

# Canary Islands: Part Three: Tenerife

By Lee Daley © 2015

## Tenerife

Largest and best-known of the islands, Tenerife is about more than beaches. Fine wines and cuisine, coastal and mountainous walking trails, colonial villages, locally grown produce, and a bustling capital draw visitors to this year-round vacation destination.

**Outdoor Explorations:** The snow-covered dome of Tiede, Spain's highest peak, rises majestically overhead. Surrounded by a moonscape of encrusted rock and vibrant volcanic colors, it is fabulous trekking territory. Dozens of trails, many of them carved out before the days of highways and autos, crisscross the terrain. Rather ride than walk? You can rise above it all with a cable car ride to the summit for an incredible panoramic view of the lunar landscape of Parque Nacional del Teide.



**Culture and Carnival:** Santa Cruz, Tenerife's busy capital, is synonymous in some minds with Carnival. For three or four weeks before Lent, the city becomes the backdrop for a frenzy of bacchanalian revelry. Year round Santa Cruz's vast flower-bedecked Plaza de Espana near the harbor pulsates with an urban buzz. Museums, art galleries, good shopping and lively nightlife keep the city humming into the evening hours.

**Village Paths:** Just outside the tranquil town of Garachico you can hike trails that follow the path of the lava flow of 1706. Be sure and spend a few hours back in the village with its well preserved architecture. You'll find tasty home-grown cuisine served with surprisingly good local wines

**Lodging:** Worth a stay of several nights, the Gran Melia Palacio de Isora Hotel is about a thirty minute drive from Tenerife's south airport. The resort accommodates families well with good activities for children but also caters to couples who are looking for a romantic getaway in a tranquil setting. Architecture is outstanding as is the sumptuous breakfast buffet. [www.gran-melia-palacio-de-isora.com](http://www.gran-melia-palacio-de-isora.com)

Visit the Canary Islands' web site: [www.canarias.es](http://www.canarias.es)

For the latest non-stop flights from the US to Tenerife, go to [Air Europa](http://AirEuropa.com).

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Watch for Part Four of my Canary Islands series covering the island of La Gomera.

**Quote of the day:** "Two of the greatest gifts we can give our children are roots and wings."--Hodding Carter

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