

The best MARCO POLO Insider Tips

Our top 15 Insider Tips



INSIDER TIP Heavenly drinks

Star City serves up not just a stunning view, but also great cocktails. At night there's a sensational view from the highest building on the island, but it's just as good during the day when the eye is drawn to wave-battered reefs, beaches and half the entire island → p. 37

INSIDER TIP Stately home with cistern

Bucolically painted suites and romantic patios, underground white parlours and a chapel make the *Casona de Yaiza* a stylish sanctuary → p. 87

INSIDER TIP The name says it all

At *Haría's* "Green Door" (*Puerta Verde*), you can enjoy great salads with fresh herbs and spiced fish or meat, followed by homemade aloe vera and prickly pear ice cream → p. 57

INSIDER TIP At one with the Snow Virgin

Climb to the chapel *Ermita de las Nieves* for the most spectacular view of the island, plus sound effects from the pounding surf → p. 57

INSIDER TIP In the house of Omar Sharif

The charismatic actor lost this extraordinary property in a high-stakes game of bridge. Luckily, you can now take a stroll through the labyrinth of halls and the passages in the rock at *LagOmar* → p. 58

INSIDER TIP Like a mirage

In the afternoon the *dromedaries* make their way back to the stables from the land of the pitch-black Timanfaya Mountains. A surreal sight, it could almost be a mirage (photo left) → p. 23

INSIDER TIP A taste of Lanzarote

At *La Bodega Santiago* in Yaiza, you can enjoy imaginative creations under the giant fig tree or take in the quaint ambiance inside → p. 87

INSIDER TIP Underground music

The lava caves at the *Cueva de los Verdes* rank among Lanzarote's highlights. Even more impressive is a visit to the caves for one of the rare *concerts in the auditorium* → p. 108

INSIDER TIP Lovely souvenirs

Are you looking for attractive pottery with special glazing or painted impressions of the island? Then you are sure to find something pretty to take back home in *Arte y Cerámica*, the atelier of Stefan Schultz and Anneliese Guttenberger! → p. 30

INSIDER TIP Dine out with Orlando

It's mainly locals who eat here. At *Lilium* in Arrecife, almost all of the ingredients are sourced on the island; the formula is fusion and the decor hip. And Señor Orlando serves Lanzarote's best wines → p. 37

INSIDER TIP Wind down and relax

It's not only the broad coastal landscape that makes *Lotus del Mar* such a fabulous place, but also the gleaming white houses flooded with light → p. 47

INSIDER TIP Market madness

At the weekend *mercadillos* specialising in crafts, farmhouse products

and produce pop up everywhere. Probably the *Saturday market in Haría* has the liveliest atmosphere → p. 57

INSIDER TIP Fish supper at sunset

The fishing village of El Golfo (photo right) is always worth a detour, particularly at sunset, when the fire-red sun on the horizon sinks into the sea to the sound of screeching seagulls. The restaurant *Casa Rafa* boasts not just a menu of delicious seafood, but also a good house wine on the terrace → p. 83

INSIDER TIP Fine dining within lava walls

César Manrique turned *Los Aljibes de Tahiche*, two cisterns with thick lava walls, into a restaurant. Today an Argentinian-Brazilian duo serves up hearty, charcoal-grilled meat dishes in this transformed space → p. 46

INSIDER TIP Sleep on the beach

Only a few hotels on Lanzarote are right on the beach and the *San Antonio* is one of them → p. 67



BEST OF...

GREAT PLACES FOR FREE

Discover new places and save money

● Give aloe vera a try

You can see how this desert plant grows at *Lanzaloe*, a small plantation on the northern tip of the island. Precision cuts are used to extract the mineral-rich gel that is used in cosmetics and food. Taste the aloe cake and liqueur without having to make a purchase → p. 49

● For the sure-footed

There is normally an admission charge to see César Manrique's landscape artworks, such as the Mirador del Río (photo), the viewing platform over the straits between Lanzarote and the neighbouring island of La Graciosa. Just as spectacular, but free, is the view from the *Mirador de Guinate*, and, what's more, it's quite likely that you will have the place to yourself → p. 58

● A lesson in vulcanology

The *Visitor Centre* at Timanfaya National Park impresses with a fascinating multi-media introduction to the geology of the world's volcanoes → p. 75

● Sunbathe in comfort

The beaches in *Puerto del Carmen* are very pretty and very popular. If you'd like to bask in the sun in greater comfort, then you have to pay for a lounger. But after 5pm all the beach furniture is free – and there will still be another two hours of sun to enjoy → p. 65

● A walk with a view

You can save yourself the car-parking charge for the nature conservation area if you walk from the seaside promenade at Playa Blanca to the *Papagayo beaches*. And there's an added bonus: magnificent views over to Fuerteventura → p. 85

● To the heart of darkness

Employees of *Timanfaya National Park* take visitors where others can't go. The tour on foot explores craters, tunnels and an almost level, solid sea of lava in the middle of the Fire Mountains → p. 74

●●● Dots in guidebook refer to "Best of..." tips

ONLY ON LANZAROTE

Unique experiences

● Wine from a volcano

The malvasia grape has an unobtrusive-aromatic flavour. Vines grow in lava pits, where moisture from the night-time dew collects. The accumulated water is then released to the vine roots during the course of the day. Thus, even Lanzarote's stony wasteland becomes a fertile vineyard, and the wines from the bodega *El Chupadero* prove it (photo) → p. 68



● Journey back in time

Nowhere else is Lanzarote's past more evident than in *Teguise*. In the *real villa*, the royal town, fine mansions and elegant town houses, narrow alleys, broad plazas and dignified churches gloriously reveal the island's history → p. 52

● Salt from sun and sea

Nothing imparts a more intensive taste to our food than *sal del mar* or sea salt. This white gold is harvested in the *Salinas de Janubio*, where you can buy it cheaply at the *Bodega de Janubio*. Traditional dishes, seasoned with *flor de sal*, the delicately-flavoured "flower of salt", can be enjoyed nearby at *Mirador Las Salinas Casa Domingo* – an amazing place to watch the sun set over the shimmering pools of salt! → p. 85

● Old sounds, new temples

The timple arrived on the island with the African slaves, its bright sound an essential part of the Lanzarotean folk song. This small stringed instrument is crafted by hand in small workshops, such as the one run by *Antonio Lemes Hernández*. In the attractive museum next door, you can listen to the sounds of this instrument and learn about others related to it → p. 56

● Beauty from the bowels of the earth

If you are taking a stroll on one of Lanzarote's lava-strewn beaches, be on the look-out, as you may come across a piece of *olivine*: a semi-precious, translucent olive-green gemstone, which looks at its best set in silver → p. 85

● Forgotten recipes

There are still chefs around who love to prepare traditional dishes using ingredients sourced on the island. Two good exponents are the *Isla Bonita* in Costa Teguise and the *Casa Brígida* in Playa Blanca → p. 43, 79

ONLY ON



DISCOVERY TOURS

1

LANZAROTE AT A GLANCE



START: ① Playa Blanca
END: ① Playa Blanca

3 days
Driving time
(without stops)
6.5 hours

Distance:
🚗 200 km/124 miles



COSTS: accommodation approx. 150 euros, restaurant meal 15–25 euros/person

WHAT TO PACK: sun protection, swim gear

IMPORTANT TIPS: As the distances on Lanzarote are quite manageable, it is not necessary to stay in the hotels mentioned below. You can easily stop the tour at any point and return to your pre-booked accommodation for the night!

If you plan to visit several of the landscape artworks of César Manrique, you can save money by purchasing a voucher valid for multiple sites (*bono*).

Every corner of the earth has its own special charm. If you want to explore all the many different facets of this region, head off the beaten track or get tips for the best stops, breathtaking views, hand-picked restaurants or the best local activities, then these customised discovery tours are just the right thing. Choose the best route for the day and follow in the footsteps of the MARCO POLO authors – well-prepared to navigate your way to all the many highlights that await you along the tour.

A tour of contrasts! Experience black fire mountains, green valleys moistened by trade winds, coastal villages and colonial Tegüise. Along the way, discover the most beautiful works of landscape art on Lanzarote ranging from viewing platforms, underground cave worlds and unusual gardens fit for a real desert to emerald green lagoons and glistening salt fields.

Get an early start so you have enough time – 9am is perfect! **From ① Playa Blanca → p. 77**, take the LZ 702 towards the island's interior. You will first cross a dusty plateau, then the road climbs steeply up to the village

DAY 1

① Playa Blanca

8 km/5 mi