

MAP OF THE HISTORICAL CENTRE OF
SAN CRISTÓBAL de
LA LAGUNA
 WORLD HERITAGE



MAIN BUILDINGS OF INTEREST

- 1** CROSS CHAPELS
- 1A** GREEN CROSS
1B POPLAR CROSS
1C BLACKSMITHS CROSS
1D RODRIGUEZ MOURE CROSS
1E PLATEROS CROSS

- 2** CHURCH AND EX-CONVENT OF SANTO DOMINGO DE GUZMAN
- 3** CONVENT OF SAINT CATHERINE OF SIENA

- 4** SAINT MIGUEL'S CHAPEL
- 5** THE SCHOOL OF DOMINICA NUNS
- 6** LA LAGUNA CITY COUNCIL

- 7** MAGISTRATE HOUSE
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- 16** TORREHERMOSA MARQUIS HOUSE
- 17** LEAL THEATRE

9 HOUSE OF ALVARADO-BRACAMONTE OR OF THE CAPITAN GENERAL

CAPTAIN GENERAL Diego de Alvarado Bracamonte ordered to build it early seventeenth century and some general captains reside in it during the eighteenth century, hence its name.

HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE its portal and window openings carved in red tuff and the decorative motif that resembles a balcony with balustrades which was revealed in a restoration in the 1990s. Inside, the courtyard with stone columns is an example of so-called "Canarian patio".

10 RIQUEL HOUSE

ANTONIO RIQUEL ORDERED IT to be built in the eighteenth century. The building faces two streets and in them it is obvious the difference in the use of construction materials. The main facade is on Carrera Street, one of the largest in the city. To highlight this part of the house red stone was used on both floors, framing the front door and the centre window upstairs. However, for the secondary facade in Tabares de Cala Street more modest materials were used.

11 PERAZA DE AYALA HOUSE AND SANTÍSIMA TRINIDAD CHAPEL

AN ESTATE OF EIGHTEENTH century traditional Canarian style, with three floors, with smaller openings on the first two floors and with a balcony of lattices that stands out on the centre of the top floor.

THE CHAPEL ON THE RIGHT is connected to the house and has served as a family chapel for their religious services. The dedication of this chapel has given the name to the Avenida de la Trinidad (Trinity Avenue).

THE HOUSE HAS BEEN INHABITED throughout its history by Peraza de Ayala family, who are currently occupying it.

12 OUR LADY OF LOS REMEDIOS CHURCH-CATHEDRAL

LOCATED IN THE HISTORICAL CENTRE its construction began in 1515 as the second parish church of the city and is promoted to Cathedral in 1819.

OVER THE CENTURIES it has undergone numerous modifications that led to its demolition in 1897, preserving only the neoclassical style facade. The rest of the work is neogothic style and dates back to the early twentieth century.

IT IS ONE OF THE FIRST CONCRETE BUILDINGS built in Spain, which led to structural problems, this forced a complete rebuild of the roof and domes.

13 MUSTELIER HOUSE

INSIDE THERE ARE TREASURES like Mazuelos altarpiece in the chancel, brought from Flanders; the marble pulpit of Carrara as well as artwork from Cristóbal Hernández de Quintana, Juan de Miranda or Luján Pérez.

EIGHTEENTH CENTURY Canarian houses were often built with a rhythm in the window and door openings. The upper windows had their replicas on the doors or lower windows, but this does not occur in Mustelier House.

On the top floor they built four windows and two lateral doors and a central one on the ground floor.

When decorating this, there was no gap between the upper windows. For this reason, the Stone Baroque decoration took a rectangular shape, to match the existing space.

14 BIGOT HOUSE

THIS THREE-STORY HOUSE, built in 1654 is possibly the first of its kind. While it was customary to use the third floor as the barn, the owner, Claudio Bigot, added a large balcony in front of the barn as a decorative element to the facade. This served as the inspiration for other wealthy and nobles in the city.

15 FRANCO DE CASTILLA HOUSE

IT IS A GOOD EXAMPLE OF eighteenth century stately buildings. The style of the door and window openings is of the traditional Canarian house, broken only by the portico and pediment, decorated in the Canarian Baroque style.

A FIRE DESTROYED much of the interior of the building, but the elements that remain show the splendour that the family must have had. This is evident on the stairs to the right or the patio columns holding the two sides of the upper gallery.

16 TORREHERMOSA MARQUIS HOUSE

EIGHTEENTH CENTURY building typical of the gentry of the time and with neoclassical decorative elements.

IN 1776 IT WAS INHABITED by the Bishop of the Canaries, after that it was the residence of the Bishop's cohort and later living accommodation for the Institute of the Canary Islands.

In 1880, it was transformed into a hotel, retaining its original facade and remains open under the name of Hotel Agüere. The interior has been completely altered.

17 LEAL THEATRE

ANTONIO LEAL ORDERED its construction in 1915. The decoration of the facade is a tribute to his time, with floral elements, animals and characters. Inside the murals and ceiling art stand out. The auditorium has four floors and a large horseshoe with a capacity of over 1000 seats.

ALONG WITH THE CASINO, it met the needs of leisure and culture of the city for much of the twentieth century. It witnessed the first cinematographic projection of the city and the first Canarian film.

18 CASABUENA HOUSE (COURT OF THE INDIES)

THE WEST INDIES TRADE was controlled from Seville, however, in the sixteenth century the Canary Islands obtained permission to trade directly with America. To control this market the position of Superintendent Judge of the West Indies was created.

THIS HOUSE, designed with commercial use in mind, changed when Sir Bartholomew Casabuena bought the right for the title in 1708. The house was then used to control much of the trade with America to become the Indies Court.

As a sign of economic distinction a huge wooden balcony is built at the rear of the house and in front of the barn, copying Bigot's one.

19 OUR LADY OF THE CONCEPCION CHURCH

IT IS THE OLDEST parish church in Tenerife. The original temple was adjacent to the ancient lagoon but due to its small size, in 1515, moved to this site.

OVER THE CENTURIES it has undergone numerous modifications. The nave and aisles are of the sixteenth century, while its head is of the seventeenth century.

THE CHURCH LACKS elaborate facade and none of the side door has a remarkable architectural development. Its most distinctive feature is the tower, from the late seventeenth century, representative symbol of the city.

20 CHURCH AND EX-CONVENT OF SAINT AGUSTÍN

THE AUGUSTINIAN FRIARS accompanied the conquerors of Tenerife and they were the first order that settled in the city in 1506.

ALTHOUGH ARCHITECTURAL ELEMENTS were added such as the front tower or the adjoining eighteenth century church, destroyed by fire in 1964, the building retains many of its original elements. Among them, the inner cloister, one of the best examples of Renaissance cloisters in the Islands, which include the capitals of the upper floor, carved by the monks themselves.

IT WAS THE FIRST COLLEGE and later only secondary school in the Canaries. Illustrious cultural characters such as Benito Perez Galdós, Oscar Domínguez and Juan Negrín attended it.

21 OSSUNA HOUSE

IT WAS BUILT IN THE LATE seventeenth century and presents a symmetrical openings facade with the exception of the front door, which is quite eccentric. The wood is used as an element of distinction in the windows of the second floor and in the large balcony.

TODAY IT HOUSES a museum and the archive of the rich historical collection that Manuel de Ossuna left.

22 LOS SABANDENOS MUSEUM HOUSE

THE HOUSE MUSEUM Los Sabandeiros is an interesting sample of a traditional Canarian trading house. It encompasses a wide entrance gallery for the passage of beasts and wagons to the courtyard and attached warehouse. It has two floors; subdivided into the commercial ground floor, mezzanine for the servants and superior for housing.

IT CURRENTLY HOSTS a centre of study and testing as well as a historical sample of Los Sabandeiros, a Canarian music group with deep roots and prestige. It also includes a sample of musical instruments and a unique library.

23 OUR LADY OF LOS DOLORES HOSPITAL AND CHURCH

THE HOSPITAL WAS FOUNDED IN 1515 as the first town centre charity hospital and kept its location until 2005.

IN THE LATE EIGHTEENTH CENTURY, the hospital and the church were remodeled. On the facade of the Hospital, located in Juan de Vera Street, the highlights are the window frames and the red stone, which dates back to the first construction of the building, in the sixteenth century. Inside the offices are spread around the cloister. Today, it houses the municipal library.

FROM THE CHURCH, in San Agustín Street, the highlights are the steeple of stone and the eighteenth century stone front, with pre-Hispanic Latin American influence on the base of the columns.

24 UQUE BOTINO HOUSE (CONSULATE OF THE SEA)

EIGHTEENTH CENTURY BUILDING whose neoclassical facade with framed hollow stonework, balcony railings and large cornice reflects a nineteenth-century reform. It has another more austere facade on the Tabares de Cala Street.

IT HAS A LARGE FLAGSTONE PATIO, lush vegetation and a journey through a gallery closed with sash windows.

IT HOSTED the Royal Consulate of the Maritime and Terrestrial of the Islands from late 1786 until 1829 and dealt with the development of agriculture, industry and to monitor and improve trade with America.

25 SALAZAR PALACE (BISHOP'S PALACE)

THE FIRST EARL OF SALAZAR ordered its construction in 1664 and he lived here with his family until the late nineteenth century when it became the Bishop's palace. The two shields are their witnesses: the facade's one represents the Salazar family and the yard's gate one belongs to the bishop Torrijos.

ITS FACADE STONEMASONRY shows the social status of their owners. It is an example of early Canarian Baroque and it is considered the best preserved civil facade in a journey through a gallery closed with sash windows.

IN 2006 A FIRE DESTROYED it completely, leaving only the facade standing.

26 JESUITS HOUSE

THE JESUITS ARRIVED in La Laguna in the seventeenth century, but they built this building in the first half of the eighteenth century. With strong stately Canarian style and Baroque decorative elements it tries to impose the power of this order in Tenerife.

ONCE EXPELLED FROM SPANISH TERRITORY in the late eighteenth, much of the cultural movement on the island took place in this building. It was home to the literary University of San Fernando and it had various educational uses, until the Royal Economic Society of Friends of the Country was reinstalled in the building. It currently holds a magnificent historical archive.

27 LERCARO PALACE

THE LERCARO FAMILY was possibly one of the most influential of Tenerife during the 16th and 17th centuries.

IT IS CLEAR THE ITALIAN ORIGIN of the family in the style of the palace. The Genoese style portico and facade decoration, imitating brick, the Renaissance drawings and especially inside the main courtyard; the Renaissance inspiration is evident in the richly paneled and carved anthropomorphic figures in the columns, both in the upper gallery.

THE BUILDING HAS BEEN RESTORED and adapted to house the Museum of History and Archives of Tenerife.

28 CRISTINO DE VERA INSTITUTION

Built in the eighteenth century, is one example of local Canarian architecture. The interior has been adapted for a museum and now houses the Museum of Contemporary Art "Cristino de Vera Institution - CajaCanarias Cultural Space". It holds a permanent collection of paintings and drawings by the Canarian artist Cristino de Vera. The paintings display meaning in each of his strokes, his vision of the world, life and death. It also has rooms for activities, cultural events and exhibitions.

29 MONTAÑÉS HOUSE

THIS EIGHTEENTH CENTURY HOUSE is the current headquarters of the Advisory Council and it has certain peculiarities. Its very spacious hallway allowed the passage of carriages and wagons which were unloaded into storage downstairs and continued to the backyard through the door at the end. Therefore, there are only columns on three sides of the courtyard, leaving a space on the left for the passage of vehicles.

THE HEIGHT of its columns stands out due to the existence of the mezzanine. This consists of building the lower level much higher, to divide it, thus providing a floor for storage and one for the servants' house.

30 LINARES HOUSE

IT SHOWS MANY of the elements of traditional eighteenth century Canarian houses: cornerbacks in stone, symmetrical rhythm of the holes in the facade and sash windows with frames fitted with wooden bearings, which in this case, are finely carved. The only thing missing is a balcony amongst the traditional construction elements.

IN ADDITION TO THE HEIGHT ACHIEVED with its three floors, the house adds greater height by subdividing the lower floor into a basement-cellar and a dwelling as in the neighbouring Montañés house, competing for distinction and prestige.

31 VAN DEN HEEDE HOUSE

IT WAS BUILT IN THE EIGHTEENTH century for this Flemish family. Its sober facade gives way to a splendid courtyard with columns and lush vegetation, surrounded by three closed corridors to protect from the winter cold of the area. The floor of the vestibule, the lobby and corridors around the courtyard are made of basalt. The woodwork also stands out.

32 NAVA PALACE

JORGE GRIMÓN ACTIVELY PARTICIPATED in the conquest of Tenerife under the orders of Governor Fernández de Lugo. He received numerous lands for his contribution and a privileged location in La Laguna next to the Governor's property.

HIS HEIRS ERECTED THIS BUILDING, expanding and enhancing it as the family's power increased achieving its maximum development in the eighteenth century.

Tomas Nava Grimón and Porlier make the first reform, completely covering the facade with stone and decorative elements combining three different styles: Mannerism, Baroque and Neoclassical. He also started the cultural and sociopolitical reforms in Tenerife through the Nava Social Circle.

33 AZERO RODRIGUEZ MANSION

THIS BUILDING of the early twentieth century encompasses several historical waves (eclecticism): an evocation of palatial French Renaissance architecture represented in an orientalist sloping roof. Inside, a neozanari neopompeian courtyard and a main hall. Today it houses the headquarters of the La Laguna Casino.

34 CONVENT OF SAN JUAN BAUTISTA OR POOR CLARES

IT WAS THE FIRST NUNNERY established in the Canary Islands, settling in this location in 1577.

In 1697 a fire destroyed most of the building and the building which can be seen today is broadly a result of the rebuild.

BEING A CLOISTERED CONVENT, its external appearance is sober and of high walls. Highlights include the mullioned or veranda and the front of the church with its barred windows and the two doorways of red stone.

THE CHURCH HAS A SINGLE NAVE, with Mudéjar art with gold embossing at its centre representing Saint Francisco and Saint Clara.

35 EX-CONVENT OF SAN MIGUEL DE LAS VICTORIAS CRISTO DE LA LAGUNA SANCTUARY

FOUNDED BY THE FRANCISCAN ORDER, its construction began in 1506. The works lasted a long time because they were painted by alms. In the seventeenth century a differentiated main chapel and four side chapels were provided. In 1810 a fire destroyed almost everything and the rebuilding, preserved until today, did not reach the splendour of the former.

THE CHURCH HAS the status of Royal Shrine. In it you can find the image of the Holy Christ of La Laguna, one of the most revered statues in the Canary Islands and the most important in its typology, Gothic and Flemish. The altar, which holds it, also stands out embossed in silver brought from South America.

OTHER SITES OF INTEREST

BAJAMAR AND PUNTA DEL HIDALGO

BAJAMAR AND PUNTA DEL HIDALGO are part of the coastal strip of the municipality of La Laguna, which at the foot of the mountains of Anaga invites tourists and locals to enjoy its tranquility and its pleasant climate.

THE CHARM OF THIS PLACE enchants everyone who visits it. It offers numerous sites to enjoy rocky or sandy beaches as well as beautiful natural seawater pools, which have established it as a major tourism destination for relaxation. You can also enjoy seafood cuisine in any of its many restaurants.

ANAGA RURAL PARK AND THE LAS MERCEDES

ANAGA MOUNTAINS are found about 3 km. from the city. It is a magnificent, always damp evergreen forest. It dominated much of the Mediterranean for thousands of years and is now relegated to some islands in the Atlantic.

THIS PROTECTED NATURAL AREA has an extensive network of trails, many marked, allowing visitors to enter and feel at first hand the wonders of nature. In the Cruz del Carmen is the Visitor Centre. Here you can find all the information about the area.

THREE VILLAGES of Anaga belong to the municipality of La Laguna.

CHINAMADA is a picturesque place with cave houses that make it stand out.

LAS CARBONERAS has nearly permanent cloud cover guarantees water for their crop fields.

IN BATÁN YOU GET a limited wine production belonging to the appellation Tacoronte Acentejo, Anaga.

ESTÉVANEZ-BORGES ESTATE

IT LIES ON Curva de Gracia. The farm has an eighteenth century country house typical of wealthy families of the time. It has great value architecturally and historically. It belonged to the illustrious family of Canarian politicians Nicolás and Patricio Estévez and the painter Francisco Borges Salas. Furthermore, its garden holds the almond tree mentioned in the official anthem of the Canary Islands.

GRACIA CHAPEL

THE CHAPEL OF Our Lady of Gracia is found outside of the city centre. Some researchers claim that it was the first to be built of stone on the island, in the sixteenth century.

Also the chronicles tell of the conqueror of Tenerife, Fernandez de Lugo, who erected this chapel as a promise of gratitude to God for the victory in the conquest of La Laguna.

MAIN POPULAR CELEBRATIONS

CORPUS CHRISTI

IT IS ONE OF THE OLDEST celebrations on the island. It dates back to the end of the fifteenth century.

At first it consisted of the decorating of the streets by laying shrub and flower petals for the procession to pass over. In 1907 the more noble families produced the first floral carpets. Nowadays many families, community groups, schools and groups work all night to "carpet" the main historical centre of the city. This takes place on the first or second Sunday of June.

EASTER WEEK

SOBRIETY AND REFLECTION travel through the city. The processions flood the streets of the historical centre with incense and silence from Palm Sunday until Easter Saturday. As the processions pass all the artistic quality of the images and the goldsmith art of the thrones, created over 500 years, shines through.

BARNS AND RESTAURANTS follow this day by offering traditional Easter dishes.

FESTIVAL IN HONOUR OF THE SACRED CHRIST OF LA LAGUNA

IT IS CELEBRATED throughout September and on the 14th there is a bank holiday for the city. The image of Jesus Christ returns in a procession, witnessed by a representative of the royal family, to its Sanctuary. At night time, the procession travels past the convents of Las Claras and Las Catalinas and on its return it is welcomed by a colourful display of fireworks. These fireworks end with a deafening finale launched all around the square as the image enters its Sanctuary.

PILGRIMAGE OF SAINT BENITO ABAD

IT TAKES PLACE on the second Sunday in July. The participants, wearing their pilgrim costumes, in carts or folk groups parade the Saint through the main streets of the city. They sing folk songs and share local products (wine, potatoes, gofio, etc.) with the spectators.

THIS FESTIVAL HAS its origin in 1554 when, after a long drought, the farmers requested a saint to be chosen. They erected him a chapel and pray to him for good crops.

THE LIVERIES OF VALLE GUERRA

THIS CELEBRATION with more than four centuries of history and inspired by the Battle of Lepanto has become a hallmark of this town and has been declared a local site of Cultural Interest.

IT CONSISTS OF a parade of ships of the Virgin and the reenactment of the naval battle. The participants are dressed in costumes of the militia liveries, hence the name and rifles. It is held the first half of October.

THE HEARTS OF TEJINA

IT IS HELD ANNUALLY during the festivities in honor of St. Bartholomew, in the last week of August. It is a party that combines religious fervor and popular rejoicing in which a whole heart is built on a wood and iron frame and decorated with flowers, fruit and shrub.

IT HAS BEEN AWARDED the Canarian Special Award in the category of Conservation and Restoration of Intangible Heritage, the Gold Medal from the Tourist Initiatives Centre of Northeast Tenerife and it has been declared a celebration of Cultural Interest.

THE BOAT RACES AT VALLE JIMÉNEZ AND VALLE TABARES

THIS UNIQUE FESTIVAL is held on the first weekend of September in honour of the Virgin of El Rosario. During the competition, 800kg carts shaped as sailing vessels pulled by oxen have a frenzied race around the church square.

It protected against an epidemic of plague, while others associate it with the commemoration of the exploits of Canarian soldiers in the Battle of Lepanto. Beyond its origin, its uniqueness is just a reason not to miss it.

SOME HISTORIANS place its origin in the sixteenth century. They believed that

SAN CRISTÓBAL DE LA LAGUNA was declared World Heritage in 1999, and it was not only its churches and monuments.

This city is defined by its urban design meticulously conceived in the reign of Ferdinand and Isabella.

In 1500, after returning from the trip to court, Governor Fernandez de Lugo started executing the plan conceived for the creation of a modern and different medieval city. This Renaissance project was traced with a string and proposed wide Royal streets parallel to each other with more narrow ones crossing the first forming a grid.

Added to this planning there were open public spaces and churches which followed mathematical calculations of mystical and religious type. Examples of this can be found in the alignment of the Concepción and the San Miguel churches as well as the cathedral or the geometric centre located in the San Agustín Church. The distribution of land and surrounding countryside was traced from San Agustín, making it a self supplied city, open and without walls, but organized administratively to be controlled by the power of the distant Spanish Crown. This experimental design was clearly useful for the management of the new territories conquered in America.

LECHO. AYUNTAMIENTO DE SAN CRISTÓBAL DE LA LAGUNA
 Concejalía de Turismo

LA LAGUNA TO DISCOVER

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