

LA GOMERA TO TANGIER

9 DAYS

Island hopping from a volcanic archipelago in the North Atlantic, facing the Western Sahara, to Morocco. From the tiny La Gomera, with its vast humid laurisilva forest, to Tangier, with views of Spain and Gibraltar across the ocean.

Itinerary: La Gomera Island—Tenerife/Gran Canaria—Lanzarote—Tangier

LA GOMERA
The second smallest island in the Canaries, Spain.

Known as the Isla Mágica (the magical island), La Gomera measures barely 20 kilometres from north to south, with an area of 369 square kilometres. An ecological treasure, its rugged coastline is dotted with small black-sand beaches set between cliffs. Its wild, mountainous landscape is packed with contrasts: from palm-filled valleys to huge canyons; from arid coastal areas with waters ideal for scuba diving, to fascinating forests, crammed with vegetation. Declared a Biosphere Reserve by UNESCO in 2012, La Gomera stands out mainly because of its exceptional landscape and the vast humid laurisilva forest in the Garajonay National Park, which boasts dense vegetation thanks to the “sea of clouds” (horizontal rain) effect. The landscape consists of a large network of ravines, intensely eroded by water, leading up to a central plateau, 1,000 metres above sea level. These ravines create spots of great beauty, such as the “Los Órganos” natural monument. On the island there is also native flora and fauna, such as the giant lizard of La Gomera.

HIGHLIGHTS
The Garajonay National Park’s tracks and trails in a UNESCO World Heritage prehistoric forest.

The *silbo* tradition (UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity, 2009). A system of communication, unique to the island, whereby syllables are spelled out by whistling. The islanders used this form of communication for centuries on account of the rugged territory. It allowed

simple messages to be sent across gorges, overcoming distances and the complications of the local terrain.

Extra favourites
The delicious local cuisine, with stews, soft cheeses and honey extracted from palm trees; Playa de Santiago; Hermigua; Chipude; Valle Gran Rey; San Sebastián de la Gomera; Agulo.
How to get there
Flights to Tenerife and Gran Canaria. Daily boat and ferry services to/from Tenerife.

TANGIER
In the north of Morocco, on the coasts of Tangier where the Mediterranean and Atlantic waters converge.

PLACES TO VISIT
Cinéma Rif. The Cinémathèque de Tanger (CDT) has the mission of developing film culture in Morocco. It was created in February 2007 on the initiative of French producer Cyriac Auriol, Tangier photographer Yto Barrada, and Moroccan director and producer Latif Lahlou. The cinematheque is part of the NAAS network (Network of Arab Arthouse Screens), which brings together the various independent movie theatres in the Arab world. Tangier American Legation Museum, US National Historic Landmark. Musée la Kasbah des cultures méditerranéennes de Tanger. Some historians have maintained that throughout recorded history a fortress has existed on or near the site, certainly since Portuguese rule (1471–1661). An inscription in the interior attributes the current structure to Pasha

Ahmed Ben Ali al-Rifi in 1151 AH (1737). The palace complex includes a treasury, a prison, a mosque and multiple residential structures. Restorations were carried out in 1889 when Hassan I visited Tangier after making it the diplomatic capital and the residence of European diplomats. In 1922 the main palace became a museum, a function it still has today. In recent years the complex was renovated again, reopening to the public in 2016. An adjoining building, Dar Chorfa, currently houses the archaeological museum. *archnet.org*

Umberto Pasti’s Moroccan hillside garden. A carefully cultivated mass of indigenous plants he has saved from extinction.

WHERE TO EAT AND SHOP
Le Saveur de Poisson Restaurant
Café Tinjis
Grand Café de Paris
Ray Charly Snack
Café Baba
Main Food Market
Librairie des Colonnes Bookstore
Casa Barata
Boutique Maji
Bazar Tindouf

WHERE TO STAY
Lalla Yenou. Set within two acres of wild gardens, Lalla Yenou (“Princess of the Spring”) sits atop a hill overlooking Tangier. A short taxi ride to the Medina and a 15-minute drive to the Atlantic Ocean, the villa is situated in the tranquil neighbourhood of J’maa Mokr. Privately owned villa with pool by Sarah Rose Wheeler, available to rent. Aux Trois Portes
Hotel El Minzah
Hotel Continental (Dar Baroud)

