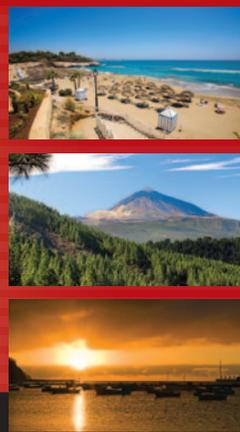


HOLIDAY GUIDE

Canary Islands' attractions for tourists and residents



WHERE TO VISIT



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UPCOMING EVENTS



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FICMEC

The environment in images

This year's FICMEC Canarian Environmental Films Festival will take place between May 27 and June 4 in Garachico. FICMEC focuses on the relationship between humans and the natural environment, both positive and detrimental, and offers commentaries and solutions via films, documentaries, workshops and complementary activities.

This will be the nineteenth year that the visual arts fest has taken place and, due to popular demand, the festival now covers a whopping nine day schedule. Subjects covered range from the challenges of sustainable development and conservation for the future, to tasteful tourism, the effects of industry on health, and the organic approach.

The main action will be located in the Ex-Convento de San Francisco in the town centre, and the square in front of said building. Environmental films on show include *Ecoislas* on May 30, which takes an in-depth and personal look into the lives of the Islands' residents and their relationship with the landscape, as



well as the Spanish premiere of a documentary called *The Canary Islands*. The Austrian made film will be shown on May 30 to coincide with the celebrations for Canaries Day. The story, directed by Michael Schlamberger with the participation of Canarian Pedro Felipe Acosta, highlights the incredible biodiversity of the Islands. Other activities include a two day course covering aspects of

organic and sustainable farming (on May 29 and 30), an area which is steadily growing in the Islands. Techniques, tools and tips for healthy and safe growing will be shared with the audiences, as well as demonstrations on using worms for maintaining soil quality, how to make compost, the best use of organic fertilisers, and marketing, both here and abroad.

Between May 26 and 28, Antonio Liébana, nature photographer extraordinaire, will share his expertise during a three day workshop, and from May 31 to June 2 the emphasis will be on environmental education for young and old alike via talks and workshops. May 30 is the day to visit the Sustainability Fair, which will not only offer a variety of organic products from around the Islands for sale, but

the producers will be there to discuss methods and their own approaches.

There will also be two days dedicated to the subject of volcanoes (May 31 and June 1) under the heading *Vulcanalia*. This part of the programme will include the showing of international films on the subject, as well as various workshops led by specialists in the field. Parallel activities include guided

walks through areas of volcanic interest, such as the one starting at 9.30am on May 31, which will be led by Carmen Romero, Professor of Geography at La Laguna University. There will also be various talks, including a discussion on 'Volcano tourism – risks and opportunities' on June 1, with participating experts including Clive Oppenheimer, Professor of Volcanology from the UK's Cambridge University.

On top of all this, the Ecoarea contest, which invites students to create items from recycled materials, will run for the second year, and the third conference on responsible videogame playing, entitled *Jugando en verde* (Green playing) will take place between the dates of May 25 and 27 and will include a demonstration of popular games with an environmental theme. And if anyone would like to get hands on and make a difference to the environment straight away, then they can join the coastal cleaning day on May 30, which will start at 10am in the town's harbour. See: www.ficmec.es for more information on further activities. ■

Terrace with sea view

DAILY: 18:00 / 23:00
SUNDAY: 13:00 / 23:00

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Reservation recommended.