

# Fuerteventura



The second-largest island in the archipelago (after Tenerife), Fuerteventura is also the closest of the Canaries to the African coast: Morocco's Cape Juby is just 100km away. There are striking similarities in the landscape, particularly in the houses with their North African-style flat roofs for collecting rainfall. Communities are sprawled across the plains like tossed dice, often with no discernable centre, and punctuated by cacti, scrub and goat farms. In other ways, Fuerteventura emulates its neighbour Lanzarote, only with more colours. The volcanoes resemble piles of saffron, chilli and coriander; surreal triangles of exotic spices.

Most visitors, however, are more interested in mastering the waves and the wind than contemplating the abstract aesthetics of its scenery. Fuerteventura has year-round sunshine and the biggest and best beaches in the Canaries. The Atlantic winds that once propelled hundreds of windmills here now serve as the power for world-class windsurfing and kite boarding.

Fuerteventura has its main tourist resorts at opposite ends of the island. At the northern tip is Corralejo, beloved of the British sun seekers, while deep down south lies Morro Jable, largely frequented by Germans, and a markedly staid place.

Locals are known as Majoreros, or Maxoreros, from the Guanche (the islands' original inhabitants) name for the northern kingdom of the island – Maxorata.

## HIGHLIGHTS

- Be a culture vulture and check out the cutting-edge modern art at La Oliva's **Casa de los Coroneles** (p106)
- Dine on catch-of-the-day seafood while gazing over the waves at pretty **Corralejo** (p106)
- Catch the waves at **Isla de Lobos** (p108), just one of the super-cool surfing spots here
- Kick off your shoes and do cartwheels in the soft, powdery sand at the **Parque Natural de Corralejo** (p108) sand dunes
- Be dazzled by the rare verdant green of the evocative valley location of lovely **Betancuria** (p101)



## ITINERARY 1

### BEST BEACHES

Fuerteventura is famous for its glorious beaches, the best of which are in the south of the island, where the endless stretches of sand resemble more the Caribbean than the Canaries. **Morro Jable** (1; p114) has a spectacular wide arc of sand, an excellent water-sports centre and a long promenade for dodging joggers. The Península de Jandía's top windsurfing beach is **Playa de Sotavento de Jandía** (2; p113) with its 22km of white sand and leeward winds; kite boarding is also taking flight here. **Costa Calma** (3; p113) and **Caleta de Fuste** (4; p103) have superb family beaches with golden sands, shallow waters and kids' activities (like camel rides), while in the north, **Corralejo** (5; p106) sports a small sandy beach at its centre and, south of town, blindingly white sand dunes where you can find secluded beaches and pretty rocky coves. Still in the north, head beyond the castle at **El Cotillo** (6; p111) to discover a wilder beach, complete with sculptures, seagulls and thundering surf.

0 — 10 km  
0 — 6 miles



## ITINERARY 2

### BE A GOOD SPORT

Fuerteventura is a superb destination for the sports enthusiast and, as a year-round destination, there is something to do in every season. Although catching the waves or sailing the breeze are the most famous sports here, there are less adrenaline-spiked activities available. Fuerteventura's peaceful but stark landscape offers some great walking opportunities, with oases, volcanic craters, abandoned haciendas and rugged coastlines available to the intrepid. The **Isla de Lobos (1; p108)** nature reserve is also excellent for walkers; turning right as you get off the ferry will take you on a circular tour of the island. There's also a climb up Caldera de la Montaña here – well worth the dizzying views.

Leaving behind those soggy muddy trails, mountain biking in Fuerteventura is a completely different experience. 'Cycling in the interior is a bit like cycling on the moon,' one enthusiast has heard remarking. Most resorts, including **Corralejo (2; p109)**, have bicycle rental outfits.

If you fancy swinging a golf club, Caleta de Fuste is home to the island's first and only PGA championship-rated golf course, the **Fuerteventura Golf Club (3; p104)**. A more unusual, if predictable, activity here (given the blustery climate) is kite flying. If you're in Corralejo in early November you may catch the three-day festival on the beach, when hundreds of colourful kites speckle the blue sky like a flock of brilliantly coloured butterflies.

Finally, if you are feeling seriously energetic, check out **Las Tres Islas (4; opposite)**, which kicks off in neighbouring Lanzarote and will have you swimming, climbing, cycling and windsurfing and lands you right on the Corralejo beach.



## HISTORY

The island was known to the Romans as Planaria, due to its flatness. What the Europeans came to dub Fuerteventura (Strong Adventure) was in fact divided into two tribal kingdoms separated by a low, 6km-long wall: Jandía, on the southern peninsula, as far north as La Pared; and Maxorata, which occupied the rest of the island.

In January 1405 Fuerteventura was the second island to fall to the initial wave of conquerors under Jean de Béthencourt. He established a permanent base, including a chapel, in the mountainous zone of what came to be known as Betancuria, with Santa María de Betancuria evolving as the island's capital. The choice of location was determined due to the natural water supply, while the terrain gave a measure of natural defence against attacks from Guanches and pirate raids.

New settlements spread slowly across the island and, in the 17th century, Europeans occupied El Coto, once the seat of the Guanche Maxorata kingdom. At this time, the Arias and Saavedra families took control of the *señorío* (the island government deputising for the Spanish crown). By the following century, however, officers of the island militia had established themselves as a rival power base in La Oliva. Los Coroneles (the Colonels) gradually took virtual control of the island's affairs, enriching themselves at the expense of both the *señores* and the hard-pressed peasantry.

The militia was disbanded in 1834 and in 1912 the island, along with others in the archipelago, was granted a degree of self-administration with the installation of the *cabildo* (local authority).

## INFORMATION

### Books & Maps

*Landscapes of Fuerteventura* by Noel Rochford provides ideas for drives and walks around the island. Good city and island maps are available from the tourist offices.

### Magazines

The free monthly magazine *Fuerteventura Gazette* can be found in tourist offices and contains lifestyle information. The monthly *Fuerteventura Magazine*, in Span-

ish, German and English, has current affairs and classifieds.

## ACCOMMODATION

Finding a place to stay in the coastal resorts can be problematic as many apartments and hotels are block-booked by tour operators.

If things look grim, head for Puerto del Rosario, where you should be able to find a room. Camp sites are few and far between; check [www.campinguia.com](http://www.campinguia.com) for a list. Plenty of people seem content to pitch a tent or plonk a caravan near the beaches, but this is illegal and you risk being moved on in the middle of the night.

To assist with advance booking, check out [www.haystack.lonelyplanet.com](http://www.haystack.lonelyplanet.com), [www.catalogorural.com](http://www.catalogorural.com) (in Spanish), [www.casas-rurales.info](http://www.casas-rurales.info) (in Spanish) and [www.ecoturismocanarias.com](http://www.ecoturismocanarias.com). The latter three specialise in *casas rurales* (rural accommodation).

Among the top recommended places to stay on the island is the brilliantly located budget choice Hotel Corralejo (p109), overlooking the beach; the rustic tranquillity of Hotel Rural Mahoh (p112), complete with stone-clad bedrooms; handsome and elegant Hotel Fuerteventura (p100); the lovely retreat feel of Casa Isaías (p103) and sumptuously luxurious Hotel Atlantis Duna Park (p110) with all its pampering extras.

## ACTIVITIES

The sea offers most of the action. From Caleta de Fuste, Morro Jable and Corralejo, you can both dive and windsurf. The waters off Corralejo are good for deep-sea fishing and the nearby curling waves draw in surfers. Kite boarding is gaining in popularity, too, thanks to regular wind gusts on the coast. Water-sports tuition and equipment rental are listed throughout the chapter.

The island has a good selection of walking options. Companies that offer guided walks include **Caminar** (☎ 928 53 50 10; Calle Tabaiaba 27, Villaverde) and **Sendifuer** (☎ 928 16 23 85; Calle Victor Carmona, Las Playitas, Tuineje). Lunch plus transport is included.

If this all sounds a tad tame, consider signing up for **Las Tres Islas** ([www.lastresislas.com](http://www.lastresislas.com)) annual event. Participants start off on neighbouring Lanzarote with a swim, a hike and a bicycle ride, before rowing, canoeing or even windsurfing to Corralejo and a grand finale party on the beach.

## FESTIVALS & EVENTS

### July–August

**Día de San Buenaventura** (14 July) Locals in Betancuria honour the patron saint in a fiesta dating from 1456.

**Windsurfing World Championship** Held at Playa de Sotavento de Jandía at the end of July and early August, this mega-event attracts windsurfers and kite boarders from around the world.

### September

**Nuestra Señora del Pino** (8 September) Antigua's local feast day.

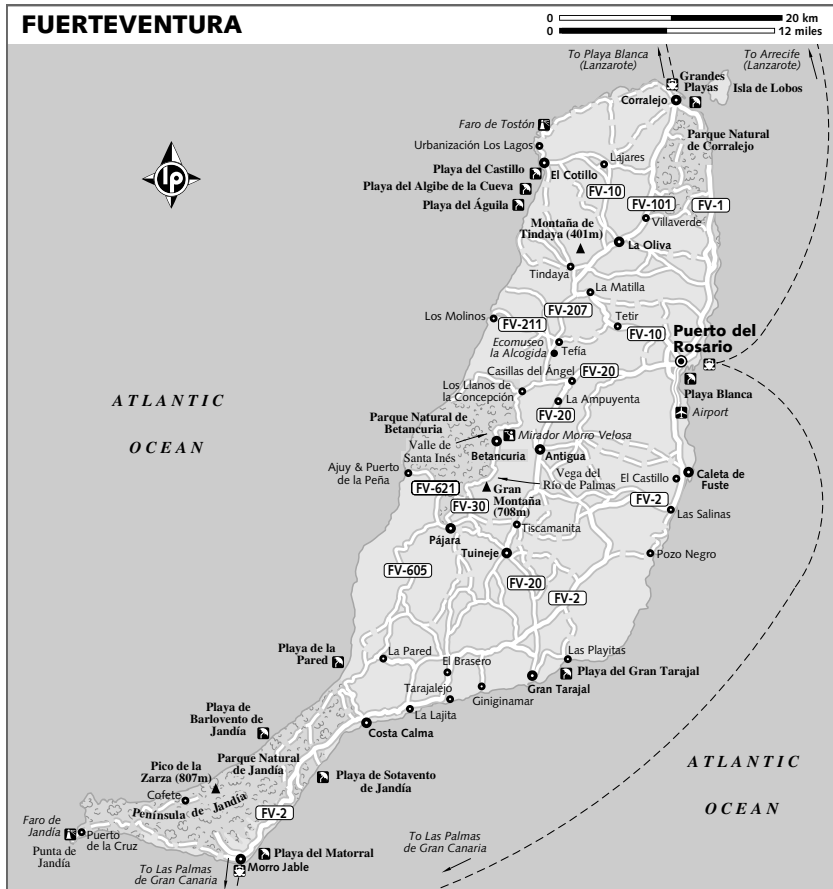
### October

**Fiesta de la Virgen del Rosario** (first Sunday of October) Puerto del Rosario dons its party threads to celebrate this festival honouring the capital's patron.

## FUERTEVENTURA FOR CHILDREN

The main attraction has to be the beaches, many of which have fine white sand and shallow waters that are safe for paddling tots. For a watery manmade adventure, the massive **Baku Water Park** (☎ 928 86 72 27; admission adult/under 12yr €18/12; 🕒 10am–7pm) in Corralejo has ten-pin bowling, crazy golf and a driving range, as well as wave pools and kamikaze-style slides and rides.

There are plenty of boat trips on offer throughout the resorts, which families may enjoy. At Puerto Castillo, Catamaran Excursions (p104) has a daily four-hour trip at 12.30pm. El Majorero (p109) and the Celia Cruz Catamaran (p109) do similar trips from Corralejo to the Isla de Lobos, where there



are some superb beaches or the possibility (for older children) of renting bikes and exploring the island via pedal power. For something different, you can head down to the watery depths with the submarine *Nautilus* (p104), or save a few euros and see a wider range of marine life at the El Brasero aquarium (p105).

If you don't object to zoos, Oasis Park (p105) has mammals, birds and sea life, plus shows and camel rides; the latter are also available at the Zoo Safari (p112).

## GETTING THERE & AWAY

### Air

**El Matorral airport** (☎ 928 86 05 00) is 6km south of Puerto del Rosario.

**Binter** (☎ 902 39 13 92; www.binternet.com) has 10 flights daily to Gran Canaria (€62, 40 minutes) and at least six daily to Tenerife Norte (€86, 50 minutes). **Islas Airways** (☎ 902 47 74 48; www.islasairways.com) is considerably cheaper and has five flights daily to Gran Canaria (€30, 30 minutes).

Otherwise, charter flights connect the island with mainland Spanish cities and several European cities, including London, Amsterdam, Munich and Frankfurt.

There is a **tourist office** (☎ 928 85 12 50; ☎ 9am-7pm Mon-Sat, 11am-4pm Sun) in the airport arrivals hall.

### Boat

Five weekly ferries link Puerto del Rosario and Las Palmas de Gran Canaria, while faster jetfoils speed between Morro Jable and Las Palmas. For details, see p116.

There are boats between Puerto del Rosario and Arrecife on Lanzarote, but you're better off taking one of the regular ferries that make the 25-minute crossing between Corralejo and Playa Blanca in Lanzarote's south (see p142).

## GETTING AROUND

Given the scant public transport, renting a car is recommended and a whole lot cheaper than catching taxis.

### To/From the Airport

You can get taxis (€8) or buses to Puerto del Rosario and, from there, buses to other parts of the island. For details on the airport bus, see p100.

Taxis from the airport to Corralejo cost around €35; to El Cotillo, around €37; to Costa Calma, around €55; and to the Jandia beaches, around €75.

### Bus

**Tiadhe** (☎ 928 85 09 51, 928 85 21 62; www.tiadhe.com) provides a limited service, with 17 routes operating around the island. The most frequent are bus 6 (€2.75, 40 minutes, every half-hour), which links Puerto del Rosario with Corralejo, and bus 3 (€1.20, 20 minutes, hourly), which runs from Caleta de Fuste via the airport to the south. Bus 5 (€2.20, 20 minutes, 11 daily) runs from Morro Jable to Costa Calma.

On other routes, check times carefully before setting out. A number have only one service daily, primarily to transport school children and workers to and from Puerto del Rosario.

If you intend to use the buses fairly frequently, it is worth investing in a **Tarjeta Dinero** (€12) discount card. Tell the driver your destination and he will endorse your card; it represents about a 30% saving on each trip.

Buses do not accept €20 or €50 notes, so it's a good idea to stock up on change if buying individual tickets.

### Car

You can belt around in taxis, but it soon becomes costly. It's far better to hire a car from one of the many rental offices at the airport.

## PUERTO DEL ROSARIO

pop 35,110

Puerto del Rosario, the island's capital – and the only place of consequence that exists for reasons other than tourism – is home to more than half the island's population. It's a relatively modern little port town that only really took off in the 19th century. If you fly to the island, or use the buses, you may well find yourself passing through. It's a strange city with no discernable centre, which makes finding shops, restaurants and bars a frustrating business.

The good news is that the town hall has ambitious plans to make the city more tourist-friendly with a revamp of the promenade and surrounding streets. In the absence of

## FOOD & DRINK

More than any other Canary island, Fuerteventura's traditional cuisine is simple and essentially the result of poverty. One of the keys remains the quality and freshness of the ingredients, particularly the seafood, although, sadly, with the increase in so-called international cuisine, the distinctive ping of the devil's tumble dryer can occasionally bear witness to preprepared dishes in the more touristy resorts.

Given that there are more goats than people on Fuerteventura (honest!), goat stew is very popular here. But it is the cheese that is the real winner. In fact, so renowned is the Majorero cheese that, just like a fine wine, it bears a *denominación de origen* (proof of origin) label, certifying that it is indeed from the island and the genuine product. It's the first Canary Island cheese to receive this accolade, and the first goat's cheese in Spain to bear the label.

At the heart of the process is the Majorero goat, a high-yielding hybrid of goat originally imported from the Spanish mainland, which can give as much as 750L of milk in one year. Whole cheeses weigh between one and six kilograms, but shop assistants will happily cut you a slice as thick or thin as you like; and you can usually taste before you buy. The cheese is ideally purchased young and soft, with a powdery white rind that becomes yellow with age. Cheeses that are to be stored for some time are often given a coating of oil, corn meal or paprika to preserve them.

Majorero is not easy to obtain outside Fuerteventura, so if you're a *queso* (cheese) fan, stock up before you leave – and perhaps add an extra slab for friends back home.

Unlike neighbouring Lanzarote, Fuerteventura is not known for its wine, though the island could soon be producing its own olive oil; the trees have recently been introduced here and an oil mill established.

Try the popular local tipple *ron miel*, a dark, syrupy rum with honey added, or stick to the freshly squeezed juices at the *zumerías* (juice bars).

any significant art museum, the city has also recently been graced by more than 100 sculptures by local and international artists. These are located throughout the capital and another positive sign that Puerto is trying to gild its somewhat tarnished image.

## HISTORY

Puerto del Rosario, once little more than a handful of fishermen's cottages, became the island's capital in 1860, due to its strategic position as a harbour.

Until 1956 it was known as Puerto de las Cabras, named after the goats for which it had long been a watering hole (before becoming the main departure point for their export in the form of chops). In an early rebranding exercise, it was renamed the more dignified Puerto del Rosario (Port of the Rosary).

When Spain pulled out of the Sahara in 1975, it sent about 5000 Legión Extranjera (Foreign Legion) troops to Fuerteventura to keep a watch on North Africa. The huge barracks in Puerto del Rosario are still in use, although troops now number less than 1000.

## ORIENTATION

The straggly city centre backs away from the port with the main street, Calle León y Castillo, being the artery that links the two. Running across this is Avenida Primero de Mayo, something of a commercial hub (don't get your hopes up though).

## INFORMATION

### Emergency

**Police station** (☎ 928 85 06 35; Calle Fernández Castañeyra 2)

### Medical Services

**Cruz Roja** (Red Cross; ☎ 928 85 13 76; Avenida Constitución 19) Near the tourist office.

**Hospital General** (☎ 928 53 17 99; Carretera al Aeropuerto s/n) On the highway towards the airport.

### Money

Banks with multilanguage ATMs line Avenida Primero de Mayo.

### Post

**Post office** (☎ 928 85 04 12; Calle 23 de Mayo 76)





original desk. You'll get a warm smile at the entrance, but if you're after information in anything other than Spanish, you're short on luck.

## SLEEPING

There are few good reasons for staying but if you have a hard time getting a room elsewhere on the island, you're likely to find something here.

### Budget

**Hotel Roquemar** (☎ 928 53 15 47; hotelroquemar@hotmail.com; Avenida Marítima s/n; s/d €30/40; ♿) Located on a busy corner across from the promenade, this 12-room hotel has been tastefully refurbished and is excellent value. The rooms are comfortable and bright, with fridges and sea views. Go for corner room No 103 with its two balconies.

**Hostal Tamasite** (☎ 928 85 02 80; fax 928 85 03 00; Calle León y Castillo 9; s/d from €35/45; ♿) The Tamasite is a well-situated, two-star *pensión* (guest-house) that was in the throes of being transformed into a chic boutique hotel when we visited. You may have to pay more than the listed prices; call first or be prepared to shift your credit card into overdrive.

### Midrange

**Hotel Fuerteventura** (☎ 928 85 11 50; Calle Playa Blanca 45; s/d €55/75; ♿ ♿ ♿) Previously a *parador* (state-run) hotel but now privately owned, this good-looking hotel overlooks Playa Blanca, 3km south of the city centre. Unfortunately, it's also right under the flight path for the nearby airport, which can mean earplugs on lie-in mornings. Still, the rooms have old-fashioned charm with glossy wooden floors and high ceilings. The effortlessly stylish restaurant (mains from €7) also has an excellent reputation.

**Hotel JM Puerto Rosario** (☎ 928 85 94 64; www.jmoteles.com; Avenida Ruperto González Negrín 9; s/d with breakfast €55/83; ♿ ♿) A solid choice, this corporate-style hotel comprises 88 rooms that are far more attractive than its looming modern exterior would suggest. Beds are big, bathrooms are plush and facilities are good. The public areas have wi-fi access.

## EATING

Eating out in Puerto del Rosario can be rewarding, with some good choices and modest prices. The **mercado** (market; Calle García Escámez s/n)

is a good place to pick up a wheel of *queso artesanal de cabra* (organic goat's cheese), costing around €9 a kilo.

**Artesanos del Gofio** (☎ 928 53 38 80; www.artesanosdelgofio.com; Calle Dr Fleming 7; biscuits from €1) The place to come for local gourmet goodies, including tasty chocolate *gofio* (a roasted mixture of wheat, maize or barley) biscuits.

**Mesón Las Brasas** (☎ 928 53 09 98; Calle Juan XXIII 68; mains €6.50-11) A family-friendly place, serving a fair range of unpretentious and tasty fish and meat dishes. The *menú del día* (set menu) is a €6 bargain.

**El Cangrejo Colorao** (☎ 928 85 84 77; Calle Juan Ramón Jiménez 2; mains €10-18) There's a pleasing old-fashioned elegance about this seafront restaurant with its bow-tied, white-tablecloth ambience. The menu is only in Spanish – always a good sign – and includes *cazuela de champiñones y jamon* (meat stew with mushrooms and ham) and *mejillones rellenos de cordero* (mussels filled with lamb). There is a €17 *menú del día*.

**La Manduka** (☎ 928 34 46 57; Calle León y Castillo 3; mains €15-20) Think of stepping into an Andy Warhol painting when you eat here. The dining rooms are all intense colours, large abstract paintings and dazzling tableware. Thankfully, the food rises to the challenge with an innovative menu that includes dishes like *solomillo de Ibérico con salsa de dátiles y sabrosa jardinera al sesámo* (fillet steak with a date sauce and fresh vegetables with sesame).

## DRINKING

Puerto del Rosario has a modest nightlife scene geared for the locals.

**Camelot** (Calle Ayose 6; ☎ 11pm-3am Mon-Sat) This bar has a medieval theme and a bank of music-video screens mixed in with DJs and disco. You can catch live music performances here, too, although the quality can be patchy.

**Coyote** (☎ 670 85 08 30; Calle León y Castilla 14; ☎ 9pm-3am Mon-Wed, to 5am Thu-Sat) Right next door to Camelot, this is an enticing little spot with a good list of cocktails, some live music and a boisterous weekend crowd post-midnight.

## GETTING THERE & AWAY To/From the Airport

Take bus 3 (see opposite). The trip to the airport takes 10 to 15 minutes and costs €0.90. A taxi will rack up about €7.

## Boat

**Acciona-Trasmediterránea** (☎ 928 85 00 95; www.trasmediterranea.com; Calle León y Castillo 58) ferries (€41, seven hours) leave from the *estación marítima* (ferry terminal) for Las Palmas de Gran Canaria at 1pm Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday from June to September.

**Naviera Armas** (☎ 928 85 00 32; www.navieraarmas.com) runs to Las Palmas (€41, 6½ hours) daily at midday. The office is just east of the port entrance.

## Bus

**Tiadhe** (☎ 928 85 09 51; www.tiadhe.com) buses leave from the main bus stop just past the corner of Avenida León y Castillo and Avenida Constitución. The following services operate from Puerto del Rosario:

**Bus 1 Morro Jable via Tuineje** (€8.50, two hours, at least 12 daily)

**Bus 2 Vega del Río de Palmas via Betancuria** (€2.70, 50 minutes, two daily Monday to Saturday)

**Bus 3 Caleta de Fuste via the airport** (€1, 20 minutes, at least 14 daily)

**Bus 6 Corralejo** (€2.70, 40 minutes, at least 18 daily)

**Bus 7 El Cotillo** (€3.50, 45 minutes, three daily)

**Bus 10 Morro Jable direct** (€8, 1½ hours, three daily Monday to Saturday)

## GETTING AROUND

### Bus

One municipal bus does the rounds of the city every hour. Catch it at the bus station (*Estación de Guaguas*).

### Taxi

If you need a **taxi** (☎ 928 85 00 59, 928 85 02 16), call or grab one from the two taxi ranks – one near Casa Museo de Unamuno, the other near the entrance to the port area.

## THE CENTRE

Central Fuerteventura offers the most geographically diverse landscape on this overwhelmingly desert-covered island. The soaring mountains of the Parque Natural de Betancuria are contrasted in the south by the wadi-style palm-tree oasis of Vega del Río de Palmas. The west and east coasts are characterised by rocky cliffs interspersed with small black pebble beaches and stuck-in-a-time-warp fishing hamlets. In contrast, the central copper-coloured plains around

Antigua are dotted with old windmills dating back a couple of centuries. If you're driving, it's the sort of landscape that makes you wish you had invested in that wide-angle camera lens.

## BETANCURIA

### pop 688

Wonderfully lush, this pretty hamlet is tucked into the protective folds of the basalt hills and is a patchwork of dry-stone walls, palm trees and simple whitewashed cottages. Lording over it all is a magnificent 17th-century church and courtyard

Jean de Béthencourt thought this the ideal spot to set up house in 1405, so he had living quarters and a chapel built. To this modest settlement he gave his own name, which, with time, was corrupted to Betancuria (or the Villa de Santa María de Betancuria, in the unpurged version). During the course of the 15th century, Franciscan friars moved in and expanded the town, which amazingly (given its size) remained the island's capital until 1834. The island's proximity to the North African coast made it easy prey for Moroccan and European pirates who, on numerous occasions, managed to defy Betancuria's natural mountain defences and sack it.

### Sights

If you approach from the north, look for the ruins of the island's first **monastery** on your left, built by the Franciscans.

The **Iglesia de Santa María** (☎ 928 87 80 03; Calle Alcalde Carmelo Silvera s/n; admission €1.50; ☎ 11am-4.20pm Mon-Sat) dates from 1620 and has a magnificent stone floor, wooden ceiling and elaborate baroque altar. Pirates destroyed its Gothic predecessor in 1593.

A short walk away is the **Museo de Arte Sacro** (☎ 928 87 80 03; Calle Alcalde Carmelo Silvera s/n; ☎ 10am-4.20pm Mon-Sat), containing a mixed bag of religious art, including paintings, gold and silverware. Admission is included with entry to the Iglesia de Santa María.

Of modest interest also is the **Casa Museo de Betancuria** (☎ 928 87 82 41; Calle Roberto Roldán s/n; admission €1; ☎ 10am-5pm Tue-Sat, 11am-2pm Sun), which houses a simple collection of Guanche artefacts, but was closed for restoration at the time of research. Across from the church, the **Museo Artesanía** (adult/under 10yr €5/3; ☎ 11am-4pm) is a museum and craft centre where you can see weavers and similar at work, taste the

local cheese, watch a 20-minute film about local culture and visit the small exhibition of antique agricultural and domestic implements and appliances. There is also a shop selling such goodies as the local *licor de hierbas* (herb liquor).

## Eating

**Casa Princess Arminda** (☎ 928 87 89 79; Calle Juan de Bethencourt 2; tapas €2.50-4) This bar, with another lovely terrace, has been in the same family since the 15th century and is named after a Guanche princess who died defending Gran Canaria. The atmosphere and tapas are suitably memorable.

**Casa de Santa María** (☎ 928 87 82 82; Plaza Santa María de Betancuria 1; mains €9-18; ☹ closed Sun night & Mon) Opposite the main portal of the church, this restaurant looks like it has been transplanted from Andalucía. The interior is set around several courtyards with bubbling fountains, plants and flowers. The menu includes all manner of goaty offerings – from roasted to fried cheese with apple chutney.

## Getting There & Away

Bus 2 (€2.30, 50 minutes) passes through here twice daily (except Sunday) on its way between Puerto del Rosario and Vega del Río de Palmas, a short distance south.

## AROUND BETANCURIA

A couple of kilometres north of Betancuria, there's a handy **lookout** (on both sides of the road) that explains the various mountain peaks that loom on the horizon. Further on, the **Mirador Morro Velosa** offers mesmerising views across the island's weird, disconsolate moonscape. If the barrier to the lookout is closed, the view is almost as spectacular at the col over which the FV-30 highway climbs before it twists its way north through Valle de Santa Inés, a hiccup of a village. Stop at the central **La Casa del Queso** (☎ 928 87 88 05) to pick up a chunk of *queso de cabra*; you can taste it first at the adjacent bar.

In the pretty **Casillas del Ángel** village, the petite **Iglesia de Santa Ana** contains an 18th-century wooden carving of St Anne.

For a superb meal, try **La Era** (☎ 928 53 81 80; Carretera General de Casillas del Ángel; mains €8-15) at the western end of the town. A long, low ochre building, the elegant dining room attracts business bods from all around with its menu of traditional, superbly prepared local dishes.

Heading south of Betancuria for Pájara, you soon hit the small oasis of **Vega del Río de Palmas**. As you proceed, the reason for the name becomes clear – the road follows the course of a near-dry watercourse still sufficiently wet below the surface to keep alive a stand of palms.

## ANTIGUA

pop 7000

This is one of the larger inland villages but it's a fairly dull place with not much to retain you, aside from a quick dip into the 18th-century **Nuestra Señora de Antigua** (☹ 10am-2pm). One of the island's oldest churches, it has a pretty pink-and-green painted altar.

Scarcely 1km north of here is the **Molino de Antigua** (☎ 928 87 80 41; adult/under 12yr €1.80/0.90; ☹ 10am-6pm Tue-Fri & Sun), a fully restored windmill with cacti garden, audiovisual display and a bar and restaurant. There is also a gift shop, with all proceeds going directly to the craftsmen and women, which makes a pleasant change.

Bus 1 (€1.80, 30 minutes) passes through here en route between Puerto del Rosario and Morro Jable.

## AROUND ANTIGUA

You'll require your own transport to access these small towns.

### La Ampuyenta

If it's open, the 17th-century **Ermita de San Pedro de Alcántara** merits a quick stop. The *ermita* (chapel) is surrounded by a stout protective wall built by the French from the Normandy area. Within, the walls of the nave are decorated with large, engagingly naive paintings, contrasting with the more sophisticated works embellishing the wooden altarpiece.

### Tiscamanita

pop 260

Visit this tiny hamlet, 9km south of Antigua, to see a working mill (and find out what a hard grind it all was). The **Windmill Interpretation Centre** (☎ 928 85 14 00; admission €1.80; ☹ 10am-6pm Mon-Sat) highlights a praiseworthy restoration project and all the information about windmills you could possibly want to know; there's a free guide in English. If there is wind, you can sit under the lovely pomegranate tree and try freshly ground *gofio*.

## DETOUR

If you have your own wheels, a 9km side trip from Pájara takes you northwest to **Ajuy** and contiguous **Puerto de la Peña**. A blink-and-you'll-miss-it fishing settlement, its black-sand beach makes a change from its illustrious golden neighbours to the south on the Península de Jandía. The locals and fishing boats take pride of place here, and the strand is fronted by a couple of simple seafood eateries serving up the day's catch.

There's a low-key coastal walking track heading right (north) as you face the water, leading for a few minutes along the windy rocks, with some lovely views.

## PÁJARA

pop 3100

What makes the 17th-century **Iglesia de Nuestra Señora de Regla** unique in the islands is the Aztec-inspired exterior with its animal motifs, and the simple retables behind the altar, which are more subdued than the baroque excesses of mainland Spain (stick a coin in the machine on the right at the entrance to light them up). They are an example of influences flowing back from Latin America – in this case, Mexico. Don't forget to look up; there's a magnificent carved wooden ceiling.

Across the road from the church is **Restaurante La Fondá** (☎ 928 16 16 25; Calle Nuestra Señora de Regla 25; mains €6.50-12.50), which has a beguiling rustic ambience, with stone walls and wooden ceilings as well as ropes of garlic, legs of ham and strings of chilli hanging from the ceiling. The food here is good, honest and hearty.

**ourpick Casa Isaitas** (☎ 928 16 14 02; www.casaisaitas.com; Calle Guize 7; s/d with breakfast €66/84) One of the loveliest *casas rurales* is run by two delightful women, Mercedes and Pilar. The lovingly restored 18th-century stone house has two plant-filled central courtyards, traditional wooden galleries and balconies and an outside barbecue complete with giant paella pan; evening meals are an optional extra. There are just four simply rustic rooms, a couple of which were part of the original house.

Bus 13 (€1.90, 30 minutes, daily at 12.45pm) runs between Pájara and Gran Tarajal then on to La Lajita, stopping at villages en route. There are no services to the north.

## AROUND PÁJARA

The drive directly north towards Betancuria is one of the most spectacular on the island, while the journey south towards Península de Jandía via La Pared is almost as attractive. Fuerteventura ranks as relatively flat when compared to Lanzarote and the other islands to the west, but you would never think so as you wend your way through this lonely and spectacularly harsh terrain.

## CALETA DE FUSTE

This smart well-landscaped resort, exudes an opulent southern-California feel, particularly around the sprawling Barceló mini-village, which fronts the main beach. Caleta is convenient for the airport and, if you're travelling with a young family, the wide arc of sand and shallow waters are ideal. However, if you are seeking somewhere intrinsically Canarian, then look elsewhere; this is yet another of Fuerteventura's purpose-developed tourist resorts, although, in all fairness, it is a relaxing place with some good hotels and restaurants.

## Information

The **tourist office** (☎ 928 16 32 86; Centro Comercial Castillo; ☹ 9am-3pm Mon-Fri) shares a space with the police station and is surprisingly sparse on information, given the popularity of the place.

## Sights & Activities

The squat, round tower known grandly as **El Castillo** has been turned into an appendage of the Barceló Club El Castillo bungalow complex. In front of here, the white sandy beach, complete with volleyball net and **camel rides** (30min ride €10), is ideal for families, although a poor relation compared to the rolling dunes and endless sands of Corralejo and Jandía. There are plans to extend the promenade, which will enhance the area, although the continuous development may do the exact opposite.

## DIVING & SNORKELLING

**Deep Blue** (☎ 928 16 37 12, 606 27 54 68; www.deep-blue-diving.com; orientation dive €18) is conveniently situated beside the port. For up to four dives, each dive costs €33, reducing to €21 for more than 12 dives. There are beginner courses for Professional Association of Diving Instructors (PADI) certification and a wide range of specialist courses,

including ones for children (€41). You can also go snorkelling with **Aqua Ventura** (☎ 630 16 76 92; adult/under 12yr €28/20), located adjacent to Deep Blue.

### SURFING & WINDSURFING

For a surf, head to the **Surf School** (☎ 620 84 64 15; www.fuerteventurasurfschool.com; 1-3-day courses €40-100), located behind the tourist office. On the far side of the main beach, in front of Los Pescadores restaurant, **Fanatic Fun Center** (☎ 10am-5pm) offers six-hour beginner courses for €95, including windsurfing equipment hire. Gear hire alone costs €30/50/170 per half-day/day/week.

### SAILING & SUBMARINING

From the port, **Catamaran Excursions** (☎ 928 16 35 14; Puerto Castillo; adult/under 12yr €50/25) sails daily at 12.30pm, returning at 4.30pm. The price includes lunch on board, the use of snorkelling equipment and a visit to the company's small oceanarium. With any luck (well, quite a bit, actually), you might catch sight of dolphins and whales.

**Nautilus** (adult/under 4yr/4-12yr €20/free/10), a small yellow submarine, sets out on the hour each day for a 45-minute dive.

### GOLF

Covering a vast 1.5 sq km, the **Fuerteventura Golf Club** (www.fuerteventuragolfclub.com; 18 holes €52) has top-wack facilities, including a pro shop and resident PGA professional. It was the venue for the 2004 Spanish Open.

### THALASSOTHERAPY

You can't miss the glass building behind the beach with its giant 'Thalasso' sign. At **Balneario Thalasso** (☎ 928 16 09 61; www.spabalnearia.com; Calle Savila 2; ☎ Jun-Sep), a relaxing massage with chocolate will cost you a lip-smacking €59, while an aromatic face massage will set you back just €24. Thalassotherapy is also available at the Barceló Club El Castillo (right).

### Sleeping

As in other resorts, most places here fill with tourists on all-in package deals.

**Aparthotel Castillo de Elba** (☎ 928 16 36 00; www.hoteleselba.com; Urbanacion Costa Antigua; studios/apt €55/63; ☎ ☎ ☎) Energetic souls will love this place with its tennis, squash and paddle courts, plus a golf course a couple

of kilometres away. The three-star apartments and studios are bright and attractive with pine furnishings and balconies (for recovery time). Low-season reductions are available.

**Barceló Club El Castillo** (☎ 928 16 31 00; www.barcelo.com; Avenida Castillo s/n; bungalows from €76; ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎) This franchise is so large it deserves its own postcode. The whole place has a sumptuous feel, with bougainvillea-draped bungalows, a Thalassotherapy centre and gardens fronting onto the beach.

### Eating

**Frasquita** (☎ 928 16 36 57; Playa de Caleta de Fuste; mains €7-10; ☎ closed Mon) This is one of the best restaurants on the island for fresh seafood, despite its very plain appearance with white plastic tables and chairs. Sit in the glassed-in dining room overlooking the beach rather than the front terrace, which mysteriously overlooks the car park out back.

**Puerto Castillo Restaurante** (☎ 928 53 19 45; Avenida Castillo s/n; mains €9-12; ☎ closed Sun) Beside the *castillo*, this 1st-floor restaurant has sea views from a vast terrace and an elegant ambience in the dining room. Try the mussels with green *mojo*, or red peppers with seafood for a memorable taste-bud treat.

**La Paella** (☎ 928 16 31 00; Caleta de Fuste; mains €9.50-17) This beach-side restaurant has comfortable wicker armchairs and real cosmopolitan character. The menu includes fried chicken with dates, leek and prawn pie and a delicious cheese platter with fig puree. It's part of Barceló (what isn't?) but has distinctive, individual flair.

### AROUND CALETA DE FUSTE

Just south of Caleta, in Las Salinas, is the **Museo de la Sal** (Salt Museum; ☎ 928 17 49 26; adult/under 12yr €5/free; ☎ 10am-6pm Tue-Sat; ☎) with audiovisual displays that explain the history of salt and demonstrate how it is extracted from the sea. A few kilometres south of here, follow the signs to **Pozo Negro**, which will take you past palm plantations. This relatively unspoilt fishing village has two popular seafood restaurants, including **Los Pescadores** (☎ 928 17 46 53; mains €7), which dishes up excellent fish dishes and has a terrace on the beach. Pozo Negro is popular with windsurfers, but bring your own gear.

## THE SOUTHEAST

### GINIGINAMAR & TARAJALEJO

These two quiet fishing hamlets go about their business largely undisturbed by tourists, though Tarajalejo, with a couple of hotels and apartment blocks at its southern limit, is under siege: a four-star Bahia Playa hotel was under construction when we visited. Their small, grey beaches are nothing spectacular but reasonably uncrowded. Stop for a drink at the simple Tofio Chiringuito, with its straw umbrellas on the beach at Tarajalejo. This is a popular spot for windsurfers.

Just west of the FV-2 highway outside Tarajalejo, El Brasero has a tiny **aquarium** (☎ 928 87 20 70; adult/under 12yr €4.50/2.30; 🕒 10am-7pm) with around 120 species of fish. There is also a restaurant and bar. Adjacent is the **Centro Hípica** (☎ 699 24 46 23; per hr €20) for horse riding and trekking.

**Camping El Brasero** (☎ 928 16 10 01; fax 928 16 10 28; camp site per person/tent €8/3; 🚻) is also here with reasonable shady sites, two small swimming pools and even a modest gym. There are discounts for stays over 15 days.

Bus 1 (€5.20, one hour 20 minutes, hourly) between Puerto del Rosario and Morro Jable stops at Tarajalejo but not in Giniginamar.

### LA LAJITA

This little fishing village presents yet another black-sand and pebble beach and cove with colourful fishing boats and an unspoiled waterfront. However, stretching all the way to the highway is a sprawl of unimaginative apartment blocks. At its southern exit is one of the island's largest theme parks: at **Oasis Park** (☎ 928 16 11 35; Carretera General de Jandía s/n; adult/under 11yr €18/9; 🕒 9am-6pm) you can wander around the little zoo, populated by monkeys, exotic birds and other caged unfortunates, with various shows, including sea lions, birds of prey and parrots. You can also join a 35-minute camel trek (adult/child €8/4). If plant life is more your thing, visit the park's botanical garden, with more than 2300 types of cacti.

Bus 1 (€5.20, one hour 20 minutes, hourly) stops at the highway exit to town, from where it's a short walk south to the complex.

## THE NORTH

### ROAD TO LA OLIVA

The FV-10 highway shoots westwards away from Puerto del Rosario into the interior where ochre-coloured soil and distant volcanoes create a barren, otherworldly landscape.

### LOCAL VOICES

The following couple are the grandparents of a family friend and it was a privilege to have a glimpse into the hardships of their world.

Pedro Cabrero Curbelo (85) and his wife, Magdalena (84), were both born on Fuerteventura and lived through the island's endemic poverty before the arrival of tourism. 'There was no electricity or mains water until 1979 and this town (Giniginamar) only had four houses and a church,' explains Pedro.

'We had a *pozo* (well) but the water was very salty. In the old days a lot of people left for Venezuela to make their fortunes, because life was so hard here and the land supplied little food. I went to work in the southern Sahara in the sulphate mines for several years and when I returned, I married. It was still hard; there was only one doctor on the whole island. We lost two children and, if there was a death in the village, we had to carry the deceased over our shoulders to the cemetery, as there were virtually no surfaced roads.

'We started rearing goats to make cheese that was sold door to door. It was the only way to make a living here.'

Today the farm is thriving with around 600 goats and a flock of sheep. According to daughter Theresa, her mother is still up at 7am every morning to look after the goats. The milk is collected daily for transport to a cheese-making factory.

'Do you like cheese?' I ask innocently.

'No!' Pedro and Magdalena answer in unison, before bursting into gales of laughter.

Beyond crossing the ridge that forms the island's spine, it passes through the sleepy hamlets of **Tetir** and **La Matilla**. The tiny 1902 chapel in the latter is a good example of the simple bucolic buildings of the Canaries – functional, relatively unadorned and aesthetically pleasing.

About 7km south of La Matilla, along the FV-207, and 1km beyond the village of Tefia, is the **Ecomuseo la Alcogida** (☎ 928 85 14 00; adult/under 12yr €4.50/free; 🕒 10am-6pm Tue-Sat), a restored agricultural hamlet complete with furnished houses, outbuildings and domestic animals (though the chained-up dogs have a troubling un-eco feel). Overall, it's an interesting glimpse into the tough rural life of the not-too-distant past, with local artisans working in some of the settlement's buildings making lace and wicker baskets. There's a gift shop and an optional audio commentary in English (€3).

Follow the road out of Tefia and swing right (west) on the FV-211 for **Los Molinos**. On the way you can't miss the old windmill used to grind cereals for the production of *gofio*, sitting squat across from a distinctive white-domed observatory. Los Molinos itself is little more than a few simple houses overlooking a small, grey, stony beach with cliff trails to the east and plenty of goats, geese and stray cats. If you do stop here, make a point of having a seafood lunch at **Restaurante Casa Pon** (mains €6-10; 🕒 11am-6pm) while gazing over Atlantic breakers.

**Tindaya** is a sprawling village where much of the island's Majorero goat cheese is produced, although you wouldn't know it; there are no high-street delis selling the cheese here (in fact, there's no high street!). See the boxed text on p98 for more information on this renowned cheese.

Bus 7 from Puerto del Rosario to El Cotillo passes through all but Tefia and Casa de los Molinos three times daily. Bus 2 (€1.25, 20 minutes, twice daily), between Puerto del Rosario and Vega del Rio de Palmas, passes by Tefia. There are no buses to Los Molinos.

## LA OLIVA

pop 2300

One-time capital of the island, in fact if not in name, La Oliva still bears a trace or two of grander days. The weighty bell tower of the 18th-century **Iglesia de Nuestra Señora de la Can-**

**delaria** is the town's focal point of sorts, with its black volcanic bulk contrasting sharply with the bleached-white walls of the church itself. To the south, the 18th-century **Casa de los Coroneles**, (☎ 928 86 19 04; admission free; 🕒 10am-2pm & 4.30-7pm Tue-Sun) looks more like a child's toy fort than a simple *casa* (house). In fact, its name means House of the Colonels and it has an interesting history: from the early 1700s, the officers who once presided here virtually controlled the affairs of the island. Amassing power and wealth, they so exploited the peasant class that, in 1834, Madrid, faced with repeated bloody mutinies on the island, disbanded the militia.

The building has been aesthetically restored, retaining its traditional central patio and wooden galleries, and opened in November 2006 as a space for displaying world-class modern art. Temporary exhibitions include audiovisual installations, as well as paintings and photography. Adjacent to the *casa*, the perfect cone of the volcano is an example of nature's art as opposed to human's.

Another highlight here is the **Centro de Arte Canario** (☎ 928 37 12 66; www.centrodeartecanario.com; admission €4; 🕒 10.30am-2pm Mon-Sat) with its garden of sculptures, and galleries containing works by such Canarian artists as César Manrique and Alberto Agullo. There are also temporary exhibitions and paintings by owner Manuel Delgado Camino. To find the gallery, follow the signs from the centre of town.

About 250m north of the church, on the road to El Cotillo, is the **Casa Cilla Museo del Grano** (admission adult/under 12yr €1.20/free; 🕒 9.30am-5.30pm Tue-Fri & Sun), a small museum devoted to grain – both its production and the harsh life of the farming cycle in general.

Bus 7 (€1.90, 35 minutes) between Puerto del Rosario and El Cotillo passes through three times daily.

## CORRALEJO

pop 12,000

Your opinion of this place will depend wholly upon where you are standing. The former fishing village near the harbour and main beach still has charm, despite the tourists, with narrow, uneven streets, good seafood restaurants and even a fisherman's cottage or two. Venture inland a couple of blocks and you find the predictable could-be-anywhere-resort with Slow Boat buffets,





## DETOUR

The bare, 4.4-sq-km **Isla de Lobos** takes its name from the *lobos marinos* (sea wolves) that lived there. They were, in fact, *focas monje* (monk seals), which have since disappeared thanks to the hungry crew of French explorer de la Salle, which ate them to stave off starvation in the early 15th century.

You can go on an excursion to the islet from Corralejo. Once you've disembarked there's little to do but go for a short walk, order lunch at the quay-side *chiringuito* (kiosk) – reserve when you arrive if you intend to lunch there – and head for the pleasant little beach.

It's a popular bird-watching destination and there are hammerhead sharks in the waters around the island. Surfers often carve up the mean breaks when the waves are pumping.

The cheapest and fastest way to get there is on the **Isla de Lobos ferry** (adult/child return €15/7.50). Departing Corralejo at 10am, it leaves the island at 4pm. A minicruise is another option; see opposite.

fish and chips and a grid system of streets. It could be worse: the buildings are low-rise and you can still find the occasional local Spanish bar.

What makes Corralejo, however, are the blindingly white sand dunes to the south of town, sweeping back into gentle sugar-loaf rolls from the sea and fabulous broad sandy beaches. Protected as a nature park, no one can build on or near them...for now, that is. Unfortunately, a couple of monolithic concrete eyesores from the Riu hotel chain managed to get here before the regulation was in place.

## Orientation

Corralejo's east is bordered by its small passenger harbour, which is the oldest part of town. The streets of the new, modern part of town are easy to navigate, while the main surfing beaches are accessible by taxi.

## Information

### EMERGENCY

**Police station** (☎ 928 86 61 07; Paseo Atlántico s/n)

### INTERNET ACCESS

**Oceana** (Avenida Nuestra Señora del Carmen 14; per 30min €2.70; ☎ 10am-11pm)

### MEDICAL SERVICES

**Centro de Salud** (☎ 928 86 61 43; Avenida Juan Carlos I) Next to the main bus station.

**Clínica Médica Brisamar** (☎ 928 53 64 02; Avenida Nuestra Señora del Carmen; ☎ 24hr) One of several private clinics geared towards tourists.

### POST

**Post office** (☎ 928 53 50 55; Calle Isaac Peral 55)

## TOURIST INFORMATION

**Tourist office** (☎ 928 86 62 35; www.corralejo.grandesplayas.com; Avenida Marítimo 2; ☎ 8am-3pm Mon-Fri) Located on the seafront near the harbour with shelves full of brochures.

## Sights & Activities

### PARQUE NATURAL DE CORRALEJO

The beach dunes of this protected **nature park** stretch along the east coast for about 10km from Corralejo. It can get breezy here, hence the popularity with windsurfers and kite boarders. The locals have applied their ingenuity to the sand-sticking-to-the-suntan-lotion problem by erecting little fortresses of loose stones atop shrub-covered sandy knolls to protect sun-worshippers from the wind. The area is free to enter, and sun lounges and umbrellas are available for hire in front of the luxury hotels.

### DIVING & SNORKELLING

**Dive Center Corralejo** (☎ 928 53 59 06; www.dive.centrorralejo.com; Calle Nuestra Señora del Pino 22; dives from €29), is a respected dive operator, operating since 1979. Located just back from the waterfront, you can take the plunge with a beginner course. It also rents out equipment and can accommodate disabled divers with an advanced booking.

You can go snorkelling on the Isla de Lobos with **Fuerte Snorkelling** (☎ 680 85 61 22; www.fuerte.services.com; Paseo Marítimo Bristol s/n; adult/under 12yr €35/30), visiting two sites with a maximum of eight people per excursion.

### WINDSURFING & KITE BOARDING

Conditions along much of the coast and in the straits between Corralejo and Lanzarote – the

Estrecho de la Bocaina – are ideal for both windsurfing and kite boarding. The **Ventura Surf Center** (☎ 928 86 62 95; www.ventura-surf.com; Calle Fragata s/n; 1½hr course from €45, gear hire per hr from €23) is one of several in the area that cater for beginners. The centre is on the beach at the end of the street.

Out at Grandes Playas, **Flag Beach Windsurf Center** (☎ 928 86 63 89; www.flagbeach.com; Calle General Linares 31) has beginner windsurfing courses for €120 for three days and windsurf hire from €25 per hour. The staff are also excellent kite boarding instructors, with an introductory two-day course costing €220. Check it out also for accommodation arrangements.

## SURFING

Corralejo is a justifiably popular base for surfers, with phrases like ‘the Hawaii of Spain’ commonly bandied about. **Matador Surf School** (☎ 928 86 73 07; www.matadorsurfschool.com; Calle Palangre 4; 3-day course €120; ☎ 10am–noon & 6–8pm Mon–Sat) offers courses, including equipment and insurance plus transport to the waves.

**Flag Beach Windsurf Center** (☎ 928 86 63 89; www.flagbeach.com; Calle General Linares 31) also rents out boards (from €12 per day) and boogie boards (from €10 per day), plus it has a great beginner course for €45.

## BOAT TRIPS

Three-hour minicruises aboard **El Majorero** (☎ 619 30 79 49; Estacion Maritimo; adult/under 12yr €18/9) allow a couple of hours on the Isla de Lobos (see the boxed text, opposite). They leave at 10am and noon. Alternatively, simply use the boat to get across to the islet (adult/child return €15/7.50). The last boat back leaves at 4pm. Buy your tickets from the kiosk at the port.

The **Celia Cruz Catamaran** (☎ 928 86 64 99; Estacion Maritimo; adult/under 12yr return €15/7.50) sails to the Isla de Lobos daily at 10am, noon and 3.30pm.

## FISHING

You can sign up for deep-sea-fishing trips at the port with **Siña Maria 111** (☎ 617 78 22 49; angler/spectator €60/50). Trips take place between 8am and 1.30pm Monday to Saturday, and the skipper will cook your catch for lunch and keep the beer flowing.

## CYCLING

**Vulcano Biking** (☎ 928 53 57 06; Calle Acorazado España 10; per day/3 days/week €6/15/30; ☎ closed Sun) rents

bikes. For guided excursions contact the **Bike Center** (☎ 928 53 53 62; www.extreme-animals.com; Calle Las Dunas s/n; 4hr trip €29; ☎ 10am–5pm).

## Sleeping

It can be a real hassle finding somewhere to stay in Corralejo. Without wheels it can be worse, as a lot of the apartments are strung out along the beach south of town. Still more of a pain, many deal only with tour operators. So if you don't come on a package, be prepared to move on to, say, Puerto del Rosario until you can organise something in one of the resorts.

## BUDGET

**Hotel Corralejo** (☎ 928 53 52 46; Calle Colón 12; s/d/t €30/35/40) A one-star seaside bargain right in the heart of town with pleasant, albeit small, rooms washed in ochre and with bathrooms; go for one with a balcony and the five-star views overlooking the delightful small beach. It's a mite shabby but everything works and several rooms overlook the town beach.

## MIDRANGE

**Apartamentos Corralejo Beach** (☎ 928 88 63 15; www.corralejobeach.com; Avenida Nuestra Señora del Carmen 3; studios €54, apt €60–75; ☎) These studios and apartments in between the old and new parts of town were in the throes of being updated during research. That said, they are well worth checking out. The accommodation is centred around a pool and there is a host of activities on offer, with gym, sauna, squash and mini-golf available. Discounts of 20% are available for stays of a week or longer.

**Fuente Park** (☎ 928 53 53 10; www.fuentepark.com; Calle Anguila 1; 2-person apt from €75; ☎ ☎ ☎) Well located just off the main *avenida*, within strolling distance of the old harbour and beach, this place has superb facilities and a veritable five-star feel. There are colourful landscaped gardens, two pools, satellite TV and wi-fi in the lobby. The whitewashed apartments are modern and attractive with balconies and separate kitchens.

## TOP END

**Hesperia Bristol Playa** (☎ 928 86 70 20; www.hesperia-bristolplaya.com; Urbanización Lago de Bristol 1; apt €83; ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎ ☎) Surrounded by bougainvillea, hibiscus and palms, this aparthotel is a green oasis of luxury and style. The slick, modern apartments are set around three swimming pools, with a handy supermarket

for self-catering. There is a miniclub to keep the kiddies happy.

**Hotel Atlantis Duna Park** (☎ 928 53 61 51; www.atlantishotels.com; Calle Red 1; s & d €90-162; P ♿ ♿ ♿) The quality is up there with the best of them at this centrally located hotel. The rooms are large and comfortable with terracotta tiles, shiny marble bathrooms and large balconies overlooking the two palm-fringed pools. There is satellite TV, wi-fi access and tennis courts, plus a gym and health club offering all the usual pampering delights like spa, massage and sauna.

## Eating

The pedestrian area around the town's small port is home to plenty of restaurants with outside terraces for ultimate people-watching potential.

**Café de Viena** (Calle Juan de Austria 27) Possibly the best place in town for breakfast. Choose between Spanish, German, English or vegetarian – with all the trimmings and freshly squeezed orange juice.

**La Factoría** (☎ 928 53 57 26; Avenida Marítimo 9; mains €6-9; V) Situated right on the beach in the old harbour, the owner is from Bologna, so knows a thing or two about pasta, which is freshly made daily and delicious. The pizzas are similarly good with thin, crispy bases and tasty toppings – *mama* would definitely approve.

**El Andaluz** (Calle La Ballena 5; mains €9-16; ☹ closed Sun & Mon; V) The chef-owner is from Córdoba – and it shows. The menu includes *salmorejo* (thick, gazpacho-style soup) and *gambas al ajillo* (shrimps in garlic sauce). Vegetarians are catered to (rare in Andalucía!) with a tasty leek pie with vegetables.

**Poco Loco** (☎ 928 86 66 62; Avenida Nuestra Señora del Carmen 16; mains €10-14) You can expect a good grilling at this Argentinean-style steak house with its T-bone steaks, lamb chops and – good heavens – vegetarian lasagne! The orange-and-black interior is a mite macho, however, while the mountain stag's head looks suitably benign.

**La Cabaña Asturiana** (Avenida Marítimo 3; mains €12-14) This restaurant has a superb position on the seafront with an attractive chunky wood furnished interior. The menu here offers something different: traditional Asturian cuisine with dishes like Asturian stew, rabbit or sausages in cider and tuna-stuffed onions. Tastier than they sound – promise!

## Drinking

Finding a drink in Corralejo doesn't pose a problem. Bars take up much of the **Centro Comercial Atlántico** (Avenida Nuestra Señora del Carmen) as well as the custard-yellow shopping centre further down the road, on the corner of Calle Anguila.

**Dublíner** (☎ 928 86 66 35; Centro Comercial Atlántico, Avenida Nuestra Señora del Carmen; ☹ 9pm-2am) An English-run Irish bar with live music nightly, including '60s music, rock and blues. If you are not ready for cocoa when it closes, you can shimmy over to the Mafasca Buddha club across the way.

**our pick Waikiki** (Calle Aristides Hernández Morán 11; ☹ 10am-11.30pm) An excellent place to party, where a mix of surfers, party animals, families and friends gather in a hibiscus-fringed beach-side setting to scoff pizza (€5 to €6), sip cocktails and even indulge in a Caribbean dance lesson (10.30pm Tuesday and Thursday). There is late-night music and the piña colodas are sublime.

**Rock Island Bar** (☎ 928 53 53 46; www.rockislandbar.com; Calle Crucero Baleares s/n; ☹ 7.30pm-late) Over the last 17 years, Mandy and musician husband Gary have made this bar one of the most popular in town. There is acoustic music nightly, played to a predominantly expat crowd.

**Antiguo Café del Puerto** (Calle Ballena 10; tapas €1.50-4.20) A classy place with rag-washed walls and some tasty tapas. It's a great choice for a drink and a snack without being deafened by Euro-cheese music.

**Café Latino** (Calle Ballena; cocktails €5; ☹ closed Wed afternoon) For coffee, ice cream, a cocktail or snack, this place on the waterfront has a French Riviera feel with its stripy umbrellas and classy look.

## Shopping

**No Work Team** (☎ 928 53 51 11; Avenida Nuestra Señora del Carmen 46; ☹ 10am-2pm & 5-8pm Mon-Sat) One local surf-wear label to check out is No Work Team. In its shop you'll find good-quality, comfy duds for men, women and children, with an unmistakable surfing feel.

**Market** (cnr Calle Gran Canaria & Avenida Nuestra Señora del Carmen; ☹ 9am-1pm Mon & Fri) Rather tame local market that is heavier on African arts and crafts than it is on Canarian specialities.

## Getting There & Away

### BOAT

**Fred Olsen** (☎ 902 53 50 90; www.fredolsen.es) ferries leave seven times daily for Playa Blanca

(adult/child/12 to 26 years/car €21/10/14/27, 35 minutes) in Lanzarote. You can buy tickets at the port. Otherwise, hop onto one of the **Naviera Armas** (☎ 928 54 21 13; www.navieraarmas.com) boats (adult/child/12 to 26 years/car €16/8/13/18, six or seven daily).

At the Lanzarote end, Fred Olsen puts on a free connecting bus as far as Puerto del Carmen for its 9am and 5pm services. The 9am run continues to Lanzarote's airport. This free bus also operates in the other direction (see p142).

## BUS

The bus station is located on Avenida Juan Carlos I. Bus 6 (€2.75, 40 minutes) runs regularly from the bus station to Puerto del Rosario.

Bus 8 (€2.50, 40 minutes, 13 daily) heads west to El Cotillo via La Oliva.

## CAR & MOTORCYCLE

There's a string of car-rental companies near the Centro Comercial Atlántico on Avenida Nuestro Señora del Carmen. **Cicar** (☎ 928 82 29 00; www.cicar.com) has an office right at the commercial centre's entrance and good prices, with an economy car from around €100 for three days.

If you want just two motorised wheels, stop by the originally named **Rent A Bike Club** (☎ 928 86 62 33; Avenida Juan Carlos I 21; ☎ 9am-1pm & 5-8pm Mon-Sat, 9am-1pm Sun), opposite the bus station. You can rent scooters and motorcycles from €35 and €60 per day respectively, with full insurance.

## Getting Around

### TAXI

Call ☎ 928 86 61 08 or ☎ 928 53 74 41 for a taxi. A trip from the town centre to the main beaches will cost about €6. There's a convenient taxi rank near the Centro Comercial Atlántico.

## EL COTILLO

pop 4400

This former fishing village has real character; it's a bit scruffy in places, but that's all part of the charm. Unfortunately, the cranes have arrived – and not the winged variety. At least the development continues to be low-rise and, particularly around Las Lagos, the architecture is more imaginative than most. Head for the *muelle* (harbour), the most atmospheric

part of town, and continue north to El Cotillo's only veritable sight: tubby **Castillo del Tostón** (☎ 9am-noon & 1-4pm Mon-Fri, 9am-1pm Sat & 9am-3pm Sun), which is not really a castle, more a Martello tower. There's a sight-and-sound exhibit, a display of arsenal and you can climb to the top for sweeping views of the surf beach with its bizarre clump of sculptures by French artist Kadir Attia.

Once the seat of power of the tribal chiefs of Maxorata (the northern kingdom of Guanche Fuerteventura), El Cotillo has been largely ignored since the conquest. The exceptions to the rule were cut-throat pirates who occasionally sought to land here, and the slowly growing invasion of less-violent sun seekers who prize the area's unaffected peacefulness.

## Activities

### DIVING

The friendly and supremely helpful staff at **Dive Inn** (☎ 928 86 82 63; Calle Felix de Vera Guerra s/n; single dive €35) will take you to all the best spots for scuba diving (courses and equipment hire available) and can help out with tips about the surrounding area. Snorkelling gear is available for those who prefer to float on the water's surface, and there's also a nifty snorkelling course available (€25).

### SURFING

Experienced surfers should make for a spot known as Bubbles, which is not as innocuous as it sounds. Waves break over reef and rocks; you can pick out the casualties on the streets of El Cotillo and Corralejo during the surfing season. To get here, you'll need your own transport. If you need to hire gear, including surfboards, body boards and wetsuits, visit the **Cycle & Surf Shop** (☎ 610 31 69 86; Calle Guillermo Gutierrez s/n; surfboards per day €12.50, body boards per day €7.50, wetsuits per day €5; ☎ 10am-2pm & 5-7pm), a friendly little shop beside the Last Resort bar. It also rents out bicycles (per day €10).

### Shopping

Stop by the **Clean Ocean Project** (www.cleanoceanproject.org; 11 Calle del Muelle de Pescadores) with its cool surf wear in soft greens and blues. The business donates a percentage of all profits to beach-cleaning days and anti-pollution awareness. There are branches in Menorca and Barcelona; check the website for more info about this cool ecofriendly company.

## Sleeping

There are several central places to stay in El Cotillo.

**ourpick La Gaviota** (☎ /fax 928 53 85 67; www.la-gaviota.de; studios €37, d from €37) This laid-back, neohippy place, which flies the Jolly Roger, has been lovingly created by a German couple; Ralf made most of the furniture and has scavenged ruins for old doors and the like. Every apartment is different, including one with a bedroom built into a cave. The result is very special, but worth is out so book in advance. It's a shame about the construction going on next door, but the views out to sea are unaffected and sublime.

**Hotel Maria Hierro** (☎ 928 53 85 98; hotelmariquita.hierro@wanadoo.es; Calle Maria Hierro s/n; s/d with breakfast €38/54; P ♻️ 🚰) Located on a square near the harbour, this pleasant hotel has impressive public areas with a glass atrium, rooftop swimming pool and wall of glistening copper-coloured tiles. The rooms are a slight letdown in the originality stakes, but sufficiently comfortable and spacious.

**Apartmentos Juan Benítez** (☎ 629 17 63 48; www.apartmentosjbenitez.com; Calle La Caleta 4-6; 2-person apt €50; 🚰) This jaunty and colourful block has well-equipped modular apartments built around a central pool. All apartments have sea views and satellite TV.

## Eating

**Restaurante La Vaca Azul** (☎ 928 53 86 85; mains €6-12; ☒ closed Tue; V) Enjoys prime position overlooking the pebbly beach, although the surreal rooftop cow (floodlit in lurid blue at night) has the best spot. The menu includes paella, vegetarian kebabs and mixed fish grill (minimum two people). The place doubles as a gallery for local photographers and artists.

**ourpick Restaurante Fusion** (☎ 687 20 88 40; Calle Santiago Apostol 7; mains €7.50) Enjoys a good, central location with a solid traditional menu, outside tables and a pleasant indoor dining space with a quirky wall display of ancient nails. Kick-start your appetite with a dish of *ropa vieja* (literally, 'old clothes'), made with beef, peppers and chickpeas from a peasant recipe. Grilled tuna, garlic with octopus and grilled aubergine slices with goat's cheese and honey are similar culinary winners.

**Aguayre** (Calle La Caleta 5; mains €7.50; V) This is a trendy Tex Mex-cum-Italian-cum-vegetarian restaurant. Come here with an appetite and tuck into one of the piled-high salads, Cali-

fornia wraps or a sizzling volcano pizza with chilli, mushrooms and hot peppers.

**Heaven** (Calle 23 de Abril de 1973 50; ☎ 9.30am-2am Wed-Mon) Come here for your HP sauce fix. Fish and chips, kebabs and chicken tikka are also on the menu, plus Guinness on tap. The name says it all: this place is heaven for deprived Brits.

**Azzurro** (☎ 928 17 53 60; Carretera Al Faro; mains €12; ☒ closed Mon) The restaurant is located near the lighthouse in the Los Lagos part of town with its shallow pools and scrubby desert setting. At this place overlooking the beach, with a pretty peach-painted interior, the menu includes fish fillet in lemon and basil and a tasty pasta dish with mushrooms and prawns in a nest of parmesan cheese.

## Getting There & Away

Bus 7 (€3.60, 45 minutes) for Puerto del Rosario leaves daily at 6.45am, noon and 5pm. Bus 8 (€2.50, 40 minutes, 13 daily) leaves for Corralejo.

## AROUND EL COTILLO

Located 1.5km northwest of the village of Lajares and 12km from Corralejo, **Zoo Safari** (☎ 928 86 80 06; ☒ 10am-5pm Mon-Sat) offers half-hour camel rides (adult/child €6/3) and a 1½-hour trip into the caldera of the long-extinct Calderón Hondo volcano (adult/child €15/7.80). The latter trip departs from Zoo Safari at noon and 2pm Monday to Saturday.

The nearby town of **Villaverde** is nothing special, although the surrounding wide plains are colourfully impressive.

**ourpick Hotel Rural Mahoh** (☎ 928 86 80 50; www.mahoh.com; Sitio de Juan Bello; s €61-77, d €96-144, tr €162-180; P 🚰) is stunning, if you fancy sticking around. Set in an early-19th-century stone-and-wood building, it's surrounded by a stunning cacti garden. Mahoh means 'My Land, My Country' and is also the name of a local environmental group set up by hotel owners Tinín and Zaragoza Martínez. There are nine romantic bedrooms decorated with antiques and warm colours, plus the modern conveniences of ADSL and a wi-fi zone. That said, the cockerel, which is part of a small farmyard with goats, will serve as your morning alarm. The attached restaurant (mains €8 to €10, closed Tuesday) is reason enough to stay, although it's also possible to just drop in for a filling Canarian meal. There's live traditional music on Saturday nights.

## PENÍNSULA DE JANDÍA

Most of the Península de Jandía is protected by its status as the Parque Natural de Jandía. The southwest is a canvas of craggy hills and bald plains leading to cliffs west of Morro Jable. Much of the rest of the peninsula is made up of dunes, scrub and beaches.

Somewhere along this peninsula, it is said, German submarine crews used to hole up occasionally during WWII. You think these beaches are paradise now? Just imagine them with not a single tourist, not one little apartment block; only you and your mates from the U-boat!

According to other stories, Nazi officials passed through here after the war to pick up false papers before heading on to South America. One version of the story even has hordes of Nazi gold buried hereabouts – so bring your bucket and spade.

### COSTA CALMA

Costa Calma, about 25km northeast of Morro Jable, is a confusing muddle of one-way streets interspersed with apartments, commercial centres (at least eight!) and the occasional hotel. The long and sandy beach is magnificent, but the whole place lacks soul or anything historic; its lifeline being the (mostly) German tourists.

### Activities

If catching the breeze with a sail and a board appeals, **Fanatic Fun Centre** (☎ 928 53 59 99; www.fanatic-surf.com; ☎ 9.30am-6pm summer, 10am-5pm winter) on the beach runs windsurfing courses (from €40 per hour) and also rents equipment (from €15 per hour). English and German are spoken.

### Sleeping

The majority of apartments and hotels here cater to German package tourists. If you want to stay in one of the larger, resort-style complexes, contact www.sbhoteles.es.

**H10 Playa Esmeralda** (☎ 928 87 53 53; www.h10.es; Punta del Roquito 2; s/d with breakfast €71/92;

**La Pared** (☎ 928 54 90 30; mains from €8) specialises in fresh fish and seafood paella. The restaurant also runs an adjacent swimming-pool complex, complete with kiddie slides, which is free for diners.

## MORRO JABLE

pop 9040

More staid than its northern counterpart, Corralejo (even if you wanted roast beef and Yorkshire pud you'd be hard pushed to find it), Morro Jable is almost exclusively German. The beach is the main attraction, stretching for around 2km from the older part of town and fronted by low-rise, immaculately landscaped apartments and hotels. Back from the beach, the charm palls somewhat with a dual carriageway lined with commercial centres and hotels.

### Orientation

Approaching Morro Jable from the north, you'll arrive via Avenida Saladar. The older town centre, up the hill, is a maze of narrow, steep streets with limited parking.

## Information

### EMERGENCY

**Police station** (☎ 928 54 10 22; Calle Laurel)

### INTERNET ACCESS

**Cosmo Office** (☎ 928 54 50 67; Cosmo Centro Comercial, Avenida Saladar; per hr €4; ☎ 9am-1pm & 5-10pm Mon-Fri, 5-10pm Sun) Offers speedy connection.

### MEDICAL SERVICES

**Centro Medico Jandia** (☎ 928 54 15 43; Cosmo Centro Comercial, Avenida Saladar; ☎ 24hr) A multilingual medical clinic.

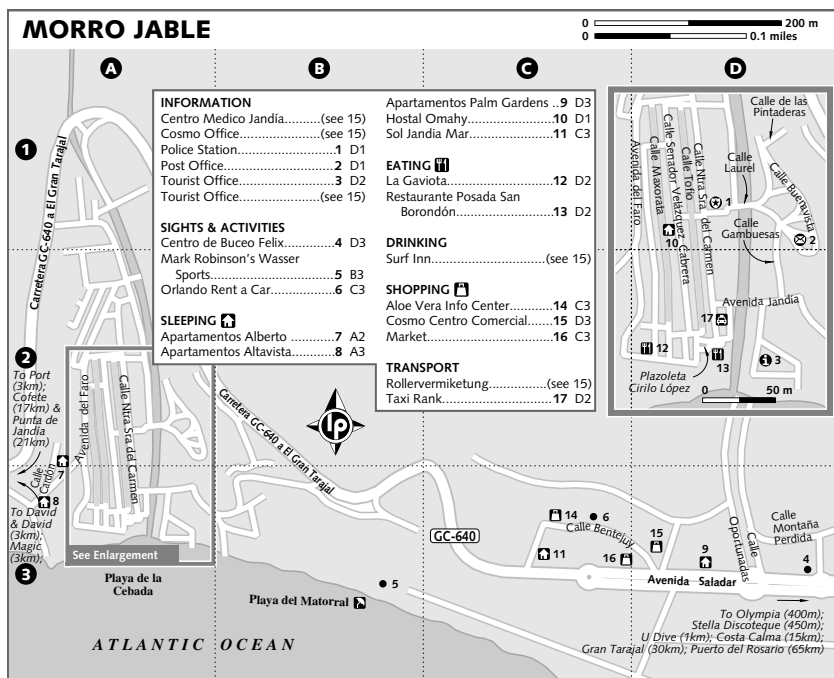
### POST

**Post office** (☎ 928 54 03 73; Calle Gambuesas)

### TOURIST INFORMATION

**Tourist office** (☎ 928 54 07 76; turismo@plya.dejandia.com; Cosmo Centro Comercial, Avenida Saladar; ☎ 8am-3pm Mon-Fri) Lots of brochures and helpful staff.

**Tourist office** (☎ 928 16 64 08; Calle San Juan s/n; ☎ 8am-3pm Mon-Fri) Smaller office in the old town.



## Sights & Activities

### BEACHES

The magnificent **Playa del Matorral**, stretching eastwards for over 4km from Morro Jable, is great for indulging in a variety of water sports, churning a pedalo or just collapsing on the sand. The beach rarely gets crowded, but for true solitude head for the beaches 7km further east, although they are only accessible with some kind of transport.

### DIVING

Divers can explore the sea bottom with **U Dive** (☎ 629 10 51 91; Hotel Occidental Gran Fuerteventura, Urbanización Esquinzo Butihondo s/n; initiation dive €25), which offers daily dives with small groups in 12 diving spots, as well as dive safaris, PADI courses at all levels and free try-dives in a swimming pool.

If you speak German, check out the **Centro de Buceo Felix** (☎ 928 54 14 18; www.tauchen-fuerteventura.de; Avenida del Sakvadir 27; 1hr dive €26), which organises daily dives at 1pm.

### WINDSURFING

The newest place in town is **Mark Robinson's Wasser Sports** (www.robinson.de; 10-12hr beginner course €167, board rental per hr €20), part of the luxurious Robinson's resort, situated on Playa del Matorral.

### BOAT TRIPS

**Magic** (☎ 928 15 02 48; 5hr cruise adult/under 12yr €54/28) operates a couple of smart catamarans out of the port. Sailing at 10am or 10.30am (also at 4pm from May to October), cruises include a barbecue lunch and allow plenty of time for swimming and snorkelling.

**David & David** (☎ 928 87 61 68; info@david-david.net) organises sport fishing (per person €90) and sea excursions for nudists (no smirking please) for €70 per person.

### CYCLING

**Orlando Rent a Car** (☎ 928 54 00 65; Apartamentos El Matorral bajo, Avenida Jandía; per day €8) is conveniently located near the Cosmo Centro Comercial and rents out bikes for one day or longer, including insurance.

## Sleeping

### BUDGET

**Hostal Omahy** (☎ 928 54 12 54; Calle Maxorata 47; d €30) Rooms here have a threadbare appear-

ance but are clean and comfortable enough if all you are after is a cheap sleep.

**Apartamentos Altavista** (☎ 928 54 01 64; Calle Abubilla 8; 1-/2-person apt €40/50) Easy to find (but not so easy to park) beside the church in the old town; you can't miss the multicoloured exterior. The apartments are large and modern and most have sea views.

### MIDRANGE

**Sol Jandia Mar** (☎ 902 14 44 44; www.solmelia.com; Avenida Jandía s/n; d €48; (P) ♿ ♻️ 🚿 🚰) Part of the Melia hotel chain, and providing excellent value with spacious, modern apartments, brightly furnished with dark-blue fabrics and wood fittings. The gardens surround a pool and are colourfully landscaped; there is a miniclub for tots.

**Apartamentos Alberto** (☎ 928 54 51 09; Avenida del Faro 4; studios €40-48, 2-/4-person apt €50/65; (P)) Located in a quiet spot in the old town, these apartments have a sunny Mediterranean look with their white stucco and colourful hibiscus. Apartments include kitchenette, sitting room and a terrace. Go for a sea view if you can, or hang out in the pretty rooftop garden.

**Apartamentos Palm Gardens** (☎ 928 54 10 00; fax 928 54 10 40; Avenida Saladar s/n; 2-/4-person apt €65/80; ♿) Cascading like a ziggurat down the hillside, this huge apartment complex has airy, attractive apartments with small kitchenettes, satellite TV and terraces. If you are tired of sand in your swimsuit, there's an inviting freshwater pool.

## Eating

You can get the usual bland international cuisine and fast food at innumerable places among the apartments, condos and shopping centres along Avenida Saladar. Head into the older part of town for seafood and more authentic choices.

**Restaurante Posada San Borondón** (☎ 928 54 14 28; Plazoleta Cirilo López 1; mains €7.50-18) Somewhere a little more interesting, and offering a variety of Spanish food, is this restaurant where the grilled sole touched our soul. It's easy to find, right next to the steamship exterior, complete with portholes and funnels, of Bar Barco.

**La Gaviota** (☎ 928 54 20 97; Calle Tomas Grau s/n; mains €8-12) One of the better restaurants on this seaside strip. Go for a plate of *mojo* potatoes as a starter, followed by a plate of freshly grilled sardines.



## Drinking

The main nightlife action is along the beachfront part of the resort. A cluster of pubs is concentrated in the Cosmo Centro Comercial.

**Surf Inn** (☎ 928 54 22 72; Cosmo Centro Comercial; ☎ 7pm-3am Mon-Sat) This place is aimed at a younger late-night crowd who like to check out surfing and snowboarding videos in between quaffing cocktails.

**Olympia** (☎ 928 16 60 12; Centro Comercial Playa Paradiso, Avenida Saladar s/n; ☎ 10am-1am) With comfortable wicker furniture, a central bar and picture windows overlooking the seafront, this place is perfect for post-dinner cocktails; the music is pretty chilled out, as well.

You could also head for **Stella Discoteque** (Avenida Saladar s/n), 450m further on – look for the twin bronze lions and you are nearly there.

## Shopping

**Cosmo Centro Comercial** (Avenida Saladar) This large centre has plenty of shops selling tax-free goodies.

There's a small Thursday **market** (Avenida Saladar; ☎ 9am-1.30pm) in a car park due west of the tourist office. With most stalls run by Moroccans, Africans and German dropouts, you'll be lucky to find anything that smacks particularly of the Canaries. The **Aloe Vera Info Center** (☎ 928 16 63 29; aloe-vera-canarias@web.de; Avenida Jandía s/n) can tell you everything you ever wanted to know about this healing species of cacti.

## Getting There & Away TO/FROM THE AIRPORT

Bus 10 (€6.95, 1½ hours, three daily) connects the town with the airport; taxis will cost around €75.

## DETOUR

Much wilder than their leeward counterparts, the long stretches of beach on the windward side of the Peninsula de Jandía are also harder to get to. You really need a 4WD to safely negotiate the various tracks leading into the area.

The wild length of coast that is the **Playa de Barlovento de Jandía** can get very windy, though the flying sand doesn't seem to deter the nude bathers, who are as common as the partly clothed variety. Take care swimming here: the waves and currents can often be more formidable than the generally calmer waters on the other side of the island.

## BOAT

The port, Puerto de Morro Jable, is 3km by road from the centre of town.

**Naviera Armas** (☎ 928 54 21 13; www.navieraarmas.com) ferries head for Las Palmas (€42, 3¼ hours) at 6.30pm daily.

You can get tickets for both services at the port or at the town's many travel agents.

## BUS

The first bus 1 (€8.50, two hours, at least 12 daily) for Puerto del Rosario leaves at 6am (weekdays) and the last leaves at 10.15pm. Bus 10 (€8, 1¼ hours, three daily), via the airport, is faster. Bus 5 (€2.20, 40 minutes) to Costa Calma runs frequently.

## Getting Around

There is a taxi rank in the town centre just off Avenida Jandía. To call a taxi, ring ☎ 928 54 12 57.

## TURTLE BIRTHDAY

In January 2007, 145 loggerhead turtles were successfully hatched on the Cofete beach in the Parque Natural de Jandía. The beaches of Fuerteventura are only the second site in the world selected for such a translocation of eggs; the first being in Mexico. The eggs came from a turtle colony in Cape Verde, which has similarities to the beaches and environment here, namely in the quality of the water, the sand and, above all, the consistently warm climate. The loggerhead turtle is fast becoming an endangered species and is in urgent need of protection due to the same old story: indiscriminate fishing, accidental capture in nets and pollution. This sanctuary is essentially a nursery where the turtles will remain until they are a year old, at which time they will be released back into the ocean. The project organisers hope to repeat the hatching at least every five years in an attempt to reverse the depletion of this species of marine turtle. Check out the website [www.gobiernodecanarias.org/medioambiente](http://www.gobiernodecanarias.org/medioambiente).

You can rent a scooter from **Rollervermike-tung** (☎ 928 54 50 67; Cosmo Centro Comercial) for €39 per day with full insurance.

## AROUND MORRO JABLE

### Punta de Jandía

Twenty kilometres of graded but unsealed road winds out along the southern reaches of the peninsula to a lone lighthouse at Punta de Jandía.

Puerto de la Cruz, found a couple of kilometres east of the lighthouse, is a tiny, bedraggled fishing settlement and weekend retreat for locals. Two fairly modest *chiringuitos* (beach-side restaurants), open only during lunchtime, serve up the local catch to tourists passing en route to the island's westernmost point. There's little to

choose between them; go for the one with a table free.

### Cofete

About 10km along the same road from Morro Jable, a turn-off leads northeast over a pass and plunges to Cofete (7km from the junction), a tiny peninsula hamlet at the southern extreme of the Playa de Barlovento de Jandía. Sandy tracks, negotiable on foot or by 4WD, snake off to this wind-whipped strand. **Restaurante Cofete** (☎ 928 17 42 43; mains €6-12; ☎ 11am-7pm) does drinks and excellent snacks and has a more sophisticated menu than you'd expect from a restaurant that's literally at the end of the road. It does fresh fish as well as *carne de cabra en salsa* (goat in sauce) – maybe a close relative of the semiwild creatures you pass on the journey here.