



Photo: Turismo Tenerife

## FIESTA DEL SANTÍSIMO CRISTO

# La Laguna's sacred September

The month of September will see a range of activities take place in La Laguna in celebration of the Fiesta del Santísimo Cristo.

In the year 1607, September 14 was declared a holy day in the borough in honour of the many miracles performed by Christ. Originally a solely religious act, the celebration soon

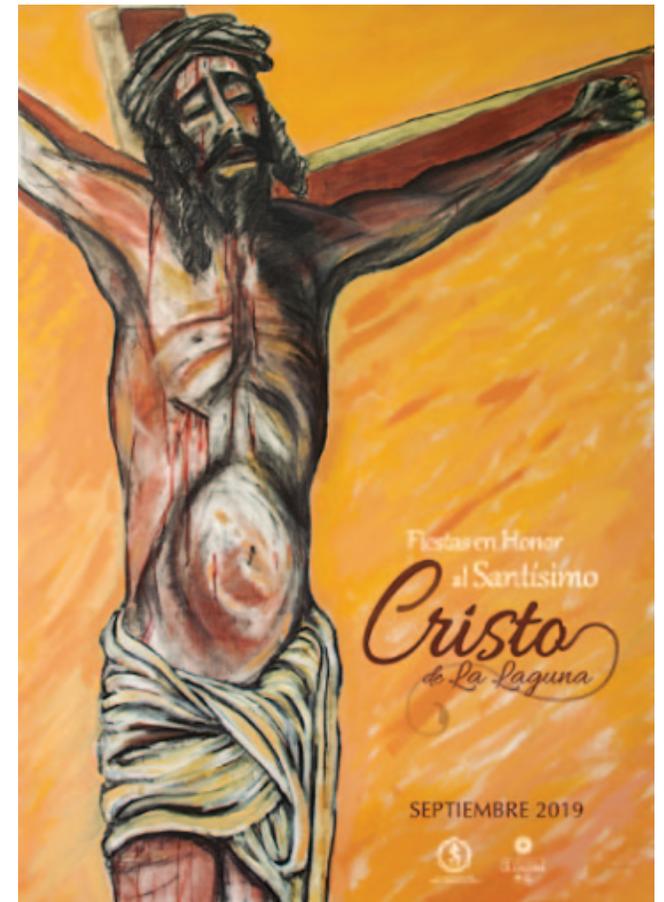
evolved into a range of cultural and creative festivities which to this day attract thousands of visitors from far and wide. The main religious aspects of the celebrations take place between September 9 and 14, and include various solemn processions and masses in honour of Christ. The last day is the most important of

these, and includes a procession starting from the Iglesia de la Catedral around midday, of the image of the 'Santísimo Cristo Crucificado' (The Most Holy Crucified Christ), a depiction in a gothic-flamenco style from the early 16th century. A night-time procession also takes place, around the Monjas Claras and Catalinas convents,

↑ The month-long celebrations are held in honour of Christ's many miracles

and the procession's return to the Plaza is the starting shot for the area's largest fireworks display of the year, from the El Risco area in La Montaña de San Roque.

A further procession takes place on the 21st, around the Plaza de San Francisco, which closes the celebrations for the year.



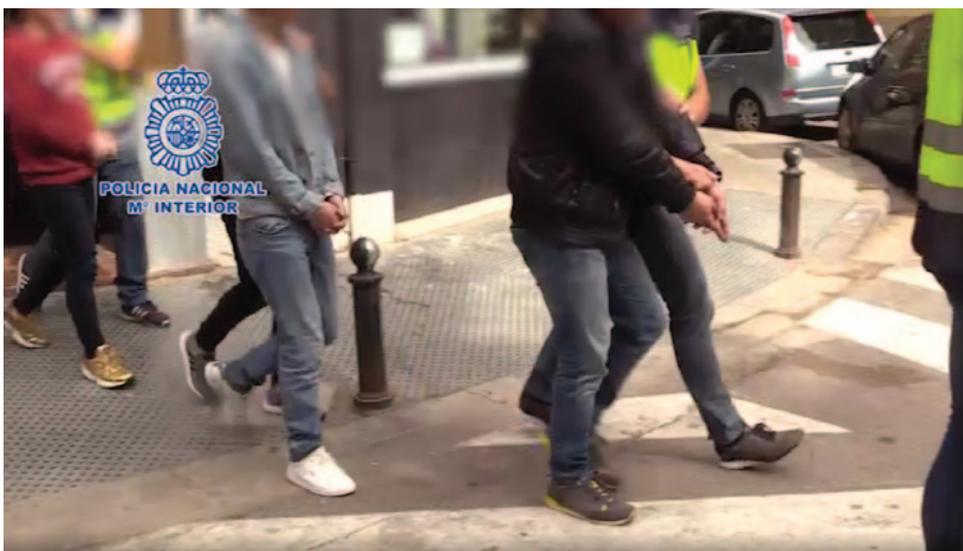
The accompanying festivities were originally organised and presided over by a local 'notable gentleman' who was elected every year. With the foundation of the Venerable Esclavitud religious order, in 1659, a commission was formed to take over this role until, in 1926, the local council began organising

the fiestas. Throughout the month there will be a number of activities, which will include live music, traditions and folklore, as well as various sporting events.

An update will be published on our website and facebook pages, or visit [www.aytolaguna.es](http://www.aytolaguna.es) for more information. ■

## SMUGGLING ACTIVITIES

# Human trafficking via Canarian airports



The National Police in Valencia have uncovered a criminal organisation that smuggled Chinese people into Britain with forged papers, using the airports of Gran Canaria, Tenerife, Fuerteventura, Palma de Mallorca and Barcelona for their activities.

At least 40 people, each paying €30,000 for entry, fell victim to the gang. A total of



↑ The Chinese people first had to wait a few days in an apartment until their papers were ready for their onward journey

↪ Three suspects have been arrested in Valencia

← Extensive passport and visa material for the production of forgeries was seized

three leaders of the organisation were arrested in Valencia after their activities had been observed by the National Police

in Valencia and Las Palmas de Gran Canaria.

The investigation was launched following statements from Chinese immigrants who were smuggled into Britain and Northern Ireland by their compatriots. Mostly they took direct flights from China to Valencia, and sometimes flew in via the Canaries or Balearic Islands to avoid attracting attention. In an

apartment in Valencia, they spent a few days while their forged documents were prepared. They were then put on a flight from Valencia or another airport to Great Britain or Ireland. For the entire operation, including flights, false documents, accommodation and food, the smuggling ring demanded €30,000. In order to issue the necessary papers, the gang had set up a small laboratory in a residential building in Valencia to forge passports. During a house search, 50 passports from various Asian countries such as Japan, Taiwan, China, South Korea, Singapore, Macao and Hong Kong were confiscated. In addition, 13 ID cards from the Republic of China, two ID cards from South Korea, nine blank visas from Nepal, 21 account cards from various banks, €660 and 3,698 yen in cash, various mobile phones, a tablet, laptop, printer and various tools for falsifying documents were seized. ■