

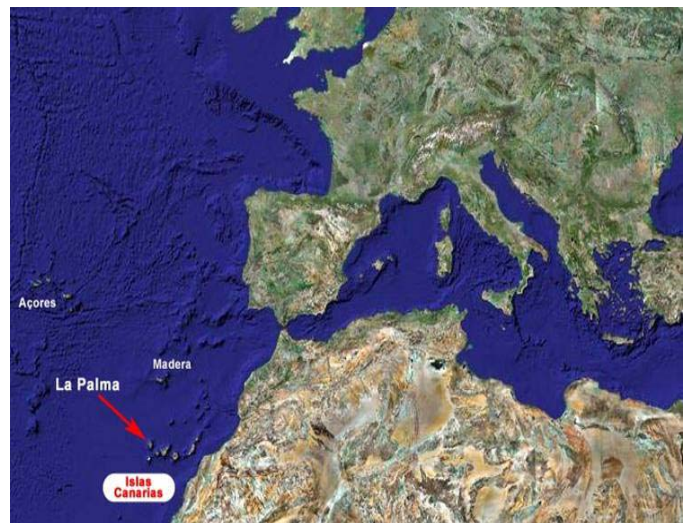
## GUIDE TO PLAN YOUR IMC2012 TRAVEL TO LA PALMA

We prepared a small guide with the essential information in order to help you plan a cheaper and enjoyable trip to IMC2012 in La Palma. We present all the available connections and options, by air and boat also. Please read the guide first and start planning earlier in order to book better and cheaper your IMC2012 travel. Of course, you could consult also your own travel agent.

As a first guide, you should know that regular round-trip travel fares from Western Europe to La Palma should be around 300 Euro, but some cheaper could be around 200 Euro, while from Eastern Europe these could be about 100 Euro more.

### General info about La Palma and Canary Islands:

The Canary archipelago is located in the Atlantic Ocean, some 1500 km South from the mainland Spain and about 400 km West from the African coast (Morocco). It includes 7 islands, among which La Palma, Tenerife and Gran Canaria. Despite its distance from Europe, Canary is an important tourist attraction, being served by many connections.



*Figure 1: The Canary Archipelago in the Atlantic Ocean (right) and the location of La Palma island in Canary (above left)*

### How to reach la Palma?

You could fly either directly to La Palma (from Madrid daily, and once a week from some cities in Germany, Amsterdam, Brussels and Zurich) or connecting via Tenerife (including some low cost companies daily) or Gran Canaria (including some low cost companies daily).

Between Tenerife and La Palma you could either fly (half hour from Tenerife North only) or take the boat (better from Tenerife South, 2-4 hrs to La Palma) for the same cost, cca 80-100 Euro round-trip (air or boat).

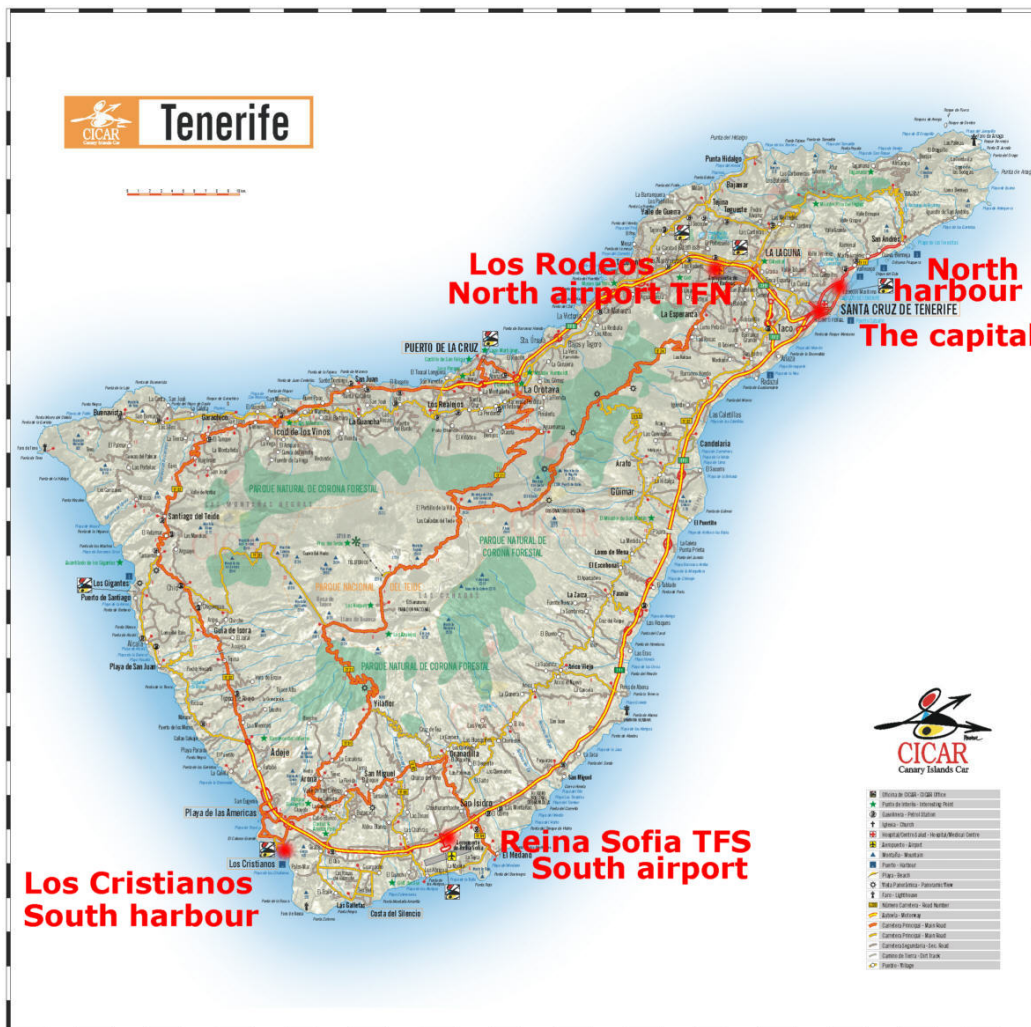
Between Gran Canaria and La Palma there are two direct flights daily at night (45 min trip) for about 130-150 Euro round-trip.

## There are two airports and two harbours in Tenerife:

- ❖ In the North the airport Tenerife Los Rodeos (code TFN) and the harbour Santa Cruz (S.C.) de Tenerife.
- ❖ In the South the airport Tenerife Reina Sofia (code TFS) and the harbour Los Cristianos.

Between the North and the South of Tenerife is about 100km highway (sometime busy) served by buses (every 1-2 hrs, total trip takes some 1-2 hrs).

The airports and harbours from the North and the South are about 20km away of each other, served by buses (every ~30 min, and trip takes some 30 min - 1 hr).

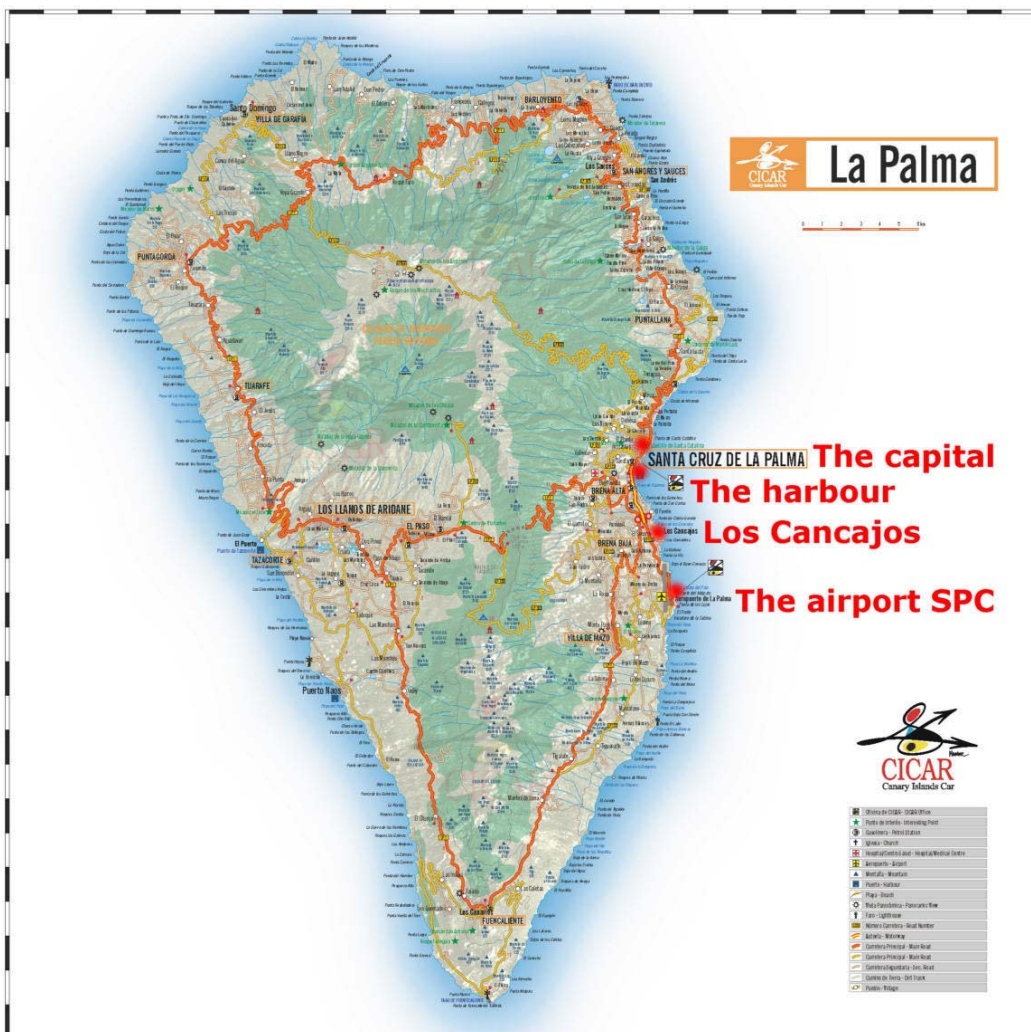


*Figure 2: Tenerife Island, its two airports and two harbours:  
In the North: Los Rodeos airport (TFN) and Santa Cruz de Tenerife harbour;  
In the South: Reina Sofia airport (TFS) and Los Cristianos harbour*

The airport Tenerife South offers many more and cheaper international flights from various European locations. The harbour Tenerife South offers more connections by boat to La Palma than the Tenerife North. So, if you like boat, we recommend you to land in Tenerife South (TFS Reina Sofia) and then take the afternoon boat from Tenerife South (Los Cristianos) 2-4 hrs to La Palma.

**There is only one airport and one harbour in La Palma:**

La Palma is 10 times smaller in population and tourists than Tenerife, so there is only one airport in La Palma (Santa Cruz de La Palma - code **SPC**) and one harbour (Santa Cruz de La Palma). Both are 5-10 min away from your IMC apart-hotel, 5-7 Euro by taxi or 1.30 Euro/pers by bus (every 30 min).



*Figure 3: La Palma Island, the capital, the harbour and airport Santa Cruz de La Palma (SPC) and the tourist resort Los Cancajos, your IMC2012 place, 5 min by taxi or bus from each*



**Air links from Europe to La Palma** (directly, via Tenerife and Gran Canaria):

**Direct flights** from Europe to La Palma (SPC):

**Belgium** (Brussels); **Germany** (Düsseldorf, Frankfurt, Munich, Stuttgart, Berlin-Tegel, Hamburg, Nuremberg); **Holland** (Amsterdam); **Switzerland** (Zurich) – all some days a week; For the available airlines, check schedule and bookings (independent of us), check: <http://www.astro-travels.com/La-Palma-travel.html>

**Direct flights** from Europe to Tenerife North (TFN) – fewer, only from Spain:

Madrid, Barcelona, Valencia, Granada, Sevilla, Bilbao, Malaga, Santiago Compostela, Alicante.

**Direct flights** from Europe to Tenerife South (TFS) – very many:

**Czech Republic** (Prague); **England** (Nottingham, London, Glasgow, Leeds, Manchester, Birmingham, Newcastle, Doncaster, Cardiff, Edimburgh); **France** (Liege, Nantes, Lyon); **Belgium** (Brussels); **Germany** (Friedrichshafen, Bournemouth, Leipzig, Berlin, Billund, Frankfurt, Hannover, Koln, Muenster, Maastricht, Karlsruhe, Dusseldorf, Hamburg, Stuttgart); **Hungary** (Budapest); **Irland** (Dublin); **Italy** (Milan); **Luxemburg** (Luxemburg); **Netherlands** (Amsterdam, Groningen); **Portugal** (Madeira); **Poland** (Warshaw); **Russia** (Moscow, St. Petersburg); **Switzerland** (Zurich); **Spain** (Madrid, Bilbao, Alicante, Santiago De Compostela, Asturias, Valladolid, Sevilla, Barcelona, Zaragoza).

In principle, indirect flights via Tenerife using low cost companies could be cheaper than the direct flight to La Palma. Between the two islands, you should plan for about 100 Euro the round-trip Tenerife-La Palma-Tenerife (by local air companies or boat).

**Direct flights** from Europe to Gran Canaria (LPA) – very many!

Another alternative for travel to Canary is a direct flight to Gran Canaria island, namely Las Palmas de Gran Canaria (code LPA – do not confuse with La Palma island where you need to come - code SPC)! There are many cheaper flights from western, northern and central Europe to Gran Canaria (LPA), here are some options (but not all):

**England** (London, Edimburgh, Cardiff, Glasgow, Manchester, Doncaster), **Ireland** (Dublin), **Netherlands** (Amsterdam, Groningen, Eindhoven), **Germany** (Dusseldorf, Stuttgart, Hamburg, Dresden, Frankfurt, Berlin, Koln/Bonn, Leipzig), **Denmark** (Copenhagen), **Norway** (Oslo), **Finland** (Helsinki, Turku), **Switzerland** (Basel), **Belgium** (Brussels), **Austria** (Viena, Salzburg), **Czech Republic** (Brno), **Italy** (Milan), etc.

Gran Canaria is the second larger island from La Palma (after Tenerife, please see figure 1), which is served by local companies Binter Canarias (with one direct flight to La Palma leaving Gran Canaria at 20:00) and Islas Canarias (with one direct flight to La Palma leaving Gran Canaria at 19:20) both reaching Santa Cruz de La Palma (SPC) directly in about 45 minute. The cost of a round trip from Gran Canaria to La Palma is about 150 Euro.

## **Internet search engine:**

Here is a good internet comparator for search and booking (serving Spain and European links to Spain):

**VUELOS BARATOS** (flight comparator, including low cost)  
<http://www.vuelosbaratos.es> (website, search and bookings, independent of us)

You can also use your favorite search engine, but please use the right codes for Tenerife South (TFS), Tenerife North (TFN), Gran Canaria (LPA) and especially Santa Cruz de La Palma (**SPC**) airports! NOTE: There is much confusion about "La Palma" in Spain and worldwide, so make sure you land on the right island and archipelago! :)

## **Local Canary air companies:**

Between La Palma, Tenerife, Gran Canaria also serving all other Canary islands, there are two local air companies:

**BINTER CANARIAS** (more flights):  
<http://www.bintercanarias.com> (website including timetable and bookings)

**ISLAS AIRWAYS** (less flights, a bit cheaper)  
<http://www.islasnet.com> (website including timetable and bookings)

Both operate daily flights to La Palma from Tenerife North only (Los Rodeos TFN) and two direct flights from Gran Canaria (LPA). From Tenerife North (TFN) there are many flights to La Palma, every 30 min - 1 hr, with a break between 13-16h (a big lunch break and siesta are saint here! Unfortunately there is no local flight from Tenerife South to La Palma, that's why the boat link from Los Cristianos could be a good alternative if you travel via Tenerife.

## **Local public bus transport in Tenerife:**

**TITSA:** <http://www.titsa.com> (website, including timetables)

## **Boat companies in Canary (Tenerife – La Palma):**

There are two boat companies operating in the Canary serving Tenerife and La Palma:

**ARMAS** (cheaper, national):  
<http://www.navieraarmas.com/en/home> (website including timetable and bookings)

**Coming to La Palma harbour** from Tenerife South Los Cristianos harbor:  
Monday to Thursday from Tenerife at 18:30;  
Friday from Tenerife at 18:15 and 19:45;  
Sunday from Tenerife at 12:00.

**Returning from La Palma harbour** to Tenerife South (Los Cristianos) harbour:  
Sunday at 14:30 or 16:00 (very good link after IMC closure),  
The rest of the week leaves at 04:00 in the morning!

**Coming to La Palma harbour** from Tenerife North harbour:  
There are fewer connections from Tenerife North (S.C de Tenerife) to La Palma harbour  
Only Tuesday and Thursday from Santa Cruz de Tenerife harbour at 18:30

**Returning from La Palma harbour** to Tenerife North (S.C de Tenerife) harbour:  
Wednesday and Friday at 07:00 in the morning.

**FRED OLSEN** (Nordic, faster but some 20 Euro more expensive):  
<http://www.fredolsen.es/en-US/index.aspx> (website including timetable and bookings)

**Coming to La Palma harbour** from Tenerife South (Los Cristianos):  
Monday to Friday from Tenerife at 19:00;  
Sunday from Tenerife at 14:00

**Returning from La Palma harbour** to Tenerife South (Los Cristianos):  
Sunday at 17:30 from La Palma (good time after IMC closure);  
Tuesday to Saturday from La Palma at 05:45 in the morning.

There is no Fred Olsen serving Santa Cruz de Tenerife North harbour to La Palma.

The trip to La Palma takes about 3-4 hrs. From the harbour La Palma to Los Cancajos the taxi is about 5-7 Euro.

### **More questions?**

In case you also need one night accommodation in Tenerife (due to your connections or some sightseeing, eventually to climb the Teide 3800m volcano national park, to see the great Loro Parque zoo park or for beach), or Gran Canaria, feel free to write us [imc2012@imo.net](mailto:imc2012@imo.net)

If you have doubts or need more assistance with your planning, feel free to write us to [imc2012@imo.net](mailto:imc2012@imo.net)