

## International Medical Centre

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# International health care

Feeling unwell is bad enough, but being ill in a foreign country when you don't have a full command of the language makes it so much worse, which is why Doctor Camelia Sasu's international patients appreciate not only her excellent medical skills, but also her multilingual abilities.

Daughter and granddaughter of doctors and surgeons, Doctor Sasu came to Tenerife after gaining considerable experience in hospitals, and decided to open her own clinic at Playa de la Arena in Santiago del Teide to offer a multilingual medical service to holidaymakers and residents. That was 20 years ago and thanks to her expertise and dedication the clinic continues to go from strength to strength.



Doctor Sasu speaks eight languages which allows her to offer an excellent service to her patients from all parts of the globe. Her clients are mainly British and German tourists, but she also treats many residents from Holland, Belgium, France, Italy, Portugal, Russia and East Europe. This is someone who learned her dedication to her patients and her first skills literally at her father's knee as she accompanied him on his various outpatient visits whilst still a child. Her love of her work is equalled by her love of the island which she lauds as having, "the best climate in the world".

The clinic's high quality service offers guaranteed satisfaction to all their patients based on dedication and professionalism. Doctor Sasu is only too aware how difficult it can be for for-

eigners who are hospitalised here, so her aim is to avoid that wherever possible. To that end the clinic offers a 24 hour emergency medical service and home or hotel visits as a matter of course. They also have their own laboratory for full blood spectrum tests etc., ultrasonic scanners, ECG tracers and full facilities for carrying out minor surgery on the spot.

The clinic can be found on the Avenida Marítima, Playa de la Arena in unit 25 of the Seguro El Sol commercial centre opposite the black sand beach. For more information, please call 609245024/671615813.

## Submarine Safari

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# The adventure of a lifetime

□ By Clio O'Flynn

Investigative journalism at the cutting edge. My apprentice, aged four, armed with her *SpongeBob SquarePants* annual and all the words of *Yellow Submarine*, is ready to dive.

We are in the very pleasant San Miguel Marina, a growing concern in this delightful corner of South Tenerife, on a wonderful sunny afternoon. Our vessel, the yellow submarine run by Submarine Safari, is docked off the marina, just beside the shop and office (which also boasts an upstairs shaded bar, great for relaxing even if you aren't taking a dive). The hour approaches, and we enter the very spacious and air conditioned sub, posing first for a top-deck photograph, with places for up to 44 passengers, each facing a large window, so every seat is a 'good' seat, and before we know it we have set off on the underwater trip of a lifetime.

Our guide first directs our attention to a safety video (similar to an aircraft, it's good to know what to do if...). However unlike an aircraft as we are not in a pres-

surised cabin there are few restrictions on who can travel – passengers must be over two years of age and a minimum level of mobility is required (to be able to get up and down the steps) - and unlike a scuba dive, there are no restrictions on flights after this immersion.

As we move out of the port into the sea the underwater residents swim by, some ignoring the odd shaped tube moving through their waters, some more curious. Inside the levels of interest are much higher, as my apprentice is beside herself with excitement, eyes glued to the windows in search of sharks and octopuses, but just as happy with the smaller denizens of the not-so-deep who are alongside.

There's also a camera on top of the sub feeding live images directly to the small TV monitors in front of each seat. Our well informed guide lets us know the names of the fish we are seeing – parrot fish, barracudas, damsel fish, trumpet fish, even a shoal of grunt fish and what's nice is that he doesn't talk too much, as people are happy to watch and chat among their own



groups – he explains to me that as they know in advance the nationalities of their passengers they adapt their chat/language choice to suit each group.

Visibility is good and as we're not above the waves there's no danger of any seasickness. And even though, in a sense, we're the ones in the goldfish bowl, it feels perfect natural to be almost sitting on the seabed. Now we approach one or two boat wrecks, and suddenly there's a diver outside, swimming with the sting-

rays, which seem totally at ease with her, following her around the submarine as she plays with them and feeds them, giving us the odd wave as she swims by. Cue even more shrieks of delight from young apprentice, who wants to go outside as well. Up until now we have been asked to remain seated, but as the sub is stationary for a few minutes we can get up and move around a bit. However as most of the action is taking place outside rather than inside, we are anxious to set off again, as

the sub turns and we begin our journey home. Given the excellent viewing windows all along both sides, everyone gets a chance to see the side of the ocean they missed on the way out. And as we approach the port once again, the strains of *Yellow Submarine* waft through the cabin, and voices young and old are happy to join in "...Sky of blue and sea of green, In our yellow submarine, all together now...." The submarine itself is spacious and airy with no sense of being cramped, and is

custom built for the tourism industry – one of only 15 large commercial submarines in the world.

While you're unlikely to find yourself on *The Hunt for Red October* or stumbling across the lost city of *Atlantis*, you will find lots to keep you and the family enthralled and amused on your underwater safari, a highly recommended trip with a diving certificate for everyone at the end to take home.

There are up to eight dives a day, duration one hour, Monday to Saturday, and trips can be booked directly through the office, open daily from 9am to 7pm, 922 736629. There are free coach transfers from various zones in the south and south west of the island (confirm pick up times when making your booking), and a number of day trips from the north which include a few hours in Playa de las Américas after the dive. Group bookings (with discounts) are also available, ask for details when booking.

