

Camino of the Canary Islands Tour

- an adventure from our backyard -

9 days & 8 nights

The Official Camino on the Island of Grand Canary



Spain's Canary Islands are famous for their beaches, palm trees, and volcanoes, but perhaps lesser known, is the officially recognized Camino de Santiago!

In 1965, the city of Gáldar on the Island of Gran Canaria was granted the same privileges to celebrate the Jacobean Holy Years as Santiago de Compostela by Pope John XXIII.

It all started in the 15th century, when legend tells us of a ship carrying Galician sailors was caught in a violent storm. Fearful for their lives, the crew pleaded with the Apostle Santiago to spare them, and in return, promised to take the Saint to the 'highest place on earth'.

When they arrived safe and sound on land at the southern coast of Gran Canaria, they kept their promise and carried a statue of the Apostle on their shoulders to the Tirajana mountains. There, they built the Shrine of Santiago and the Camino de Gran Canaria was born!



On this Fresco Tours adventure, we lace up our boots and follow the footsteps of these faithful sailors. Starting from the southern coast in Maspalomas, we leave the sand dunes behind and head north through stunning volcanic landscapes, pine forests and small oases as we cross the island. Our pilgrimage ends in Gáldar at the Church of Santiago de los Caballeros, the first Jacobean temple constructed outside of mainland Spain where we get our last stamp!

*We are happy to provide assistance in arranging your transportation from Madrid to the Canary Islands.

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Day 1: Maspalomas

In the afternoon we meet at the seaside town of Maspalomas, where your guide takes you through all your materials for your island adventure. Afterward, we stroll down to the lighthouse that keeps the ships away while we build up an appetite for our welcome dinner. Our Camino begins from Maspalomas, where we turn our backs to the sea and slowly make our way north into the gorge of Barranco de Fataga.

Accommodation: Maspalomas (D) / **Walking:** 4.2 km or 2.5 mi (stroll)

B=Breakfast, L=Lunch & D=Dinner



Day 2: Arteara to Maspalomas

After a delicious buffet breakfast, we hit the trail and work our way through the valley. The landscape changes dramatically from palm groves and volcanic slopes dotted with pine trees to dunes. We begin our day in Arteara, home to the largest aboriginal cemetery of the Canary Islands with hundreds of monuments to the original inhabitants. After lunch we head back to Maspalomas to relax and enjoy some quiet time by the pool or perhaps an afternoon stroll along the beach!

Accommodation: Maspalomas (B, L, D)

Walking: 11 km or 6.5 mi **Elevation Gain:** 130 m / **Loss:** 430 m

Day 3: Arteara to Tunte

After packing up, we shuttle back to Arteara and continue to climb northward along the same trail. As we make our way through the gorge, we come upon the charming village of Fataga, with its whitewashed houses and narrow streets. After tucking into a signature Fresco Tours gourmet picnic lunch, we come to the town of Tunte and the Church of San Bartolomé where we find the 15th century statute of Saint James brought by those faithful Galician sailors centuries ago!

Accommodation: Parador Cruz de Tejada (B, L, D)

Walking: 10,4 km or 6.3 mi. **Elevation Gain:** 660 m / **Loss:** 110 m



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Day 4: Tunte to Cruz de Tejeda

Today, we leave Tunte and follow the trail up into the heart of the island. Although this stage is challenging, the spectacular views are worth every step of the climb. One of today's highlights is Roque Nublo, a towering rock formation and the island's central landmark. After a picnic lunch, we continue to Cruz de Tejeda and back to our hotel.

Accommodation: Parador Cruz de Tejeda (B, L, D)

Walking: 15.5 km or 9.3 mi **Elevation Gain:** 1,190 m / **Loss:** 570 m

Day 5: Rest Day and Optional Hike

Today we are going to take it easy... or not! Pilgrims that would appreciate a day off and perhaps pamper themselves at the hotel's spa can take the morning off. Pilgrims who would rather keep moving are welcome to join their guide and hike down to the village of Artenara.

The whole group will meet in Artenara for lunch. Don't worry, if you decided not to hike, we'll shuttle you down the hill! After lunch, we return to our hotel for a rest before going for dinner to Tejeda, considered one of the *Pueblos Bonitos* of Spain.

Accommodation: Parador Cruz de Tejeda (B, L, D)

Walking: 7.3 km or 4.5 mi **Elevation Gain:** 739 m / **Loss:** 905 m



Day 6: Cruz de Tejeda to Alto de Pavón

Starting from the stone cross, or cruceiro, in the front of the Parador, we get the blood moving with a short but steep climb out of town, where we have an impressive view of the volcanic crater below. We then start to work our way down through coarse volcanic gravel paths and shady pine forests, and even views of the blue sea below! After dinner, we head to bed early to be ready to finish our Camino de Santiago.

Accommodation: Accommodation: Gáldar (B, L, D)

Walking: 13.0 km or 7.8 mi **Elevation Gain:** 310 m / **Loss:** 1,070 m

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Day 7: Alto de Pavón to Gáldar

Returning to the Alto de Pavón, we still have a descent into the green valley. Passing through Hoya de Pineda, you may even see some pottery ovens where the locals would make bowls and jugs. The last portion into Gáldar follows the walls of the ravine and the open vertical chasm. We head straight to the Church of Santiago de los Caballeros for our last stamp in our Pilgrim's Passport and admire Saint James literally standing on a wave of the Canary Islands - Congratulations pilgrim!

Accommodation: Gáldar (B, L, D)

Walking: 7.8 km or 4.7 mi Elevation Gain: 220 m & Loss: 860 m



Day 8: Gáldar to Las Palmas

After breakfast, we visit the Cenobio de Valerón on our way to Las Palmas de Gran Canaria. This fascinating archaeological site has nothing to do with a Monastery (Cenobio) as the name suggests. So, what were these impressive honeycomb-like cavities carved into the stone some 800 years ago used for? We'll show you before transferring to our hotel.

Before our farewell dinner, we will have time for a walk around the Vegueta district, which dates back to the 15th century when the first Spanish explorers arrived to the island.

Accommodation: Las Palmas (B, L, D)

Day 9: Las Palmas

After breakfast, we say *hasta pronto* until our next Fresco Tours adventure!

Tour ends: (B)



Camino of the Canary Islands Tour

WHAT'S INCLUDED?

What to expect?

Expect to have a wonderful time! We've designed this trip to enjoy the stunning beauty of the Spanish Canary Islands landscape, while giving you a true sense of the soul and magic of these exciting people and their culture.

We love to share this magnificent country and the Camino de Santiago, and want you to feel a part of it.



2 Guides:

Our greatest resource! We know Spain because it is our home. Both of your Fresco guides are experienced professionals that are either Spanish or live in Spain year-round – no hired out summer help!

When specified, local art historians will join us to provide further insights of the specific monument / museum that we visit.

* Groups of 3 - 6 pax are accompanied by only 1 guide.

Meals:

Food speaks volumes about a culture and we love to eat! During our walk days, when possible, we prepare gourmet picnics using the freshest of local ingredients and selecting the tastiest recipes of the region. All breakfasts, lunches and dinners are included where we encourage you to try the local cuisine on your own.

We are proud to cater to vegetarians and those with food allergies – milk, egg, wheat, etc.

B=Breakfast, L=Lunch & D=Dinner



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WHAT'S INCLUDED?



Accommodation:

Fresco Tours selects a combination of 3 & 4-star hotels that offer the best in hospitality, comfort and location.

All rooms have in-suite baths. Tour prices are based on double occupancy.

Luggage transfers:

Your luggage will be transported between hotels. You do the walking, we'll do the lifting!

Limited Group Sizes:

Fresco Tours are in small groups to ensure that you receive the individual attention that you deserve. We want to be able to treat each of our clients with a personal touch and we limit the groups to a maximum of 16 participants. We also recognize that each person's Camino is their own personal experience and if you wish, we encourage you to walk on your own – with the assurance that we will be there for you!



Support Vehicles:

Your walks will be accompanied by 2 support vehicles (minimum 6 pax) that are there to provide assistance when needed and look out for your safety. You will have access to the bus every couple of hours, so you won't need to carry a heavy backpack. In addition, the possibility of shorter routes and pick-up options will be offered and explained on a daily basis.

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WHAT'S INCLUDED?



All ground transportation between our meeting point in Maspalomas and Las Palmas is provided on your Fresco Tour.

Special events and tickets for museums and cultural visits are included.

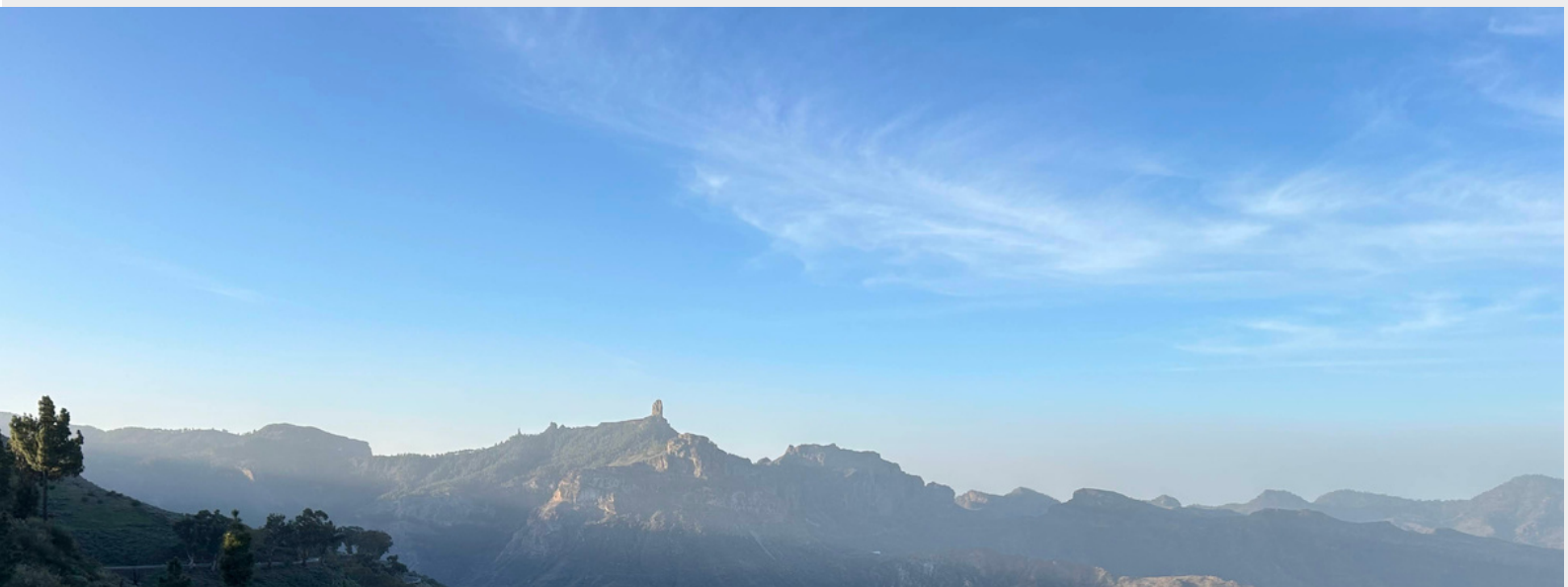
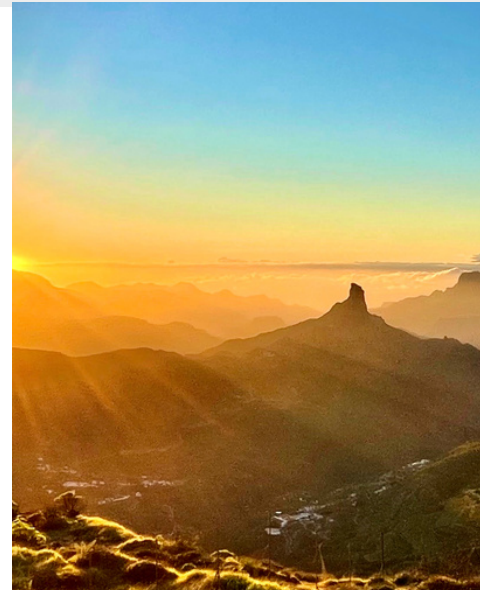
Pre-Tour Assistance:

We will help with your travel arrangements prior to and after the tour start and finish of your Fresco Tour, including assistance with hotel reservations and flight tickets.

Notes regarding the Camino de Gran Canaria

Although this is probably the most physically challenging of all the Fresco Tours walks, please keep in mind that routine checkpoints and shorter walking options will be available each day.

Additionally, as we will be staying at the same hotel at least 2 nights in a row during the hiking stages, there will be opportunities to have a day off from the boots and enjoy the pool of the hotel!



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DATES AND PRICING



Scan or click the QR code to Book.



Click on the map to see the route

BOOK HERE

