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**SAN CRISTÓBAL
DE LA LAGUNA**

World Heritage
Cities





World Heritage Cities

San Cristóbal de La Laguna

The seed of Spanish American city planning was sown in this Tenerife city, founded in 1497 by a man of great foresight, Don Alonso Fernández de Lugo. Designed with man in mind, the city represented the crystallisation of a new, profoundly humanistic, philosophical concept which arrived ahead of its time. Situated on the Atlantic islands whence Spain would set out to accomplish its greatest feat, San Cristóbal de La Laguna was destined to form a nexus between two cultures: in exchange for sending its spiritual messages to the Americas, it received the values that would help forge its strong personality.

For four centuries, the city has served Tenerife as its economic and social axis, as shown by the austere majesty of its architecture and the sober beauty of its monuments, public buildings and many churches. A good number of them date back to the sixteenth century: the Church and Convent of San Agustín, where many an Augustine friar bade farewell before setting sail with the conquistadors; the Church of Nuestra Señora de la Concepción; **the present Cathedral-Church, built in 1913 in honour of Nuestra Señora de los Remedios on the land adjacent to the crumbling Hermitage of Santa María de la Expectación (built on the initiative of Fernández de Lugo);** and, founded by Father Mendoza in 1522 as part of the Monastery of Santo Domingo de Guzmán, the Royal Shrine and former Convent of San Francisco, where the stunning, **Flemish-Brabant Gothic** carving of Santísimo Cristo de La Laguna is worshipped.

Each of these places has its own artistic treasure chest: carvings, silverware, and paintings by leading artists of the calibre of Carlos Acosta, Luján Pérez and Cristóbal Hernández de Quintana, along with more recent works by Mariano Cossío and Antonio González Suárez.

Some of the civil buildings are equally representative, like the unusual, seventeenth-century Casa Salazar, a fine instance of Canary Island baroque, with curious features in the form of zoomorphic gargoyles reminiscent of Pre-Hispanic Mexico. The list goes on to include the Palaces of Nava and Lercaro and City Hall (once the seat of the inter-island council), designed by Ventura Rodríguez with a neoclassical façade covered in blue stonework. There is, however, more to this model city than its impressive outward appearance. The visitor will be delighted by the warm spirit emanating from the friendly, open people, well-seasoned in their role as hosts; the sweet cadence of their accent; and the hustle and bustle of a student population of nearly 30,000 who come to the island to attend the 200-year-old university. He will likewise be fascinated by the fabled wealth of popular handicrafts: openwork, embroidery, articles in wood and cane and musical instruments, such as the famous *timple*.

La Laguna's gastronomy revolves round the finest produce from the Atlantic and meats like pork, rabbit and kid cooked over an open fire or served in *salmorejo*, a thick *gazpacho*. Garnish often consists of the traditional *papas arrugadas* with red or green *mojo*, or dip; nor forgetting, of course, *gofio*, and the countless ways of preparing the island's ubiquitous fruit: the banana.

All these things await the visitor in San Cristóbal de La Laguna to ensure that he will want to return as soon as he has left.



Monuments

Church. Nuestra Señora de la Concepción

Instituto de Canarias “Cabrera Pinto”
Former Convent of San Agustín

Church. Nuestra Señora de los Dolores

Cathedral Church. Nuestra Señora de los Remedios

Casa Salazar

Casa Montañés

Church and Monastery. San Juan Bautista (Order of St. Clare)

Shrine and former Convent of San Francisco

Church and Monastery. Santa Catalina de Siena

Palacio de Nava

City Hall
(Former seat of the Tenerife Island Council)
- Casa del Corregidor
- Alhóndiga
- Casa Alvarado y Bracamonte/Capitanes Generales
- Former Dominican Collage
Church and former Convent of Santo Domingo de Guzmán

Museums

Tenerife History Museum
C/San Agustín, 22
38201 San Cristóbal de La Laguna
Tel.: 34 922 825 949

Science and Cosmos Museum
Avda. de los Menceyes, 70
38205 San Cristóbal de La Laguna
Tel.: 34 922 315 265

Casa de Carta (Anthropology) C18
Ctra. Tacoronte-Tejina
Valle de Guerra, La Laguna
Tel.: 34 922 546 308

Handicrafts

The endless list of arts and crafts includes openwork, embroidery, brassware, musical instruments (such as the *timple*), bamboo cages, woodwork and so on, along with traditional costumes and the reproduction of aboriginal ceramic pieces.

Gastronomy

Local gastronomy is noted for its simplicity of preparation and the quality of the fresh produce used. In the Canary Islands’ *nouvelle cuisine*, the best-guarded culinary secrets have been brought into play as experienced cooks and chefs salvage age-old, genuine recipes and apply a studied technique to each dish. Toothsome seafood, tasty meats, all of which combine perfectly with the first-class wines. The store of gastronomic delights is completed by an incredible variety of cheeses and honeys. Many dishes are garnished with the famous *papas arrugadas* (potatoes boiled with their skins on in a lot of salt which crystallises when dry and wrinkles the potatoes). The potatoes are served with red or green *mojo*, two delicious dips seasoned with paprika or coriander. Equally popular are the fabled fish from Punta del Hidalgo, known as *viejas*; the bouillabaises; the toasted *gofio* (meal made from wheat, barley or corn flour and seasoned); pork, rabbit and goat’s and kid’s meat, served in *salmorejo* (a thick *gazpacho*) or char-grilled; roasted limpets; and pot stews, in which prime meats

are combined with only the finest garden vegetables. The list would not be complete without a mention of the bananas, especially the ones from Tejina and Valle de Guerra. Moreover, La Laguna’s quaint inns and taverns, steeped in tradition, are ideal places to have a few tapas or to start an evening’s entertainment. Here, we can choose from a variety of sausages, including the unusual “sweet black pudding”, local cheeses and other specialities, washed down with what is known in these parts as “wine with wine”; that is, wine carrying one of the island’s five denominations of origin. Among the desserts, the delectable, homemade *rosquetes* and “sweet trout” are perhaps the most popular.





Routes

San Cristóbal de La Laguna

Two-hour tour of the sightseeing area

Situated in a privileged position in the northeast of Tenerife, San Cristóbal de La Laguna, the island's old capital, was founded in 1496. Communication is much eased by the fact that it is only a few kilometres away from the present capital, Santa Cruz de Tenerife, in addition to which a sizeable road network covers even the remotest spots. Just a few minutes away from the city, the airport, Aeropuerto de Los Rodeos, runs convenient services to the rest of the Canary Islands, peninsular Spain and Europe.

Once in the city centre, we head straight for the Tourist Information Point in Plaza del Adelantado. Here we are offered all the necessary information and a free, guided-tour service to ensure that our journey through history will be an experience to remember.

As we follow our itinerary from Plaza del Adelantado, we learn of popular Canarian architecture

(domestic, institutional and religious) on streets like La Carrera, Herradores and San Agustín, bedecked in an array of buildings such as: the Hermitage of San Miguel; Palacio de Nava y Grimón; the Convent of Santa Catalina de Siena; the old Dominican College; the former island council building, Antiguo Cabildo; Casa del Corregidor; Casa de la Alhóndiga; Casa de Alvarado Bracamonte; the Convent of San Juan Bautista (Order of St. Clare); the shrine, Real Santuario del Santísimo Cristo; Casa Montañés; Casa Lercaro (the History Museum); the Bishop's Palace; the former Convent of San Agustín; the Church of Nuestra Señora de la Concepción; and the cathedral, Santa Iglesia Catedral. These constructions are just some of a total of 600, most of which have been catalogued as "assets of cultural interest ranking as monuments". Furthermore, they form part of the area classified as a Cultural Asset/World Heritage Site by UNESCO.



Half-day tour
La Laguna – Bajamar – Punta del Hidalgo

Having completed our tour of what was the island’s first capital, amid squares, towers and steeples, we sense the atmosphere of a young, lively university city, inviting us to learn more of its traditional wares and gastronomy.

For a thoroughly enjoyable morning, the best idea is to head for the coast along Avenida República Argentina, which brings us out at Bajamar and Punta del Hidalgo, both areas with deep-rooted farming and fishing traditions.

At Bajamar and Punta del Hidalgo, we find some of the finest natural bathing pools, lapped by the Atlantic Ocean and set in the superb scenery of Parque Rural de Anaga, one of the greatest biological treasures to be found on the Canaries and the islands of Macaronesia in general (Azores, Madeira, Cabo Verde and of course, the Canary Islands). The magnificent forest of laurel, dating back to the Tertiary, and its enormous botanical and zoological biodiversity have earned it the familiar name of “living fossil”.

One-day tour
La Laguna – Bajamar – Punta de Hidalgo – Las Mercedes – Santa Cruz

After a delicious lunch of perhaps *viejas*, *cherne* (a variety of grouper), or kid’s meat, served with those appetising dips seasoned with paprika or coriander, we drive to Monte de las Mercedes for a change of scene. From the vantage point, Mirador de Jardina, we can see the Valley of Aguerre (a Guanche word meaning *lagoon*). This is a foretaste of the exuberant vegetation and stunning beauty of the mountain that forms part of Parque Rural de Anaga (Mirador de La Cruz del Carmen, Mirador del Pico del Inglés).

The uneven, colossal, age-old landscape is studded with a number of farmsteads: Los Batanes, Bejías, Chinamada, Las Carboneras, all of which stand as proof of how man has lived in respectful harmony with an awesome environment while taking from it the best it has to offer.

Within the municipal district of Santa Cruz, not far from the capital, we discover a number of charming places, such as the coastlines of Taganana and Benijos, with secluded, black-sanded coves; or Playa de las Teresitas, blanketed in fine, golden sand enhanced by exotic palm trees.

Afterwards, we put the finishing touch to our tour by taking a relaxing stroll through the magnificent city of Santa Cruz.

Tours of the Island of Tenerife from La Laguna

Because it is so well situated in geographical terms, San Cristóbal de La Laguna makes for an excellent starting point for tours of the island, where we may take our pick from ecosystems, microclimates and exceptional scenery; tradition and culture; and sports and leisure activities. No less than half the island’s territory is under official protection, which is hardly surprising considering the wealth of its historical heritage and customs. Here is a brief guideline for starters:

- Parque Nacional del Teide
- Parque Rural de Anaga
- Parque Rural de Teno – the cliffs known as Los Gigantes – Masca
- Parque Natural de la Corona Forestal – Vilaflor – lunar landscape
- Macizo de Adeje – Reserva Natural Especial, Barranco del Infierno
- La Orotava
- Puerto de La Cruz
- Icod de Los Vinos/Los Realejos
- Garachico
- Candelaria
- Santa Cruz de Tenerife

Besides all this, the north’s black-sanded bays, dotted with natural lava pools, and the south’s vast, golden sands provide the visitor with the perfect setting for a whole range of sports and outdoor pursuits: scuba diving, backpacking, abseiling, paragliding, potholing, windsurfing, yachting, stargazing.... Then again, the less energetic might prefer to spend the day sunbathing on the beach, taking advantage of the all-year-round warm temperatures. Options go on to include a broad cultural and folklore programme: exhibitions, classical music concerts and theatre; pilgrimages and autochthonous games. To recover, what better than a meal of scrumptious seafood, flavoursome cheeses, first-class wines, honey and *gofio*?

Do you really know La Laguna?

Classified as a Cultural Asset/World Heritage Site by UNESCO in 1999.

Free guided-tour service

- Mondays to Fridays, at 10.00, 12.00, 17.00 and 20.00.
- Saturdays and Sundays, at 10.00 and 12.00.
- Language: Spanish
- Duration: approximately one hour
- Point of departure: Plaza del Adelantado

Free guided-tour service by appointment

- Mondays to Fridays from 9.00 to 19.00.
- Languages: Spanish, German, English, French and Russian
- Duration: approximately one hour
- Point of departure: Plaza del Adelantado

Tours should be booked at least 48 hours in advance by faxing Delegación de Turismo on:

34 922 608 974
turismo.laguna@cabtfe.es

Please give the following details:
Name and telephone number
Number of people to be included on the tour
Language
Preferences as to date and time
Faxes should be addressed to:
Excmo. Ayto. de San Cristóbal de La Laguna
Delegación de Turismo
C/Carrera, 1
38201 San Cristóbal de La Laguna
Tel.: 34 922 601 106/107
34 922 631 194
www.aytolalaguna.com





Data of Interest

Spanish Tourist information offices abroad

CANADA. Toronto

Tourist Office of Spain
2 Bloor Street West Suite 3402
Toronto, Ontario M4W 3E2
Tel.: 1416/961 31 31
fax: 1416/961 19 92
www.tourspain.toronto.on.ca
toronto@tourspain.es

JAPAN. Tokyo

Tourist Office of Spain
Daini Toranomon Denki Bldg.6F. 3-1-10
Toranomon. Minato-Ku
TOKYO-105-0001
Tel.: 813/34 32 61 41
fax: 813/34 32 61 44
www.spaintour.com
tokio@tourspain.es

RUSSIA. Moscow

Spanish Tourist Office
Tverskaya – 16/2 Building 3
Moscow 103009
Tel.: 7095/935 83 97
fax: 7095/935 83 96
www.tourspain.ru
moscu@tourspain.es

SINGAPORE. Singapore

Spanish Tourist Office
541 Orchard Road
Liat Tower # 09-04
238881 Singapore
Tel.: 65 67 37 30 08
fax 65 67 37 31 73
singapore@tourspain.es

UNITED KINGDOM. London

Spanish Tourist Office
PO BOX 4009, London W1A 6NB
Tel.: 44207/4868077
fax: 44207/4868034
www.tourspain.co.uk
londres@tourspain.es

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Los Angeles

Tourist Office of Spain
8383 Wilshire Blvd, Suite 960
Beverly Hills, California 90211
Tel.: 1(323) 658 71 88
fax: 1(323) 658 10 61
www.okspain.org
losangeles@tourspain.es

Chicago

Tourist Office of Spain
Water Tower Place, Suite 915 East
845 North Michigan Avenue
Chicago, Illinois 60 611
Tel.: 1(312) 642 19 92
fax 1(312) 642 98 17
www.okspain.org
chicago@tourspain.es

Miami

Tourist Office of Spain
1221 Brickell Avenue
Miami, Florida 33131
Tel.: 1(305) 358 19 92
fax 1(305) 358 82 23
www.okspain.org
miami@tourspain.es

New York

Tourist Office of Spain
666 Fifth Avenue 35th floor
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Tel.: 1(212) 265 88 22
fax: 1(212) 265 88 64
www.okspain.org
nuevayork@tourspain.es

Embassies in Madrid

Canada

Núñez de Balboa, 35 – 3º
Tel.: 914 233 250
fax: 914 233 251

Japan

Serrano, 109
Tel.: 915 907 600
fax: 915 901 321

Republic of Ireland

Claudio Coello, 73
Tel.: 915 763 500
fax 914 351 677

Russia

Velázquez, 155
Tel.: 915 622 264
fax 915 629 712

United Kingdom

Fernando El Santo, 16
Tel.: 913 190 200
fax 913 081 033

United States of America

Serrano, 75
Tel.: 915 872 200
fax 915 872 303

Useful telephone numbers

Emergencies 112

Medical Emergencies 061

Civil Guard 062

National Police 091

Municipal Police 092

Highway Information 900 123 505
www.dgt.es

Flight information 902 404 704
www.aena.es

Train information 902 240 202
www.renfe.es

Citizen Information 010

Post Office 902 197 197
www.correos.es

- 1 City Hall
- 2 Casa de Alvarado Bracamonte/los Capitanes Generales
- 3 Church. Former Convent of Santo Domingo de Guzmán
- 4 Post Office
- 5 Chapel. Cruz Verde
- 6 Casa de Anchieta
- 7 Hermitage. San Miguel
- 8 Hermitage. San Cristóbal
- 9 Church and convent. Santa Catalina de Siena
- 10 Palacio de Nava
- 11 Casa Llerena
- 12 Palacete Rodríguez de Azero-Casino
- 13 Monastery. San Juan Bautista

- 14 Chapel. Cruz de los Herreros
- 15 Chapel. Cruz de San Francisco
- 16 Casa Mustelier
- 17 Instituto de Canarias “Cabrera Pinto”. Former Convent of San Agustín
- 18 Church. Former Hospital de los Dolores
- 19 Casa de Ossuna
- 20 Casa Salazar. Bishopric
- 21 Casa de los Jesuitas
- 22 Casa Lercaro. History Museum
- 23 Casa Montañés. Canary Island Consultative Borrad
- 24 Casa Linares
- 25 Cathedral church. Nuestra Señora de los Remedios
- 26 Municipal market

- 27 Theatre. Teatro Leal
- 28 Casa de los Marqueses de Torrehermosa
- 29 Casa de Casabuena
- 30 Church. Nuestra Señora de la Concepción
- 31 Casa Franco de Castilla
- 32 Casa Peraza de Ayala. Chapel. Santísima Trinidad
- 33 To hermitage. San Diego del Monte
- 34 Church. San Juan Bautista
- 35 To central building of La Laguna University
- 36 To hermitage. San Benito Abad
- 37 Shrine. Real Santuario del Santísimo Cristo de La Laguna
- 38 Chapel. Cruz de los Plateros
- 39 Chapel. Cruz de Rodríguez Moure

Transport

Radio cab
Tel.: 34 922 258 806

Aeropuerto de Los Rodeos
AENA
Tel.: 34 922 635 998

Guagua Bus Station
TITSA
Tel.: 34 922 259 412
C/Don Quijote

Contact details

Ayuntamiento de San Cristóbal de La Laguna (City Hall)
La Laguna
Concejalía de Turismo
Calle Obispo Rey Redondo, 1
38201 La Laguna · Tenerife
Tel.: 34 922 601 107
Fax: 34 922 608 974
sabcrisobal@ciudadespatrimonio.org
turismo.laguna@cabtfe.es
www.aytolalaguna.com

Location

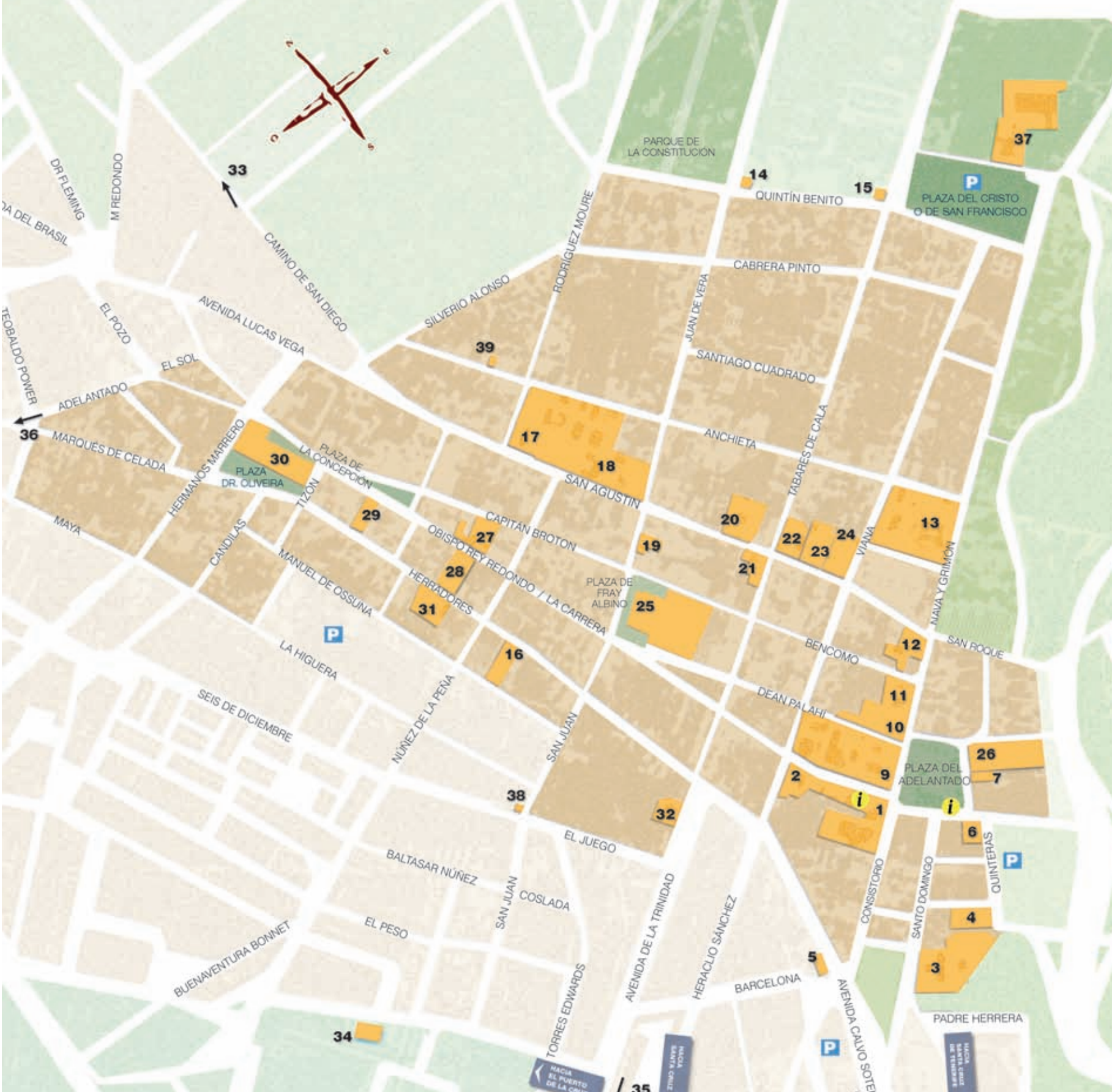
Situated in the northeast of Tenerife, San Cristóbal de La Laguna, once the island’s administrative capital, now ranks third among the cities of the Canarian Archipelago in terms of both population and status. In addition to being a university city, it is the ecclesiastic capital of the province of Santa Cruz de Tenerife. Catalogued by UNESCO as a Cultural Asset/World Heritage Site on December 4 1999, La Laguna is an example to be followed as far as the preservation of history, art and tradition are concerned. A remarkable instance of a non-fortified, colonial town, its original urban layout remains intact today.

Climate

At an altitude of 546 m, La Laguna enjoys average temperatures of 12°C in winter and 30°C in summer, with an annual average of 16.2°C. Annual rainfall is 580 mm.

Connections

La Laguna is still a key point on the island’s transport network. It is just three km away from the “Los Rodeos” Airport and 60 km from the “Reina Sofia-Tenerife Sur” Airport, both of which operate a full range of national and international flights. Moreover, it is just nine km from Tenerife’s capital, Santa Cruz, to the harbour at La Laguna. Access to even the remotest parts of the island is guaranteed by a comprehensive road network. The North Motorway runs through most of the municipal district, while an access road at Las Chumberas takes us onto the South Motorway. There is also a convenient primary road crossing the pine forest known as La Esperanza into Las Cañadas del Teide, which belongs to the municipal district. In the proximity of the old quarter, Vega de Agueré is crisscrossed by a number of avenues and parades, forming a pleasant area for relaxation. A sizeable network of local buses or *guaguas* runs a handy, fast service from the city to the rest of the island.





Cultural Events

Of the many festive events held every year in San Cristóbal de La Laguna, four are absolute musts. Here, the **Holy Week** celebrations, for instance, are the most impressive in the Archipelago. Later on in the year, at **Corpus Christi**, the cityscape is transformed into a mass of colour as floral tapestries and carpets are laid on the streets. The festivities culminate in the evocative Pilgrimage of **San Benito Abad** (July), listed as an Event of National Touristic Interest. In September, the fervour of the local people is reflected in the **Fiestas del Santísimo Cristo**. Besides all this, the visitor may watch and enjoy our traditional sports (for instance, Canarian wrestling) at any of the five indoor arenas, or spend an interesting time at either of the two autochthonous sports centres.

Other events

- Días de Cofradía. Sacred music concerts (late February-early March)
- *Tómatelo en serio*. Comedy in La Laguna
- Sacred Art Exhibition (Holy Week. March or April)
- International Short Film Festival (March-April)
- Scenic Arts Festival of the University of La Laguna (March-June. Every other day for three weeks)
- Sacred Music Week (April)
- Folklore Festival (May)
- City of La Laguna Brazilian Music Festival (late May-early June)
- Book Fair (June)
- San Benito Cattle Fair, including a display of traditional games and autochthonous sports (July)
- Top competition trials. Meeting Internacional Isla de Tenerife (July)
- *Luis*. International Poetry Prize (July-December)
- International Julio Cortázar Short Story Award (July-December)
- International Rafael Ramos García Photography Award (July)
- *Isla de Tenerife* Cycling Race (last week in August-first week in September)
- Festival Sabandeños (September)
- Wrestling in honour of Santísimo Cristo de La Laguna (the Saturday of the first fortnight in September)
- Firework competition (September)
- Sacred music concert
- Autumn Ancient Music Cycle (October)
- La Laguna Jazz Festival (weekends in November)
- Poetry in La Laguna (November)
- Anniversary of La Laguna's World Heritage City award (first fortnight in December)
- City of La Laguna Choral Encounter (first fortnight in December)
- Special Christmas Ancient Music Concert (late December-early January)

Useful telephone numbers and general information

Ayuntamiento de San Cristóbal de La Laguna (City Hall)
Concejalía de Turismo
C/Obispo Rey Redondo, 1
38201 La Laguna – Tenerife
Tel.: 34 922 601 107
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Tourist Information Point
Aeropuerto TFN – Los Rodeos
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Tenerife Tourist Board
Anexo al Centro Internacional de Ferias y Congresos
C/José Emilio García Gómez
Santa Cruz de Tenerife
Tel.: 34 922 237 870
www.webtenerife.com

CICOP (International Preservation and Conservation Centre)
Casa de los Capitanes Generales
C/Obispo Rey Redondo/La Carrera, 1
Tel./Fax: 34 922 601 167
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www.cicop.com

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