



The red tajinaste flower is endemic to Tenerife, flourishing among the volcanic rock of Teide National Park

Wildflowers, Wine and History in the Canary Islands Tenerife and La Gomera

8 – 15 April 2027

‘Carolyn (Fry) was a great tour leader, inclusive and fun, and a very nice bunch of travellers. Visits were all very good, particularly La Gomera – stunning everywhere.’

Janet Farran, *Wildflowers, Wine and History in the Canary Islands*, 2025



Level 3
MODERATE 



The town of Hermigua in La Gomera

The Canary Islands owe their rich horticultural heritage to the whims of a Spanish king. During the peak of Spain's naval power in the 1600's, plants, herbs and spices were collected from around the world to ship back to Spain. The strategically positioned, subtropical Canary Islands became the ideal cultivation point on the route back to Spain, forming some of Spain's oldest botanical gardens.

Black volcanic soil and a subtropical climate made the Canaries the perfect botanical testing ground for exotic crops, such as sugar and tobacco, and the eclectic preferences of King Carlos III resulted in an enormous range of exotic species being nurtured in the Canaries, prior to being planted in his palace in Madrid.

Learn about the history of people and plants in Tenerife and the lesser-known La Gomera, known as Isla Mágica - an ecological treasure. Explore an extraordinary variety of habitats from volcanic and wild, mountainous landscapes, palm-covered valleys, arid coastal areas and lush laurisilva forests. Sample delicious, distinctive cuisine that makes extensive use of local produce.

THIS TOUR IS CLASSED AS:

Level 3 | Moderate



Regular walking at destinations, extended standing and /or increased travel distances. Good fitness is required.

Tour Leader

Carolyn Fry is an author and journalist specialising in science, conservation, natural history and adventure travel.

She has written and contributed to 11 books, covering botanical explorers, the origins of plant-based foods and climate science. Carolyn has won many awards for her work, including the 2016 Garden Media Guild Award for Best Environmental Book for 'Seeds: Safeguarding our Future.'

A former editor of *Geographical*, the magazine of the Royal Geographical Society, Carolyn has contributed to *New Scientist*, *BBC Wildlife*, *BBC History*, *The Times*, *Sunday Telegraph*, *Independent on Sunday* and *Kew Magazine*, among others. Her work has taken her far and wide; from visiting the world's most remote post office in Antarctica, to following in the footsteps of Livingstone in Zambia and wandering ancient palm forests in the Seychelles, as well as exploring the Canary Islands.



Carolyn has appeared on two BBC documentaries to discuss the role of plants as commodities during the British Empire, and the resurgence of tropical gardens. She has previously led botanical tours, including to South India.

“Carolyn was a total delight.”

Lorraine Casey, *Wildflowers, Wine and History in the Canary Islands*, 2025

Teide National Park, Tenerife



3 nights Tenerife – 3 nights La Gomera – 1 night Tenerife



Day 1: Tenerife (Thursday 8 April) **D**

Am: Arrive and transfer to **La Laguna Gran Hotel** in San Cristóbal de La Laguna.

Eve: Listen to a brief background on the tour, followed by a welcome dinner.

Day 2: Tenerife (Friday 9 April) **B D**

Am: Visit a local banana plantation before continuing to the Puerto de la Cruz Botanical Gardens, built in the late 18th century and covering over 20,000m² with vast collections of both native and tropical and subtropical plants that have adapted perfectly to the island's climate, in the company of an expert guide. Take a walking tour of Puerto de la Cruz. Lunch at leisure.

Eve: Dinner at a local restaurant.

Day 3: Tenerife (Saturday 10 April) **B L**

Am: Full day visit to the spectacular Teide National Park World Heritage Site, which also incorporates fascinating information on volcanology, anthropology and astrophysics, including a visit to the visitor centre. Visit the Astrophysics Observatory.

Pm: Return to the hotel late afternoon and at leisure.

Day 4: Tenerife / La Gomera (Sunday 11 April) **B D**

Am: Transfer to Los Cristianos to catch the

ferry to La Gomera, arriving in the port town of San Sebastián de la Gomera.

Pm: Take a walking tour of San Sebastián, visiting the town's 'Columbus sites', including the well where he drew water, his house, and the church where he prayed. Check in to **Parador La Gomera** and have dinner at the hotel.

Day 5: La Gomera (Monday 12 April) **B L**

Am: Full day visit to Garajonay National Park in the north of the island for an easy walking tour with a local guide. This park is geographically unique with remnants of the unique laurisilva forests, found only in the Macaronesian Islands (the Canaries, Madeira and the Azores). The forest, which remains almost permanently shrouded in clouds and mist, is characterised by the evolution of a large number of endemic species of fauna and flora.

Pm: Traditional lunch in a local restaurant. Visit the attractive towns of Agulo and Hermigua, two of the island's first towns, for examples of traditional Canarian architecture. Visit the Juego de Bolas Visitor Centre to learn about local geology.

Eve: At leisure.

Day 6: La Gomera (Tuesday 13 April) **B L**

Am: Drive to the south of the island and visit the villages of Iqualero, Chipude - a mountain village considered to be the oldest settlement on La Gomera - and El Cercado, a pottery village. Continue to Laguna Grande within the National Park for a short walk.

Pm: Continue to Alajeró to visit a winery and vineyard and enjoy a light tapas lunch made with local produce and tastings of the local wines. Return to San Sebastián and at leisure.

Day 7: La Gomera / Tenerife
(Wednesday 14 April)

B D

Am: At leisure in San Sebastian before departing to take the ferry back to Tenerife.

Pm: Transfer to **Hotel El Médano**, located conveniently near the airport in the south of the island.

Eve: Farewell dinner in a local restaurant.

Day 8: Tenerife (Thursday 15 April)

B

Am: Depart the hotel after breakfast.

NB: All itineraries are subject to change according to local conditions.

The cost of the tour sharing a room is £1,894

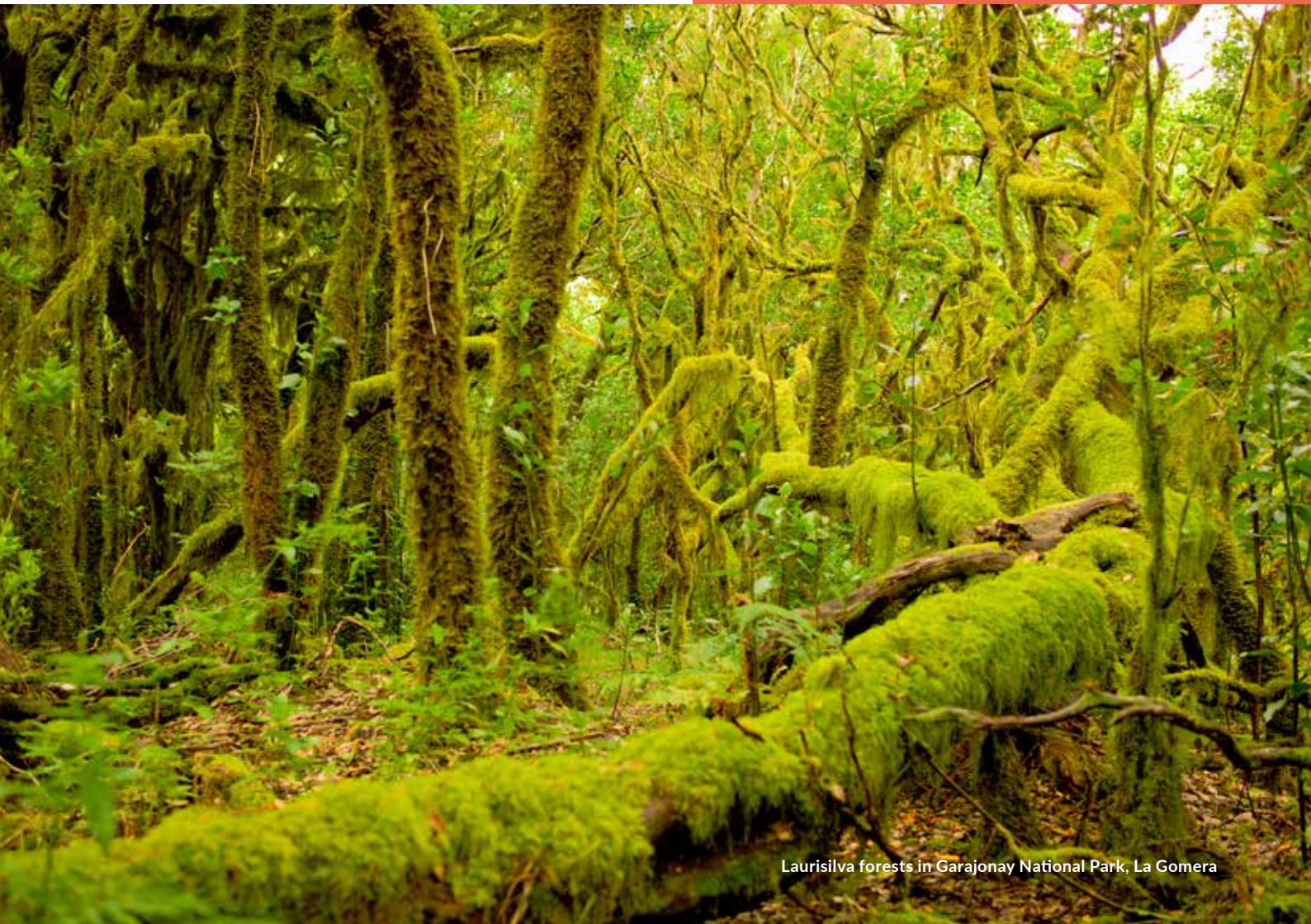
The cost of the tour in an economy single room is £2,290

The cost includes:

- Seven nights' accommodation in medium grade hotels based on a twin or double classic room.
- Expert tour leader, Carolyn Fry
- Specialist local guides throughout
- Comprehensive briefing notes
- All breakfasts, lunch or dinner daily
- All internal transport
- A full programme of cultural visits
- All admission fees and tips

The cost excludes:

- International flights and airport transfers
- All personal extras such as portage, laundry, inoculation fees, and drinks
- All optional excursions, tours and visits
- Travel insurance
- Visas, if applicable



Laurisilva forests in Garajonay National Park, La Gomera



The view from Parador de La Gomera, La Gomera

Hotels

La Laguna Gran Hotel, Tenerife

Located in the colourful historical part of the UNESCO World Heritage Site of San Cristóbal de La Laguna, La Laguna Gran Hotel combines a centuries old, restored building with an inviting modern section. The beautifully appointed hotel offers facilities including a magnificent roof terrace with swimming pool and jacuzzi and a well-equipped gym.

Parador de La Gomera, Gomera

A 16th century manor house, or parador, converted to a luxury hotel, Parador La Gomera boast a spectacular clifftop with stunning ocean views. Dating from the Columbian era, the hotel is a haven of tranquillity with lush tropical gardens, lovely patios and comfortable and charming rooms. It has an attractive pool and hot tub and provides exceptionally helpful and friendly service.

Hotel El Médano, Tenerife

This 3-star beachfront hotel located on El Médano Beach has a distinctive art deco style with an elegant, bright, and nautical feel.

Reconstructed in the 1960s from a former packaging plant, it features a prominent 2-story sun terrace extending over the sea, with direct access for swimming, with simple, bright rooms.



The pool at La Laguna Gran Hotel, Tenerife (top);
The hall in La Laguna Gran Hotel, Tenerife (above)

About Us

To travel with us is to dig below the surface, revealing the deeper destination. Of course, you will visit the great historical sites; marvel at the wonders of architecture and engineering; be moved by the riches of culture and art; and experience the most spectacular landscapes in the world. We also ensure that you see the country as it is today, giving you privileged access that independent travel and other tour companies rarely get close to.

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Magnificent Tenerife (credit Hendrik- Cornelissen, Unsplash) (top);
La Laguna, Tenerife Agulo, La Gomera; Chipude, La Gomera (above)



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TOURS**

