



## CACTUS GARDEN REPAIRS

# Restored to its former glory

The water tank and lagoon at the beautiful Cactus Garden in Guatiza, Lanzarote, were recently modernised, with the koi carps and guppies living there temporarily moved during the renovation period.

Among other things, the area was cleared of organic and inorganic substances while at the same time the retaining walls of the small lake, Laguito de Jardín, were rebuilt. A new water filter system was installed which is designed to ensure long lasting clean water. The basin itself was redecorated with special paints and then refilled.

For Echedey Eugenio, the island's tourism councillor,



← The small pond is one of many features in the Cactus Garden

the work is part of the ambitious plan to bring this César Manrique creation to optimal conditions. On behalf of the Island Council, he praised the workers from the centre, saying: "Repairs were carried out with great attention to detail and respect for Manrique's legacy".

### Cactus Garden

The garden was the last creation by the Lanzarote artist and architect César Manrique, uniting nature and art. An old quarry was turned into an impressive cactus garden with more than 4,500 spec-

imens of 450 different species of cacti from across five continents.

Visually, the green of the cacti offers the perfect contrast to the blue sky and dark volcanic rock. In addition, they are surrounded by the island's largest cactus plantation, cultivated in the 19th century to breed the cochineal beetle. In between are massive volcanic monoliths and the last intact gofio mill on the island, which also dates back to the 19th century.

Around the pond there is plenty of life: in addition to fish there are numerous insects and colonies of small birds which live there. For more information visit: [www.cactlanzarote.com](http://www.cactlanzarote.com). ■

## AIRPORT FORCED TO CLOSE

# Renewed calls for second runway

During the last week of June, a Jet2 Airbus A330-300 arrived from Manchester and after touching down on the tarmac of the Reina Sofía airport, two of its tyres burst, making it impossible for the aircraft to leave the runway. Fortunately, none of the 320 passengers and 11 crew members onboard were injured in the incident.

Work to clear the only runway left the airport inoperative for around six hours. The Airbus had to be towed from



The Jet2 aircraft blocked the runway for six hours after the tyres burst

## VIOLENT ATTACK

# Cavemen on trial

The case of a British and a German citizen who seriously injured a woman at the end of March last year is currently being heard by the Santa Cruz court.

The men allegedly burned the victim's face with a kitchen blowtorch. The prosecutor is calling for a five year prison term for both defendants and compensation of €16,500 to be paid to the victim.

The incident took place on March 31, 2016, at 5pm. The woman had gone with the two men to a cave in Granadilla de Abona, where the British man lived, and they talked and drank together. According to the victim, the pair suddenly attacked her, pulling her by the hair so that she fell to her knees and then the Briton burned her face with a kitchen blowtorch.

Together, they dragged the woman out of the cave and threw stones at her face, some of them measuring 30 centimetres, before kicking her head and body. When the police arrived about half an hour later, the British man was still kicking and hitting her with the torch. The victim suffered numerous injuries, such as a fractured nose, first degree burns on her face, and second degree burns on her right hand. Her right cheek bone was broken, and her ear and scalp were slashed with a sharp object.

The victim spent 20 days in hospital and another 97 days at home recovering from the injuries. To this day she continues to suffer physical and psychological scars. She still has tormenting nightmares, and most importantly, she does not understand why the two men she considered friends suddenly attacked her. A specialist confirmed post-traumatic stress.

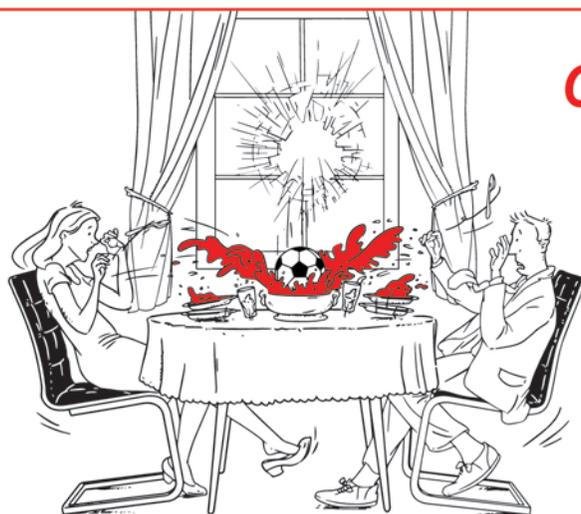
Following the incident, the British man tried to commit suicide which, in the opinion of a psychiatrist, does not necessarily mean that his cognitive capabilities have been impaired. The defence referred, among other things, to the two men's alcohol consumption at the time and demanded an acquittal or maximum prison sentence of three and a half years. The judgement is still pending. ■

the runway and then thoroughly cleaned. During this time, 33 flights had to be diverted, 25 of which landed in Gran Canaria, five at Tenerife's Los Rodeos airport, two in Lanzarote and two in Fuerteventura, not to mention numerous other passengers who suffered long delays. The airport was not able to resume operations until around 7.30pm that evening.

This incident has unsurprisingly revived the demand for a sec-

ond runway, especially as South Tenerife is one of the seven busiest airports in Spain.

In 2015, two tyres on a Norwegian aircraft burst on the runway shortly before take-off for Berlin. In this case, the airport was closed from 11am to 7.30pm. At the time, the mayors of the island's southern boroughs called for a second runway in order to guarantee full airport operations and the smooth departure and arrival of tourists. ■



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