

TENERIFE TRAVEL AGENTS

Landing charges plea

Tenerife's travel agents have called for a speedy decision on whether the current exemption on landing charges is to be extended beyond March.

The incentive to attract more flights and new airlines, which was introduced by the Spanish government to help the travel industry through the economic downturn, is due to end on 31 March and pressure is mounting on Madrid to announce an extension soon, particularly since at least one airline has promised to pull out if the measure disappears.

According to the Association of Tenerife Travel Agents (APAV), the extension is



Only Ryanair benefit from the scheme

badly needed and should be for at least two years. Chairman José Ignacio Alonso warns, however, that the current format of the exemption needs rethinking. "The

incentive applies to airlines that increase their capacity to the Canaries but it should be applicable also to those who maintain their flights to the Islands even if they do not add extra seats. There is a

risk that we will lose these loyal airlines. The measure really benefits only one carrier, Ryanair, because it has added many new routes to various islands but existing airlines could lose out," explained Alonso, who said also that plans to set up a Canarian airline to guarantee flights from Europe were ill-advised.

UK AIR DEMAND

Top destinations

Good news for Spain and the Canaries as the latest figures for UK air travel demand for 2010 are revealed.

Moving up one place from last year to top spot is Malaga with Tenerife moving up two places to take second place and Alicante equalling its 2009 third place ranking.

Skyscanner travel search site have just published their top fifty list for the most popular destinations for British visitors and there are 11 Spanish destinations in that list, five of which are in the top 10. Lanzarote is rated 9th, Gran Canaria 18th and Fuerteventura 35th, although they have dropped ten places. New entries to the top 10

are Cape Town and Johannesburg, undoubtedly on the back of the World Cup and Melbourne, Kuala Lumpur and Hong Kong are among the new entries to the top 50. London and Edinburgh are less popular this year down 13 and 16 places respectively and Dublin is down one place. The results are hopeful for the Spanish tourism industry

and Skyscanner co founder and business director, Barry Smith remarked, "these early indications show that Spain is still by far the most popular destination for British travellers. Medium and long haul locations also seem to be on the rise compared to last year, suggesting that holiday budgets may be growing after a tough financial year."

Business in Brief

Postal charges

Stamp prices up

• The decision to raise the price of postage stamps by around six per cent when inflation is much lower has angered consumer groups.

The government has increased the price of the most popular stamp (for domestic mail) from €0.32 to €0.34, an increase of 6.25 per cent. There was better news for holidaymakers and ex-pats, however, given that the increase for a standard letter or post-card to Europe from here was just 3.3 per cent, with the cost now standing at €0.64 (up from 0.62).

Despite the above-inflation rises, the Spanish Post Office (Correos) says the tariffs are still lower than many EU countries, particularly for domestic mail. It stresses that the increases, which took effect on 1st January, are needed to cover rising costs and maintain quality standards.

Virtual account

Safer shopping

• The Caja Mediterráneo, CAM, savings bank have launched a new way of shopping online.

As part of its electronic banking system, clients can now generate a virtual shopping card which can be used only once and therefore gives total security for those wishing to use online shopping options. The card is available immediately and at any hour of the day or night and it means that you no longer have to give details of your real card over the internet. The client sets the maximum amount for which the card is to be used and when the card will become out of date, irrespective of whether it is used or not.

Property

Buy now

• Spain's number two in the Finance Department, José Manuel Campa is advising prospective homebuyers to purchase now.

He believes that given the drop in house prices, the low interest rates, the grants available, the continued fiscal deduction until 2011 and the increase in the IVA (Spanish VAT) due in July 2011, now is the ideal time to buy.

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08.00 Bigger Breakfast with Rick Porter
11.00 Big Fat Lunch with Val Richardson
14.00 Alex in the Afternoon with Alex Mcrae
14.00 (Weds) Rock 'n Roll Years with Dion
17.00 Drivetime with Fred Dudman
20.00 (Fri) Battle of the Bars with Katy Kennedy
23.00 Into the Midnight Hour with Maggie Porter
02.00 Early Hours - Virtual Power
05.00 Daybreak - Virtual Power

Saturdays

08.00 Breakfast Show with Gordon King
12.00 The Golden Oldies with Katy Kennedy
15.00 Saturday Scene with Pete Quilty
18.00 Saturday Night with Saturday Power
21.00 Love Show with Bernie Simmons
23.00 In the Midnight Hour with Virtual Power
02.00 Early Hours - Virtual Power
05.00 Daybreak - Virtual Power

Sundays

08.00 Breakfast Show with Gordon King
12.00 Sunday Roast with Katy Kennedy
15.00 Love in the Afternoon with Pete Quilty
18.00 Ex-Pat Show with Spencer James
21.00 BBC Top of the Pops
22.00 The Love Show with Bernie Simmons
02.00 Early Hours - Virtual Power
05.00 Daybreak - Virtual Power

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