

Puerto de la Cruz



Routes



Excmo. Ayuntamiento
del Puerto de la Cruz



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1 City Centre Route

This route starts in Plaza Viera y Clavijo, a recently restored historic garden. We go down Avenida Aguilar y Quesada passing the Piramides de Martiane Shopping Centre, after which we come to the cliffs of the same name, where fossils of animals of the Tertiary Age and the early Quaternary Age have been found, and some caves that were used by the Guanches, the original settlers of the islands.

At the end of the path, we come to Playa Martiane and Avenida de Colon, with the Costa Martiane Tourist Complex, one of the most significant leisure facilities of the island, the work of Lanzarote artist Cesar Manrique.

Seven sea water swimming pools (one of which is heated), a large artificial lake and an open air Jacuzzi with spectacular lighting that has won international recognition.

The Puerto de la Cruz Casino is on the central island, under the water, with a magnificent restaurant where you can enjoy both traditional Canary Island and international cuisine and a magic environment.

After leaving Avenida de Colon, we come to Plaza Reyes Catolicos and the Church of San Telmo (1780). Next to the church is the San Telmo beach, a small wharf surrounded by natural pools that is a traditional bathing spot for the people of Puerto de la Cruz.

At the end of the sea front path, we come to the "Punta del Viento" look out.

Going down Calle Santo Domingo, we reach Plaza de Europa, with two interesting buildings: The Town Hall and the Casa Miranda, which is now a restaurant and was the birth place of one of the leaders of the independence of Venezuela, Francisco Miranda.

Continuing along Calle de Las Lonjas to the fishing wharf, we come to the Casa de la Real Aduana (Royal Customs House), a magnificent example of 17th century civil architecture that is currently used as an exhibition hall and the Tourist Information Offices.

The docks were the most important port in Tenerife in the 17th and 18th centuries, which is why King Felipe IV granted it the title of "Llave de la Isla" ("Key to the Island) in 1648.

In the distance, we can see Plaza del Charco, which owes its name to the fact that there used to be a "charco", or pool of sea water that formed in the middle of the square. It still conserves the central fountain and a yam tree.

Going up Calle Blanco, we turn left up Calle Iriarte, which will take us to Plaza Concejil, surrounded by interesting examples of traditional Canary Island architecture, like the house where writer Tomas de Iriarte was born, and the Casa de Los Agustinos with the Torreón de Ventoso (18th century), the largest of its kind remaining in the Canary Islands.

Continuing along Calle San Juan, we approach the Church of San Francisco and the Church of San Juan, where there is a major collection of artistic heritage, including works of different styles from the 15th century to modern times.

Calle Quintana takes us to the Church of Nuestra Señora de la Peña de Francia, which guards the most worshipped figures for the people of Puerto de la Cruz, El Señor del Gran Poder de Dios (anonymous from the 17th-18th century) and the Virgin del Carmen, by Puerto de la Cruz artist, Angel Acosta. Inside, we will find a Saint Patrick's chapel from the Emerald Isle, a clear sign of the importance of the Irish families that came to Puerto de la Cruz.



2 The Fishermen's District Route

This route starts in the entrance courtyard to the archaeological museum in Calle del Lomo, in the neighbourhood of La Ranilla.

This area was not inhabited until 1635, as there used to be five defensive trenches situated close to the coast. It later became a humble neighbourhood of fishermen living in single storey houses, most of which were built in the 18th century.

The archaeology museum was opened in 1991 and it contains one of the largest cultural collections of the city, including the ceramic jars that are the best and most representative example of aboriginal pottery on the Island and the mummified remains of Guanches (the original inhabitants of the Canary Islands).

Continuing along the parallel Calle Mequinez away from the fishing wharf, we come to the Peñon del Fraile (Monk's Rock), which is named after Brother Juan de Jesus (1615-1687), a hermit that chose this high rock for his prayers.

To the right of the Peñon is the English cemetery, commonly known as "la Chercha" (from "Church Yard" in English), another example of the importance of the British community in Puerto de la Cruz.

Walking along the Luis Lavaggi walk, we come to San Felipe Castle. This fortress is the most important defensive military bastion of the city. It was built in the mid 17th century to defend ships seeking refuge in the harbour. It is currently used as a cultural venue where exhibitions, concerts, lectures, etc. are held.

To one side, we start to catch a glimpse of "Playa Jardín", an attractive and spacious bathing area of 1 km that stretches from San Felipe Castle to the district of Punta Brava. This is a selection of beaches that are protected by a semi-submerged bar and includes some 17,000 square metres of gardens. This project is the work of Lanzarote architect, Cesar Manrique, divided into three different stretches: Playa del Castillo, Playa del Charcon and Playa de Punta Brava, and it also includes bars, restaurants and paths with benches for taking a rest.



3 El Botanico Route

We start the route at La Paz Look Out, on the Martiánez Cliffs, from where you can see much of the North Coast. This was a vital observation post and look out for the native settlers that lived here, as the shoreline was subject to the constant raids of slave traders.

After the look out, we come to the Church of San Amaro, built at the end of the 16th century. This is the oldest place of worship in the city. It was originally built to convert places of profound spiritual significance for the native population, like "Llano del Bailadero" and the "Ladera de Martiane" burial ground to Christianity.

Continuing along Calle Leopoldo Cologan Zulueta, we come to La Casa de los Cologan (The Cologan Mansion) (17th century), which still conserves its beautiful gardens and provides a living example of the influence of the Irish on the city.

From here, we continue along Calle Castaño and turn right to join Avenida del Marques de Villanueva del Prado. If we carry on up the avenue, we come to the Botanic Gardens, built in 1788 as an Acclimatisation Gardens with an exhibition area of 20,000 m² to acclimatise plants from the Tropics and enable them to flourish in Europe by becoming accustomed first to a transition temperature.

The Garden has major collections of tropical and sub-tropical plants of both financial and ornamental value and the variety of palms, bromeliaceae, araceae and moraceae are of special merit.

We then back track along the Avenida Marques de Villanueva del Prado to the Sitio Litre mansion, built in 1730 by Archibald Little. The mansion has the oldest gardens on the island. Here we can see an important collection of orchids and the largest and oldest dragon tree in Puerto de la Cruz.

We can also discover some of the experiences and works of illustrious people that have visited this famous garden, like Alexander Von Humboldt, explorer and botanist (1779), Doctor Wilde (1836), father of Oscar Wilde, Charles Piazzi Smyth (1856), British astronomer, Marianne North, botanist and painter (1875), many of the works she painted in this garden are in museums in London, and Agatha Christie, writer (1927).



4 Parque Taoro Route

The route starts at the Anglican Church, started in 1890 to meet the need for a church for the incipient British community, which was of great importance to the city.

The remains of a malpais, or volcanic badlands, stretches off to the left, where we can find the typical vegetation of the Canary Island basal strip (spurge, cactus spurge and aloe plants), together with a large variety of birds and reptiles that include unique endemic species.

Opposite this area, we find the International Conference Centre, surrounded by a spacious garden of lush, sub-tropical vegetation and a lovely pool with ducks, peacocks and other exotic birds.

To the right is the old Hotel Taoro, opened in 1890 and built to the plans of French architect Adolphe Coquet, with superb views over the sea to the north.

Many illustrious guests have stayed at this hotel, such as King Alfonso XIII, the Duke of York and later King of the United Kingdom, the Prince of Savoy and last king of Ilya, Kings Albert and Leopold of Belgium, Winston Churchill and Agatha Christie, who wrote her book "The Mystery of the Blue Train" here during her stay in 1927, and a chapter of another book, entitled "The enigmatic Mr. Quinn", set in Puerto de la Cruz.

To the right of the main façade is the Risco Bello Water Garden, with a collection of five hundred exotic, tropical and sub-tropical plants.

Going down towards Puerto de la Cruz, La Atalaya Garden is dotted with fountains and water courses, with a series of lakes and waterfalls with wooden bridges.

On the upper terrace of this garden, surrounded by an extensive palm grove, we can enjoy the views from the Dulce Maria Loynaz Look Out, named after the Cuban poetess who won the Cervantes Prize in 1992, and who fell in love with the city, writing: "The days in El Puerto fly by like the pages of a calendar in the sea breeze".

Turning left and continuing for about 50 metres, we come to The Hornos de Cal (Lime Kilns), built at the end of the 19th century that burned English coal brought by sailing ships to the docks at Puerto de la Cruz.



Routes in Puerto de la Cruz

1 City Centre route

Approx 2200 mts.

The longest route, "Town Quarters' Route", offers the most in-depth vision of the town's history, its origins and tourist development.



A walk around the eight kilometers of pedestrian streets will reveal some of the architectural jewels and monuments preserved in Puerto de la Cruz.

This leaflet suggests four walks that you can take at your own pace, enjoying the tranquility of the streets of a city backed by centuries of tourist tradition, which has managed to preserve its very essence, respect its traditions and share them with its visitors.

2 The Fishermen's District route

Approx 1200 mts.

In the centre you can also go on the "Fishermen's Neighbourhood Route" and learn the basics about the town's commercial activity.

3 El Botanico route

Approx 2000 mts.

The "Botanico Route" takes you closer to nature and to the first settlers in Puerto de la Cruz.

4 Parque Taoro route

Approx 990 mts.

The "Parque Taoro Route" shows the British influence on the town during the 19th Century.

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| Town Hall | Church, Chapel, Convent | Library | Petrol Station |
| Post Office | Cultural Interest | Theme Park | Port |
| Medical Centre | Sports Complex | Car Park | Lighthouse |
| Police Station | Municipal Market | Bus Station | Blue flag beach |
| Tourist Information | Shopping Centre | Taxi Rank | |

