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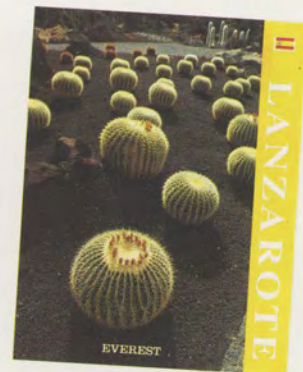
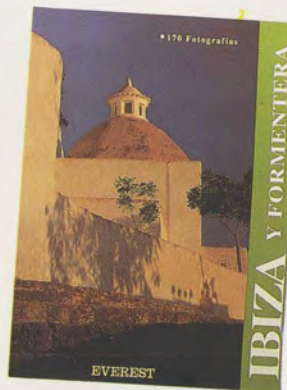
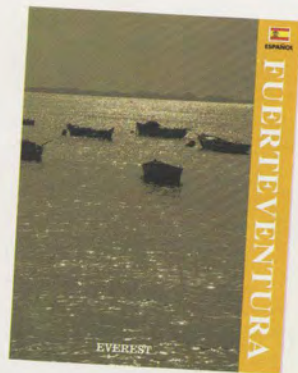
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L'ANZAROTTE

EVEREST

Recuerda

Fuerteventura
Gran Canaria
Ibiza/Formentera
Lanzarote
Tenerife



Recuerda
Lanzarote

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Recuerda
Lanzarote

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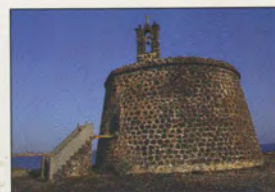
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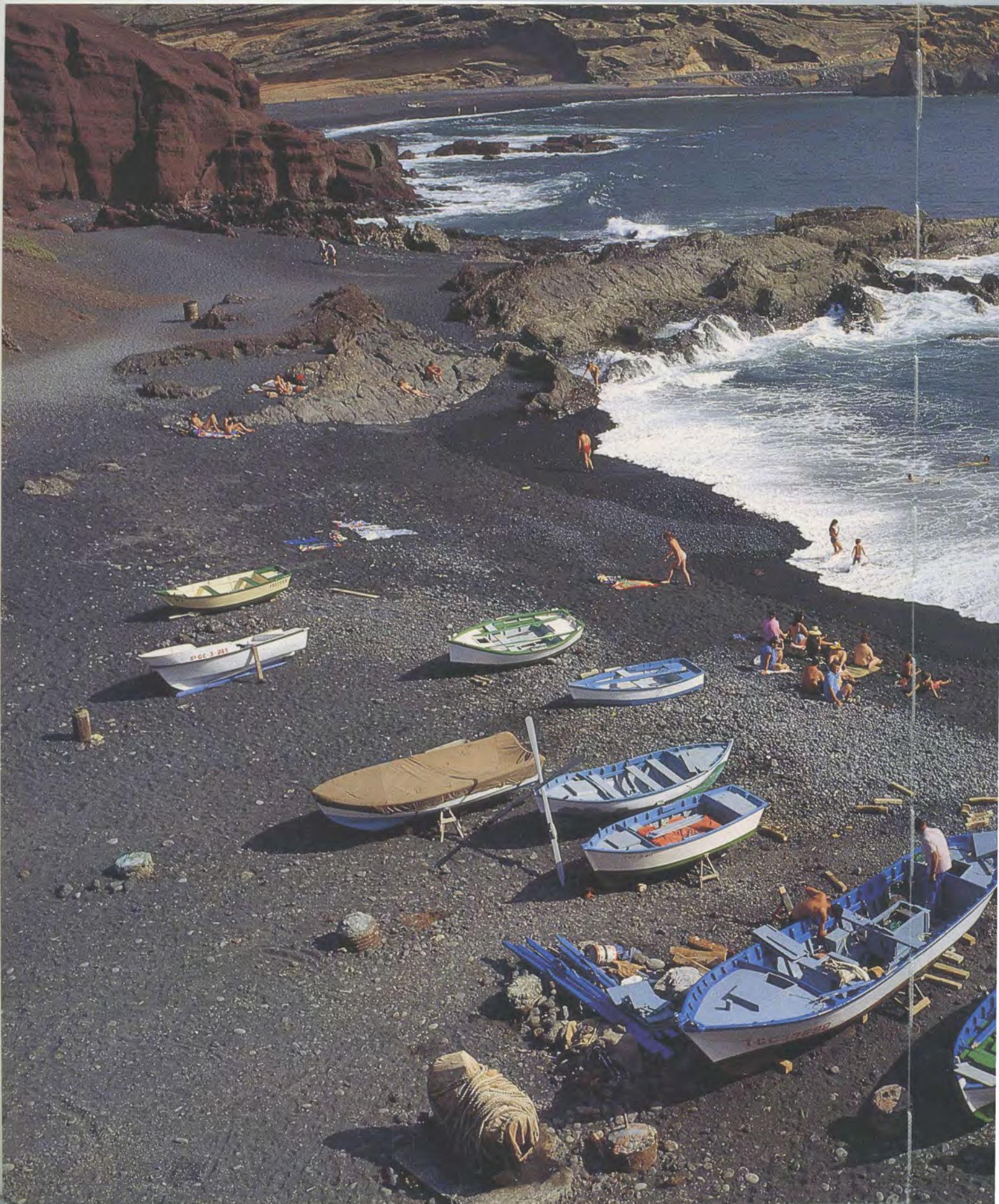
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LANZAROTE

It is no easy task to sum up the island of Lanzarote in a book of photographs of this nature, although every effort has been made to capture on film the most interesting volcanic areas of the island and to synthesize its most important characteristics. The island of Lanzarote (also known by the nickname '*isla de los volcanes*' or 'island of volcanoes') is completely covered by over 100 volcanoes, volcanic craters and fields of petrified lava. The slopes and peaks of its low mountains are covered in black volcanic soil. Lanzarote divides neatly into two distinct areas: the first, to the southeast and northeast of the island, is the area shaped by the volcanic eruptions of over 3 000 years ago, such as the eruption of the Corona volcano, which formed the area now known as the Malpaís de la Corona and the great volcanic tunnel in which Jameos del Agua and Cueva de los Verdes are found. But it was the series of volcanic eruptions which took place between 1730 and 1736 that endowed the island's typical lunar landscape with its most distinctive features. These eruptions shaped the volcanic area now known as the Timanfaya National Park, located in the central-western part of the island.

April 1st, 1730 heralded the beginning of what we could describe as the greatest known volcanic holocaust. Thirty-two volcanoes rose up like hell itself from the entrails of the earth, spewing forth huge quantities of molten rock, thereby creating that incomparable expanse of lava which today constitutes the island's most important attraction. Beneath these mountains, craters and lava deserts lie, forever silent, what remains of the villages of Tingafa, Mancha Blanca, Maretas, Santa Catalina, San Juan, Peña de Palmas, Timanfaya, Tetegua and Rodeo, which were situated in what was the most fertile part of the island.

There is a Spanish adage that goes '*No hay mal que por bien no venga*' (There is no ill out of which some good does not come), and this saying is certainly true of the island of Lanzarote, as the events of the 17th and 18th centuries, which brought ruin to its inhabitants, have today become the main reason behind its attraction as a tourist destination, thus bringing wealth and well-being to the descendents of those who suffered the volcanic destruction.



Virgen de los Volcanes hermitage.

The island of Lanzarote (or *Titeroi-Gatra* as it appears to have been called by its early inhabitants, before the island was conquered by the Norman Jean de Béthencourt on behalf of the Castilian crown in 1402) is the most northerly of the Canary Islands and is 68 miles from the African coast and 1 000 miles from the Spanish mainland. Together with Fuerteventura and the small islets of Lobos, La Graciosa, Alegranza, Montaña Clara, Roque del Este and Roque del Oeste, it forms the group of islands known as the Eastern islands. Lanzarote has a surface area of 795 square kilometres, which makes it the fourth-largest of the Canary Islands. Lanzarote's northeastern coastline is fairly rugged, but in the southeast there are many fine beaches. The climate is mild, with average temperatures oscillating between 18° C to 24° C all year round. It rains infrequently, with an annual average figure of about 200 mm. The vegetation is clearly xerophilous (adapted to a sunny, dry climate)

and the island's most typical tree is the Canarian palm tree, which is particularly abundant in the Haría valley. Lanzarote's most characteristic feature is its volcanic landscape, which has earned it the nickname of '*isla de los volcanes*' ('island of volcanoes'). Until fairly recently, agriculture, fishing and its by-products and some shepherding were its inhabitants' only sources of income. Today, the influx of tourists to the island has completely transformed its economy, as the demand for services inspired by the tourist boom has enabled the island's inhabitants to leave their arid fields and find a better livelihood in the tourist areas.

Typical island pottery.



At **Guinate Tropical Park**, situated in a singularly beautiful setting in the north of the island beside the Mirador de Guinate on the Famara cliffs, visitors can enjoy the surprising and amusing antics of parrots and cockatoos.

The **Virgen de los Dolores hermitage** (also known as the 'Virgen de los Volcanes') was built by the inhabitants of the village of Tinajo as an offering to the Virgin for her miraculous intercession during the volcanic eruptions of 1730-1736, when the river of lava which was bearing down on the village altered its course, thus saving the village from being buried by lava, a fate which befell many of the neighbouring villages. The hermitage was opened for worship in the year 1781. The feast

Crops planted in terraces.



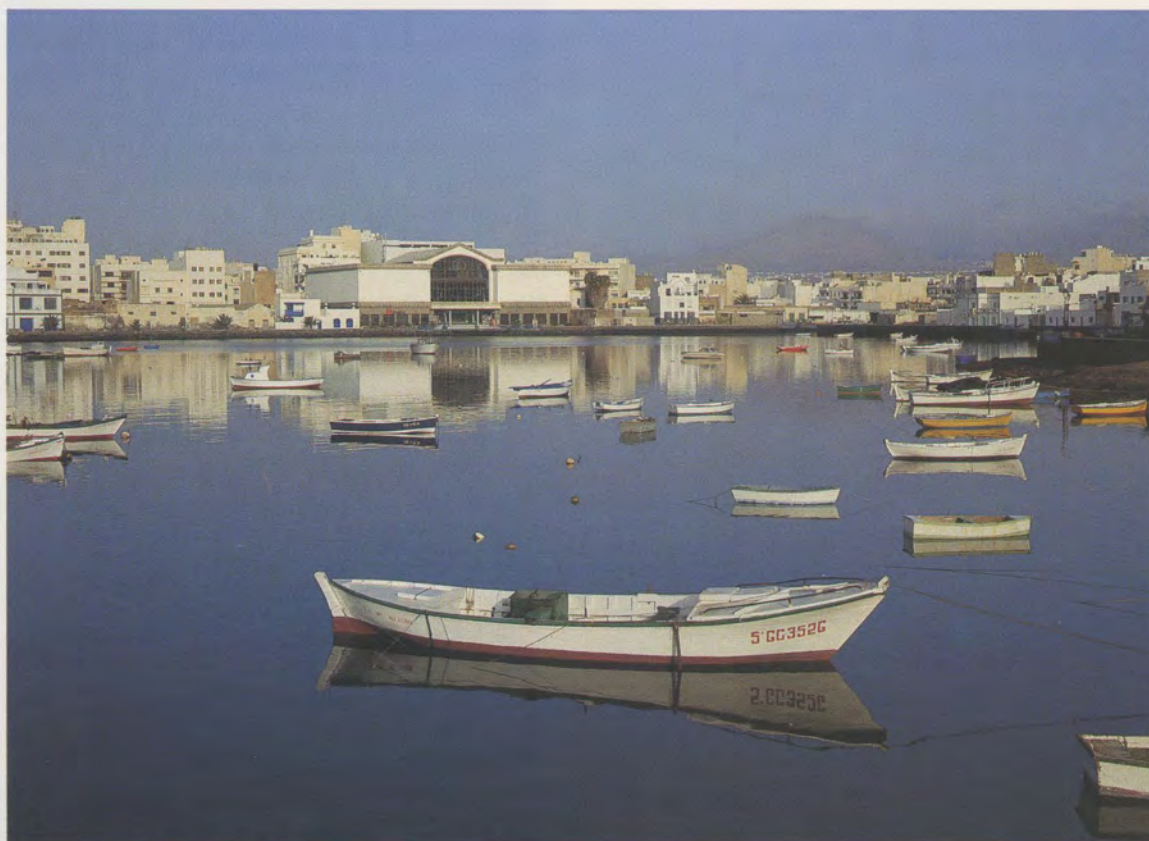
Guinate Tropical Park.

of the Virgen de los Dolores, which is very popular throughout the island, is celebrated on 15th September each year.

The long-suffering **Lanzarotean peasant farmers** work their land with genuine love, care and tenacity, in their struggle to grub harvests of cereals, pulses, onions and tomatoes out of the soil, all of which are famous for their exquisite flavour despite the aridity and dryness of the island.



The **Charco de San Ginés**, a natural lake of calm waters whose level rises and falls along with the ocean tides, is connected to the sea via a small channel and is flanked by a modern avenue along three-quarters of its seaboard. It is used as a haven and mooring for light pleasure boats. The first buildings in Arrecife were built beside this lake, and the city's first church was also built nearby.



Charco de San Ginés.





Maritime promenade, Arrecife.

The **Castillo de San José**, situated overlooking Arrecife's harbour, was built on the orders of Carlos III to provide defence for the harbour and also to mitigate the famine which was affecting Lanzarote at the time, after a lack of rain for several years in a row had left the fields barren. For this reason it is also known as *el castillo del hambre* ('the castle of hunger').

It has since been restored by the artist César Manrique, and serves as a **museum of contemporary art** with works by Picasso, Miró, César Manrique himself, and others.

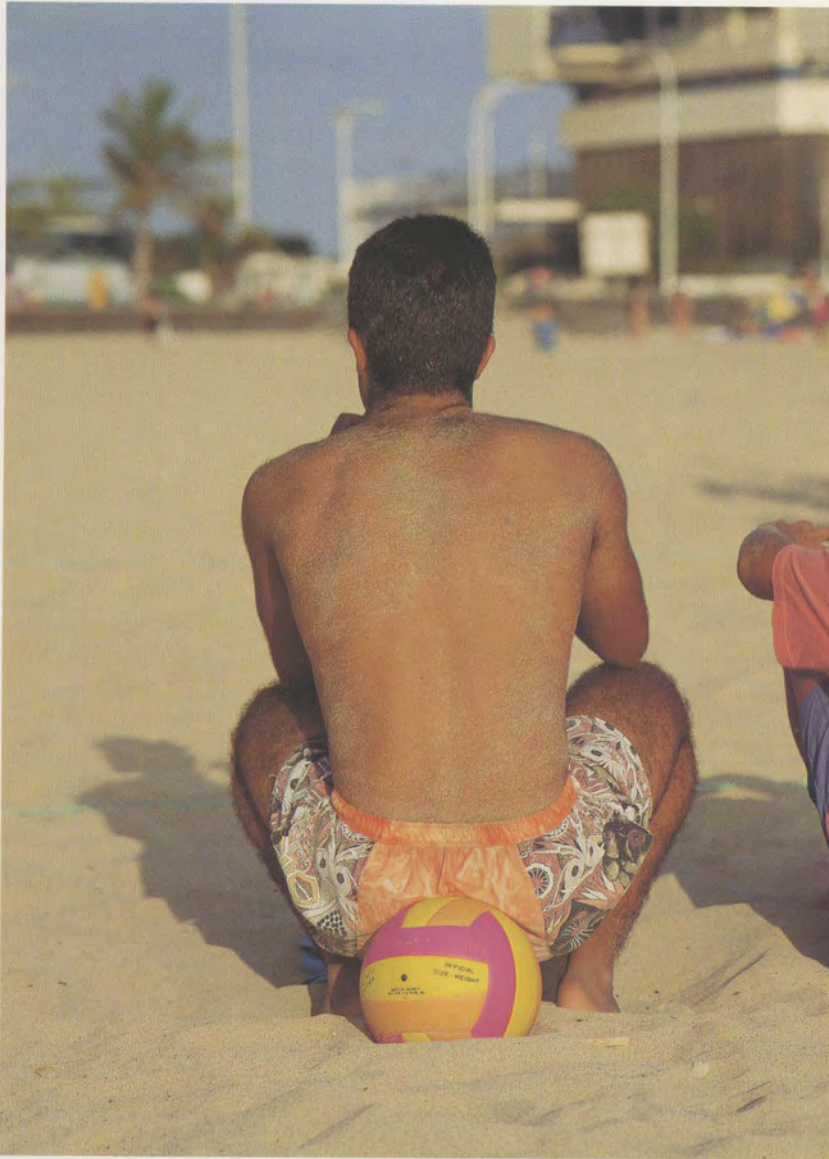
Arrecife has magnificent **parks and avenues** built on land reclaimed from the sea, all of which have well-kept gardens and terraces from which strollers can gaze at the blue waters of the ocean and daydream about sailing in a pleasure boat over calm waters.

The **Puente de las Bolas**, a drawbridge dating from 1559, formed the entrance to the Castillo de San Gabriel which was built on a small island facing the centre of the city in order to defend it from pirates and Saracens, who frequently attacked the island. The castle was first built in 1574. It was destroyed during successive invasions and was rebuilt and modernized in 1599 during the reign of Philip II. It now houses the **archaeological museum**.



*Museo de arte contemporáneo.
Puente de las Bolas.*





Playa del Reducto, Arrecife.

The **Playa del Reducto** is in Arrecife itself, and is a beach of fine, clean white sand. Its transparent waters offer a year-round invitation to tourists and locals alike to dive in and enjoy Lanzarote's magnificent sun.



View of Arrecife.

The view over **Arrecife** from the sea outside the city, with the attractive contrast between the whiteness of its buildings, the dark grey of the volcanic mountains and the blue of the ocean, will remain etched in your memory for a long time. The church of San Ginés (the patron saint of the city), which was the first church to be built in Arrecife, can be seen in the background.

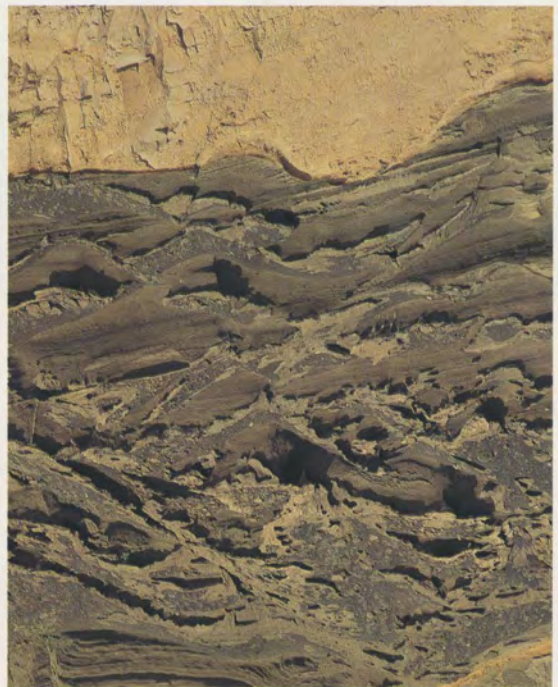


Above: Vineyards in La Gería.

Below left: Palm tree in Yaiza.

Below right: Roca de El Golfo.

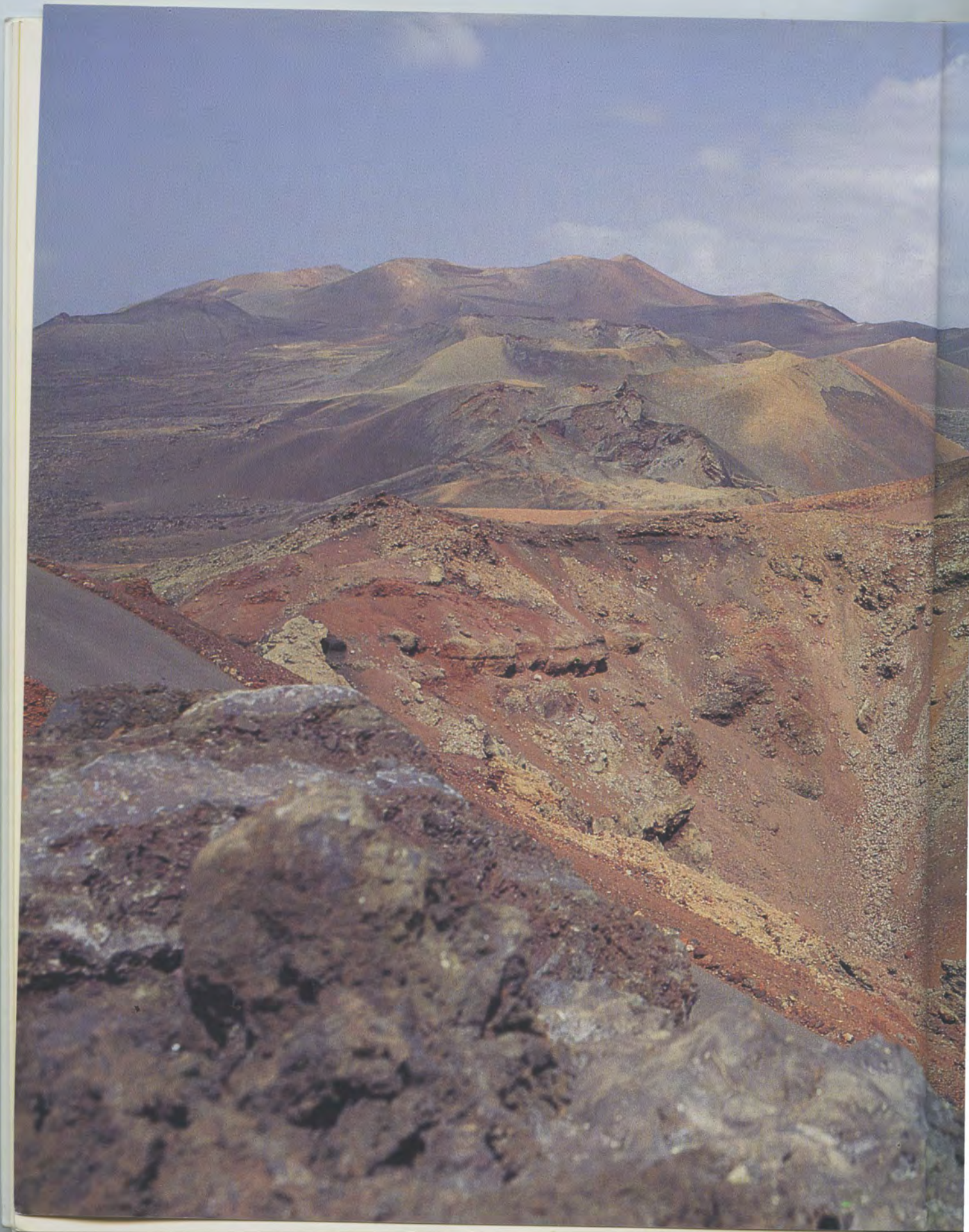
Opposite: Farmland, Tinajo.



Natural fields of volcanic pebbles around **La Gería** shape one of Lanzarote's most beautiful and original landscapes.

In the northern part of the island, around Tinajo, the countryside is a patchwork of geometrical plots of land, outlined by windbreaks. Onions, watermelons, melons, pulses and potatoes are the main crops, and are grown in artificial fields of volcanic pebbles. A layer of volcanic pebbles is spread over the earth in order to trap the humidity from the infrequent rainfall and the nighttime dew.







TIMANFAYA NATIONAL PARK

Timanfaya National Park, which was formed during the volcanic eruptions between 1730 and 1736, has a unique beauty: it is an area of over 200 square kilometres consisting solely of a mass of craters and deep crevices. Great clumps of black volcanic sand cover the slopes and peaks of the mountains, as a reminder of the six year-long cataclysm which turned a fertile area into a veritable lunar landscape.

Immense lava plains separate the mountains, rippled with indescribable abstract forms and strange nudes of hieroglyphic stones. There is something Dantesque about contemplating the inferno that is Timanfaya, whether you tour the park on the back of a camel or by some other means of transport.

At the highest point in the Mountains of Fire (as the park's mountains are generally known) is the Islote de Hilario, where the highest temperatures are to be found. Temperatures of 400° C can be reached simply by gently scraping the earth.



At the spot known as **Islote de Hilario** in the Mountains of Fire the highest underground temperatures in the whole Timanfaya National Park are to be found. Temperatures of 400°C can be reached simply by gently scraping the surface of the ground. If water is poured into a small hole in the ground, enormous geysers of steam shoot out at high pressure and if any inflammable material is pushed into the ground, it bursts into flames instantly.

This page: Islote de Hilario.

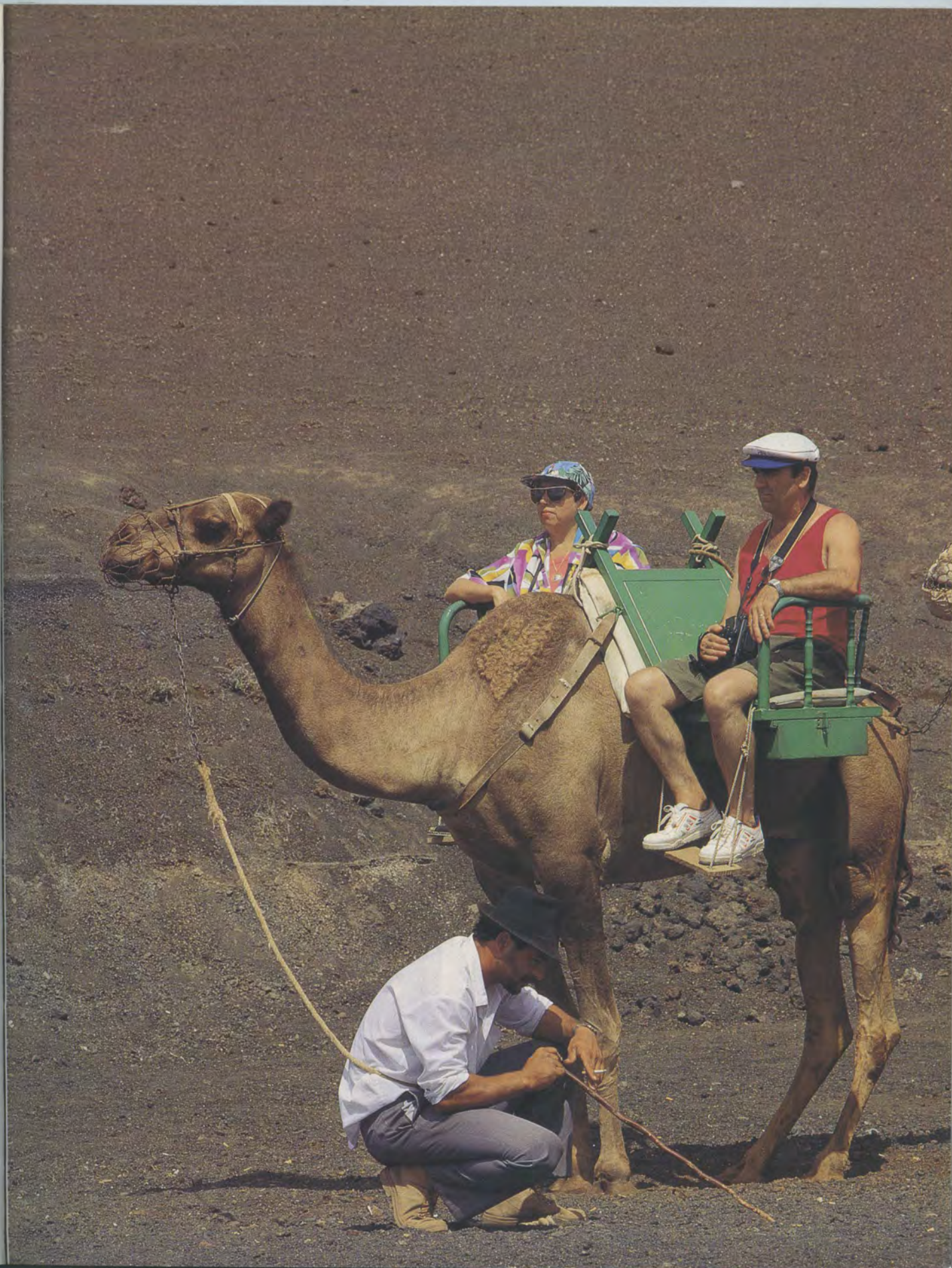
Opposite: Timanfaya.



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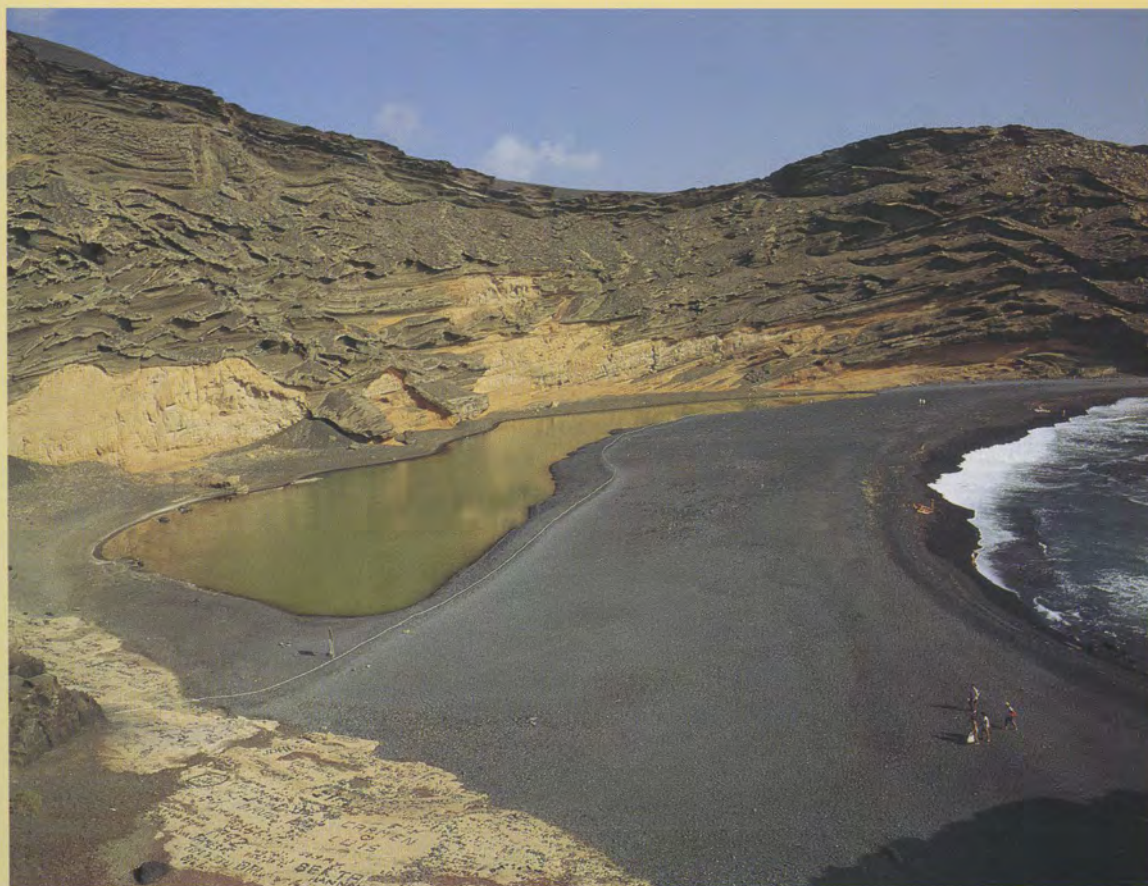




The Janubio saltworks.

Lanzarote has always had a great maritime tradition, with particular emphasis on fishing. Salt was required to supply the boats that went to fish along the African coast, so natural lakes along the island's coast were turned into saltworks. One of the most important surviving examples is the **Janubio** saltworks in the Yaíza area, which is also a marvellous sight, with the mountains of salt contrasting with the dark earth against the backdrop of the ocean.

El Golfo, situated on the western side of the island, is a group of truncated volcanic mountains resembling a semicircular Roman amphitheatre and dates from the volcanic eruptions of 1730-1736. The walls are an array of colours as a result of the natural 'architecture'. At the foot of the split cone which forms the amphitheatre is a small emerald green lagoon, whose waters filter in from the ocean through the stretch of volcanic earth that separates the two.



Laguna Verde. El Golfo.

Close by are the *hervideros* ('boiling waters'), which are known by this name due to the fact that as the rough sea crashes against the reefs formed by the rivers of lava that once ran into the sea, huge mountains of white foam are created. Together with the colourful coastline and the roar of the waves they are a marvellous spectacle.

The **Santa Sport** sports and tourist resort is an apartment complex situated by the sea near Tinajo in the north of the island and has marvellous salt-water swimming pools which are connected to the sea. Its complete range of sports facilities are the best in the island, and attract athletes from all over Europe and America (especially Scandinavia) who come both to train and relax as, apart from the magnificent beaches already mentioned, there are also leisure facilities, shops and modern, comfortable apartments.





The beach at El Golfo.

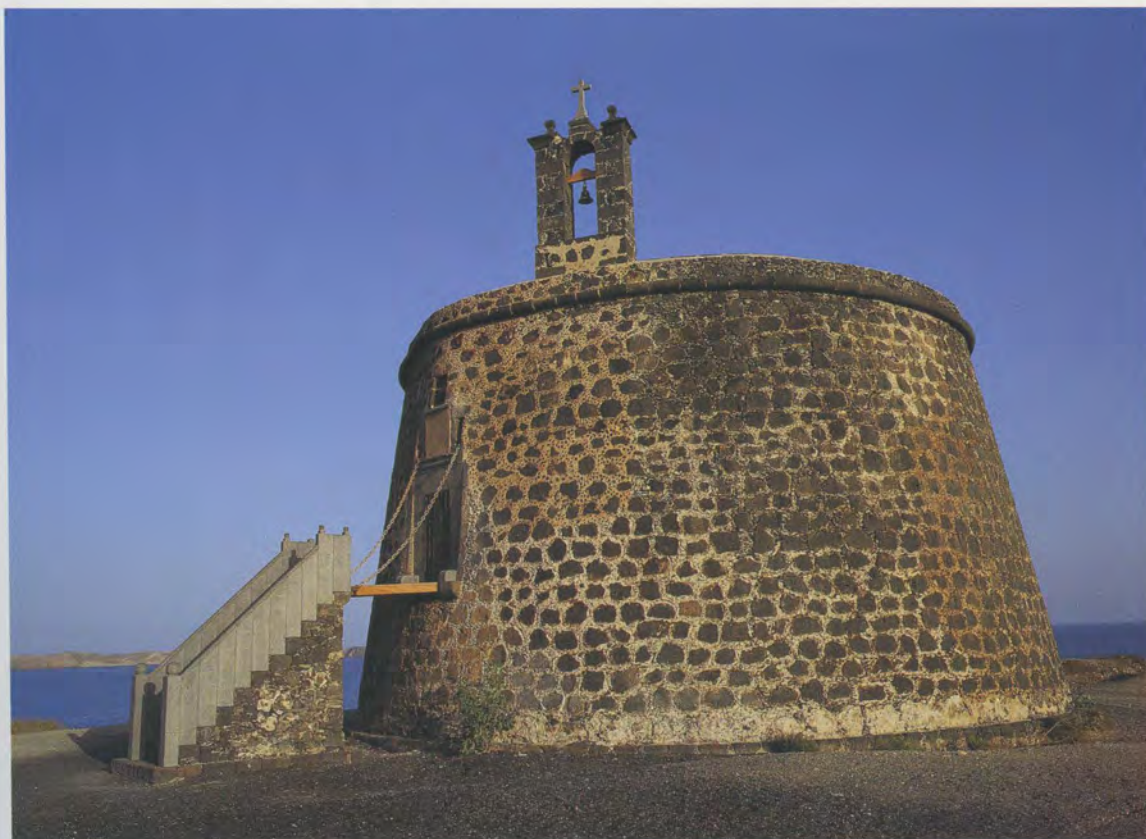
Windsurfing at La Santa Sport.



View of Yaíza.

Uga.





Castillo de las Coloradas.

The **Castillo de las Coloradas**, which guards the La Bocayna strait (the arm of sea separating the islands of Lanzarote and Fuerteventura), was built in the year 1742. Shortly afterwards it was burned and destroyed by pirates who invaded this part of the island in search of slaves and livestock. It was later rebuilt and modernized during the reign of Carlos III, and is now a national monument. It is a two-storey circular building with an Isabelline style belltower. Magnificent views over the islet of Lobos and the coast of Fuerteventura are obtained from the roof.



Anchor.

Opposite: The church and square at San Bartolomé.

The airport.



Lanzarote's **international airport** is equipped with the most modern aerial navigation systems, and daily receives large numbers different types of aircraft flying in from a wide range of places. It is very well appointed and has the most sophisticated technical services. Some of the passenger lounges were decorated by César Manrique.



The **parish church of San Bartolomé de Lanzarote** was built around 1799, and houses the figure of St. Bartholomew, the patron saint of the village, whose feast day is celebrated amid great popular enthusiasm every 24th August. Most of the inhabitants of the village are farm labourers, and the village is famous for its wines and cheeses. Its traditional group of serenaders is the most important on the island.



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The **Puerto del Carmen** tourist development has been built with great aesthetic sensitivity and is designed to blend harmoniously with its surroundings. Its low, uniform buildings are all painted white and gleam beneath the Canarian sun. It is hard to say whether the buildings add to the beauty of the beaches or whether the beaches themselves, combined with the surroundings, are what makes this a sight that visitors will always remember with nostalgia.

Two views of Playa Blanca.



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TÍAS AND SAN
BARTOLOMÉ

29

All sorts of pleasure boats and sporting activities can be seen along Puerto del Carmen's four kilometres of beaches and coves, depending on which part of the coast you watch from. In some parts the strong waves attract windsurfers, and a wide range of other nautical sports are practised in the calmer waters.



Below: Playa Blanca. Right: Puerto del Carmen.







TÍAS

Tías, a municipality covering an area of 64 square kilometres, slopes gently from north to south and is flanked by some 9 kilometres of coastline, of which over 6 kilometres are stunningly beautiful beaches and coves with clean sand and transparent waters. Until a few years ago, Tías was the poorest municipality in Lanzarote and had very few inhabitants who, with superhuman effort, scratched precarious harvests consisting mainly of pulses, tomatoes and onions from the arid soil. A handful of houses were scattered among the different villages, although they were very picturesque with their white painted walls standing out in the sun against the volcanic blackness of the surrounding land.

Today, thanks to the tourism boom of the last few years, the municipality of Tías and its coastline have undergone a profound change, with an increase both in population and wealth. Puerto del Carmen is now the most important tourist resort on the island, both in terms of its infrastructure and wide variety of tourist accommodation and of its beaches with their innumerable open air bars, discotheques, etc.



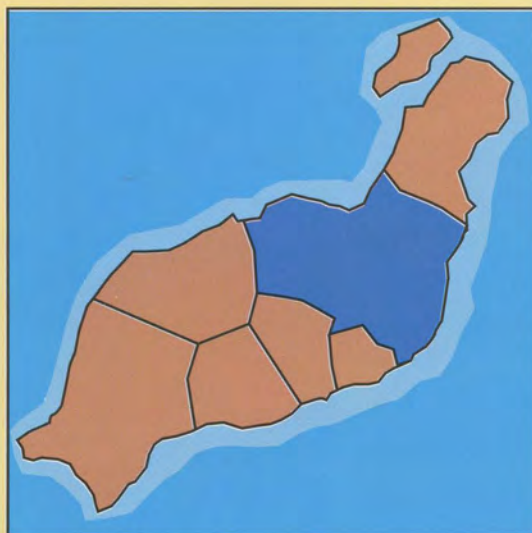
Puerto del Carmen.

Puerto del Carmen has a small fishing harbour, which is also used to moor small pleasure boats. Locals call it *La Tiñosa*, the original name of the village which later became known as Puerto del Carmen after the coast was developed. This harbour, which is situated in the historic heart of the village, is a popular haunt of both locals and visitors alike at the times of day when the fishing boats are setting out and returning.



Playa Blanca.

Puerto del Carmen's clean, white-sand beaches are the best on the island. **Playa Blanca** is the largest of these beaches and is bordered by a large avenue which is full of cafés, pubs and a wide variety of shops, which give it a fairground appearance during the day and a fantastical appearance at night with the streetlamps and multicoloured lights.



A typical Lanzarotean house. The typical Lanzarotean style of construction consists of straight lines, thick walls to keep the heat out, small exterior openings, white painted walls, decorative Turkish-style chimneys and doors and windows painted bright green, which perhaps reflects a yearning for the colour green in a landscape devoid of greenery. The contrast between the houses and the blackness of the surrounding land endows the landscape with great beauty. The rough waters of Lanzarote's **northeastern coast** are ideal for windsurfing.

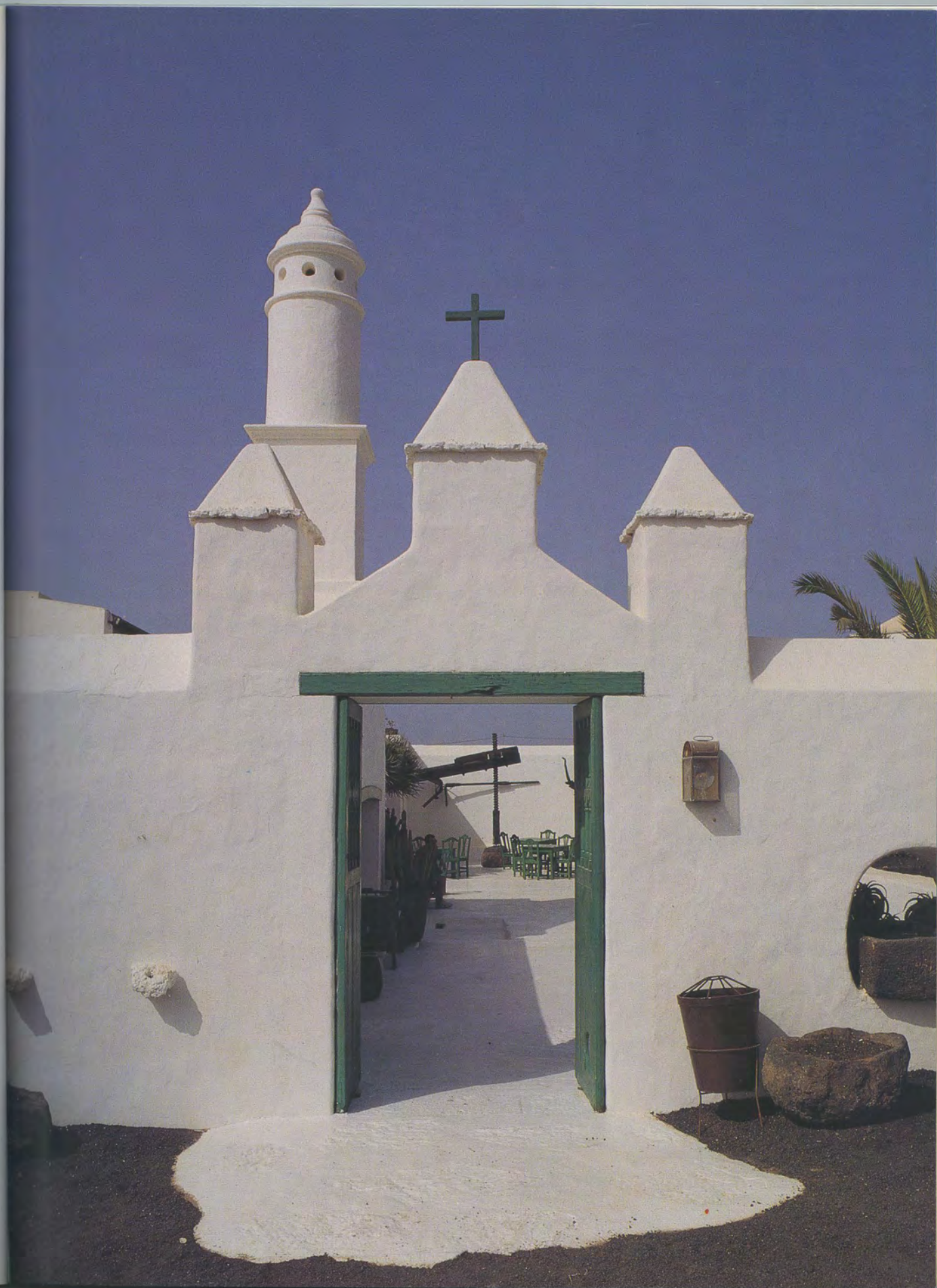
Typical Lanzarotean house.

Costa Teguisse.



typical
consists of
the heat out,
thick walls,
and doors
which
are painted green.
The contrast
between the
white of the
building with
the dark
volcanic sand
is striking.

Canarian house.





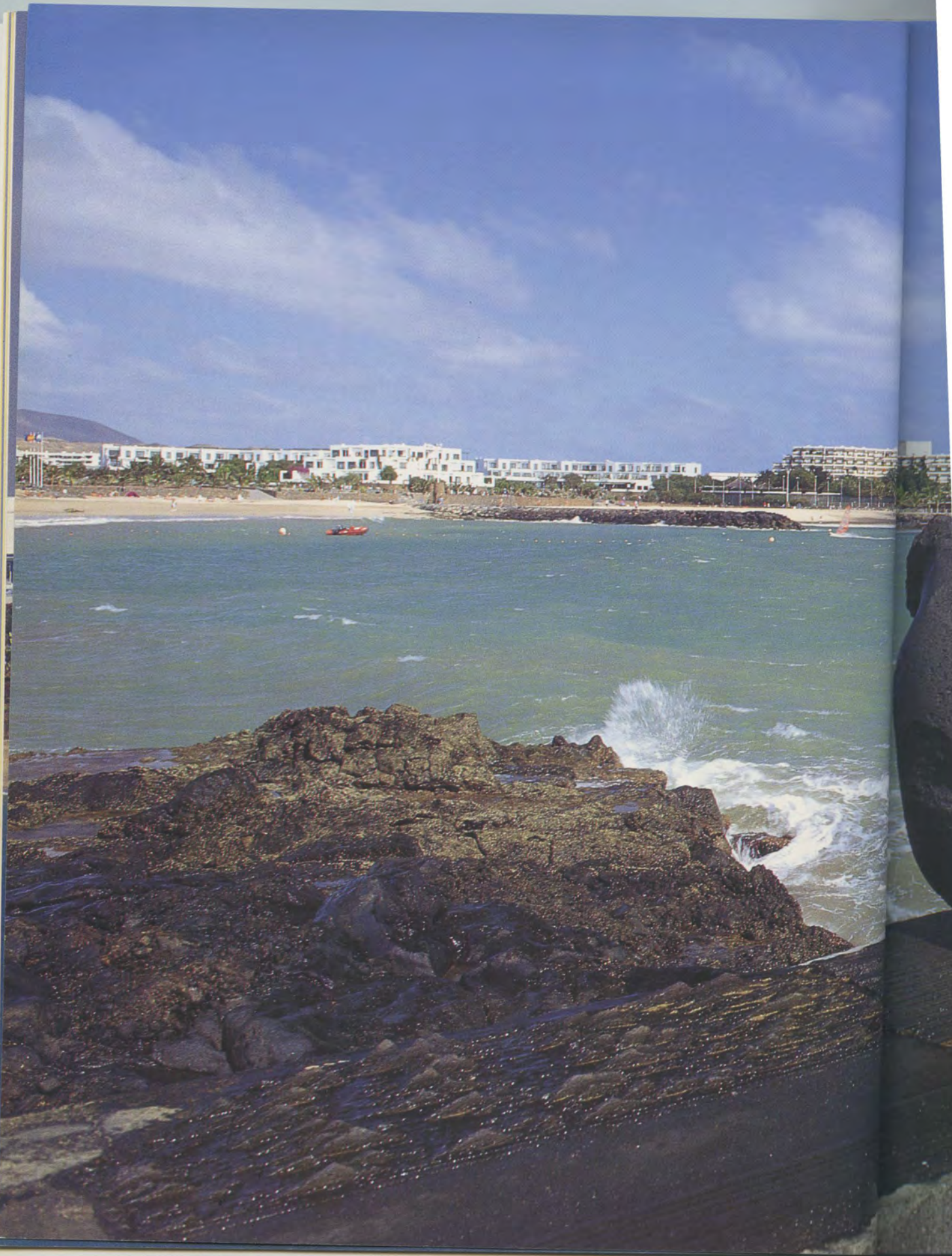


PLAYA DE LAS CUCHARAS COSTA TEGUISE

Playa de las Cucharas in Costa Teguisse is the largest and most important beach in the area, and is ideal for windsurfing (there is a windsurfing school here). Flanking the beach is the development of the same name, where the most important shopping centre in Costa Teguisse is located. The development has been designed using a simple and attractive style of architecture to blend in with the volcanic surroundings. Nearby are the island's only golf course, aquatic amusement park and casino.

Costa Teguisse's hotels are the most modern on the island and can rival the world's most famous hotels in facilities and comfort. Among them is the Las Salinas hotel, situated in a place known as Playa del Charco. It has been carefully designed to combine the arid, volcanic surroundings with a tropical atmosphere. Heads of state and other celebrities from all walks of life meet and stay in this hotel when visiting the island.

*Overleaf: Las Cucharas,
with Hotel Las Salinas in the background.*







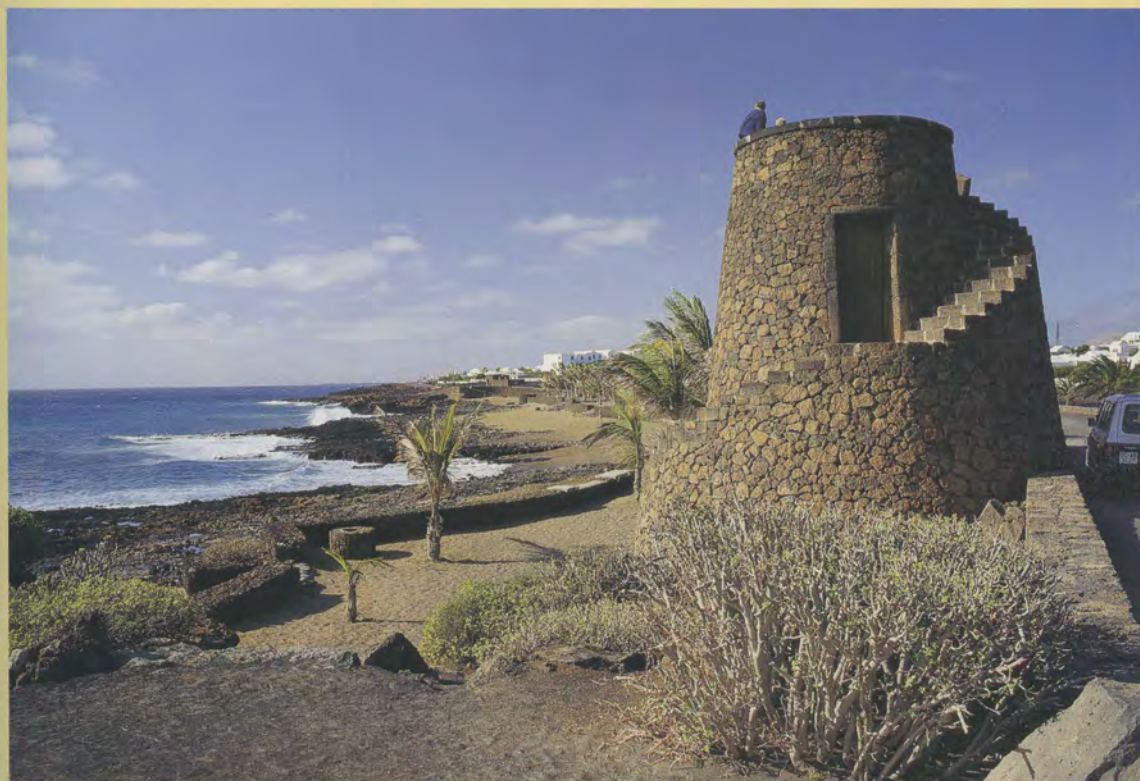
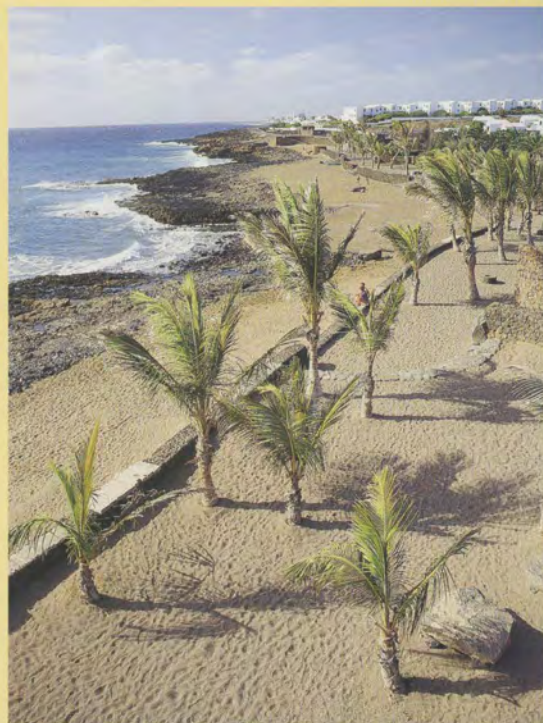
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Windmills abound throughout Lanzarote. Although they were of great importance to the island's economy in the past, they only have a decorative and nostalgic value nowadays and are a frequent sight in the island's well-kept avenues and gardens.

*Opposite:
A windmill in Costa Teguise.*

*This page:
Two views of Playa de Bastián.*



Apart from **Costa Teguisse's** unsurpassable hotels and general infrastructure, there are also typical single-family residences surrounded by traditional patios full of well-kept flowers and black volcanic stone gardens. The volcanic stones fulfil two basic purposes: firstly, to create a harmonious contrast between their blackness and the white painted walls of the house and, secondly, to trap humidity in the garden, preventing the nighttime dew from evaporating during the day.

Two views of Costa Teguisse.

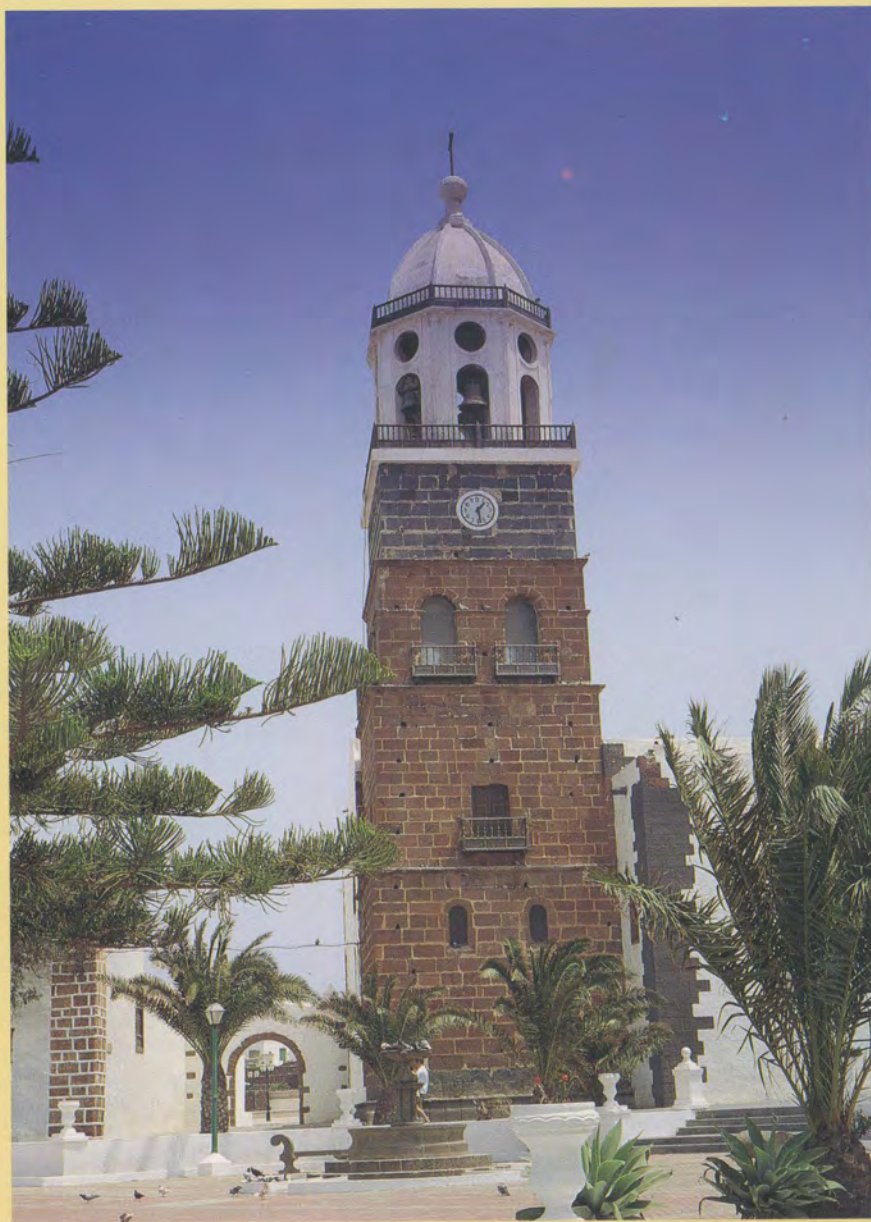


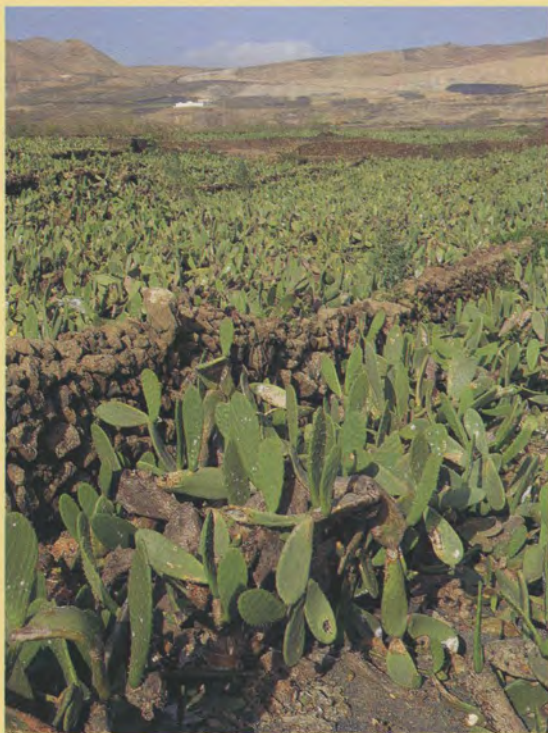




The **Fundación César Manrique** is housed in what used to be the artist's home until 1987. Built on a lava outflow from the volcanic eruptions which devastated Lanzarote between 1730 and 1736, it has been extended and adapted to house the Foundation. Inside, structure and volume combine to create a marvellous space in which architecture and nature are harmoniously fused. The Foundation looks after and displays paintings, drawings, sculptures and other artefacts created by César Manrique.

Tahiche: Fundación César Manrique and the church of Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe.





Guatiza. Prickly pear plants used for the cultivation of cochineal.



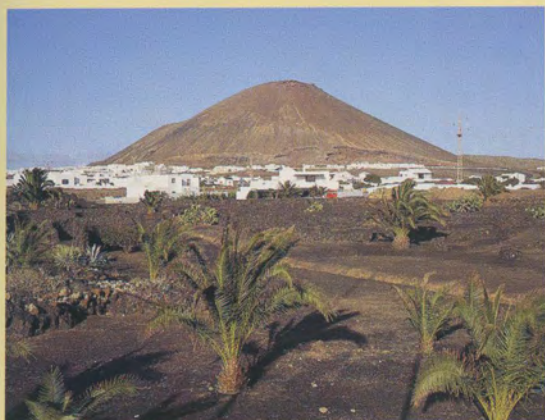
Los Valles.



Some years ago, **cochineal** was one of the island's most important economic resources, particularly in the Guatizamala area. It was used to make natural dyes, but today dyes can be produced more cheaply using chemical methods and the cultivation of cochineal is no longer profitable. To obtain cochineal, the insects are placed inside prickly pear plants, where they reproduce rapidly. When the conditions are optimum, they are removed from the prickly pears and the cochineal is extracted.

Windmills are widespread throughout Lanzarote and are very practical due to the constant wind. Amongst their various functions, these windmills were once used to grind the toasted maize which was needed to make *gofío* (a sort of heavy corn bread), the islanders' staple diet until not so long ago.

A windmill in Guatiza.

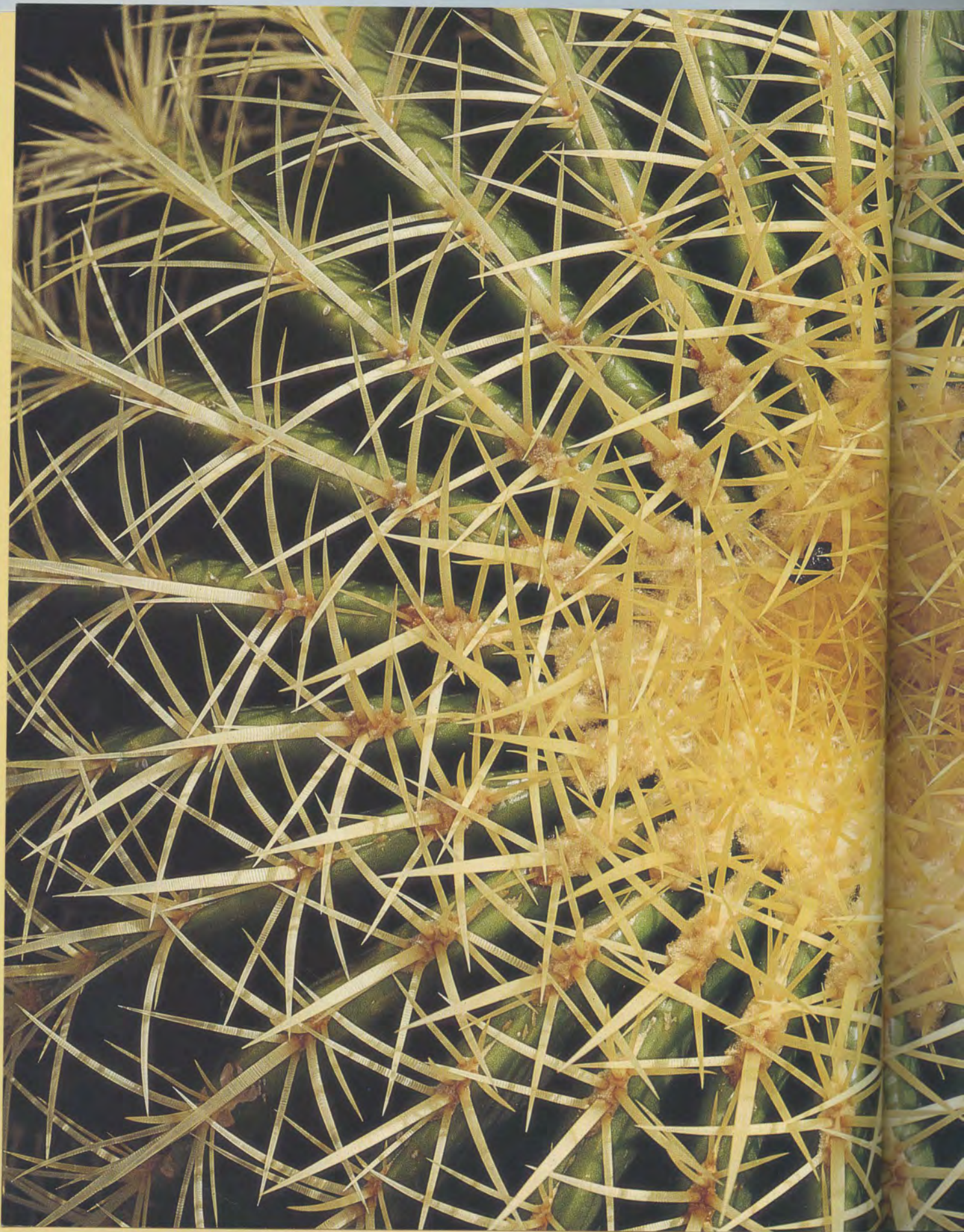


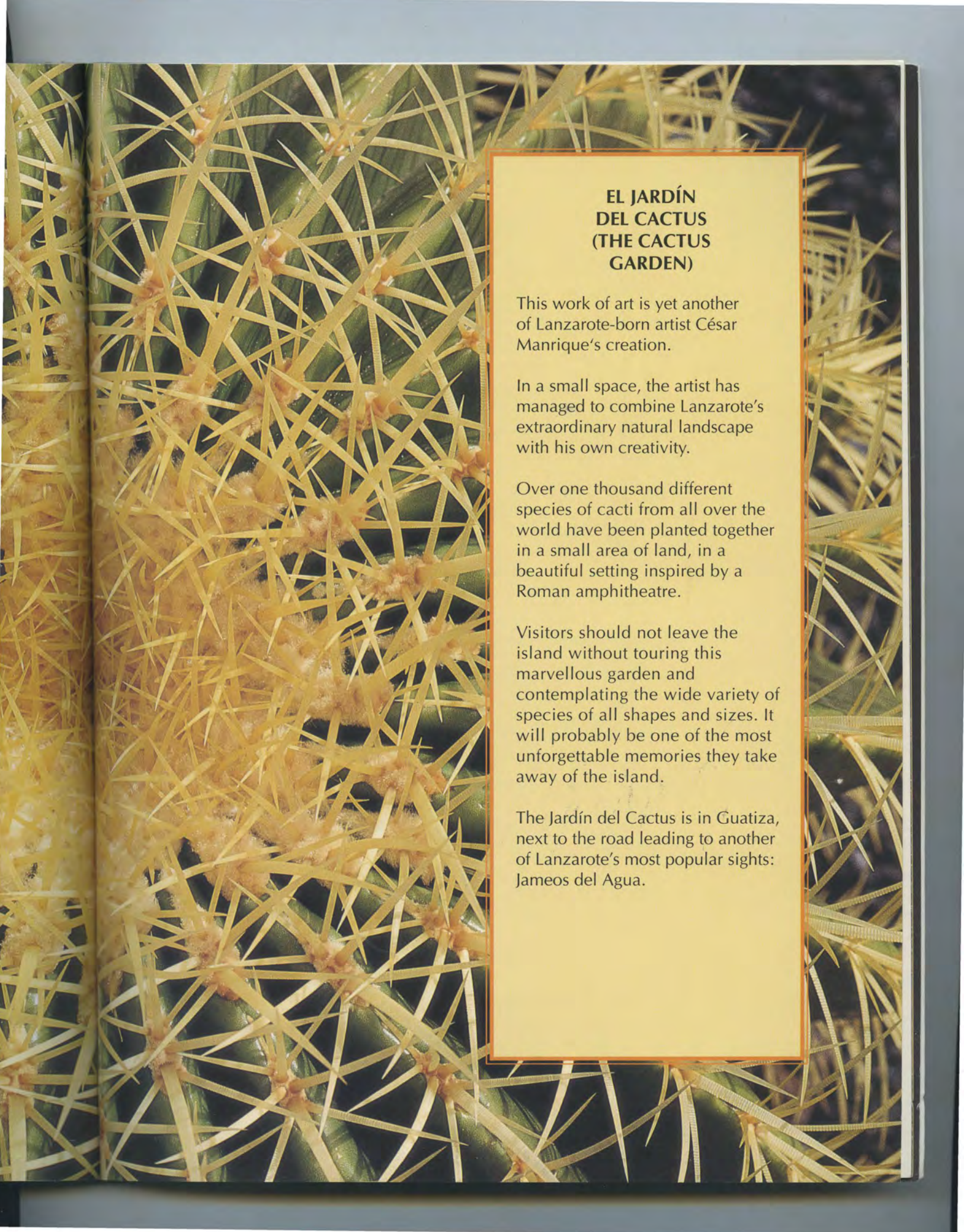
Two views of Tahiche.



Mozaga: Monument to the Peasant.

The **Monument to the Peasant**, which stands outside San Bartolomé de Lanzarote, is a huge original sculpture by the local artist César Manrique and pays homage to the long-suffering peasant farmers of Lanzarote. It is made of old cans of the kind that were once used to carry water. Next to the monument is an old, period-style mansion which has been converted into a peasant museum and restaurant serving a variety of typical local dishes.





EL JARDÍN DEL CACTUS (THE CACTUS GARDEN)

This work of art is yet another of Lanzarote-born artist César Manrique's creation.

In a small space, the artist has managed to combine Lanzarote's extraordinary natural landscape with his own creativity.

Over one thousand different species of cacti from all over the world have been planted together in a small area of land, in a beautiful setting inspired by a Roman amphitheatre.

Visitors should not leave the island without touring this marvellous garden and contemplating the wide variety of species of all shapes and sizes. It will probably be one of the most unforgettable memories they take away of the island.

The Jardín del Cactus is in Guatiza, next to the road leading to another of Lanzarote's most popular sights: Jameos del Agua.



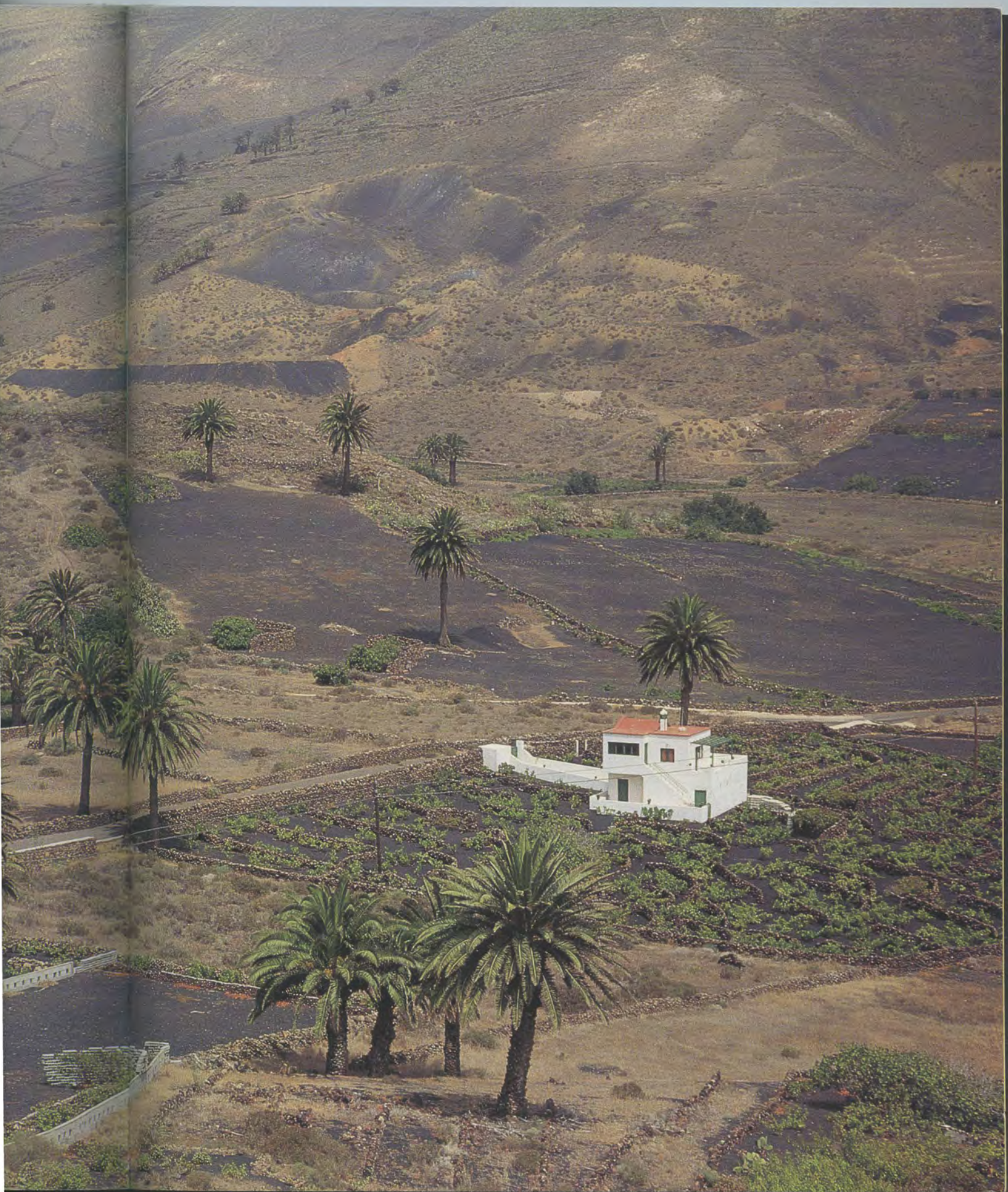
*Different species
of cacti in the Jardín
del Cactus.*





General view of the Jardín del Cactus.





Haría could be defined as an oasis in the middle of Lanzarote. Situated in a depression surrounded by volcanic mountains, it is also known as 'the land of a thousand palm trees' due to the abundance of palm trees in the valley. Even though the valley was razed by invading Barbary pirates in the not too far distant past, it still has the largest concentration of palm trees in the Canary Islands. The fertile **Haría valley** was the richest part of the island until the tourist boom drew its inhabitants away to the tourist areas, the tourist industry offering a more secure and less arduous way of earning one's living than farming. The former splendour of the old ancestral homes is still apparent.

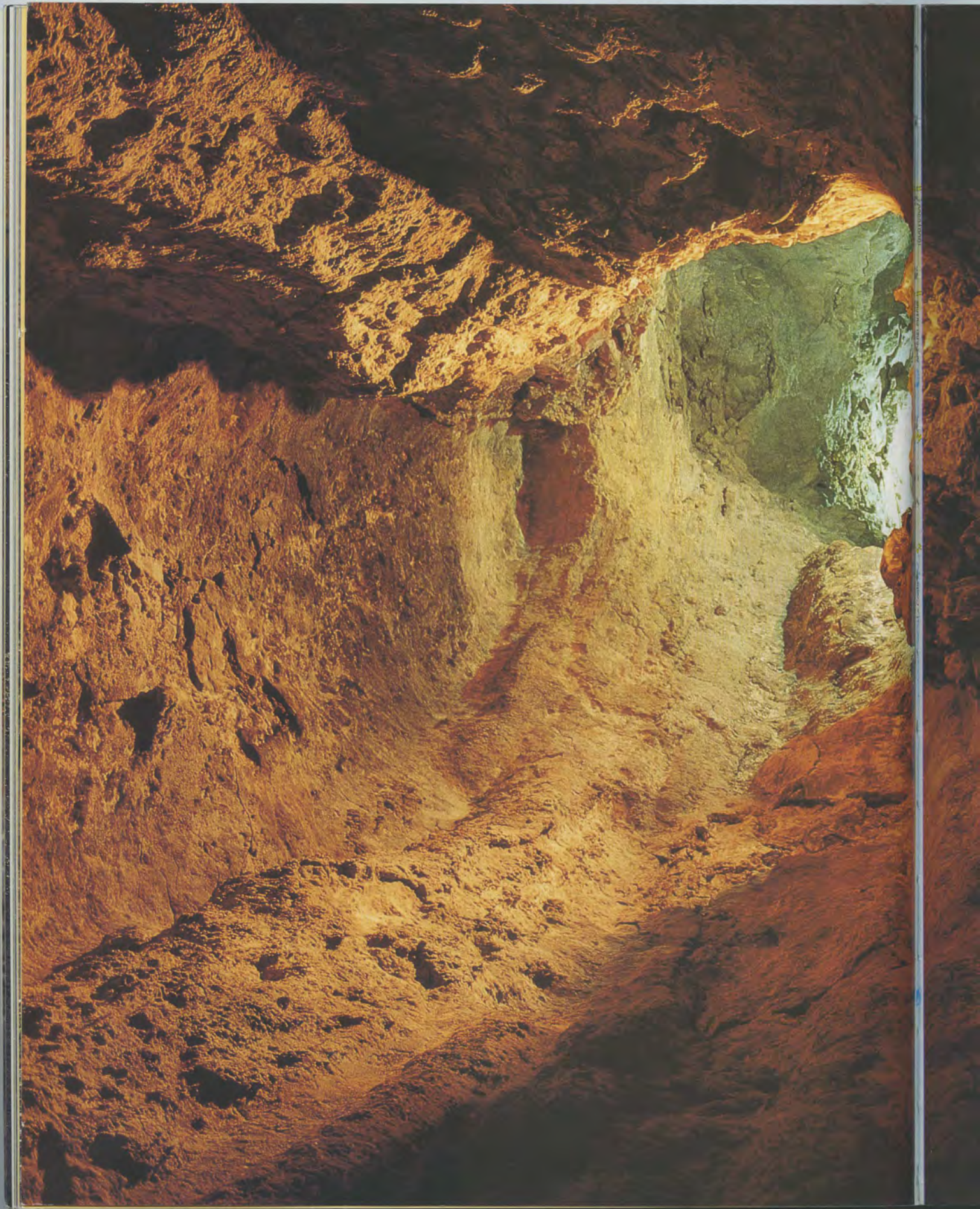
Preceding double page and below: Views of Haría.

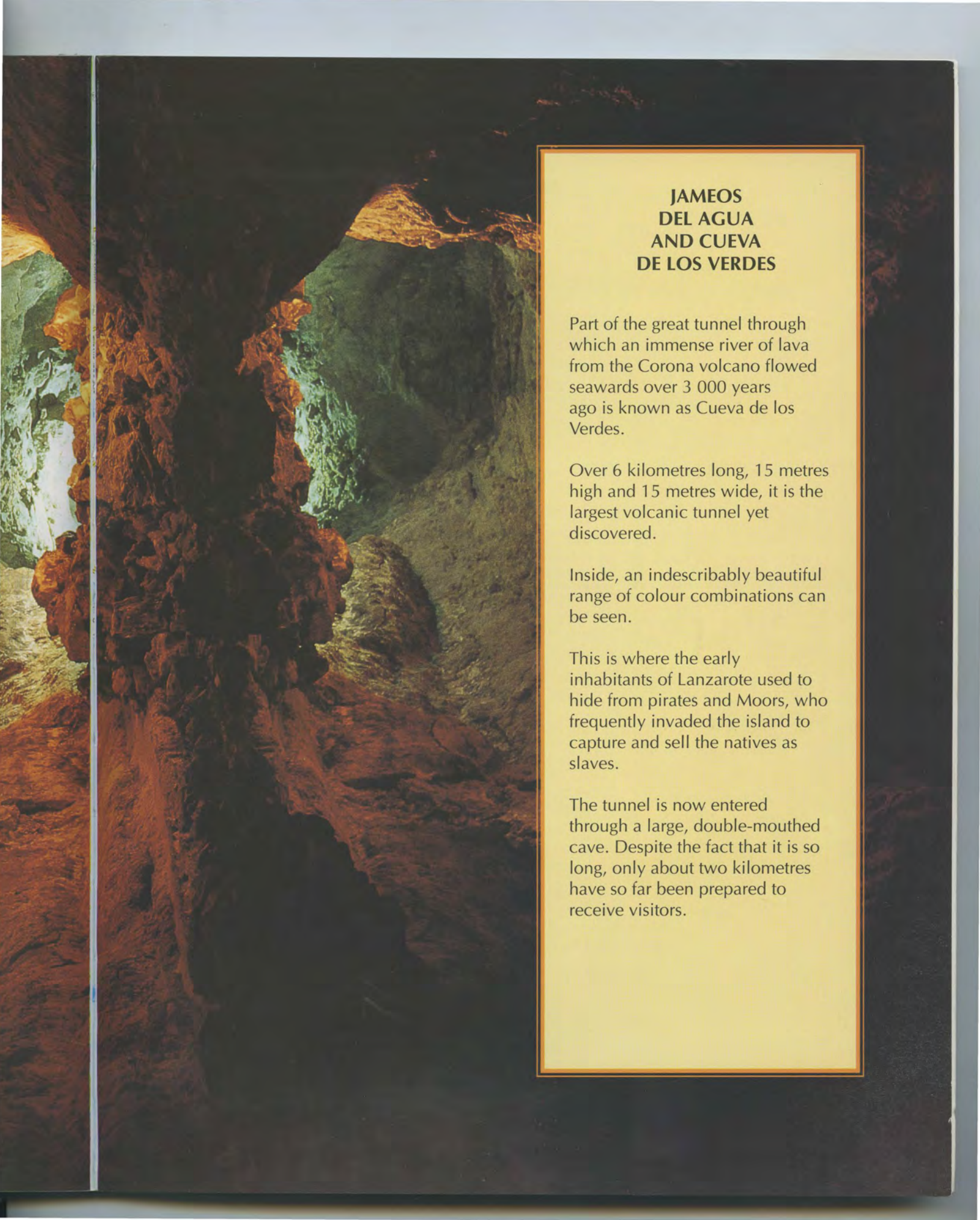


Playa de Famara, the longest beach in Lanzarote, is situated in the north of the island and is buffeted by the Trade Winds blowing off the Atlantic, which makes it inhospitable and unsuitable for bathing. It is flanked by a series of small villas which are used as summer residences by local residents. Part of the Chinijo archipelago can be seen from this part of the coast, and nearby are the rugged Famara-Guatifay mountains which are ideal for hangliding. This part of the coast is a popular place for underwater fishing.

Playa de Famara.







JAMEOS DEL AGUA AND CUEVA DE LOS VERDES

Part of the great tunnel through which an immense river of lava from the Corona volcano flowed seawards over 3 000 years ago is known as Cueva de los Verdes.

Over 6 kilometres long, 15 metres high and 15 metres wide, it is the largest volcanic tunnel yet discovered.

Inside, an indescribably beautiful range of colour combinations can be seen.

This is where the early inhabitants of Lanzarote used to hide from pirates and Moors, who frequently invaded the island to capture and sell the natives as slaves.

The tunnel is now entered through a large, double-mouthed cave. Despite the fact that it is so long, only about two kilometres have so far been prepared to receive visitors.



Inside **Jameos del Agua** there is a natural auditorium built in a bubble of lava which is a part of the volcanic tunnel already described . There is also a small, calm lagoon which is connected to the ocean through tiny underground galleries. The lagoon is home to a species of blind, albino crab which is unique to Lanzarote.

Various views of Jameos del Agua. Below and right: the Auditorium.



LANZAROTE

Surface area: 861,71 km²
Population: 57 000
Inhabitants per km²: 66
Capital city: Arrecife
Highest point: Risco de Famara: 600 metres
Annual temperature: 20 °C
Temperature of the sea: 18 °C (Winter)
20 °C (Summer)
Distance from Iberian Peninsula: 1 000 km
Distancia from Africa: 100 km
Economy: Agriculture (onion, tomato,
grapes —*malvasía*—); Cattle
(dromedary and donkey); Fishing
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LANZAROTE

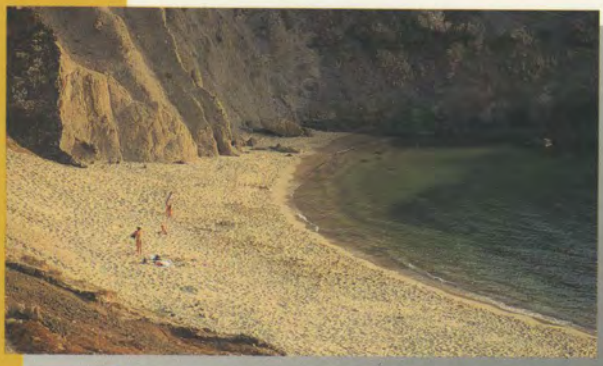
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LANZAROTE



- 64 Pages.
- 75 Photographs.
- Map of the island.



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**Editorial
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