



COASTAL SCENARIES OF TENERIFE

A selection of places from where you can observe how the sea shapes and hides incredibly diverse and rich scenery.



TABAIBA / RADAZUL



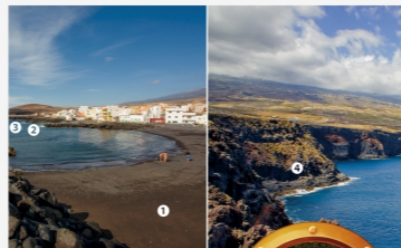
1. Barranco (ravine) La Nea
2. La Nea Beach
3. Bathing area in Radazul
4. El Moro Beach
5. Bathing area in Tabaiiba
6. Diving in Radazul
7. El Peñón shipwreck



On the southwest side, sheltered from the trade winds, we find a stretch of coast between ravines, tababales and high buildings that extends up the cliff. It is a landscape that has been highly affected by residential use, but it still preserves some natural areas of great interest. Here we can find areas that are perfect for swimming and doing water sports all year round, for example at the black sand beach of La Nea, the bathing area of Radazul or the natural swimming pool of Tabaiiba. Underwater we can also find the sign of man in the El Peñón sunken wreck, which is surrounded by marine life, including garden eels, and is constantly visited by scuba divers.



LAS ERAS



1. Las Eras Beach
2. Aguadulce Beach
3. El Sombrerito and El Bonito Beaches
4. The cliffs of La Hondura
5. Diving at Las Eras



Among low cliffs, in a land that combines basaltic black rock and the white pumice stone which is characteristic of the South, we find the small coastal town of Las Eras. This is a great area for scuba diving thanks to its easy access from small pebble beaches, like Aguadulce or El Sombrerito, and because of the abundance and diversity of flora and fauna. Here you can observe a great variety of fish and a multi-colour rocky seabed due to the dense seaweed covering the rocks. In fact, the natural habitats and species of the nearby cliffs of La Hondura have guaranteed its protection as it is recognized as a Site of Scientific Interest.



PUNTA RASCA



1. The Punta Rasca lighthouse
2. Malpals of Punta Rasca
3. Path of the Natural Reserve
4. Diving at the lighthouse
5. El Condesito shipwreck



Punta Rasca is integrated into the Malpals Natural Reserve of Rasca, a very well-preserved natural area, despite being near the main tourist centres. In this arid and rugged landscape, recognizable due to the presence of the lighthouse and because it is surrounded by volcanic cones, the predominant plant species is the cardonal-tabaiba, which is adapted to the heat and lack of water. Under the sea we can also observe rugged scenery, of basaltic columns, arcs sculptured in the rock and small caves that were once part of volcanic tunnels. When diving it is common to see pelagic fish and black coral.



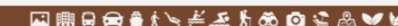
LOS CRISTIANOS



1. Guaza mountain
2. Path of the Natural Monument
3. La Arenita Beach
4. Las Morenas Cave
5. Diving at the cliffs



In the proximity of the popular tourist centre of Los Cristianos we can admire the coastal and marine scenery of the Montaña de Guaza cliffs. It is a great place to go hiking and birdwatching, due to its important natural and historical features and offers excellent ocean views where it is common to observe bottlenose dolphins. Under the ocean La Cueva de las Morenas, (The Cave of the Moray Eels), is the prime dive site in this area. It is the exit point of a very long volcanic tunnel where we can find these curious fish and also many stingrays.



PLAYA PARAÍSO



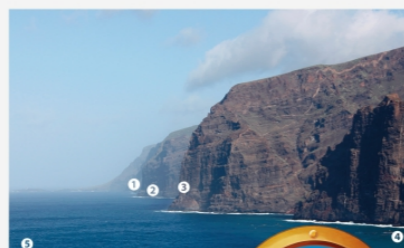
1. Las Salinas Beach
2. Punta Negra
3. El Pinque Beach
4. El Roque
5. Diving at Los Champiñones
6. Diving at El Ancla



Among banana plantations and recently developed tourist areas we find this small part of Adeje's coast, a very charming place both for scuba divers and those looking to relax next to the ocean. Protected from the currents, there are pebble beaches with grey sand, like Las Salinas or El Pinque, which are perfect to have a relaxing swim thanks to their calm waters. You can choose among different dive routes, entering from the coast or from a boat, to enjoy the underwater scenery of rugged rocks full of cracks and small caves, including some characteristic geological formations that resemble giant mushrooms. As examples of fauna we can find stingrays and huge shoals of Bastard grunts around a big old anchor.



LOS GIGANTES



1. El Carrizal Ravine
2. Masca Ravine
3. Barranco Seco (Dry Ravine)
4. Los Guilos Beach
5. Diving at La Atlántida



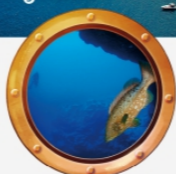
On the far western edge of the island we find some of Tenerife's most impressive coastal scenery: the cliffs of Los Gigantes. These basaltic monuments rise up 500 metres above the ocean, and continue along 10 kilometers of the coast. It is only possible to appreciate their majesty from a boat or by descending one of the many ravines that lead to black sand beaches, like Masca with its high vertical walls. Under the sea, rocky scenery offers a diversity of shapes and creatures, and in this way, caves and basaltic columns are witness to different species of sharks and cetaceans passing by.



GARACHICO



1. Roque de Garachico
2. El Caletón
3. El Muelle Beach
4. Diving at Las Anclas
5. Diving at El Túnel



We find this charming village at the foot of La Culata marine fossil cliff. The town re-emerged from among the lava of the Arenas Negras Volcano after its eruption in 1706 buried a large part of this prosperous town. On the coastline there is an old pier of great historical importance, and next to it, we have the black sand beach of Playa del Muelle on one side, and on the other El Caletón, a complex of natural tide pools formed by lava and adapted for swimming. In the ocean you can see a great variety of fish among old anchors and cannons, a spectacular volcanic tunnel and basaltic lava seascapes around the Roque de Garachico islet, which make this an iconic place for scuba diving.



ACENTEJO - EL RINCÓN



1. El Ancón Beach
2. Los Patos Beach
3. El Bollullo Beach
4. Diving at La Rapadura



Between the town of Puerto de la Cruz and the rugged Coast of Acentejo there are three pristine black sand beaches, El Bollullo, Los Patos and El Ancón. They represent the very characteristic scenery of the north coast of the island, where nature dominates over human activity. In this landscape we can see agricultural terraces and typical coastal vegetation, like sagebrush. This scenery, which contrasts with the intense blue of the ocean, offers scenes of great beauty, but you have to be careful when accessing by land or sea due to the great force of the ocean. Under the surface of the water we have the famous dive site of La Rapadura, with amazing volcanic scenery of basaltic columns. What really stands about this dive site is the fauna that clings to the seabed such as the abundant yellow and red sea fans.



COSTA DE ANAGA



1. Roque de Las Bodegas
2. Roque de Dentro
3. Roque de Fuera
4. Diving at Roque de Fuera
5. Baja Palometa



On the far north-east coast of Tenerife we can see some of the wildest natural scenery on the island, its coast being specially exposed to the force of the Atlantic Ocean. Between Almáciga and the Lighthouse of Anaga there are various pristine black sand and pebble beaches, like Benjo, lying at the mouth of grand ravines dotted with old farm houses. Two impressive islets emerge from the sea: Roque de Tierra and Roque de Fuera, emblematic natural monuments that stand out for their scenic, ecological and geomorphological interest. They are home to various endemic species, so access is limited to authorized scientists. Underwater the currents and scenery are also wild, with pelagic fish, sea turtles and sharks swimming among the great rock formations.



| SAFETY | |
|-----------------|-----|
| Emergencies | 112 |
| National Police | 091 |
| Local Police | 092 |
| Guardia Civil | 062 |

| AIRPORTS | |
|-------------|-------------|
| Information | 902 404 704 |

| PUBLIC TRANSPORT | |
|-------------------------|-------------|
| Bus Information / TITSA | 922 531 300 |
| Metrotenerife | 922 099 119 |
| www.titisa.com | |
| www.metrotenerife.com | |

| TRAFFIC INFORMATION | |
|---------------------|-------------|
| Information Center | 900 210 131 |

| TENERIFE TOURISTIC INFORMATION | |
|--------------------------------|-------------|
| www.webtenerife.com | |
| Santa Cruz Tenerife Office | 922 892 903 |
| Los Cristianos Office | 922 757 130 |
| Puerto de La Cruz Office | 922 386 000 |

| WEATHER INFORMATION | |
|---------------------------|-------------|
| www.aemet.es | |
| Local Weather Information | 922 213 222 |

Remember that the coastal scenery is:

Valuable It has taken thousands of years to be created, and it is very important to those who enjoy it, both tourists and residents.

Fragile Human actions such as overfishing, dumping waste, disordered building and infrastructure can cause irreparable damage.

Shared By all the people that enjoy it, and by all the organisms that live there.

TAKE CARE OF YOUR LAND AND SEASCAPES



LANDSCAPE

Natural
 Rural
 Urban

ACCESS

By foot
 Car
 Public Transport
 Boat
 Windsurf
 Swimming
 Surfing
 Sailing
 Canoeing
 Hiking
 Diving
 Observation of Fauna
 Photography
 Wreck
 Anchors (Sunken Elements)
 Beach
 Church
 Historical Elements
 Lighthouse
 Natural Swimming Pool
 Path
 Harbour
 Flora
 Fauna

ELEMENTS

Natural
 Rural
 Urban
 By foot
 Car
 Public Transport
 Boat
 Windsurf
 Swimming
 Surfing
 Sailing
 Canoeing
 Hiking
 Diving
 Observation of Fauna
 Photography
 Wreck
 Anchors (Sunken Elements)
 Beach
 Church
 Historical Elements
 Lighthouse
 Natural Swimming Pool
 Path
 Harbour
 Flora
 Fauna

Catch QR codes to see more photos from the area.

PREDOMINANT COASTAL SCENERIES



Playa El Bollullo

Beaches

The beaches of Tenerife are formed by yellow or black sand. They are usually located in bays and sheltered areas, or lying at the mouth of ravines, and this is why they are not large. They stand out due to the contrast of colours between the sand and the blue ocean.

- 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 18 21



Acantilados de La Hondona

Coastal Cliffs

Of small or great height, they occupy most of Tenerife's coastline, conditioning access to the shore of the ocean, and giving it iconic scenery which offers spectacular views from places like Punta de Anaga and Teno, or from the Coast of Acentejo.

- 4 7 8 9 13 17 18



Punta Rasca

Intertidal Platforms

Typically found on coasts with gentle slopes and recent lava flows, or areas exposed to intense ocean erosion. This coastal scenery is observed in relatively flat areas that become exposed when the tide goes out. Here we can find tide pools and intrusions of the ocean that provide a habitat of great biological diversity and important scenic value, caused by the contrast of the dark colours of the volcanic rock with the green, yellow and red colours of the algae and sedentary invertebrates that live on them. They are traditional bathing areas.

- 3 4 8 9 14 15 16 17 19 20



Tabalba

Urban Landscapes

Human activity on the coast has also left its mark, creating a wide diversity of scenery. The type of landscape goes from harbours, necessary for economic activity and transport, to the infrastructures designed for enjoying the coast, such as promenades, natural swimming pools, marinas, etc. and also buildings for residential and tourist use.

- 2 4 5 7 9 10 11 12 16 17 19 20

COASTAL SCENERIES OF TENERIFE

A selection of places from where you can contemplate how an ocean sculpts, and also hides under its surface, the most diverse and rich landscapes and seascapes.

Thanks to its geomorphological characteristics the Island of Tenerife has climatic peculiarities and a unique interaction of nature with humans. It is the diversity of scenery that makes it unique. In the strip of territory where the island blends in with the ocean, there are other added factors that make the coastline so diverse, including what is hidden under the sea. With this guide-map, we show you a selection of spots where you will be able to check the wide variety of charming scenery you can find within a small area, both on land and underwater, and the relationship established between both worlds; on the reverse side of the map there is a detailed description of nine of these places. These nine spots were chosen due to characteristics such as the singularity and diversity of the scenery, accessibility, territorial equilibrium, potential number of visitors, facilities, presence of protected natural areas and the possibility to go scuba diving and snorkeling.

We invite you to explore the coast of Tenerife from a new point of view, daring you to reflect on how the ocean, the land and people come together, and taking you beneath the surface of the water to help you understand that the scenery that your senses perceive is a treasure created by the slow and constant action of natural phenomena over millions of years, together with recent harmful human impact. Enjoy this heritage and help towards its conservation and improvement.

TENERIFE'S COAST. THE THREE SIDES OF THE ISLAND

There is a huge variety of coastal and underwater scenery along the coast of Tenerife as a result of factors such as orientation, the influence of the ocean currents, exposure to waves, geological age, the composition of the rock, the topography and the existence of recent lava eruptions that have gained terrain from the sea, but also in good measure due to human activity. These factors affect each of the sides of island differently, so we can easily recognize each one by its unique features.

The **north side** from Teno to Anaga, being the most exposed to the waves of ocean swells, has the most rugged landscape. Cliffs, rocky intertidal platforms, and pebble and black sand beaches are frequent along the coast; always with dark colours as a result of the volcanic rocks. This contrasts with the intense blue colour of the ocean, which is usually rough all year. Access to the coast is limited, which is the reason why it is frequent to come across small piers and natural swimming pools, and we generally find there is a scarce population. We can see examples of this type of scenery at San Juan de La Rambla, Jover and Punta del Hidalgo, among others.

On the **south-east side**, from Anaga to Punta de La Rasca, there is a predominance of small cliffs and lowlands, less affected by waves and therefore more sheltered, but exposed to the trade winds. On this side of Tenerife we can find coastal scenery with a variety of colours, from the recently formed black lava coast of the Malpais de Güimar, the grey dune formations of El Médano, which are unique on the island, and its red volcanic cone Motaña Roja, to the ochre colours of Montaña Amarilla. The weather conditions on this coast and the easy accessibility favour residential use, especially in areas close to the metropolitan area and to the tourist areas in the south, and the enjoyment of the coast for doing watersports and sea bathing.

Finally, in the **south-southwest side**, between Punta de La Rasca and Punta de Teno, the coast is mainly low and flat, sheltered from the trade winds and the major swells, the sea is calm most of the year. Bays and beaches - like La Caleta de Adeje or Playa de la Arena - predominate with the exception of the spectacular cliffs of Los Gigantes in the far west which are only interrupted by some small pebble and sand beaches like Masca, found at the mouth of impressive ravines. The mild weather conditions along with the easy access to the shore and good sea conditions, are the reasons why tourism is mainly concentrated on this side of the Island.



MAIN SEASCAPES



Playa Paraiso

Sandy sea beds

Sandy sea beds without vegetation that form poor looking scenery because of their uniformity, although in sheltered areas it is common to find the presence of garden eels, named this way because they make curious underwater gardens.

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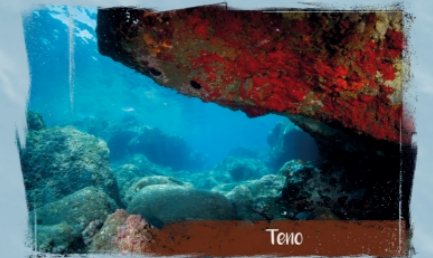


El Pens

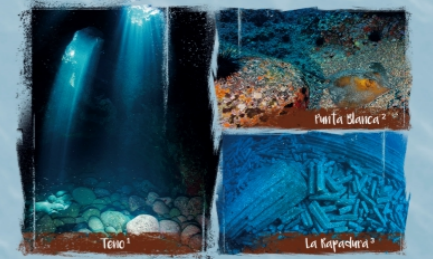
Sebadales (Seagrass Meadows)

Stable sandy sea beds allow marine phanerogams to create sea meadows, which are essential to the marine environment because they are used by many species of fish as nursery grounds.

- 1 5 6 8 9



Teno



Punta Blanca

La Guayabera

Rocky Sea Beds

The rocky sea beds form another type of underwater scenery of great beauty and colour due to the algae and other organisms that live free or are attached to the rocks. We find a great diversity of forms, with outstanding stone masses with vertical walls called veriles, or the formation of basalt columns¹ that create impressive underwater monuments. In dark environments, the old volcanic tunnels now form arches and underwater caves², important because of their geomorphology and the singular organisms that live in them.

At present, there are great extensions of rocky formations that are very degraded because of the excessive population of the long-spined black sea urchin, caused mainly by the absence of their natural predators due to overfishing. This sea urchin is a real plague as it eats most of the algae creating poor white scenery called "blanquiazules" or barren grounds³.

¹ Lava Tunnels, Arches and Caves

- 3 4 5 7 8 9 11 12 13 14 16 18 19 20 21

² Barren Grounds

- 2 3 7 8 9 11 13 14 15 16 17 19 21

³ Basalt Columns

- 8 13 14 16 18 20 21