

# Walking on La Gomera

Single center  guided walking

- Elegant ★★★★★ hotel with exotic gardens and stunningly positioned pool
- Spectacular gorge and coastal walks: breathtaking views of La Palma, El Hierro, Tenerife and Gran Canaria
- Excellent local cuisine: wine/water/coffee included every evening
- Sun-drenched villages, colorful fishing harbours, Garajonay National Park
- Lots of tropical flora: jasmine, hibiscus, banana, papaya



This varied guided walking holiday lets you discover the breathtaking natural beauty of the subtropical island of La Gomera. Neil Flynn, who has been guiding Breakaway tours for over a decade now, will be leading the walks which take you through a bewildering variety of landscape, from the misty heights of the Garajonay peak, to fertile terraces dotted with palms, and rugged ravines. We follow goat herders' tracks and ancient paths lined with tall palms, linking almost inaccessible villages and hermitages perched above dramatic gorges. A plant-lover's paradise, we may spot many endemic - sometimes rare - species like fleshy stonecrop, yellow jasmine or pink mallow.

Our base is the stunning ★★★★★ Parador in the charming island capital of San Sebastián. Surrounded by exotic gardens planted with hibiscus, bougainvillea and palms, the hotel's pool is spectacularly positioned overlooking the colorful harbour. Built in traditional Canarian style with elegantly furnished wooden-beamed rooms and pretty interior patios, the rooms have all modern comforts: satellite TV, mini-bar, and air-conditioning. Evening meals are usually in the hotel, however we eat out (included) in a local small restaurant in La Cueva once a week. Expect to sample Gomeran specialities like *caldo de pescado* (fish soup) and *papas arrugadas* - delicious salty potatoes cooked in their skins and dipped in *mojo verde*.

*"An excellent week with individual attention, interesting and varied walks, and a good quality hotel."*

Dr E. Fleming



## WALKING ON LA GOMERA | DAY BY DAY

### Day 1 Arrive on La Gomera

We meet you at Tenerife airport and take you to La Gomera (35 mins by ferry) in time for dinner.

### Day 2 The 1000m villages Walk 13km/8mi/4hr

A sandy path descends gently through pines, cedars and terracing to tiny Manantiales where, if we're lucky, friendly villagers will offer us a taste of goats' cheese and figs. A stroll along the shallow valley brings us to the pastel houses and 16C whitewashed chapel of Chipude perched at 1000m above a ravine. We lunch at a bustling bar in neighbouring Cercado, famed for its pottery, before making the gentle climb back past vines and tall pines to rejoin our minibus.

### Day 3 The Santiago Ravine 11km/7mi/5hr

From the hamlet of Las Toscas we descend gently through Gomeran daisies, prickly pears and palms into the tranquil upper reaches of the Santiago ravine headed by the pretty white cottages of Benchijigua and the towering Roque Agando lavafill. A short climb rewards us with stunning coastal views before we descend seawards to the hamlet of El Cabezo. On to Playa de Santiago where we end the day with a swim.

### Day 4 The Alto de Garajonay 13km/8mi/5hr

A short and spectacular climb to the Garajonay peak, in the center of the National Park, rewards us with breathtaking views of the islands of La Palma, El Hierro, Tenerife and Gran Canaria. Then cool misty uplands are replaced by ancient laurel forest, shady juniper groves, and the luxuriant banana terraces of Hermigua. We finally emerge from the spectacular gorge to reach the vertical village of Las Hoyetas, from where we return to the hotel in time for a pre-dinner swim.

### Day 5 Free Day

Perhaps take time to explore further the pretty harbour and old quarter of San Sebastián, which dates back 500 years to the times of the conquest of the Americas: Columbus' house, Church of the Incarnation and Columbus' well, where water supplies were taken for his final voyage. It's market day here today too. Or just relax in the hotel's gardens by the pool.

### Day 6 Vallehermoso Circular Walk 12km/7mi/5hr

This walk reveals the very best of the island – verdant gorges, dramatic coastline, and magnificent views. From bustling Vallehermoso in the fertile northwest, we ascend a lush ravine, fragrant with the scent of wild camomile and sage, planted with papaya and bamboo to the Santa Clara chapel for a picnic lunch. A stunning coastal walk and a beautiful descent with a commanding view of lofty Roque Cano, returns us to Vallehermoso.

### Day 7 Descent to Valle Gran Rey 12km/7mi/4hr

From Las Hayas in the west, we descend through heather and laurel to the green and gold patchwork of Arure's terraces. We picnic at the Ermita del Santo, looking out over the scooped bowl of the Tagaluche ravine, with falcons circling below. From here we begin our exhilarating ridge walk towards Valle Gran Rey. The rocky trail takes us past the impressive lava piles of the Riscos de Hereda and on through palm groves famous for their delicious honey.

### Day 8 Return home

We take you back (35 mins by ferry) to Tenerife in time for your flight home.



## Dates and Prices

### Departs selected dates Tour Only

#### 2012 departures

Jan 17, 31	\$3,196
Feb 14, 28, Mar 13	\$3,211
Jan 3, Mar 27	\$3,232
Dec 4	\$3,479
Apr 10	\$3,249
Nov 20	\$3,599
Dec 28	\$3,951

#### 2013 departures

Jan 15	\$3,462
Jan 29	\$3,499
Feb 26, Mar 12	\$3,499
Apr 9	\$3,372
Feb 12, Mar 26	\$3,587

**Singles:** Add \$91 per night for sole occupancy of a double room.

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

**Room upgrade:** Superior Room (with balcony and sea view) add \$53 per person, per night. Junior Suite (larger room, balcony, sea view and own lounge area) add \$96 per person, per night. Prices based on 2 people sharing.

**Holiday type:** Guided walking, single center, groups of typically 2-8 people on each tour.

**Departs:** Selected dates from Jan 3 2012 to Apr 9 2013.

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

**Meals:** Buffet breakfast, 5 picnic lunches and all evening meals including wine.

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

## Tailor-made travel choices

**Nearest Arrival Airport:** Tenerife South Reina Sofia Airport.

Flights can be arranged from most US/CANADA airports, with connecting transfers as required, prices and details on request.

**The above prices include our standard transfers:** Tenerife South Reina Sofia Airport at 14:00 or 15:30 (Dec 28 departure), pick up then ferry to La Gomera, (transfer to hotel, 10 mins, provided). **Return:** Ferry from La Gomera to Tenerife, then Tenerife South Airport by 13:15 or 14:40 (Dec 28 departure).

**Tour only:** Transfers included from Tenerife South Reina Sofia airport at 14:00 or 15:30 (Dec 28 departure) and back to Tenerife South Reina Sofia airport departing hotel at 11:00 or 12:30 (Dec 28 departure).

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## WALKING ON LA GOMERA | WALKING DETAILS



This varied holiday includes coastal and gorge walking. Walkers should be sure footed and hiking boots are essential. Extreme vertigo sufferers may have problems with days 3 and 7.



Average daytime temperature (°C):

18 18 19 19 21 19  
JAN FEB MAR APR NOV DEC



Average monthly rainfall (mm):

44 33 27 12 51 55  
JAN FEB MAR APR NOV DEC