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Gran Canaria: A Paradise In The Atlantic Ocean

Gran Canaria is synonymous of what you might expect from a beautiful holiday destination; translated as "great island", Gran Canaria is a wonderful microcosm of Spanish life. Located in the Atlantic Ocean, between Africa and Europe, Gran Canaria has over 800,000 residents, making it the second most populated of the Canary Islands, after Tenerife.

Records of life on this magnificent island began around 500 BC with the arrival of the Canarii; these early people named the island "The Land of The Brave", and they lived there for thousands of years until the Spanish conquests of the 15th Century brought an end to their reign. It was then that Gran Canaria, as we know it today, was born.

Gran Canaria is a volcanic island with a diameter of only 50 km but don't let its small size give you false perceptions. Gran Canaria offers a rich treasure trove of culture and historical landmarks, in addition to a variety of activities for holidaymakers to engage in.

One of the best aspects of the island, and one of the reasons it's possible to acquire [cheap holidays to Gran Canaria](#) for most of the year, is its pleasant climate. Average temperatures in the summer months are around 26 degrees C, however, this only falls to an average of 20 degrees C in the cold months, making it a perfect all-year destination. It is relatively rare for temperatures to drop below 10 degrees C on the island, even during the coldest nights of the middle of winter.

Although Gran Canaria has golden beaches and pleasant all-year temperatures, there are a large array of [cheap hotels](#) to stay in while you are there. Most visitors head towards the south of the island, where there is typically less rain and warmer temperatures, as well as beautiful beach areas such as Maspalomas, Playa del Ingles and Meloneras. From nearby Tarajalillo, you can take a plane to fly around this stunning island. If you prefer traveling on the ground, why not take a trip to Puerto de Mogan, which is referred to by many as "little Venice" due to the number of canals in this charming location.

Other attractions in the local area include an 80-metre high monolith called Roque Nublo and the magical area of Cenobio de Vlareon, which has a great array of coastal caves for the more adventurous explorers. If spelunking is a bit much for you, you can instead head out the more verdant botanical gardens in Tafira Alta and La Aldea de San Nicolas.

The geographical richness of the island is illustrated perfectly by landmarks such as El Dedo de Dios (God's Finger), El Cura and La Rana (The Frog). All three are remarkable natural landmarks and must-see areas of the Gran Canaria.

After exploring the tourist trail, you're going to be hungry at the end of the day. The beauty of Gran Canarian cuisine is that it shares many elements from both African and Spanish cultures to offer unique and delectable gastronomic joys. Thus, a cheap holiday to Gran Canaria will not only enable you to see some excellent sights but also please your palate!

Gran Canaria's cuisine is based around fresh fish, vegetables and fruit. You will surely want to treat yourself to restaurant food at some stage, but there are also several delightful local markets selling an assortment of fresh produce, so it's also possible to cater for yourself. Try the sea bream casserole along with some sumptuous "wrinkled" potatoes (patatas arrugadas) and one of the many local sauces that accompany such dishes so beautifully.

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