



If you want to enjoy the landscapes of Tenerife, you have to see them.

A selection of the best vantage points that you must see...



### Information of usefulness

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 National Police: 091  
 Local Police: 092  
 Civil Guard: 062

**Public transport:**  
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 Local Weather forecast: 922 213 222

**Museums:**  
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 Museum of History and Anthropology of Tenerife: 922 825 949  
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 Municipal Museum of Fine Arts of Santa Cruz de Tfe.: 922 244 358  
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 922 572 535

**Pinolere Ethnographic Museum:**  
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 Parque Nacional del Teide: 922 290 129 / 922 290 183  
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**Agua García Heritage Information Centre:**  
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**1**

**Mirador de El Bailadero**  
 TF-123 P.K. 0,200. Santa Cruz de Tenerife

**P** El Bailadero vantage point is a balcony over the fertile valley of Taganana, hemmed in by an arc of jagged peaks. The village of Taganana spills over the lower slopes among cultivated lands and vineyards, a reminder of the former prosperity brought by the wine trade with Europe.

**2**

**Mirador del Pico del Inglés**  
 TF-114 P.K.0,144. Santa Cruz de Tenerife

**P** Pico del Inglés vantage point is surrounded by the *monteverde* or broadleaf evergreen forests of Anaga Rural Park. Here you can enjoy spectacular views of the Tahodio's ravine, its reservoir at the bottom, and behind you Afur's ravine. Beyond, you can make out Santa Cruz and La Laguna, the seacoast of Valle de Güimar and Pedro Gil ridge, with Mt. Teide in the distance.

**3**

**Mirador de La Cruz del Carmen**  
 TF-12 P.K. 23. San Cristóbal de La Laguna

**P** Engulfed by the laurisilva or laurel forest of Anaga Rural Park, this vantage point affords spectacular views over the meadowlands of San Cristóbal de La Laguna, a world heritage site. In the background, the hilltops of Pedro Gil ridge, crowned by the solemn presence of Mt. Teide. Pay a visit to Mesa Mota, a natural lookout point, for a bird's eye view of the historical layout of the streets of La Laguna.

**8**

**Mirador de San Pedro**  
 TF-5 P.K. 41. Los Realejos

**P** This is an ideal spot to enjoy sweeping views of the north coast and the Rambla de Castro Protected Landscape. Palm trees envelope the tall-tale signs of human action down the centuries, including the banana plantations and the Castro family estate, La Gordejuela water elevator, the chapel or ermita de San Pedro and San Fernando fort.

**12**

**Mirador de Mazapé**  
 TF-351 P.K.1. San Juan de La Rambla

**P** From here a splendid view of Tenerife's north coast unfolds before your eyes from Isla Baja de Daute to the Acentejo coastline. Three protected natural areas vie with each other to offer the best vistas: Los Acanillados de La Culata Protected Landscape, Barranco de Ruiz Site of Scientific Interest and Campeches, Tgaiga y Ruiz Protected Landscape.

**15**

**Mirador de Altos de Baracán**  
 TF-436 P.K. 12. Buenavista del Norte

**P** This vantage point is located on the line that separates the wet and dry sides of the island. Its strategic position allows you to take in the green north-facing valley of El Palmar, and the cavernous ravines facing south. If you decide to pay a visit, you will be rewarded with the two faces of Teno Rural Park, in the westernmost tip of Tenerife.

**16**

**Mirador de La Cruz de Hilda**  
 TF-436 P.K. 14. Buenavista del Norte

**P** From La Cruz de Hilda you can catch sight of the hamlet of Masca, located at the head of the ravine of the same name. This tiny settlement is highly representative of those found in the ancient massif of Teno. Cast your eye around and take in the cultivated terraces, palm tree groves, and expanses of broom and Canary Spurge colonizing the now abandoned vegetable plots higher up the hillside.

**18**

**Mirador de Archipenque**  
 TF-454 P.K. 5. Santiago del Teide

**P** This vantage point offers an incomparable view. The ridges of Nifa, Guergues and Abache, in the southwest corner of Teno Rural Park, are transformed into impressive coastal escarpments that tower up to 500 m above the calm waters of the western side of the island. In the foreground, the sports marina and residential areas at Los Gigantes complete the postcard-pictorial view of this tourist resort. In the background, Teno Point signals the end of the island at its northwest tip.

**19**

**Mirador de Chirche**  
 TF-38 P.K. 24. Guía de Isora

**P** This vantage point provides a panoramic view of the seacoast and treeline areas of Guía de Isora, including several gems of the island's natural and rural heritage. The hamlets of Chirche and Aripe are the essence of this Protected Area of Cultural Interest. In the distance, soaring above the landscape, is Montaña de Tejina Natural Monument, an ancient volcanic dome that presides over the borough of Guía de Isora.

**20**

**Mirador de La Centinela**  
 TF-28 P.K.85. San Miguel de Abona

**P** From La Centinela vantage point you can take in a landscape that includes waterside settlements and the shoreline of south Tenerife. The entire scene is dotted with volcanic structures such as Montaña Roja Special Natural Reserve, Montaña de Guaza Natural Monument and the Malpais de Rasca Special Natural Reserve. Crops cultivated under plastic and vegetation, which is gradually creeping over the abandoned fields, lend a final descriptive flourish to the area.

**23**

**Mirador de Los Campitos**  
 TF-111 P.K. 2. Santa Cruz de Tenerife

**P** The port and city of Santa Cruz de Tenerife monopolise the view from this vantage point. The metropolis that lays before you extends from the limits of Anaga Rural Park, progresses slowly southwest, where most urban development is centred, and continues up the mountainside to the borough of San Cristóbal de La Laguna.

**24**

**Mirador de Montaña Grande**  
 TF-24 P.K.11. El Rosario

**P** Engulfed by a dense pine forest within Las Lagunetas Protected Landscape, the scenery from Montaña Grande vantage point encompasses the cities of Santa Cruz and La Laguna. From here, you can witness the urban sprawl advancing on the treeline or mid-altitude areas of the town of El Rosario. An agricultural landscape still prevails and serves as a buffer zone between the city and the pine forests of Corona Forestal Natural Park.

**25**

**Mirador de Ortuño**  
 TF-24 P.K.19. La Victoria de Acentejo

**P** Ortuño vantage point is located inside Corona Forestal Natural Park, and on fine days, affords wonderful views of Valle de La Orotava from summit to sea. The valley is densely populated, with most urban development clustering around La Orotava and Puerto de La Cruz. The green mantle of the pine forests stretches right up to the foothills of Mt. Teide, where it is replaced by bare ochre slopes.

**26**

**Mirador de Chivisaya**  
 TF-523 P.K.10. Candelaria

**P** This vantage point offers you a complete view of Valle de Güimar. The towns of Arafo, Candelaria and Güimar are girdled by former farming plots and modern greenhouses. The region's natural value is endorsed by three protected natural areas: Malpais de Güimar Special Natural Reserve, Las Siete Lomas Protected Landscape, and Corona Forestal Natural Park.

**28**

**Mirador de Cumbres del Sur o Chimague**  
 TF-24 P.K.26. Arafo

**P** Chimague vantage point is located in the hills of Arafo, from where you can enjoy a spectacular view of Valle de Güimar and the dense pine groves of Corona Forestal Natural Park. On a clear day, you can catch a glimpse of the island of Gran Canaria on the horizon. This panoramic view is greatly enhanced by the array of colours produced by the shadows of clouds gliding over the sea.

**29**

**Mirador de Cumbres del Norte o Chipeque**  
 TF-24 P.K.26. Santa Ursula

**P** The sea of clouds permitting, from Chipeque vantage point you can admire panoramic views of Valle de La Orotava and its towns and villages. Presiding over the scene is Mt. Teide. In the background, the blurry massif of Teno and on the horizon, you can make out the island of La Palma, engulfed by the sea of clouds.

**31**

**Mirador de La Crucita**  
 TF-24 P.K.30. Arafo

**P** This vantage point forms a natural balcony over La Caldera de Pedro Gil and Las Arenas or Arafo volcano, which last erupted in 1705. Further down, the landscape of Valle de Güimar unfolds, often concealed by the sea of clouds, and, in the distance, the outline of Gran Canaria.

**32**

**Mirador de La Tarta**  
 TF-24 P.K.31. La Orotava

**P** This vantage point, located near one of the main entrances to Teide National Park, provides you with excellent close-ups of Tenerife's highest peaks, with Mt. Teide itself soaring in the background. Below, the dense pine forests of Corona Forestal Natural Park and further down the broad valley of La Orotava. Most of the year, however, the valley is hidden under a thick sea of clouds, whipped up by the trade winds, a spectacle that is well worth seeing.

**39**

**Mirador Roques de García**  
 TF-24 P.K.46. La Orotava

**P** This vantage points offers panoramic vistas of Llano de Ucanca and the southern wall of the bowl-shaped hollow of Las Cañadas. Lined up along one side of the vantage point are the Roques de García, the rocky remains of an ancient wall that separated the two sides of the enormous caldera that is Las Cañadas. The peculiar forms sculpted by erosion are known as Roque Cinchado, La Catedral, and La Cascada.

**43**

**Mirador de Boca Tauce**  
 TF-21 P.K.52. Guía de Isora

**P** From Boca Tauce vantage point, Pico Viejo steals the limelight from Mt. Teide. The black lava flows of the last eruption in 1798 intermingle with the browns and ochres of other volcanic materials. Broom adds a splash of green to this apparently arid landscape.

# If you want to enjoy the landscapes of Tenerife, you have to see them.

Beaches, cliffs, volcanoes, valleys, towns and villages, forests and peaks. More than 40 vantage points for you to see all the landscapes of Tenerife.

The island is an interwoven puzzle of culture and nature. A variety of geological forms, climatic idiosyncrasies and differences in altitude have given rise to a medley of ecosystems, with a rich diversity of animal and plant species. 43 protected natural areas, stretching over almost half of the island, testify to this natural wealth.

Added to these natural values are the culture and history of an island that has been and still is a crossroads between Africa, Europe and America. One result of this cultural hotpotch has been the denomination of several areas as Places of Cultural Interest, the cultural equivalent to Protected Natural Areas.

Tenerife, then, embraces a thousand and one landscapes. The sheer rocky coastline of the north contrasts sharply with the undulating beaches of the south. If you venture into the mid-altitude area, just below the treeline, you will come across terrace-covered hillsides spread around farmsteads and villages. The larger towns are also steeped in centuries-old island history and the to-ing and fro-ing of people and goods on both sides of the Atlantic. Higher up, green pine groves and laurel forests that provide shelter for a rich diversity of wildlife unfold before your eyes. Still higher, above 2,000 metres of altitude, the peaks are untouched by the sea of clouds, formed by the trade winds; under a burning sun and whipped by winds, in the coldest winters they are blanketed in snow. All these landscapes contain proof of ancient and recent vulcanism, but if there is one place where geology becomes particularly important it is without a doubt Mount Teide National Park. Here successive volcanic eruptions have spattered the landscape with a wide range of colours and textures.

If you spend some time travelling around the island, the numerous vantage points you will find dotted along the roads are a good way of getting a glimpse of Tenerife's varied scenery.

## Volcanoes and malpaíses or badlands

You will find evidence of Tenerife's volcanic origins in every landscape you see from the cliffs to the highest peaks. The most obvious signs are the ancient volcanic cones sprinkled all over the island along with the reddish black spoldges of the badlands. These 'rivers' or 'lakes' of petrified rock give the appearance of arid deserts, although they sustain a rich biodiversity. A good example of this type of landscape is Chinyero, its lava flows and cones denoting the last volcanic eruption on the island in the early 20th century. On the south coast, the badlands of Güimar and Rasca are striking. All three malpaíses have been declared nature reserves.

But the finest examples of geological singularities are to be found inside Mount Teide National Park, where volcanic cones and lava flows have created a wide palette of colours and whimsical shapes. Towering above is the imposing presence of Mt. Teide, Spain's highest peak. UNESCO has acknowledged the natural values of this national park by declaring it a world heritage site. An obligatory stopping point is Los Roques de García, statue-like rocks from where you can see the most famous view of Mt. Teide, with Roque Cinchado in the foreground.

## Cities between Europe and America



Throughout their history, the Canary Islands have been an obligatory stopover on routes between Europe and America. Tenerife has certainly been influenced by this, and the history of this continuous cultural and economic exchange is reflected in the streets and old quarters of several towns and cities. San Cristóbal de La Laguna is a case in point. The first capital of Tenerife, it served as a springboard to travellers to the New World. European merchants and entrepreneurs have left splendid mansions and a rich cultural legacy. The peculiar layout of the streets, in an orderly grid, broke away from the old urban models of medieval Europe; and the result was a new city from scratch, subject to the criteria of modern town planning. These values have led UNESCO to declare the city a world heritage site.

The vantage points of San Pedro and El Guincho offer distinctive perspectives of the town or Villa de Garachico, another centre of outstanding historical interest and once home to Tenerife's most important port. Other towns and cities worthy of the list include Puerto de la Cruz, and Villa de La Orotava. Declared Places of Cultural Interest in the Historical Buildings category, even today they evoke the memory of their role as intermediaries between Europe and America.



## Farming hamlets and villages at the treeline

The modern areas of Santa Cruz de Tenerife and San Cristóbal de La Laguna boast marvellous vantage points like Los Campitos and Jardina. But the panoramic views offered by many vantage points often take in other less populated areas, midway between a town and a city, but often important administrative and social centres. Here you will find all the services of the metropolises without forsaking the warm and friendly atmosphere of a small town.



The mid-altitude areas just below the treeline are dotted with villages and hamlets girdled by farming land that contain the essence of country life.

Traditional dwellings built of wood, stone, and clay provide shelter for the country folk. Set amidst rows of terraced plots, they cling to the hillside and are given over to subsistence farming.

Two fine examples of such hamlets are Chirche and Aripe, which can be viewed from Chirche vantage point in Guía de Isora. But they are not the only ones: Masca, within the confines of Teno Rural Park, and Icor, in Arico, are also considered living museums of country life. All these centres have been declared Places of Cultural Interest, in acknowledgement of their historical and heritage values.



## Ravines, valleys and ancient massifs, hallmarks of erosion

The entire surface of Tenerife is scored by ravines. Seen from a distance, they look like wrinkles on the skin of the island. But the massifs of Adeje, Anaga and Teno bear the deepest scars. No matter which of these areas, when you look down from any of their vantage points, such as Pico del Inglés or Altos de Baracán, you can't help feeling that the land has collapsed all around you.

First Adeje, then Anaga and finally Teno began to emerge from the ocean floor around ten million years ago and, since then rain, and wind have eroded the terrain, gradually carving out these mountainous plateaus. The result of this ongoing process is an uneven sheer profile covered in a dense network of ravines that wind their way down the slopes. Sometimes the ravines form deep V-shaped valleys when the gradient is sharp or U-shaped when it is less pronounced.

These rocky fortresses conceal true gems of flora and fauna. The ravine walls shelter the last redoubts of thermophilic woods, which formerly covered the mid-altitude areas of the islands. Meanwhile, the highest areas are carpeted in monteverde or broadleaf woodland, particularly in Anaga and Teno.



## Forests shrouded in mists and drenched by the sun

Mount Teide National Park is girdled by a wide band of land engulfed in the greens and browns of pine groves that cover the mountainside in the north and the south of the island. The Canary Pine reigns supreme, but a significant role is also played by smaller shrubs like cistus and laburnum. The pine groves are also blessed with their very own soundtrack. If you listen carefully, you may catch the birdsong of the blue chaffinch and the woodpecker. Aside from its natural importance, contemplating the pine groves is another way of admiring a part of Tenerife's history. Up until relatively recent times, life was closely linked to forest resources.

From the vantage points of Ortuño, Chimaque and Ayosa, you'll be able to appreciate the pine groves in all their beauty—on the north side, dense and intermingled with other tree species, and on the south side, more open and bare—.

As you descend towards the lower edges of the treeline, you'll discover another much wetter forest. Here, under the influence of the frequent mists brought by the trade winds, is hidden the monteverde or broadleaf woodland. Its origins date back to the Tertiary when this evergreen

forest surrounded the ancient Mediterranean Sea. Successive climate changes over millions of years gradually diminished the original forests, eventually confining them to the archipelagos of the Atlantic Macronesia.

In Tenerife, the forest survives in small strongholds in the heights of Anaga, Monte del Agua and Ladera de Tigaiaga. And they are home to a great variety of living beings, many of which are unique. The best vantage points for admiring the monteverde are those of Pico del Inglés, Cruz del Carmen, Balladero and La Corona.

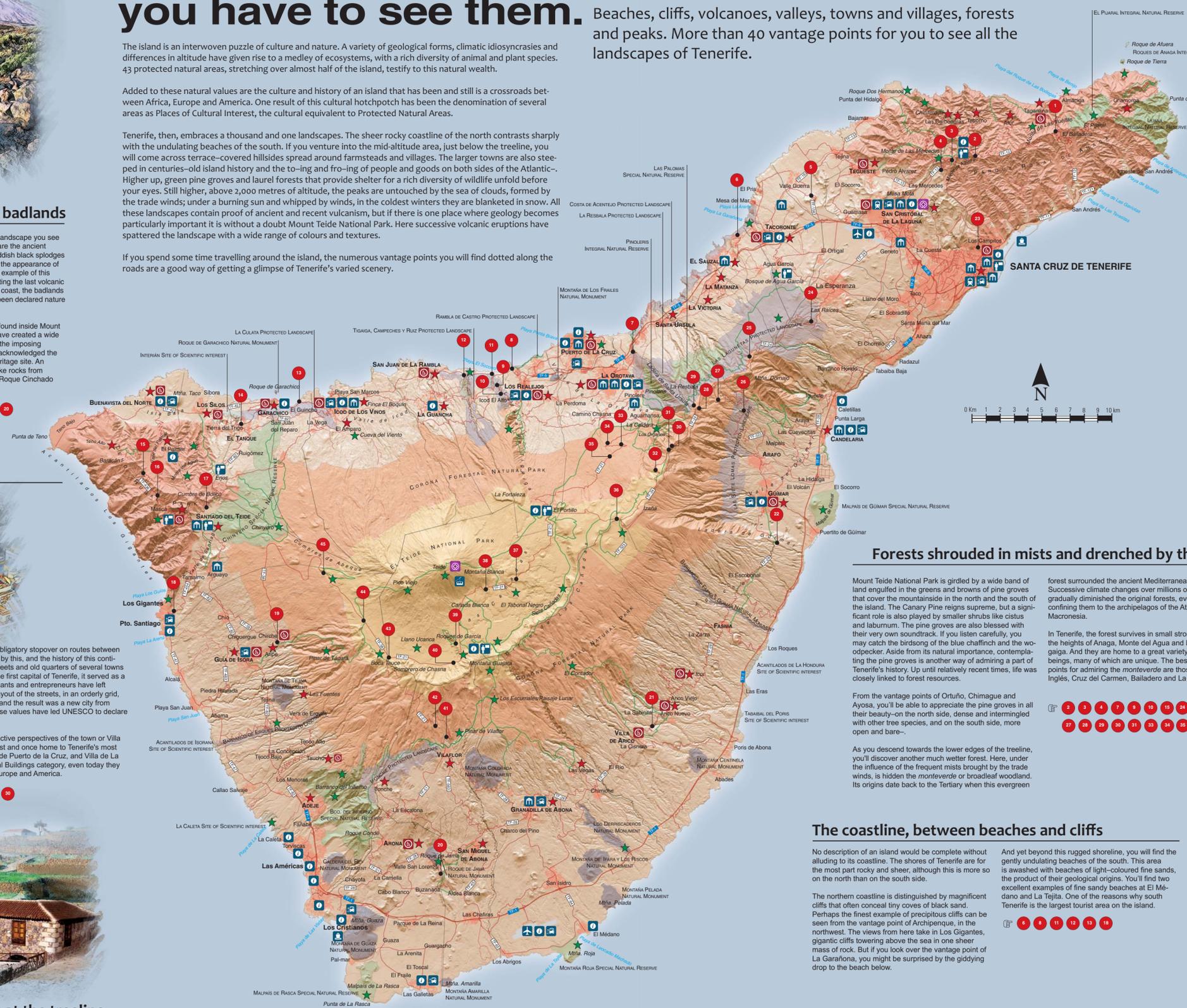


## The coastline, between beaches and cliffs

No description of an island would be complete without alluding to its coastline. The shores of Tenerife are for the most part rocky and sheer, although this is more so on the north than on the south side.

The northern coastline is distinguished by magnificent cliffs that often conceal tiny coves of black sand. Perhaps the finest example of precipitous cliffs can be seen from the vantage point of Archipenque, in the northwest. The views from here take in Los Gigantes, gigantic cliffs towering above the sea in one sheer mass of rock. But if you look over the vantage point of La Garañona, you might be surprised by the giddy drop to the beach below.

And yet beyond this rugged shoreline, you will find the gently undulating beaches of the south. This area is awashed with beaches of light-coloured fine sands, the product of their geological origins. You'll find two excellent examples of fine sandy beaches at El Médano and La Tejita. One of the reasons why south Tenerife is the largest tourist area on the island.



Legend			
1 El Balladero vantage point	11 El Lance vantage point	21 Santiago del Teide vantage point	31 Ortuño vantage point
2 Pico del Inglés vantage point	12 La Corona vantage point	22 Archipenque vantage point	32 Matanzas vantage point
3 La Cruz del Carmen vantage point	13 La Grímona vantage point	23 Chirche vantage point	33 Margarita de Piedra vantage point
4 Jardina vantage point	14 Mazapé vantage point	24 La Centinela vantage point	34 Boca Tauca vantage point
5 El Boquerón vantage point	15 El Guincho de Garachico vantage point	25 Polegre vantage point	35 Las Narices del Teide vantage point
6 La Garañona vantage point	16 Lomo Molino vantage point	26 Pájara vantage point	
7 Humboldt vantage point	17 Altos de Baracán vantage point	27 Los Campitos vantage point	
8 San Pedro vantage point	18 La Cruz de Hilda vantage point	28 Montaña Grande vantage point	
			36 Vista a La Palma vantage point
			37 Los Pinos Viejos vantage point
			38 Lomo de Topo Negro vantage point
			39 Chimaque vantage point
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			44 Llano de Ucanca vantage point
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Tenerife has a specially designed network of trails or hiking paths for you to discover the island's landscapes in a different way. For further information, please visit Infoturismo Tenerife.