

## BODY FOUND BY TF-1

## Puzzling death of British tourist

Police in the south of Tenerife are investigating the cause of the death of a 30 year old Briton who was found on abandoned ground next to the Los Cristianos junction of the TF-1 motorway on September 1.

Identified as Kevin D., the man had arrived on holiday in Tenerife on the last day of August with two friends. On their first night out they consumed various drugs and alcohol, and the two lost sight of their friend. The following afternoon just before 2pm, the man jumped into a Mitsubishi car at the San Eugenio shopping centre in Costa Adeje, taking advantage of the fact that the owner had left the keys in the ignition, leaving his wife in the passenger seat when the Briton jumped in and started to drive away. In panic, the woman opened the door, leaped out, and was almost run over. She was rescued by a Guardia Civil officer who happened to be in the area, and was given medical attention.

By this time the man had reached the TF-1, suffering from the usual lengthy traffic jams which he added to by crashing the car and dumping it. At first, he tried to steal another car but ran off when the woman driver started to panic and got out of her vehicle. He then hurdled the crash barrier, ran down a slope and disappeared. Later he was found dead on an abandoned site between the motorway and Los Cristianos.

There were no signs of violence so the cause of death has to be determined by an autopsy. The man was identified by his two friends and the wristband he wore from his holiday resort, where he had not even spent one night. His friends told police that he became violent and his personality completely changed after consuming too much alcohol and drugs the night before. ■

## EL HIERRO

## Divers encounter whale shark

Owner and diving instructor of Buceo La Restinga, Quique Vargas, was on a dive in the Mar de Las Calmas off the coast of El Hierro with a group of about 10 people when they encountered a whale shark.

Vargas explained: "Suddenly, we saw a huge specimen swimming in the direction of Restinga. Some of us were frightened, but later they were all happy to have seen this enormous animal. It was a unique experience".

Whale sharks can grow to a length of up to 12 metres and live in tropical and sub-tropical waters. Despite their immense size, they swim very fast but pose no threat to humans. Whale sharks are sexually mature for 10 to 30 years and can produce up to 300 younglings.

After this unique encounter, Quique added: "I have also met whale sharks in the Maldives and Galapagos Islands. This was a male and was 10 metres long. I have only seen such a large specimen in the



Photos: bucolarestinga.com

Galapagos and it was spectacular. About two years ago we were able to observe a whale shark in front of El Hierro but it wasn't as large. We met him several times, as he was in these waters for about two weeks".

When their oxygen bottles were nearly empty, they went back to shore to replenish their supplies and returned, but nothing could be seen of the seaward. Nevertheless, Quique is confident that there will be

↑ An encounter with a whale shark in the open sea was a breathtaking experience that the diver will never forget

→ Manta rays live in Canarian waters all year round and are quite common



further sightings in the coming days. The last visit by the whale shark was also in the waters around El Hierro for at least two weeks.

Shortly before the sighting, the International Whale Shark Day

was celebrated on August 30. The IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources) considered the whale shark as a threatened species in 2016 and placed it on the red list. ■

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