



ENGLISH



DISCOVER TELDE; TELDE CASTS A SPELL ON YOU

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## HISTORY OF THE CITY

The City of Telde is situated in the South East of the Island of Gran Canaria, 14 km from Las Palmas de Gran Canaria. With a history stretching back over 650 years, the first dioceses of the Fortunate Islands was created here in 1351 after the promulgation of the papal bull "Coelestis Rex Regum" and the town was officially given the title of City.

Telde was the head of one of the two "Guanartematos" or kingdoms that the Island was divided into for decades. When the Spanish conquest was finally completed in 1483, a new town was built, devoted entirely to farming and trading in sugar cane. The flourishing economy and a society of enterprising men made Telde a rich and prosperous area with a remarkable social and cultural life.





## TELDE TODAY

The 101 km<sup>2</sup> of this municipal district will give you an insight into the heart of the Canary Island identity, as this old borough holds one of the richest scenic, archaeological, historical and artistic heritages of the entire archipelago.

The city of Telde, the second largest on Gran Canaria, has a population of almost 100,000 inhabitants, 60% of whom are under 30 years of age. It is a leading industrial and trading centre that is characterised by having recovered its urban landscape, apart from its many leisure, cultural and sporting amenities.





Telde has one of the broadest collections of monuments and cultural sites in the Canary Islands, one example of which are the foundational centres that harmoniously combine the simplicity of the Mudejar style with all the other styles of architecture.

### San Juan foundational area.

This wonderful enclave is the original heart of the city, built around the church of the same name. The leading sights include the Plaza and the Alameda, where we can see the stateliest homes in the city that combine Arucas quarry stone, the whitewash of the South and excellent woodwork, always painted green.

The Minor Basilica, which is also the Sanctuary of El Santísimo Cristo de Telde, is situated in the square of the same name. The façade harmoniously combines the 16th century Gothic of the main door and the early 20th century neo-Gothic style of the steeples. The church contains Baroque altar pieces that include the sublime Main Altar piece, with the famous Flemish Gothic reredos in the centre that dates from 1516. The silver cross at the top bears the revered Cristo de las Aguas, also called the Christ of Mercy of Telde or the Christ of the Main Altar. Its Mexican origin, made by the Tarasco Indians, gives it

enormous historic and artistic importance.

These valuable examples of architectural style combine with pedestrian streets and leisure amenities like the Santa Rosalia Zoo, Rincon de Placido Fleitas, the 16th century Rocha Palace and its centuries-old dragon tree.

### San Francisco Historic - Artistic quarter:

Going up Calle Ines de Chemida, next to a rudimentary irrigation canal that makes a beautiful aqueduct, we reach Santa Maria La Antigua, or San Francisco, one of the oldest quarters in the Canary Islands. This historic and artistic enclave still conserves its traditional architecture of small, white-washed houses with pitched tiled roofs, pine wood doors and window frames and cobbled streets full of charming peace and quiet and harmony.

### Church Convent of San Francisco.

The church is simply built, with a rectangular layout and two naves separated by beautiful grey stone arches. Inside, we can see countless examples of pure Baroque art. These include three multi-coloured stone reredos, whose simplicity and ingenuity always delight visitors. There is a beautiful Christ in







Agony, from Seville, brought to the city at the turn of the 17th century, and a small carving representing San Francisco of Assisi of unknown origin.

### Los Llanos de San Gregorio or Jaraquemada.

Currently a shopping area bustling with life. To get to Los Llanos de San Gregorio, you have to go up Calle Julian Toron, Calle Perez Galdos and Avenida de La Constitucion from the four corners. Before arriving, we will come across the majestic neo-classical style Church of San Gregorio Taumaturgo, the nerve centre of this popular shopping neighbourhood. The refurbished Plaza de San Gregorio has been redesigned to highlight the music stand. In the neighbourhood – with buildings of all kinds – there is a predominance of two storey houses with stone work door and window frames that are characteristic of the merchant bourgeoisie.

### *Church of San Gregorio Taumaturgo.*

A neo-classical church built by Diego Nicolas Eduardo, located in the square of the same name. A large number of neo-classical altarpieces inside – the works of Arencibia Gil - contain an important legacy of sculptures, including the figure of San Gregorio Taumaturgo by Jose Lujan Perez.





### Leon y Castillo Museum.

The house where brothers Fernando, Marquis of El Muni, and Juan de Leon y Castillo were born. They were leading figures in the history of the island in the late 19th century and the early 20th century.

Two pure Canary Island style buildings that contain an interesting collection of oil paintings and water colours by E. Meifrem, Gusach, Raimundo Madrazo, A. Caula, and Jose Arencibia Gil among others.

### Museum of Religious Art.

Museum devoted to Bishop Buenaventura Codina, who donated his crozier, mitre and his rain cloak to the Church of San Gregorio. The museum is divided into three different parts: one for gold and silver work, one for sculpture and one for religious vestments, with some that are several centuries old like a monstrance stand from the church convent of San Francisco and a reliquary of San Antonio Maria Claret.

### Hospice Church of San Pedro Mártir de Verona.

At the entrance to Telde, this church that acted as a hospital in the past dates back to the mid 16th century. It is built in Renaissance Gothic style with quarry stone and a pitched roof. It was declared a National Historic Artistic Monument at the end of the seventies. It is now an exhibition centre showing the history of the Municipal District of Telde.

### Town Hall and exhibition hall.

A neo-classical building dating from the first third of the 19th century and refurbished in the 1980s, it has a beautiful neo-Canary Island courtyard inside and a magnificent assembly hall with details that showcase the quality of the local



carpenters and furniture makers. There is a multi-purpose hall on the ground floor that is used for exhibitions of paintings, sculpture, engravings, etc. The proximity of the building to La Alameda de San Juan makes it one of the most popular visits of the City.





### Juan Ramon Jimenez Municipal Theatre.

A first class multi-disciplinary centre where there is a constant programme of theatre, cinema, exhibitions of paintings and books, traditional, modern and classical dance.

### San Juan Municipal Library.

This municipal service offers over 21,000 volumes to an average of 200 readers a day. The facilities include a record collection, video collection and Internet Room.







Telde, also known as the city of the “Faicanes” – old aboriginal holy men -, has over one hundred archaeological sites. Tufia, Cuatro Puertas, el Llano de las Brujas, Tara and Cendro are all examples of pre-Hispanic culture.

We can discover a world in which legend, tales and history converge to wrap you in exciting mystery at each one of these sites.

#### Cuatro Puertas Site.

An artificial cave dug into a volcanic pipe situated in Montaña Bermeja, 3 km from the city. This is one of the largest archaeological sites of the Canary Islands and it owes its name (Four Doors) to the four entrances that provide access to the main hall.

At the top of the promontory, you will find what is known as the “almogaren”, a place to worship the gods of nature. The site also includes countless caves, including Los Papeles Cave and Las Columnas Cave.

#### Tufia Site.

Situated near the coast in the fishing village of Tufia is an important archaeological site consisting of a complex of rough stone houses and caves – with some cobbled paths -, indicating a historic development that bring us to the very gates of proto-historic town planning.

#### Tara.

The dwelling site made up of caves dug into the rock by man can be found in the village of Tara. It was a significant find that includes anthropomorphic figures. The most spectacular of these figures is known as the “Tara Idol” – goddess of fertility – that is on display in the Canary Island museum.



#### Cendro.

A settlement of artificial caves and dry stone houses with no mortar whatsoever used, situated on the upper plain known as Caserones. Part of this complex was re-used after the arrival of the Spaniards.





From the majestic volcanic edifice of La Caldera de Los Marteles, which crowns the highlands, to the curious fossilised dunes of Los Arenales de Tufia, we can discover a wide variety of landscapes dotted with beautiful natural spots. The ravines, the drainage system of the district, are also natural areas that often contain valuable ecosystems that are home to a wide diversity of species.

### Barranco de los Cernícalos.

Some 12 km of spectacular scenery, where the water is constantly sculpting cascades and gorges throughout the year. There is an enormous wealth of plant species, including bugloss, sage, lavender, houseleeks, tree mallow, bell flowers, reflexed St. John's wort, large leafed St. John's wort, cress, coriander, etc.

We can also find birds of prey, reptiles, amphibians, finches, blackcaps and others.

The variety of the Telde landscapes can be seen in all its splendour in the forest of Barranco de Los Cernicalos, where visitors can hike one of the most interesting ecological trails on Gran Canaria to the sound of water flowing over the waterfalls.

### Bufadero de la Garita.

This is the best example of this kind of geological formation on Gran Canaria. A set of prismatic stone figures that are battered by the ocean which is drawn in through an underwater hollow and expelled through another orifice.







Telde also runs down to the sea, between cliffs and beautiful ground lava beaches, some 10 km of coastline with some spectacular geo-morphological landmarks.

There are beaches in Telde too, some of which enshrine mystery and beauty, like San Borondon, or La Playa de Ojos de Garza, which is a sanctuary for most of the birds that visit these shores. There is also La Playa de Melenara, with a fishing tradition, with some 600 metres of fine sands that have been awarded the Blue Flag for several consecutive years because of all the services provided by the Foundation for Environmental Education in Europe, and a unique sea front parade with restaurants and shops right down on the beach. This is a meeting point for the thousands of people who come down to the Telde coast. The most important beaches include La Garita, Las Salinetas, Playa del Hombre, Hoya del Pozo, Agua Dulce, Tufia..., all of which are highly popular with bathers because of the warm weather and the wide range of services offered on some of them.

Telde also has some well maintained coastal paths for visitors to enjoy a long walk along the coast, from Playa de La Garita to Playa de Las Salinetas.







One of the features of Telde is the high number of sportsmen of all ages and disciplines. From traditional sports like Canary Island wrestling, Staff Fighting and Short Staff Fighting, to swimming, martial arts, football, handball, basketball, tennis, motor racing, boxing, etc., Telde is honoured by its national and regional champions in many fields and thousands of sportsmen in all of them.

### **GOLF, Golfing Weather.**

In Telde, we can play golf every day of the year as there are several facilities for both enthusiasts and for beginners, with driving ranges, pitch and putt, practise greens, flood-lit courses and, of course a range of services like restaurants, snack bar, etc.

#### *"El Cortijo Country Club"*

Designers: Blake Stirling and Mario Martin

Golf Club situated on the El Gortijo estate that offers high quality and excellent services. It has the first golf course built in the municipal district of Telde, with 18 holes. It is a par 72,



6,165 metre course covering an area of 50 hectares. Apart from the golf course, it also has facilities for other sports like paddle, tennis, horse riding...

#### *"Oasis Golf" El Cortijo "*

Designers: Blake Stirling and Mario Martin.

This is an 18 hole course, a 9 hole putting course and a driving range with excellent pitch and putt greens. All the facilities are fitted with flood lighting so you can play long into the night.

The Club offers a range of services: floodlighting at night, changing rooms with showers and sauna, Pro Shop, room to leave your clubs and bags, club and bag hire service, restaurant with a large terrace, children's area and ample room to park.



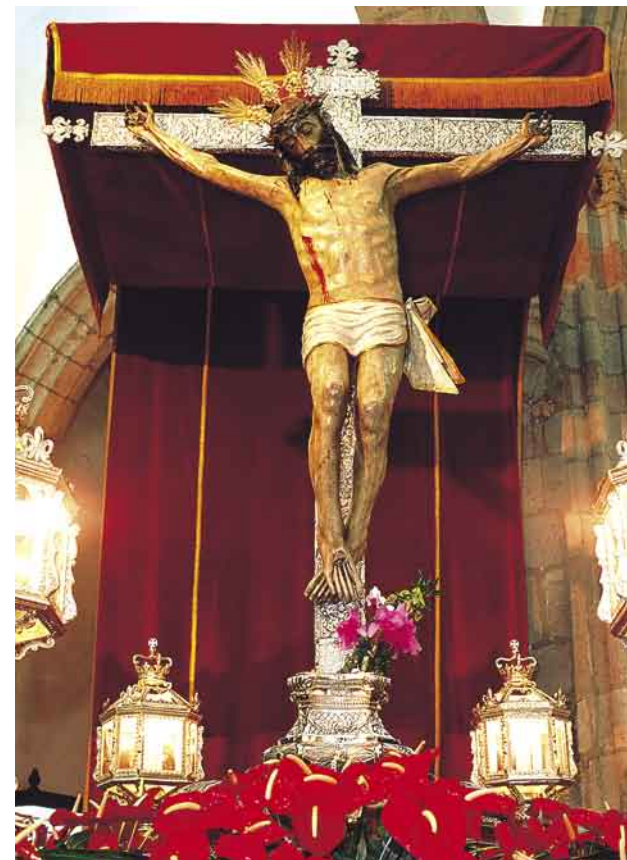




There are several fiestas that deserve a special mention because of their tradition. The fiestas in honour of the patron saints, San Juan and San Gregorio, Las Fiestas del Cristo, La Fiesta de la Caña Dulce (Sugar Cane) in Jinamar and La Traída del Agua (Water Festival) in Lomo Magullo are the most popular ones in terms of the number of people they attract.

### THE CARNIVAL.

The revival of this fiesta since the 70s turns Telde into a multicoloured spectacle of fun every February, with competitions for the best “Murga” (Carnival music group), the grand Gala to elect the Carnival Queen, the Grand Carnival Float Parade and the “Entierro de la Sardina” (the Funeral of the Sardine) to close these mass festivities.



### FIESTAS IN HONOUR OF THE PATRON SAINTS

#### Fiesta in honour of San Juan Bautista.

This is celebrated on the 24th of June after the magic night of the bonfires – which light up the entire borough – with an extensive programme of top class artists, livestock fair, exhibitions, etc.

#### Fiesta in honour of San Gregorio Taumaturgo.

Held on the 17th of November in Los Llanos de Jaraquemada, what used to be the farming and craft centre of the city, now a shopping area. This fiesta is a fine example of leisure activities combined with the recovery of long standing traditions like the livestock fair, one of the largest on Gran Canaria.

### POPULAR FIESTAS

#### “Súbete a la Ola de La Vida” Campaign. (Ride the wave of life)

This is a campaign that is organised during the summer to promote sports among the youth population, with





sporting activities on the beaches of the borough and top level shows each week end on the sands of La Garita and Melenara beaches.

### “La Traída del Agua” Water Festival.

Held during the first two weeks of August, it is the fiesta that attracts the biggest crowds in August. It started 30 years ago as an extension of the custom of going to the irrigation channels for water. Nowadays it is a spectacular water fight with everybody throwing buckets or bowls of water over anyone that comes within range. This fiesta has been declared a tourist attraction and considered as one of the major summer fiestas of the Island.

### Fiesta El Santo Cristo de Telde.

Celebrated on the 14th of September, it is probably the best expression of religious fervour to be seen in the borough. The procession bearing the figure of Christ from the Basilica of San Juan is reminiscent of the days of splendour when the city was founded.

### Fiesta de La Caña Dulce (Sugar Cane Fiesta) or La Concepcion.

Held on the 8th of December in the Jinamar district, with a large exhibition of local farm produce, from the oranges of La Higuera Canaria, to olives from Tunte or almonds from Valsequillo and, above all, sugar cane of course.







Because of the vast extension of Telde, from the coast up to the mountain peaks, there is a wide range of crops grown in Telde, giving rise to a rich and varied cuisine that can be sampled in the many bars and restaurants of the borough.

Made from the best produce from the land and the sea: the “Sancocho Canario” (Canary Island Hotpot), parrot fish with “papas arrugadas” (new potatoes boiled in their jackets), roast leg of pork and “pella de gofio” (a kind of dough made from toasted corn flour mixed with other ingredients), the traditional cress stews, pork in a marinade, the traditional “ropa vieja” (a chick pea stew), fish broth and also game, mainly rabbit in “salmorejo” sauce, accompanied by our tasty broths, sauces and wines, together with fantastic La Breña and Cazadores cheeses.

The pastries also deserve a special mention: delicious carnival tarts, sweet potato pastries, sponges, doughnuts, etc.







Our lovely city changes its appearance at night: the peace and quiet, the beauty of the streets and squares in the lamplight will guide you to our pubs and bars, where you can enjoy a relaxed and friendly chat.

If you prefer to dance and listen to any one of the wide range of musical rhythms, you will find the fun you are looking for in the discotheques and night clubs of our city.

### Shopping.

One of the features of the City of Telde is that it is the main city of an eminently trading district.

### San Gregorio Open Shopping Area.

This is the most famous shopping area, which has grown out of the popular markets that are held here. These are a fine example of enterprising men and women using all their trading skills. If you wish to see a very significant example and personal attention from the traders, all you have to do is go for a walk around the winding streets of the neighbourhood, where you can find and buy an enormous variety of articles in specialist shops.







The typical crafts of Telde are basketwork, the popular Canary Island knife, natural woven fabrics and dyes, pottery metal work and string instruments like the “timple” (a kind of ukulele or small guitar).

Tourists can visit some of the craft workshops in the older towns and villages of the borough, where you can see these items being made before your very eyes.

There is also a street market in Telde every Saturday and another one in Jinamar on Sundays, where you can buy farm produce and craftwork.

Los Baluartes Craft Centre  
Leon y Castillo 2. San Juan. Tel: 828 013 331

### Hotel Rural “El Cortijo San Ignacio Golf”.

Hotel with 16 double and 2 single rooms. It also has a swimming pool in a tropical garden.

*Information and bookings:*  
91 3344 07 19 / 928 712 427  
rocio.mrojas@wanadoo.es

### La Primavera country cottage.

Cottage situated on a hill with lovely views of the ravine with a palm grove at the bottom.

It has three bedrooms, a large terrace and a swimming pool.

*Information and bookings:*  
928 462 547  
Info@grancanariarural.com

### La Manigua Inn.

A countryside inn 3 km from the airport, in the area of Ojos de Garza, offering the ideal climate all year round for your leisure time activities: camps, courses, conventions, holidays, rural tourism, encounters, business lunches and dinners, etc.

*Information and bookings:*  
928 574 711

### Hostal Albacar.

Hostel situated in the popular and idyllic Playa de Melenara, with 8 double rooms and lounges for all kinds of celebrations.

c/ Padre cueto, 4.

*Information and bookings:*  
928 131 520 / 630 141 281

## Finca La Salud.

A 25,000 square metre smallholding situated in Barranco Seco, in the village of Caserones Alto. It has two cottages that can sleep up to 10 people.

The former barn; with two rooms with bathroom

The cottages; with two bedrooms with bathroom.

*Information and bookings:*  
928 677 340  
[www.fincalasalud.com](http://www.fincalasalud.com)

## Barranco de Los Cernícalos Country Cottages.

In the heart of the Lomo Magullo countryside, in El Barranco de Los Cernícalos, is where this 200 year old cottage complex is sited. It is made up of 4 cottages set in 3,460 m<sup>2</sup> of grounds:

**Ca`Rafaelita.**  
**Ca`Rosarito.**  
**El Pajar del Rey.**  
**El Rincón de Fernando.**

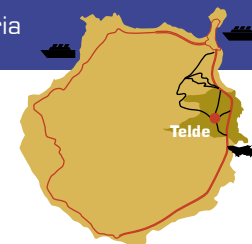
*Information and bookings:*  
928 573 022 / 636 783 993  
[www.loscernicalos.com](http://www.loscernicalos.com)

## Municipal Department of Information and Tourism.

c/ León y Castillo, 2. San Juan  
928 681 336 / 928 139 055  
[turistelde@aytoteldercanaria.es](mailto:turistelde@aytoteldercanaria.es)

## Gran Canaria Airport Tourist Information Office.

European Arrivals Gate A, Gran Canaria Airport, s/n.  
928 574 117



- 1 Archivo Histórico Municipal y Biblioteca Municipal.
- 2 Casas Consistoriales.
- 3 Basílica de San Juan Bautista.
- 4 Oficina de Turismo.
- 5 Ayuntamiento de Telde. Policía Local.
- 6 Iglesia San Pedro Mártir de Verona.
- 7 Iglesia de San Francisco.
- 8 Casa Museo León y Castillo.
- 9 Correos.
- 10 Juzgados.
- 11 Cruz Roja.
- 12 Parque Urbano de San Juan.
- 13 Estación de Guaguas.
- 14 Teatro Munic. Juan Ramón Jiménez.
- 15 Parque Urbano Amao.
- 16 Templo Neoclásico de San Gregorio.
- 17 Parque Franchy Roca.
- 18 Parque Urbano de San Gregorio.
- 19 Rambla de San Gregorio.







M.I. AYUNTAMIENTO DE TELDE  
CONCEJALÍA DE TURISMO

