EU Sky Route
star tourism

Tenerife

Tenerife SPET Volcanos and Stars
Explore the majesty of volcanos and the stars on this SkyRoute tour of Tenerife. This distinctive isle provides a breath-taking backdrop for your sky studies with unrivalled views of the planets and stars atop Spain’s highest peaks. Your tour explores the Starlight-certified El Teide and the Summits of Tenerife, internationally accredited spaces for stargazing.

Take a cable car or walk to the world’s third highest volcano and enjoy a mix of activities across the island embracing and celebrating the stars, Tenerife’s distinctive landscape and its astrophysical expertise. Stroll through lava-sculpted channels and use professional stargazing equipment showcased at the world’s biggest solar observatory, the Canaries Institute of Astrophysics.

Witness sunsets from a mountain cable car over the highest peak in Spain and explore the interactive exhibits at the Museum of Science and the Cosmos.

Discover distinctive La Laguna, a World Heritage City steeped in culture and fascinating folklore and explore historic La Orotava. Then take a tour through the culture, well preserved Canaries dwellings dating back to the 18th and 19th centuries.

Explore Tenerife’s distinctive landscape, from the volcanic scenery and trails running through Teide National Park to pretty Teno Rural Park. You could even swim in one of the natural volcanic pools running along the island, enjoying the crystal-clear waters set against Tenerife’s dramatic design.
Explore the majesty of volcanos and the stars on this unforgettable SkyRoute tour of Tenerife. This distinctive, thrilling Isle provides a breath-taking backdrop for your sky studies as you enjoy unrivalled views of the planets and stars atop Spain’s highest peaks and Europe’s most dramatic landscapes. Your tour explores the Star-light-certified El Teide and the Summits of Tenerife, internationally accredited privileged spaces for stargazing.

**Astronomical delights**

**Stargazing from 2,000 metres**
Tenerife’s Mount Teide is Spain’s highest peaks and offers an unrivalled view of the clear and high-quality astronomical sky. Watch the stars, the moon and other planets from the island’s most prestigious – and serene – perch amidst the most dramatic volcanic backdrop.

**Astrovolcanic Routes**
Take a tour through Tenerife’s lava-sculpted channels, created by nature but long regarded by man as premium locations for surveying the sky. At seven key scenic points on the route are educational information panels giving you an insight into Tenerife’s intrinsic link between volcanology and astronomy. They are designed to draw parallels between the landscape of the national park to other places in the galaxy.

**Canaries Institute of Astrophysics**
This solar observatory, established back in 1975, is the world’s biggest, with a vast number of solar and nocturnal telescopes and the involvement of 19 countries. The telescopes, installed on the peaks of the Teide make the most of the area’s privileged atmospheric conditions – ideal for stargazing.

**Sunset from the summit**
Marvel at the beautiful sunset cast over the highest peak in Spain from either a viewing point at the upper cable car station or from the Chío viewing point. Atmospheric conditions permitting, you will be able to make out all of the islands in the province of Santa Cruz de Tenerife. Use the professional telescopes and the wisdom of the tour guides to watch the furthermost constellations and planets such as Saturn.
Museum of Science and the Cosmos
Discover technical and scientific achievements through interactive exhibits at the Museum of Science and the Cosmos. Unsurprisingly given its location, the museum explores astrophysics and other sciences and also houses a radio telescope, an astronomical observatory and a sundial. There is a permanent exhibition on the universe, an astronomy room with models of the Gran Telescopio CANARIAS and the Teide and El Roque de los Muchachos observatories.

Stargazing at Vilaflor
Vilaflor is ideally situated for stargazing, serenely sheltered by the Teide Corona Forestal and the National Park. Stay for the ‘supper surrounded by science and magic’ to learn how to identify planets like Saturn and Mars, how to find your bearings from the stars, identify constellations and learn about the mythology surrounding the stars.

Memorable sites

Learn about La Laguna
Take a guided tour around La Laguna, a World Heritage City and one of Tenerife’s key attractions. Wander through one of the island’s oldest historic quarters and visit the city’s monuments. La Laguna was awarded its UNESCO World Heritage Site status primarily due to its distinctive urban structure – the same style as that developed in Latin America during colonisation laid out in a distinctive square shape. The city is also home to a number of prominent buildings, including the Santa Catalina de Siena convent, the old convent of San Agustin and the Real Santuario del Cristo church, harbouring great cultural interest and fascinating folklore.

Around La Orotava
Discover La Orotava, taking a tour of the historic quarter and the prominent Las Alforbras museum. You will also visit the Telesforo Bravo visitor’s centre (from the Sea to the Sky).

Endless landscapes

Trait to the Teide
Take an excursion along some of the trails that run through the Teide National Park, one of the largest and oldest in the Canaries. Marvel at the volcanic scenery, sculpted by cinder cones and lava flows to produce the most extraordinary colours and shapes. The unique landscape is home to a great biodiversity, with exclusive species of invertebrates – most notable the Teide Spider – and native plants including the Teide violet.

Route of the traditions
Although Tenerife is best known for its dramatic volcanic landscape, there are areas of great traditional beauty here too. Pretty Teno Rural Park is a geographically isolated place of ecological, scenic and cultural interest that sums up the island’s heritage. This tour investigates the area’s native birdlife and variety of landscapes as well as demonstrating old village traditions like making roof tiles and the traditional folk sport of ‘shepherd’s leap’: how Tenerife natives used to negotiate ravines and steep embankments using long, pointed wooden poles.
Volcanic pools
The unique way in which Tenerife was formed has created a series of pools along the coast of the island. Spots like Charco de la Laja in San Juan de la Rambla, Charco del Viento in La Guacha or Caletón in Garachico offer tranquil swimming in crystal-clear water.

Your Tenerife SkyRoute - Itinerary

Day 1 – Dreaming on high

Experience the contrasting thrills and serenity of sleeping at one of the highest points in Spain

- Stargazing from Teide National Park (World Heritage) or Vilaflor the highest points of Spain.

Choose the selection of companies that provide this activity at:
www.webtenerife.com o www.asociaciondeguiasstarlightdecanarias.org

Day 2 - Explore other worlds

Immerse yourself in surprising lunar landscapes and distant planets, without leaving Tenerife!

- Following astrovolcanic routes through seven prominent landmarks.

  - Volcanoes, water and life (Los Azulejos)
  - Eruptions in the solar system (Mirador de Boca Tauce)
  - Landscapes from another planet (Minas de San José)
  - Time line of the volcanoes and the universe (Mirador del Tabonal Negro)
  - Volcanoes in the solar system (Mirador Zapato de la Reina)
  - Where are the volcanoes on the Moon (Mirador de los Roques de García)

- Trail to the Teide National Park

Organise your visit on your own or accompanied by one of the park specialist guides or companies that can enrich your experience. Check the different options for doing the activity, according to your preferences, at www.webtenerife.com.
Day 3 - A spectacular window onto the Cosmos

Gazing at the stars from the Island is a privilege: become an astrophysicist for a day

- Visit to the Canaries Institute of Astrophysics, the biggest solar observatory in the world.
  The active tourism company Volcano Life Experience organises guided tours here:
  www.volcanolifeexperience.com

- Excursion to the Teide National Park
  Trails available at:
  www.parquesnacionalesdecanarias.com/es/Teide/InfraestructuraServicios/RutasItinerarios.html

Organise your visit on your own or accompanied by one of the specialist guides or companies that can enrich your experience. Check the different options for doing the activity, according to your preferences at www.webtenerife.com

- Sunset and stargazing from the highest peak in Spain with cocktail dinner.
  Enjoy the activity with Volcano Life Experience at: www.volcanolifeexperience.com

Day 4 - A stroll through the heavens?

A magical journey awaits you in the city of La Laguna, inspired by the mysterious design of the stars

- Guided tour of La Laguna, world heritage city

You can visit it alone and/or take a guided tour organised by the tourist information office or any company that provides guided tours at: www.webtenerife.com

- Tour of the Museum of Science and the Cosmos

Day 5 - Port of call for illustrious travellers

Tenerife has long been an attraction and source of amazement for famous travellers... now you can follow in their footsteps

- La Orotava dramatised tour (On request)
- Las Alfonbras museum and tour of the historic quarter
- Visit to the Telesforo Bravo visitor centre
- Pinolere Ethnographic Park and Museum (check opening times)
- Puerto de la Cruz

Organise your visit to La Orotava on your own or accompanied by one of the specialist guides or companies that can enrich your experience. Check the different options for doing the activity, according to your preferences at www.webtenerife.com
Day 6 - Tenerife through the 5 senses

The Island is a treasure trove of deep-rooted traditions combined with stunning scenery and wildlife

- Teno Rural Park ‘Route of Traditions’
  Enjoy the experience with El Cardón Nature Experience: www.elcardon.com

- Swimming in volcanic pools

Day 7 - And so many more stars to discover!

Tenerife boasts an infinite array of attractions, both in the heavens and on the land... are you ready to discover them?

1. Cueva del Viento.- The darkness of the depths

In Icod de los Vinos, in the north-east of Tenerife, lies La Cueva del Viento-Sobrado. The largest lava tube in all of Europe and the 5th largest in the world, it stretches for over 17 kilometres and has many underground passages. Cueva del Viento (Cave of the Wind) was formed by lava flows from Pico Viejo, a volcanic cone near Mount Teide. A lava tube is a cavity that forms inside lava flows.

The route begins at the Visitors’ Centre, where a vehicle takes you close to the entrance, which you reach along an old footpath.

At the Visitors’ Centre, and inside the lava tube, bilingual information panels tell you all about the lava formations and the wildlife that inhabits them.

This visit is of moderate difficulty and lasts two hours.

You are inside the cave itself for around 45 minutes.

More information at: www.cuevadelviento.net

2. Cetaceans.- For various reasons, whales and dolphins have made their home in our coastal waters: the abundant supply of food; the calm waters, sheltered from the trade winds by the mountainous island; the superb climate and the quality of the crystal-clear water. This makes Tenerife a perfect place for watching whales and dolphins, as whole colonies live here throughout the year. They swim close to the shore, making Tenerife the number one spot in Europe for watching cetaceans in the wild. Find information to enjoy the experience at: www.webtenerife.com

3. Hiking (Laurel forest).- All is magical and beautiful

The laurel forests date back some 65 million years and today provide some of the island’s most spectacular scenery. They can be found in several places on Tenerife, including Anaga Rural Park, home to many hiking trails.

They create an enchanted forest: gnarled and twisted trunks covered by lichen and moss, giant ferns emerging from the mist...
4. Gastronomy and Wineries.- Tenerife boasts three restaurants that have been awarded a total of 4 Michelin stars... stars of the gourmet kind

A true island of surprising delights, Tenerife offers authentic cuisine blessed with an array of intoxicating flavours, varying from coriander-based sauces to red hot pepper-infused cheese. Several dishes originally created by indigenous people on the island have marked Tenerife’s cuisine, which has evolved into a blend of traditional cooking and innovative culinary creations. Simple yet delicious, traditional dishes are characterised by their simplicity, quality and freshness of locally-produced ingredients such as potatoes, tomatoes or bananas.

The island’s year round spring climate and fertile land is well suited to the vegetable crops, vineyards, banana plantations and almond trees which have covered slopes, plains and mountainous areas with a picturesque natural tapestry, providing an ideal base for cuisine. The quality and variety of the wine produced on Tenerife for over four centuries make them a perfect complement to any of the island's culinary delights. Their volcanic and Atlantic pedigree creates some truly unique wines.

Choose from the wide gastronomic offer of the island at: www.webtenerife.com

5. Five-star bathing (Blue Flag Beaches)

Enjoy over 70 km of fabulous beaches with sands of all colours, along 400 km of coastline. The beaches of Tenerife are some of the finest in the Canary Islands and many have been awarded the Blue Flag for the quality of their waters.

Find your ideal beach at: www.webtenerife.com