





PREDOMINANT COASTAL SCENERIES



Beaches

The beaches of Tenerife are formed by yellow or black sand. They are usually located in bays and sheltered areas, or lying at the mouth of ravines, and this is why they are not large. They stand out due to the contrast of colours between the sand and the blue ocean.



Coastal Cliffs

Of small or great height, they occupy most of Tenerife's coastline, conditioning access to the shore of the ocean, and giving it iconic scenery which offers spectacular views from places like Punta de Anaga and Teno, or from the Coast of Acentejo.



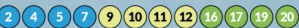
Intertidal Platforms

Typically found on coasts with gentle slopes and recent lava flows, or areas exposed to intense ocean erosion. This coastal scenery is observed in relatively flat areas that become exposed when the tide goes out. Here we can find tide pools and intrusions of the ocean that provide a habitat of great biological diversity and important scenic value, caused by the contrast of the dark colours of the volcanic rock with the green, yellow and red colours of the algae and sedentary invertebrates that live on them. They are traditional bathing areas.



Urban Landscapes

Human activity on the coast has also left its mark, creating a wide diversity of scenery. The type of landscape goes from harbours, necessary for economic activity and transport, to the infrastructures designed for enjoying the coast, such as promenades, natural swimming pools, marinas, etc. and also buildings for residential and tourist use.



COASTAL SCENERIES OF TENERIFE

A selection of places from where you can contemplate how an ocean sculpts, and also hides under its surface, the most diverse and rich landscapes and seascapes.

Thanks to its geomorphological characteristics the Island of Tenerife has climatic peculiarities and a unique interaction of nature with humans. It is the diversity of scenery that makes it unique. In the strip of territory where the island blends in with the ocean, there are other added factors that make the coastline so diverse, including what is hidden under the sea. With this guide-map, we show you a selection of spots where you will be able to check the wide variety of charming scenery you can find within a small area, both on land and underwater, and the relationship established between both worlds; on the reverse side of the map there is a detailed description of nine of these places. These nine spots were chosen due to characteristics such as the singularity and diversity of the scenery, accessibility, territorial equilibrium, potential number of visitors, facilities, presence of protected natural areas and the possibility to go scuba diving and snorkeling.

We invite you to explore the coast of Tenerife from a new point of view, daring you to reflect on how the ocean, the land and people come together, and taking you beneath the surface of the water to help you understand that the scenery that your senses perceive is a treasure created by the slow and constant action of natural phenomena over millions of years, together with recent harmful human impact. Enjoy this heritage and help towards its conservation and improvement.

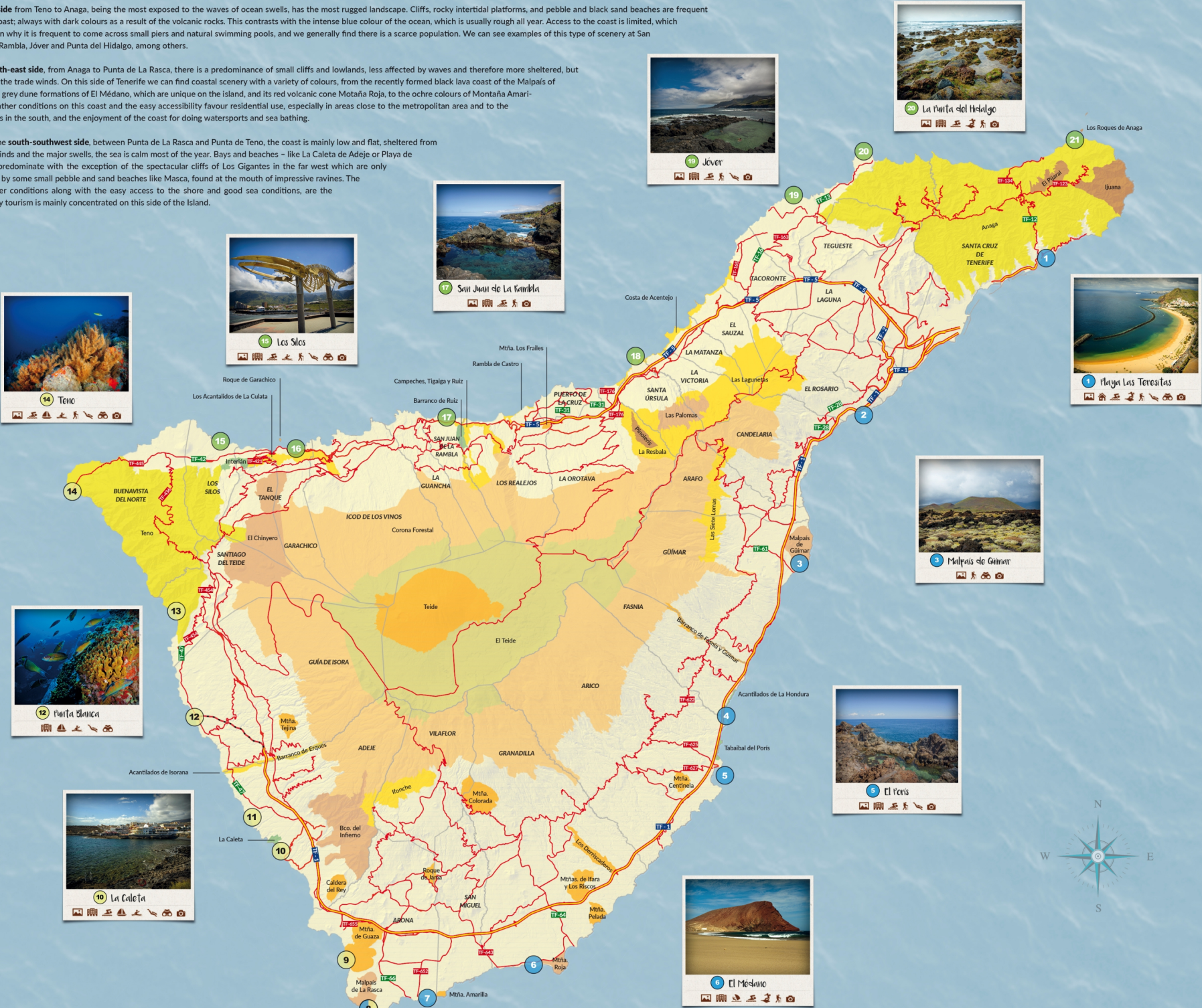
TENERIFE'S COAST. THE THREE SIDES OF THE ISLAND

There is a huge variety of coastal and underwater scenery along the coast of Tenerife as a result of factors such as orientation, the influence of the ocean currents, exposure to waves, geological age, the composition of the rock, the topography and the existence of recent lava eruptions that have gained terrain from the sea, but also in good measure due to human activity. These factors affect each of the sides of island differently, so we can easily recognize each one by its unique features.

The **north side** from Teno to Anaga, being the most exposed to the waves of ocean swells, has the most rugged landscape. Cliffs, rocky intertidal platforms, and pebble and black sand beaches are frequent along the coast; always with dark colours as a result of the volcanic rocks. This contrasts with the intense blue colour of the ocean, which is usually rough all year. Access to the coast is limited, which is the reason why it is frequent to come across small piers and natural swimming pools, and we generally find there is a scarce population. We can see examples of this type of scenery at San Juan de La Rambla, Jover and Punta del Hidalgo, among others.

On the **south-east side**, from Anaga to Punta de La Rasca, there is a predominance of small cliffs and lowlands, less affected by waves and therefore more sheltered, but exposed to the trade winds. On this side of Tenerife we can find coastal scenery with a variety of colours, from the recently formed black lava coast of the Malpais of Güimar, the grey dune formations of El Médano, which are unique on the island, and its red volcanic cone Motaña Roja, to the ochre colours of Montaña Amarilla. The weather conditions on this coast and the easy accessibility favour residential use, especially in areas close to the metropolitan area and to the tourist areas in the south, and the enjoyment of the coast for doing watersports and sea bathing.

Finally, in the **south-southwest side**, between Punta de La Rasca and Punta de Teno, the coast is mainly low and flat, sheltered from the trade winds and the major swells, the sea is calm most of the year. Bays and beaches - like La Caleta de Adeje or Playa de la Arena - predominate with the exception of the spectacular cliffs of Los Gigantes in the far west which are only interrupted by some small pebble and sand beaches like Masca, found at the mouth of impressive ravines. The mild weather conditions along with the easy access to the shore and good sea conditions, are the reasons why tourism is mainly concentrated on this side of the Island.

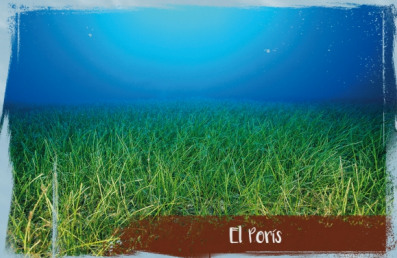
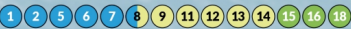


MAIN SEASCAPES



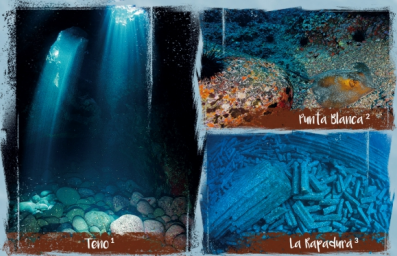
Sandy sea beds

Sandy sea beds without vegetation that form poor looking scenery because of their uniformity, although in sheltered areas it is common to find the presence of garden eels, named this way because they make curious underwater gardens.



Sebadales (Seagrass Meadows)

Stable sandy sea beds allow marine phanerogams to create sea meadows, which are essential to the marine environment because they are used by many species of fish as nursery grounds.



Rocky Sea Beds

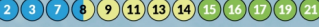
The rocky sea beds form another type of underwater scenery of great beauty and colour due to the algae and other organisms that live free or are attached to the rocks. We find a great diversity of forms, with outstanding stone masses with vertical walls called veriles, or the formation of **basalt columns**<sup>1</sup> that create impressive underwater monuments. In dark environments, the old **volcanic tunnels** now form **arches** and **underwater caves**<sup>1</sup>, important because of their geomorphology and the singular organisms that live in them.

At present, there are great extensions of rocky formations that are very degraded because of the excessive population of the long-spined black sea urchin, caused mainly by the absence of their natural predators due to overfishing. This sea urchin is a real plague as it eats most of the algae creating poor white scenery called **"blanquiazles"** or **barren grounds**<sup>2</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> Lava Tunnels, Arches and Caves



<sup>2</sup> Barren Grounds



<sup>3</sup> Basalt Columns



1 Antequera - Las Teresitas	8 Punta Rasca	15 Los Silos	South-east side	National Park
2 Radazul - Tabalba	9 Los Cristianos	16 Garachico	South-South-east side	Natural Park
3 Malpais de Güimar	10 La Caleta	17 San Juan de La Rambla		Rural Park
4 Las Eras	11 Playa Paraiso	18 Acentejo - El Rincón		Integral Natural Reserve
5 El Porís	12 Punta Blanca	19 Jover		Special Natural Reserve
6 El Médano	13 Los Gigantes	20 La Punta del Hidalgo	North side	Protected Landscape
7 Montaña Amarilla	14 Teno	21 Costa de Anaga	Outstanding points	Natural Monument
				Site of Scientific Interest