

# EXPLORE!



## Self-Guided Gran Canaria

8 days

Canary Islands, Spain - Trip code WSGC

## Self-Guided Gran Canaria

Discover great walking trails on this self-guided walking holiday to Gran Canaria. This journey takes you from the east to the west of the island through dramatic and varied volcanic landscapes, often on the classic paths, the 'Caminos Reales'. Hike through Guayadeque Gorge, to the summit of the island's highest peak - Pico de la Nieves (1949m), and around the distinctive landmark of Roque Nublo as you explore the island.

## Trip highlights

- ★ **Pico Nieves** - Climb Gran Canaria's highest peak
- ★ **Roque Nublo** - a distinctive rock formation and Gran Canaria's most famous landmark
- ★ **Guayadeque Canyon** - dramatic ravine with stone age dwellings
- ★ **Volcanic scenery** - Caldera, ravines and mountain ridges
- ★ **Historic trails** - Follow 'camino 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.

## Itinerary

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

### DAY 1 - Trip starts at Gran Canaria Airport. Taxi to Agüimes

Upon your arrival at Gran Canaria Airport, you will be transferred to Agüimes on the south-eastern part of the island, where you'll spend the next two nights. The rest of the day is free to relax, perhaps taking a short wander through the medieval streets of the small old town before dinner.



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



Premium Hotel



Single room available



Meals Provided: Dinner

### DAY 2 - Discover the natural beauty of Guayadeque gorge

After breakfast, today starts with a transfer to the start of the trail. You'll spend today amongst the towering cliffs of the Guayadeque gorge, the largest ravine in the Canary Islands. Home to many endemic species, some say this hidden gem is one of the most beautiful places on the island. The gorge was also home to the first inhabitants of the Canary Islands and you can still see the remains of their cave houses along the way.

Today's walk is 11.5 kilometres long and should take around 4.5-5 hours. Total ascent is 400 metres and descent 820 metres.



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



Premium Hotel



Single room available



Meals Provided: Breakfast & Dinner

### DAY 3 - Climb to the summit of Gran Canaria's highest peak

Depending on how energetic you're feeling and how much distance you'd like to cover, you have a choice of three start points for

today's route, all with the aim of reaching the top of Gran Canaria's highest peak, Pico de las Nieves. At 1,949 metres high the views from the summit are incredible. It can often be cold and misty at the top but if the weather is good, you will be able to see over the surrounding mountains and maybe even as far as the neighbouring Canary Islands: Lanzarote, Tenerife and La Gomera. As you begin to descend, your final destination is the village of Tejeda, where you will spend the next three nights, set amongst the mountains of central Gran Canaria.

Today's walk is 19 or 11 kilometres long with 450, or 50 metres of ascent and 900 metres of descent; the longest route should take around 7 hours, the shortest should take around 4 hours.



**Accommodation: Hotel Fonda de la Tea** (or similar)



Standard Hotel



Single room available



Meals Provided: Breakfast & Dinner

## DAY 4 - Admire the views from the Altavista Ridge and Tamadaba National Park

Today's walk over the Altavista ridge is one of the highlights of the entire week. Walking at the edge of Tamadaba Natural Park on a huge extinct crater (caldera), with little shade, there may be clouds below you and - on a clear day - sweeping views all the way to Tenerife. The same bus which takes you to the start of the walk in the morning will pick you up this afternoon in Artenara.

Today's walk is either 14 kilometres taking approximately 4.5 hours with ascent and 500 metres ascent and 450m descent, or 9 kilometres taking approximately 3 hours with 300 metres of ascent and 300 metres of descent.

After the walk, you'll have time to visit the Spice Centre in Tejeda for an insight into the traditional use of medicinal plants on the island. There's a botanical garden and laboratory, and you'll have the option of sampling different spices. Tejeda also has a small museum and cultural centre with ongoing exhibits. This evening, enjoy the sunset from the hotel (roof-top) terrace, with the silhouette of Bentayga Peak in the background.



**Accommodation: Hotel Fonda de la Tea** (or similar)



Standard Hotel



Single room available



Meals Provided: Breakfast

## DAY 5 - Walk to Roque Nublo; forests and ravines

Starting directly from the hotel, today's route traverses the gorgeously steep terrain around Roque Nublo, a rocky outcrop teetering on the edge of a plateau. This may not be the highest peak on the island but it is certainly the most easily identifiable, as it's visible from almost anywhere on the island. After a kilometre the tarmac gives way to steep paths which zigzag up towards Roque Nublo. The peak's volcanic origins become evident higher up and you gaze hundreds of meters down steeply eroded ravines. Descend through a peaceful pine forest to reach a col from where you can catch a bus back to Tejeda or continue on foot to the village.

Today's walk is 12 kilometres long, with 800 metres of ascent and 400 metres of descent, and should take around 5.5 hours.

If you feel like walking further, you have the option of continuing down along the old Camino Real back to the village. This adds 2 hours and 8km to your walk, with 400 metres extra in descent, 75 metres extra in ascent.



**Accommodation: Hotel Fonda de la Tea** (or similar)



Standard Hotel



Single room available



Meals Provided: Breakfast

## DAY 6 - Ridgewalk and descend to Fagagesto

Leaving Tejeda behind today the next and final destination is Agaete on the north west coast of Gran Canaria. The first four kilometres of the route has 450 metres of ascent to reach La Cruz de Tejeda. From here following the ridge with impressive views of the sea you reach an elevation of 1715m, near Galdar. Then, you will begin a long descent through fields and small farmsteads. The final part of this route is along traffic free tarmac roads until you arrive in Fagagesto. Here you can stop for refreshments before transferring to Agaete where you'll spend your final two nights.

The walk today is 14 kilometres and takes approximately 7 hours. Total ascent is 700 metres and descent 750 metres.



**Accommodation: Hotel Puerto de las Nieves** (or similar)



Premium Hotel



Single room available



Meals Provided: Breakfast

## DAY 7 - Walk along the Camino Real above Agaete Valley

A taxi will take you to the village of San Pedro for the start of today's walk along the Camino Real. Ascending to the top of Montana Bibique (645m), a rugged outcrop at the top of steep cliffs, you'll have fabulous views over the Agaete Valley. From here you may wish to walk further on to Mirador Vuelta de la Paloma at 850 metres, which adds an extra 5 kilometres to the route. Alternatively you can continue along a narrow gravel path back down to Puerto de las Nieves and your hotel.

Today's final walk is 9 kilometres and takes approximately 4.5 hours. The total ascent is 630 metres and descent is 650 metres. The additional walk via the view point is an extra 7 kilometres which adds an additional ascent and descent of 60 metres and takes approximately another 2 hours.



**Accommodation: Hotel Puerto de las Nieves** (or similar)



Premium Hotel



Single room available



Single room available



Meals Provided: Breakfast

## DAY 8 - Trip ends at Gran Canaria Airport

Today a taxi will pick you up and take you to Gran Canaria Airport, where the trip ends.



Meals Provided: Breakfast

# Walking and Trekking information

## DAILY DISTANCE



Optional Walks

### Walking grade

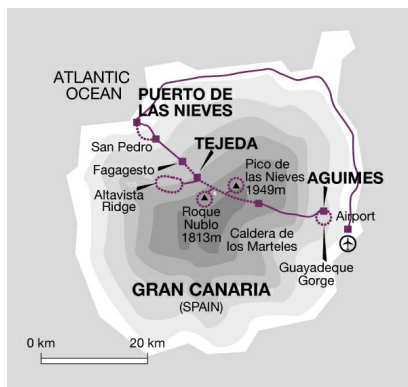
Moderate

### Trek details

Walks on 6 days for between 3 to 7 hours, mainly on well maintained unsurfaced and footpaths. On Day 3 and 5 there are optional additional walks. The average ascent and descent is +/- 500m (minimum 250m, maximum 900m). Please note warm weather can make the routes seem more difficult.

### Max walking altitude (m)

1949



# What's included?



## Included meals

Breakfast: 7  
Dinner: 3



## Transport

Taxi



## Accommodation

4 nights premium hotel  
3 nights standard hotel

# Trip information

## Country information

### Canary Islands

#### Climate

The Canary Islands enjoy a relatively stable climate making them a good year round destination. The warmer temperatures in the winter months also make the islands a great winter walking holiday choice. The best months for walking are October to April, avoiding the heat of the summer, the evenings can still be chilly and rain is possible in January and February. The Canary Gulf Stream and trade winds provides each island with its own micro-climate, bringing different climatic conditions to each side of the islands.

#### Time difference to GMT

The Canary Islands are -1hrs from mainland Spain

### Spain

#### 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

## Clothing

Bring some lightweight clothing for pleasant, balmy days (including shorts for walks when warmer), but remember that temperatures drop with altitude and that evenings may be cool so also bring a warm sweater or fleece. As mountain weather is changeable it is important to bring a light waterproof and windproof outer garment.

## Footwear

Walking or trail boots with good ankle support are essential, plus comfortable trainers/sandals for relaxing.

## Luggage: On tour

Bring one main piece of baggage as per your airline luggage allowance, maximum 20 kg per person. Remember you may need to carry your luggage at times so don't overload yourself. Luggage transfers between hotels are normally arranged by the hoteliers. Mark your bags clearly and leave them at the place and time arranged with them. When travelling on public transport you should always keep your luggage with you.

## Luggage transfer

Included between each hotel.

## Equipment

Bring a water bottle, torch, sunhat, sunscreen and sunglasses. A trekking pole is recommended for the steep descents.

Maps - Along with the destination manual and route notes you will be sent a set of maps that have been created specifically for this trip to help you navigate. The route is marked on each map together with a series of numbered waypoints which correspond with instructions in the route notes. Should you wish to purchase a more detailed commercially produced map we recommend the following:-

General Map

- Canary Islands - ADAC scale 1:150.000 Overview in fairly good detail (though less on the smaller islands). Still the best choice for a general map.

Topographic Map

-Gran Canaria, map 237 (scale 1:50.000) Published by Kompass editions.

## Tipping

### Local fees

Tejeda Ethnographic Museum Tejeda and Medicinal Plant Centre 4€pp

## Country Information

### Canary Islands

#### 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.

#### Foreign Exchange

### Spain

#### 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.

**Lunch price**

£8.00 - 12.00

**Dinner price**

£16.00 - 20.00

**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

Taxi

### Recommended airport

Gran Canaria Airport

### Flying to your destination

Gran Canaria is served by low cost carriers (EasyJet, Ryan Air, Norwegian) and charter / schedule airlines (including Flythomascook.com, Thomson Airways) direct from many UK airports.

### Arrival and departure information

Your trip starts at Gran Canaria Airport. A taxi transfer will take you from here to your hotel in Aguimes. At the end of your trip you will be taken back to the airport by taxi. Please ensure that Explore have your full arrival and departure details (airline, flight number, date and time) at least two weeks prior to departure.

## 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.

## **Price Guarantee**

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 and Passport Information**

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

All visa information is subject to change. You should confirm all visa related questions with the relevant Embassy prior to departure.

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](http://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.

It is your responsibility to ensure that you are in possession of a full passport, with the correct validity for your chosen destination.

## **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, Polar, 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. The cost of many of our Polar Voyages will exceed the capped amount covered by standard insurance premiums and you will be required to pay an additional premium to cover the full value of your trip. Please ensure that you are covered for the full amount of your holiday cost, as insufficient cover could invalidate a claim under the policy. 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

## **Canary Islands**

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## **Spain**

### **Vaccinations**

Nothing compulsory but Tetanus is usually recommended as a precaution. Please check the latest requirements with your travel clinic or doctor prior to departure. The above is not an exhaustive list. Further information regarding vaccinations and travel health advice can be found by following the NHS and NaTHNaC links at [Explore Travel Health](#) and from your local healthcare provider. Visa and vaccination requirements are subject to change and should be confirmed by you before travelling.

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