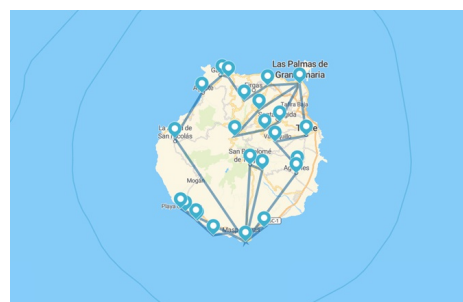




Spain (Canary Islands - Gran Canaria), 8 Days · Tailor-made by car

## Route around the Island of Fairytale

The 'Road Trip across the Miniature Continent' will surprise even the most seasoned traveller. You'll be exploring authentic paradise blessed with warm temperatures all year round. Gran Canaria is the island of open doors, diverse cultures and heavenly beaches. Its 1,500 km<sup>2</sup> contain everything from a rugged north coast, extinct volcanoes, prehistoric laurel forests, relics from the Tertiary Era, and majestic peaks. A land of major contrasts, it boasts an extensive coastline with beaches of all colours and calm waters, deep ravines, arid deserts, stunning gardens, sand dunes like nowhere else in the world and whole host of hidden charms. This self-drive tour, with the freedom of mapping out your own route at your own pace, will also take you to vibrant cities, quaint fishing villages, elegant tourist resorts, and much more. And mile after mile of picture-postcard beaches where you can cool off and unwind in the sun. It's also a road trip on which you'll discover a unique scenery (recognised by UNESCO as a World Biosphere Reserve), admire elegant colonial architecture, take part in centuries-old traditions, breathe in a quintessential maritime atmosphere and soak up an eclectic culture. And this is made even better by the welcoming and open-minded people and a delicious cuisine full of mouthwatering surprises. During the long sunny days, you can choose from a whole host of outdoor adventures, water sports and leisure activities. And after sunset, you'll discover a whole new scene buzzing with atmosphere, fun and fiesta. Enjoy every single mile on an island of eternal spring!



FAMILIES

**Departure date:** Departures from May 2026 till May 2027

**From:** Cork, Shannon, Dublin

### Travel details

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## ● DAY 1 · CITY OF ORIGIN - LAS PALMAS DE GRAN CANARIA

Flight departure from the city of origin to Gran Canaria. Arrival at the airport and rental car pick-up.

To get from the airport to the city of Las Palmas de Gran Canaria, drive along the GC-1 road for about twenty-five kilometres. After checking in at the hotel and freshening up, you can set off on your first visit to this cosmopolitan and vibrant city. Did you know that the city of Las Palmas was built where the first Spanish conquerors settled? Back in the sixteenth century, Las Palmas was already a fully-fledged city. Nowadays, tradition and avant-garde live in harmony in this cosmopolitan capital that has masterfully integrated its urban sprawl into a long coastline that stretches from the old town to the busy Puerto de la Luz. Key witness to the discovery of the New World by Christopher Columbus and a crossroads between Africa, Europe and America, this city is a fascinating melting pot of cultures that ooze from every street, every plaza and every charming corner... You can spend today strolling around Calle Triana and its adjacent streets. Here you'll discover a fascinating retail hub with traditional stores, bazaars, excellent boutiques and electrical goods shops with major tax exemptions. Other shopping streets are Ripoche, Albareda, Juan Rejón and the back streets of Santa Catalina Park. And head to the neighbourhood of Vegueta if you want to discover the city's historical heritage and museums. Here you'll find bars, restaurants and a great nightlife. Another option is to pop over to the Las Canteras district, which has one of the best urban beaches in Europe. As the day draws to a close, make sure you take a walk along its six kilometres of golden sand. The sunsets over the shore are simply spectacular. More ideas to savour the island's excellent culinary delights? The port or the picturesque neighbourhood of San Cristóbal are two great options to savour the excellent local fish dishes at a more than affordable price.

Overnight stay in Las Palmas de Gran Canaria.

## ● DAY 2 · LAS PALMAS DE GRAN CANARIA - TELDE - VALSEQUILLO DE GRAN CANARIA - INGENIO - AGÜIMES - MASPALOMAS

Your second day starts off in and around Las Palmas, followed by a trip to explore the magical inland villages of the island. Have a leisurely breakfast to prepare you for the fascinating journey ahead. From the capital of the island, you can visit five municipalities with spectacular beaches ideal for water sports such as diving and windsurfing. The drive between Las Palmas and Telde, the former capital of Gran Canaria, will take you about twenty minutes. Telde is the third most important city in the Canary Islands and offers a great range of cultural, culinary and archaeological attractions. It's a beautiful city rich in local crafts and traditions. Make sure you try Canarian stew (estofado canario), roasted suckling pig leg (pata de cochinillo asada) or the exquisite local cheese. There are also some excellent fresh fish dishes and delicious desserts, such as guava dessert (dulce de guayaba), banana meringue (merengada de plátano) or almond sponge (bizcochón). In Telde you can stroll through the historic quarter of San Gregorio, with its sublime church and picturesque traditional shops, or head to the area of San Juan, full of stately villas with the majestic Basilica of San Juan as a backdrop. Another option is to head to the Casa Museo de León y Castillo, a museum which houses an important collection of artistic objects linked to the history of the Canary Islands. Last but not least, you can visit the historical-artistic ensemble of San Francisco. For lovers of archaeology, the surroundings of Telde are home to some major sites, such as La Restinga, Tufia and the Cueva de Cuatro Puertas. Then you can hit the road again for twenty minutes until you get to Valsequillo de Gran Canaria. This is a town six hundred metres above sea level and surrounded by towering mountains. It's a true paradise for hiking. Valsequillo is the starting point of some marvellous trails along which you can admire the exuberant Canarian nature, the kaleidoscopic contrast of its flora, its volcanic landscapes and its rich native fauna. What's more, there are some important pre-Hispanic caves in the vicinity. When you're ready, head back to the car for the following stretch of your road trip. Your next stop will be Ingenio, about three quarters of an hour away. Here you can stroll leisurely through its historic quarter or head to the colossal Barranco de Guayadeque archaeological site, located on the outskirts of Ingenio. This is a natural area full of pre-Hispanic sites and archaeological remains, such as the famous cave houses. There's also a fascinating interpretation centre that will give you a first-hand insight into these ancient treasures.

The next stop of the day will be Agüimes.

In this stunning colonial town you can visit the amazing Church of San Sebastián, with a typically Canarian neoclassic façade, or the Hotel Rural Casa de los Camellos, a stately building with dignified aristocratic airs. Very close to here, in the Plaza de San Antón, is the Tourist Office of Agüimes, a must-stop to find out all about the town's architectural history. If you still have time, you can pop into Agüimes History Museum, housed in a former Episcopal Palace. You can end the day marvelling at the magnificent sunset from the nearby Vargas Beach, Arinaga Beach, Balos Beach or El Burrero Beach.

We'll end the day in the lively tourist town of Maspalomas, where we will spend the next few days and from where we'll make exciting day-trips. See off the day with an enjoyable dinner in the city's fashionable restaurants and make the most of its famous nightlife.

Overnight stay in Maspalomas.

### ● DAY 3 · MASPALOMAS - SANTA LUCÍA DE TIRAJANA - SAN BARTOLOMÉ DE TIRAJANA - MASPALOMAS

We'll wake up in Maspalomas, where you can enjoy a delicious breakfast with sea views. Today you can combine your stay in this city, with its beaches and wide range of activities, with a day trip offering you the chance to get to know the towns of Santa Lucía de Tirajana and San Bartolomé de Tirajana, just over an hour's drive away. We'll start our trip with a drive further inland of Gran Canaria, visiting Santa Lucía de Tirajana.

This is a truly unique town, nestled in a privileged setting. Discover the beautiful white-domed Church of Santa Lucía or the nearby archaeological sites, such as La Fortaleza, formed by three stunning rocks. Legend has it that the locals surrendered to Spanish troops here in 1483. The nearby Tirajana Dam is spectacular, surrounded by swathes of palm groves, such as the Palmeral de la Sorrueda. And from the centre of Santa Lucia there are numerous hiking trails that will reward you with a few hours of peace in the midst of nature. Next stop is San Bartolomé de Tirajana. Tunte is the capital of the municipality and is perched in the Caldera de Tirajana, a huge volcanic crater that emerged in the heart of the island. In Tunte you can visit the Church of San Bartolomé and admire the magnificent vistas from its viewpoints. And then your tour through southern Gran Canaria continues to the ever-vibrant and cosmopolitan resort of Maspalomas. This is the perfect place for basking in the sun, unwinding on the magnificent beaches, taking part in an array of leisure activities and exploring the spectacular dune landscapes. You'll need about forty minutes to cover the distance between Tunte and Maspalomas. The town is famous worldwide for its never-ending beach and its wonderful dunes. Make sure you head up to the viewpoint to marvel at the breathtaking sight of six kilometres of constantly moving sands. To avoid burning your feet, nothing better than trekking through the dunes on the back of a camel. You'll feel like a true explorer navigating the desert! The climate conditions here are always favourable, with what seems like an eternal springtime when it comes to temperatures. No wonder that this is the tourist area par excellence of Gran Canaria. If there ever was an oasis in the desert, this is it. Right beside Playa del Inglés, this is also a destination for surfers all year round. We definitely recommend a visit to El Palmeral, Las Charcas y Las Dunas (the Palm Grove, the Lagoons and the Dunes), the three ecosystems of this specially-designated nature reserve, the old lighthouse and its bustling promenade (paseo marítimo)... What's more, the wonderful climate and magnificent views make this a haven for water sports and golf... So, make sure you take advantage of the long sunny days and the pulsating nightlife. Although there are many huge tourist complexes, it still retains intimate areas away from the hustle and bustle.

Overnight stay in Maspalomas.

## DAY 4 · MASPALOMAS - SAN AGUSTÍN - ARGUINEGUÍN - PUERTO RICO - AMADORES - TAURITO - PUERTO DE MOGÁN - MASPALOMAS

You can spend this fourth day getting to know the amazing beaches in the south of the island. Today you'll discover mile after mile of divine beaches. There are extremely popular and world-famous ones, such as the long strip of golden sand that starts out at Playa del Inglés and stretches all the way along to the lighthouse at Maspalomas, skirting a desert-like scenery of dunes around the southern tip of the island. Also in the south, you'll find another set of excellent beaches. Below are the main ones, so you can plan the day according to your tastes. Let's get going! First of all, San Agustín Beach boasts a full range of services and facilities. Famous for its elegant hotels, discreet villas, exclusive residential developments surrounded by vegetation and a black sand beach, in San Agustín you'll feel as if time has stood still. With an intimate atmosphere, it's just a few minutes away from the crowded beaches of Maspalomas and Playa del Inglés, which are famous throughout Europe for their party atmosphere. A privileged location that will let you choose between a beautiful laid-back setting and a bustling stretch of beaches with never-ending fun and fiestas. Sheltered from excessive currents, this is an ideal place to go diving and admire the colourful seabed. Meanwhile, the picturesque coastal town of Arguineguín, some thirteen kilometres on the GC-1 from Maspalomas, is another great alternative to soak up a laid-back atmosphere and avoid excessive crowds. Its intact customs and its maritime environment are the hallmarks of this peaceful enclave, perfect for a few hours of relaxation. Choose from a whole host of beaches and coves located a just a few kilometres from its port, such as Patalavaca, Verga or Anfi del Mar. Your next stop could be Puerto Rico, which you'll reach after driving along a beautiful stretch of road that winds along the coastline. Did you know that Puerto Rico is one of the areas on the island that receives the most hours of sunshine per year? Exclusive and elegant, Puerto Rico is one of the most beautiful resorts on the island, famous for its luxurious hotels and its characterful whitewashed apartments perched on the slopes of the valleys. Located on the photogenic coast of Mogán, it's renowned for its excellent climate, its stunning coastline with fine sands from the Sahara, its calm waters, its exquisite dining and its stylish marina where you'll see berths with pleasure boats and gleaming yachts. (Note: If you have time, head out on a glass-bottomed boat for a spot of dolphin-watching). Within a few kilometres, you can visit the Angry Birds Activity Park, the Puerto Rico shopping centre and the gorgeous beach of Amadores, which you'll reach from a pleasant promenade lined with colourful gardens, shopping areas, and wonderful restaurants... What's more, visitors love to have a go at water sports in the area, the birthplace of several renowned Olympic medallists. The last part of the day will take you to Playa del Taurito, located between Puerto de Mogán and Puerto Rico. Its fine-sand beach is well sheltered from excessive winds by the surrounding cliffs. A few minutes away, you'll come across an artificial seawater lake surrounded by lush gardens and sports facilities, as well as the only saltwater aqua park on the island of Gran Canaria. (Note: This town is also home to the Molino Quemado de Mogán, the tallest windmill on the island at seven metres in height. Legend has it that a villager once burnt it down in protest against the abuse of political power. Rebuilt in 1998, it's the only one on the island that has six blades and has become a popular tourist attraction). And as the icing on the cake today, head over to Playa de Mogán, a stunning area with verdant vegetation and a well-kempt beach with black sand... What's more, its marina is a meeting point for many yachting enthusiasts and a laid-back place with a great atmosphere where you can savour exquisite fish and seafood dishes. The many canals, criss-crossed by small bridges, give Puerto de Mogan its nickname of 'Little Venice'. For lovers of the sea, it's the ideal place to set out on a boat trip, try your hand at water sports or take an unforgettable excursion to spot dolphins and whales.

Return and overnight stay in Maspalomas.

● DAY 5 · MASPALOMAS - LA ALDEA DE SAN NICOLÁS - AGAETE - GÁLDAR - SANTA MARÍA DE GUÍA - MOYA - FIRGAS - ARUCAS - LAS PALMAS DE GRAN CANARIA

Your fifth day will be very intense and very exciting. Set out from Maspalomas and drive for just over an hour along the island's westernmost coast and then slightly inland to La Aldea de San Nicolás de Tolentino. Locally known simply as La Aldea, this municipality boasts a stunning landscape and more than thirty kilometres of very rugged coastline, hidden beaches and idyllic coves perfect for diving. The beaches of Tasarte and Tasartico are blessed with an exceptional climate. Inland, you can visit the Church of San Nicolás and take a stroll around the diminutive old town. After this, drive for another three-quarters of an hour to Agaete. You can head straight to its fantastic beaches or, if you prefer, explore the natural beauty of its surroundings, such as the nearby Tamadaba Nature Park, which is of great geological interest. As you get closer to the coast, the landscape becomes more and more rugged. Canarian pine forests are characteristic of this area and the Valley of Agaete boasts an exceptional landscape, always perfectly green and blessed with blissful year-round temperatures. Another option is to wander through Puerto de Las Nieves and its fantastic beach, where you'll get to admire a breathtaking view over the nearby cliffs, including the Roque Partido, better known as God's Finger. Then back on the road in the direction of Gáldar, just over twenty minutes away. This area boasts a rich archaeological heritage that you can easily visit. It's also well worth visiting the Church of Santiago de los Caballeros, the Municipal Theatre or the Antonio Padrón House-Museum. Nearby, you can also see the lighthouse and Sardina Beach, one of the most beautiful areas on the island. And if you have some more time, just three kilometres away is the Montaña de Amagro Natural Monument, where you'll marvel at the fantastic scenery. Then it's on to the pocket-sized town of Santa María de Guía. Take a leisurely stroll around its historic quarter and discover its picturesque buildings and rich heritage. Another option, if you're a surfing fan, is to head down to San Felipe Beach. If you're looking for more of a family environment, go to the Roque Prieto natural pools, where you can enjoy a refreshing dip with majestic cliffs and volcanic rocks as a backdrop. Make sure you try the excellent local cheese here! Next stops are the towns of Moya and Firgas, very close to each other. You can wander through their historic quarters and discover the rich monumental heritage, such as the Church of San Juan Bautista. Another idea is to drive over to the nearby Doramas Rural Park and take a look at its quirky landscape, full of steep ravines and lush vegetation. Then onward to Arucas, where we recommend a stroll around the old town, declared a site of historic-artistic interest in 1976. Don't miss the stunning panoramic view over the north of the island from La Montaña de Arucas viewpoint.

Overnight stay in Las Palmas de Gran Canaria.

## DAY 6 · LAS PALMAS DE GRAN CANARIA - SANTA BRÍGIDA - VEGA DE SAN MATEO - TEJEDA - ARTENARA - VALLESECO - TEROR - LAS PALMAS DE GRAN CANARIA

You can spend today further exploring inland Gran Canaria. Your first stop could be Santa Brígida, about a twenty-minute drive away. The scenery around this historic village is simply breathtaking. Make sure you stop off at its famous church, as well as the Casa del Vino, both in the historic quarter. The street market held here at the weekend offers a mouthwatering selection of local produce, such as cheeses, traditional honeys, country bread or delicious jams. If you prefer, you can head to the nearby town of Atalaya de Santa Brígida, where you'll find cave houses dating from pre-Hispanic times. Then it's on to Vega de San Mateo, just a few minutes' drive away. It's well worth taking a gentle stroll through its cute historical quarter and visiting its parish church, as well as the Alameda de Santa Ana and the Town Hall. At weekends, you can visit a market of agricultural and artisanal products. Lovers of views and nature are in luck, as just fifteen kilometres away is the breathtaking Pico de los Pozos de la Nieve viewpoint, where you can admire magnificent views over the entire island and even Mount Teide on the nearby island of Tenerife. Then you can drive over to Tejada, less than half an hour away from the viewpoint. Take some time to explore this stunning town located at more than a thousand metres above sea level. The surrounding landscape is truly unique, with Canarian pine forests and rugged mountains. In Tejada you can visit the Abraham Cárdenes Sculpture Museum or the Ethnographic Museum. You can also stop off at the Church of Nuestra Señora del Socorro or the National Parador, located nine kilometres away and, what's more, the nearby Degollada de Becerra viewpoint is another must. Finally, the incredible rock formations of Bentayga and Nublo are well worth seeing. And the next stop is Artenara. In this municipality, which stretches down to the coast and is surrounded by mountains and beautiful forests, you can visit the Archaeological Complex of Acusa, with its famous pre-Hispanic cave houses, the Church of San Matías, or the Chapel of the Virgin de La Cueva, dug out of the cliff face. Other attractions are the Casas Cuevas de Artenara Ethnographic Museum and the Unamuno viewpoint, which commands breathtaking views. And the next stop on your road trip is Valleseco. This is a stunning village surrounded by lush vegetation and some magnificent hiking trails. In the Barranco de la Virgen you can see remains of a laurel forest. You can end today's drive in Teror, just a quarter of an hour away from Valleseco. This is a municipality which is rich in heritage and natural beauty. Take a stroll through the historic quarter of Teror and visit the famous Basilica of Nuestra Señora del Pino, an excellent example of Canarian architecture.

Return and overnight stay in Las Palmas de Gran Canaria.

## DAY 7 · LAS PALMAS DE GRAN CANARIA

You can spend the final day of this fascinating tour exploring the sights of Las Palmas de Gran Canaria. A must-visit is the Puerto-Canteras district, with its neighbourhood of Las Canteras and a four-kilometre-long promenade along its famous beach. You'll also find streets lined with shops and heaps of bars where you can soak up the great atmosphere here. If you head to the neighbourhood of La Isleta, you can visit the Castillo de la Luz, which was the first castle built by the Spanish (1494) on a reef when Las Palmas de Gran Canaria was conquered. Next stop could be the neighbourhood of La Vegueta to visit the Cathedral of Santa Ana, the Centro Atlántico de Arte Moderno gallery, the Vegueta market, the Casa Museo Colón, the nearby Church of San Antonio Abad and the Museo Canario, where you'll find fascinating exhibits of gold metalwork, ceramics, utensils and pre-Hispanic mummies. Once you've visited this historic area, head over to the Triana neighbourhood and walk along Calle Triana, where you'll find lots of shops and buildings with unique facades of various artistic styles. The Casa-Museo de Pérez Galdós, a museum in the house where the famous novelist was born, contains his personal memories, his library, his study and other historical treasures, which will make you appreciate the figure of this major Realist author. In Alcaravaneras you can visit the Pueblo Canario, a unique building inspired by island architecture, where you'll find craft and gift shops, an excellent terrace, the Chapel of Santa Catalina and the Museo de Néstor museum. On leaving Parque Doramas, you can head over to Ciudad Jardín, where you'll come across aristocratic buildings of various architectural genres.

Overnight stay in Las Palmas de Gran Canaria.

## ● DAY 8 · LAS PALMAS DE GRAN CANARIA - CITY OF ORIGIN

Depending on the departure time of your flight, you can spend a few hours exploring Las Palmas de Gran Canaria and its surroundings. You can take a leisurely stroll through the San Telmo Park and discover its historic chapel. What's more, there are two bandstands well worth seeing: the modernist one and La Prensa. Next to Santa Catalina Park is the beautiful building of the Tourism Office, a characteristic example of Canarian architecture designed by the artist Néstor Martín Fernández de la Torre. The surroundings are full of shops, where you can pick up some last-minute souvenirs. You can also visit the Protected Landscape of La Isleta, which was connected to Las Palmas de Gran Canaria by means of a sand tombolo. This narrow strip of land is home to volcanic cones, cliffs with a great diversity of birds, El Cofital Beach and fascinating archaeological sites such as Cueva de los Canarios. (Note: You can enjoy hiking in this remote and unspoilt place. Check out the hiking trails available. Not included). Outside Las Palmas, just twenty minutes to the south, is the Viera y Clavijo Botanical Garden, which showcases a whole host of plants from the Macaronesian area (the Azores, the Canary Islands and Cape Verde). Another option is to head to the Caldera de Bandama Natural Monument, just ten minutes from the Botanical Garden and relatively close to the airport, which is about twenty minutes away. Explore this unique volcanic crater that's home to a huge variety of native species and traditional crops. And don't forget to admire the impressive views from the viewpoint right at the top.

Arrival at the airport with enough time to drop off your rental car and flight back to the city of origin.

Arrival. End of the trip and our services.

## Your trip includes

### Your trip includes

- ✓ Return flight.
- ✓ Stay in selected hotel in Las Palmas de Gran Canaria.
- ✓ Selected meal plan in Las Palmas de Gran Canaria.
- ✓ Stay in selected hotel in Maspalomas.
- ✓ Selected meal plan in Maspalomas.
- ✓ Rent-a-car.

### Your trip doesn't include

- ✗ Possible toll charges.
- ✗ Insolvency protection.

## Destinations Visited

Las Palmas de Gran Canaria



Telde



Valsequillo de Gran Canaria



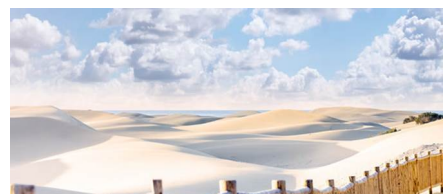
Ingenio

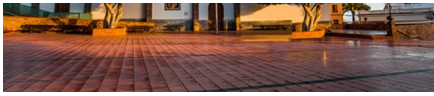


Agüimes



Maspalomas





Santa Lucía de Tirajana



San Bartolome De Tirajana



San Agustin



Arguineguín



Puerto Rico



Amadores



Playa De Taurito



Puerto de Mogán



Amadores



La Aldea de San Nicolas



Agaete



Gáldar



Guía



Moya



Arucas-Firgas



Moya



Arucas-Firgas



Santa Brígida



Vega De San Mateo



Tejeda-Artanara



Teror



## Important remarks

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- Triple rooms in Europe are generally rooms with twin beds or a double, in which a folding bed is installed to accommodate the third person. Due to the inconvenience this causes, we advise against using this option as far the possible.
- Check-in time at the hotel on the day of arrival depends on each establishment, but in no case will it be before 3:00 p.m., unless otherwise indicated.
- The proposed excursions and tours for each day are purely suggestions, as you can tailor the trip to suit your times, tastes and needs.
- A credit card is considered a guarantee, so sometimes you will need one for check-in at hotels.
- Hotels usually have cots available. Otherwise, babies will have to share a bed with an adult.
- To pick up your rental car, you'll need a credit (not debit) card in the name of the person who made the booking, who must also be the named driver of the vehicle.
- Consult the necessary documentation to enter the destinations visited and for transit in the countries where air stopovers are made.