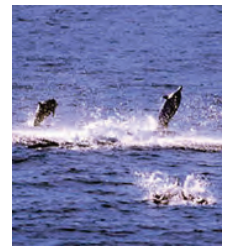


# Contrasts of Gran Canaria

Twin center upper  independent walking

- Dazzling ochre cliffs, forgotten white villages, plunging gorges, spectacular ocean views
- Totally undiscovered walking: sweeping plateaux, lush green valleys, wonderful ridge top trails
- Exclusive hotels: beautiful gardens, delightful pools, gorgeous rural settings
- Fantastic plants and wild flowers – many found nowhere else in the world; outstanding variety of birds and wildlife



Tourism to Gran Canaria is almost wholly concentrated around the buzzing beaches of the southern coast, with few visitors venturing into the island's mountainous interior. Those who do are rewarded with the most spectacular natural beauty: born of volcanoes and crafted by the elements, it's little wonder that nearly half of the island is protected in Nature Reserves.

On this independent twin-center walking holiday, you follow ancient *caminos reales* – centuries-old trading paths linking the mountains and the sea – through panoramic open rock plateaux, across lush green vineyards and down into secret valleys cloaked in the most amazing array of colorful wild flowers.

The first 4 nights of your holiday will be spent in the 9-room boutique-style Hotel Las Calas, nestled high in the heart of Gran Canaria's rugged mountains in the tiny hamlet of La Lechuza. Once a C17 manor house, it has been lovingly restored by owner Magui Carratala, and is now a delightful countryside inn furnished in traditional Spanish style and oozing African-Arab flair. The rooms are built around exotic Mediterranean gardens – almonds, lemons, oranges, palms – and meals, weather permitting, are taken on the pergola-shaded terrace by the pool.

You'll then drive north (rental car included) to the fertile valley of Arucas and the luxuriously elegant Hacienda del Buen Suceso. Beautifully positioned among 125+ hectares of banana trees, this colonial style finca dates to 1572 and is the oldest on the island. Each of its 18 rooms is exquisitely crafted, and the restaurant is in the converted stables and carriage yard. The island's coastal capital, Las Palmas, is just 15 minutes away.



## CONTRASTS OF GRAN CANARIA | DAY BY DAY

### Monday Arrive on Gran Canaria

It's just a 1hr drive (rental car included) to La Lechuza where you'll spend the next 4 nights.

### Tuesday The Valley and Volcanoes Walk 13km/8mi/5 hrs

Crunch through cinders along the rim of "Los Marteles" volcanic crater, before descending an original Guanche route lined with spiny agaves and euphorbia that cling to the steep valley side. Stop for lunch at a dramatic rock promontory with views down the barranco to the ocean. From the valley floor, your path ascends through sugar pink flowering almond terraces back to the crater rim.

### Wednesday Cruz del Saucillo Circular Walk 15km/9mi/6hrs

A steep trail lined with bright purple cistus and flowering Canarian laurel winds up from the hotel through moss green valleys, emerging below "Sailors' Cross Peak" - named after a group of lost mariners whose first sight of land this was. Enjoy a picnic with views of the eastern beaches, then descend via Roque del Saucillo to the sun-kissed whitewashed village of La Lechucilla passing perfect ranks of vibrant green vineyards. This evening, enjoy a drink on the open pool veranda under the stars.

### Thursday Roque Nublo Walk 14km/9mi/5hrs

Balanced high on a rock plateau at 1800m, this iconic 60m high rock monolith is a symbol of Gran Canaria. Views are stupendous, with snow-capped Mount Teide on Tenerife floating on the horizon. Descend past herds of goats into La Culata, a farming hamlet, for some *ropa vieja*, a tasty casserole of chickpea, beef and potato in the local café, before a panoramic Camino Real winds back past lavender and scented pines.

### Friday The Bandama Caldera 5km/3mi/2hrs

Perched high above the eastern coast, the Bandama Caldera provides a fascinating insight into the geological history of the entire island, and views are stupendous. Ornithologists should keep binoculars handy as there's a good chance of spotting flocks of linnets, trumpeter finches and Berthelot's Pipit - endemic to the Canaries. Lots of freely growing oranges and guavas to supplement your picnic before the short 45min drive through a rich rolling sea of banana trees to your 200-acre estate hotel with 360° views: fertile valleys and hills to the east, unspoiled coast to the north and south to Arucas. Time for a swim and Jacuzzi before dinner perhaps?

### Saturday Tamadaba 17km/10mi/6.5hrs

A rewarding ascent to Tamadaba this morning taking in three climate zones: avocado and papaya; euphorbia, and Canarian pine forest. The Mirador de la Vuelta La Paloma is a fabulous shady picnic spot and affords magical long distance views to neighboring islands. You'll then descend on the ancient camino real down through the tiny white villages of Lugarejos and El Hormillo passing pre-Hispanic cave houses still inhabited by locals today.

### Sunday Cruz de Tejada 14km/9mi/5.5hrs

A gentle shady descent takes you to the hidden valley of Montanetas - stunning views over Las Palmas and the eastern coast. We pass through the tiny village of Lanzarote - people from the neighbouring island settled here after a series of volcanic eruptions in C18 - before lunch against the backdrop of El Montanas and its lava flow. A stunning ridge walk takes you down into the heather-filled Tejada valley - keep eyes peeled for ravens, buzzards and barbary falcons.

### Monday Leave Gran Canaria



## Dates and Prices

### Departs selected Mondays Tour Only

#### 2012 departures

Jan 16, 23, 30	\$2,277
Feb 27, Mar 5, 12, 19	\$2,241
Nov 19, 26, Dec 3, 10	\$2,417
Oct 29, Nov 5, 12	\$2,437
Jan 9, Feb 6, 13, Mar 26	\$2,277
Oct 8, 15	\$2,417
Feb 20, Apr 2, 9	\$2,311
Oct 1	\$2,417
Oct 22	\$2,437

#### 2013 departures

Jan 7, 14, 21, 28	\$2,433
Feb 4, 25	\$2,399
Feb 11, 18, Mar 4, 11, 18	\$2,415
Apr 8	\$2,415
Mar 25, Apr 1	\$2,453

**Singles:** Add \$60 per night for sole occupancy of a double room. Please note that we must confirm that solo travelers are aware they will be walking alone and note this on the booking form.

**Child:** This holiday is unsuitable for children under 12.

**Room upgrade:** Prices from \$28 per person, per night, based on 2 sharing.

**Holiday type:** Independent walking, twin center, no minimum group size, however, car rental is subject to a minimum of 2 people per booking.

**Departs:** Selected Mondays from Jan 9 2012 to Apr 8 2013.

**Duration:** 8 days (7 nights).

**Meals:** Breakfast and evening meals.

**Other details:** For "What your holiday price includes," see "Holiday Planning" section pp 48-51.

## Tailor-made travel choices

### Nearest Arrival Airport: Las Palmas Airport

Flights can be arranged from most US/CANADA airports, prices on request.

**The above prices include a rental car:** Pick up rental car at the Las Palmas airport (Europcar Group B air-conditioned car). Drive to Hotel 1hr. **Return:** Drop off rental car at the Las Palmas Airport.

**Tour only:** The above tour-only prices exclude flights but include a Europcar Group B air-conditioned rental car which you collect from/return to Las Palmas airport.

## CONTRASTS OF GRAN CANARIA | WHERE YOU STAY



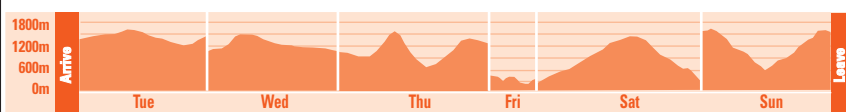
**Hotel Rural Las Calas**  
La Lechuza



**La Hacienda de Buen Suceso**  
Arucas

For extra nights we recommend both hotels above.

## CONTRASTS OF GRAN CANARIA | WALKING DETAILS



Walking paths and trails are often rocky and uneven with some steep ascents and descents. Comfortable walking boots with ankle support are essential. Walking poles recommended. Vertigo sufferers should not book this holiday.



**Average daytime temperature (°C):**

23 22 19 17 18 18 19  
OCT NOV DEC JAN FEB MAR APR



**Average monthly rainfall (mm):**

28 53 41 36 23 23 13  
OCT NOV DEC JAN FEB MAR APR

W07GC