





GAZETTE LIFE THAT HOLIDAY ATTITUDE

Ed's Letter

Where do you go on holiday when you live on a holiday island? It's a dilemma most people would love to have, but it's still one that many of us who live here face.

I'm a little ashamed to admit I've never spent a holiday on Lanzarote. The closest I've come was winning a night for two in a hotel in Playa Blanca which coincided with one of the heaviest downpours I've ever experienced. We were quite glad to pack up and drive back to sunny Arrecife the next day.

But holidays are Lanzarote's business, and the island has got pretty good at it, sending millions of happy, relaxed, suntanned holiday-makers home for decades. Many of us who live here play a part in that, but I still meet people who live here who haven't been to the beach for years.

The locals are pretty good at holidaying here, too. You'll see caravans and campers down at Papagayo, and plenty of locals have holiday homes in towns like Punta Mujeres or La Santa. Their keenness to drive for about 40 minutes to spend a relaxing few days with family shows that a holiday isn't a place, it's an attitude.

You can feel that attitude every time you visit one of Lanzarote's resorts, where you'll find yourself surrounded by people who are all determined to squeeze every last bit of enjoyment out of their time on the island.

Most tourists barely notice the official holidays that happen on the island, but those of us that work here are always grateful for a day off or a long weekend, and we'll be looking forward to Canary Day on May 30th, when all eight islands celebrate their history and culture.

And it's worth celebrating. I often use my holidays to hop over to the other islands, and they have always impressed me with their incredible beauty and rich variety. From the heights of Tenerife to the bustling streets of Las Palmas, the islands are a small, sunny universe of experiences.

But even if you're going nowhere on Canary Day, don't forget to enter the spirit of things. It's that holiday attitude - relaxed, curious, friendly, and happy - that's more Canarian than anything else.

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Open Season Masks off, tourism back...

Drastic Plastic Alegranza highlights the plastic waste problem.

Ambassador We meet Deputy British Ambassador Sarah Cowley.

Taxi Trouble The return of tourism means a return of taxi queues.

David's Detours A short but rough walk to a wild and stunning beach.

Beer Showdown Tropical vs Dorada: our readers decide.





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of Apt We visit the art gallery at the Castillo de San Juan.

Detectorist Buried treasure on Lanzarote?

NATIONAL NEWS THE GREAT UNMASKING



FACE MASKS CEASED TO BE COMPULSORY INDOORS ON THE 20TH OF APRIL, MARKING AN IMPORTANT STEP ON SPAIN'S RETURN TO THE "NEW NORMALITY".

In February 2020, a woman was seen wearing a face mask while shopping in Arrecife. The first coronavirus cases in Spain had arrived on the Canaries in late January, but at the time her response still seemed like an overreaction. That was to change fast.

While Spain was under lockdown from March to May 2020, masks were not compulsory by law. That's because there simply weren't enough of them around. The ones that arrived were distributed on a priority basis, to hospitals, health centres, old people's homes and other places where PPE was paramount. Chemists shops had just a few, which were rationed out at first. Nevertheless, shops and supermarkets that were still open insisted that customers wore masks when entering their premises. Like hand-washing and keeping a distance at checkouts, it was something we had to learn quickly, and it led to a brief cottage industry in homemade masks.

The mask law only came into force after lockdown ended in June 2020, by which time masks were widely available, and the Canaries were one of the last regions to adopt it. At first, masks were only to be worn indoors, but two months later, in the face of rising infection figures that would mark the "second wave", masks were made compulsory indoors and outdoors, regardless of distancing.

By June 2021 the national government had assumed responsibility for mask use and allowed them to be removed in the open air when distancing could be observed. That law was reversed again in December last year when the Omicron variant arrived and was relaxed once again in February this year.

Now, masks are no longer compulsory indoors, but that doesn't mean that you have the right not to wear one - businesses can still request that customers wear them. Masks will also remain obligatory on public transport, in places such as hospitals and old people's homes, and at large gatherings.

So, while many will welcome last month's news, many people are likely to choose to continue wearing masks, and we're unlikely to see the end of them for some time – if ever.



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LOCAL NEWS

CABILDO VS ARRECIFE

The Cabildo's recent decision to declare certain buildings on Calle Real, Arrecife's main shopping street, as "assets of cultural interest" has led to open conflict with the Mayor of Arrecife, Astrid Pérez.

The Cabildo granted listed building status to city centre buildings, including the building opposite Hiperdino that was once the site of the first hotel on the island, the Oriental; and the indoor Mercadillo shopping centre.

However, Pérez called a meeting of local businesses to protest a measure that will "bring a halt to improvements in Calle Real." According to Pérez, the listed building status will prevent any works being done on the buildings in question or those near them.

The Cabildo's Heritage councillor, Ariagona González, responded in strong terms, accusing Pérez of "lying" and claiming the law permits improvements to be undertaken in the buildings in question, as long as they are approved by the Heritage Commission.

NEW LEADER FOR PP



Spain's main opposition party, the Partido Popular, changed their leader

last month. The new leader is Alberto Núñez Feijóo, the longstanding regional leader of the party in the conservative northeastern region of Galicia.

Feijóo's image is that of a safe pair of hands, a dry, calm, managerial presence with a strong record of winning elections in his native region. The emergence of a 1990s photo of him on a yacht with one of Galicia's most notorious drug lords has not appeared to dent his popularity. The change is clearly an attempt to restore some stability to the PP in good time for the elections in May next year, when Spain will vote for new national, regional and municipal governments.

PP members on the Canaries will also be hoping that Feijóo's leadership will rejuvenate the party. The party lost a lot of support on the islands when it supported oil drilling off Canarian coasts and the party's only current leader on Lanzarote is Arrecife Mayor Astrid Pérez.

ROSANA TO BE RECOGNISED



Singer Rosana Arbelo was proposed as a "Favoured Daughter of Arrecife" at an Arrecife council meeting on April 29th.

The Arrecife-born artist moved to Madrid at the age of 20, where she studied music and performed in local bars. Her first break arrived when Azúcar Moreno, one of the biggest-selling Spanish groups of the time, recorded one of her songs.

Later, her first album Lunas Rotas, was an immense international success, converting her into the biggest-selling Spanish female artist of the 1990s.

Rosana has remained closely in touch with her home island throughout her career and has performed here several times.

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"A SENSELESS STEP BACKWARDS"

A group of 20 organisations which include the professional bodies of doctors, dentists and nurses in Las Palmas and Tenerife, as well as Spanish patients' associations and cancer research groups, have called on the Canarian Health Service to reverse the decision to permit smoking on terraces once again.

"Tobacco kills 60,000 people a year in Spain-more than Covid," Nofumadores.org, has stated, "Lifting the ban on smoking on terraces is a senseless step backwards."

They claim that reintroducing the ban would protect children and non-smokers from the effects of second-hand smoke and insist that "the right to health is above all others."

The regional law banning smoking on terraces was introduced last year by the Canarian government as a special measure to prevent Covid transmission, but it was suspended on the 25th March.

However, Spain's Health Ministry may soon take the matter out of the hands of regional governments. It is currently drawing up a new smoking law, in which it has been widely reported that smoking will be banned on terraces at national level. The new law may also ban smoking in parks and on beaches.



HOSPITAL EXTENSION "READY IN JUNE"

The new extension at the Dr José Molina Orosa Hospital in Arrecife will be completed by the end of June, it was recently announced by Blas Trujillo, the Canarian Health Minister, who visited to meet Cabildo President María Dolores Corujo, Lanzarote Health Area director Noelia Umpiérrez and Health Service Manager José Luis Aparicio.

The new extension will have space for 90 beds, 8 intermediate care beds and ten consultancies; and will be used for "the urgent and important recuperation of in-house care for non-Covid 19 patients", as well as "reinforcing the capacity of Lanzarote's health area."

ENTRY MIX-UP

Spain's tourist board in London apologised last month after incorrectly announcing that unvaccinated British travellers would be permitted to enter Spain.

The tourist board explained that it has "misinterpreted" a rule change that removed the requirement to fill in a Spth passenger locator form if valid UK certification of vaccination or recovery can be shown instead.

At the time of writing, unvaccinated third-country travellers are still prohibited from entry to Spain (the UK is classed as a third country since Brexit). The only British travellers who are permitted entry on presentation of a negative test are children between the ages of 12 and 18.

Trujillo also announced that the bidding process had commenced for equipment for the radiotherapy bunker, construction of which was recently finished; and that works on the new Hemodynamic Unit are well under way.



20 CENT PETROL SUBSIDY

The Spanish Government ordered a 20c per litre petrol subsidy for all drivers in early April. The subsidy will remain until the end of June, at least, and came as part of a raft of measures that also made dismissal of employees more difficult and limited rent rises to 2%.

The petrol subsidy, which will save €10 when filling a 50-litre tank, was prompted by fuel price rises which have been aggravated by the Ukraine war.

Customers who arrive at pumps will not notice any differences in the prices on display instead, the discount is added automatically to the final bill at the counter.





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ISLAND INFO

WELCOME TO ALARZ!

Last month we attended the launch of the Alarz restaurant, a new venture in fine dining located on the ground floor of the Gran Hotel in Arrecife, right next to the broad sweep of Reducto Beach.

The idea behind Alarz is to reinvent the classic chiringuito Spanish beach bar concept in five-



ANGLICAN CHURCH SERVICES

English language Holy Communion services will be taking place as normal every Sunday in May in Puerto del Carmen at 12.30pm and in Playa Blanca at 5 pm. That's May the 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd and 29th.

For more information, go to www.lanzarotechurch.com

EL GRIFO'S EARLY HARVEST

Bodegas El Grifo in la Geria started their grape harvest last month, the first "Spring harvest" to take place on the island.

The pruning of the vines last October, instead of the usual early spring, caused them to produce fruit earlier" explained the Bodega. "The results so far have surprised us, as the wine that will be be produced promises to be much fresher than that in the traditional summer harvest."

Climate change is also permitting vines to be

star style, and to make this a reality they've appointed Paco Medina, who was recently awarded the Best New Canarian Chef award, to take charge of the open-plan kitchen.

Raw seafood plays an important role in the offer at Alarz, with tempting tapas including tangy ceviches and fresh oysters dressed with spicy Mexican sangrita dressing. But there are also sumptuous arroces (rice dishes), fried and roast dishes.

Alarz is the perfect place to dine in style, but you can also just pop in for a coffee or a drink, relax and enjoy the delightful surroundings. If you already know the stunning design of the La Buena Vida Pool Bar and the Blue 17 bar on the 17th floor, you won't be disappointed with the gorgeous surroundings at Alarz.

27 THIS MONTH!

Muebles San Simón in San Bartolomé celebrate their 27th anniversary this month, with discounts, gifts and much much more. If you want to transform your home, head up there and join the celebrations!

cultivated in zones where it was previously too cool for good results, but also causing grapes to mature earlier.



SHARE THE SUNRISE

Darkness Into Light is the name for a series of walks that have taken place in Ireland and around the globe to raise funds for Pieta House – a suicide prevention charity that also offers invaluable support to family and friends of those affected by suicide.

Lanzarote's Darkness Into Light walk will begin before sunrise at 5 am on 7th May at the Lava Bar in Fariones Square, Puerto del Carmen; and move 5 kms to O' Shea's on Matagorda Beach, by which time the sun will have risen on the island. As well as a find-raising event, it's a walk for remembrance, hope, love and strength, and a reminder that "It's OK to not be OK".



Participants will be sung all the way by Al Murphy and after the walk 10 island musicians will take part in the charity fundraiser.

For further information contact Nicola on +34 674016584, Olivia on 0035 3851101087 or Ger on 611246478.

SUNDAY WORSHIP

Everyone is welcome to come and join the Sunday Worship Inter-denominational Church at their Morning Service every Sunday. It takes place at the Hotel Beatriz Costa & Spa, in Costa Teguise, starting at 11:00am.

For further information visit www.sundayworshiplanzarote.com



SONGS FOR SARA 2022

The organizers of last year's fundraiser for the SARA Animal Shelter in Lanzarote will hold the event again this year, with a live benefit concert on Sunday May 15th from 12 noon to 6 pm. The event will be held at Marcos Bar, Los Pocillos, Puerto del Carmen.

Last year's event was held exclusively online thanks to Covid, with livestreamed performances from local and international musical artists. This year, all live performances will be held at the event site, though the event itself will also be livestreamed on different platforms, including the Songs For SARA 2022 Facebook group page.

Last year's fundraiser was a big success, raising €7,300. The organisers are hoping to match or exceed that amount this year with donations being accepted at the May 15th event and online at the group's GoFundMe fundraising site.

Artists participating in this year's festival include, Nolita James, the Jam Brothers, Adrian Bambrough, James Lynch, Dan Trayers, Lou Hindes, Mick Bennett, Camy Myles, Joey Bracken, Sergio de Jesús, Dave Timmons, Paul Behan (from California), Mick Garry, Dave Bandana, Tara, Chris Green, Max Santalucia, Sly G. and Yosan Peredes with international video participation from Kenny May (UK), Tommy Gunn (New York), Don Frank (Barcelona), Groove Machine (Ireland), Famara Project (UK).

DOG & CAT OF THE MONTH

It is incredible that Lava and Bella (with her distinctive 'David Bowie eves') haven't been snapped up already. These beautiful Dalmatian-mix dogs are mother and daughter (4 years and 3 years old respectively). Adorable, medium-sized dogs, they must be adopted together as they are devoted to each other. Find out more about them at http://saraprotectora.org or book an appointment on 928 173 417 (English spoken). Dog walkers welcome from 10.30 13.00 Monday-Saturday (Saturday by appointment only). If it is your first visit, please bring ID.

Inés might look a little grumpy, but she's a real sweetie! This small female cat is nearly 3 years old and is a new arrival at SARA. She is super affectionate and loves cuddles. Find how to meet her and about adoptions at www.saraprotectora.org.

There are also limited places for people to help with socialising cats. Email info@sara-lanzarote.eu.











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THE PLASTIC SHORE

Photo taken by Jorge Caceres - ULPGC.



FEW PEOPLE EVER STEP ON ALEGRANZA, ONE OF THE ISLANDS LYING NORTH OF LANZAROTE, BUT THE ISLAND IS STILL FULL OF PLASTIC WASTE CAUSED BY HUMAN TRADE AND COMMERCE.

Researchers from the University of Las Palmas de Gran Canaria collected every piece of rubbish from 100 metres of the Caleta de Trillo, on the north coast of Alegranza. Not including wood, they gathered 321 kilos of rubbish, 98% of which was plastic. Among this plastic waste were:

- 930 plastic drinks bottles
- 647 bottle tops
- 144 bottles from cleaning products
- 28 disposable lighters
- About 1,000 plastic fragments

There was also a high amount of plastic from the fishing industry, including 448 pieces of plastic rope, 96 buoys/floats, 16 fishing nets and 14 tags from lobster traps.

Researchers Alicia Herrera Ulibarri, Alexis Rivera, Teresa Moreno and Ico Martínez have published their findings in the Marine Pollution Bulletin, and their research offers some interesting conclusions.

Bottles formed 25% of the trash, two-thirds of which originated from Asian manufacturers. 9.5% came from

Spain, 19% from European firms and 4.5% from Africa. The researchers believe it is unlikely that seaborne rubbish would reach the Canaries from Asia, and believe the rubbish derives from marine traffic in the Atlantic, instead.

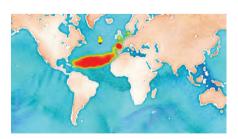
They conclude that one of the most important measures required to reduce plastic waste in the world's oceans is to cut down on plastic bottles, which form 13% of all plastic waste in the world, according to a separate study.

The fishing waste lobster pot tags found on Alegranza also offered a sobering insight. They had been washed over from the USA and Canada, and some were dated from 1999. The fact that these tags can remain in the water for over 20 years and still be legible gives some idea of how long plastic waste lasts in the ocean.

ATLANTIC DRIFT

The website plasticadrift.org uses data from buoys fitted with GPS equipment to show how floating plastic travels around the oceans.

Its results show that a huge clockwise current exists in the north Atlantic, bringing rubbish from the northern American states to Europe, Africa, and the Canaries. Canarian waste, in turn will be borne across the Atlantic and end up in the Caribbean and



the Florida coast within three years.

The site shows clearly why so much waste gathers on Lanzarote's north-facing coasts, while rubbish is far less common on the sheltered tourist beaches facing south.

Life after Brexit for UK nationals living in Spain

The last two years have been challenging with Brexit and the pandemic. Has your tax and financial planning kept up with developments?

Seminars



Paul Montague's presentation will examine key considerations for 2022 and beyond:

Your tax reporting requirements in Spain | what is expected from expatriate residents and fulfilling your obligations so you can sleep at night.

Wills in Spain and the UK, and the Canary Isles inheritance tax | succession taxes; making a robust Will, and ensuring your assets are passed to your loved ones with the minimum of complications and tax.

The risks of using UK-based advisers the new critical areas to consider due to Brexit; regulated advice for Spanish residents; and implementing effective planning.

Investment solutions for residents in Spain | the real threats of high inflation and unnecessary taxation and legitimate structures which benefit you through retirement and your family in future. COSTA ADEJE (*Tenerife*) **Tue 24 May** Hotel Vincci Selección La Plantación del Sur 11 for 11.30am, until 1pm

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INTERVIEW SARAH COWLEY, DEPUTY HEAD OF MISSION

TOUCHING DOWN ON LANZAROTE

LAST MONTH, WE CAUGHT UP WITH SARAH COWLEY, DEPUTY HEAD OF MISSION FOR THE BRITISH EMBASSY IN SPAIN, AS SHE PAID HER FIRST VISIT TO LANZAROTE AND THE CANARIES, ACCOMPANIED BY THE VICE CONSUL FOR LAS PALMAS JACKIE STEVENSON AND LANZAROTE'S HONORARY CONSUL SUE THAIN.



How long have you been in your post, Sarah?

I was appointed last August, and have been travelling around Spain in the last months, getting to know our consular teams and discovering what an amazingly diverse country this is.

What's the priority issue in the Embassy at the moment?

Russia's invasion of Ukraine – an unprovoked attack on a sovereign nation. We're doing a lot of work on the forthcoming Madrid Summit, in June, when leaders of NATO members gather. We're also doing what we can to assist Spain.

It's not such a pressing issue in the Canaries, I understand. I'm aware that refugees from the war have been accepted here.

Has the work of the consular network changed as the pandemic eases off?

It's been a bumpy year, to be honest. The pandemic caused a rise in welfare cases, and the inability to travel made those worse, as many family members who would usually offer care were unable to do so. But our aim remains the same: to help those in real trouble while encouraging people to seek real support in their communities. That comes from NGOs such as Age In Spain and local social services departments.

Is the cost-of-living having an impact on Brits in Spain?

It's too early to say at the moment. We've just spoken to the head of Lanzarote's tourist federation who told us that hotels have so far managed to avoid passing costs on to clients, but we can't say how long this will continue.

Do you see any progress on the 90-day rule preventing Brits from spending more than 90 days out of 180 in their second homes?

It's a Schengen rule, and changing it would require an EU negotiation. I don't see it happening soon.

Are you enjoying life in Spain?

(Laughs and points at view from Gran Hotel) Look at that view! I holidayed here in the past but I always wanted to bring my children up in Spain. It's a country where children are embraced. I'm optimistic about the future.

UNDERSTANDING THE RISKS OF INVESTING

ost of us will have a financial goal, whether that be a short-term objective such as saving to pay off a loan, or a longer-term project such as making sure retirement is as comfortable as possible. But do you fully understand the risks behind investing?



In our 45+ years' experience, we have seen virtually every type of investor. We have come across people with more money under the mattress than in their bank, to others who are willing to put everything they have on the next Cryptocurrency that comes to market. These are rare cases though, and the vast majority of us will sit somewhere between the two examples above.

Risk is defined in financial terms as the chance an outcome or investment return does not match expectations but for us it goes above and beyond this. We also see risk as a personal characteristic or sentiment, one which is often determined by a client's own unique circumstances.

When discussing risk, we have found that the average investor automatically thinks about the possibility of losing money due to taking too much risk, but what about the other side of the coin? What about losing out on gains or falling behind your objective due to utilising assets too cautious for your appropriate level of risk? Take too little risk and you may not reach your goals.

Many people will know what their investment objective is and how much they need by a given time, although not many will fully understand their attitude to risk and how much of a risk they are able, or willing, to tak. This is where the help of a financial adviser could pay dividends, as further discussions may help uncover considerations not yet thought of.

Choosing the right risk profile for you involves targeting sufficient risk to achieve your investment goals but at the same time ensuring this level does not exceed your risk tolerance (willingness to take risk) or your risk capacity (ability to cope with losses).

Important to remember is that every asset worldwide will have some level of risk, whether that be money invested in properties (nontenancy, housing market dips), many in bank accounts (default risk



of the bank/interest not keeping up with inflation) or simply money stored in cupboards at home (no potential for growth).

In today's market of low interest rates and high inflation, investor find themselves in a position of having to accept at least a small amount of risk in order to see real return on their money. The key here is to fully understand risk and how best to manage it given your own goals and objectives.

If you would like to find out more or have a free consultation to analyse your position, please do not hesitate to contact us.

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INTERVIEW WITH ROGER GUEDES SCANNING THE SANDS

Those tourist beaches must be full of luxury watches and diamond earrings, right? And what about all that pirate gold hidden around the island? We went to Famara beach to chat to metal detecting hobbyist and YouTuber Roger Guedes about Lanzarote's glittering treasure.

> Roger Guedes is a restless type. He's completed three Ironman races in the last ten years, but when he was laid off from his job a few years back he decided to look for a new pastime.

ROGER, HOW DID YOU START METAL DETECTING?

I'm an active person. I've completed three Ironman races, and I am a keen runner and swimmer. But when I was laid off a few years ago I started looking for new things to do and soon got hooked on metal detecting videos. I thought I'd do something here on Lanzarote.

ARE YOU A TREASURE HUNTER?

Not at all. It's a hobby first and foremost. You won't make a living with a metal detector, but I get a lot of enjoyment out of it. I've got a hunting instinct, and I'll often visit the same beach three times in a day. I also think it's therapeutic - my father died during the lockdown, and I found that going out metal detecting was very helpful for me. It gave me something to do, time to be alone and process things.

WHAT ABOUT THE LEGAL SITUATION? ARE YOU ALLOWED TO DETECT EVERYWHERE?

There's usually no problem on the beaches, but on private land I'll normally need to get permission from the landowners. It can be tiresome and that limits my activities. I've also been allowed to help with clean-ups – I was on La Graciosa last year cleaning up the campsite there – mostly old tent pegs and even some gas canisters.

WHAT ABOUT YOUR DETECTOR?

I sent off for it. You can get cheap ones, but you won't get a decent one for less than \notin 300,



and you should go for European brands rather than cheaper Chinese ones. Mine's an Equinox 800 from the Mundodetector shop in Madrid.

WHAT'S THE LARGEST FIND YOU'VE MADE?

An old pick axe. I'll often try and restore things like that.

ANY OTHER NOTABLE DISCOVERIES?

I've found rings and jewellery, as well as bullets and shells left over from when the island was used for army manouevres. I once found a mobile, took the card out and worked out who it belonged to from bookings that the owners had made. Then I contacted her and returned it.

HOW DID THE YOUTUBE CHANNEL START?

It was my son's idea, so we set it up together. He started filming me, but now I often just take a tripod, film myself and edit it later.

AND YOU'RE WEARING THE DETECCION GUANCHE T-SHIRT AND CAP, TOO.

It's a bit of branding, really. I spoke to a friend at the César Manrique Foundation about using the devil, and he told me not to copy it directly, so it's not exactly the same. And it's holding a metal detector. I wear military-style green fatigues because they're perfect for the hobby, and also because they mean I don't get noticed as much.

IS THAT A PROBLEM?

Not really. Children often follow me – they're fascinated by it. I'll often give them

a small find.

DO YOU SEE OTHER DETECTORS?

Sometimes, yes. There's a British guy who offers to locate lost property for holiday makers, and sometimes holiday-makers bring a detector with them to use on the beaches.

YOU'VE DONE SOME DETECTING UNDERWATER AS WELL, HAVEN'T YOU?

Yes, I borrowed a detector for that, and it's a lot of fun. But there's a lot of rubbish out there in the sea as well.

IS THERE MUCH TO DISCOVER ON AN ISLAND THAT DIDN'T EVEN USE METAL UNTIL 600 YEARS AGO?

Yes, but it's not like places on mainland Spain, where there is a lot more history and wealth. The main challenge is more to do with the fact that islanders never really had much money.

On mainland Spain you can find silver coins, but my father told me that in days gone by they never carried coins in their pockets the way most of us do these days.

YOU ALSO FIND COINS. HOW MUCH MONEY WOULD YOU FIND ON A NORMAL OUTING?

No more than four or five Euros, usually. I'll also find old peseta coins.

ANY AMBITIONS?

I'd love to go to La Graciosa again, and get permission to detect up around parts of Haría. I'd also like to team up with an archeologist who could help me identify certain items.

SCANNING UNDERWAY...

Roger puts his headphones on and starts sweeping the detector across the sands of the beach, sweeping the detector from side to side. Almost immediately he has an audience – a fascinated small boy whose mum lets him watch for a while. It isn't long before he gets a signal - the higher the reading the more metal content is there.

His first discovery is a ring-pull. Roger doesn't have to say anything to let us know what he thinks of this, but he puts it in his pouch anyway – all rubbish is correctly disposed of, and any holes he digs in the sand are quickly filled in. In the next ten minutes he digs out a scrap of lead from a fishing weight, a beer bottle top and the base of a light bulb.

Later, Roger sends us photos of everything he discovered that day – there's plenty of trash – ringpulls, tinfoil, bottle tops and lead weights, but also 17 coins of various sizes. The total is around five Euros, plus 25 pesetas in the form of the old doughnutshaped coin that was taken out of circulation twenty years ago.

Roger's videos are on the Deteccion Guanche YouTube channel.





CANARIAN WRESTLING VIVA LA LUCHA!



After coming to a twoyear standstill during the pandemic, Canarian wrestling is back. With competitions now taking place every week all over the island, we wanted to find out more. So we contacted Charlea Bates-Morgan, a British 18-year-old who's been grappling in the sand circle for most of her life, and she took us to a training session at the Club de Lucha de Tinajo (Tinajo Wrestling Club).



harlea Bates-Morgan arrived on the island at 18 months of age, and grew up on Lanzarote. As a result, she's typical of many young people on the island – switching from perfectly fluent English to pure local Canarian in seconds.

Charlea started wrestling early. "I was six years old", she says. "My school held an exhibition of Canarian sports to celebrate Canary Day on May 30th. I was being bullied at the time, so when I saw the wrestling I instantly thought "That's for me!".

"When I first told my parents that I wanted to start wrestling they were a bit worried," says Charlea, "But then I told them that it's free - and that's the magic word."

She's been wrestling ever since, first at the Jable Girls Club in Arrecife, which practiced on Reducto Beach, then at the club in Tinajo, where she travels by bus two or three times a week.

Patrick Cazorla, Charlea's trainer at Arrecife and at the Tinajo Club, hails from Gran Canaria and back in the 90s, was a great Canarian wrestler, described as "one of the finest stylists in the sport". He's been working with wrestlers of all ages for, several years and his children, Daniela and Diego, both wrestle, too. In fact, Daniela's one of Charlea's team mates.

STARTING LESSONS

Patrick tells us that there are two things that all children need to learn when they first start the sport. The first is *nobleza* – nobility, a way of bearing oneself and showing respect to one's opponent. "Wrestlers always shake hands before a bout, and the winner will also offer a hand to a fallen opponent," says Daniela.

The other important starting lesson involves the clothes worn for the sport. "They need to be shown how to fold the hem of their shorts, how to tuck their shirt in and how



to tie the cord so there are no embarrassing moments during the bout," explains Patrick.

Once that's been done, the young fighters learn a whole series of grips, blocks and feints known as *mañas*. A good wrestler, or *puntal*, will have a whole range of these at their disposal, quickly snatching an ankle or blocking an opponent's body.

Patrick admits that kids today are more drawn towards football and basketball, but points out that wrestling costs participants nothing. "There are no federation fees, no insurance," he says "we pay for everything." Clothes, transport, even inter-island flights for competitions, are all subsidised.

INTER-ISLAND

Charlea and her team mates often get to see the other islands. While male island teams

will compete only with Lanzarote clubs, the limited amounts of female wrestling teams on the islands means that the girls often get to fight on Tenerife, Gran Canaria, La Palma or Fuerteventura.

All the girls say that their home ground in Tinajo is the best on the island, although one of them is quite impressed by the new stadium in Yaiza. Meanwhile Patrick, who has fought everywhere, says that the *terrero* at La Frontera in El Hierro, an open air arena carved into the side of a volcano, is the most beautiful on the islands.

After a few years when they usually ended up at the bottom of the table, the Tinajo girls are getting better and are currently 5th in the 10club league. Charlea's also been improving: "I've been learning to move faster, to get a bit more balance and, most of all, to do the unexpected", she says, describing how her teammate Daniela – a natural left-hand-side fighter, has helped her switch between sides. Her training and increased skills have resulted in some exciting competitions, and recently she was the fighter who was permitted to approach the crowd, who traditionally throw money at favoured wrestlers after a match. "I made $\in 6.50$," she smiles.

The pandemic hit wrestling hard, "Two years have been lost", says Patrick, "And we were the sport that was most affected." The tight tussling of *la lucha* is about as far from social distancing as you can imagine, and wrestling clubs suffered more than any others from the island's tough restrictions on sport.



Charlea and Daniela both agree that wrestling has made them more confident outside the ring. "I'm not worried about bullying any more," says Charlea. A fight can often have several spectators, but neither Charlea nor Daniela are nervous about performing in front of people - "It motivates me more," says Daniela.

Canarian wrestling has had a tough time recently, but it's a sport with a fiercely loyal following and an element of Canarian culture that inspires real passion. Charlea, who leaves school this year, has no doubt - "Wrestling will always be important to me, whatever I do or wherever I go."



TAXI QUEUES RETURN



ARRIVAL ON LANZAROTE IS A SPECIAL MOMENT FOR ALL TOURISTS: THE BIRD'S EYE VIEW OF VOLCANOES AND WHITE SURF ON GOLDEN BEACHES; THE LOW SWOOP IN TO LAND AND THAT FIRST BLAST OF WARM AIR AS YOU STEP OUT OF THE CABIN DOOR.

First impressions count. So it's a shame that many tourists are spending too many of the first moments of their holiday in a taxi queue.

The return of tourists to the island has placed increased pressure on the airport's taxi service, and has been made worse by the current shortage of hire cars. The resulting queues have caused the island's tourist federation to call for a more organised response.

José Torres, head of Lanzarote's Chamber of Commerce, says the current rules affect the offer of taxi services and "promote clandestine operators." Torres criticises rules that mean a taxi bringing passengers to the airport is not then allowed to pick up there, and taxis taking passengers to the resorts are likely to return to the airport empty. For Torres, the answer is to create an islandwide taxi service, permitting all cabbies to serve the airport at any time.

Currently, all taxi services on the island are based in each of the seven municipalities,

and each local taxi association has the right to operate in that area. The airport falls in San Bartolomé's jurisdiction, and a driver from, for example, Tías, is only allowed to pick up at the airport once a queue reaches a certain level.

This is why many tourists have seen taxis hovering in the pick-up area but have not been able to take them as the queue is not long enough.

San Bartolomé's taxi cooperative says that the queues occur "occasionally, when planes arrive at the same time due to delays" and no change is needed. However, one of the proposals of the Tourist Federation is a more agile response to delays and crowds at the airport.

Arrecife and Tías would be the main taxi ranks to benefit from a change in the rules, and are also the municipalities with the most taxis (131 and 109, respectively, compared to San Bartolomé's 72).

TAXIALTERNATIVES

Taxi queues have caused many travellers to Lanzarote to seek alternatives. Among these are:

BOOKING A TAXI:

Fixed prices apply for this service. On weekdays, for example, it costs $\notin 19$ to get to Puerto del Carmen; $\notin 24$ to Costa Teguise and $\notin 45$ to Playa Blanca. The driver will wait for you at arrivals.

PRIVATE TRANSFERS:

Several companies offer private pick-ups from the airport. It's an especially good option for groups.

PUBLIC TRANSPORT:

Buses serve Puerto del Carmen and Playa Blanca from the airport. Those heading for Costa Teguise will have to change at Arrecife (the interchange by the beach or the bus station).

HIRE A CAR:

Rental car shortages due to the sale of fleets during the pandemic and lack of silicon chips to supply new vehicles mean that this should be booked early, and is likely to be pricier than usual.



Whilst the geopolitics of energy are again reshaping the world, the COLEGIO HISPANO BRITÁNICO GOES Solar

The Hispano Británico is one of very few schools in the world that provide valuable courses in Environmental Science and our students can learn that the world still obtains 84% of its energy from oil and gas.

It is such an enormous problem that it is impossible to transition quickly to renewable energy. Middle East. This had the European backlash of not trusting the US and throwing them into the arms of the Soviets.

In 1970, this Soviet-European energy partnership extended to gas, but it became evident in 2008 that Putin did not agree with the Ukraine borders on the dissolution of the Soviet Union and he began a two-decade



For nearly 200 years fossil-fuel energy has dominated geopolitics. All that time ago, relations between Europe and China changed decisively when Britain used coal fired steam ships in the First Opium War, leaving China open to a succession of imperial powers. There is no love lost between China and Europe.

In the early twentieth century, oil turned the USA into a world power and Europe went into decline.

World conflicts, driven by geopolitical energy interests, have consequences that last for decades. In 1956, the US financial might stopped the Anglo-French military action against Egypt in the Suez crisis, so that Europe would still remain dependent on the US for oil, rather than forge interests in the strategy to remove the Ukraine from Russia's gas transport system. For the past decade the USA has competed with Russia to sell gas to Europe. Complimentary fossil fuel interests have also turned Russia and China into tacit allies.

Although Putin in six weeks has done more to boost climate change politics than any other action in the last sixty years, climate decisions can only scratch the surface of energy geopolitics and the world's two largest emitters, US and China are the most reticent at complying.

In 2014, the same year as the emission agreement between China and the US, President Xi Jinping agreed with Putin to build the Siberia gas pipeline, which started pumping in 2019.

Solar panels, wind turbines, and electric cars all require rare earth metals, the sources of which are dominated by China. The Chinese Communist Party in 2015 announced the "Made in China 2025" plan to ensure it produces 70% of their core resources, with a special emphasis on world dominance of "tech metals".

In the past 200 years, geopolitics has been run by coal, followed by oil and gas, but the future will be determined by "tech metals" and China.

If our brightest youngsters cannot speak Chinese, they will be left out of the rich pickings of the future. All students at the Hispano Británico learn Chinese.

The school has the enormous daily electricity consumption of 200KWh. and an extensive solar array has been installed that should allow the school to be powered totally by the sun.

The savings of fuel each year will more than cover the installation cost and in the future we could even contemplate the possibility of allowing parents to charge their electric cars whilst waiting for their children, at no extra cost whatsoever.

An extensive solar array has been installed.

The batteries of electric cars hold so much power, that if your house was adapted, you could power your home the whole day on the energy from your car.

The Hispano Británico - leading by example.

COLEGIO HISPANO BRITÁNICO

RECEPTION - PRIMARY - SECONDARY - A LEVELS

There are hundreds and hundreds of sons and daughters of parents living in Lanzarote who now enjoy exciting life styles. We are compiling a CHB Alumni section on our Website and we would be delighted if such ex-students could contact us on alumni@chb-online.com

The Colegio Hispano Británico was founded in 1976.

It is the only accredited overseas British curriculum school (BSO) on Lanzarote. It is a recognized centre for the University of Cambridge (CAIE), Pearson examinations and Trinity examinations. It is a UCAS centre for university entrance, an examinations centre for the Open University and the Goethe Institute. Since 2014 the school has been authorised by the British Government as a Centre for the instruction of teachers in their postgraduate year.

In 2020, authorization was obtained to offer BTEC qualifications up to 2nd year university level. The school is quality assured by Ofsted (British DfE number: 141421).



Information: 928 17 30 66 – info@colegiohispanobritanico.com

PLAYA DEL PASO

WALK INFO

Distance: 4 -7 kms, depending on return route.

Time: 3-4 hours.

Terrain: Stone paths, rough lava, dirt track.

Walk type: Linear or circular.

Public transport: None.

Just outside of El Golfo there is a breathtakingly beautiful black sand cove, sometimes called "the secret beach". Tour guide David Penney takes us on a trip to Playa del Paso.

I have walked to the Playa del Paso several times. The clifftop route to the beach is one walk where you really do need good, strong walking shoes, preferably with ankle support. Trainers or sandals aren't going to hack it. Walking poles, or just a sturdy stick, can also be helpful on the rough lava.

You start at the children's playground at the eastern edge of El Golfo, heading out onto a footpath that slowly rises until you're overlooking some impressive cliffs. Waves constantly pound this part of the coast, and on days when the sea is particularly rough there's a chance you could get a soaking, so stay well back from the edge.

In fact, it's a good idea to stay on the path all the way. This part of the island is known as the "sea of lava" and is honeycombed with caves and jameos (openings to a lava tunnel where the roof has collapsed), but this is a protected area where wardens patrol the area regularly – I've received a telling off a couple of times for straying beyond the track.

You'll enter the National Park area once you've reached the highest clifftop (you'll see the signs), and you'll soon be able to see the beach



ahead and below. Descend gradually over some increasingly rough terrain until you reach a dirt track. This is where you turn left and head down towards the sea until you end up on the remote black sand beach of El Paso.

On a sunny day, the beach is simply stunning, with waves crashing into foaming white surf on the jet-black sand. It's an eternally dynamic landscape of colour, sound and motion. Often you'll see brilliant sapphire-coloured By-The-Wind Sailor jellyfish washed up here; their "sails" still inflated like balloons.

Enjoy the beach but DO NOT even think about swimming here. This is one of the most unpredictable and treacherous coastlines on the island, and it has already claimed the life of







Once you're back in El Golfo, you may have worked up enough of an appetite for a delicious seafood meal. Well, you're in the right place – *buen aprovecho!*

For further information about walks around Lanzarote please contact, DAVID Penney via **email** lanza888@yahoo.com OR via WhatsApp message 0034 649389888

You can head back the way you came, but I prefer to make this a circular walk by following the dirt track inland all the way back. The track is a private road giving wardens vehicle access to this part of the Timanfaya National Park, but walkers are permitted providing they stay on the path. Continue along the dirt track until you reach

one physically fit young bather this year.

the remote villa of Casa de Juan Perdomo,

a huge private property which is owned by a

Swiss lady, who rents it out for holiday lets.

Turn right at the T-junction and continue along the dirt track, passing a couple of fincas on the way to the main road (LZ-702). There are some wheelie bins by the roadside, BUT rather than risk walking on the tarred road, my preferred way back down the hill to the village of El Golfo is to follow a very small track back across the lava field which brings you back to the centre of the village, it is very easy to miss, so head west rather than southwest.



MIAC, CASTILLO DE SAN JOSÉ A FORTRESS OF CULTURE

The Castillo de San José perches on a rocky outcrop overlooking Lanzarote's busy commercial port. Once the most important military building on the island, it is now home to the MIAC (International Museum of Contemporary Art), one of the island's seven centres of art, culture and tourism created by César Manrique. Last month, the museum's director, María José Alcántara, took time to show us around Lanzarote's most important collection of modern art.

The museum was established in 1975 under the personal direction of Manrique. A year later, and 200 years after the first stone of the castle had been laid, it was opened to the public with a spectacular exhibition featuring artists such as Picasso, Miró, Francis Bacon and Henry Moore.

Many of the works at that show form the backbone of the permanent collection on display today, after the island's Cabildo made a huge investment in artworks by notable modern artists, creating one of the finest collections of late 20th-century art in the Canaries.

The castle building itself has hardly changed – large, starkly-decorated halls and chambers form the perfect setting for

the abstract works of art. It's possible to climb up an old stone staircase to the roof and battlements of the castle.

Just off the main hall is the Canarian Art room, featuring works by artists from the islands including Manrique's close friend Pepe Dámaso – his work incorporates a piece of fabric that the two discovered while on a walk together.

The Pancho Lasso room houses works by a Lanzarote artist that María José shows special interest in. "Pancho Lasso was hugely talented," she tells us. "He was the son of a carpenter and trained as a barber but showed such artistic skill that the Cabildo offered him a grant to study in Madrid." The works in the museum back up her claim. Lasso's work shows influences from social realism and art deco to cubism and surrealism.

The museum's collection has grown, especially with photography which "wasn't considered so much as art back then" according to María José.

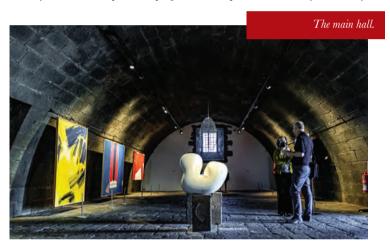
A tunnel leading down to the restaurant is unmistakably Manrique in style, all soft curves, white walls, raw volcanic rock, and those quirky little details, such as lampshades made of wooden salad bowls. "They blasted this with dynamite," smiles María José, aware that this would never be permitted today.

The restaurant itself is dominated by another Manrique trademark – an immense window that overlooks the gardens of the castle and the glittering blue seas of the harbour. This is the first Michelin five-fork rated restaurant on the island, and the centre for many culinary events on the island.

Overlooking the spectacular view, I ask María José about Jason de Caires' work *The Rising Tide*, which saw sculptures of horses with oil-rig heads rising and sinking in the tide at the foot of the castle twice a day. "That decision was politics", she says, "But I thought it certainly drew attention to the castle." César Manrique's work is so prominent on Lanzarote that there are sometimes complaints that his presence stifles the work of new, younger artists. María José knew and worked with him and says "He would never have wanted that. He wanted young people to do things and create. All artists are a bit egotistical, and César loved attention, but he was generous and open."

The museum held regular exhibitions until the pandemic started, when cultural budgets were slashed to fund social issues, but María José has plans to restart these. She also has much bigger ambitions for the castle.

"I'd like to see the entire museum extended underground, which would increase the available space immensely," she tells me. "There'd be space for more exhibitions, auditoriums and educational facilities." Plans have already been drawn up for this project, but the problem, as always, is money.



I ask if she'd be interested in a virtual tour, such as the ones other museums have placed online, but she's not keen on the idea. "Art is something you need to be present for. Looking at Velasquez' *Las Meninas* in Madrid on a screen will never be the same as standing in front of it.

María José remains optimistic about the future of places like the MIAC, though. "Things are changing, and culture and art are becoming more important than ever," she says.



THE FORTRESS OF HUNGER

By the time the Castillo de San Gabriel was built, between 1776 and 1779, the age of piracy and raids on Lanzarote was almost over. However, King Carlos III was keen to defend his empire, and the castle was one of many fortifications he



The real problem on Lanzarote at that time, however, was not invasion but famine and emigration. In the previous decade, a long drought and resulting famine had caused the death of over 2,000 islanders and the emigration of many more. In 1776 official records show that the island's population consisted of 1,800 landowners and around 10,000 inhabitants, most of whom were descendants of slaves.

Carlos III's order to build the castle was not just a military decision, but an economic one, intended to generate employment on an island that was withering under drought, famine, and poverty. For that reason, the castle which now overlooks the weekly arrival of foodstuffs at the port became known as "The Fortress of Hunger".



The Castle before renovation. Photo: www.webdelanzarote.com

Prize Crossword





LANZAROTE

1	2	3	4		5		6	7
8			9					
10				11				
			12					13
14	15					16		
					17			
18		19					20	
21			22					
23								

ACROSS

- 1. Princess Leia's twin brother (4,9)
- 8. Daniel, Robinson Crusoe author (5)
- 9. Entered a number on an old telephone (7)
- 10. First name of 1 across's father (6)
- 11. Born between 23rd September and 22nd October (5)
- 11. Bounty hunter who captured Han Solo for Jabba the Hut (4,4)
- 16. The best-selling Irish solo artist of all time (4)
- 18. Laughing Out Load (1.1.1)
- 19. Han Solo's wookiee co-pilot (9)
- 21. Stealthy Japanese mercenary fighter (5)
- 22. John Lennon's best-selling song (7)
- 23. He played the young -Obi-Wan- Kenobi (4,9)

Last month's answers Across: 1. Windbag 5. Cakes 8. Texan 9. Etienne 10. Han Solo 11. Evian 12. Destiny's Child 16. Peter 18. Scratch 20. Santana 21. Alibi 22. Rocky 23. Sonnets Down: 1. Watched 2. Nixon 3. Bon Jovi 4. Gregory Isaacs 5. Crime 6. Kon Tiki 7. Stern 13. Satanic 14. Curtain 15. Dahlias 17. Ready 19. Tribe.

"May the Fourth be with you!" is what geeks say to each other on Star Wars Day this month, and to celebrate this slightly pathetic special occasion, our crossword has a Star Wars theme.

The I want

Send your answers to us at editorial@gazettelife.com before May 15th (mark email "Crossword", WhatsApp to 628628083 or post/ deliver to our address on pg 3). One winner gets a bottle of La Geria wine and the other a €10 voucher for Hankey Panky's in CC Montaña Tropical in Puerto del Carmen.

Last month's crossword winners were John Booth from Costa Teguise, who wins a bottle of La Geria's excellent wine; and Julie Buck from Puerto del Carmen, who gets the Hankey Pankys voucher. Well done, you two, and contact us to pick up your prizes!

DOWN

- 1. Top of a jam jar (3)
- **2.** Czech novelist Franz, author of The Trial (5)
- **3.** US lawman who wears a star (7)
- **1.** A small green Jedi Grandmaster, he is (4)

anguage spoken throughoutNorth Africa and the Middle East (6)

6. Character played by AdamDriver in The Force Awakens (4,3)7. Star Wars robot that looks like a pedal bin (2-2)

10. Emergency vehicle (9)

12. Wheel used by drivers to change direction (8)

13. 1972 musical starring Liza Minelli (7)

13.Carlisle, who sung Heaven Is A Place On Earth (7)

- **17.** On fire (6)
- **19.** Deep pit or crack in the earth (5)

20. Egypt's capital (5)

SUDOKU

		8					6	
	5		4		6	9		
		6		9			5	
8		1		6			7	3
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WORD SEARCH

HOOPOE

EGRET

GBK P R T R IDGE E IKZR P A Т E T UC F P D S F S F D K 0 W 1 T S U B U Y T X T Z 0 Q D Z 1 H M M H R R X Х 0 S R E R E U T N H K E U 1 Т S U P E R R N V L Т U R E W U A Q E S E K C U R E W R DO L T L W L A G В S S E L S S Y A L T 0 L 1 W A N Ζ D R E 0 R A S W G C н C N F A Y E В W C T R 0 D R N W A R N 0 L A A C X E Y V E T F L A M N G 0 D Х N 1 EXHO 0 P 0 E В 0 F В 0 Y R V K Q GQGB E E Е Е R Т G T ZW A A T J Lanzarote Birds SHEARWATER HERON CURLEW TURNSTONE SHRIKE **BUSTARD** KESTREL TURTLEDOVE **BARN OWL** FLAMINGO SWIFT **GLOSSY IBIS**

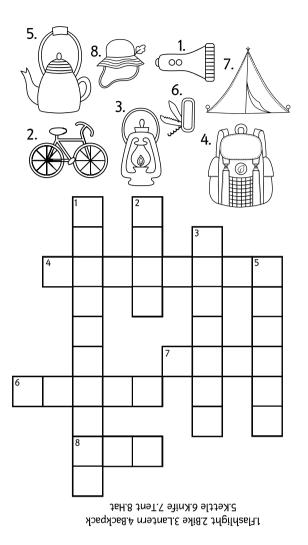
PARTRIDGE

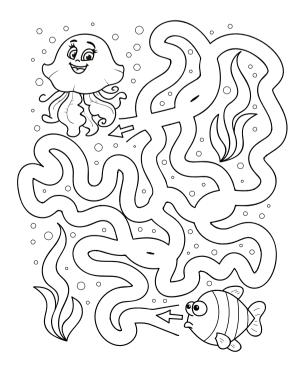
VULTURE

BEE EATER

REDSHANK

KIDS PUZZLE





VIVA LAS CANARIAS!



Canaries Day is celebrated with pride across the Canary Islands - it's the date which commemorates the first session of the autonomous Canary Islands Parliament, which took place on 30 May 1983. Until that time everything had been dictated by a distant central government in Madrid.

The date is a public holiday, and all seven islands celebrate their shared distinctive rich culture in various ways:

Food Tastings - are widespread as the Canarian people are proud of their cuisine. You will see many of the traditional dishes, such as

Papas arrugadas con mojo ... which literally mean 'wrinkled potatoes', with a delicious piquant sauce.

Tortilla ... Spanish omelette.

Tortillas de calabaza ... Flat pumpkin cakes.

... and of course, there will be an abundance of local fresh cheeses and wines with their distinctive flavours, thanks to the geology of the islands.

Canarian people are very proud of their heritage and the Spanish language has evolved with them – if you've heard a group of Canarian people in conversation, you've probably wondered if they are speaking a different language! Their 'relaxed' style of life is reflected in the spoken word, with the frequent dropping' of the 'S' at the end of a word and several words seemingly merging into one!

How will I know if someone is from the Canaries?

One way to do that is to listen to the word **gracias!**

On the mainland the C is pronounced as a lispy th (gra-thee-as) whereas here on the islands the C is more hissy (gra-see-as). Listen out for that!

A few more phrases which are used around the Canary Islands include:

Chacho/chacha! ... An abbreviation of the word for boy/girl (muchacho/a). It means "dude" and is also used to express surprise.

Mi niño/niña ... Means "my child", but is not said only to children. It's a fond term that could be addressed to anyone younger than yourself.

¡Qué calufa! ... wow, what a heatwave!

La Guagua ... (pronounced wah-wah), meaning "the bus".

Cholas ... flip-flops.

;fos! ... exclamation used when something smells bad – the "s" is pronounced as a "h", and the more you exaggerate it indicates how unpleasant is the stench!

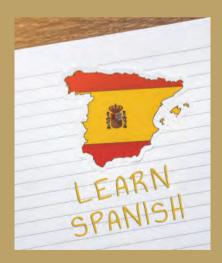
Le falta un chaperón (he /she needs a chaperone) ... not of the right mind.

Se me fue el baifo (the little goat went astray) ... I lost my train of thought.



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www.thespanishcoach.net





LANZAROTE VET JANE BURKE REFLECTS ON THE IMPORTANT BUT EXHAUSTING DUTY OF ATTENDING NIGHT CALLS FROM WORRIED PET OWNERS.

I remember clearly the first time I was on call through the night. I remember being unable to fall asleep, my head bursting with the endless diabolical problems that could present themselves and a feeling of desperate inadequacy. The next morning, bleary-eyed and depressed, I asked my boss how long it would take to get used to being on night call. He had been qualified 20 years to my 2 months, "Ask me in another 20 years", was his reply.

I have done well over my fair share of night work over the last 45 years and there are few conditions I haven't seen. Here and now in Lanzarote, facilities at different veterinary clinics (such as the availability of X-rays/ultrasound and other diagnostic equipment) varies from everything to nothing and all points in between. Since I arrived, in 1996, out of hours attention has been largely left to a very few individuals, but this, thank heavens, is changing.

Night calls fall into several overlapping categories: at least 10% are the incredibly annoying ones that involve sentences such as "Do you stock flea collars" or "Can I make an appointment for next week?"

Chu Cho's

- Boarding Kennels & Cattery
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In pre-Covid times there was often a cluster of calls from late-night revellers, staggering home the worse for wear. They called about hedgehogs, the neighbour's cat locked outside, etc. These calls are made after 8pm right through the night. Whether I am just serving dinner or torn out of sleep, it is not always easy to be polite...

One of the few blessings of Covid has been the dramatic reduction in these slurred, drunken calls that nightclubbing pet owners make when they finally get home. Usually, they're in distress that the dog has ripped up the bin and is being sick, or their cat/dog is dead and they can't bear to touch it. (When persuaded to do so, their deeply-asleep pet invariably wakes up, at which point they usually hang up. And then occasionally call back, just as I am falling asleep, to apologise!)

My favourites of these include a nightclub singer who called on his way home to say he had rescued a kitten. It took him 20 minutes and a serious scratched arm to get it from under his seat. The kitten was fighting fit, and it was his wounds I dressed. Then there was the couple who woke me at 5:30am one Sunday morning to rearrange their Monday appointment as they had decided to make a night of it.

A vet's husband once told me the story of him answering a night call from a neighbour who was annoyed by two dogs copulating on her garden and she wanted the vet to stop them. He asked her if she could take the phone into her garden and phone back. When she asked why he replied, 'Well it worked for us, madam!"

ONE OF THE FEW BLESSINGS OF COVID HAS BEEN FEWER STUPID CALLS...

On my first ever night on call I was disturbed by a man who I eventually understood actually wanted to discuss my pussy rather than his pet. Thankfully, these kind of calls have reduced over the years.

But, of course, there are many real and desperate reasons to seek veterinary advice. I will save those for another day. My last pieces of advice are:

• Ask the practice you attend where you can get veterinary help at nights, weekends and fiesta days. It is too late to start looking when disaster strikes!

• Never drive to a vets practice without first phoning to ensure someone will be there to meet you.

• Never delay seeking attention in the hope that things will improve – an emergency at 10am can quickly become a crisis at 2pm.

• Clean your furry families' bowls and fill them with our clean sparkling water while we all raise a toast to the warriors trying to save the animals of the Ukraine.

Jane is in the process of gathering all available out-of-hours veterinary attention and contact details from other vets, which we'll publish here in the Gazette. Contact her or us at the Gazette if you know of a practice that offers out-of-hours attention.

Jane: janeburke698@hotmail.com

Gazette: editorial@gazettelife.com

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ACTION STATIONS!

The health risks of sitting and stuffing yourself are becoming clearer than ever. Now's the time to make a change...

Spain's lockdown was one of the strictest in Europe, with citizens completely banned from leaving their homes to do physical exercise. If you had a garden or yard, you were lucky. If you didn't, you had to exercise indoors or try a few star-jumps on the way back from taking the rubbish out.

That inactivity was teamed with an increased consumption of high-calorie snacks and alcohol, as people sought comfort at a worrying and uncertain time.

The lockdown successfully halted the first wave of coronavirus, but several studies from all over the world have shown that lockdowns also had a negative effect on health problems that are caused by sedentary lifestyles and weight gain. This applies to all age groups, with children especially affected as schools closed and sports were cancelled.



We already know that lack of physical activity and overeating are unhealthy, but this has become clearer with new research that claims that "middle-aged spread" due to decreased rate of metabolism is a myth. A study of 6,000 people showed that metabolism barely changes at all between the ages of 20 and 60.





What this means is that you can no longer blame your body for your beer belly and love handles. The depressing news is that they're almost certainly there due to lack of exercise and, above all, consuming too many calories.

The conclusion is crystal clear: To stay healthy we need to eat less and be more active. And that activity doesn't just necessarily mean having a jog every couple of days. Even that may not help much if you spend the rest of the day slumped in front of a screen. The key is to live a more active life all the time.

We all know restless, fidgety people who can't seem to stay still for more than 10 minutes, and although they may be annoying, they're also usually slim and fit.

ISLAND LIFE

On Lanzarote there are few excuses for living a sedentary lifestyle. The sun shines almost every day, and there are dozens of activities available all over the island.



There are also plenty of options if you want to change your diet to something a little more healthy. The island is full of fresh fruit and vegetables, fish, and seafood and, although there are plenty of places that offer a feast of calories, it's also not hard to find healthier options.

More and more holiday makers are moving away from traditional patterns of boozing and stuffing themselves and using their holidays on the island as a healthy break or a lifestyle reset.

HOW TO GET ACTIVE

Get a dog: Dogs need walking daily, and humans will usually accompany them. Keeping a dog will provide the perfect excuse for the 20 minutes of brisk walking a day that are recommended by health experts.



Get a hobby: Walking, running, swimming and other active hobbies are, of course, great for increasing activity, and Lanzarote is perfect for all of them. But don't forget that any active hobby, whether it's a half-hour of gardening or just dancing in your living room, is better than none at all.

Take a break: If you work at a desk, get up and walk around every half an hour. Do the same when watching TV – remember that binge-watching a TV series is as unhealthy as bingeing on anything - and make sure those breaks aren't spent rummaging around in the fridge.

Make a stand: Standing up is better for you than sitting down, so try to stay on your feet while cooking, cleaning, even working.

Mix methods: Endurance is only one aspect of fitness. You should also work on flexibility, balance, and strength. All of these aspects become even more important as you get older.



INTERVIEW: GRAN HOTEL DIRECTOR LUIS MIGUEL MORALES THE HEIGHT OF EXCELLENCE

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CIT

Arrecife's Gran Hotel is a landmark – both in its physical presence as the only high-rise building on Lanzarote, but also as a standard of excellence. Hotel director Luis Miguel Morales has worked there for almost 20 years, so we chatted with him about the island's most instantly recognisable hotel.

Can you tell us a little about the history of the hotel?

The Gran Hotel was built in 1970, and was the first five star hotel in the capital, aimed at attracting tourists with high spending capacity. At that time, tourism in Lanzarote was very different – the resorts had still not been established, and tourists were as likely to come to Arrecife as the Fariones or Salinas hotels.

High-rise buildings were all the rage back then, but after the hotel was built it was decided that the island would no longer permit the construction of high-rise buildings. As a result, the Gran Hotel is the only building of its kind on Lanzarote.

The hotel went bust in the 1990s and was left empty for several years until renovation commenced in 2000. It re-opened in 2004 as a luxury hotel, and at the time that was a risky decision.

Why was that?

Arrecife was not a tourist destination. It still isn't, although many things have improved – many cruise passengers make their way here, for example. But we had to work hard to offer people services such as entertainment, fine dining and leisure facilities such as the spa.

Who are the clients today?

Holiday-makers of all nationalities, mainly. We've realised that urban tourists, who travel for city-breaks, aren't that profitable – they don't stay for long and they eat elsewhere.

It's also a hotel with a strong presence among local residents, too.

Yes. Plenty of people come to dine in our three restaurants, enjoy the spa and pool or attend live events in a way that doesn't really happen in the resort hotels. We're very much part of the local community. I've spoken to several residents from Britain and other countries who tell me that the hotel is a point of reference for when they visit Arrecife. The Blue 17 bar on the top floor is always full – it offers the best view in the city and an excellent dining experience. And we've just opened the spectacular Alarz restaurant, too.

How are things going right now?

LL THIS

EASTER,

WE'LL

LIKELY BE

90% FULL

Very well indeed. We were 80% full in March, which is unheard of for that month, and Easter is likely to be 90%. People are crazy about coming here and the pandemic is no longer preventing them. Recent price rises have affected us as much as anyone, but they also drive us to offer even higher quality for demanding clients.

You're still young, but you've been here since the reopening?

I arrived straight after university and worked supporting the director at that time. I became an official representative of the hotel in 2012 and was appointed director in 2018.







More information & bookings: reservas@restaurantealarz.es | 928801298

Canarian classic recipe Spanish omelette



Ingredients:

- 300 mls olive oil
- One medium onion
- 600 g potatoes (buy the ones marked "para freir")
- 3 tbspns extra virgin olive oil
- · Salt and pepper

tortilla de papas y cebollas

This Spanish omelette is an all-time classic -Penélope Cruz was recently seen making one in the Oscar-nominated film Parallel Mothers, You can buy a slice of tortilla in most bars and takeaway food shops but making your own takes it to the next level.

Like any classic recipe, it provokes strong opinions. Some think the onion is heresy (although a recent survey showed that the Canaries were definitely in the onion camp), while others will add pieces of ham, chorizo or pepper.

Method

1. Peel and slice the onion, then fry in the olive oil (abundant oil is one of the keys to success) with a pinch of salt for around 20 minutes - until it's very soft but has not started to brown.

2. While doing this, peel and slice the potatoes thinly, then rinse in cold water and pat dry. Fry the potato slices in the oil with the onions until they're melt-in-the-mouth soft (keep the heat medium - you're not making chips). Season well with salt and pepper.

3. Beat eggs in a mixing bowl, then remove potatoes and onions with a slotted spoon and mix gently with the eggs.

4. Heat the extra virgin oil in a smaller non-stick pan (about 22cms) and pour the egg mixture in. Then leave to cook on a medium heat. When the edges start to come away from the pan, you can either flip the tortilla by turning a plate upside down, putting it on top of the pan and swiftly flipping, then sliding the tortilla back into the pan. Or you can pop it under the grill. Cook for five more minutes, then serve.

Chef's tip: Some top chefs have recently claimed that potato crisps are as good as frying fresh spuds. The fried potatoes you can get from roast chicken shops (asaderos) usually make a decent tortilla, too.

Many people like hot tortillas that are little gooey in the middle. If you're one of them, grill the top briefly rather than trying to flip it. If you plan to eat it cold, cook it through and flip away.

LANZAROTE PHOTOGRAPHY

FOOD - EVENTS - FAMILY - COUPLE BABIES & KIDS - FASHION & EDITORIAL

Food Photography

FOCUSED ON COMMERCIAL PHOTOGRAPHY; THE PRODUCTS OF WHICH ARE USED IN ADVERTISEMENTS, MAGAZINES, MENUS OR COOKBOOKS.

f/lanzarotephotography

DORADA vs. TROPICAL It's one of the oldest arguments on the island. Of the two major Canarian k

It's one of the oldest arguments on the island. Of the two major Canarian beer brands available on the islands, which one tastes the best?

If it comes to age, there's no argument. Tropical is the oldest brand, established in 1924 on Gran Canaria. Dorada was founded in 1939, but didn't produce any beer until the blockade on German equipment ended with the end of the war.

Although both brands are now owned by the same company – the Compañía Cervecera de Canarias – they are still manufactured on separate islands. Dorada's logo features Mount Teide, reflecting its Tenerife origin, Tropical bears the head of a mastiff, one of the emblems of Gran Canaria.

> As a result, there is a bit of inter-island rivalry between the brands. Tropical sells more beer overall, probably because the province of Las Palmas has more tourism, but Dorada dominates on Tenerife, the island that drinks most beer.

> Tropical's range is limited. There's a normal pilsner, a non-alcohol version and a lemonflavoured beer, and the image it projects is one of fun, beaches, and sunshine. The

company once sent a can of beer 30 kilometres into the atmosphere for a publicity stunt and claims to have created world records for the largest beach towels and inflatable mattress.

Dorada appeals to more serious drinkers, also offering zero alcohol and lemon versions, but also an "Especial" range of red, dark, wheat and extramalt beers, which have performed well in the island's gourmet beer market.

After decades of competition, the two brands launched a joint publicity campaign shortly after the Covid pandemic started, calling for unity among the islands, and this continued as they supported La Palma during last year's volcanic eruption.

But we still haven't answered the burning question: which is best? Last month we asked Gazette readers online to vote on the issue, and the result was close, with the Canarian beers running neck and neck for most of the time. However, in the final straight Dorada just squeezed ahead of Tropical by 39 votes to 34.



DORADA

DORAD

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INDIAN ZAFFRAN Puerto del Carmen C/Juan Carlos I, 25 – C.C. Olivin Tel. +34 928 512 747 Near the Biosfera Commercial Center Open daily 17.00pm - 23.00pm

BOLLYWOOD

Puerto del Carmen Avenida de las Playas 67 Tel. 928 511 532 Near Sam Perfumes Open daily 12.00am - 23.00pm



Lanzarote's biggest sports event of the year is coming this month. On Saturday May 21st the IRONMAN will commence, a gruelling test of endurance consisting of a 3.8km swim, 180.2km cycle and 42.2km run.

CONCERTS

MAYUMANA

14th May, 5pm

The Mayumana company are coming to Lanzarote. An international cast that combine dance, percussion, electric effects and stage lighting. The group have performed for over 24 years with more than 156,000 performers and 8 million viewiers in over 20 countries. Teatro El Salinero Tickets €20 at www.ecoentradas.com

DULCE PONTES

28th May, 8pm

Pianist, composer and performer Dulce Pontes will perform some of her most popular songs from the hit album "Focus". Teatro El Salinero, Tickets €22 at www.ecoentradas.com



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CINEMA

The Cine Buñuel at Arrecife's El Almacén has a selection of recent critically acclaimed films on show in May, including Joachim Trier's "The Worst Person in the World" and Ryusuke Hamaguchi's "Drive My Car" which has won a handful of awards including Best foreign Picture at the Oscars. All are shown in original language with Spanish subtitles.

DRIVE MY CAR

(Ryusuke Hamaguchi, 2021) Japanese 4th, 7:30pm & 5th 8:30pm

THE WORST PERSON IN THE WORLD

(Joachim Trier, 2021) Norwegian 11th, 7:30pm & 12th 8:30pm

THE ODD-JOB MEN

(Neus Ballus, 2021) Catalan/Spanish 18th, 7:30pm & 19th 8:30pm

PLAYGROUND

(Laura Wandel, 2021) French 25th, 7:30pm & 26th 8:30pm

One of the cinemas at Deiland and the Atlantida in Arrecife shows a film in its original language every Monday and Thursday, and these are usually in English. Find out What's On at cineslanzarote.com.

And don't miss the Starlight Rooftop Cinema at Puerto del Carmen's Biosfera Shopping Centre. Check www.rooftopbiosfera.com for this month's films.

THEATRE

RIGOLETTO 14th May, 7:30pm

LA NOCHE

6th May, 8pm

2 -----

Written by José Saramago, "La Noche" originally premiered in Lisbon in 1979, five years after the end of the Salazar dictatorship. The play takes place in a newspaper office in Lisbon on the night of April 24th 1974, and centres on journalists whose daily routine is interrupted by news of the "Carnation revolution".

Teatro El Salinero, Tickets €10 at www.ecoentradas.com

de G.Verd

Ferrero de Lucha de Tia

SPORT

LANZAROTE IRONMAN

OPEN WATER LANZAROTE

14th May

An open water race that runs parallel to the Avenida de las Playas, where spectators can watch the entire swim

Playa Grande, Puerto del Carmen.



CRUCE A NADO

28th May, 7:30am

A 23km open water swim from the island of Alegranza to La Graciosa in aid of the La Palma volcano eruption victims.

Faro de Alegranza, more information via email

vueltaanadoisladelanzarote@gmail.com

FIESTAS

CANARY ISLANDS DAY

May 30th There'll be a day's holiday and various cultural events on all seven islands celebrate to the anniversary the of establishment of the autonomous community of the Canary Islands. Details are likely to be released closer to the date.





Playa Blanca. 10am to 2pm.

PLAYA HONDA MARKET Third Saturday of the month Calle Mayor. 10am to 2pm





Summer Celebrations

Last month, the Canarian Government finally lifted all regional restrictions on events and gatherings, permitting fiestas to go ahead as normal for the first time in over two years. Most local fiestas take place in summertime, and here's a guide to what's in store over the following months.





Canary Day falls on the 30th May, with celebrations all over the island. There are also a number of smaller local fiestas this month. For example, Uga

celebrates St. Isidore on the 15th, Tao honours St. Rita on the 22nd and Montaña Blanca parades its image of Mary, Help of Christians, on the 24th. Fiestas like this will take place in small villages and barrios of Arrecife throughout the summer.

CORPUS CHRISTI

Corpus Christi falls on the Sunday after the 22nd of June (the 26th, this year). The night before, local groups from Arrecife create elaborate "carpets" out of coloured salt on the streets around the church of San Ginés. After the midday mass, the virgin is paraded over every carpet, and children scramble to fill bottles with the coloured salt.

SAN JUAN

St John's Day falls on the 23rd of June and is a midsummer celebration celebrated with bonfires and barbecues all over the island on the evening of the 22nd. The most spectacular bonfire, however, takes place in Haría, where the "Devils of Haría" perform their fire dance and burn a dummy called Don Facundo. Facundo has been officially pardoned by the Mayor for the last two years, but is unlikely to escape this year.

SAN PEDRO

Macher and Maguéz celebrate St. Peter's feast day on the days leading up to 29th June.



SAN MARCIAL

St. Marcial is the patron saint of Lanzarote because the first French invaders on the island built the island's first church in Femes in his honour. Femes still celebrates his feast day on 7th July.

VIRGIN OF CARMEN

The patron of fishermen is the most important fiesta of July, celebrated in Arrieta, Playa Blanca, Valterra and La Santa on and around the 16th of July.

VIRGEN DE LAS NIEVES

S One of the year's most beautiful fiestas takes GU place on 5th August at the lonely Ermita de las Nieves on Famara's clifftop. Pilgrims arrive AU from all directions, some even scaling the cliff itself, to see the sunlight gleaming on the image of the virgin, dressed in white and gold as she is paraded around the church.



PUERTO DEL CARMEN

The second Sunday of August sees the belated celebration of the Virgin of Carmen in Puerto del Carmen's old town. The culminating event is a glorious maritime parade of local boats, tooting their horns and sounding their whistles as they accompany the virgin on her short voyage.

Virgen de las Nieves

SAN GINÉS

Arrecife's patron saint is celebrated with several events that usually take place around the Charco de San Ginés.

CALETA DE FAMARA, SACRED HEART

Famara's fiesta is held in early August, and the most famous event follows the procession of the virgin along the beach and onto a boat. It's a water party where Lanzarote's young people forget everything they've ever been told about social distancing. And we mean young - if you're over 30, you're probably past it.

LOS DOLORES

ш 15th September brings Lanzarote's most important religious fiesta - a massive М pilgrimage to Mancha Blanca to honour the Virgin of Los Dolores, known here as Our Lady of the Volcanoes, and her role in the island's only miracle. S

This is the event where Lanzarote flaunts its identity and heritage with pride and joy. All are welcome, but traditional dress is compulsory.

Blooms i

IN LA RECOVA PLAZA EL PAVÓN, TÍAS

 (\mathcal{G}) Sign up via WhatsApp



- 5pm Percussion Workshop 5th 618085657





- 6 pm. Yogalates (Yoga+Pilates). 🕓 635579594

- 6 pm. Radio workshop
- 7 pm. Through the main streets: art, stilt-walkers & flowers



- 10 am. Family yoga + healthy snack "La Calma". 🕓 634514214
- 10.30 am. Cosmetics workshop. 🚫 629818455
- 11 am. Have fun with our GIANT games!
- II am. Craft workshop with flowers. 🕓 620363622
- 12 noon Canarian Bowls Tournament. (S) 650316993





- 5 pm. Aerolates (Aerobics + Pilates). 🕓 635579594
- 6 pm. Radio workshop
- 6 pm. DJ workshop. 🕓 629818455
- 7 pm. Through the main streets: art, mime and balloons
- 8 pm. Jazz concert. Leandro Fajardo Square
- 10 am. Creative & healthy cuisine for children: "El Enyesquito". 🕓 634514214
- 10 am. Have fun with our GIANT games!
- 11 am. Children's workshop: "Art for child painters". 🕓 629818455
- 12 noon Show "Art Magic Show"









Tourist Guide

Centres of Art. Culture and Tourism

Mirador del Río

Manrique's spectacular viewpoint set into the Famara cliffs looks out over La Graciosa and the rest of the islands of the Chinijo Archipelago.

Cueva de los Verdes

The oldest of Lanzarote's tourist centres is a marvelously lit tour through a volcanic cave system. The optical illusion towards the end is genuinely stunning.

Jameos del Agua

Manrique's space age party venue is located in a lava bubble, where a legendary lake filled with unique blind crabs is flanked by restaurants, cafés, a volcano museum and a natural concert auditorium.

MIAC: Castillo de San Juan

This 250-year old fortress overlooks Arrecife's commercial port and is home to an art gallery featuring works by Picasso, Tapies, Miró and other modern artists. With a famous restaurant and attractive gardens, it's a glimpse of the island's past and future.

Cactus Garden

Manrique's favourite of his creations, this charming garden features over 1,400 different types of cactus and is set in a disused quarry in the heart of Lanzarote's cochineal country. A traditional windmill overlooks the scene.

La Casa Amarilla

The "yellow house", located at the foot of Arrecife's main shopping street, is the old seat of the island's government, and is now an art gallery and information centre.

Timanfaya: The Fire Mountains

Lanzarote's most popular outing offers a pure, breathtaking spectacle at one of the newest landscapes in the world. Take an unforgettable coach trip through the volcanoes and see the power and heat of the earth's inner crust.

Casa-Museo del Campesino

This complex of buildings in the very centre of Lanzarote is overlooked by Manrique's 15m high monument to the Farm Worker. Visitors can buy unique souvenirs, see exhibitions and take part in traditional activities.

Other outings

Museo Agrícola El Patio

Step back in time at this charming and fascinating farm museum on one of Lanzarote's largest estates. Clucking chickens, windmills, living history and a gorgeous location.

Museo del Timple, Teguise

The timple museum is devoted to the small guitar that is the sound of Canarian folk music, but you'll also be amazed by the Palacio Spinola, the island's grandest colonial home.

Mancha Blanca Volcano Visitors Centre

Often overlooked by visitors, this terrific little museum will teach you all you need to know about Lanzarote's dramatic volcano country.

César Manrique Foundation, Tahiche

Built in a lava bubble, Manrique's first island home is utterly fascinating. Solid lava flows into a lounge, trees grow out of underground caves, magnificent gardens flourish at every turn and the whole creation is inspirational.



An exclusive and original space offering limited brands and creative and inspiring art, where culture, jewelry, fashion and gastronomy combine in harmony. Small artisan creators provide the beating pulse that drives Room 214.



Tourist Guide



Casa-Museo César Manrique, Haría

Manrique's second home in Haría has been recreated as if the artist had never left us, and gives us a glimpse of the man behind the legend. See his living room, his wardrobe, his record collection and visit the studio where he created many of his works.

Aeronautical Museum, Lanzarote Airport

Set in the island's first terminal building, this great little museum gives you a glimpse of bygone days when one plane a week landed here.

LagOmar, Nazaret

Built by Manrique's associate, Jesús Soto, LagOmar is an amazing gallery, museum and restaurant set in a mountainside. It's a magical, unforgettable place.

Pirate Museum, Teguise

Located in a hilltop castle where locals used to hide from raiding pirates, this museum revisits the island's lawless and often tragic past.

Museo Tanit, San Bartolomé

A lovely little museum that offers a fascinating glimpse of bygone Lanzarote and the tough, resilient and gloriously creative islanders who lived there.

Close up on: La Graciosa

Lanzarote and the island of La Graciosa are separated by just 1 kilometre of water. The island doesn't have any large hotels, tarmacked streets, or many cars. La Graciosa is as laid-back as laid-back gets.

The longest part of the trip to La Graciosa is the drive up to Órzola in the north of the Lanzarote. Once there you'll be able to pick up your ferry tickets (\pounds 26 round trip for tourists and \pounds 6.50 for residents). The boat ride is a short 30-minute journey which takes visitors into the small harbour.

When you arrive what you choose to do is up to you. La Graciosa has a small selection of restaurants which all serve fresh seafood as well as Canarian classics. You will reach the islands long and quiet beaches by taking a left from the boat and walking approximately 10-15 minutes.

The island also serves as a great destination for avid hikers, mountain bikers and scuba divers. There are also frequent 4x4 off-road tours where guides will take you to the more rugged areas of the island.





SHORT CROSSINGS, FABULOUS FEELING

The simplest way to travel between the islands

CORRALEJO PLAYA BLANCA

10:30 17:30

13:30 19:30

15:00

16:00

17:00

18:00

* 1 JUL - 31 OCT

*19:00



ORZOLA LA GRACIOSA 16:00 08:30 08:00 10:00 17:00 08:40 11:00 18:00 10:00 12:00 11:00 19:00 13:30 *20:00 12:30

FAST FERRY

LANZAROTE FUERTEVENTURA

PLAYA BLANCA

09:30 16:30

12:30 18:30



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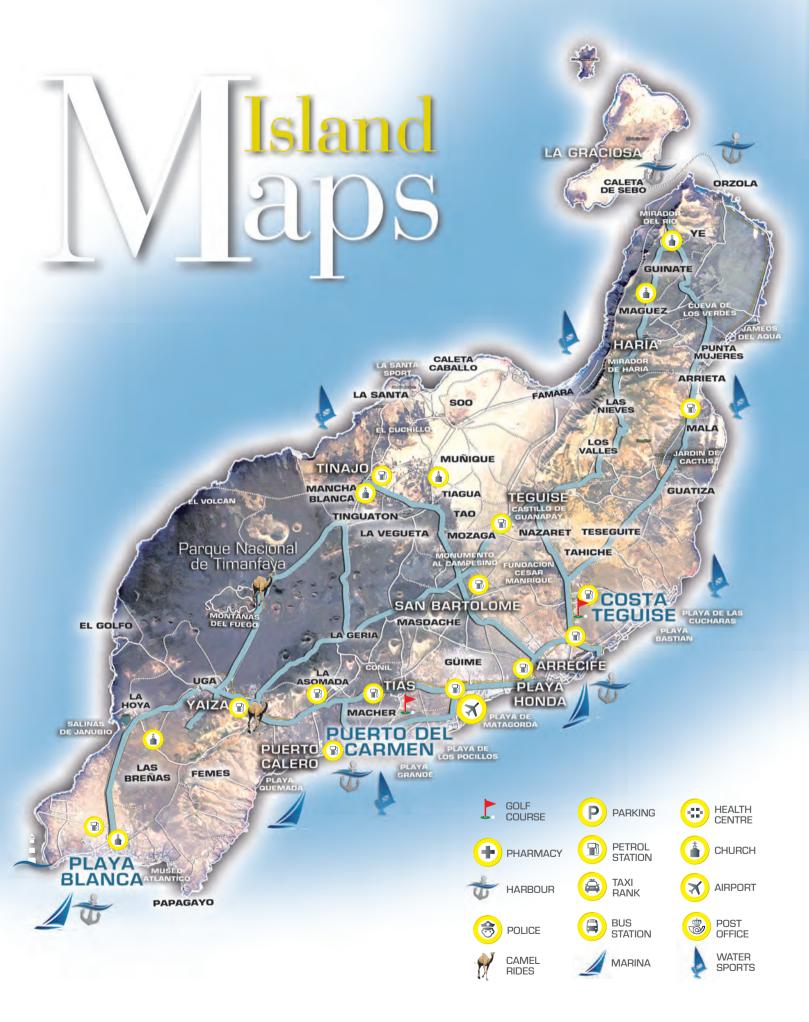
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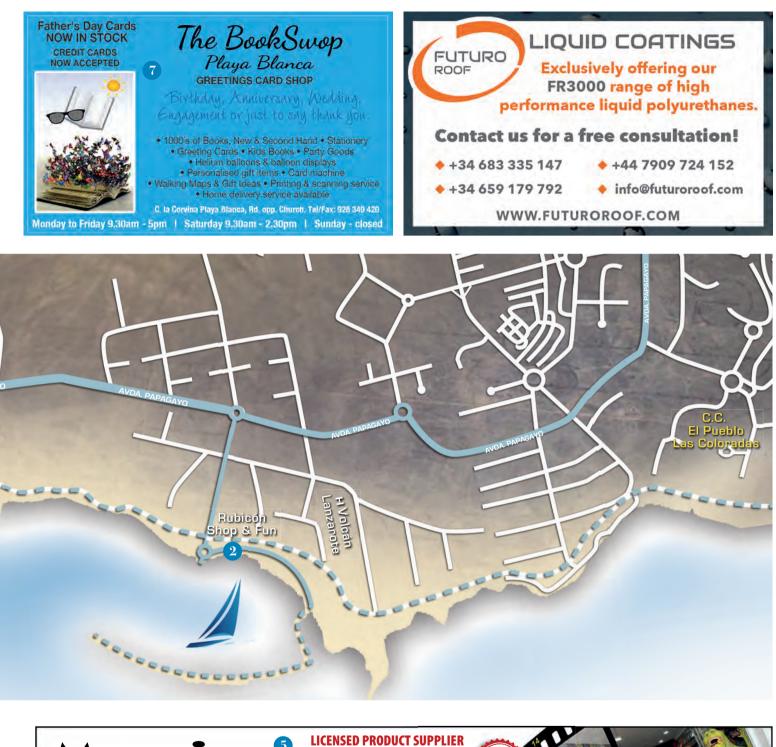


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PROPERTY NEWS

INTEREST WARNING

The property market is bracing itself for a rise in interest rates, which some experts predict could reach positive levels by the end of the year. Inflation rates in Europe have been on the rise and many experts believe that the Central European Bank will be unable to resist pressure to raise interest rates, possibly after the summer. This is likely to bring an end to the recent rock-bottom borrowing costs, which have remained below zero for several years.

The Euribor base rate, which is the most widely used index in Spain, has been in negative territory for over six years, reaching a record low of -0.502 last December.

The possibility that mortgages may have to pay higher interest rates at a time when



other costs are also shooting up is causing many experts to recommend a shift from variable- to fixed-rate mortgages, and better deals will be available the earlier they do so.

SOCIAL HOUSING FOR ARRECIFE

200 social houses will be built in Arrecife as part of a Canarian Government plan to build over 400 assisted homes in the Canaries.

After 10 years during which the previous Canarian Governments failed to construct a single social home, despite a housing crisis that saw scores of evictions, rocketing rents and a shortage of affordable properties, Canarian President Ángel Victor Torres recently announced the recommencement of construction projects.

The homes will be constructed in Maneje, an area of the capital that lies to the north of the main ring road, between Argana Alta and the Tahiche main road.

RENTAL SCAM PAIR CHARGED

A 44-year-old man and a 24-yearold woman were last month arrested and charged with 12 counts of taking payments for holiday rentals that did not exist.

This is not the first time such scams have occurred on Lanzarote. On this occasion the villas were advertised on existing websites, rather than ones created especially for the purpose. However, all photos were images of properties stolen from other websites. Once they received deposits of between $\pounds 250$ and $\pounds 1,800$, all contact would cease.

Renters are urged to image-search photos of rental properties if they feel suspicious, and not to transfer money until they are satisfied that offers are genuine.



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TAX SEASON

Spain's tax season opened last month, on 6th April, but you still have two months to make your declaration, as the closing date for most submissions is 30th June.

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Tax season is a big deal in Spain, a time of year when accountants and financial advisers are as busy as bees, and when citizens get their financial affairs for the last calendar year in order.

And getting them in order is likely to be more complicated than usual after 2021, a time when many businesses, workers and self-employed saw plenty of pandemic-related ups and downs.

But before you get down to business, it's a good idea to know if you actually need to submit a tax return. You may not earn enough to qualify for the threshold (although it's still a good idea to do it, as the *declaración de la renta* can be useful when applying for subsidies and grants). If you're a resident here, you'll be required to declare income on all your earnings, here and overseas. Non-residents only have to declare income on Spanish earnings.

GET PROFESSIONAL HELP

In most cases, it's a great idea to hire an accountant, gestor or other professional to complete your tax returns for you. They're likely to be far more aware of what you can and cannot claim for, as well as any recent changes in the regulations, and their expertise can often pay for itself. Fees for a basic tax return can cost as

little as €30, rising according to the complexity of your situation.

But you can also do it yourself. The possibilities exist to do this by internet, in person at the tax office or over the phone, and the online option is easily the most popular.

To declare online, you need to apply for your borrador (draft) – an automatically-generated declaration of your tax situation based on information submitted to the authorities. This can then be amended before being officially submitted.

If you have digital ID such as a *certificado electrónico* or PIN Cl@ve, then getting your borrador is fairly simple. If you haven't, then you can apply for a reference number by entering details from last year's declaration. If you didn't declare last year, you'll have to arrange digital ID.

PAYBACK TIME?

Once your submission is prepared, most people will pay close attention to Box 540 at the end. If it's a positive number, you'll have to pay that amount back to the Spain's Agencia Tributaria. If it's a negative number, a rebate will be transferred to your account within a few weeks.

For more information in English, check out the Citizens Advice Bureau's Spain site at citizensadvice.org.es

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Debido a la gran demanda y a un mercado muy activo, buscamos urgentemente más villas de calidad en Playa Blanca y en el resto de la isla para comercializar su venta. Si usted está considerando vender su propiedad y le gustaría una valoración gratuita y sin compromiso, por favor póngase en contacto con nosotros en info@optimaestate.com

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Going for Gold

The colour gold exudes style, wealth, and power. Pair it correctly with your colour scheme and it will elevate a room. However, too much of the colour can look overdone and flashy. Finding the right balance is key.



GOLD EXUDES CLASS AND POWER.

For centuries gold has been used as a status symbol to wear gold is to be gold. The non-corroding metal was used as jewellery dating back as far as 5000 BCE, taking the form of necklaces, bracelets, pendants, pins, and brooches.

Gold has remained a social status symbol in the form of jewellery ever since. It has been worn by the Ancient Egyptians, Romans, Ancient Greeks, Victorians and many more.

Perhaps one of the most prominent uses of gold in interiors can be found in France. Many of France's museums and historical buildings are heavily decorated with gold. The gold decorations paired with large marble statues, dark wooden floors and warmly lit chandeliers create an air of superiority.

Gold elevates everything that it touches, and we can use the colour to apply that final touch. In the modern home it's key to use gold as an accent rather than the main feature, as an abundance of gold can have the opposite effect and make something look cheap.

START SMALL

The smallest changes can have the biggest impact. Take a look at your space and highlight the little details. Look at the handles, the furniture feet, the plant pots, lamps etc.

Something as simple as changing handles for gold ones or repotting a plant into a stunning gold pot can make a big difference to the feel of a room.



BALANCE

It's easy to go over the top with gold and overdecorate the space. Keep your colour scheme in mind, gold pairs best with deeper and rich colours.

Gold isn't limited to being the only featured metal, it can also pair with other metals such as a brushed or hammered silver.

EXPENSIVE TASTE

The original gates to the Versailles Palace were destroyed by French revolutionaries in the 1700s, however, a new one was constructed in 2008 and was decorated with 100,000 gold leaves costing 5 million euros.



FRAMED

Photos often sit on top of the mantlepiece, or our coffee tables, and a gold frame can make a treasured picture stand out from the rest.

The same applies to framed artwork or sculptures. The gold highlights the piece and draws attention to it.



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Japanese Utility

Small apartments can be hard to furnish, and you have to maximise every foot of space that is available to you. The average apartment size in Japan is smaller than in Spain. As a result of this the Japanese have come up with a few clever ways to maximise space and utility.

The average apartment in Tokyo is 30% smaller (65.9 sq/m) than the average in Barcelona and Madrid (96 sq/m). While the average Tokyo apartment sits at 65.9 square metres, over 1.4 million have a living space of 19.7 square metres which can even fall to as small as 9.8 square metres.

Having smaller apartments led to design innovations in home furniture, allowing for more flexibility and utility. In some "smart" apartments nearly every single piece of furniture can sit flush with the floor or walls and be pulled out when needed.

To maximise the space in your apartment, you'll need to consider a few things:

CLEAR THE CLUTTER

Before you change a thing in your apartment, you'll need to clear out any clutter. Be realistic, if you haven't used it in 6 months, you're probably not going to use it again.

Find a wardrobe or cupboard to store items you wish to keep but don't intend on using regularly.

OPEN UP

Make a list of all of the large furniture pieces in your house and then run down the list ticking off the ones that you are going to replace with one multifunctional piece.



Think of sofa beds, fold up desks and collapsible table/chair sets.

HANG OUT

Remember that you have wall space as well as floor space. To free up countertops and drawer space make use of shelving, kitchen utensil wall grids and bathroom shampoo baskets.













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It's likely something that you've only thought about in fleeting moments, however, our surroundings can unknowingly have an impact on our mood and behaviour. If we consider that the average homeowner spends 50% or more time indoors, it's about time that we started to think about the psychological aspects of interior design.



Over the past decade social media platforms have almost tripled their userbase from 970 million to approximately 4.4 billion, and with this growth came more awareness of mental and psychological health. More of us are talking about mental health than ever before.

It's no surprise that with triple the userbase comes triple the number of conversations surrounding mental health. Conversations analysing moments in pop culture, annual award ceremonies, and latest celebrity drama.

In 2019 Muuto collaborated with the Johns Hopkins University of Medicine's Brain Science Institute to create the exhibit "A Space for Being" for the international furniture fair in Milan, marking the start of what would become a staple in an interior designers thought process.

The exhibit required participants to wear a device that would record their psychological responses as they walked from room to room. Each individual report would give indicators as to which rooms the participants felt most comfortable in based on their psychological responses.

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ESSENTIAL

The first room, titled "Essential", aimed to present a sympathetic atmosphere. To achieve this, they used a dining room setting with a simple wooden table, material armchairs with dull orange accents.

Exploring further participants would find a living room setting with soft blues, wooden coffee tables that sat on a textured rug.

Light citrus scents and floral hints could be smelled, as a stripped-back soundscape was played on overhead speakers.

VITAL

The second room was designed to create a playful and vibrant atmosphere, evoking the inner child. This time starting in the living room, the walls had a colourful gradient and multicoloured drawer handles fixed to it. Paired with the colourful walls were vibrant blue sofas, orange poufs and creative semi-circle coffee tables.

In the dining room the same colourful gradient was present, with bright and cheerful accent pieces sitting atop a simple white dining table that had 6 muted soft maroon and green material chairs.

Simple percussive rhythms played over the speaker system.

TRANSFORMATIVE

The third and final room presented an elegant and modern atmosphere. The living room featured marble wallpaper with laminate flooring, long and squat dull earth-coloured sofas, and plain grey chairs with dark upholstery.

The dining room setting looked minimalist with its white table and unwelcoming black chairs. There is seldom colour in this room, only shades of white and black.

String instruments with piano played over the speakers, with wood-like scents penetrating the air.

As the 2019 Milan furniture show came to an end, the exhibit had collected actual numbers and data to prove that our surroundings can influence our emotions. As a result of the experiment, the subsequent annual design trends focused on the psychological aspects of interior design.

"There's more to it than just picking colours."





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Zonzamas mystery

Humans have been building and designing on Lanzarote for centuries, and one of the leastvisited areas of Lanzarote is home to its richest archeological heritage – where the original natives of the island settled and created mysterious stone carvings.

Many people know the area of Zonzamas for one thing – it's the site of the dump that receives almost all of Lanzarote's rubbish. Complaints about smells and fluttering plastic rubbish have existed for years.

But Zonzamas is also one of the oldest centres of population on the island. A seemingly random jumble of stones just a few metres away from the entrance to the dump marks the site of the village of Zonzamas, named after the ancient King, who was said to have built it, according to records from a Spanish traveller who visited the island in 1377.

Further round the corner on the way to Tahiche, behind one of the banks of the pass that was blasted into the mountain to build the LZ-34 road, is one of the strangest structures on the island – the Quesera de Zonzamas.

This is a series of channels carved into the volcanic rock on the floor. About four metres in diameter, all the channels run in the same direction, although they are different widths. It's clearly taken a lot of work to hollow out these smooth channels, but the reason why it was done is still a mystery.

The name *quesera* means cheese dairy, but although roughly similar structures are used by cheese makers and are the reason the ancient stones received their name, no one currently believes the channels at Zonzamas were used for this.



Explanations range from the most routine – that the channels were used to channel water, or grind grain (although they are in a rather exposed situation for this); to theories that they were used for ancient rituals or have some relation with the stars. Other *queseras* have been found in other parts of the island, but this is the most impressive and well-preserved.

On nearby stones, engravings known as podomorphs have also been found. These are rough rectangles with five scratches at one end, and are thought to represent human feet. They have been found widely throughout Lanzarote and Fuerteventura, where many point in the direction of the mighty Mount Teide on Tenerife.

What's certain is that the channels are located on a hilltop with wide views of the ocean, the southern coast and the row of volcanoes that forms the "spine" of Lanzarote. The ancient Mahos lived in homes that were half-dug, half built with stone, and the *quesera* also shows their intimate connection with the landscape they lived within.

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The Desert House

<image>

Standing out from the rugged terrain in the Gorafe Desert, Granada, sits The Desert House La Casa del Desierto. However, La Casa del Desierto is more than just a house, it's a fully glazed and self-sufficient house.



The idea for The Desert House was born out of a collaborative idea between Guardian Glass and OFIS architects. Is it possible to build a house with glass walls, to allow for a panoramic view of the Gorafe desert?

The house sits alone, with no neighbouring structures, in the middle of the Gorafe Desert in the Gaudix region of Granada. Natural erosion which has taken place over thousands of years has defined the desert's many depressions and earned it the "badlands" title. While The Desert House is an alien structure in the desert, it certainly fits in with the badlands' unique and extraordinary landscape.

Apart from its wooden/concrete base and roof, the building is made entirely from glazed glass panes. At first you may be thinking that the house would turn into a greenhouse in the daytime as the glass traps in the heat, however, the architects used specially glazed glass in order to greatly reduce the amount of trapped heat. La Casa del Desierto has a floor plan of just 20 metres squared consisting of a bedroom, bathroom and living room, as well as a veranda outlining the property. The building is totally energy efficient with its water filtration system and solar panels.

New techniques in glass technology and construction are discovered all the time which are of particular interest to Lanzarote where César Manrique incorporated these materials to stunning effect in a way that points towards a greener, more sustainable future.



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THE CANARIAN PINE

Every month Francisco Bermejo of Canariensis Garden Design introduces us to a native Canarian plant. This time its the Canarian pine tree (*Pinus canariensis*).

The Canarian pine is the most important tree in the forests of the Canary Islands, constituting 60% of the forest mass of the archipelago. Canarian pine forests are found on the islands of Tenerife, Gran Canaria, La Palma and El Hierro. On La Gomera the wild tree is found to a lesser extent.

On Lanzarote, a small reforestation was carried out last century in the Haría clifftop, in the area known as "El Bosquecillo". It is also used for reforestation and for the exploitation of its wood in different countries of the world.

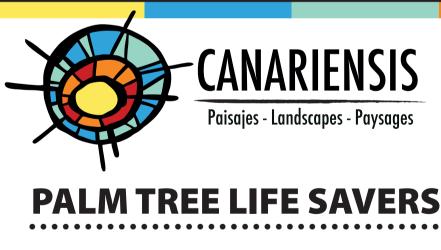
It is a very elegant pine that can reach up to 60m in height. It thrives in all types of soils, as long as they are not too waterlogged, but it does not do well in lower temperatures. The bark of its trunk is very thick and makes it famous for its immense resistance to fire. Indeed, after a fire, it can regrow from an apparently burned trunk. Pines are already recovering from being almost completely buried in hot ash after La Palma's recent eruption.

The Canarian pine's "needle" leaves are grouped three-by-three. The ancient Canarians used pinocha (dried pine leaves) to fill mattresses and pillows, for livestock bedding, etc. They also ate pine nuts, and the highly-prized wood has been used for centuries in the construction of ships, weapons and houses.

Its resin has also been widely used for the manufacture of torches, medicinal

uses and even as an insect repellent.

In Lanzarote, the Canarian Pine has not been used in gardens extensively, despite being a tree with great landscape potential which can be easily adapted to the conditions of the island.



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Gardeners and the law

Your Lanzarote garden may be your private paradise, but laws of the land still apply to what you grow there and what you do there. Here are just a few of the legal aspects that local gardeners need to take into account.

CUTTINGS

In the UK, many gardening enthusiasts feel no qualms about snipping a cutting from a plant, especially if it's wild or growing in a public space and seems to be flourishing.

However, in Spain (as well as in the UK), this can be considered as theft or criminal damage. And on Lanzarote, where many households relied on the produce of their gardens to live on

in fairly recent times, there's a good chance it will not be tolerated.

If you want a cutting, always ask for permission from the owner of the plant. Even then, this is not common practice on Lanzarote and it's probably better to limit the exchange of cuttings to friends or members of a gardening club or social media group.

Many wild plants are also protected on Lanzarote. Removing them can be



a serious offence, and even taking a cutting or seeds is against the law.

IMPORTING PLANTS AND SEEDS

The Canaries takes the preservation of its native species very seriously, and there are extremely strict regulations on the importation of plants and seeds, which are



designed to keep viruses, bacteria and fungi out of the islands, as well limit the spread of potentially invasive species.

It may be possible to obtain a licence for the importation of certain species, but this is really only a possibility for commercial businesses.

STONES AND GARDEN DECORATION

Gardeners may often be tempted by the sight of attractive stones on the beaches of Lanzarote, or decide to help themselves to sand or other items.

Nevertheless, this is almost always illegal. Beach rules are laid down by local councils, but almost always forbid the extraction of natural elements, such as stones, sand or seashells from beaches.

It's a question of degree, usually. No one is likely to be fined for having a few pebbles in their pocket, but loading up your car with large stones for a rockery will be considered an offence.



In Fuerteventura, for example, the airport has confiscated kilos of the clumpy white rhodolites that have been stolen from "Popcorn Beach" in La Oliva.

The situation concerning non-natural elements is different. There appears to be no law against the removal of non-natural elements such as plastic bottles, fishing debris or driftwood from beaches.

Another law that certain gardeners may need to be aware of is the 2015 one that prohibits the cultivation of marijuana plants in places where they are "visible to the public", such as front gardens or balconies.

GARDEN WASTE

It is forbidden to dispose of garden waste in the usual containers provided for general rubbish. This is because leaves, pruned branches and other garden waste is often bulky, leaving little room for the general household rubbish that the black containers are intended for, and causing possible overspills. If you've got garden waste, you should get rid of it at your local *punto limpio*.

Bonfires require permission, and are often prohibited during the summer months, to prevent wildfires.



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Top banana

The banana plant is a Canarian emblem, and this unmistakably beautiful plant can become one of your proudest possessions. They require care and attention, but it's hard not to fall in love with a banana.

During an appointment at Tías Ayuntamiento recently we were struck by the immense, elegant banana plant that dominates the area outside the Mayor's office. It's a remarkable plant, and obviously incredibly well-cared for, but it's also just one of several such living centrepieces on Lanzarote.

The banana has become an emblem of the Canaries. Introduced to the islands from West Africa, it soon became an important crop, and created immense wealth in the western Canaries. A visit to the Gomeran town of Hermigua will give an idea of how important this crop was – it's a place where cable cars once carried tons of bananas down the valley to a concrete loading pier which is now a public swimming pool.

Lanzarote is fairly short on bananas compared to La Gomera, Tenerife and La Palma, but it's still possible to grow them here. Given enough attention, they'll produce tasty bananas outdoors, while indoors they are one of the most elegant tropical plants there is – a gorgeous, exotic statement.

OUTDOORS

The key to growing bananas outdoors is shelter. These are plants that don't like the wind at all, and that's one reason why they love company. The more banana plants you have, the merrier they'll be. As well as shelter, they need rich well-drained soil, plenty of









sunshine and plenty of moisture.

That soil will need plenty of nitrogen and potassium – chicken manure and wood ash are ideal - and bananas also love much around their stems. They'll also need watering regularly if you want them to produce fruit – commercial producers spray them two or three times daily.

INDOORS

Bananas grown indoors rarely produce fruit – but then that's not what they're grown for. The main attraction is those huge, glossy leaves and the graceful curve of the stem.

As with the outdoors plant, they need quite a bit of tender loving care – bananas aren't a particularly high-maintenance plant, but they will suffer if neglected. Rich soil, drainage, frequent watering, misting and occasionally wiping down those leaves are the keys.

COULD CANARIAN BANANAS HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO BREXIT?

The myth that the EU wanted to ban curvy bananas was often mentioned as evidence of the nit-picking EU rules that Brexit would free the UK from.

A quality control law that prevented "abnormally curved" bananas from being sold in the premium "extra" category was turned into a supposed ban that has since been repeated by millions, including Prime Minister Boris Johnson.

Nevertheless, older people had also noticed that bananas also seemed straighter than the ones they enjoyed when they were children, and the reason could be to do with Canarian bananas.

Canarian bananas are smaller, sweeter and usually more curved than the Caribbean bananas which now account for almost all of the bananas consumed in the UK. But this wasn't always the case. Canary Wharf in London was where countless tons of Canarian bananas, grown by British companies such Fyffes, were unloaded for the British market.



FIGHTING THE DROP

UD LANZAROTE IS IN A BATTLE TO AVOID BEING RELEGATED FROM THE TERCERA DIVISON (FOURTH TIER) FOLLOWING A DISAPPOINTING SECOND HALF TO THEIR CAMPAIGN. IAN LANE REPORTS...



point short of that cushion.

To make matters even more nerve-wracking, Lanzarote's three remaining fixtures are all six-pointers against three teams who are also fighting for their lives, and it is clear that it will be a tense ending to the 2021/22 for anyone connected to UD Lanzarote.

By the time you read this the Rojillos season should be over as their final game is scheduled for the 24th of April at home versus SD Tenisca however a match on the 19th March was suspended and at the time of printing no new date has been set.

To find out how the season concluded please go to the Facebook page or website (details below).



On the 17th of January, Lanzarote beat league leaders UD Las Palmas C 1-0 and were sitting pretty in fourth position after having just bolstered their play-off hopes with the signing of two new strikers in the January window.

The club then incurred an influx of long-term injuries which especially affected their forward line and forced them to bring in Junior and B team players. Now, with three matches remaining, they are just two positions, and two points shy of those four automatic relegation positions.

Currently (on the 16th of April) Lanzarote would appear to be safe in 12th spot, but they need to do even better to be able to relax. That's because, even if they avoid ending up in the bottom four it does not mean that they are out of danger. It's a little complicated, but bear with me...

In the next league up, Segunda B, there are five Canarian sides, and all five are currently occupying the five automatic relegation positions with five matches remaining. Should they all be relegated then this could lead to a domino effect, meaning that it is possible that seven teams from our division could face the drop. To ensure safety, Lanzarote must finish a minimum of 10th place and with only three games to play, they are one

Go to **Lanzarote Football Club (Facebook page) or www.mercancialanzarote.com for info,** season ticket & membership details etc. All shirts and other merchandise can be bought at the Teguise market stall on Sundays; online at **www.mercancialanzarote.com/shop/** or at the shop in Costa Teguise which is based at Centro Comercial Nautical, local 25 (up from Decades bar and behind Café Bonjour). *The shop is open Mon to Fri 10am to 1pm*.

TEEING UP ON THE 15TH

AS PLAYA BLANCA GOLF SOCIETY PROUDLY CELEBRATE THEIR QUINDECENNIAL (15TH ANNIVERSARY). RONAN CLARKE REPORTS ON THE SOCIETY'S DEVELOPMENT AND CURRENT SUCCESS.

Playa Blanca Golf Society was founded 15 years ago when a thought was sparked between friends sharing a drink. Since then, this wonderful society has built a community of golfers from Playa Blanca, Spain, England, Ireland, Scotland, Switzerland and all across the Canary Islands.

What began as an amicable social outlet meeting once or twice a month has evolved into the present and growing group of almost seventy members who meet frequently throughout the month.

Originally, there were three golf societies in Playa Blanca, but as membership and participation increased it was decided to merge and, on the first day of 2022, the Playa Blanca Golf Society was formed.

As with most aspects of life, the Playa Blanca Golf Society was impacted by the pandemic beginning in 2020. Not only was travel impeded for some members but the society's main course, Tías Golf Club, closed from 2020 until late 2021. The club developed a close working relationship with Costa Teguise Golf Club which allowed the society to continue playing safely throughout these challenging times.

Currently, Playa Blanca Golf Society play about 70% of the time at Costa Teguise and 30% at Tias Golf Club. Members convene every Tuesday and Sunday starting the day around 10.30 am. Some members also meet on days falling outside our regular schedule. On main society days, members frequently gather at Le Moka cafe in Faro Park for breakfast.

Community members hail from all over Europe and enjoy varying levels of skill and experience.

The society welcomes players of all handicaps with members ranging from a star + 2 handicap golfer, several single figure handicappers, whilst most members



Back row, left to right: Tony Corkindale, Graham Lyne, Alan Morris, Roy Mcguckin and Lawrence Armstrong. Front row, left to right: Rob Lee, Jeff Womersley and Dave Hogan.

reside at a still impressive 18-23 handicap, and some higher handicappers.

Over the last fifteen years, the club has built a close relationship with the local golf clubs at Costa Teguise and Tías allowing the society to extend affordable green fees and buggy rates to all members. The society also advances Spanish Golf Federation memberships for talent looking to achieve World Golf Handicaps right here in Lanzarote.

Recently, Playa Blanca Golf Society hosted a Ryder Cup-style two-day tournament, competing against Las Palmeras Golf Society and emerging victorious at the end of a fantastic few days. This is now officially an annual event held each November. After a difficult couple of months as a result of the pandemic, the club is now the proud holder of the Lanzarote Ryder Cup Challenge Trophy.

This 15-year milestone looks to be only the beginning for Playa Blanca Golf Society and as a result of their ongoing progress has engaged golf societies from further afield. The club is currently collaborating with two societies on Fuerteventura with the aim to host similar tournaments later in the year.

Playa Blanca Golf Society will also have the chance to discover what the courses of Elba and Salinas in Fuerteventura have to offer.

The society which began as a casual chat between players frequenting The Snug - now Bill's Bar - and The Lounge in Playa Blanca, is now an integrated golfing society serving Playa Blanca and beyond. We are honoured to be celebrating fifteen years on the island.



Left Sue Lee, Special Games Secretary for LasPalmeras Golf Society. Right Tony Corkindale Playa Blanca Golf Society.

Playa Blanca Golf Society is always looking for new members, so if you are interested in joining Playa Blanca Golf Society please contact - Tony Corkindale on 0044 7971 260212 or tonycorkindale@yahoo.com

Traffic cops

If you're driving on the Canaries, it helps to know which police officers operate where.

Responsibility for traffic offences depends on the road. In urban areas, the local police are in charge. These agents are employed by the local Ayuntamiento (council), and the fines that they issue will usually come from that institution.



Meanwhile, on roads between towns and villages, the Guardia Civil are responsible for traffic. This dates back to the mid 19th century when one of the main duties of the newly-created force was to protect coaches from bandoleros (gangs of highway robbers). Fines issued by the Guardia Civil will usually be issued by Spain's Department of Traffic.

On Lanzarote, you may also see the Policía Portuaria operating around the main ports. This is a special security body with responsibility for port areas, and you are unlikely to receive a fine from them unless you commit an offence in these areas.

Traffic is not among the duties of the National Police force, although agents are permitted to report traffic offences to the relevant authorities in the same way as any other citizen.

FINES AND PENALTIES

Non-residents are often issued with spot fines, which must be paid there and then. If this happens to you, you should ask for a ticket, which must contain details of the car, the offence and the officer's ID number. Although it's very rare, Lanzarote police have in the past been sacked for demanding and pocketing unregistered spot fines from tourists.



RESIDENTS CANNOT BE ISSUED WITH SPOT FINES.

Many resident drivers won't know they've been fined until they receive a notice in the mail. This will usually give them the option of paying the fine within 20 days to receive a 50% discount, or appealing the fine.

The owner of the car is responsible for

any fines relating to the documentation or roadworthiness of the vehicle, regardless of who is using the car.

The driver will be responsible for fines resulting from traffic offences. This also applies to hire cars, and the hire car company should notify you of any fines incurred, although it may also charge you a fee for the administration costs of this procedure.

Why police break parking rules

Police in Spain recently responded to social media posts showing police vehicles parked in disabled parking spots or on yellow lines while officers are taking a coffee or maybe even a doughnut.

They point out that they, like any other employees, are entitled to break periods, and that rapid response to potential emergencies is part of their job. Parking their vehicles five minutes walk away from the café may cause serious delays. Police also point out that their vehicles may contain firearms and other specialist equipment, and may be at risk of vandalism, requiring that they be observable at all times.



MOTOR NEWS MAY 2022

MAKE WAY!

You're driving along a main road in Lanzarote when you hear a siren approaching and see a blue flashing light in your rear-view mirror. What should you do?

The answer is that you should move to the side of the road to let the emergency vehicle through, and it's not a "should"; it's a "must".

Ambulances and fire engines on an emergency call will use the middle of the road, warning drivers ahead with lights and sirens. This means drivers on a single-lane road should move over to the right-hand side, even mounting the kerb if it is practical to do so.

On dual carriageways, those in the outer right-hand lane should move right, using the hard shoulder, if it exists. Cars in the inner lane should move left, closer to the central reservation, rather than attempting to move right.



On three-lane roads, those in the central lane should move right, and

those already in that lane should make space for them.



20 KM/H OVERTAKING

Spain's Royal Automobile Club has criticised the recent change in the law that abolishes permission to exceed the speed limit by 20 km/h when overtaking on a conventional road. Before last month, it was possible to drive at up to 110 km/h when overtaking on a main road with a 90km/h speed limit. Now, the limit must be observed at all times.

Ignacio Fernández, director of the RACE, said "It has not been shown scientifically that this

measure will reduce accidents, as it prolongs the length of time needed to complete the manouevre." The Traffic Department has stated that the rule change will initially be in operation for a year, when results will be assessed.

The RACE welcomed most other changes, including the total ban on handling mobile phones while driving, but also said that clearer and stricter rules should have been applied to electric scooters.



SEAPLANE SERVICE

Surcar Airlines is planning to launch hydroplane services linking the Canaries. It is the first time such services will have operated in Spain for 65 years.

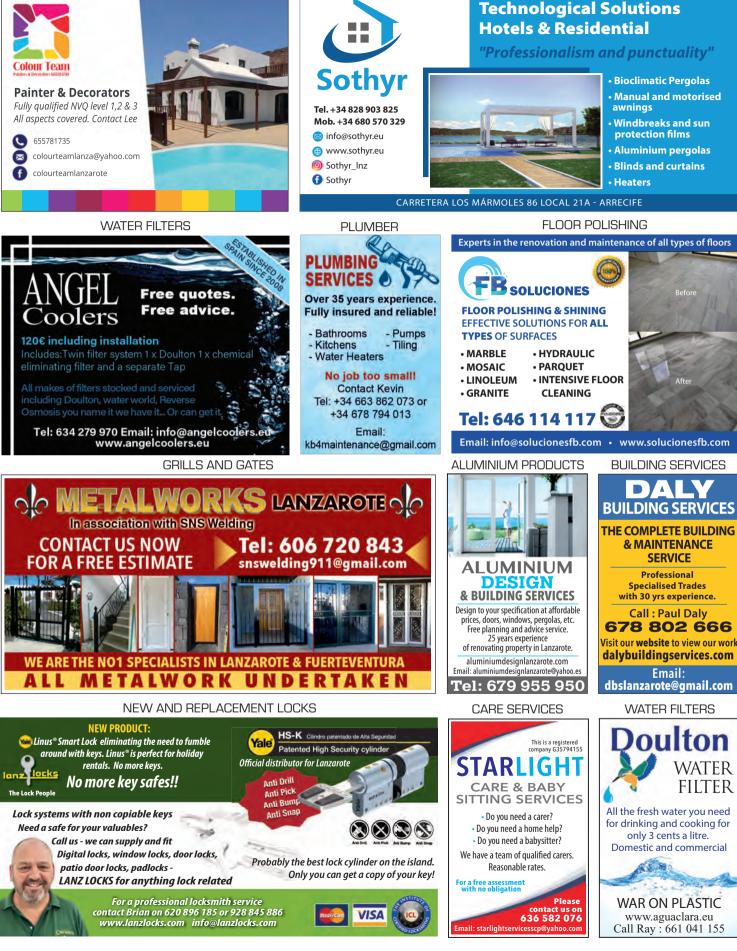


By landing at the ports of both cities, a seaplane operating between Las Palmas de Gran Canaria and Santa Cruz de Tenerife could eliminate 30 kms of travel on busy main roads that are necessary when travelling between the island's main airports. This reduces the carbon emission of a journey by up to 30%.

Seaplanes are already in wide use in Copenhagen and Seattle. Surcar hopes to launch its first service by the end of this year.



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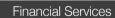
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WEATHER WHINGING

Dear Ed,

While Imogen Helliwell (Holiday Weather Woes, April letters) is quite right that the winter weather on Lanzarote can't be guaranteed, it's also true that the Canaries may be guilty of overstating the "yearround sunshine" slogan. The Canarian tourist website currently claims the islands have "the best climate in the world". I suppose they were indoors during the endless calimas earlier this year.

I'd also point out that while complaining about the weather may be one of Britain's favourite activities, you'll find no lack of locals who are every bit as keen to whinge about how "freezing" it is when the temperature dips below 15 degrees.

Yours,

Andy Tempest

BIRDS BUSINESS

Hi Ed,

I'm not sure if anybody else feels the same as me, however, last time I was in Lanzarote in March this year I noticed a significant amount of bird muck on the Avenida in Puerto del Carmen. Especially under trees, benches and anywhere else birds can perch.

It really is off putting to be sat looking over the sea or enjoying an ice cream.

On another note, the number of restaurants with chairs outside seems to have increased also.

I do wonder what the answer to these issues are!?

Kind Regards,

Lanza Lover

Ed: There are no realistic solutions to reducing bird muck, other than more frequent street cleaning. As for tables and chairs outside of restaurants, that's been something nearly all restaurants have done for years now.

TOO MUCH OF THE SAME

Dear Editor,

We have just got back from another great week in Lanzarote and felt that I needed to mention the food on offer in many of the restaurants in Puerto del Carmen.

If you don't want Indian or Chinese, then you are faced with little choice other than pizzas or burgers etc.

I'm not suggesting that restaurants should all switch to A la Carte options, but I feel something different is needed. Restaurants could offer the odd one or two "specials" that are a bit more adventurous for those who want it and I for one would not mind paying a premium for something like this.

We usually opt for hotel room only accommodation as eating out is a big part of our holiday but if our only options in resort are burgers and pizza etc. then we may as well go for All-inclusive option at the hotels we stay at.

Yes, I know this option will be just as repetitive as the restaurants, but I could save as much as 300 euros over the course of a 2-week holiday.

Come on Puerto del Carmen, you have the weather the beaches and the infrastructure, I think it's now time some of the better restaurant's started to offer something more imaginative alongside their existing menus.

I feel it would be a shame not to eat out especially at night but all-inclusive is becoming a more attractive option and how bad could it be by comparison.

Regards,

Ian Sabin

Ed: I disagree, Ian. While Puerto del Carmen does have its fair share of Indian, Chinese and Italian restaurants, there's plenty more on offer, including vegetarian and seafood places, as well as high-end restaurants such as the Kaori Asian restaurant in the newly-built Hotel Fariones. A search on Google will provide you with a good range of choice.

Send your letters to Facebook @Gazettelifelanzarote or our email editorial@gazettelife.com

TOILET TURMOIL

Dear Editor,

I've read your news reports on the recent works in nearly all the towns and resorts this year, and I commend them for their efforts in improving the island.

However, I must say that while energy efficient streetlights are a nice touch, I would hope that the state of the public toilets are nearing the top of the list now. Namely the toilets in both the Playa Blanca and Arrecife bus stations.

Covered head-to-toe in graffiti or names carved into the doors, locks that either don't work or don't exist, and a very unpleasant smell!

Not a great sight for first-time tourists getting off at either bus station, is it? Do you know if renovating the toilets are in their plans?

Regards,

Declan Lowry

Ed: To my knowledge, the Ayuntamientos haven't released any information regarding public toilets specifically. However, it is very possible that they may be addressed soon as the Ayuntamientos are carrying out street cleanings and building refurbishments currently.

BRAVO, PLAYA BLANCA

Dear Ed,

Just returned from a two week holiday in Playa Blanca and we loved it. This was our first time in the town as we normally stay in Puerto del Carmen.

We enjoy both, but I must say that Playa Blanca has a charm about it. We loved the walking along the seafront and seeing the busy restaurants as we strolled. The beaches are lovely and a little less busy than the ones in Puerto del Carmen.

Our favourite spot was definitely the area of Playa Flamingo. We would recommend anyone who hasn't visited to visit the next time they come! It's so serene.

Kind Regards,

Brian Spurrell

Telephone Numbers



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Weather Watch

Marvellous May

For months we've seen refreshing breezes, occasional light rainfall, some cool evenings and lots of pleasant sunshine, but May is the month when Lanzarote's magnificent summer weather wakes up, barges its way to the poolside and starts hogging all the sun-loungers.

May offers weather that is pretty much perfect for holidays, it'll be hot, and can get very hot; there'll be plenty of breeze, but the high winds of last May were unusual, mornings may be cloudy, heating up fast later on, and evenings are now starting to get much warmer. The only downside is the possibility of the odd calima bringing dust from Africa.

It's ideal for sports and activities, which is one of the reasons why the Ironman Race is always held in May, and there's usually plenty more activity going on. But it's also the perfect month to just find a warm, sunny place, relax, order a drink and just let the world go by.

What to Expect in May

Day Time Temps 22°C to 25°C
Night Time Temps Average 18-19°C
Sunshine Hours 13 hours daylight. 8 hrs full sun
Sea Temp 19°C
Rain 0mm
Wind N/NE average 15 kph, but gusts

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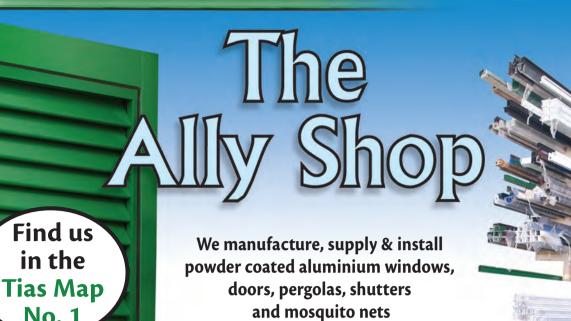


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Horoscopes BY CLAIRVOYANT SHONA LANGHOLM



Aries

(21 MAR - 19 APR) It's time to dig out those old photos and wallow in nostalgia, Aries. Spend some time thinking about the child you once were, and how you got from there to here. Discover old memories and let your past show you the way to the future.

Gemini

(21 MAY TO 20 JUNE)

It's time to improve your CV, Gemini. Whether it's learning a language, learning to drive or doing some volunteer work, it's a great moment to start projects that will broaden your skill set and make you feel better about yourself.



Cancer

(21 JUNE TO 22 JULY) You light up life this month, Cancer, and the people you meet seem to be mirrors, reflecting bright flashes of your charm and brilliance. You'll feel confident and proud, but don't forget that you didn't get like this on your own and share the glory a little.

Leo

(23 JULY TO 22 AUG)

Life isn't fair, they say, but that doesn't mean you have to accept it. You're at your very best when you're confronting injustice, Leo, so put your foot down, show them exactly what you're made of and make things change for the better.



Virgo (23 AUG TO 22 SEPT)

"I wish I'd spent more time on social media" is something

nobody ever says on their death bed. Get away from the screen, the fake news and the moral posturing and reconnect with real people, real friends and real emotions.

Libra

(23 SEPT TO 22 OCT)

Some detective work will pay off this month, Libra. Brush up your search skills and keep your eyes and ears peeled and you'll learn some information that could come in very handy further down the line. Knowledge is power, so get digging!



Scorpio

(23 OCT TO 21 NOV)

You'll feel very close to family members this month, Scorpio. Take time to let them know how much you appreciate them and make arrangements to see them if it's possible. When it comes to this sort of fulfilment, it's never too early and never too late.

Sagittarius

(22 NOV TO 21 DEC)

Time for a health check-up, Sagittarius. A few niggling health problems need addressing, and now's the time to tighten up your whole fitness routine a little. There's a busy and demanding summer on the way, and you'll need to be in good shape to deal with it.

Taurus (20 APRIL - 20 MAY) Boredom is a spur to greater things this month, Taurus. Don't laze around moaning

that there's nothing to do; do

something about it. Get out of

your comfort zone and discover

excitement that you never

suspected.

Capricorn

(22 DEC TO 19 JAN)

"How?" will be the question on your lips this month, Capricorn. You'll be obsessed with understanding the processes and reasons behind everything. Whether it's people or things, there's always an answer, so go and look for it.

Aquarius (20 JAN - 18 FEB)

Money is there, but it's still just glistening and shining out of reach. This month you need to stop trying to reach for it and focus on getting the right tools, or even the right team. then let it come to you - there'll be enough for everyone.

Pisces

(19 FEB - 20 MAR)

This is a crossroads time in your life, Pisces, and it's natural to be worried. But you've got enough support, determination, and skill to play the cards well however they're dealt. Relax, things are going to turn out better than you ever suspected.











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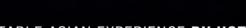
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