

CANARIAN DEMOGRAPHICS

## Fewer inhabitants in 23 boroughs

The Canary Islands have gained almost 350,000 inhabitants so far this century, a demographic growth that was accelerated in the years prior to the economic crisis, and which has continued and presents great territorial differences.

Thus, the boroughs located in the south east of the capital islands and those most intensely devoted to tourism have experienced notable increases in contrast with the decline that has taken place in 23 other boroughs.

The nuclei that have lost population are, for the most part, located in the north or in rural areas, although among them is also Santa Cruz de Tenerife, which is one of the ten Spanish provincial capitals that have led a demographic involution in these almost two first decades of the twenty-first century. This is evident in the official population figures resulting from the revision of the municipal census on January 1, 2018, published on January 2 by the National Institute of Statistics.

The boroughs that had less inhabitants at the beginning of last year than in 2001, the first year of the century, are, in addition to the capital of the province of Tenerife (which has fallen from 214,153 to 204.856 registered), Buenavista del Norte, Garachico, Los Silos, El Tanque and Vilaflor de Chasna in Tenerife, Agulo and Hermigua in La Gomera, Barlovento, Fuencaliente, Garafia, San Andrés and Sauces, Santa Cruz de La Palma, Tazacorte and Tijarafe in La Palma, Frontera in El Hierro, (although in this case the creation of the borough of El Pinar, which absorbed part of its population, must be taken into account) and Agaete, La Aldea, Artenara, Moya, Santa María de Guía, Tejeda and Valleseco in Gran Canaria.

At the other extreme, cases such as Adeje and Granadilla de Abona (Tenerife), La Oliva (Fuerteventura) or Yaiza (Lanzarote) stand out because their population volume has more than doubled in the first eighteen years of this century. ■



↑ San Andrés in La Palma is one of the boroughs which has fewer inhabitants than in 2001

THE BUFFOONS' SEASON IS JUST AROUND THE CORNER

# Carnival mermaids



Enjoy life as a mermaid

The fifth season - Carnival - is an exceptional time in the Canary Islands during which everything is subordinated to fun hustle and bustle.

Carnival is one of the highlights of the year and the Santa Cruz Carnival is not only one of the most famous in Europe but is also considered a Festival of International Tourist Interest. This year the festivities begin on the first of February with the theme 'Las profundidades marinas' (the depths of the sea). There is no question that mermaids and water sprites play an important role in this theme.

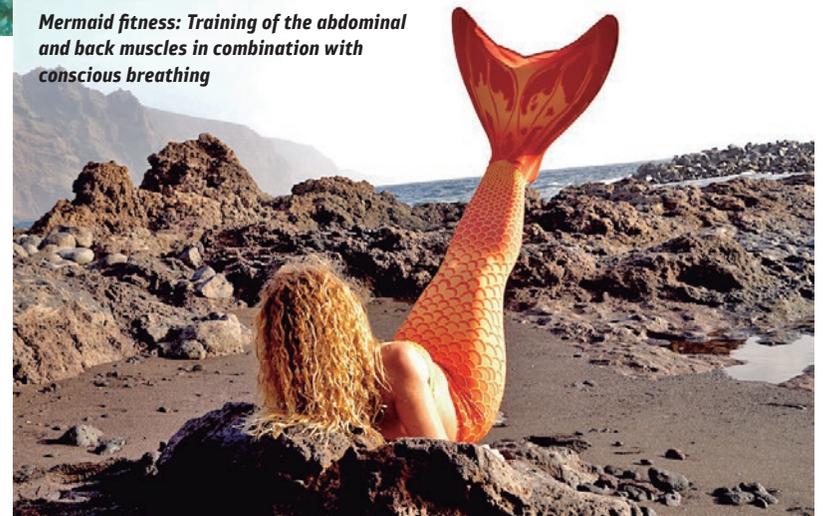
As everywhere, the Tenerife capital's Carnival is a humid and happy affair and is closely connected to the sponsor, Dorada brewery whose annual TV advertising spot has become somewhat of an icon. This year, the slot shows how famous actors and personalities

enter a brewery, which becomes the headquarters of the Carnival and in which the subtleties of this festival are worked out.

This year, Sirenas Canarias (the Mermaids of the Canary Islands) are

an important part of the festival as they have created an academy that works to protect the oceans. Those interested can be introduced to the topic in a playful way. Spending your free time as a mermaid becomes a special 'sport' that allows you to get to know the sea in a whole new way, training your buttocks, back muscles and even your breathing. It's

Mermaid fitness: Training of the abdominal and back muscles in combination with conscious breathing



no coincidence that mythologists associate mermaids with athletic and well-formed bodies. Susana Seuma and Alejandro Rodríguez are the initiators of this unique academy in the Canary Islands. The project not only provides for playful, didactic and sporting activities, but also sees itself as an enrichment to the tourism offer. They are also avail-

able for photos, performances, the organisation of events and group experiences in a separate area.

"Because of the theme, we simply have to be present at this festival, and even more so where our philosophy is reflected: unique and fun experiences in the sea with an equally unique academy that cheerfully introduces children, teenagers and adults to the subject of protecting the sea and ensures that the

mermaids' myth continues to inspire the imagination," explained representatives of Sirenas Canarias in a press release. After four years of working on the Spanish Peninsula, the academy has also been represented in Tenerife for two years. They work closely with the Mare Terra Fundación Mediterránea and Make a Wish foundations. ■



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