altitude (m)

1949



What's included?



Included meals

Breakfast: 7



Transport

Bus
Public Bus



Trip staff

Explore Tour Leader
Driver(s)



Accommodation

7 nights standard hotel

Trip information

Country information

Spain Holidays & Tours

Climate

Overall, spring, early summer and autumn are ideal times for a Spanish trip - though the weather varies enormously from region to region. The high central plains suffer from fierce extremes, stiflingly hot in summer, bitterly cold and swept by freezing winds in winter. The Atlantic coast, in contrast, has a tendency to damp and mist, and a relatively brief, humid summer. The Mediterranean south is warm virtually all year round. Spain's Islands the Canaries and Balaerics experience very mild winters and warm summers making them ideal year round destinations.

Time difference to GMT

+1

Plugs

2 Pin Round

Religion

Roman Catholic

Language

Castilian Spanish, Catalan, Galician, Basque

Budgeting and packing

Optional activities

From La Aldea de San Nicolas: Fare to local beach on local bus 1.40€ each way Taxi fare to local beach 5€ (maximum 4 people) each way Fare to Galdar 3.50€ on local bus each way Galdar Museum 6€ (over 65 3€) Fares for optional walk from Degollada de la Aldea to Los Azulejos approx. 4€ Las Palmas - €25, local bus also available Maspalomas - Sand dunes €25, local bus also available

Clothing

Light windproof rainwear may be needed at any time of year, and a light warm fleece / jacket is recommended for mountain walks, and cooler evenings in winter, spring and autumn.

Footwear

In addition to walking boots please take comfortable trainers/shoes or sandals for evenings / relaxing.

Luggage

20kg

Luggage: On tour

Bring one main piece of luggage and a daypack. A daypack is useful for walking and carrying what you need for the day.

Equipment

A water bottle, sunhat and sunscreen are all essential and you may wish to bring a small torch with you as well. Walking poles are recommended.

Tipping

Explore leader

Tour Leader: At your discretion you might also consider tipping your Tour Leader in appreciation of the efficiency and service you receive.

Local crew

Local Crew: Although entirely voluntary, tipping is a recognised part of life in this region of the world. Some local staff will look to members of the group for personal recognition of particular services provided. In order to make things easier for you, the Tour Leaders may organise a group's tips kitty and if this is the case, they will account for it throughout the tour. Accordingly, you should allow approximately £15 for tipping.

Country Information

Spain Holidays & Tours

Food and drink

The costs for meals may vary depending upon location, type of restaurant and number of courses eaten and so the prices given are an average guide. Local restaurants located off the beaten track may be less expensive, whereas an upmarket restaurant located in the centre of a major city may charge more.

Dinner price

£12.00 - 16.00

Beer price

£1.50 - 2.50 (depending on the region/area in Spain)

Water price

£1.4

Foreign Exchange

Local currency

Euros

Recommended Currency For Exchange

We recommend you take the majority of your spending money in Euros cash.

Where To Exchange

We recommend that you change any currency into Euros prior to arrival. Bureau de Change are generally only found in major cities and large airports.

ATM Availability

In cities and most major towns.

Credit Card Acceptance

Visa and Mastercard are generally accepted in larger restaurants and some shops.

Travellers Cheques

Not recommended.

Transport, Accommodation & Meals

Transport Information

Bus, Public Bus

Essential information

FCO Advice

We strongly recommend that you check your government's travel advisory for up-to-date information and advice about your destination: safety and security, entry requirements, health, local laws and customs. For UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office advice [click here](#).

For more information from Explore about travel advice, [click here](#)

Under 18 immigration guidance

Please note that some countries require proof of parental consent when travelling overseas with under 18s. Please check requirements with the relevant embassy or consular office well in advance of travel if this applies to your party.

Essential Information

Once your booking has been confirmed we guarantee the price will not increase, whatever the circumstances. Before booking please ensure you have read our important tour pricing information. [Booking Conditions](#)

Visa Information

Spain/Canary Islands: Visas are not required by UK, Australian, New Zealand, US and Canadian citizens. Other nationalities should consult their local embassy or consular office.

If you do require assistance in obtaining a visa then you may consider applying through Explore's recommended visa service in the UK, Travcour. See www.travcour.com to download the relevant visa application for your trip, if applicable (UK citizens only), along with details of how to apply for your visa through Travcour. The Team at Travcour will be happy to answer specific questions relating to visa applications, please call them directly on 0208 5431846.

Booking conditions

Before booking your Explore trip, please ensure that you read both our [Essential Information](#) and [Booking Conditions](#).

Transfers

[Find out more about Trip Transfer Terms and Conditions before you book.](#)

Booking a land only package with Explore

Customers who have chosen to book on the 'Land Only' arrangements of our tour, please ensure that you have checked your tour specific 'Joining Instructions' prior to booking your own travel arrangements. Your joining instructions can be found below in the dates and prices information.

You may also be eligible for the Free Explore Transfer.

Joining Tour Abroad

Customers booked on the 'Land Only' arrangements will now receive a Free Transfer, provided you arrive and depart on the tour only itinerary start and end dates. The transfers will be from the Explore designated airport or train station to the joining point of your tour, and then back from the ending point to the designated airport or train station. The exception to this rule is customers who are booked on a tour where the joining and ending point is at the designated airport or train station.

Free transfers are not available for Self-Guided, Tailormade or Tours for Churches customers.

If you are not eligible for the Free Transfer then you will need to make your own way through to the joining and ending point. On a majority of our tours Explore will be able to provide a private transfer at an additional cost. Please ask for a quote at the time of booking.

For more information regarding the Explore Free Transfer [click here](#)

Insurance

It is a condition of booking with Explore that you have adequate valid travel insurance. It is your responsibility to arrange appropriate travel insurance and ensure you have read and understood the full terms and conditions of your travel insurance policy to ensure that you are covered for all activities you intend to undertake whilst on the tour, including all optional activities. Your Insurance Policy must fully cover you for medical expenses and emergency repatriation to your home country. Please ensure your policy includes medical emergency helicopter evacuation in the event of illness or injury and covers the entire duration of your holiday. If you are trekking at altitude please ensure that there is no upper altitude limit which may limit or exclude cover for your trip. Medical and repatriation insurance cover is not mandatory for UK residents who are travelling on trips within the United Kingdom.

Read more information about what travel insurance is required.

Flight information

Explore offers a wide range of flexible flying options to make joining and leaving our trips easy. [Read more about them here.](#)

Flight Information

You are able to book this tour on a 'land only' basis or as a 'flight inclusive' package. Your flight inclusive package will be fully protected by the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) ATOL protection scheme.

Booking a flight inclusive package with Explore

We have a good selection of flights not only from London but from many regional airports around the UK allowing us to compare fares between scheduled carriers as well as low cost and charter airlines. Our dedicated flights team will match the best flight options to your arrival and departure airport.

On our website we display a UK flight inclusive package guide price which is generally based on a London departure. To avoid paying supplements or to secure your preferred flight option, we recommend booking as early as possible, especially for peak travel dates.

Maximum altitude (m)

1949

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Vaccinations

Nothing compulsory but Tetanus is usually recommended as a precaution. Further information regarding vaccinations and travel health advice can be found by following the NHS and NaTHNaC links at <http://www.explore.co.uk/Travelhealth/> and from your local healthcare provider. Vaccination requirements are subject to change and should be confirmed before departure.
