Toms Arrecife, Lanzarote
Spanish Canary Island Cruise Port Guide 2019

Timanfaya National Volcanic Park

This guide includes maps for a walking tour of Arrecife to the shopping area, museums, castle, Old Market, etc. Sites outside Arrecife Include: Timanfaya National Park. Manrique’s multi-level home in volcanic “bubbles.” The artist/craftsman center in Haria. Jameos del Agua volcanic cavern, tunnels, and lake. Famara Cliffs and Mirador del Rio have outstanding views from the mountain tops.
Why Visit and Vacation in the Spanish Canary Islands?

- Each island offers unique opportunities for outdoor activities. Hiking is popular. Trails lead to spectacular settings. Organized tours and car rental are available to explore and photograph the rugged mountains, volcanoes, forests, rock formations, national parks, villages, coastline, beaches, and more!
- Each island has its own history and state of development. Some are rural and undeveloped with small towns, farming, vineyards, and old fishing villages along the coast. Other islands are more developed with larger towns and villages, abundant shops, hotels, resorts, and night life.
- Over hundreds of thousands of years, each island evolved in geographical isolation. Hence, each island has unique, rare plant and animal life in its ecosystem.
- Each island has its own micro-climate. Some have lush vegetation. Others have dry, barren landscapes with volcanic rock formations and lava flows described as “moonscapes”. Rainfall in the western Canary Islands is influenced by proximity to the Atlantic Ocean Gulf Stream. These islands have tracts of forest and lush vegetation. The north of Tenerife has many plant species, while the south is an arid desert. The eastern islands of Lanzarote and Fuerteventura are deserts ~ 65-70 miles west of Africa.

The tough decision is which island to visit. If you have the time, visit all seven of them. All the islands are accessible by ferry boats, most have airports, and many are visited by cruise ships.

Lanzarote Island is a desert with a comfortable, dry, warm climate. The barren landscape of volcanoes, and lava flows are described as a “moonscapes”.

This Expedia YouTube Video is very informative and can be very helpful when you are planning shore excursions for your cruise to Lanzarote. I highly recommend it.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JHWlSrlgwwE
GPS Coordinates
I provide GPS coordinates for important locations that can be used with Microsoft or Google maps and GPS enabled devices. The GPS format is Degrees, Minutes, and Seconds ddd° mm' ss.ss” N ddd° mm' ss.ss” E.

Copy and paste GPS coordinates from this guide into Google or Microsoft Bing maps

Or type GPS coordinate numbers and periods into the map search box replacing the symbols for degrees, minutes, and seconds with spaces.

For the cruise ship dock at Puerto Los Marmoles GPS = 28°58'11.9"N 13°31'35.2"W

Copy & Paste 28°58'11.9"N 13°31'35.2"W from this guide into Google maps and press “enter key”
Or Type 28 58 11.9 N 13 31 35.2 W into Google maps and press “enter key” to find the port

Google places a down-pointing red arrow at the GPS location.

For information on how to use GPS coordinates, see my web-pages:
https://www.tomsportguides.com/map-user-guide.html how to use GPS coordinates with Google or Bing maps
https://www.tomsportguides.com/world-gps-maps.html how to use GPS coordinates with electronic devices such as tablets, phones, and GPS hand held or vehicle installed devices.

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CAVEAT
Information contained herein is believed to be accurate. PLEASE verify the information you use for your travel plans. Opinions expressed are my own. This port guide is protected by copyright law - see the last page of this guide for legal notices.

Tom Sheridan
Here’s a brief description of sites highlighted on this map:

1) Docks for cruise ships, cargo, and ferry boats, 2) Arrecife center city, 3) Airport, 4) Puerto Del Carmen is a resort town with beautiful beaches, shopping, restaurants, casinos, etc. 5) Bodega la Geria is a vineyard.
6) Visitor Center for the 12,600 acre Timanfaya National Park with dormant volcanoes and lava flows.
7) Parking lot for Camel rides on the sand dunes, 8) Playa Janubia is a long, black sand beach near the salt flats. It’s unsafe for swimming due to waves and undertow. Some use it as a nude beach.
9) Cesar Manrique Foundation - the artist's house/studio built around volcanic bubbles.
10) Hiking trails for views of Famara Cliff.
11) Haria has a micro-climate of high humidity for growth of palm trees and flowers in a lush green valley on this desert island! 11) Jameos del Agua is a 4-mile long volcanic tunnel for hiking.
12) Mirador del Rio viewing platform on a cafe with breathtaking views from the mountain top to the sea and islands north of Lanzarote.
The Arrecife Center City walking tour is close to the waterfront between Playa de Reducto beach and the lagoon of Charco de San Gines. Stroll along the waterfront promenade for scenic views. Visit San Gabriel Castle and St Gines Church. There are many stores, cafes, restaurants, and a few museums in this area. The old market "La Recova" has craftsmen making shoes, pottery, jewelry and you can buy wine, fruits, nuts, baked goods, flowers etc. Also, the Port Marina has a few restaurants. Usually, there's a shuttle bus from the ship to the lagoon area of Charco de San Gines. You can also take a cab from the docks to the City.

There are TWO docks: Puerto de Naos and Puerto los Marmoles. The issue re where your ship docks is travel time/distance to Center City Arrecife Tourist Area. Check with your ship re a shuttle bus.
The Port of Arrecife, Lanzarote is also known as Los Marmoles Port. Arrecife (pronounced air ci fer) is the capital city of Lanzarote. There are two dock areas called Puerto Los Marmoles and Puerto de Naos. Cruise ships can use either dock. Depending on the number of cargo, container ships, and ferries in port, there can be room for about four cruise ships.

If your ship is docked at Puerto Los Marmoles GPS = 28°58'11.9"N 13°31'35.2"W it’s a one hour, 4.5 km (2.8 mile) walk along highways to Arrecife center city shown by the dashed orange line on the map. Ugh. There are three convenient options to travel from the ship at Puerto Los Marmoles to Arrecife:

1. Usually there’s a shuttle bus from the ship to Charco de San Gines, a lagoon with several shops and restaurants along the north side of the lagoon.
2. You can rent a car from CICAR Car Rental at Puerto Los Marmoles dock https://www.cicar.com/en

On the web-page, set the language to English at the top of the page. You have to fill in three boxes to see the taxi fare:
1) Set DEPARTURE FROM Arrecife Port (Los Marmoles).
2) Set DESTINATION to any place you wish to visit such as Arrecife (City).
3) Transfer Date (Outbound) Select a date from the calendar. You don’t need to fill in any other information.
The fare is different for a weekday, weekend, or holiday. The fare for 1-4 people in a taxi is ~ 17 euros from the port to center city. Use this as a reference; you might find a better fare.

If your ship is docked at Puerto de Naos GPS = 28°57'57.7"N 13°32'00.6"W shown on the map on page 4. It’s a 22 minute, 1.8 Km (1.1 mile) walk past the marina, to the tourist area in Arrecife.

Convenient options to travel from Puerto Los Marmoles dock to Arrecife:

1. Walk from your ship as shown by the dashed blue-green line along the scenic marina to the harbor and to the boardwalk in Arrecife tourist area.
2. Another option is to take a shuttle from the ship to the lagoon Charco de San Gines.

Planning your walking tour of Arrecife.
The most popular area tourist area is the site of the former “fishing town”, now known as “Center City.” People who are vacationing in Arrecife, begin their walking tour at Playa Reducto Beach near the resort hotels. People who are on Cruise ships usually begin their walking tour at “Charco de San Gines”. Regardless of where you start your tour, you can visit 11 sites, labeled as A thru K on my maps on the next two pages.

How Much Time Do You Need For A Walking Tour?
To visit most of the sites, you’ll need 4 to 5 hours. Plan on 30-45 minutes at La Cassa Amarilla History Museum, the Archaeological Museum, San Gabriel Castle, and the Old Market. Plus you’ll need time for shopping and a stop at a cafe for coffee or lunch. There’s a lot to see and do!

To minimize walking time, you might take a cab from the port to the furthest tourist site you wish to visit in the city. For example, if you want to visit the Archaeological Museum, take a cab from the port to the museum and then walk south through the shopping area to the waterfront. This way, you don’t waste time walking north through the tourist area to the museum and then backtracking south to the waterfront. My goal in creating all these maps and descriptions of tourist sites is to help you make a plan for your interests. I hope you enjoy your walking tour of Arrecife.
The Playa de Reducto Beach Area

A) Playa de Reducto Beach  GPS = 28°57'29.9"N 13°33'34.1"W
This is the closest beach to the Cruise Port. The water is calm because the beach is protected by a reef. It’s a clean, well maintained, comfortable beach for swimming and sun bathing. Playa de Reducto has “Blue Flag” EU beach status due to excellent services including toilets, showers, telephones, restaurants, parking, kiosk, taxi and bus stops. You can rent a chair or umbrella for ~ a euro. The beach is in the heart of the hotel and resort area.

B) Gran Hotel and Spa GPS = 28°57'26.5"N 13°33'15.7"W
It’s an impressive high rise building next to the beach photo left. Note the taxi cabs lined up along the street.

C) Parque Isas Canarias: Walk East toward center city. There will be shops and restaurants on the north side of the street and a beautiful promenade along the waterfront on the south side of the street.
These are the most popular tourist sites between Playa Reducto Beach and Charco de San Gines (Lagoon)

This map shows more detail and street names near tourist sites

Walking Route to Castillo de San Gabriel

Sculpture

Charco de San Gines

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D) Tourist information Center  
**GPS = 28°57'28.6"N 13°32'57.2"W**

**Photo Below:** The Tourist Information Center is in a building that replicates a bandstand. It’s a good idea to stop at the tourist center to learn what the current activities are in the city. For example, you might want to ask what events and activities are currently scheduled at the Cultural Event Center.

E) Cultural Event Center Casa De La Cultura Agustín De La Hoz  
**GPS = 28°57'29.8"N 13°32'57.9"W**

See this youtube video on the cultural center. [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e2L4VzbXmOo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e2L4VzbXmOo)

It’s a beautiful building that showcases the work of several artists and is used for exhibitions, music, concerts, dance, conferences, workshops, and events. Also, there’s a restaurant and bar.

F) Castillo de San Gabriel (Castle of Saint Gabriel)  
**GPS = 28°57'23.2"N 13°32'51.2"W**

**Photo Above:** It’s on a small island accessed by a foot on a drawbridge called Ball Bridge. The original wood castle was burned, so it was replaced by a stone castle in 16C. It’s a great place to take pictures of the area.

The entry fee is ~ 3 Euros. All the information is in Spanish.

Open hours: Tuesday to Friday 10.00 to 13.00 hrs and 16.00 to 19.00 hrs. Saturdays 10.00 to 13.00 hrs.

When you leave the castle, walk straight north across the promenade to Calle Leon y Castillo, also called “Calle Real”. It’s the most important shopping street in Arrecife. Plan on spending time walking on this street and exploring the shops and cafes on nearby side streets.

G) La Casa Amarilla History Museum  
**GPS = 28°57'31.8"N 13°32'53.7"W**

[Website](http://www.cabildodelanzarote.com/tema.asp?idTema=253)

The museum is a photo exhibit of the history of Lanzarote Island. Text information is in Spanish, but the exhibits are easy to understand because they’re based on postcards and other photos. There’s a store that sells craft objects, stationery, art publications, textiles and jewelry. This is a very popular museum.

**Hours** Monday- Friday 10 am – 8 pm  Saturday 10 am to 2 pm  **Admission** 2 Euros
H) Plaza de la Constitution  GPS = 28°57'31.4"N 13°32'57.8"W
Be sure to explore the side streets such as Plaza de la Constitution where you’ll find outdoor cafes.

I) Archaeological Museum  GPS = 28°57'37.6"N 13°33'00.1"W
Description from the museum website:
The museum uses “virtual reality” to create the sensation of “being” on an archaeological excavation. Touch screens show cave paintings, and 360-degree images. Exhibits cover volcanic eruptions, underwater archaeology showcasing objects found on the seabed of the island, such as amphoras, cannonballs and a pipe. There’s also a special section dedicated to explaining the pirate attacks suffered by the island between the fourteenth and eighteenth centuries. In addition, the room contains a copy of the book “Le canarien”, written by the Normans upon their arrival on the island, in which the conquest of Lanzarote is narrated. Room A also includes one of the jewels of the island’s historical heritage: the mummy of an ancient inhabitant of Lanzarote. And it is that the world of the death of the majos is one of the great enigmas of the insular archaeology due to the lack of confirmed and cataloged graves. This is probably due to the great geological transformation that the island has undergone in its most recent history due to volcanic eruptions and the invasion of jable in the 18th and 19th centuries.
The museum is open Tuesday to Friday 10:30 to 5:00 pm, and Saturdays, 10:30 to 2:00 pm.
The entrance fee is 3 Euro
This Google Map shows many shops, cafes, restaurants, banks, etc. in the Arrecife Main Tourist Area. This area is packed with places to visit and explore. Note the map scale of 100 feet.
J) Old Market La Recova Antiguo Mercado GPS = 28°57′34.3″N 13°32′49.8″W

If you are walking along the waterfront, turn north at the sculpture on the boardwalk (Photo at Left) and walk North along Calle Manuel Miranda.

You’ll see the tower of San Gines church in the distance. The market is in a square surrounded by buildings, so you’ll have to enter though a doorway. One of the entrance doors is shown in the (Photo at Right).

The Old Market has many products including fruits and nuts, vegetables, wine, cheese, sausage, herbal products, etc. There are several small workshops where craftsmen sell their products including handmade jewelry and a shoe store. Also there’s a flower shop, and bakery. The market is open Monday through Saturday 9 am to 2 pm and closed on Sunday.

K) San Gines Catholic Church GPS = 28°57′34.4″N 13°32′50.3″W

Saint Ginés (Saint Genesius of Clermont) is Arrecife’s patron saint. The church is built on the site of a hermitage that had images of Saint Peter and Saint Ginés.

Mass Schedule:

- Monday & Friday at 7:30 pm.
- Saturday 1:15 pm. & 7:30 pm.
- Sundays at 10:30, 12:00 & 7:30 pm.

To the east of the church is the large inland lagoon called Charco de San Gines, named after Saint Gines. The map on the next page shows the cafes and restaurants around the lagoon. Note that most of the restaurants are on the north side of the lagoon.

The shuttle buses from the cruise ships usually drop passengers off next to Charco de San Gines so it’s only a short walk to the tourist sites.
Note that the Cafes and Restaurants are on the north side of the Lagoon because the west side is lined with private houses with the backyard patios of the homes facing the lagoon.
Castillo de San José International Contemporary Art Museum GPS = 28°58'15.7"N 13°31'59.6"W
See the map on page 5 of this guide. The museum is built into an old fortress. It has a restaurant, bar, and great views of the bay. Adult admission is 4 Euros. Hours are 10 am to 8 pm. See http://www.caclanzarote.com/en/cact/museo-internacional-arte-contemporaneo/#1455148589098-1ad4a5be-b0a57030-49d4
It’s a long walk from the cruise port to this art museum. Consider a taxi or the City Sightseeing train.

Popular Tourist Sites OUTSIDE the City of Arrecife

See the map on Page 4 of this guide where I show #1 as the cruise port and #2 as Center City Arrecife

3) Lanzarote Airport  GPS = 28°57'08.1"N 13°36'24.4"W  A 10 minute, 11 km ride from the cruise port.
Lanzarote Airport (IATA: ACE ICAO: GCRR), (in Spanish Aeropuerto de Lanzarote), is located 5 kilometers southwest of Arrecife, the capital of the island. The airport is the main gateway for both domestic and international tourists, allowing up to 6 million passengers a year. Code ACE.

4) Puerto del Carmen  GPS  = 28°55'22.6"N 13°40'05.3"W  A 17 minute, 19 km ride from the cruise port.
It was originally a fishing village. Today is a beautiful resort town with beautiful beaches, excellent seafood restaurants, shopping, casinos, resort hotels and more!

5) Bodega la Geria = 28°58'09.5"N 13°42'53.3"W  A 24 minute, 25 km ride from the cruise port.
Bodega (bō-ˈdā-gə) means “storehouse for maturing wine”.
It’s a vineyard of unusual design due to the difficulty growing grape vines on a dry, volcanic island with black sandy soil.
The challenges are to 1) modify the volcanic soil so that it will hold moisture for the roots to grow, 2) collect all the rain that falls, and 3) protect the vines from drying winds.
The solution is to a) dig conical holes to collect all the rainfall and protect the grape vines from drying winds, b) mix some fertile water retaining soil at the bottom of the hole where the roots are planted, c) place the grape vines in a circle on the ground in the conical holes, and d) pile rocks around the top of the conical holes to keep the sandy soil from moving and to reduce drying wind on the vines.
It looks strange to see grape vines growing in conical holes in black, sandy volcanic soil. But it obviously works, the wines are excellent!
6) Visitor Center for the 12,600 acre Timanfaya National Park GPS = 29°00'20.4"N 13°45'11.4"W
A 37 minute, 37 km ride from the cruise port.

The volcanoes are dormant, but the temperature below ground can be as high as 800 degrees. At the visitor center, a guide pours water into a pipe driven into the ground. In a short time, a geyser erupts.

This is an amazing place to visit. As you drive through the park, the landscape “moonscape” changes in texture from sandy soil to rugged rocks and volcanic craters. Colors change from yellow to tan to brown to red to black. There are announcements on the bus to explain the history of what you are seeing. The bus slows and stops, but you stay on it and take all photos through the windows. There may be reflections in the photos.

View of volcanoes from the Visitor Center  Note the colors of yellow, tan, red, and brown
Note the landscape texture with sand and rocks

Looking down into a crater
Note the bus in the right in the photos below. The volcanoes are often described as a “moonscape”.

This looks like a moonscape, but the moon doesn't have tourist buses
Timanfaya National Park  The dashed blue line shows our bus route through the park. There are parking lots in the park where you can leave your car and hike to volcanoes.
7) Camel rides on the sand dunes  GPS = 28°59'28.4"N 13°44'32.3"W
A 28 minute, 31 km ride from the cruise port. This Google map shows the parking lot for the camel rides. Note the scale of 100 feet and the location of the Cafe, souvenirs, and toilets. The camels are lined up on the sand on the west side of the parking lot.

This was the first time my wife and I had been on a camel ride. We loved it and highly recommend it. There were families with children, teenagers, and old people like us riding the camels. The camels are very interesting and peaceful animals. Two people sit in chairs with one person on each side of the camel. You get in the chairs when the camel is lying down as shown in the photo above left.

Camels are strong animals. They stand up with two adults on their back and move slowly as they walk up and down the sand dunes. There is a slow, side to side movement as the camel walks. A trainer is at the head of the line next to the first camel. The trainer will tell you the name of your camel so you can talk to your camel. A trainer walks with a small group of camels up and down the sand dunes. You’ll love the camel ride!
8) Playa del Janubia is a long, black sand beach near the salt flats. GPS = 28°56'14.4"N 13°49'54.1"W
A 32 minute, 36 km ride from the cruise port. It’s unsafe for swimming due to waves and undertow. Some use it as a nude beach.

9) Cesar Manrique Foundation  GPS = 29°00'06.5"N 13°32'51.6"W
A 6 minute, 5 km ride from the cruise port. It’s the former home and gardens of a very creative artist built on a volcanic trail using five volcanic bubbles to create the home living space on multiple levels. Admission is 8 Euros. Open every day 10 am to 6 pm. Watch this 4 minute YouTube Video for a walking tour of the home and gardens. [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BMQvD6w8Dz8](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BMQvD6w8Dz8) Note the stairs in this multi-level, unique home.
Photo below shows an outside pool. See the aerial map view at right below.
10) **Hiking trails for views of Famara Cliffs**  
GPS = 29°07'20.5"N 13°31'39.9"W  
A 36 minute, 26 km ride from the cruise port.  
The cliffs are 1750-2200 feet above the sea offering dramatic views of the northwest coast. There are hiking trails along the top of the cliffs. The map below has been rotated. North is at the left, bottom corner of the map.  
The village of Haria is north of Famara Cliffs as shown on this map.

![Map of Famara Cliffs and Haria](image)

11) **Haria**  
GPS = 29°08'45.6"N 13°30'00.1"W  
A 29 minute, 30 km ride from the cruise port.

![Map of Haria](image)

**Why people visit and vacation in the village of Haria**  

A) Haria has the most fertile soil with a unique, humid microclimate on the desert island of Lanzarote. It’s the “Valley of the thousand palms” with green fields, geraniums, wildflowers, and bougainvilleas around houses.  

B) This scenic, colorful area near the mountains is different from other areas on the island. Haria attracts artists...
and craftsmen. César Manrique, the famous artist, retired here and is buried here. Hence, tourists are drawn to this area to visit the art and craft shops and galleries.

C) The Town Center market, Plaza León y Castillo, is open every Saturday from 10 am to 2 pm (see map on page 20). There are dozens of stalls selling a wide variety of products including painting, art and crafts products, jewelry, pottery, fruit & vegetables, cheese, bread, dried fish, with food stalls and nearby restaurants.

D) You’ll see historic houses around town square, Plaza León y Castillo  

GPS = 29°08′47.6″N 13°29′56.6″W

The church of Nuestra Señora de la Encarnación parish church has a sacred art museum.

GPS = 29°08′48.7″N 13°29′53.5″W

E) From the nearby mountains you’ll have scenic views of the cliffs, the sea, the town of Haria and the countryside. You can drive along narrow road to the scenic viewpoints, ride a bike in the area, and hike trails. Mirador de Haria, 3 miles south of Haria, is a popular viewpoint for breathtaking views of the coast, cliffs, villages, and Peñas del Chache, the highest mountain on Lanzarote Island.

11) Jameos del Agua  

GPS = 29°09′27.8″N 13°25′54.7″W

A 25 minute, 28 km ride from the cruise port. Entrance fee = 9 Euros.

See this YouTube Video  https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1ebd0lvylJQ

It’s a volcanic cavern with tunnels and a lake that has been transformed by the artist, Cesar Manrique, into a beautiful site with a garden entrance, a 600 seat auditorium for concerts, a pool, and a bar.

If you have mobility issues, this may not be a tourist site for you. You’ll need reasonable mobility, balance, and stability to walk on irregular steps of different heights that can be difficult to negotiate. The risk of falling is increased because some of the steps may be wet.

We met with the shore excursion manager on our ship to help us decide whether this would be a suitable excursion for us. His opinion, and I believe he was correct, was that it would not be good for us due to our mobility issues. We took a bus tour through the volcanic park, a camel ride, and visit to a winery and loved it.

12) Mirador del Rio viewing platform from the mountain top  

GPS = 29°12′49.8″N 13°28′52.2″W

A 32 minute, 34 km ride from the cruise port.

It’s a cafe-bar with huge glass windows providing spectacular views from the mountain top of the northern coastline of Lanzarote of the cliffs, coastline, and sea below with the small island of La Graciosa in the distance. You can take photos from inside or outside the cafe. Admission is 4.5 Euros.
User Feedback Is Welcome

Goal
My guides are designed to help you plan a great cruise vacation by providing information such as where the ship docks, location of tourist sites, public transit, walking tour maps, things to see and do, travel issues unique to the port, etc. Knowledge of ports is important when planning self-guiding touring and booking shore excursions because you have to make many decisions and commitments long before your ship docks.

NOTE: I believe the information in this guide is accurate, however you are responsible to verify accuracy of the information you use to plan your vacation. Information on cruise ports frequently changes such as bus routes, admission fees to sites, rental car locations, etc.

Cruise Critic is the best source for up-to-date, detailed, accurate information on travel details for shore excursions, reviews of cruise ships, etc. There are many knowledgeable people on Cruise Critic willing to share their knowledge, expertise, and travel experience. I highly recommend www.CruiseCritic.com, it's free to join.

Why feedback is important
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