



CANARY

A VISUAL TRAVEL GUIDE THROUGH THE CANARIES

DISCOVER NATURAL BEAUTY, HIDDEN GEMS & HIKING TRAILS

ISLANDS

Lannoo

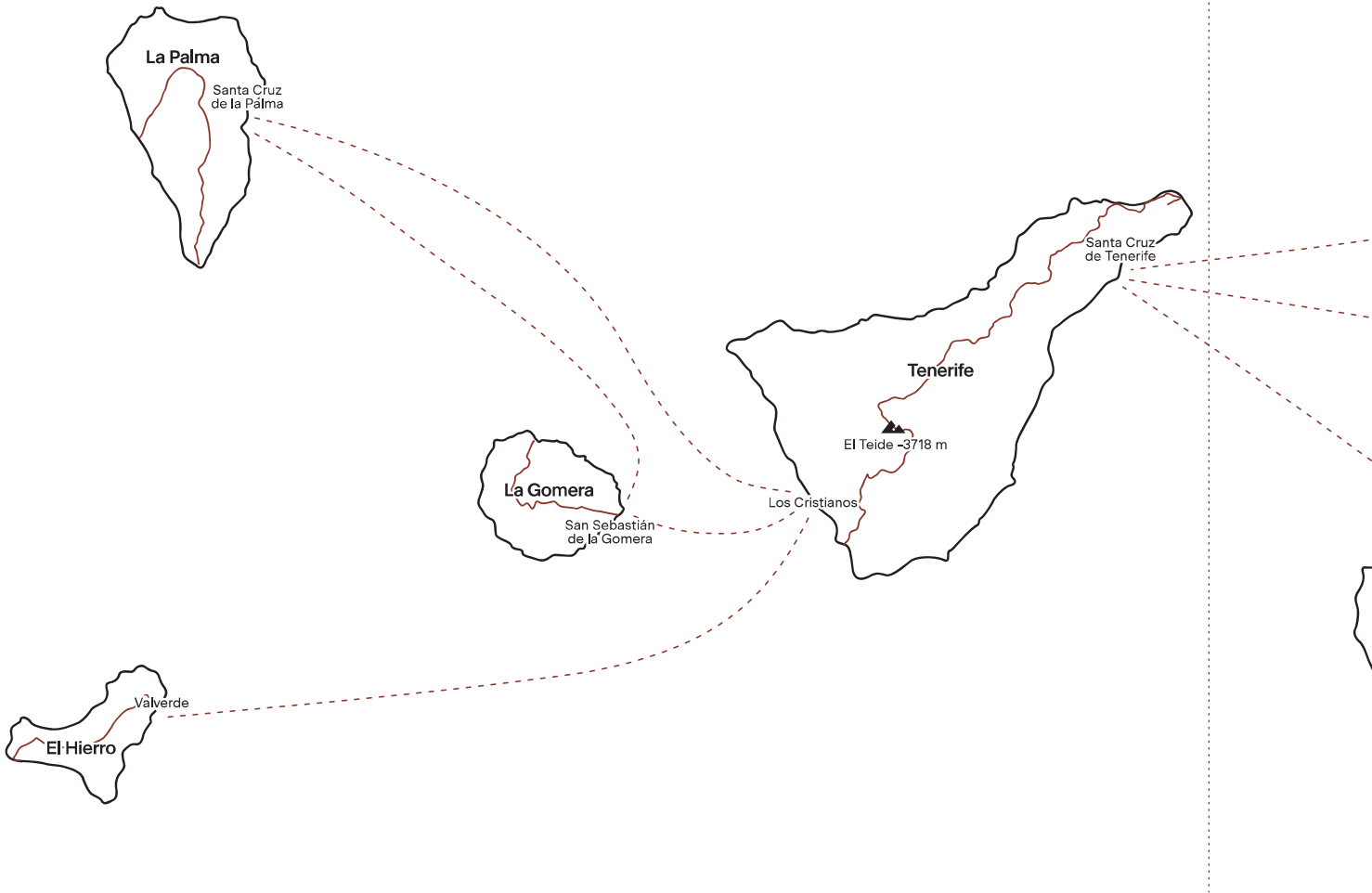


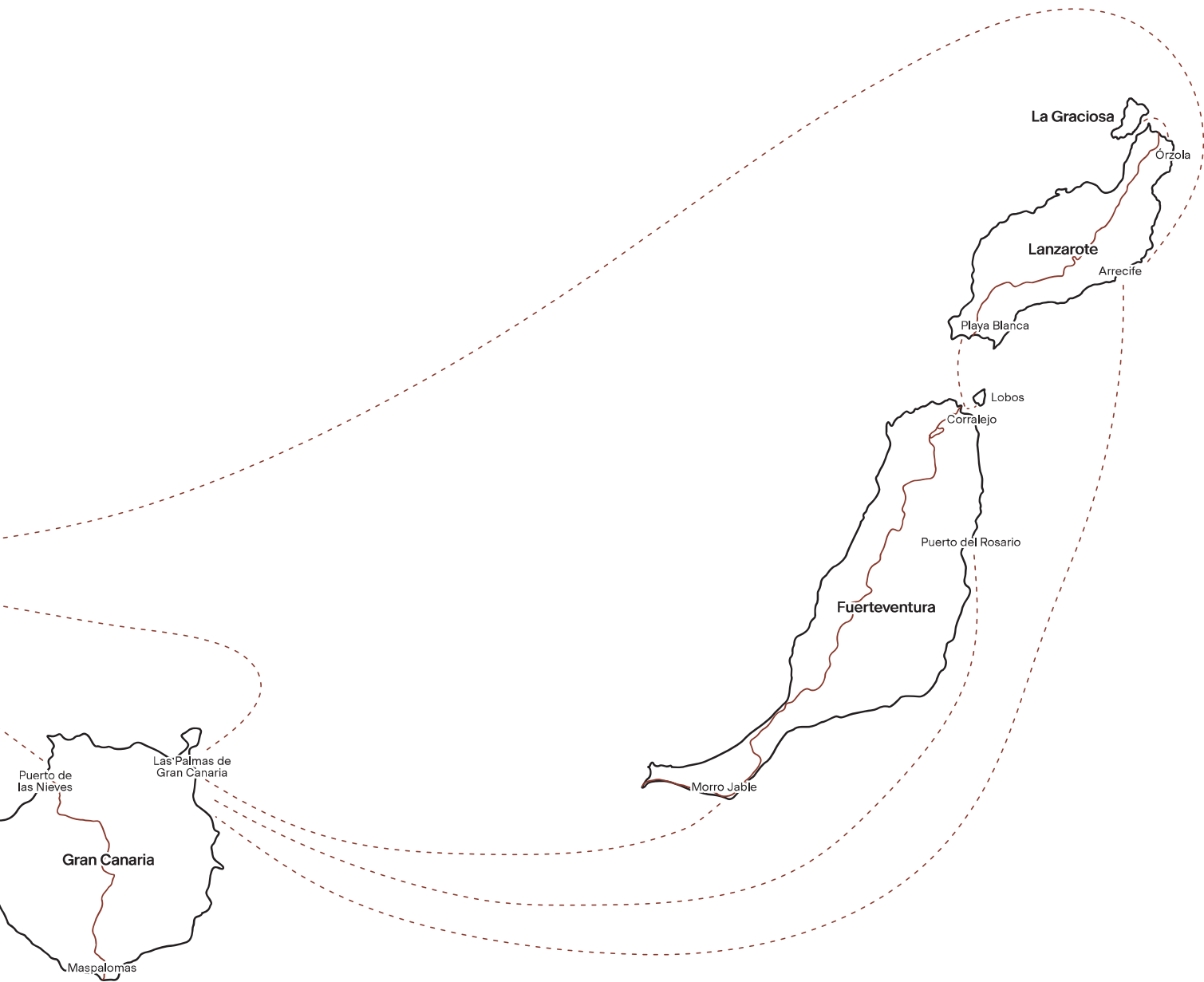
↳ Welcome to the Canary Islands. In this book we hope to dazzle you, trigger your senses, inspire you, and make you want to get out and explore the world. It is first and foremost an aesthetic object. We have worked with incredible designers and photographers to create a thing of beauty, showing the unique treasures the Canaries has to offer. Second, it's a visual travel guide. We will offer you tips and tricks, and show you the most beautiful places, hidden gems and must-sees across the seven islands. With a comprehensive palette, focusing on the islands' enduring nature and culture, we aim to cater to a wide profile of visitors. This book is indispensable for hikers and nature lovers, for culture seekers, and beach boys and girls. Besides selecting and curating places and activities, we have gathered useful information such as nearby facilities, access guide, and ideas for hikes and schedules. Third, it's an account of our journey through the Canary Islands. In April 2023 a group of eight exploratory runners covered the 560km (348-mile) GR131 in 14 days, crossing the Canary Islands from east to west. The GR131 is a marked trail that crosses the seven main islands plus Lobos, a small island north of Fuerteventura. This was no mean feat. We had to run more than a marathon per day, spiced up with 1,800-plus vertical metres. A professional photographer followed the runners and captured highlights on and off the course, of every island. The result of all this blood, sweat and tears lies in your hands. We hope this book and our journey is an invitation to wander, explore and get lost. There is intense beauty to be found in this world, both inside and outside. If anything, we hope this book inspires you to go out and live your life to the fullest.

CHARLES VAN HAVERBEKE,
AUTHOR



Province of Santa Cruz de Tenerife ←
Province of Las Palmas →





→ Island 1 / 7
Lanzarote

846km²
152,289 residents



→ VOLCÁN DE LA CORONA
29.18472° N / 13.48083 °W
HEIGHT 609M





↳ Welcome to Lanzarote, the most easterly of the seven islands. 'Lanza' feels like one big Hollywood movie set for a film set on Mars. With over 300 volcanoes – red, amber or black – it features one of the driest and most alien landscapes of the archipelago. It is a real playground for sport fanatics – with all-year-long spring-like temperatures and an abundance of waves, hills and wind – as well as for culture lovers, who come to see the architecture and sculpture of local hero and visionary César Manrique scattered across the island. Despite its barren and often-menacing look, the island has abundant vegetation and is home to hundreds of vineyards, or bodegas, the colours of the vineyards offering a vivid contrast to the black volcanic backdrop.

Lanzarote
Fire Island

Coastline: 212km
Highest point: 670m

Lanzarote

↳ Introduction

HOW TO GET AROUND

Planes touch down from anywhere in Europe in Lanzarote Airport (ACE), named after César Manrique. The airport is conveniently close to the main tourist area of Puerto del Carmen.

Arrecife is connected by boat to Cadiz, La Palma, Gran Canaria, Tenerife and Fuerteventura at Puerto del Rosario.

A shorter connection between Lanzarote and Fuerteventura can be found at Playa Blanca, with a 20-minute journey time to Corralejo.

The ferry to the northern island of La Graciosa departs from the small docks in Órzola, which is also the starting place of the GR131.

The best roads, LZ1 and LZ2, run along the eastern coast from Playa Blanca in the south to Órzola in the north. All the towns are easily accessible by car, and, unlike in Lanzarote's southern neighbour, Fuerteventura, the asphalt is mostly in a good condition, much to the appreciation of the many cyclists.

WHERE TO STAY

If you are a surfer or triathlete, you will likely base yourself close to La Santa or Caleta de Famara where you'll find your natural habitat in the shape of pools or waves. If you like a drink or two and convenience, you'll lay your head anywhere on the coastline between Puerto del Carmen, Arrecife and Teguise, though you'll find many of your fellow tourists there as well.

Puerto del Carmen is the place that offers the most possibilities, from beach to shops to restaurants to hotels. Arrecife, the capital, is not the most common place to stay. We would probably recommend staying close to Teguise – the old city in the centre, not the part on the seafront – where you have the convenience of being close to the cities, the charm of the whitewashed old buildings and the natural beauty of the El Jable plain and Famara Cliffs.

Anywhere close to Haría is a bit remote from everywhere else, and don't bother trying in Timanfaya, as this is a restricted nature reserve.

BEACHES

There are good beaches to be found across the island but they are relatively rare owing to the generally rocky coastline. There is the picturesque Playa Papagayo in the west, the Playa Flamingo in Playa Blanca, the more touristy beaches in Puerto de Carmen of which Playa Chica is the prettiest, the surf beach of Famara in the north, and the remote Playa de las Concas at La Graciosa.

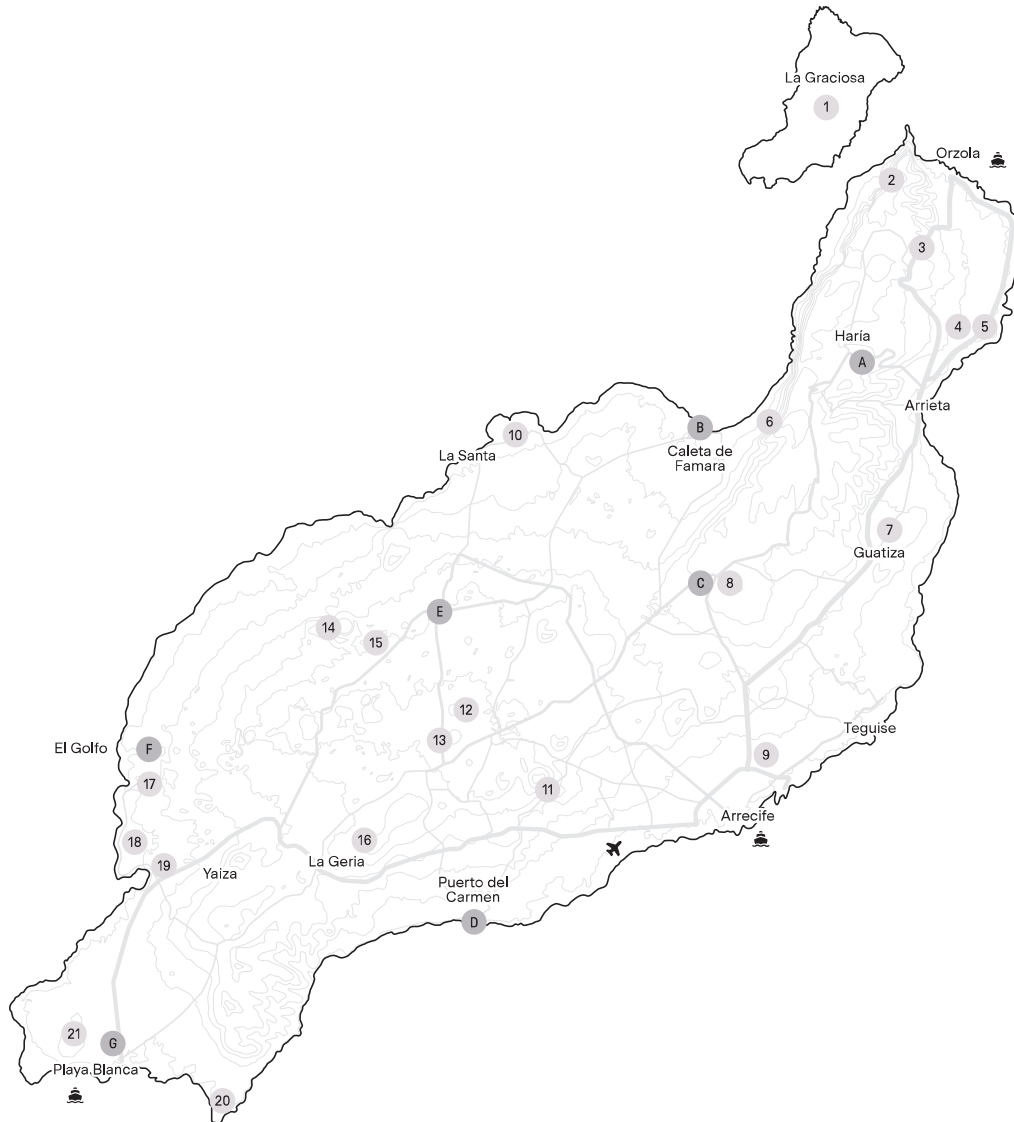
THREE-DAY STAY

Day 1 – The north
Early hike to Mirador del Río. Visit Jameos del Agua. Coffee in Haría. Lunch in Caleta de Famara. Surf session on Famara beach. Aperitif and dinner in Teguiise or Jameos.

Day 2 – Volcanoes
Sunrise hike on Caldera Blanca. Breakfast in Mancha Blanca or on the crater. Lunch in El Diablo restaurant in Timanfaya, with tour before. Afternoon at El Golfo, Los Hervideros and Lago Verde. Dinner at a fish restaurant in El Golfo.

Day 3 – Culture and beach
Culture in the morning at the César Manrique Foundation in Tahíche. Lunch in a bodega. Beach in Playa Blanca or Puerto del Carmen. Vineyards in La Geria in late afternoon. Dine in a bodega.

LANZAROTE



EXPLORE / HIGHLIGHTS

- 1 La Graciosa
- 2 Mirador del Río
- 3 Monte Corona
- 4 Cueva de Los Verdes
- 5 Jameos del Agua
- 6 Famara Cliffs
- 7 Jardín de Cactus

- 8 Castillo de Santa Bárbara
- 9 César Manrique Foundation
- 10 Club La Santa
- 11 Las Grietas
- 12 Montaña Colorada
- 13 Volcan El Cuervo
- 14 Caldera Blanca

- 15 Timanfaya National Park
- 16 La Geria
- 17 Lago Verde
- 18 Los Hervideros
- 19 Salinas de Janubio
- 20 Playa de Papagayo
- 21 Montaña Roja

STROLL / HIGHLIGHTS

- A Haría
- B Caleta de Famara
- C Teguise
- D Puerto del Carmen
- E Mancha Blanca
- F El Golfo
- G Playa Blanca



Lanzarote

↳ Key Facts



WHEREABOUTS	Name	Lanzarote
	Origin of name	Derived from <i>Insula de Lanzarotus Marocelus</i> , the name given by Italian-Majorcan cartographer Angelino Dulcert in honour of Genoese navigator Lancelotto Malocello
	Nickname	'Fire Island' – due to the red-black volcanic landscape, black sand beaches and desert-like terrain
	Key towns and villages	Teguise, Haría, Caleta de Famara
DEMOGRAPHICS	Population	152,289 people, 7% of the Canary Islands, 3rd in rank
	Capital	Arrecife (pop. approx. 63,750)
	Biggest cities	Puerto del Carmen, Teguise, Playa Blanca
INFRASTRUCTURE	Commercial Airport	César Manrique-Lanzarote Airport (ACE), close to Arrecife
	Commercial Ports	Port of Arrecife – ferries to Las Palmas de Gran Canaria, Santa Cruz de Tenerife and Cadiz Port of Playa Blanca, the island's southernmost town – ferry to Fuerteventura Port of Órzola – ferry to the island of La Graciosa
	Agriculture	White wine, Malvasia wine, sweet potatoes, tomatoes, cacti, aloe vera, salt
GEOGRAPHY	Size	846km ² , 4th in rank
	Highest point	Peñas del Chache (672m)
	Dimensions	60km from north to south and 25km from west to east
	Coastline	213km – 10km sand, 16.5km beach, remainder is rocky
	Geologic origins	The island emerged about 15 million years ago as a product of the Canary hotspot, making it the oldest of the Canary Islands
HISTORY	1402	French explorer Jean de Béthencourt arrives and conquers the island.
	1730-1736	A series of violent eruptions takes place, creating 32 volcanoes and causing large-scale immigration
	1775	The Bodega El Grifo is opened, still in existence as Lanzarote's oldest working winery

Lanzarote

↳ Where to Hike

OVERVIEW

The five stages through Lanzarote give a good impression on the make-up and the look and feel of the island.

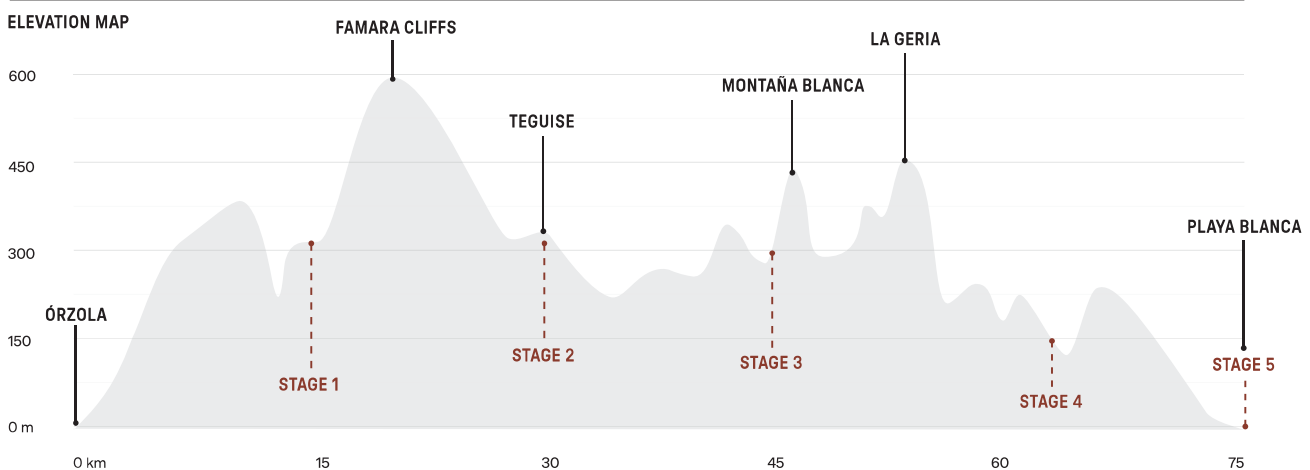
Stage 1 and 2 offer more mountainous terrain, far away from civilization. Stage 3 crosses the El Jable desert plain. Stage 4 connects the midland to volcanic country and the La Geria vineyards and Stage 5 descends through lava fields back to the ocean.

TERRAIN

Lanzarote offers mostly easy rolling dirt roads, often through wide open landscapes. Although the surrounding terrain looks wild and barren, the technicality or ascents of the trails are the most gentle of all the islands. Facilities are relatively scarce on the track itself but the island is not so big so the nearest town is often not very far away.

WHICH STAGE TO PICK

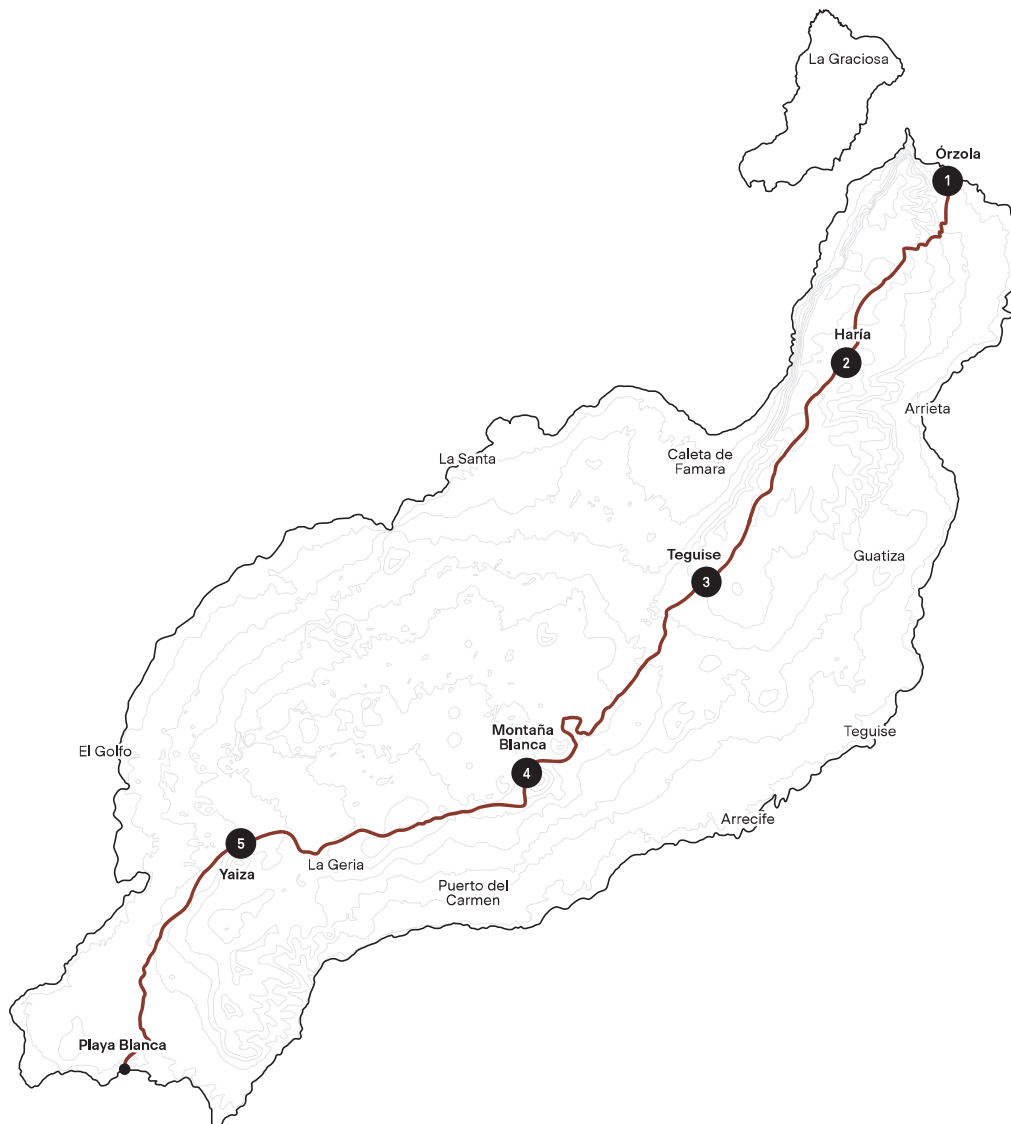
If we had to select two stages out of the five available on Lanzarote, we would go for Stage 2 and Stage 4. Stage 2 offers the vertical drop of the Famara Cliffs with a view on Famara beach and the stunning descent to Teguisse and El Jable plain. Mornings can be misty in this area, so if you want to enjoy the views it is better in the afternoon. This stage gives you a flavour of mountains, cliffs, desert and finally the charm of Teguisse. Stage 4 connects the midland with a view on the ocean with the extra terrestrial region of the La Geria Vineyards. If you want to witness something truly unique which you will not find anywhere else in the world, pick Stage 5.





Lanzarote

↳ Hikes Overview



STAGE 1	ORZOLA TO HARIA	Distance 12km Ascent 470m Decent 190m Asphalt 43%
	<p>Dirt roads and single tracks through the black-sand lava plains on Malpais de La Corona, passing the Volcán de La Corona.</p> <p>Recommendation: 2 / 4 Technicality: 2 / 4 Facilities: 2 / 4 Type: GR131</p>	<p>The GR131 starts in the remote town of Órzola, first following an asphalt road. After taking a right turn, the path gently rises on a wide dirt trail, entering the wild Malpais de La Corona, an area characterized by its volcanic cone and dotted with small vineyards. The trail winds through fertile fields of black volcanic ash near the village of Máguez, to cross over a hill to arrive at the neighbouring village of Haria. Haria is renowned for its picturesque white houses and serves as an ideal spot for a coffee break or a lunch at one of the local bars.</p>
STAGE 2	HARIA TO TEGUISE	Distance 13km Ascent 360m Decent 340m Asphalt 19%
	<p>Dirt road to the highest peak of the island, single track along 600m-high cliffs, then a gentle dirt-road descent with fantastic views over the Teguisse valley.</p> <p>Recommendation: 3 / 4 Technicality: 2 / 4 Facilities: 2 / 4 Type: GR131</p>	<p>This stage climbs almost to the highest point on Lanzarote, though the summit of Peñas del Chache is occupied by a military installation. Most of the ascent is broad dirt road. Once the summit is reached, you can hike along a mountain ridge that has wonderful views over Famara beach and cliffs. Once you reach the Ermita de las Nieves, there's a gentle descent along dirt roads with views over the El Jable plains, leading to the lovely ancient town of Teguisse, whose narrow, cobbled streets are made for wandering and exploring.</p>
STAGE 3	TEGUISE TO MONTANA BLANCA	Distance 15.5km Ascent 270m Decent 300m Asphalt 26%
	<p>Desert-crossing dirt roads from the mountains to the volcanoes.</p> <p>Recommendation: 2 / 4 Technicality: 1 / 4 Facilities: 2 / 4 Type: GR131</p>	<p>From Teguisse on, an easy walk along dirt roads leads to the desert plains of El Jable in the middle of the island, where there is an immense feeling of space and views to the surrounding hills. From here the stage takes you from the northern mountains, through the deserts, towards volcano country. After the village of San Bartolomé, the road does an absurd loop around a volcano to arrive almost at the same point, leading you close to the first small vineyard and one of the typical local walls built to protect the grapes.</p>
STAGE 4	MONTAÑA BLANCA TO YAIZA	Distance 17km Ascent 390m Decent 480m Asphalt 39%
	<p>A stage of dirt roads with stunning views from Montaña Blanca over Puerto del Carmen and a finale through the black La Geria vineyards.</p> <p>Recommendation: 3 / 4 Technicality: 2 / 4 Facilities: 2 / 4 Type: GR131</p>	<p>The first part of the trail passes Montaña Blanca over dirt roads with a descent offering great views over whitewashed Puerto del Carmen, Arrecife and the Atlantic Ocean. Next is a longer stretch of asphalt road with a number of villages, though all with sparse facilities. Towards the second part of the stage is La Geria, approached along a black dirt road with first a climb followed by a long descent with a view over the spectacular wine valley. In the last section of the day's hike, there is a single trail through rock-hard lava prior to reaching Yaiza.</p>
STAGE 5	YAIZA TO PLAYA BLANCA	Distance 15.5km Ascent 80m Decent 260m Asphalt 30%
	<p>Descent along a single trail amid ochre-coloured lava fields.</p> <p>Recommendation: 2 / 4 Technicality: 2 / 4 Facilities: 2 / 4 Type: GR131</p>	<p>A gentle descent towards Playa Blanca, in large part on a single trail with ochre-coloured lava fields as far the eye can see and the mountains of La Geria in the background. It's easy to twist an ankle on a single track like this, especially if you're in a hurry to catch a ferry.</p>