

Escape the post Christmas 'winter blues' and join us for a week in Santa Cruz de Tenerife for some great food, relaxation and wonderful music.

£1845 per person sharing a twin or double room £2145 for sole use of a double room

Includes: return air travel, 7 nights 5* hotel with breakfast, three dinners with wines, three lunches, two concerts (top price stalls seating), all transfers in Tenerife and a full sightseeing programme as detailed.

We stay for seven nights at the beautifully restored 5* Grand Hotel Mencey, voted #1 hotel in Santa Cruz by Tripadvisor and set back from the 'Rambla' de Santa Cruz. The hotel is an oasis of calm and tranquility – ideal for a winter break – and has a wonderful swimming pool. Across the Rambla is the beautiful Parque Garcia Sanabria from which the mainly pedestrianised 'Calle' and 'Pasaje' wind through the historic centre of the capital.

All of our rooms are Deluxe Garden View category.

Santa Cruz, Capital of the Canary Islands, is very much the 'secret' Tenerife. 90% of guests arriving at the airport turn left and head for the concrete jungle of the south coast. Those few that head north are rewarded with a charming city that retains an 'old town' feel yet is full of life, excellent restaurants and plenty of shopping. The city has the old port area (which is now a mix of shops, cafes, galleries etc) and set behind the old town (in a semi-circle from the left side to the right side of town) is the Rambla of Santa Cruz. This was the avenue of the smart and aristocratic set high above the port and today is a mix of old money villas and home to the Grand Hotel Mencey.

Santa Cruz has it's own 'white sand' beach (imported from the Spanish Sahara!) with excellent fish restaurants just fifteen minutes from the centre of town on the local bus. The modern tram takes you all the way to the old capital of La Laguna which is a really lovely town and interesting to explore.

A marvel of modern Spain are the new concert halls and opera houses that have appeared since the turn of the millennium. Santiago Calatrava's magnificent 'Auditorio de Tenerife' opened in 2003. The Canary Islands Festival is well establised as one of the premiere classical music festivals of Europe and one of the few that takes place in the winter.

During our stay we will have two half day walking tours of Santa Cruz and La Laguna and two excursions by private coach, on one day visiting some of the beautiful gardens of the island and the second traversing the island to the moon-like Mount Teide National Park.

The musical programme:

Saturday 13th January

Novosibirsk Philharmonic Orchestra

César Álvarez, Conductor Spanish National Choir Polina Shamaeva – Mezzo Soprano Alexey Zelenkov –Baritone

Sergei Prokofiev Ivan the Terrible

Tonight is a rare opportunity to hear a complete performance of Ivan the Terrible Op. 116, the dramatic `canata' composed by Prokofiev between 1942-45 for Sergei Eisenstein's film and its sequel. The project was Prokofiev's second collaboration with Eisenstein, the first being the popular Aleksandr Nevskiy.

You can listen to the work here on YouTube https://youtu.be/gjyr2q0YRVs

Thursday 18th January Orquesta Sinfónica de Tenerife Guillermo Garcia Calvo, Conductor

Alexei Volodin, piano

Glinca Ruslán y Liudmila Overture Rachmaninov Piano Concerto No. 2 Op. 18 in C minor Copland Fanfare for a Common Man Bernstein Symphonic Dances (West Side Story) Born in Russia in 1977 Alexei Volodin is considered one of the 'greats' of his generation and is a regular guest artist at the world's greatest orchestras. He is acclaimed for his highly sensitive touch and technical brilliance.

Confirmed flight times – reserved seats, hot meal and 20kg baggage allowance

Friday 12th January Manchester – Tenerife 0945 – 1425 Jet2 Friday 19th January Tenerife – Manchester 1530 – 2015 Jet2

We had planned to fly with Monarch but have now managed to secure space with Jet2 from Manchester which have convenient flight times. Unfortunately the continued weakness of the Pound against the Euro and the demise of Monarch (which has pushed airfare up to almost twice the price of last year) have pushed prices up but we have tried to keep the costs as close to this year as possible and we hope you can still consider joining us.