

# EXPLORE!

BEST SELLER

## Walking The Gran Isla

CANARY ISLANDS, SPAIN - TRIP CODE LOC

WALKING AND TREKKING

DAYS

**8**

DEPOSIT FROM

**£102**

WAS FROM

**£1039**

NOW FROM

**£1019**

FLIGHTS

INCLUSIVE

## Why book this trip?

The Canary Islands have some of the best walking anywhere in southern Europe, and 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 east and La Aldea de San Nicolás on the west of the island, discover dramatic volcanic landscapes, steep gorges, high peaks and semi-tropical valleys, exploring the Gran Isla by foot. Enjoy Canarian cuisine and sangria while dining alfresco in picturesque villages.



**INCLUDED MEALS**  
Breakfast: 7



**TRIP STAFF**  
Explore Tour  
Leader  
Driver(s)



**TRANSPORT**  
Bus  
Public Bus



**ACCOMMODATION**  
7 nights standard  
hotel



**WALKING GRADE:**  
Moderate



**GROUP SIZE:**  
10 - 16

## 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)

**Grade: 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. We walk along a tarmac road for 30 minutes before heading into the gorge. 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.

Today's 12 kilometre walk is expected to take around four hours with 550 metres of ascent and descent.



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



Grade: Standard Hotel



SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST

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### 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 (there is a 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. Please note that the first section of the first walk has been affected by some forest fires, if this continues to be the case then we start walking 3km after Cruz de Tejeda.

Today's three kilometre walk is expected to take around one hour with 100 metres of ascent and 250 metres of descent.



ACCOMMODATION:  
Hotel los Cascajos (or similar)



Grade: Standard Hotel



SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST

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#### **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's 14 kilometre walk is expected to take around four-and-a-half hours with 250 metres of ascent and 400 metres of descent.



ACCOMMODATION:  
Hotel los Cascajos (or similar)

Grade: Standard Hotel



SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST

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#### **DAY 5 - Free day. Opportunity to relax or walk in Inagua Forest**

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 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.

Today's optional 13 kilometre walk is expected to take around five-and-a-half hours with 500 metres of ascent and 700 metres of descent.



ACCOMMODATION:  
Hotel los Cascajos (or similar)



**Grade: Standard Hotel**



SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST

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### **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 Aguimes.

Today's eight kilometre walk is expected to take around three hours with 220 metres of ascent and 500 metres of descent.



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



**Grade: Standard Hotel**



SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST

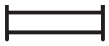
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### **DAY 7 - Descend from village of Santa Lucia to Aguimes**

Today we travel by local bus (50 min) to Santa Lucia for our long but scenic walk back down to Aguimes. 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 Aguimes town.

Today's 17 kilometre walk is expected to take around six hours with 300 metres of ascent and 700 metres of descent.





**ACCOMMODATION:**

Hotel Rural Casa de los Camellos (or similar)



**Grade: Standard Hotel**



**SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE**



**MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST**

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**DAY 8 - Tour ends in Agüimes**

Our tour ends after breakfast, in Agüimes.



**MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST**

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## Trip information

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### 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

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#### 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	Plugs	Religion
+1	2 Pin Round	Roman Catholic

## Language

Castilian Spanish, Catalan, Galician, Basque

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## Budgeting and packing

### Optional activities

The following excursions and/or activities are usually available and may be arranged locally. Estimated costs are provided below for guidance only, are on a per person basis unless shown otherwise, and may depend on the number of participants. Prices quoted are correct as of the date these tour notes were originally issued but may change at any time due to currency fluctuations. Please note: These activities are booked and paid for direct with the supplier and do not form part of your Explore holiday contract.

From La Aldea de San Nicolas:

Fare to local beach (Puerto du Mogan) on local bus 1.40€ each way

Taxi fare to local beach €6 (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 on the beach €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

We recommend you bring walking boots with ankle support- leather or fabric are both fine. Make sure that your boots are worn-in and comfortable before the start of the trip. Also trainers or sandals for relaxing and general wear. We suggest that on international flights you either carry your walking boots in your hand luggage or wear them - should your luggage be lost or delayed, your own boots are the one thing that will be irreplaceable.

### 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 and a folding seat pad is also a good idea for picnic lunches!

## Tipping

### Explore leader

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

### 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 Explore Leader may organise a group's tips kitty and if this is the case, they will account for it throughout the trip. Accordingly, you should allow approximately £15 for tipping.

## 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	Dinner price	Beer price
£8.00 - 12.00	£16.00 - 20.00	£1.50 - 3.50 (depending on the region/area in Spain)



**Water price**

£1.4

**Foreign Exchange****Local currency      Recommended Currency For Exchange**

Euros

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.

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**Transport, Accommodation & Meals****Transport Information**

Bus, Public Bus

**Accommodation notes**

This two centre trip gives you the flexibility to unpack, get to know different areas of the island and the local people. The hotel in Aguimes has limited bedrooms and therefore depending on the number in the group, some travellers may be accommodated in their second facility which is around the corner. You will have use of the facilities at Hotel los Camellos and food will be served here.

Our hotel in La Adiea is more basic than in Aguimes, this is the only hotel available in this area and it is perfectly situated for hikes on that side of the island. You will also have the option to enjoy a delicious home cooked meal on the evening of day three.

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**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/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](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**

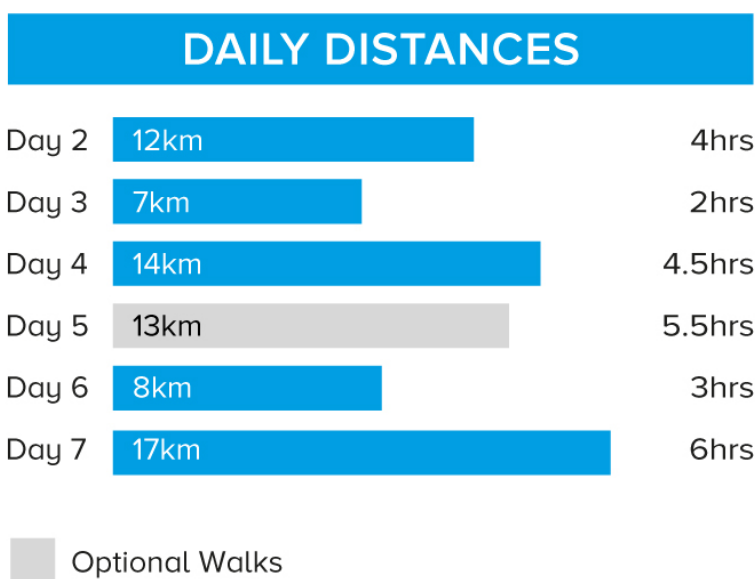
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### **Spain**

#### **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.

## Walking and Trekking information



### Walking grade




Moderate

### Trek details

Walks on 5 days for between 2 to 6 hours, along undulating, well-maintained trails. There is an optional more challenging walk on day 5 to Pico Castellet.

### Max walking altitude (m)

1949

 <p>AWARD WINNING EXPLORE LEADERS</p>	 <p>PRICE GUARANTEE PROMISE</p>	 <p>AIRPORT TRANSFERS</p>
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