



*Discovering*

# LANZAROTE

Bartolomé Egea  
Emilio de la Varga



**EVEREST**

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- 64 photographs.
- Maps of the island.

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BARTOLOME GONZ FERNANDEZ  
EMILIO DE LA VARGA ROBERTS

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LANZAROTE

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*Photographs:* Pedro Viera Deniz  
J. Ciganovic  
Archivo Everest

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EMILIO DE LA VARGA ROBLES**

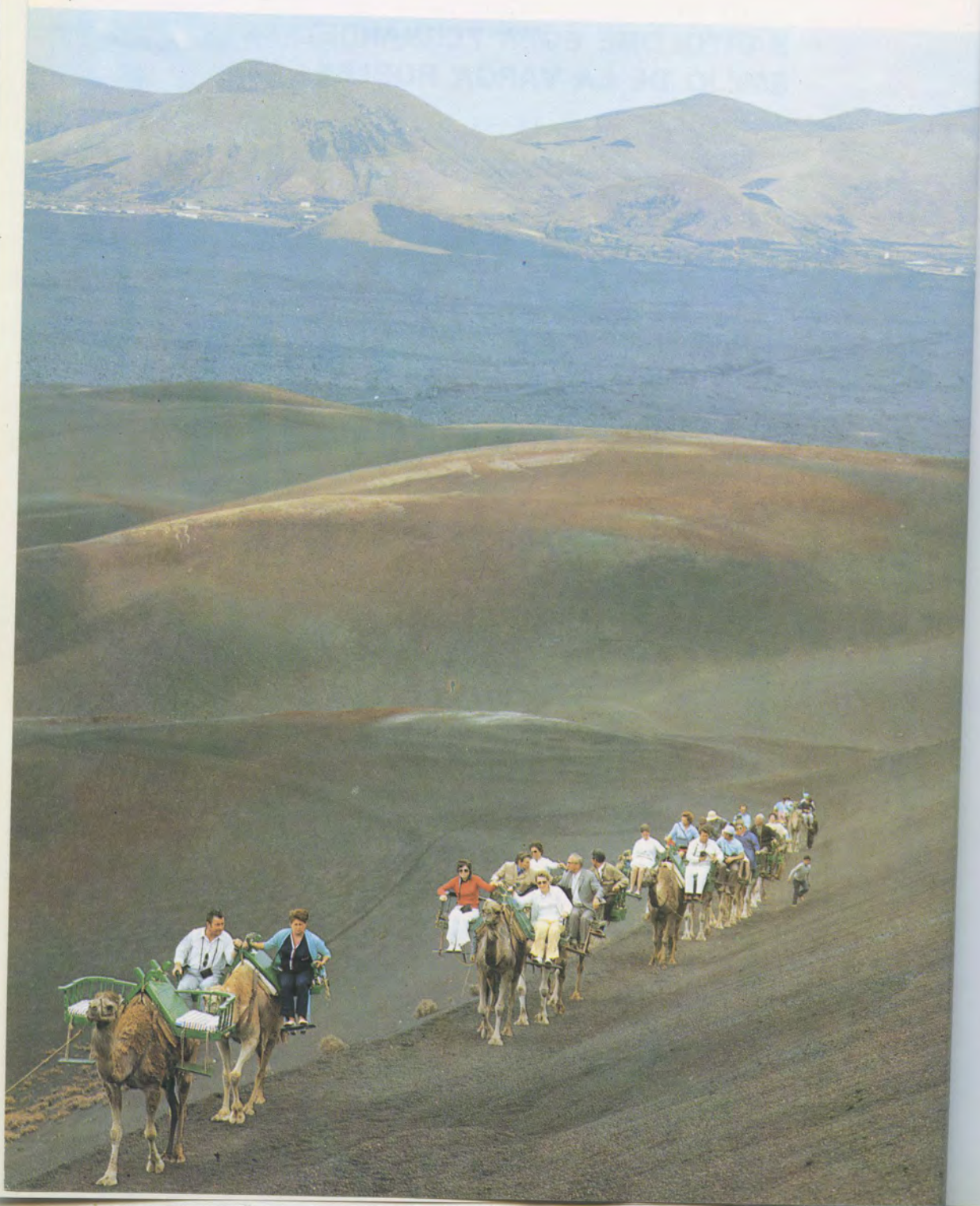
**DISCOVERING  
LANZAROTE**



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ZARAGOZA • LAS PALMAS DE GRAN CANARIA • LA CORUÑA  
PALMA DE MALLORCA • ALICANTE - MEXICO • BUENOS AIRES



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On the back of camels and dromedaries, the tourists go through the impressive landscape of Lanzarote.



*Intimidating view of a volcanic plain in the Montañas del Fuego.*

## PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS OF THE ISLAND

The isle of Lanzarote is the most septentrional in the canarian archipelago. Together with Fuerteventura and the other lesser islands, such as La Graciosa, the isle of Los Lobos, La Alegranza and Montaña Clara isles, it makes up the

whole of the so called eastern islands.

Its northeast-southwest orientation is parallel to that of both Fuerteventura and the african continent, with which it is very closely related because of its proximity, just about 68 miles away.

Amongst the islands that make up a part of the canarian archipelago,



Lanzarote stands out due to the fact that its ground is the lowest in altitude above sea level, in spite of being constituted by two mountainous massifs, one situated in the northwest—the Famara-Guatifay massif, where «Peñas de Chache», the summit in the island, stands with its 671 metres of altitude—and the other one in the southwest—the Los Ajaches massif. Both formations are linked together by a plain which presents remains of volcanic materials originating from the numerous eruptions that have taken place throughout the history of the island.

Lanzarote comprises an area of 795 square kilometres, which places it as number four in the canarian archipelago as far as extension is concerned, only surpassed by the three greater islands of Tenerife, Fuerteventura and Gran Canaria.

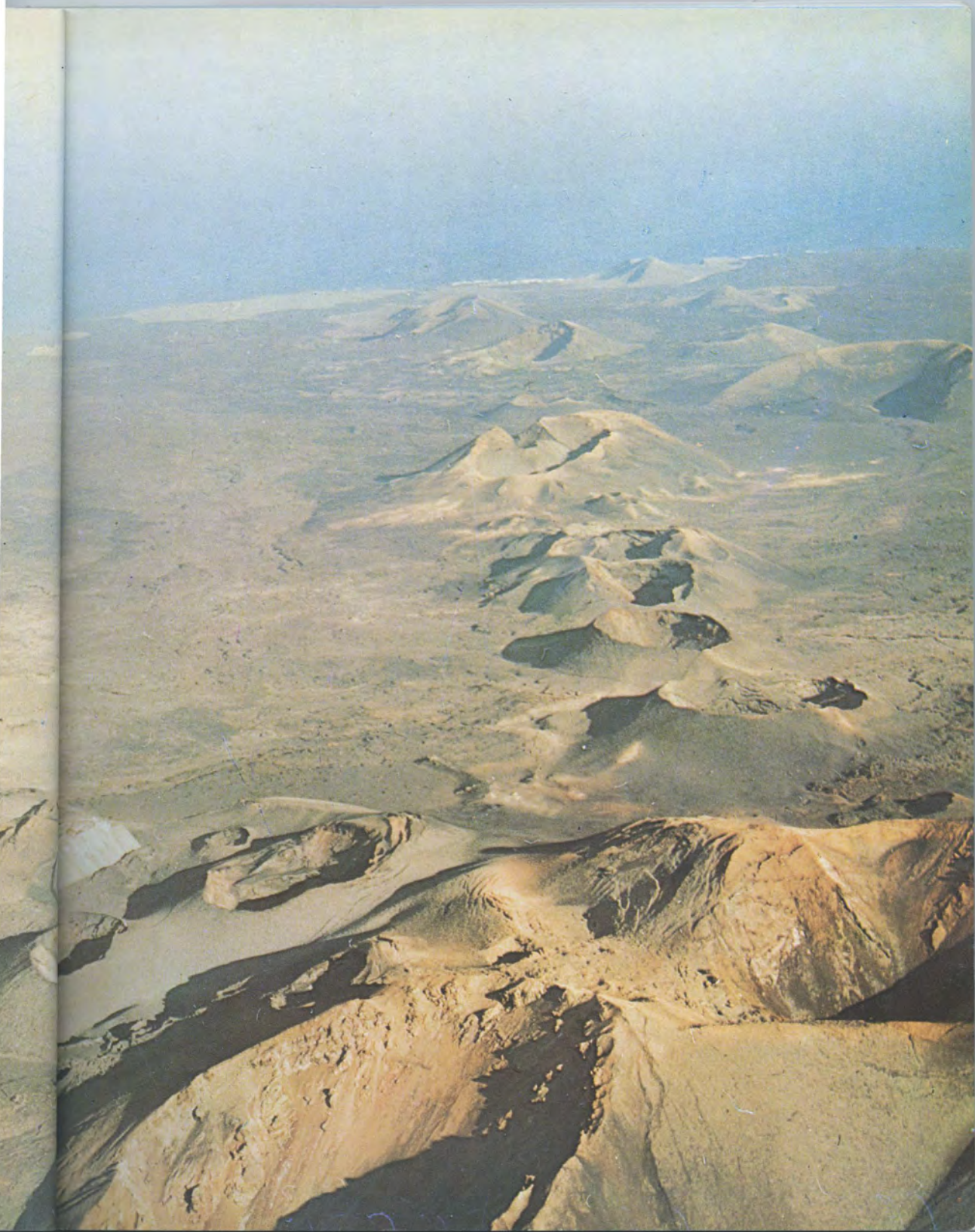
The strait of La Bocaina and the small barren island of Los Lobos separate Lanzarote from Fuerteventura. The sea depth in the channel that separates both islands is under 100 metres. To the north of Lanzarote, there is a somehow deeper channel, although it does not reach 200 metres deep. It is the strait that separates this island from the small barren island of Roque del Este.

One of the main difficulties is the supply of water; for this reason and to solve the problem for the people and the animals, potabilizing plants have been implant-

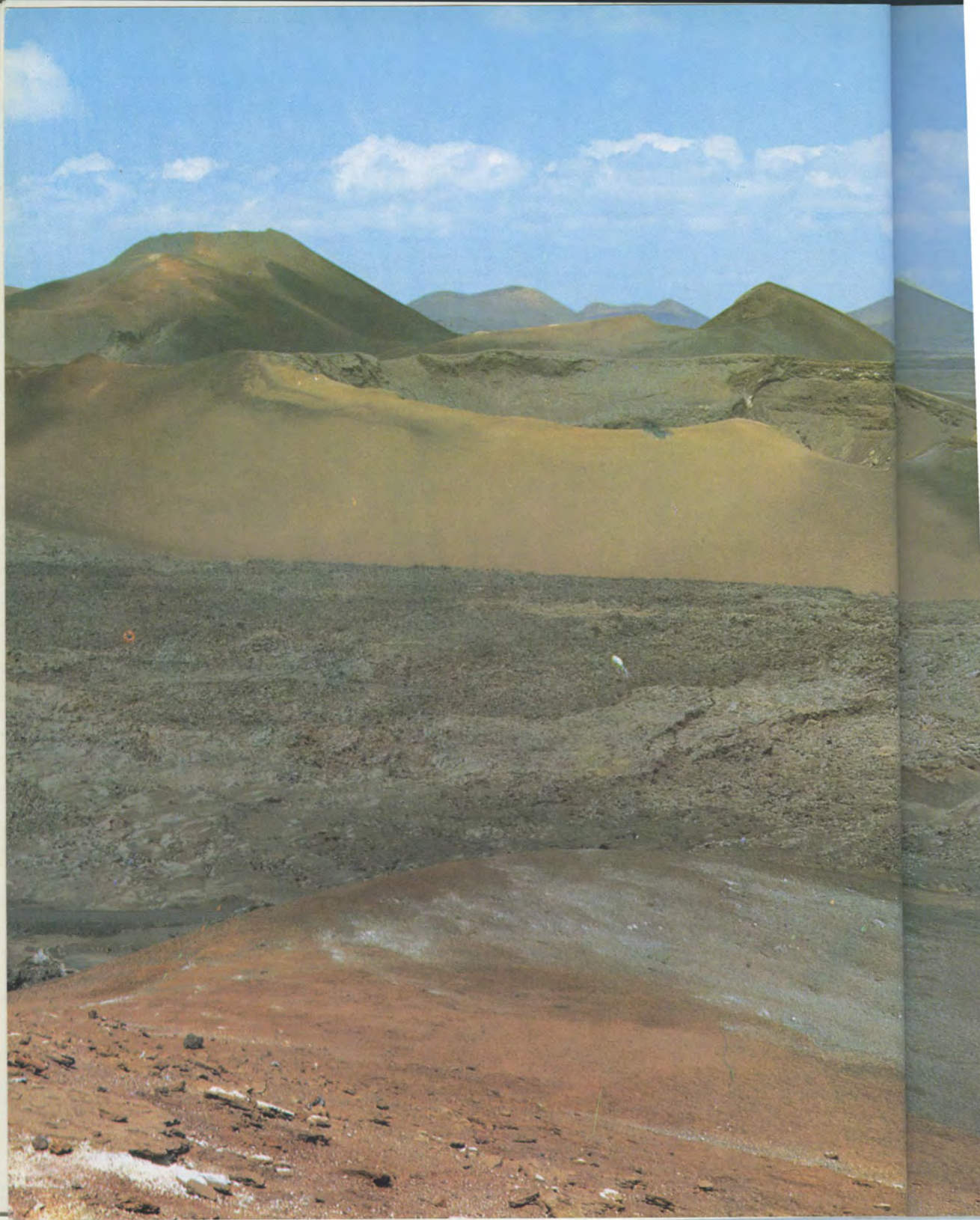
*Superb scenery of craters. ►*















ed. These plants have also been favorable in the adaptation of different types of orchard and green house plants such as tomatoes, onion seedlings, etc.

The coasts of Lanzarote are rather steep in the north and west side of the island; although the whole of the littoral does not present the same characteristic, as there are very sandy coasts in the east and south parts of the island.

One can find very beautiful beaches along the littoral, such as Reducto Beach, in Arrecife, Honda Beach, Matagorda, Los Pocillos, White Beach, Quemada Beach, Punta Muelas, Papagayo and Las Coloradas, in the southern part of the island; Janubio Beach in the northeast; Famara in the north; Seifio and Garita in the northeast, and the beaches of Cucharas, Bastián and Caleta east of Arrecife.

The climate in Lanzarote is extremely dry due to the fact that there do not exist important heights which might cause the formation of clouds, notwithstanding the presence of some of them in the higher levels of the mountainous massifs, which can be seen, from time to time, during the year. Its low altitude makes it impossible to get any benefit from the trade winds.

*A panoramic view of the Timanfaya region,  
violently shaken by the volcanic eruptions  
occured between 1730 and 1736, and in 1824.*



The rain fall does not reach 300 mm. per annum, and the average is, usually, of about 200 mm. yearly, although sometimes it does not get even to 100 mm. As a result of this, Lanzarote has a clearly xerophilous vegetation, with woody and thick plants, also characteristic of the rest of the archipelago, and halophilous plants, in the zones close to the sea. The most characteristic species, among others, are the bejeques, the furzes and the lichens.

The typical tree is the canarian palm tree, extraordinarily represented in the Haría grove of palm trees, forming a magnificent oasis. One can also observe tree plantations whose function is, very often, just decorative, under the attentive care of the owner of the neighbouring dwelling.

In spite of what has been said above, the most characteristic physical aspect in the island is its volcanology, a fact for which Lanzarote has been given the nickname of «isla de los volcanes».

Lanzarote has been submitted throughout its history and even in recent times to intensive volcanic eruptions which have modified the ground in the island leaving it so uneven, that it has been compared to the moon's surface. Clear exponents of this likeness with the moon's physiognomy are its formations of craters (there are over one hundred in the island), its lava floods, its im-

mense volcanic plains, its lava petrifications, its crevices in lava covered zones, its desolate and ash covered landscapes...

The most characteristic eruptions took place between the XVIIIth and the XIXth centuries, and more precisely in the years 1730 and 1736 and also in 1824, leaving, a quarter of the island, full of volcanic materials. But there has been volcanic activity not only during the two mentioned centuries, but also in recent years some eruptions have taken place, as well as in the previous ones, when the islands had not even been discovered. All these eruptions which we have mentioned have meant a great stop to the diminishing of the area of the island as a consequence of the sea and sub-aerial erosion.

One remarkable example of the eruptions to which the island has been submitted to are the Montañas de Fuego, in the Timanfaya region, so called because of the extremely high temperatures reached there, 400°C in its interior; an environmental one on the surface, and up to 100°C at a short depth from the surface. One has just to place some dry branches in one of the crevices of these mountains to see how a powerful sudden blaze appears.

The ground in Lanzarote also presents the feature of being highly porous.

The sea erosion has formed some



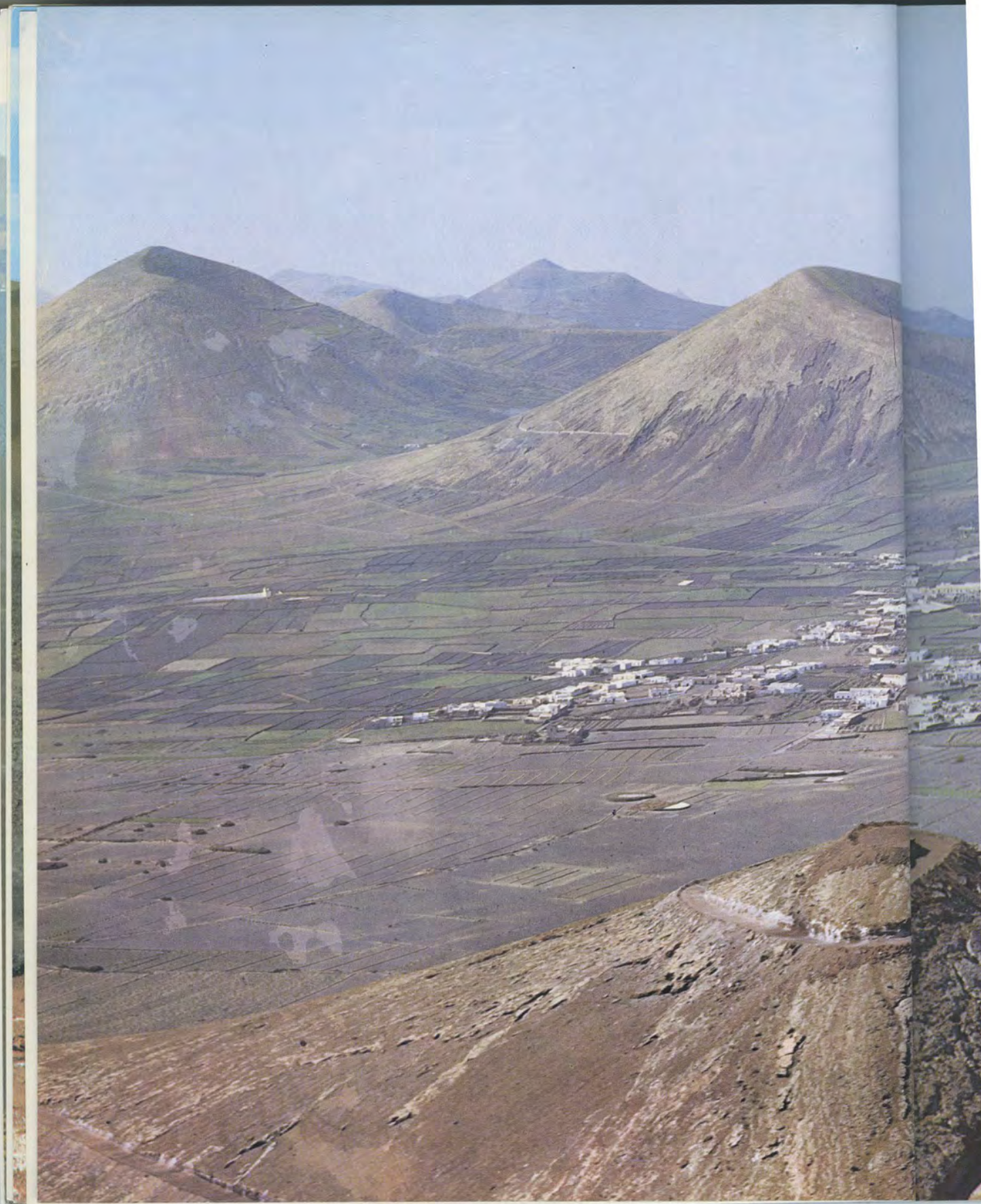


*Tourist urbanization of Santa Sport. Partial view. Tinajo.*

*Los Molinos Apartments. Teguisse Coast.*

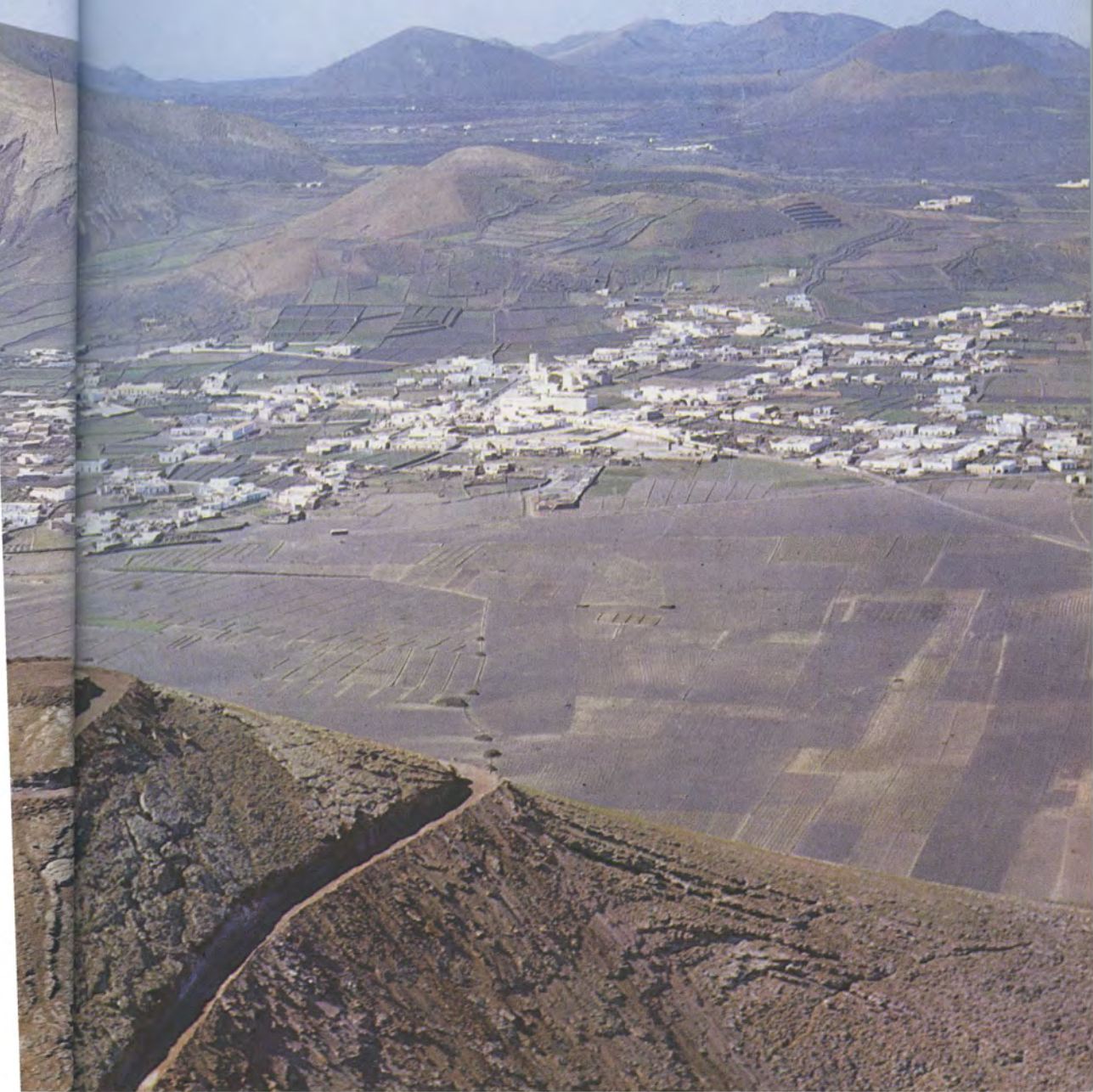








*The characteristic mountains of Lanzarote.*





cliffs in the west zone of the island, whereas in its east side one can see numerous ravines.

## HISTORIC FEATURES

It seems that the primitive population of Tite-Roy-Gatra, as it was Lanzarote known in the XIVth century, was clustered around a single kingdom (due to the limited dimensions of the island) under the mandate of King *Zonzamas*, who left us a testimony of his rule in the still preserved fortress which bears his name. It is about that time when the legend appears; according to this, princess *Ico*, heiress to her father's throne, and being accused of bastardy by some people who saw in her beauty and in the whiteness of her skin the reincarnation of her mother's, Queen *Fayna*, love affair with Martín Ruiz de Avendaño, a navigator cast by a storm on the coast of the island, proposed to herself to prove to everybody her legitimacy. In order to accede to the throne Ico would have to undergo a terrible trial: a cave was filled up with smoke until the atmosphere became extremely deadly for the human organism, then the princess and three other women were to be shut up inside the cave for some time. Once such a cruel sacrifice was finished, the three women were found dead, but, however, princess Ico managed to survive as a conse-

quence of having kept all the time a wet sponge on her mouth, a remedy which, always according to the legend, she had learnt from an old sorceress.

Thus, once her legitimacy had been proved, she could, at last, accede to the throne of the island. Her reign, not as happy as it had been expected, ended leaving her son *Guadarfia* as her successor, the last aboriginal King.

Of this primitive population in the island it is always emphasized the practice of polyandry as an anecdotic testimony.

And so we enter immediately in the XVth century Juan de Bethencourt, a navigator in the service of the castilian crown, gets ready to undertake the conquest of Lanzarote.

Juan de Bethencourt disembarks on the island at Las Coloradas beach and, after some bloody battles against King Guadarfia (who would find himself betrayed also by people of his own race), achieves his aim in 1404, date in which the domains of Castile are enlarged and so the castilian crown disposes of a new territory beyond its borders.

Later on, and as a result of the revolt by the guanche population against Bethencourt's deputy, Gadifer de la Salle, most of the native population were subdued into slavery.

From this moment onwards, Lanzarote becomes the operational



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*Typical lanzarotenean house.*

basis for the future conquest of the rest of the canarian archipelago.

During the XVIth and XVIIth centuries, the island endured the consequences of piracy, as all means were employed to find slaves for their subsequent commercialization. This event would become the decisive factor in the flight of the population towards the most defended zones in the island.

However, the trade development would contribute to solve such a problem; the interior towns lost their importance in benefit of the

sea ports, which developed around them a conglomerate of people who then constituted a more or less important nucleus of population. As a consequence of this, the capital, *Teguise*, name of King Guadalupe's daughter and a reminder of the stock overthrown by Bethencourt, was transferred to *Arrecife*, a sea port town.

It must be emphasized that during the XVIth century a Hearing to deal with the matters which were related to the archipelago was held, following the orders of Carlos V.





Haría. Panorama.

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In the year 1730, already in the full of the XVIIIth century, the island suffered an important setback when the most fertile region was shattered by a violent jolt caused by the Timanfaya volcano. Such an eruption lasted approximately six years.

But there is also a reference to be made in regard to the name, that is to say, about the historic origin of the denomination given to the island; it has been arrived to the conclusion that Lanzarote originates from *Lancelotto Malocello*, the

name of a genoese navigator from the Middle Ages, who left us the testimony of his passing through the island, where he lived for some years, in a fortress whose remains Bethencourt would see about one hundred years later.

Already in 1339 the Dulcert's Atlas displayed with latin epigraphes the inscription: «Insula de Lanzarotus Marocelus».

This historic past has contributed to the formation of one of the most original and beautiful islands in the whole world; original because after



the violent jolt that the island suffered, the people who populated it had to make it suitable to their own needs; and beautiful because of that unequal scenery that the island offers to the visitor, a landscape which turns out to be rather difficult to find in other corners of our planet.

### AN AGRICULTURAL POPULATION IN CONSTANT STRUGGLE AGAINST A HOSTILE NATURE

Lanzarote has nowadays a population of about 50,000 inhabitants, who are distributed within the seven municipalities that exist in the island: Arrecife, San Bartolomé, Tías, Yaiza, Tinajo, Tegüise and Haría.

The average population density is of about 47 inhabitants per square kilometre, a number obviously higher than that of its neighbour Fuerteventura, but nevertheless far below the density of population of the so called western islands in the canarian archipelago.

Evidently, Lanzarote has not had, throughout its history, the same number of inhabitants, as this has been increasing with the passing of time. And so, in the first re-count of people, which took place as long ago as in the year 1587, the total population of the island was of just



about six hundred inhabitants; two hundred years later, approximately the population number was of 12,700; and, already in our times the island possesses the mentioned number of 50,000 people. This information enables us to assert that it is with the arrival of modern times that the demographic increase has been more remarkable. A significant detail: Arrecife, the capital, has a population of 12,700 inhabitants, which is the same as the population of the island in the 16th century. This is a very important urban data, it





*Harvest of onions in Lanzarote.*

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detail is the fact that in the capital, Arrecife, practically half of the total population of Lanzarote is concentrated—such concentration dates from the last two decades of our century—, a fact which bestows on this town the category of an important urban nucleus.

However, and in spite of all these data, it must be said that the popula-

tion has not augmented in a quick and steady manner, and, thus, in contrast with some years characterized by a relatively high population number, there are others when the shortness of settlers is obvious, all as a result of the prevailing economic conditions in each period of time. And so, when it became impossible to obtain woodlouses, the



population diminished, being increased later on when the enarenados were discovered; tourism contributed greatly to the depopulation of the agricultural areas in benefit of the big towns; and, in the XIXth century, the emigration to America caused that there were only about 10,500 inhabitants left of the 17,000 who lived in Lanzarote during some years in the XVIIIth century.

Agriculture is the main economic resource of these people who day by day, with their effort and work, strive to win over a Nature and a climate which are completely unfavourable to them. The drought, the wind and the traces that the volcanic eruptions have left on the uneven ground of the island, are the principal enemies against which the natives have to fight in order to survive on a land that very often seems to belong to another world. It is characteristic to contemplate the scenery in the island, so sown with human ideas to beat the natural enemies.

The climate, extremely arid, forces the invention of solutions to fight against the drought; the *enarenados* are the weapons that man uses to struggle against it. It is an irrigation system without the need of water and consisting in covering the fields with sand, placing the cultivations underneath this. Thanks to the sand the soil is preserved from the sun rays which might

cause serious damage to it, also it prevents evaporation, and even under the sand can exist plantations such as tobacco, notwithstanding the fact that this cultivation needs humidity, a condition which is made up for by the condensation provoked by the sand.

The enarenado may be natural, as a consequence of the eruptions that leave a layer of thin materials over some zones of the territory, being possible to plant some cultivations in the soil which remains underneath. But also the enarenado can be put into practice by man; to sand the earth a complicated and painstaking work has to be carried out, it has to be prevented, above all, that earth and sand mix together, and as this, after some years, is almost impossible to avoid, it is necessary to cover the ground with a new layer of sand.

In the middle years of the present century the *lapilli* were utilized, in place of sand, to cover the earth, giving to this a black tone original in the island scenery.

The enarenado has also spread out throughout Fuerteventura and Tenerife, but without reaching the importance it has got in Lanzarote.

But the human ideas to fight against the problems caused by natural conditions do not end here; thus, against the *malpays* man employs the techniques of cultivating in holes. The volcanic eruptions had covered the ground with a mantle of

In La Geria  
with small





*In La Geria, it has been achieved to make fig trees and grapevines grow, planting them in individual holes with small semicircular dry stone walls, which protect the plants from the arid wind that blows over the territory.*





dross and rocks which is necessary to drill in order to reach the cultivable surface. The cultivations which predominate in this zone are of two types, the fig tree and the grapevine. Cultivating in holes provides a double benefit, on the one hand it keeps well humidity, and, on the other, it protects the plants from the wind. And, lastly,

the wind is another of the enemies; all kinds of trees and plants must be sheltered from the devastating effects of the north wind which does not let them grow. The stone walls which are raised are meant to fight against this problem. The walls prevent the wind from clashing very roughly against the cultivations, surround the holes in the sand, are





*Tinajo. Two aspects of the tourist urbanization of Santa Sport.*

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carefully tilled, and fulfil a task as efficient as indispensable when it comes to remedy that other grave difficulty which is the wind in regard to cultivations.

Enarenados, holes and windbreaks, without which the local agriculture would be, inevitably, little efficient and almost unfeasible, with all the negative consequences

that brings on the lack of development in an activity so important for the course of human life.

Enarenados, holes and windbreaks, a hard task for man, to remove stones, to pound lava, to cover fields, to raise walls, all of it accomplished and brought about by people who show once more how human intelligence is capable of





*Maritime view.*

overcoming and dominating the adverse conditions that, very often, are caused by a hostile Nature.

#### OTHER ASPECTS OF THE ECONOMY OF LANZAROTE

Agriculture and fishing were until a few years ago the only economical resources in Lanzarote; in the last decades, however,

the tourist industry has been greatly developed and has become the most important economical activity of the island.

The cattle trade is quite reduced in Lanzarote, being mostly restricted to goat-keeping; these animals are perfectly adapted to the weather and the rough terrain. Also, up until not too many years ago camels and donkeys worked as draft and toil animals; these animals were replaced by motor





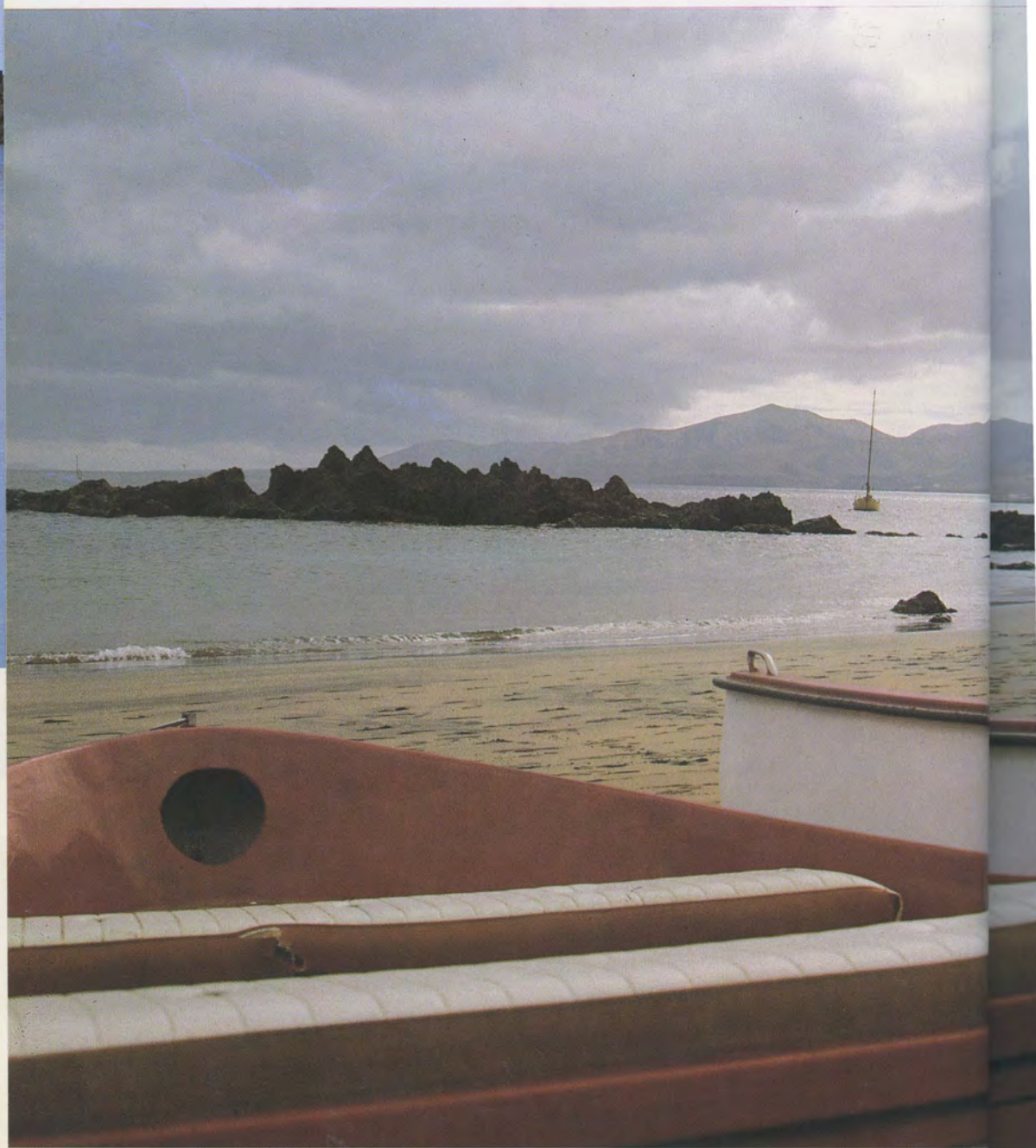
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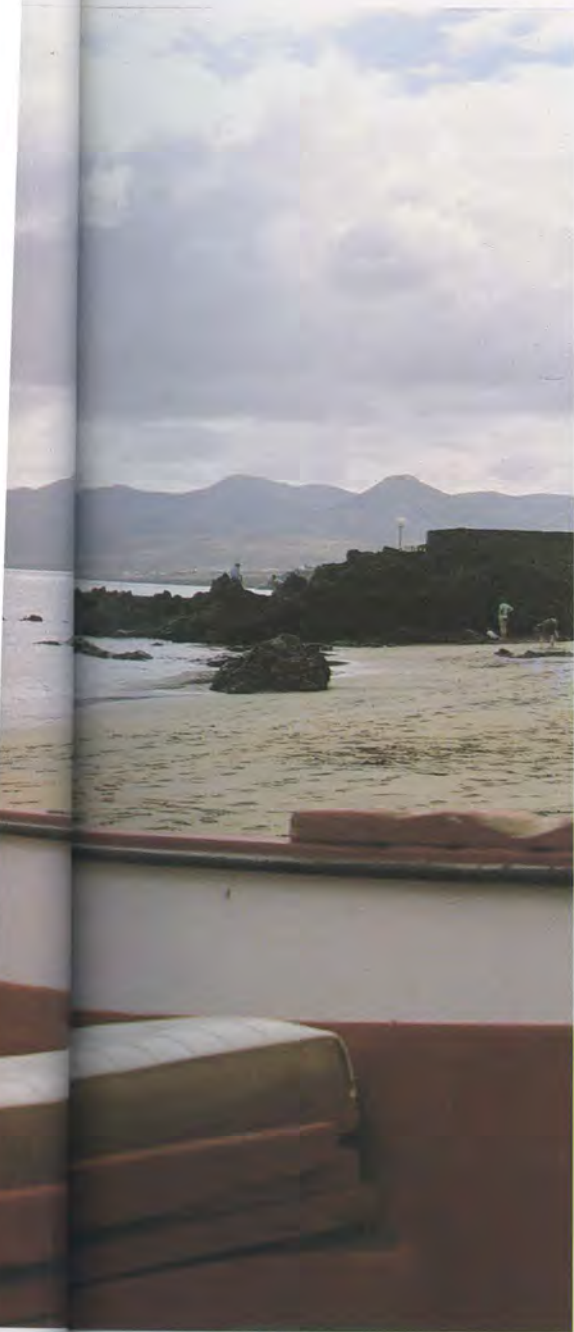


*Arrecife.*









vehicles in recent years, although the camels are still used in some tourist tours as transport means for places impossible to visit without these animals.

The amount of fishing species caught in Lanzarote is not too big, due, doubtlessly, to the fact that its fleet is rather small, but none the less it is necessary to remark that Arrecife is the second fishing port in the whole of the canarian archipelago, in as far as catches are concerned.

It is important the fishing of codfish, sardines, corvinas and seafood, as these species are the principal source of catches of fish.

Industry derives, almost exclusively, from fishing; the refrigerating industries, the ones dedicated to salting and canning of fish, dominate over any other kind of industrial activity practised in the island. In the Janubio and Río regions it is important, besides, the exploitation of littoral salt mines.

Tourism is an activity which has achieved a great importance in Lanzarote with the arrival of the new years and with the improvement of the road net-work, which allows a better movement through the different places in this island.

In this way, Lanzarote, is stopping to be a desolate and inhospitable

*Beach in Puerto del Carmen.*



land to become, perhaps in a very near future, a nucleus to be taken into consideration within the canarian economy.

## COMMUNICATIONS AND TOURISM

The internal road net-work in the isle of Lanzarote consists approximately of about 120 kilometres, which, together with an equal number of kilometres of county roads, permit a perfect communication between the interior places and the coastal zones.

Thanks to the fact that its ground is not very uneven, the road network is rather well organized and it is not difficult to get to the place in the island which one may wish to visit.

This makes Lanzarote one of the best communicated islands in the entire archipelago, having also a series of sand trails which enable the visitor to get even to the most inaccessible zones.

The communications between Lanzarote and abroad are possible thanks to *Guacimeta* airport, situated at about five kilometres south of the capital, Arrecife. Apart from being in constant communication

*Los Molinos Apartments, in Teguiuse Coast.*



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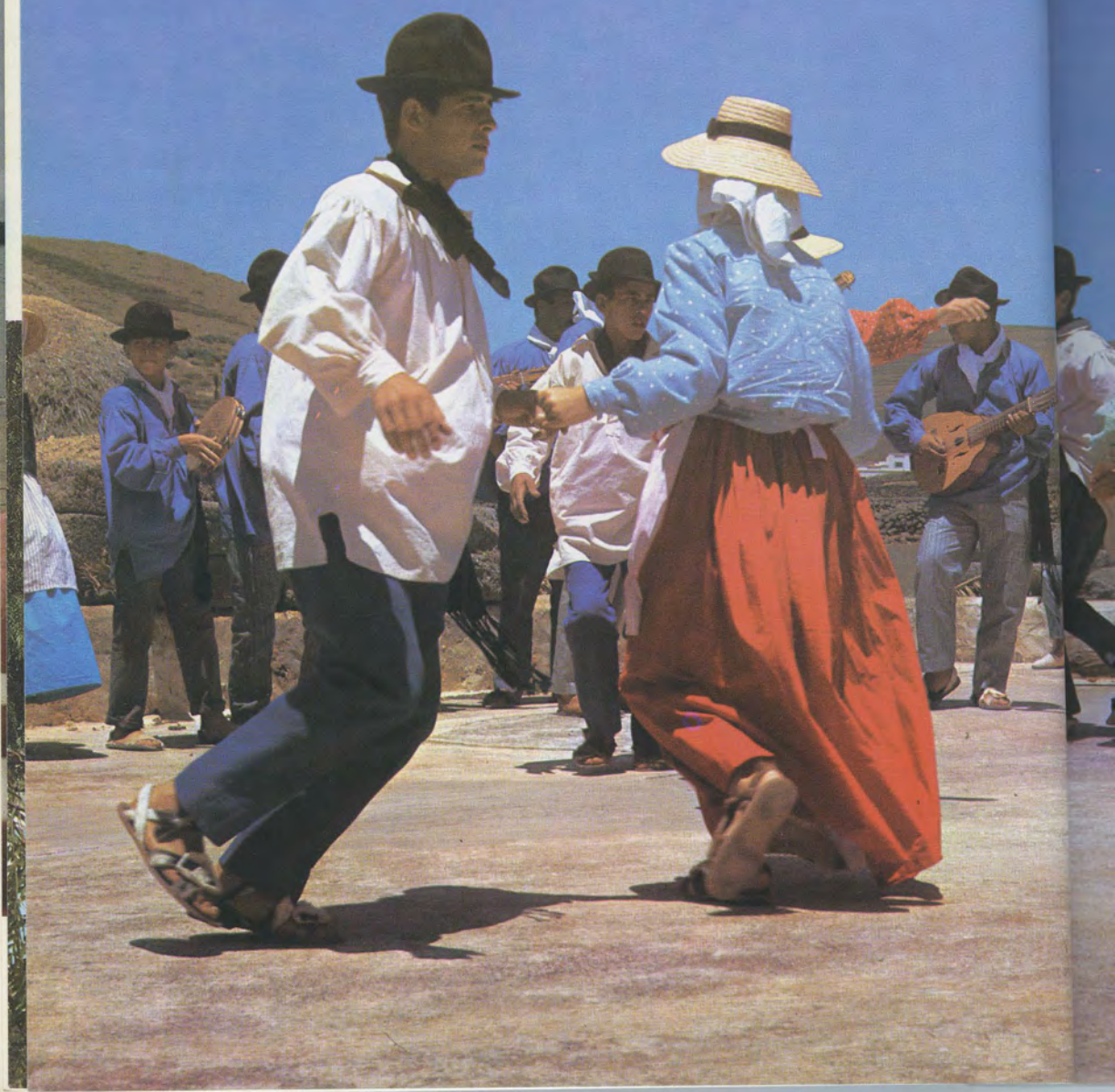
*Las Salinas Hotel. Swimming-pools. Teguisé Coast.*

with the rest of the airports in the islands, it connects with the most important ones in the peninsula through regular and charter flights; having besides an international character, as it receives different connections from the most distant places in Europe. This airport, which displays an important mural, the work of the most significant painter in the island—César Manrique—, on

one of the walls of the passengers hall, is sufficiently suited already to bear the passing of airplanes, more numerous each time. Its installations are adequate and the services very efficient.

The maritime communications are carried out through *Los Mármoles* port, connected with La Luz port in Las Palmas, at about 115 miles away.









To get to the neighbouring isle of La Graciosa and to the barren islands, it is necessary to go to the wharf in *Orzola*, from where a series of launches leave which communicate with the above mentioned places.

The tourist phenomenon, as we have already said, is developing in Lanzarote with more and more intensity, as little by little the conditions in this peaceful atlantic island are being improved to welcome the arrival of visitors, gradually in a greater number. It is very likely that, with the passing of time, the tourist activity becomes so important as to see in it the hope of a population who fights daily to maintain alive the fascination that the island possesses, and in this way to call the attention of tourists of all over the world. Thus, we see how that semi-desert character, that the island offered at the beginning of the century, is disappearing from Lanzarote, and how the island is becoming full of traditional dwellings and typical cultivations which give the island a very pleasant and valid aspect to arouse the tourist interest, more increasing each time.

The main tourist facilities are located on the southern and eastern coasts; Port of Carmen, in the municipality of Tías, White





*Las Cucharas Beach. Teguse Coast.*

Beach (Yaiza) and Teguse Coast (Teguse), which have important hotels and apartment blocks.

The most visited zones in Lanzarote are the beaches, Los Jameos del Agua and La Cueva de los Verdes, the pretty town of Teguse, the Mirador del Río, the Montañas del Fuego, its capital, Arrecife, the Haría La Geria valley, and a long etcetera of picturesque places worth contemplating.

Among the most important popular festivities of the island are: San Ginés, in Arrecife, August 25; San Bartolomé in San Bartolomé of Lanzarote, August 24; Our Lady of Carmen, in Teguse, July 16; Santa Rosa de Lima, in Haría, August 30; San Antonio, Tías, June 13; the Virgin of the Volcanoes, in Tinajo, September 15, and the Feast of Pino, in Yaiza, September 8.



## LAS MONTAÑAS DEL FUEGO

In the central zone in the isle of Lanzarote it is to be found the region known under the name of Timanfaya, with an arrangement very similar to that of a great oval of about 500 km<sup>2</sup>.

It is in this district where the majestic Montañas del Fuego rise,

whose places present the scars produced by the long erupt-ions which swept the whole cultivable surface, in a zone that nowadays suffers the consequences of the world greatest volcanological cataclysm.

The scenery is impressive, it has got to be seen to be believed, everywhere the lava and the craters of the 300 volcanoes in the moun-

*In the Montañas del Fuego the temperature may reach up to 400° C.*











tains astonish the spectator. All possible forms of imagination nourish this desolate lanzarotenean landscape: lava deserts, all kinds of stone monoliths hurled by the volcanoes, crevices in the lava zones, lava in the shape of petrified waves and an endless number of forms, of very diverse aspects.

To get to the summit of these mountains it is necessary to ride, along several kilometres, on the back of slow dromedaries; the trip is impressive because of the prevailing loneliness; only volcanic sand creaking under the wide tread of the animal; one may fling some stones among the waves of lava which will, inevitably, get lost in the abyss.

The 1730-1736 eruption covered with lava eleven villages. More than thirty volcanoes in full activity for six interminable years buried in a grave of lava villages, inhabitants dedicated to agriculture in the long ago most fertile zone in the island, and all kinds of cultivations in an extension of, approximately, 200 square kilometres (one third of the island). Everything was razed by the fury of a gigantic sea of lava.

After those six years, all this zone

◀ *A magnificent panoramic view of the  
Montañas del Fuego.*





*Islote de Hilario at the Fire Mountain.  
National Park in Timanfaya.  
Two aspects.*

was left converted into tragedy, it remains covered by the malpaís and its ground is now difficult to transit on. This region, dominated by about fifty volcanic cones and by a series of small smoking volcanoes over the 200 square kilometres of malpaís, suffered the wraths of the fire throats that carried death and desolation to the places where they exerted their influence.

The prevailing temperature in these mountains at ground level is amazingly high, it has reached up to 425°C in the small barren island of Hilario, and it did not happen in an exceptional moment; it seems that the temperature in this small barren island has not varied sensibly in the last 200 years.

In short, tragedy, intense heat and immense solitude join together to





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*Hermitage of the Virgen de los Volcanes. Tinajo.*

make up a place full of wonderful tourist charm, which, along with the beaches that the island possesses, is the principal visiting spot chosen by the tourists.

Once the visitor reaches the summit on the mountain, he is surprised to discover a small inn or shelter as a discordant note in the immense loneliness of the scenery. People who strive to climb these mountains have to ascend about 510 metres. From the summit one can observe, on the right, the municipality of Yaiza and, beside it, the small little

houses belonging to villages like Uga. Also on the right it is possible to see the La Geria valley, called as well valley of Los Vinos, Peña Palomas, the Tao mountains, Masdache, Conil, Las Vegas, etc. On the left the visitor can contemplate the municipality of Tinajo, and the three northern islands, Graciosa, Alegranza and Montaña Clara.

The colouring is majestic; red, golden, black and grey tones, on the craters of the volcanoes among which Montaña del Fuego rises; the colour of this mountain is reddish, as

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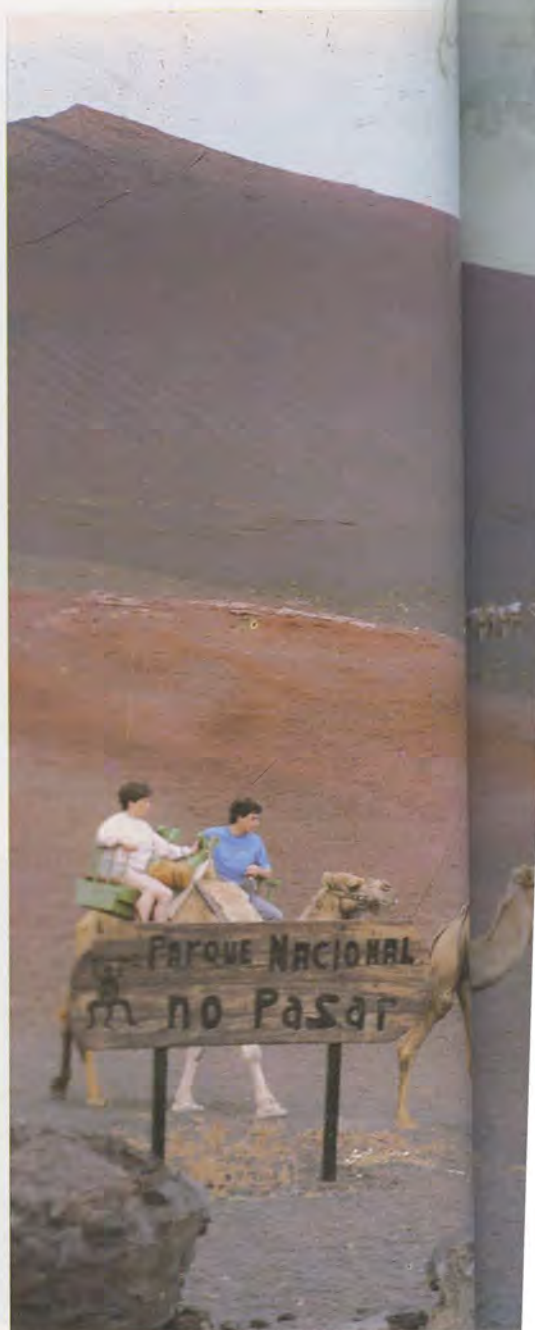


other small smoking volcanoes with their edges raised by the pressure existing inside their interior. But the first thing that the visitor observes in this small piece of the lanzarotenean geography are the craters of great depth, outward exponent of the bowels of this small barren island which seem to be devoured by the fire. Its name, Hilario, originates from a lanzarotenean shepherd who retired to this place to live in peaceful solitude with his camel for about fifty years.

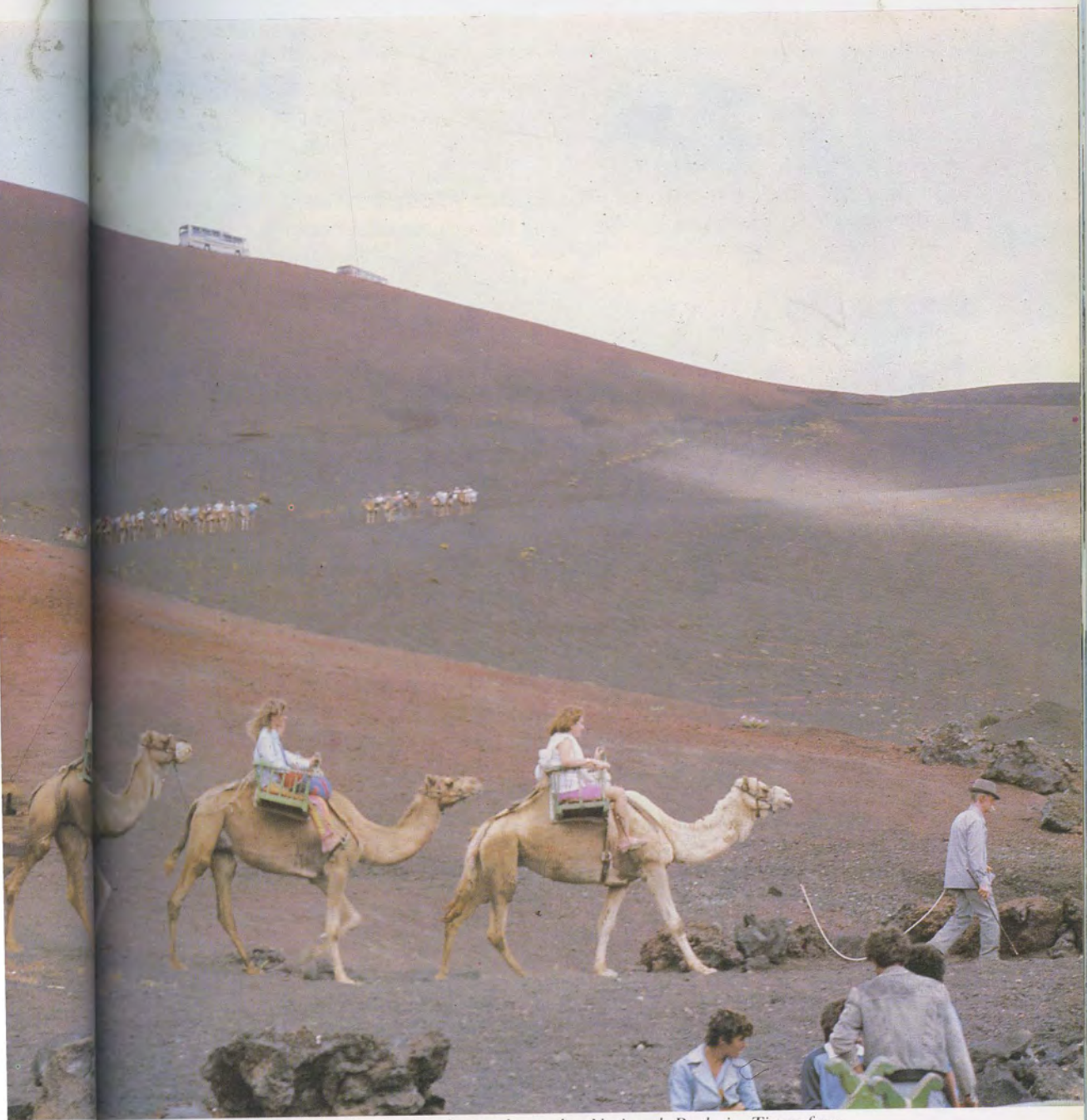
It has to be remarked that the lava current ejected by the Montañas del Fuego did not get up to there, as the sea prevented it.

La Caldera del Corazoncillo in the east; in the west three alignments of volcano-mountains cut off by the sea; one of them is that of the El Golfo, destroyed by the erosive force of the sea waves, are alignments which start in the Montañas del Fuego group. On the other hand, the erosive action of the wind has also contributed to add different scenery aspects to the relief.

It is also very advisable to pay a tourist visit to Los Hervideros, a zone of constant struggle by the sea to recover a terrain yielded as a consequence of being deposited there the lava thrown by the Timanfaya volcanoes. In this place, the foam twists sonorous and labyrinthianly through the bowels of the littoral of







*Trip on the back of camels at the National Park in Timanfaya.*



historic lava. Black rocks in bridges, in piers and in spouts appear from the white foam of the sea.

Wonder after wonder can be contemplated in these mountains, which are the symbol of an island that, as someone has said, has not known the seventh day of creation.

### EL JAMEO DEL AGUA Y LA CUEVA DE LOS VERDES

In the north part of Lanzarote and at a very short distance from the isle of La Graciosa it is to be found the malpaís of La Corona (situated around the volcano that bears the same name), where we can see the volcanic tube of Los Jameos. The dimensions of this tube are 35 metres high by 6,100 metres long.

Los Jameos are collapses of the ground, of very diverse depth, as a consequence of being formed by a solid surface of lava in its outside, while inside the lava continued to flow in subterranean currents. The mentioned collapse was caused by the lack of lava which was provoked by the cease of the eruptions in the island.

Although it is frequent the existence of this kind of volcanic tubes in regions of great fluidity, Los Jameos none the less constitute an exception for being the tube with the greatest dimensions in the world. It is precisely due to its important

dimensions that it has been possible to divide the tube in different parts which have been given a significant name.

One of its loveliest stretches is the beautiful Cueva de los Verdes, about two kilometres long. This cave, in the course of 4 centuries, has served as refuge to the aboriginal population of the island from the continuous attacks by Turkish pirates, Berbers, and from some Christian ship that, from time to time, arrived to those solitary places. Hence the importance of the cave for the primitive population of the island; the Cueva de los Verdes was, according to engineer Torriani's opinion «where can be hidden the women and their children and the house furnishings, to get away from the useless people, and to defend themselves those who can do it». Torriani pointed out, in the XVIth century, that «the cause of being such a small population in the island was that a great part of it was taken away captive by the Turks and the Moors, three times within 16 years»; this gives us an idea of the importance of this cave in the past.

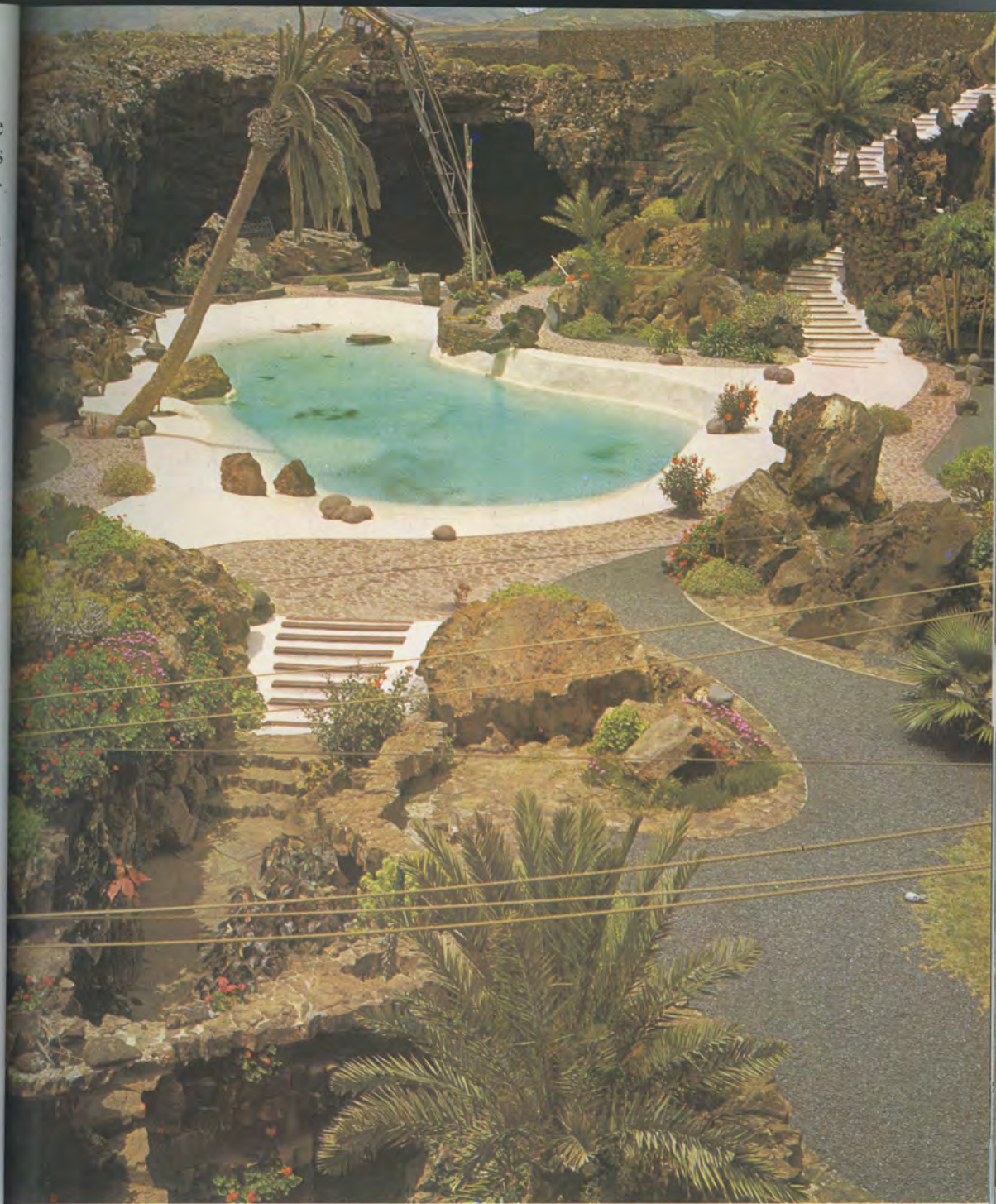
In our days, the above mentioned cave is perfectly adapted to receive all those who wish to visit it, and it disposes of a lighting system destined to contemplate better the great variety of colours and shapes present on the walls of the rocks and the vaults.



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*Jameos del Agua.*



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In our days, the above mentioned cave is perfectly adapted to receive all those who wish to visit it, and it disposes of a lighting system destined to contemplate better the great variety of colours and shapes present on the walls of the rocks and the vaults.



Nature has wanted to grant this cave one of its most splendid representations, which is already guessed from its entrance at the very fringe of the way. In its interior, and as we get lower, the enclosure seems to get bigger until it gives the impression of a real world under the ground; its seas of lava, its galleries and alleys, its plateaus, its labyrinths and its astonishing passes at the edge of abysses, give the impression of a strange and unknown place to where man's power has not yet been able to get. It is wonderful to feel in contact with Nature in that unusual world of twisted colour rocks.

But it does not end here the

greatness of this cave; nowadays there exist rather large rooms used to hold conferences because of the purity of the sound perceived there. As a detail to take into consideration, it must be mentioned that the conference room is equipped to receive half a thousand amazed spectators.

On the other hand, we shall point out that the high temperature of the lava that flowed through the Cueva de los Verdes has left in this cave very diverse effects, which go from the simple erosion—similar to the action of water in any cave or natural cavern—, to the polichromy of the rocks as a consequence of the iron

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*Lanzarotenean landscape in the zone of Los Jameos and Cueva de los Verdes.*





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dioxide, and to the great stalactites which hang from the ceiling as the result of the melting of the cave vault due to the extremely high heat that prevailed there.

El Jameo del Agua (situated almost at the side of the Cueva de los Verdes) is another stretch of the volcanic tunnel of Los Jameos. It is another cavern, the nearest to the coastal littoral, which presents the characteristic of possessing a small subterranean lake in constant contact with the sea through small galleries that exist under the ground.

Inside the lake there lives a curious variety of albinic crab, white and blind, due to the fact that it lives

in darkness and it does not get to it the sun light and the crystallinity of the sea, from where it has been separated about three milleniums ago, according to geologist Telesforo Bravo's opinion. The fauna of this small lake, so different from the characteristic one in Lanzarote—reptiles such as the spiny loach and the perequén and the classical Haría lizard, supposedly predecessor of the común lizard—, has remained confined in the interior of the Jameo as a consequence of the eruptions which caused the mentioned lake and the rest of the cave. El Jameo del Agua, nowadays, has been transformed

erdes.

*Jameos del Agua.*





into an original and modern dance hall, where great musical spectacles take place. The vault in the cave has been opened to let through the sun rays towards the waters of the lake now limited in the way of a dam by two natural walls. This Jameo (end of the wonderful volcanic tube of Los Jameos) is a privileged place of Nature, which man has conditioned, where an atmosphere of intense emotion prevails.

### ARRECIFE, CAPITAL OF THE ISLAND

From the year 1618 the capital of Lanzarote is located in the southern coast of the island. Its name, *Arrecife*, is due to the great number of small barren islands and huge stones that there are in its outskirts.

Previously, it was *Teguise* the capital of Lanzarote, a town which, being situated in the interior of the island, it permitted the primitive population to take shelter from the pirates who arrived in search of slaves. Subsequently, it would be the accumulation of three important factors what would determine the transfer of the status as capital to Arrecife. In 1586 Teguise burnt through and through, set afire by the Algerian pirates; in 1618 it was the Berbers the ones who shattered the town; and the development of trade

which allows, logically, a far greater interexchange of the equipment necessary for living if the capital is located in the coastal zone instead of being in the interior of the island, as it was the case with Teguise, they are the three factors which contributed to the transfer of the capital.

Arrecife is a white and opened to the sea town, which possesses a great fishing port with an intense commercial activity. In the said port, well protected and sheltered, the little draught boats stay overnight waiting to leave port for fishing the following morning.

The port of Arrecife is the closest to the african continent in the entire canarian archipelago; the second in importance, immediately after the one of Las Palmas, has the characteristic of being situated at the side of the richest shoal of fish in the whole of the Canary Islands.

Its fleet consists of half a thousand crafts, not being surpassed by any other fleet in the islands, and seeks to get the most in the struggle that keeps against Japan and the URRS in regard to catches in this extremely long shoal of fish.

As far as fishing species are concerned, we shall say that the corvina is the most numerous, the greatest number of them being taken into town through the El Galgo bay.

In the last thirty years, the town of Arrecife has developed itself with an



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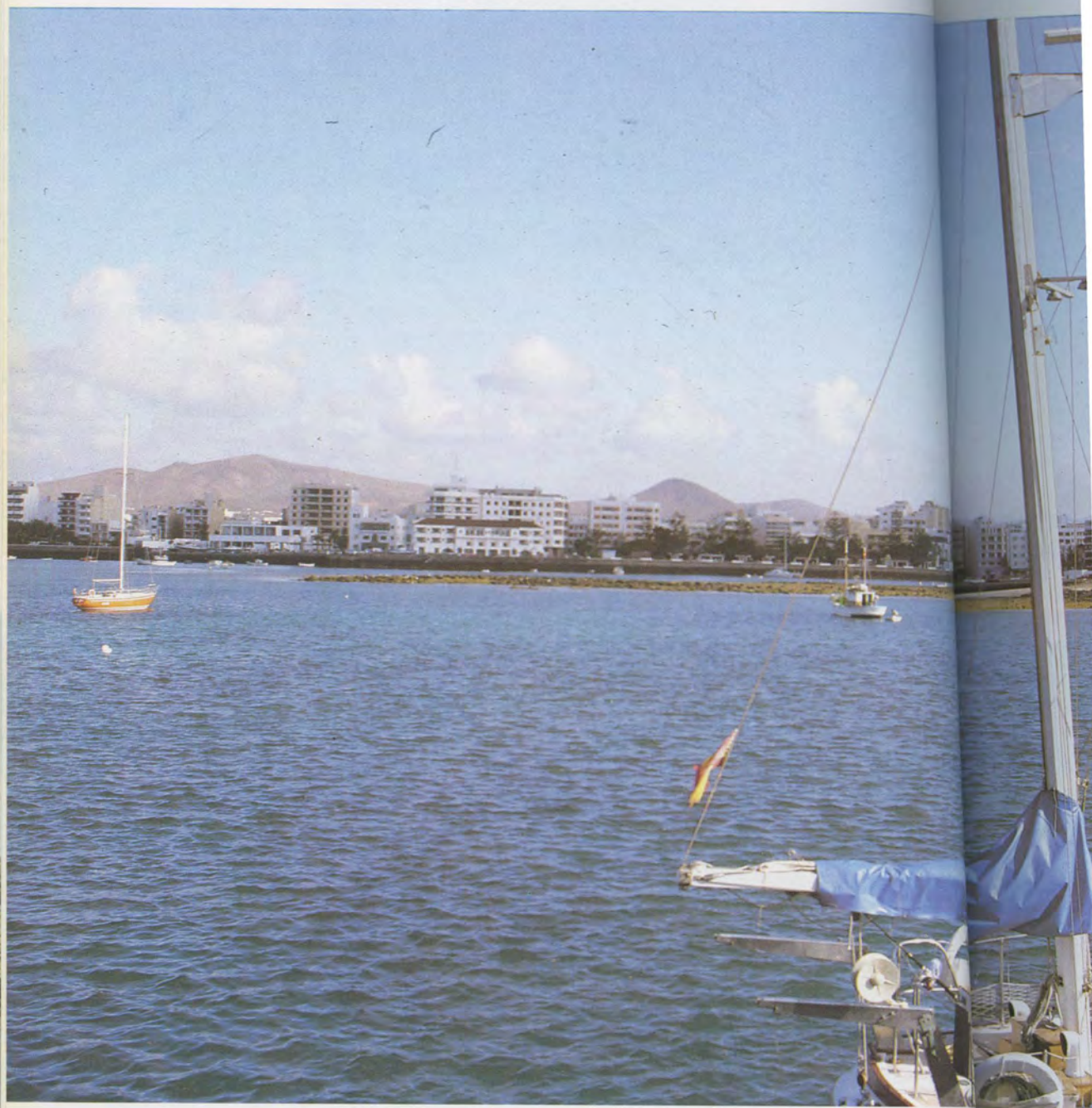
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*Avenida Marítima. Arrecife.*











extraordinary rapidity, due, above all, to the good mentioned conditions of its fishing fleet and to the development of the industries related to fishing (canning and salting), as well as to the greater importance that the tourist phenomenon is getting. Already since 1950 the municipality of Arrecife has seen how its number of inhabitants was rapidly increasing, until grouping, in our days almost 50% of the total census of the island.

Within the town we can see a gallery of streets and avenues typical in this whitish town under the clean canarian sky.

The León y Castillo street, parallel to the sea, is a place that must be visited by the tourists who intend to take with them a souvenir of this island. La Avenida Marítima, flanked by the old port and the municipal park, is another pretty place to feel happy.

It is to be admired the mentioned municipal park, surprising by the contrast that offer its gardens full of colour and the lava zones in the rest of the island.

One must also visit the Castle of San Gabriel with the Museum of Archaeology, located in an islet opposite the city. The castle was built in 1574 as a bastion against the continuous Berber pirate raids; it

*Partial view of Arrecife.*





*Arrecife. Partial view. In the background Arrecife Gran Hotel.*

*Charco de San Ginés. Arrecife*







*Arrecife. Las Bolas bridge and San Gabriel castle.*

*San José castle. International Museum of contemporary art. Arrecife.*





was finished as it is seen today in 1599 by the Italian engineer Leonardo Torriani, and it is linked to the city by means of a draw bridge "The Bridge of Balls," made at the same time as the castle. Another worthy castle is the Castle of San José, standing atop a small promontory between the pier of Los Mármoles and the fishing port Naos; this castle was built by command of King Charles III in 1771 to reinforce the defenses of the city and safeguard the commerce and trade industries. Today this castle hosts the International Museum of Modern Art, having been restored

by the artist from Lanzarote César Manrique. Another important building is the Church of San Ginés, formerly a hermit that later became the Parish church in 1798. The Port of Mármoles is the door for all the sea trade; the port was built by the engineer González Negrán. Arrecife also has a beautiful beach of white sand, Reducto Beach, bordering a long avenue. Arrecife has many hotels of 4, 3, 2 and 1 stars that welcome the ever increasing numbers of tourists. Arrecife is the seat of the fish industry, the most important commercial activity of the island.

*Las Cucharas Apartments and Las Salinas Hotel. Teguise Coast.*







*Las Salinas Hotel. Partial view. Teguiuse Coast.*

*Teguiuse Coast. Los Molinos Apartments.*





## THE ROYAL TOWN OF TEGUISE, ANCIENT CAPITAL OF THE ISLAND

The Villa de Teguiise is located to the north of Arrecife and in the internal part of the island. The name of this town evokes the daughter of the last aboriginal King, Guadarfía, and it is the symbol of the memory of the stock overthrown by Bethencourt, in 1404.

In spite of being located in the internal part of the island, Teguiise maintains good communications with Arrecife and with the rest of the important places in Lanzarote and abroad, through the existing road net-work.

At the entrance to the town there rises the *Guanapay* fortress, on the volcanic cone of the same name. This fortress is, together with San Gabriel castle in Arrecife, the most important defense that the isle of Lanzarote had against the attacks by the pirates. Its history is very similar to that of the mentioned castle in Arrecife; indeed, like San Gabriel, it was constantly razed by the variety and the number of pirate hordes who invaded the island. To face these enemies, engineer Leonardo Torriani arrived, sent by Felipe II, who, in 1596, made a perfect castle from the fortress, more efficient and resistant to the Berbers and the Turks than it had previously been. It has to be emphasized the existence

in this castle of its famous Torre del Homenaje, from where a wide panoramic view can be contemplated, being possible to see—when the sky is clear—as far as Fuerteventura and the lesser islands.

In this way, it was not only one—we are referring to the Cueva de los Verdes—, but two the places to where the population of Teguiise set out when they saw the warrior pirates approaching.

Teguiise has a peaceful and ancestral aspect. The great variety of monuments that the town possesses are nothing but vestiges from its historic past.

All is history in Teguiise, even the name of some of its streets are a reminder of typical moments in the life of the town's population before getting to our century. There we have the La Sangre alley, which takes us back to the summer of 1586, the year in which the Morato Arráez expedition massacred a great number of women and children in the mentioned alley. At that time, don Antonio de Herrera was the supreme chief in Lanzarote, who as a result of his triumphal expeditions to the african coasts could bring slaves to compensate the lack of population in the town as a consequence of its annihilation.

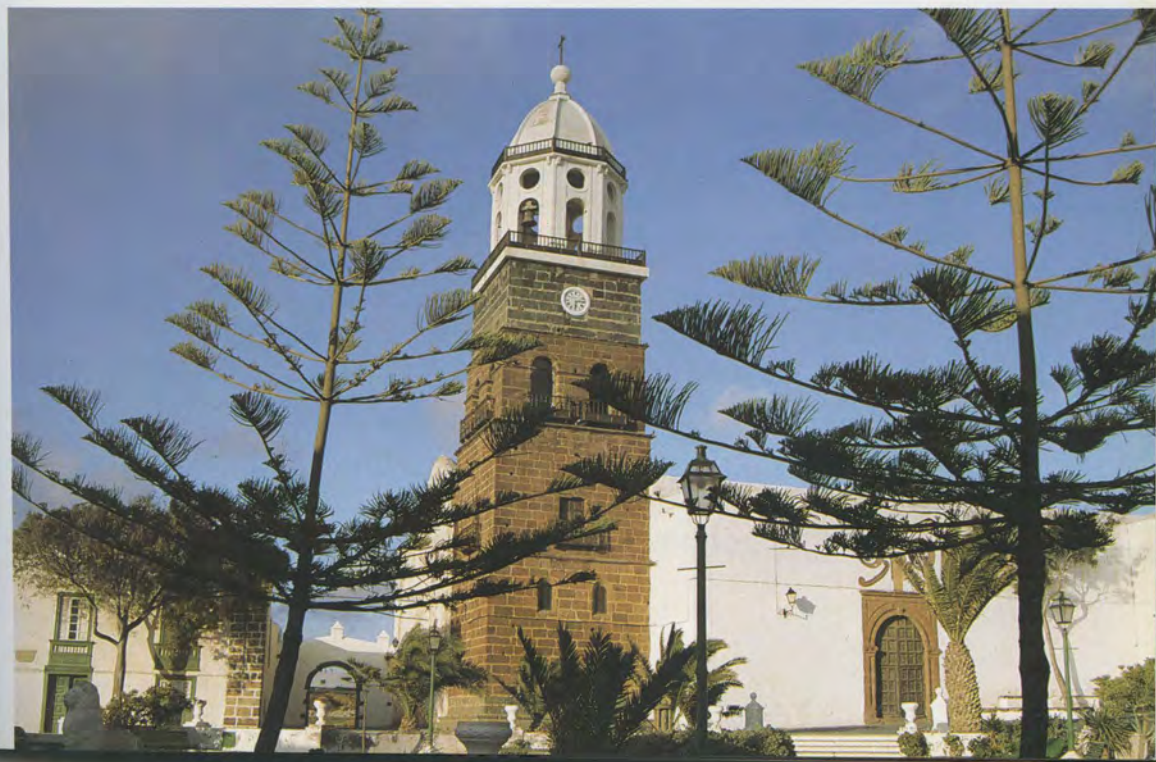
They are very important San Francisco and San Miguel churches, as well as several ancient palaces, hermitages (like the one dedicated





*Los Zocos Apartments. Partial view. Teguisé Coast.*

*Teguisé.*







*Landscape of Los Valles, in the municipality of Tegui.*

to Santa Catalina, of a popular architectonic style) and convents of great interest.

There were years in which Tegui was the impelling centre for the conversion to christianism of the nonchristian inhabitants. It was necessary to set off from Tegui to evangelize. But this evangelizing push was lost subsequently and,

since 1618, the town became what it is to-day, one of the most beautiful historic vestiges in the whole of the canarian archipelago.

We say it was lost not because that evangelizing current ceased or because it was swallowed by the lava with all the stones of the town, simply, due to the fact that Arrecife won in the struggle to become the



principal nucleus of population in the island.

But it is in the XVth century when History begins to be written in Tegui. It is at this time that, princess Tegui's husband, Maciot de Bethencourt, sells the island of his domain to the then King of Portugal, Enrique, in 1448. However, little time did the island last in the power of the portuguese: the lanzarotean drove them out, giving back the island to the castilian crown.

Thus, Tegui has lasted for centuries: someone has qualify it as a castilian town in a desert of lava. The prevailing solitude is not furnished by the castilian steppe, but by the arid landscape that envelops Tegui. This town seems indeed, one more castilian town; everything in it evokes one of those peaceful villages in the hard and almost interminable castilian plain.

Tegui, on the other hand, constitutes the bridge between the wide Castile and the new american continent. Tegui, in short, is a new implantation of the castilian way of life in a place separated by many kilometres.

The music breaks the silence of the solitude in the island. The most significant instrument is the *timple*, a kind of guitar with five strings, known commonly by the name of *el camellito*. This musical instrument is a clear symbol of the sensitivity of

the town's inhabitants and, in conclusion, a reflex of the kindness of the people who inhabit this island.

But, besides being a kind folk, some illustrious personages were born in this noble town of Tegui. Doctor Spínola, always remembered in Uruguay; Angel Guerra, the writer; the already famous don José Clavijo y Fajardo, a personage who inspired Goëthe his tragedy «Clavijo», are the most significant human examples in a world where Tegui is nothing but a tiny and nevertheless historic piece of ground.

## TOURIST ROUTES IN THE ISLAND

The isle of Lanzarote can be gone all over following its main tourist routes. These start in the capital, Arrecife, and take us along different roads—one towards the north, another one bound for the south, and a third one through the centre—to the diverse towns scattered about along the length and the breadth of the island's territory.

### Northern Route

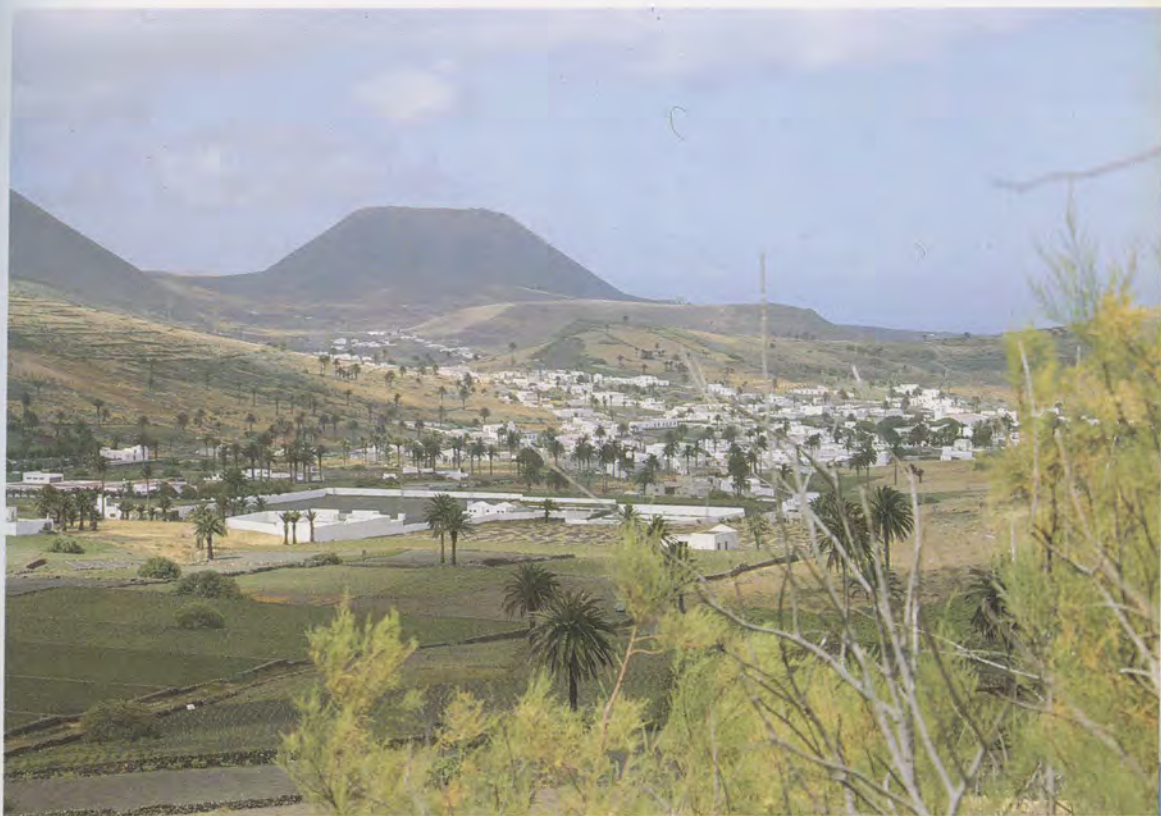
*Arrecife-Tahiche-Tegui-Valles de Santa Catalina-María-Maguez-Ye-Batería del Río-Caleta de Famara-Arrecife. Approximate length of the route: 90 km.*





*Los Valles. Partial view.*





*Haría. Panoramic view.*

The route starts in Arrecife, passes through the town of Tegüise — described in another route — and goes on the direction of the Valleys of Santa Catalina, where the visitor finds the most densely vegetated zone in the island; the houses are built following the very distinctive Lanzarote style. The two valleys of Santa Catalina differ in their location, but both have wide fields and both are presided over by the hermitage of Santa Ca-

talina, that keeps the revered image of the Virgin Mary, dating from the 16th century. This was the region where up until recent years the local landlords used to spend their holidays. In the background the imposing volcano of La Corona can be seen, standing clear over the green fields.

Farther ahead is the entrance to the Sanctuary of the Virgin of the Snows, the Matron Saint of the island, highly revered by the peo-



ple of Lanzarote.

Next comes the Mirador of Haría, overlooking, at one side the awesome landscape of the Volcano La Corona, which caused the formation of the Jameos del Agua and the Cave of los Verdes and their groups of mountains and on the other side a gorgeous valley, the Oasis of Haría, with its abundant palm tree groves. This oasis has the largest number of palm trees in the island.

The municipality of *Haría* covers 147 square kilometers with a population of 2 600 inhabitants; this is a basically agricultural zone with extensive sand areas. One of the most distinctive features here is the wide range of flowers of all colors

that decorate the balconies of the well-kept house fronts. This small oasis is located in the dale formed by the union of the cliffs of Malpaso and Rincón, surrounded by the Atalaya mountains.

The palm tree grove of Haría was much denser than it is today until it was burned by the pirates commanded by the infamous pirate Morato Arrael in 1586. In Haría the visitor can also go to the Museum of Sacred Imagery.

Three kilometers north of Haría is located *Máquez*, and north of both towns is small *Ye*, the last town in this part of the island. *Ye* is a native word that means "the end of the earth."

Past *Ye* are the cliffs of *Famara*.

*The small village of Ye. Its church in the background. It belongs to the Municipality of Haría.*





with the reserve of water of the island, although this water is little used owing to its salinity.

The cliffs of Famara, 23 kilometers long by 600 meters high at their highest point, constitute the northern border of the island. This area is limited by the canal of the River, about 2 km wide. Nearby is the Mirador of the River, also known as Battery of the River, in memory of the battery of cannons emplaced here for the defense of the site in 1898. This lookout point was decorated by the artist César Manrique from Lanzarote; from here the visitor can enjoy a panoramic view of the Canal and its quiet waters, as well as the smaller islands of Graciosa, Alegranza and

Montaña Clara, as well as the two islets of East Roque and West Roque.

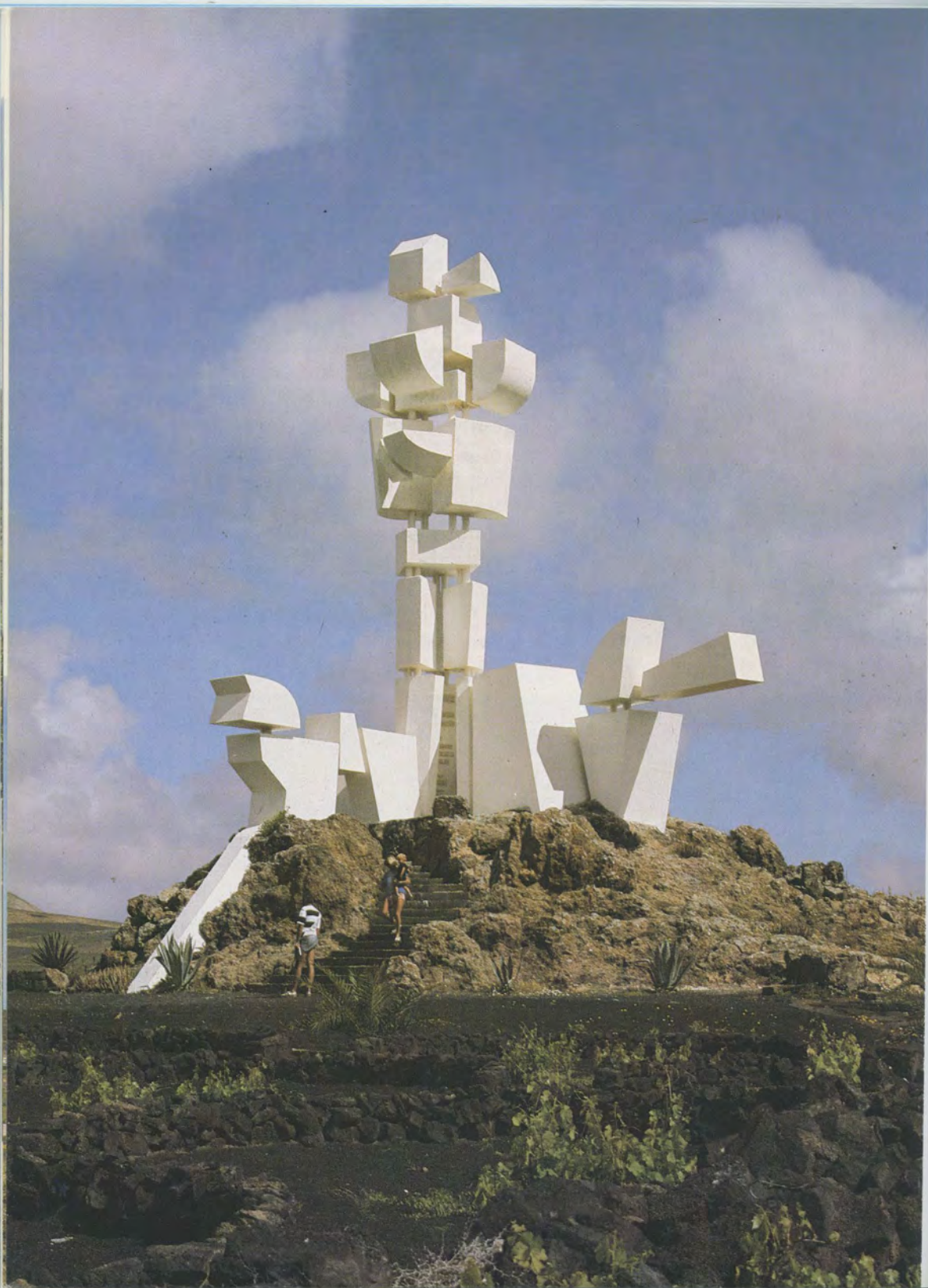
The returning way takes the visitor back to the town of Teguise. One can now take the road that links Teguise with San Bartolomé; three kilometers ahead is the crossroads that leads to caleta de Famara, a must for the visitor. We can then take a good rest on the almost endless, white sand beach of Famara, viewing the breakers hit uninterruptedly the large massifs of Famara, offering from here a unique sight. The island Graciosa can also be fully seen from this beach.

On the way back to Arrecife we will pass through San Bartolomé.

*La Graciosa island with its tiny villages, Caleta del Sebo and Pedro Barba.*











*Uga. Panoramic view.*

## **Central Route**

*Arrecife-Monument to the Peasant-Uga-National Park of Timanfaya-Tinajo-La Santa Sport-Soo-Tiagua-Tao-Mozaga-Arrecife. Approximate length of the route: 64 kilometers.*

The first stop is the municipality of *San Bartolomé de Lanzarote*, stretching over 40 square kilometers and with 4 700 inhabitants. This agricultural town is renowned

by its typical folk dances and for its crops of sweet potatoes, cereals, vegetables, watermelons, cante-loupes, onions, and of course, its wellknown wine. At the municipal limits stands the Monument to the Peasant of Lanzarote, a giant sculpture by César Manrique dedicated to the countryfolk. The sculpture shelters a sample of the architecture of the island, a typical Lanzarote house where the visitor can taste the regional food of this area as well as its exquisite wines.

◀ *Mozaga. Monument to Fertility, by César Manrique.*





*Diverse volcanic craters characterize the geography of Timanfaya, connecting practically with the sea.*

The next town is *Uga*, past the extraordinary landscape of *Garia de los Vinos* where vegetal life has been born from the volcanic ashes. The grapes and figs grow amidst this sea of lava, protected by the wonderfully aligned artistic niches, from where the delicious malmsey wine is obtained. Past this outstanding area we arrive to the agricultural town of *Uga*, built on top of the town of the same name

covered by lava in the eruption of 1730 to 1736. From here the visitor goes to the *National Park of Timanfaya*, riding a camel on the climb up the mountains of lava and volcanic sand; from the top the visitor can watch one of the most incredible sights in the world, a dantesque view that reaches as far as the horizon. After returning to the base of the mountain, we go to the islet of *Hilario*. The trip is here

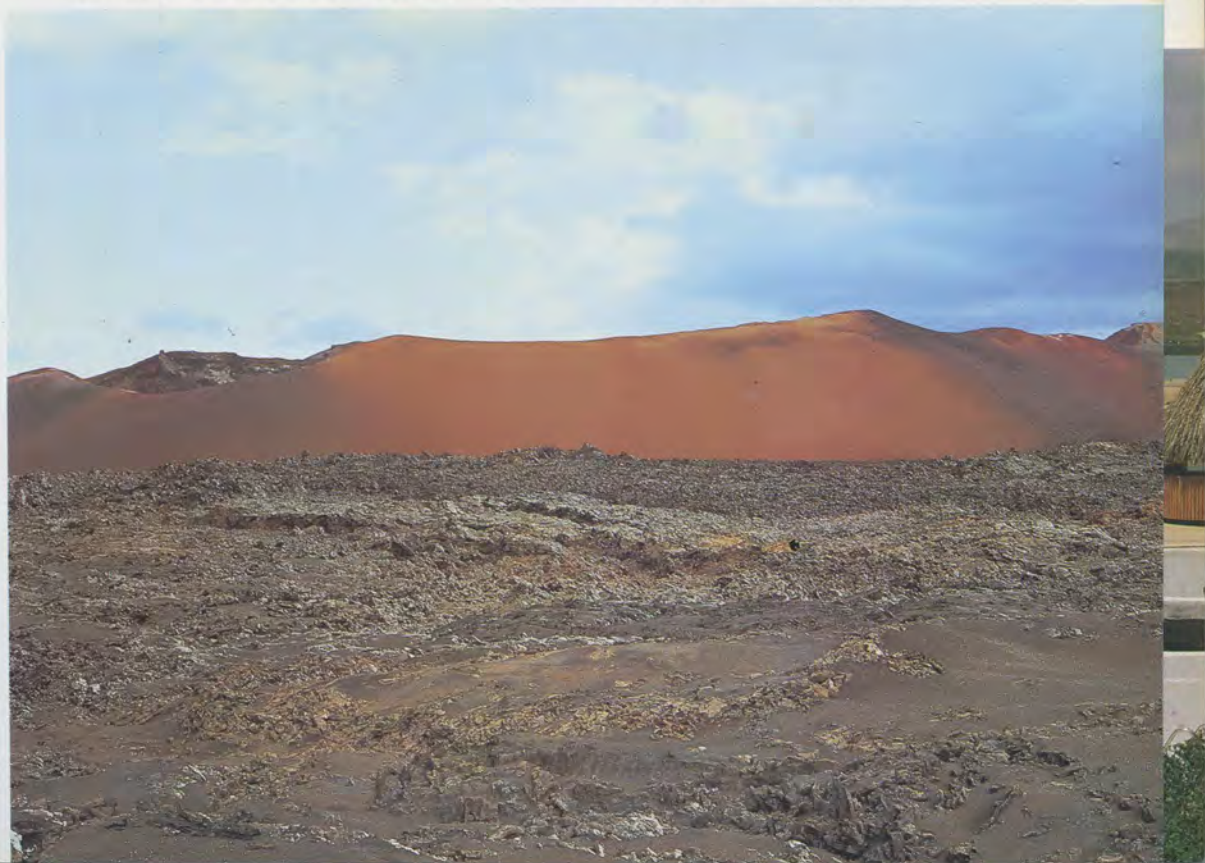


continued aboard a bus, through a route amongst the craters of about 300 volcanoes that between 1730 and 1736 covered 10 towns with their inhabitants, homes and churches. The sea of lava covers the land of a formerly luxuriant Lanzarote. When this part of the tour is over, past the impressive Park of Timanfaya, we reach the municipality of *Tinajo*, 135 square km with approximately 3 000 inhabitants, located between said park and the desert of Soo. On entering this town one is reminded

of ancient Byzantium, with its white roofed homes crowned by onion-shaped chimneys.

The land of this municipality was until recent times quite desolate, goats being its only inhabitants. Today the landscape is attractive, with the combination of the black of the sand with the green of the wellkept fields and the white of the houses. Tinajo has a church dedicated to San Roque; in the church there is a fine image of Christ, attributed to Luján Pérez, as well as a superb carving of the Virgin of

*The trace of the volcanic eruptions mark the landscape of the Timanfaya region.*







Candelaria, made by the sculptor Esteve.

The Cave of Ana Viciosa is a faithful witness of the historical past of Tinajo; its history includes its acting as main defense of the town under the attack of the Berber pirates. Ana Viciosa was the leader of this resistance movement. The cave was also occupied by the well-known pirate from the Canary Islands Cabeza de Perro (Dog's Head), who was finally hanged in Tenerife. One of the most cele-

brated events in the island is the Feast of the Virgin of the Volcanoes, held in this municipality on September 15. On leaving Tinajo one proceeds towards the coast, passing through the towns of *Santa*, with the tourist complex of *Santa Sport* where the visitor will be able to enjoy the modern sport facilities and the natural lakes adapted for the pleasure of the tourists. The route then follows the coastline on its way to the small village of *Soo*, located at the base



of a mountain. Watermelon is the main crop of this region. The houses barely have windows and the women wear linen clothes, according to the tradition of the first inhabitants. The road of Tiagua goes through the cliffs of Tamara and the town of Muñique. *La Vegeta* is a small town where the people live in very old houses and grow grapes and cereals. In *Tiagua* we find the interesting Hermitage of the Virgin of Perpetuo Socorro from the 18th century, whose central nave is lit by a valuable silver lamp. The eruption of 1824 flooded

the towns of *Tao* and *Mozaga*, which were rebuilt standing over the famous sand. There are crops of grapes, potatoes, sweet potatoes, watermelons and canteloupes in the sands of Jable.

The flora life is the usual of areas devastated by volcanoes: century plants, "tabaibas and beroles" (local showy plants) and prickly pears are seen blooming in the vicinities of Mazaga. From here the tourist goes back to the starting point, having previously passed again through the Monument to the Peasant and San Bartolomé.

*Tourist urbanization of Santa Sport. Tinajo. Two aspects.*





## Southern Route

*Route: Arrecife-Port of Carmen-La  
Tiñosa-Mácher-Femás-Yaiza-  
Salt Marshes of Janubio-El Gol-  
fo-Juan Perdomo-Playa Blanca-  
Tías-Arrecife. Approximate di-  
stance of the route: 90 kilome-  
ters.*

On leaving Arrecife the first place one encountered is *Playa Honda*, a small group of residential houses that stretch along the beach for about three kilometers towards

the south of the island. Next comes the airport, provided with the most modern equipments for air navigation; in the past the airport was known by the name of the beach that borders it, Guacimeta, today its name is Airport of Lanzarote. The airport receives flights from all over the world, especially from the rest of Europe. Its modern building and the arrival and departures areas were decorated by the artist from Lanzarote César Manrique, with depictions of the way in which he sees his island. If the traveller

*Playa Blanca, at the fishermen village of its same name,  
municipal district of Yaiza.*







*Avenida Marítima in Playa Blanca. Yaiza.*

did not arrive to the island by air, he must then come to visit the airport. The route continues on along the road that borders the coast with the beaches of Matagorda, Los Pocillos, Caletón Blanco, Playa Blanca and Fariones, this latter on the Bay of Ávila. All these beaches have modern hotels and apartment buildings. Most of the tourists that come to the island stay in this area, where the coasts of Teguise and Papagayo meet. All this string of beaches hotels and

apartment blocks lies within the area known as El Carmen, part of the municipality of Tías. There are first class restaurants and modern discotheques as well as the typical pubs of the region where the visitor can admire the folk dances and the melodic sound of the timple, a very peculiar instrument of the people of Lanzarote, while tasting the local malmsey wine. At the end of this string of beaches lies the small fishing town of *La Tiñosa*, a small village in the past, whose inhabi-



tants live from the fish they catch. At present this town is joined to the Port of Carmen, to which it belongs. Only a few inhabitants of the island call it by its old name of Tiñosa.

Leaving behind Port Carmen and Tiñosa, the visitor heads for *Macher*, a village scattered alongside the road for about three kilometers. A few years ago its inhabitants lived from the fishing and agriculture, producing large crops of tomato, watermelon, vegetables and canteloupes. Today most of the people work on different aspects of the tourist industry owing to the large numbers of tourists that come here. Nevertheless, said crops are still cultivated, although on a lesser scale. On the other hand, this black, formerly arid zone is slowly becoming a residential zone with gardens, where past the Port of Carmen many country houses in the classical style of Lanzarote are being built, with small gardens which are gradually turning this barren land into a true oasis.

The route next follows the road Arrecife-Yaiza, where one finds the Hermitage of the Patron Saint of Macher, Saint Peter, whose festivity is celebrated with large folk dances on June 29 every year. Then next comes the village of *Las Casitas*, which as Macher, consists of a string of the typical houses of Lanzarote standing on both sides of the

road. Soon one comes to the cross-roads that leads to *Femés*, 25 kilometers from Arrecife; in the past it was the first town one encountered to the Rubicón, the episcopal seat and municipality. Femés belongs to the municipality of Yaiza, in the Massif of Ajaches, similar to the Massifs of Famara but lower; the maximum height here is at Hacha grande, 561 m above sea level. From this massif branch out several cliffs towards the coast; all these cliffs are cut by a platform that serves to form the various caves that constitute the beach of Papagayo.

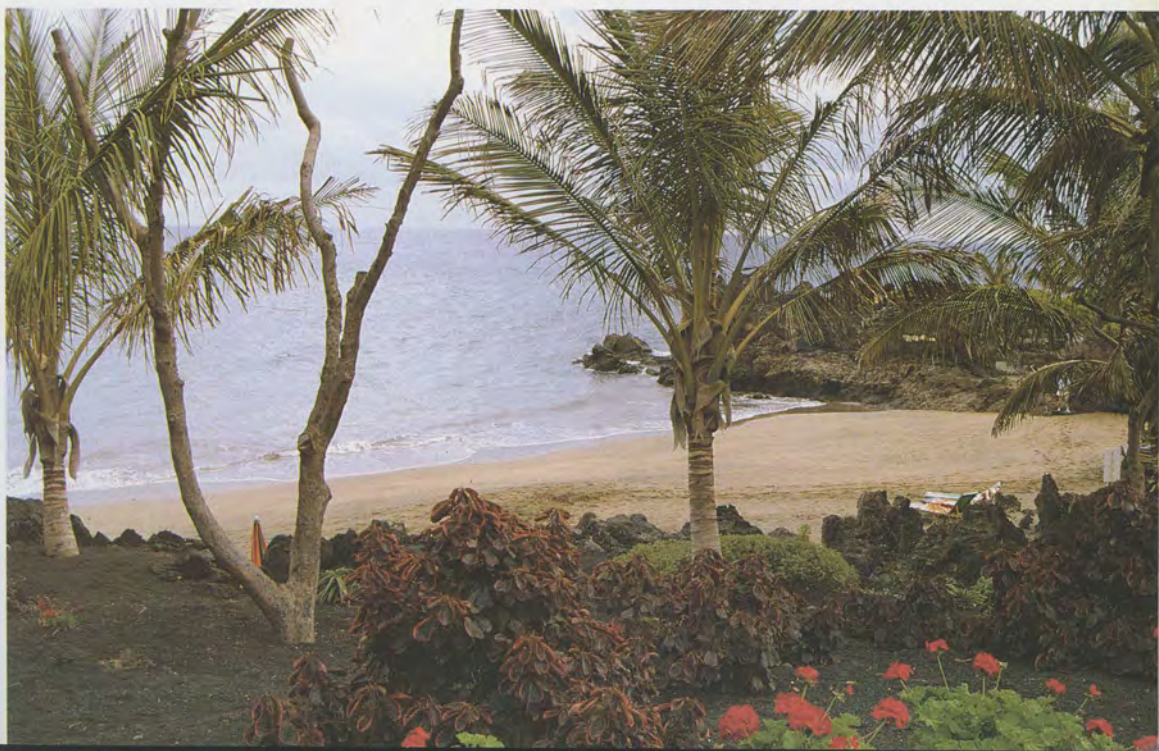
One of the most visited places in Femés is its church with completely unadorned walls and with doors in the center of the walls. Above the main door is a small body crowned by a wooden cross where is the bell tower. This church was erected on the same place where was the Cathedral of San Marcial del Rubicón, destroyed by English pirates in the 16th century. From here a dirt road leads to the beaches of Papagayo and to the small fishing port of Playa Blanca; however, here we must go back to the road to Yaiza on our tour.

*Yaiza* is a municipality that stretches over 270 square kilometers with 1 900 inhabitants. Yaiza is one of the most beautiful towns in the island. The white walls of the houses with their artistic balconies





*Beach in Puerto del Carmen. Tías.*





hanging over the ever clean streets make this town a place that must be visited owing to its matchless beauty. Until not too many years ago, cattle raising and agriculture were the exclusive occupations of the people of Yaiza, today, however, these activities are taking a secondary place owing to their increasing dedication to activities related to the tourist industry. The church, the former hermitage of

Remedios, today the Parish Church, keeps an image of Saint Marcial of Limoges, the Patron Saint of the island that was kept in the cathedral of San Marcial del Rubicón in Fermes. In the courtyard of the church grow one of the two last alive American umbra trees in the island; the second tree grows in the town of Teguisse.

Returning to the route, one arrives to the plains of *Janubio* that

*Yaiza. Square with its church in the background.*





extend as far as the coast, where there is a wide lagoon used by man to obtain salt, a very important product in this island for its fishing fleet. Here is obtained a third of all the salt produced in the Lanzarote. The sight of these salt marshes, with the ocean in the background is wonderful; the piles of salt look like an army ready for battle waiting for orders to march forward. This view, plus the windmills and the ancient typical houses constitute an unforgettable scene. In this region of Janubio there are several small towns such as La Hoya and Las Breñas, which one can see on the route, always offering a sharp contrast between the whitewashed walls of the houses and the dark grey of the land.

From here the road goes to the cliffs of *El Golfo* on the western area of the island. El Golfo is an alignment of volcanic mountains destroyed by the erosive forces of the sea; it has formed a small lagoon of green waters that offer a great contrast against the blue of the ocean. El Golfo is also popularly known as the Pool of Clicos. There is also a beautiful beach surrounded by volcanic rocks. Not too far from here is the fishing town of Juan Perdomo.

When the visitor has enjoyed the view of the beautiful natural landscape, he returns to the salt marshes of Janubio and from there on

to the small fishing town of *Playa Blanca*, a town of fishermen and sailors with the best places for the practise of underwater sports. From here one takes the boat to the nearby island of Fuerteventura, separated from Lanzarote only by the strait of Bocayna whose waters are always quiet. At both ends of Playa Blanca, and joined by a road, are the capes of Papagayo and Pechiguera.

Also known as Papagayo is the string of beaches seen along the coast for about 5 kilometers, starting from Playa Blanca; each one of these beaches has its own name, such as Porto Muelas, etc. Here the visitor can see the Castle of Coloradas, from the 18th century. On the west coast of Playa Blanca, at the Cape of Perdiguera, stands the only lighthouse in the island of Lanzarote, the lighthouse of the north coast located on the island of Alegranza. This entire area, stretching from the cape of Papagayo as far as the salt marshes of Janubio is known as Rubicón. Here one starts the trip back to the starting point, following the road Yaiza-Arrecife so as to be able to stop over at Tías.

*Tías* is a municipality covering 64 square km with approximately 5 000 inhabitants; it is 10 kilometers from Arrecife. In the past the main occupation of the people was she-





*Los Fariones Hotel. Puerto del Carmen.*

perding, agriculture and fishing. Today this is the richest municipality owing to the Port of Carmen and its solid tourist industry. The name of this town is peculiar, Tías de Fajardo (Fajardo's Aunts); the name is derived from the two matrons that lived on a farm in the area, namely Francisca and Hernán Fajardo, spinsters and relatives of the then Governor of the canary Islands, Alonso Fajardo. From this town we go back to our starting point.

### **Southeast Route**

*Route: Arrecife-Tahiche-Nazaret-Tegui-se-Tesiguete-El Mojón-Malla-Arriete-Punta Mujeres-Jameos del Agua-Cave of Verdes-Costa Tegui-se-Arrecife. Approximate length of the route: 65 kilometers.*

The route starts in Arrecife in the direction to Tegui-se. The first town one encounters is *Tahiche*, a group of country houses made in the



purest Lanzarote architectural style where the people of Arrecife spend their vacations. Tahiche is located at the base of the mountain of the same name, 321 m high, the same height of the neighboring mountain of Nazareth. A distinctive contrast in this town is the brown of the barren ground with the white of the houses and the green of the gardens.

Leaving behind this town, the next stop is the fortress of *Teguise* and the village of the same name, approximately 11 kilometers from Arrecife. The municipality of Teguise covers 262 square kilometers with a population of 6 000 and with a rich historical past, for instance it can be mentioned that it was here where all the initiatives for the conquest of the Canary Islands started; just by strolling on the streets of the town one's imagination flies to the 15th century, but the mental images come true when the magnificent buildings still existing are visited: the palace of Queen Ico, 15th century; the Palace of Spinosa, 16th century, the House-Museum of the Marchis of Herrera, the Church of Our Lady of Guadalupe, 15th century, the Convent of St. Francis, 16th century, the Convent of Santo Domingo and the Fortress of Guanapay.

The next stop on the route is the village of *Tesiguete*, not too far

from Teguise and located on one side of the turns of the road. This small hamlet was founded by Agustín de Herrera to keep in it the captive Moōrs he brought from Africa to compensate for the lack of manual workers caused by the wars with the pirates that disembarked on the island coming from different places.

Following the route towards the coast we arrive to *Guatia* and *Mala*, two agricultural towns where one can see the cochineal insect growing in the nopal trees; this insect is of great value for the manufacture of the natural dyes made in these towns. This insect, born in the Mexican nopal tree, was one of the main sources of wealth in the island in the last century. When the anilines substituted the insect dyes, the population of the island decreased but it was later stabilized with the discovery of the sand areas.

In the vicinities of Mala is the beach of *Garita* and the bay of *Arrieta*, a small village of fishermen where the visitor can enjoy the tasty fish caught here, accompanied by the superb local wine. The route goes on bordering the coastline, from where the visitor can admire the contrast of the white houses, the grey-brownish of the earth and the vegetation. The next town is *Punta Mujeres*, where the



people from the island go to spend their holidays. Following come the natural caves of *Jameo del Agua* and *Cave of Verdes*, both found in the same volcanic tube and originated by the eruption of the Corona Volcano. The road now borders a large number of beautiful white sand coves where the colors are blended to form a matchless sight, as far as Orzola, the port of depar-

ture for the boats that communicate Lanzarote with its neighbor islands: La Graciosa, Alegranza and Montaña Clara, as well as with the two small islets of East Roque and West Roque.

Upon returning to Arrieta over a road that goes through the lava remains from the past eruptions of nearby La Corona Volcano, one wonders how man has been able to

*Windmill at Guatiza.*







*Small village of Nazaret.  
Panoramic view.*

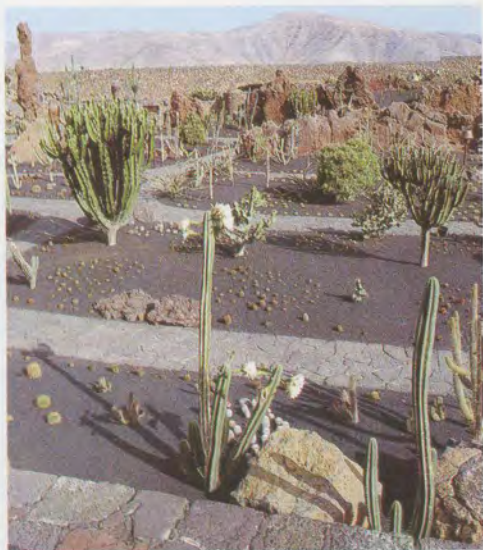
obtain the crops one sees scattered here and there in this desolate territories.

Back in Arrieta, the visitor takes the route in the direction to *Tahiche*; before getting there, however, we make a detour to Costa Teguise to see the beaches of Charcos, Cucharas and Bastián with their large hotels and apartment buildings

where the tourists can enjoy the comfortable installations and sport facilities.

Having visited these impressive tourist buildings we return to our starting point stopping at the fishing town of *Nao*, in Arrecife, to watch how the small fishing boats return from the Africa coast with their precious load.





*The cactus garden.*

## THE CACTUS GARDEN

Located in the township of Guatiza, it may be considered to be the last piece of work in the life of the artist César Manrique, an elegy to one of the best established of the botanical species on the island: the cactus.

Similar to Japanese gardens for its austere philosophy, there is in it a combination of spaces dedicated to the more than a thousand species of cacti, with separations consisting of

stone walls imitating traditional agricultural techniques of the island.

The contrast of the black sand of Lanzarote, with the colour of the cacti and the stone, creates a harmonious whole, which transmits peace and beauty.

In the old mill, restored for the garden work piece, it is possible to watch the manufacturing of "gofio" (corn flour) and "frangollo" (typical dessert), traditional foods of the island.









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