

La Palma in Spring

Naturetrek Tour Report

16th – 23rd March 2023



La Palma Chaffinch by Jessica Turner



La Palma Lizard by Josh Phangurha



Loggerhead Turtle by Josh Phangurha



La Palma Violet by Jessica Turner

Tour report by Jessica Turner
Images by Josh Phangurha & Jessica Turner



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Tour participants: Jessica Turner & Josh Phangurha (leaders) with 14 Naturetrek clients

Summary

This was the second time we had run the full La Palma in Spring tour (in the first year we got locked down) and it was very successful. This time we were able to enjoy two four-hour boat trips, specifically searching for mammals, and were rewarded with superb pods of Atlantic Spotted Dolphins racing the boat, as well as Short-finned Pilot Whales, Bryde's Whales and Common and Striped Dolphins, all of which gave some stunning views. Back on land, the La Palma subspecies of Canary Chaffinches (soon to be split from Common Chaffinch) and Canary Island Chiffchaffs were abundant, and we had good views of the endemic subspecies of Chough, Raven and African Blue Tit. Laurel and Bolle's Pigeons also showed well, although the light that day was not good. We appreciated the abundance and variety of plant species, with familiar genera so different from in the UK, such as the yellow-flowered bushes of La Palma Sow-thistle (*Sonchus palmensis*). We saw a good selection of butterflies and the interests and expertise of the group meant many other Invertebrates were noted and identified. The views from the top of the island were breath-taking with a floristic gem here being the La Palma Pansy. Good company and a pleasant hotel contributed to an excellent week enjoying La Palma in Spring. Jessica and Josh would like to thank the group for their enthusiasm and spotting skills, and for photographs which enabled further identifications. (From July 2023, the Canary Islands Chaffinch is being recognised as a separate, endemic species, still having the La Palma island-endemic subspecies: maybe an 'armchair' tick for some!)

Day 1

Thursday 16th March

Fly La Palma; transfer Los Cancajos

Thirteen group members met Jessica and Josh at Gatwick's North Terminal for the 9.55am TUI flight to La Palma. As we were boarding, first one, then two Peregrine Falcons flew past, one perching on top of a light – a great start! The flight was smooth but delayed a little by strong headwinds and we landed in the very quiet airport at 2.40pm. We collected our luggage and loaded the minibuses, making the short transfer to the hotel, the H10 Playa Taburiente, where we checked in and met up with our other group member, who was on an earlier flight from Manchester.

We met at 5pm for a short exploration of the area round the hotel. A Common Kestrel (western Canary Island subspecies *canariensis*) was hovering overhead. Feral Pigeons were on the black volcanic cliffs, some looking like fairly pure Rock Doves. Out to sea, Cory's Shearwaters could be seen low over the water, their white underparts catching the light, while the occasional Yellow-legged Gull (subspecies *atlantis*) flew over. Nearer to hand, the odd chirp indicated a Canary Islands Chiffchaff, and one was later seen. We looked at the distant cactus-like Canary Islands Cactus Spurge (*Euphorbia canariensis*) on the slopes above, while among the plants near the shore was the very different-looking Balsam Spurge (*Euphorbia balsamifera*). Other shrubs were the trailing Bosesa (*Bosea yervamora*), Canary Tamarisk (*Tamarix canariensis*), Canary Dock (*Rumex lunaria*) and the Canary Islands Candle Plant (*Kleinia*

neriifolia). Smaller plants in flower included Dwarf Sea-lavender (*Limonium pectinatum*), a Sea-heath *Frankenia ericifolia*, with tiny white flowers, and the even smaller *Polycapea divaricata*. Two very different plants share the same English name Canary Samphire: the yellow ‘umbellifer’ *Astydamia latifolia* and *Schizogyne sericea*, with thin grey leaves. We also found several Banded Garden Spiders (*Argiope trifasciata*) with their webs between the low plants, in close proximity to each other.

We then had time to continue down to the beach or return to the hotel for some R&R before meeting for a short briefing when Jessica outlined plans for the week, and a delicious dinner. Afterwards, some enjoyed the numbers of Tenerife Geckos on the hotel walls. After a long day’s travel, we were ready for our beds.

Day 2

Friday 17th March

Cubo de la Galga; Los Tilos; Mirador La Tosca

Those out early reported several Canary Island Chiffchaffs. After a good breakfast, we were ready to leave at 9am, but were delayed in the car park by sightings of a pair of Sardinian Warblers (Macaronesian subsp. *leucogastra*), a female Blackcap (subsp. *heineken* of SW. Iberia & Macaronesia), Canary Island Chiffchaffs and a Common Blackbird (Macaronesian subsp. *cabreræ*), as well as the La Palma form of Canary Lavender (*Lavandula canariensis* subsp. *palmensis*). As we were joining the main road, two Red-billed Chough (subsp. *barbarus* of La Palma and north-west Morocco) flew over and landed, but we couldn’t stop to look properly.

As we drove north, we could see how green, and lush, was this part of the island. Our first stop was at the ravine of Cubo de la Galga, in the laurel forest. We were still in the car park when we were seeing the first Laurel Pigeons in flight and then perched, although the light was poor as the weather was drizzly. A Common Buzzard (Canary subsp. *insularum*) appeared to be carrying a dead Brown Rat. Canary Island Chiffchaffs and Blackbirds were abundant, and we had good views of the La Palma subspecies of African Blue Tit. Plants included Azores Laurel (*Laurus novocanariensis*), Canary Island Guelder Rose (*Viburnum rugosum*), Canary Strawberry Tree (*Arbutus canariensis*), Canary Tree Heath (*Erica canariensis*), La Palma Sow-thistle (*Sonchus palmensis*) and Hare’s-foot Fern (*Davallia canariensis*). We were only able to walk about 300 metres along the path, as it was closed due to rock falls, but we scanned the forested ravine and were rewarded by more sightings of Laurel Pigeons. As we were returning, a pigeon perched out in the open on a dead tree was seen to be a Bolle’s Pigeon, with the dark tail band clearly visible. A Canary Speckled Wood was also seen distantly.

We moved on further north, seeing several Common Kestrels en route. We turned inland again, this time to Los Tilos, passing some magnificent specimens of Canary Bellflower (*Canarina canariensis*). We parked in the dramatic ravine, where a Raven and numbers of Common Chaffinches (subsp. *palmae*) were clearly expecting food. The Raven even perched on the minibus, pecking at the windscreen and the wing mirror! There was time for a coffee while the picnic was being prepared – the Raven had given up on us, but at least 40 Chaffinches came down for crumbs from the bread-slicing, and we could admire their distinctive colouring. Afterwards we looked at more of the plants, including the dramatic Chain Fern (*Woodwardia radicans*), with their massive fronds, and were able to

look closely at the bellflower. Other plants included the evergreen trees Stinkwood (*Ocotea foetens*), Canary Laurel (*Persea barbujana*) which usually has infestations of mites causing leaf galls, Wax Myrtle (*Myrica faya*) and Canary Island Elder (*Sambucus palmensis*).

We then took a short walk along a water channel: these were constructed to carry water from the forest areas for irrigation and other use. The cliffs were lined with Mediterranean Clubmoss (*Selaginella denticulata*), Maidenhair Fern (*Adiantum capillus-veneris*) and Kidney-leaved Fern (*A. reniforme*), and Josh found False Widow Spiders in one of the caves, as well as one encased in a white fungus. At the end the path opened to reveal a dramatic and beautiful waterfall pouring into the ravine – so different from the other Canary Islands! What looked initially like a Pond-skater here was a Canary Water Cricket. We retraced our steps and spent a little time looking at the cliff wall near the minibuses, with several species of millipedes and slugs, as well as another Canary Speckled Wood. As we were leaving the area, two Laurel Pigeons flew across and perched where we were fortunately able to pull in, and there was also another Bolle's Pigeon clearly visible in a dead tree.

We drove further north through Barlovento to the Mirador La Tosca, right on the north-east corner of the island. Here we admired a number of Dragon Trees (*Dracaena draco*) which are often wild here, rather than planted. We also explored an area of road verge with several different vetches including a pink-and-white form of *Lathyrus chymenum* and a flowering white Broom, Tagasaste (*Chamaecytisus prolifer*). The sun was trying to come out, but didn't really manage it, so insect life was limited, but a Canary Islands Large White (La Palma subsp. *benchoavensis*) flew through. On the way back to Los Cancajos, about six Plain Swifts were seen, as well as a Little Egret in flight.

We arrived back at 5.35pm, with time to relax before those who wished, met to update checklists. We all gathered at 7.15pm to hear about plans for the morrow before another tasty dinner. Afterwards, another Tenerife Gecko hunt took place, with about four sighted on the canopied area in front of the hotel.

Day 3

Saturday 18th March

Boat trip; Barranco de las Angustias

We had an earlier breakfast today and were on the road at 8.30am, climbing up over the centre of the island and across the central plains, where a Barbary Partridge and Red-billed Chough were seen, before dropping down to the sea at Puerto de Tazacorte. We could see the cone of the new volcano which erupted in 2021 and all the lava. When we reached the harbour, we made picnic lunches, while admiring the many East Atlantic Sally Lightfoot Crabs with their smart red legs. An Atlantic Trumpetfish was in the water and a nice male La Palma Lizard was basking on some rocks.

We met up with Juan Carlos and the crew of Fancy II and were soon heading out to sea for our four-hour safari. It was sunny and relatively calm (by Atlantic standards!) and we soon encountered a Loggerhead Turtle enjoying the sun and giving excellent views. Cory's Shearwaters were abundant, and a Northern Gannet flew across. A little further on we saw a couple of Atlantic Spotted Dolphins, but they were just the outliers for a much larger pod of

maybe 100, diving, leaping, bow-riding and swimming round the boat, some of the adults having calves with them. It was wonderful to spend time with them, and we could see the differences between the spotted mature adults and the unspotted younger ones. A Portuguese Man-o'-war was seen briefly. During the trip, we encountered another two pods of Spotted Dolphins, maybe smaller in size with 25 – 30 animals in each, but they were so active, it was very hard to estimate numbers.

The next treat was a school of Short-finned Pilot Whales, maybe 20 animals, again some being calves alongside the adults. We had some great views of their rounded heads and curved dorsal fins. They were moving gently on the surface, sometimes doing shallow dives, sometimes just resting (logging). Two very pointed fins were the dorsal and tail fin of a Marlin swimming on the surface, probably an Atlantic Blue Marlin and maybe a young one as it was relatively small. Other birds seen were a couple of Manx Shearwaters and an unidentified Petrel species. We were returning to the harbour when, only just offshore, a final joy was an encounter with two Bryde's Whales! We first saw the blows and then the animals, with again, great views of one of them. What a finale! We were thrilled with all our encounters, and Juan Carlos told us how lucky we had been to encounter so many species on one trip.

We took a little time to regain our land legs, enjoying the warm sun, and an African Grass Blue butterfly was photographed. Next, we drove back up out of the port, seeing some Plain Swifts en route. Our destination was the bottom of the Barranco de las Angustias but further inland, so we drove via Los Llanos and took a tiny road with hairpin bends down to the valley floor, where we were pleased to find an ice-cream van in the car park. Canary Island Large Whites were abundant, and we also saw a Clouded Yellow, a Canary Speckled Wood and a Monarch, and a Barbary Spurge Hawk-moth was photographed. The very dry barranco, which is the opening of the caldera, was such a contrast to the lush vegetation of Los Tilos. At the top were Canary Pines, and we saw about four Laurel Pigeons flying round. Closer to hand were Atlantic Canary and Blackcap, while plants included Canary Island Alison (*Lobularia canariensis*), a Canary Carline Thistle (*Carlina falcata*), White La Palma Bugloss (*Echium breviflorum*), the bitter spurge *Euphorbia lamarckii* and the strange silk-vine *Periploca laevigata* with its enormous horned pods.

We dragged ourselves away to drive back across the plains and through the long road tunnel, getting back to the hotel at 5.45pm. We met later to update our lists and enjoy dinner, after another amazing day.

Day 4

Sunday 19th March

Juan Mayor; Mirador de la Concepcion

We had a more relaxed start this morning, leaving at 9.20am (mainly because the supermarket did not open until 9am). Although sunny over breakfast, the sky clouded over, but it was still mild. We drove a short distance to the access road for Juan Mayor, on the edge of Santa Cruz. We parked at the bottom of the narrow lane which heads up into the hills, bordered on one side by newly restored terraces and small fields and on the other by the barranco and wooded cliff. Having made our picnics, during which we admired a nearby Chough, while Eurasian Sparrowhawk (subspecies *granti* of the western Canary Islands and rarely in Madeira) circled overhead, we set off.

Blackcaps, Canaries and Blackbirds were in full song, and good numbers of Canary Islands Large White and Canary Speckled Wood were on the wing. Many bees were enjoying the flowers, especially Canary Flower Bee, Large Garden Bumble Bee and tiny solitary bees which were possibly *Andrena* species. A large caterpillar was a Sword-grass moth and we also found Small Copper. The verges were colourful with carpets of Tangier Pea (*Lathyrus tingitanus*), Galactites (*Galactites tomentosa*), Garden Nasturtiums (*Tropaeolum majus*) and Morning Glories (*Ipomaea purpurea*). We added Canary Skipper and Geranium Bronze, *Aeonium davidbramwellii* (David wrote several books on the flora of the Canaries) and *Aeonium arboreum* subsp. *holochrysum*, with whitish and yellow flowers respectively. Blue Emperor, Epaulet Skimmer and Red-veined Darter dragonflies were seen plus one resembling Common Darter, which we realised was the endemic Island Darter (although the Canary Island wildlife book states it is not on La Palma, online searches revealed a small number of records from this under-recorded island). A Barbary Falcon (now considered a subspecies of Peregrine Falcon) was seen having a tussle with a Kestrel.

The group spread out, with some walking ahead as the road became path winding among Tree Heather and Canary St. John's-wort, and there were a number of bushes of the menthol-fragranced *Bystropogon origanifolium*. A shady cliff held plenty of Kidney-leaved Fern (*Adiantum reniforme*) and another some plants of gone-over Canary Twayblade (*Habenaria tridactylites*), and Spotted Rock-rose (*Tuberia punctata*) was on the path. A signpost by a Canary Islands Holly (*Ilex canariensis*) marked a division of the ways; those walking up the official path reported that it passed a water tank with Canary Island Chiffchaffs, a Goldcrest (La Palma and El Hierro subsp. *ellenthalerae*) and dragonflies, before becoming steeper and a scramble. Some had good views of Canary Red Admiral. We enjoyed our picnics in a number of locations, before slowly retracing our steps, meeting back at the minibuses at 3.30pm.

We then moved the short distance to the Mirador de la Concepcion, a viewpoint over Santa Cruz. Here we saw good numbers of La Palma Lizards, especially a couple of males with bright blue throats, along with a glimpse of Canary Red Admiral, and good views of 'ordinary' Red Admiral for comparison. A black beetle was the endemic Darkling Beetle *Pimelia laevigata laevigata*, a Canary Island species and a La Palma subspecies. There was a range of *Echiums* here, with La Palma Blue Bugloss (*Echium webbia*), La Palma White Bugloss (*Echium brevirame*) the non-endemic Purple Viper's-bugloss (*E. plantagineum*) and a variety of apparent hybrids.

We returned to the hotel with plenty of time to relax or walk to the beach. After meeting to update our lists, discuss sightings and plans, and dinner together, we were all quite tired and ready for our beds.

Day 5

Monday 20th March

The north side of the caldera: Roque de los Muchachos

Today we had a long day of driving, visiting the highest point of the island. Again, it was rather cloudy as we set off at 8.30am, taking the winding LP-4 road which climbs up the east side of the caldera. Our first stop was a layby in the laurisilva/Canary Tree Heather woodland, with views down to the sea, with very vocal Canary Island Chiffchaffs and Blackcaps. *Genista stenopetala* was just coming out and the Canary Island Guelder Rose (*Viburnum rugosum*) was particularly fine. The Canary Holly here was affected by a Sooty Mould, and a Canary Bumble Bee

was visiting the flowers. We moved higher, above the clouds into bright sunshine, and the lush vegetation was gradually replaced by Canary Pines, with the understorey becoming very sparse. Our second stop, well up in the pine zone near the path to the Puntallana Refuge gave great views over the sea of cloud to Tenerife. Here we had a few Common Chaffinches, another Goldcrest, Choughs and Ravens overhead, and plants included Teide Sticky Broom (*Adenocarpus viscosus*), not yet in flower, and the yellow cress La Palma Flixweed (*Descurania gilva*).

Moving higher again, the trees were becoming more stunted, replaced by the Sticky Broom and Teide White Broom (*Cytisus supranubius*), neither of which were yet flowering. We pulled in near the path to the Monument to Infinity, with more, stunning views and amazing geology, with bright yellow and orange layers in the strata. Here was flowering Canary Wallflower (*Erysimum scoparium*) which is also in the caldera on Tenerife, and deep mauve La Palma Pansy (*Viola palmense*) which only grows here. Canary Flower Bee and a tiny Ladybird *Coccinella miranda* were on the wallflower. We also passed small clumps of white Alpine Rock-cress (*Arabis caucasica*), flowering on sheltered ledges. Canaries were flitting around. There was little wind, and the temperature was higher than at lower altitudes! We passed a few snow patches in shaded areas.

We turned off on the road that leads past the various Observatories, located here because of the stability and clarity of the air, and parked at the Roque de los Muchachos, at 2,426 metres above sea level (and about 10,000 metres above the sea-bed!). On one of the bends, a Barbary Partridge was seen briefly but well by some. The views were literally breath-taking, down into the caldera, which was free of clouds. Ravens and Choughs were around, a couple of Common Swifts were flew past, and some saw Berthelot's Pipit. Plants included the leaf rosettes and dead flower spikes of the large La Palma Pink Echium (*Echium perezii*, recently split from *Echium wildpretii* which is on Mount Teide) and the bushy *Echium gentianoides* which has deep blue flowers in summer. There was also La Palma Broom (*Genista beneboavensis*) with silvery, branched twigs, and *Bencomia exstipulata*, a bush member of the Rose family. A few La Palma Lizards were seen. At the end of our allotted parking time, we drove back to the main road to visit the new visitor centre, which focuses on the Observatories and astronomy. Outside, more Berthelot's Pipits were seen and heard, as well as a couple of Spectacled Warblers, although they were rather distant. A Canary Skipper and Small White butterflies were around.

We stopped in a pull in just below the summit, where we enjoyed the warm sunshine. A flock of Plain Swifts and the two Common Swifts were seen, as well as both Red-winged and Blue-winged Grasshoppers. We carried on down the north-west side, with the temperature dropping as we returned to cloud. As we did so, the vegetation suddenly became very lush again, with lots of lowering fruit trees, although the Almond (*Prunus dulcis*) blossom here was over. A couple of stops in this area gave more Canaries, carpets of Mallow-leaved Bindweed (*Convolvulus altheoides*) and Canary Garlic (*Allium canariense*). It was rather a haul along the west coast, not helped by very slow roadworks, and the proposed café stop being closed. However, we took a short diversion back into Puerto de Tazacorte, where we enjoyed refreshments by the sea. We then drove back across the central plains and through the tunnel under the ridge, back down to Los Cancajos. After a break, we met to discuss plans very briefly before dinner.

It had been a long day, but the scenery especially, had been amazing.

Day 6

Tuesday 21st March

Fuencaliente Salt-pans, Mirador de Los Canarios; San Antonio Volcano; Dragos Gemelos

Today we set off at 8.45am to explore the south of the island. Negotiating the extensive road-improvement works on the LP-2, we turned off in Fuencaliente, winding our way gently down to Las Salinas at sea level, past the 1971, still un-vegetated, lava as well as older lava with small pockets of vines. As we descended, there was a transition from relatively lush vegetation of large bushes of *Euphorbia lamarckii* to much more arid, scattered plants of Canary Samphire (both species, *Schizogyne sericea* and *Astyadama latifolia*), the Sea-heath *Frankenia ericifolia*, Dwarf Sea-lavender (*Limonium pectinatum*) and the very small *Polycarpha divaricata*, with pink-beige flowers. Salt has been extracted from the seawater here since 1967, making the most of the bright sun and the strong winds. We walked around the shallow pans, where about a dozen Ruddy Turnstones, a pair of Common Ringed Plovers and a Common Sandpiper were feeding. We also had excellent views of Berthelot's Pipits and some fine La Palma Lizards. As well as Yellow-legged Gulls, a couple of Lesser Black-backed Gulls (subsp. *graellsii* as in the UK), Cory's Shearwaters and a Gannet were seen. Unfortunately, the café was closed (on Tuesdays and Wednesdays), but the shop and toilets were open. As we were about to leave, a Plain Tiger butterfly was found on a rock; this powerful flier is able to cope with strong winds, and roams widely.

Driving back up to Fuencaliente, we made our way to the Mirador overlooking the San Antonio volcano, where we had our picnic. We were struck by the number of Kestrels in the area generally, and here we also saw Buzzard and Choughs, as well as Canaries. More lizards were enjoyed, and a Tenerife Gecko showed briefly on a wall. The golden-flowered *Aeonium spathulatum* was on a bank. Replete after another delicious picnic, we made our way down to the San Antonio volcano, which erupted in 1677. We spent time in the visitor centre, learning about volcanoes and the history of La Palma, and also seeing footage of the 2021 eruption, before visiting the cone.

Plants here included some minute specimens of the bellflower *Wahlenbergia lobellioides* subsp. *lobellioides*, only about 1cm tall but flowering perfectly (there was also a more normal-sized specimen elsewhere), the leaves of Yellow Horned-poppy (*Glaucium flavum*), and the 'umbellifer *Todaroa aurea*. A few Canary Blues were glimpsed very briefly. We were able to walk halfway round the rim of the volcanic cone, looking down onto the scattered Canary Pines within, and enjoying the extensive, views to the sea.

We then headed north again, taking the more winding road along the eastern slopes, through much lush vegetation, and with a large flock of 30+ Choughs enjoying the wind. At Breña Alta we stopped to visit the Dragos Gemelos (the Twin Dragon Trees), said to be the oldest Dragon Trees in La Palma. They have fused together and have many branches and crevices formed by aerial roots, as well as having at least three species of plants growing epiphytically. An African Blue Tit showed well here. We returned to the hotel at about 4.30pm with time to relax

or explore locally. As well as the East Atlantic Sally Lightfoot crabs on the rocks and a small Portuguese Man-o'-War stranded on the beach, other sightings included a Crimson Speckled moth in the scrub.

Day 7

Wednesday 22nd March

La Cumbrecita; Calle Virgen del Pino; boat trip

This morning was warm and sunny, and we left at 9am to drive up to the south side of the Caldera de Taburiente, visible from La Cumbrecita viewpoint. Accordingly, we took the road up through the tunnel, onto the central plains. Because of limited space, parking at the viewpoint has to be booked in advance, with timed slots, and we arrived at the barrier in perfect time, continuing along the narrow winding road through the Canary Island Pines, noting their powers of regeneration: they are one of the few conifers which sprout easily when damaged, for example, by fire. (Some, with blackened trunks, had been burnt by pyroclastic ash from the 2021 volcanic eruption.) At the top, it was beautifully clear, and the caldera looked magnificent in the morning light, with the dramatic cliffs surrounding it; we could see where we had been on Monday. We had time to follow a path through the trees, seeing a couple of Canary Blue butterflies, an Island Darter resting on a twig, a couple of Chough and some saw a couple of Barbary Partridge. The sparse understorey vegetation was mainly Canary Cistus (*Cistus symphytifolius*) and the endemic Bird's-foot Trefoil *Lotus campylocladus* subsp. *billebrandii*, but not yet in flower. We also noted the Angelica-like leaves of *Tinguarra cervariaefolia*, and a shaded wall held *Aichryson punctatum* and ferns including the Rustyback fern *Asplenium aureum*, Jersey Fern (*Anogramma leptophylla*) and *Hemionitis marantae*, in which the young fronds look dead and brown. As we were leaving, large coach parties were arriving.

We next went to the visitor centre, where we enjoyed the small botanic garden, with many endemic species of plants, and the neighbouring old fields. Overhead, a Common Buzzard was circling for maybe 15 minutes with a dead Rabbit in its talons – it almost seemed that it didn't know what to do next. A Chough sat on the centre roof, Canaries were flitting about, and La Palma Lizards were in the walls.

We drove the short distance to the road to the little church of Virgen del Pino, where we parked in a layby and explored the old fields and lanes. Plain Swifts were overhead, and we enjoyed the waterfall clouds that constantly flowed over the ridge but evaporated before they reached the plains. Insect life here included a Praying Mantis nymph, and Canary Island Large White, Painted Lady, Clouded Yellow and Small Copper butterflies, while plants included Pink Bindweed (*Convolvulus cantabrica*), Blue Lupin (*Lupinus pilosus*) and a different subspecies of Genista, with smaller, silvery leaves (*Genista stenophylla* subsp. *sericea*). We enjoyed our final picnic here.

We then moved on west, dropping down again to the port for our repeat four-hour boat trip on Fancy II. Juan Carlos was on holiday today, so we were guided by the owner Pepon, as well as David and Juan, who we had met before. In bright sun we set sail on a beautifully calm sea – calmer than on Saturday. After some time, with excellent views of Cory's Shearwaters and lots of generally quite small Portuguese Men-o'-War, we saw animal activity. This was a pod of Striped Dolphins, maybe about 10, and we followed them, having some lovely views and seeing the striped flanks. Unlike the Spotted Dolphins, they did not interact with the boat, and Juan told us they are usually

some of the hardest to see. A little later, we encountered another pod of Atlantic Spotted Dolphins which played around the boat, followed a while after, by a pod of Common Dolphins, where we could clearly see the contrasting colours of back and flank. Another, much larger gathering of Atlantic Spotted Dolphins joined us, but then we saw a whale blow a couple of times and were almost ignoring the dolphins in our search for the larger animal. Another blow was seen in the opposite direction, and we then had excellent views of a Bryde's Whale, seeing the long back and small fin and even, finally, the head, as it took a deep dive. All the time, the Spotted Dolphins were around, keeping pace as we moved or stayed still. What a wonderful experience! Apparently, our sightings of the two animals on Saturday and today were the only ones for the month, sightings of these whales being commoner in summer.

The sun was low as we made our way back to the harbour, delighted with our trip. We then made our way, either on foot or by vehicle, the short distance into the village of Puerto de Tazacorte, where we had a table booked for dinner at the Kiosko Montecarlo, the last establishment in a line of restaurants along the promenade. Here, to the sound of waves breaking on the beach and the mild night air, we enjoyed a delicious dinner of very fresh seafood and fish. It was a case of choosing your fish from the counter, some of which were very large and shared between several people. As we walked back in the dark, with stars overhead, we agreed it had been a perfect end to the week. We arrived back at about 10.45pm, happy and ready for our beds.

Day 8

Thursday 23rd March

Juan Mayor / round hotel; Fly Gatwick

Our final morning dawned fine and sunny. Trish, on the Manchester flight, left at 8.45am, Jessica running her to the airport. With the flight for the rest of us not being until the afternoon, we had time for a relaxed morning. Some opted to stay in the environs of the hotel while the others returned with Jessica and Josh to Juan Mayor, where we had been on Sunday. The sun meant far more butterflies were active, with a couple of Monarchs, Canary Red Admirals and La Palma Brimstones being on the wing (although one Brimstone was caught in the web of a Tropical Tent Web Spider), as well as the Canary Islands Large White, Small White, Canary Speckled Wood and Small Copper. Blue Emperor and Island Darter Dragonflies were also seen, and several Tenerife Geckos were basking in the gaps in the drystone walls. Their darker and warty appearance led to discussion about the identification of the geckos in the hotel, but it is likely that those were juveniles, resembling more closely Turkish Geckos which apparently are not found on the island. Blackcaps, Canary Island Chiffchaffs and Blackbirds were singing loudly, while overhead, were at least three Buzzards, three Kestrels and a large flock of maybe 30 Red-billed Chough. We spent a most enjoyable 90 minutes, before returning to the hotel for midday. Others had enjoyed strolls by the sea and a drink in the warm sun.

We gathered and left, as planned, at 1pm. There was a wait before the check-in desk opened, but all was smooth, although the flight was delayed by about an hour. We said our farewells, after having enjoyed some of the best of La Palma in Spring.



Atlantic Spotted Dolphins (Josh Phangurha)



Monarch butterfly (Jessica Turner)

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La Palma Sow-thistle and waterfall clouds (Jessica Turner)



Roque de los Muchachos Observatory (Jessica Turner)

Species lists

Birds

(H = Heard only, LO = Leader only, * = Near-endemic species (also on Madeira & Azores), ** = Endemic species / subspecies)

	Common name	Scientific name	March									
			16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23		
Our tour checklist follows the names and taxonomy, including species order, of the International Ornithological Congress list of the birds of the world (version 13.1, Jan 2023) which seems destined to become the global standard in future.												
1	Barbary Partridge (Ca-I)	<i>Alectoris barbara koenigi</i>			✓		✓		✓			
2	Plain Swift *	<i>Apus unicolor</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
3	Common Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>					✓					
4	Rock Dove	<i>Columba livia</i>	✓		✓				✓	✓		
5	Feral Pigeon - I	<i>Columba livia feral</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
6	Bolle's Pigeon**	<i>Columba bollii</i>		2								
7	Laurel Pigeon**	<i>Columba junoniae</i>		c10	4	1+H	H					
8	Eurasian Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
9	Common Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>							✓			
10	Ruddy Turnstone	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>							✓			
11	Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>							✓			
12	Black-headed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>								✓		
13	Yellow-legged Gull (*)	<i>Larus michahellis atlantis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
14	Lesser Black-backed Gull	<i>Larus fuscus graellsii</i>							✓	✓		
15	Cory's Shearwater	<i>Calonectris borealis</i>	✓	✓	✓				✓	✓		
16	Manx Shearwater	<i>Puffinus puffinus</i>	✓		✓							
17	Petrel sp.				✓							
18	Northern Gannet	<i>Morus bassanus</i>			✓							
19	Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>		✓								
20	Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>		✓				✓				
21	Eurasian Sparrowhawk (*)	<i>Accipiter nisus granti</i>				✓	LO	✓				
22	Common Buzzard (Ca**)	<i>Buteo buteo insularum</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
23	Eurasian Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>										
24	Common Kestrel (wCa**)	<i>Falco tinnunculus canariensis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
25	Peregrine Falcon (Barbary Falcon)	<i>Falco peregrinus pelegrioides</i>			✓	✓			✓			
26	Red-billed Chough	<i>Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax barbarus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
27	Northern Raven (**)	<i>Corvus corax canariensis</i>		✓	✓			✓	✓	✓		
28	African Blue Tit (La Palma**)	<i>Cyanistes teneriffae palmae</i>		✓					✓		✓	
29	Canary Islands Chiffchaff**	<i>Phylloscopus canariensis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
30	Eurasian Blackcap (sw Iberia, Ca)	<i>Sylvia atricapilla heikenen</i>		✓	✓	✓		H	H		✓	
31	Sardinian Warbler	<i>Curruca melanocephala</i>		✓	✓	✓			✓			
32	Spectacled Warbler (Ca Md,CV*)	<i>Curruca conspicillata orbitalis</i>						✓	✓			
33	Goldcrest (La Palma & El Hierro**)	<i>Regulus regulus ellenthalerae</i>				✓	✓					
34	Common Blackbird (Ca, Mad*)	<i>Turdus merula cabrerae</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
35	European Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>						H	✓			
36	Spanish Sparrow	<i>Passer hispaniolensis</i>	✓	H		✓						
37	Berthelot's Pipit*	<i>Anthus berthelotii berthelotii</i>						✓	✓	✓		
38	Common Chaffinch (La Palma**)	<i>Fringilla coelebs palmae</i>		✓				✓				
39	Atlantic Canary*	<i>Serinus canaria</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	

Mammals (D = Dead)

	Common name	Scientific name	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
1	Common Dolphin	<i>Delphinus delphis</i>							✓	
2	Atlantic Spotted Dolphin	<i>Stenella frontalis</i>			✓				✓	
3	Striped Dolphin	<i>Stenella coeruleoalba</i>							✓	
4	Short-finned Pilot Whale	<i>Globicephala macrorhynchus</i>			✓					
5	Bryde's Whale	<i>Balaenoptera brydei</i>			✓				✓	
6	Rabbit	<i>Oryctolagus cuniculus</i>							D	
7	Brown Rat	<i>Rattus norvegicus</i>		D		D				
8	House Mouse			D						

Amphibians & Reptiles:

1	La Palma Lizard	<i>Gallotia galloti palmae</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
2	Tenerife Gecko	<i>Tarentola delalandii</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
3	Loggerhead Turtle	<i>Caretta caretta</i>			✓					

Fish:

1	Atlantic Blue Marlin	<i>Makaira nigricans</i>			✓					
2	Thick-lipped Grey Mullet	<i>Chelon labrosus</i>			✓					
3	Atlantic Trumpetfish	<i>Aulostomus strigosus</i>			✓					
4	Fish sp				✓				✓	

Butterflies

1	C. Is Large White (La P)**	<i>Pieris cheiranthi benchoavensis</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
2	Small White	<i>Pieris rapae</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
3	Bath White	<i>Pontia daplidice</i>								
4	Clouded Yellow	<i>Colius crocea</i>			✓			✓	✓	✓
5	La Palma Brimstone	<i>Gonepteryx palmae</i>							✓	✓
6	Small Copper	<i>Lycaena phlaeas</i>				✓			✓	✓
7	Geranium Bronze	<i>Cacyreus marshalli</i>				✓				
8	Canary Blue	<i>Cyclurius webbiana</i>						✓	✓	
9	African Grass Blue	<i>Zizeeria knysna</i>			✓					
10	Southern Brown Argus	<i>Aricia crameri</i>				✓				
11	Monarch	<i>Danaus plexippus</i>			✓					✓
12	Plain Tiger	<i>Danaus chrysippus</i>						✓		
13	Red Admiral	<i>Vanessa atalanta</i>				✓			✓	
14	Canary Red Admiral*	<i>Vanessa vulcanica</i>				✓				✓
15	Painted Lady	<i>Vanessa cardui</i>				✓			✓	✓
16	Canary Speckled Wood	<i>Pararge xiphioides</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
17	Canary Skipper	<i>Thymelicus christi</i>				✓	✓			

Moths (C = Caterpillar)

1	Hawaiian Beet Webworm	<i>Spoladea recurvalis</i>						✓		
2	Yellow Under Pearl	<i>Uresphita gilvata</i>		✓		✓		✓	✓	
3	Hummingbird Hawk-moth	<i>Macroglossum stellatarum</i>				✓		✓		
4	Sword-grass	<i>Xylota exsoleta</i>				C				
5	Barbary Spurge Hawk-moth	<i>Hyles tithymali phaelipae**</i>			✓					

Other Invertebrates

	Common name	Scientific name	March							
			16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
1	Blue Emperor	<i>Anax imperator</i>				✓		✓		
2	Epaulet Skimmer	<i>Orthetrum chrysostigma</i>				✓				
3	Red-veined Darter	<i>Sympetrum fonscolombii</i>			✓	✓				✓
4	Island Darter	<i>Sympetrum nigrifemur</i>				✓			✓	✓
5	Blue-winged Grasshopper	<i>Oedipoda canariensis</i>			✓		✓	✓	✓	
6	A Red-winged Grasshopper	<i>Acrotylus insubricus</i>					✓		✓	
7	Grasshopper spp.					✓	✓		✓	✓
8	Ornate Shield-bug	<i>Eurydema ornata</i>					✓		✓	
9	Coccineal Scale Insect	<i>Dactylopius coccus</i>			✓	✓				✓
10	A Hover-fly (red abdomen)	<i>Copestylum melleum</i>				✓		✓		
11	Canary Bumble Bee	<i>Bombus canariensis</i>		✓		✓	✓		✓	✓
12	Large Garden Bumble Bee	<i>Bombus ruderatus</i>		✓		✓				✓
13	Canary Flower Bee	<i>Anthophora alluaudi</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
14	Honey Bee	<i>Apis mellifera</i>		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
15	Pollen Chafer	<i>Oxythyrea funesta</i>				✓	✓			
16	A small Ladybird	<i>Coccinella miranda</i>					✓	✓		
17	La Palma Darkling Beetle	<i>Pimelia laevigata laevigata</i>				✓	✓			
18	Tropical Tent Web Spider	<i>Cyrtophora citricola</i>				✓				✓
19	An Orbweaver Spider	<i>Agelenatea redii</i>	✓		✓					
20	Banded Garden Spider	<i>Argiope trifasciata</i>	✓			✓				
21	Crab Spider	<i>Misumera spinifera</i>		✓						
22	Running Crab Spider	<i>Phyllodromus</i> sp.		✓						
23	False Widow Spider	<i>Stearoda grossa</i>		✓						
24	Daddy Longlegs Spider	<i>Pholcus phalangioides</i>		✓						
25	Flat-backed Millipede	<i>Polydesmus</i> sp.		✓						
26	Pill Millipede	<i>Armadillidum</i> sp.		✓						
27	Spotted Snake Millipede	<i>Blaniulus guttulatus</i>		✓						
28	Hairy Snake Millipede	<i>Ophiulus pilosus</i>				✓				
29	Tick sp. on Gallotia lizard					✓				
30	Earwig sp.			✓						
31	A Leopard Slug	<i>Ambigolimax valentiana</i>		✓						
32	Snail sp (garden type)					✓				
33	East Atlantic Sally Lightfoot Crab	<i>Grapsus adscensionis</i>			✓			✓	✓	✓
34	Portuguese Man o' War	<i>Physalia physalis</i>			✓			✓	✓	

Plants

(* = Atlantic Islands endemic, ** = Canary Islands endemic, *** = Single Island endemic, [] = Introduced/planted)

Scientific name	Common name	Day	Location
Nomenclature contained within this list follows Plants of the World Online (POWO), an internationally accepted database of vascular plant families published by the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew.			
PTERIDOPHYTES		FERNS & ALLIES	
Sellaginellaceae		Lesser Clubmoss Family	
<i>Selaginella denticulata</i>	Mediterranean Clubmoss	2	Los Tilos
Equisetaceae		Horsetail Family	
<i>Equisetum ramosissimum</i>	Branched Horsetail	3	Barranco de las Angustias

Leptosporangiate Ferns	True Ferns		
Aspleniaceae	Spleenwort Family		
<i>Asplenium aethiopicum</i> subsp. <i>filare</i>	A Spleenwort	2	Los Tilos
<i>Asplenium aureum</i> **	-	7	La Cumbrecita
Blechnaceae	Hard Fern Family		
<i>Woodwardia radicans</i> *	Chain Fern	2	Los Tilos
Davalliaceae	Hare's-foot Fern Family		
<i>Davallia canariensis</i> *	Hare's-foot Fern	2	Cubo de la Galga
Dennstaedtiaceae	Bracken Family		
<i>Pteridium aquilinum</i>	Bracken	2	Widespread
Polypodiaceae	Polypody Family		
<i>Polypodium macaronesticum</i> *	Macaronesian Polypody	4	Juan Mayor
Pteridaceae	Ribbon-fern Family		
<i>Adiantum capillus-veneris</i>	Maidenhair Fern	2	Los Tilos
<i>Adiantum reniforme</i> *	Kidney-leaved Fern	2	Los Tilos
<i>Anogramma leptophylla</i>	Jersey Fern	4	Juan Mayor
<i>Hemionitis (Cheilanthes) marantae</i>	-	6	San Antonio volcano
GYMNOSPERMS	CONIFERS		
Cupressaceae	Cypress Family		
<i>Juniperus cedrus</i> *	Canary Island Juniper	7	Botanic Garden (planted)
Pinaceae	Pine Family		
<i>Pinus canariensis</i> **	Canary Islands Pine	2	Widespread
ANGIOSPERMS	FLOWERING PLANTS		
Pre-Dicots	Primitive Angiosperms		
Lauraceae	Laurel Family		
<i>Laurus novocanariensis</i> *	Azores Laurel	2	Cubo de la Galga
<i>Ocotea fotens</i> *	Stinkwood	2	Los Tilos
<i>Persea (Apollonias) barbujana</i> *	Canary Laurel	2	Cubo de la Galga
<i>Persea indica</i> *		7	Botanic Garden (planted)
Eu-Dicots	True Dicotyledons		
Aizoaceae	Dewplant Family		
<i>Mesembryanthemum nodiflorum</i>	Dewplant	1	Near hotel
Amaranthaceae (Chenopodiaceae)	Goosefoot Family		
<i>Achyranthes aspera</i>	Devil's Coach-whip	2	Cubo de la Galga
<i>Bosea yervamora</i> **	Bosea	1	Near hotel
<i>Patellifolia procumbens</i> *	-	1	Near hotel
Apiaceae	Carrot Family		
<i>Astydamia latifolia</i>	Canary Samphire	1	Near hotel
<i>Daucus carota</i> subsp. <i>maximus</i>	Wild Carrot	4	Juan Mayor
<i>Foeniculum vulgare</i>	Fennel	2	Cubo de la Galga
<i>Scandex pecten-veneris</i>	Shepherd's Needle	7	Calle Virgen del Pino

<i>Tinguarra cervariaefolia</i> **		7	La Cumbrecita
<i>Todaroa aurea</i> **	-	6	San Antonio volcano
Apocynaceae	Periwinkle Family		
<i>Periploca laevigata</i> *	A Silk-vine	3	Barranco de las Angustias
<i>Vinca major</i>	Greater Periwinkle	4	Juan Mayor
Aquifoliaceae	Holly Family		
<i>Ilex canariensis</i> **	Canary Island Holly	4	Juan Mayor
Araliaceae	Ivy Family		
<i>Hedera canariensis</i> **	Canary Ivy	2	Los Tilos
Asteraceae (Compositae)	Daisy Family		
<i>Ageratina adenophora</i>	-	2	Cubo de la Galga
<i>Ageratina ripara</i>		2	Cubo de la Galga
<i>Andryala pinnatifida</i> **		7	La Cumbrecita (leaves)
<i>Argyranthemum haouarytheum</i> ***	La Palma Daisy	6	San Antonio volcano
<i>Arg. frutescens</i> ssp. <i>succulentum</i> **	Paris Daisy	1	Near hotel
<i>Artemisia thuscula</i> (<i>A. canariensis</i>)**	Canary Wormwood	1	Near hotel
<i>Bidens pilosa</i>	Bur Marigold	2	Cubo de la Galga
<i>Calendula arvensis</i>	Field Marigold	4	Juan Mayor
<i>Carlina falcata</i> **	Canary Carlina Thistle	3	Barranco de las Angustias
<i>Cotula australis</i>	a Buttonweed	4	Juan Mayor
<i>Erigeron karvinskianus</i>	Mexican Fleabane	4	Juan Mayor
<i>Galactites tomentosa</i>	Galactites	2	Mirador La Tosca
<i>Kleinia neriifolia</i> **	Canary Islands Candle Plant	1	Near hotel
<i>Laphangium luteoalbum</i>	Jersey Cudweed	4	Juan Mayor
<i>Pericallis papyracea</i> ***	La Palma Cineraria	2	Cubo de la Galga
<i>Phagnalon saxatile</i>	A Phagnalon	6	Calle Virgen del Pino
<i>Reichardia ligulata</i> **	-	1	Near hotel
<i>Reichardia tingitana</i>	-	6	San Antonio volcano
<i>Schizogyne sericea</i> *	Canary Samphire	1	Near hotel
<i>Senecio teneriffae</i>	-	6	San Antonio volcano
<i>Sonchus asper</i>	Prickly Sow-thistle	1	Near hotel
<i>Sonchus hierrensis</i> **	-	4	Juan Mayor
<i>Sonchus palmensis</i> ***	La Palma Sow-thistle	2	Cubo de la Galga
Boraginaceae	Borage Family		
<i>Echium brevirame</i> ***		3	Barranco de las Angustias
<i>Echium gentianoides</i> ***		5	Roque de los Muchachos
<i>Echium perezii</i> ***	Taburiente/ Pink Bugloss	5	Roque de los Muchachos
<i>Echium plantagineum</i>	Purple Viper's-bugloss	2	Mirador La Tosca
<i>Echium webbii</i> ***	La Palma Viper's-bugloss	4	Mirador de la Concepcion
<i>Echium webbii</i> x <i>E. brevirame</i>		3	Barranco de las Angustias
<i>Echium webbii</i> x <i>E. plantagineum</i>		4	Mirador de la Concepcion
Brassicaceae	Cabbage Family		
<i>Crambe santosii</i> ***	Giant Crambe	2	Los Tilos
<i>Descurainia gilva</i> ***	La Palma Flixweed	5	Roque de los Muchachos
<i>Erysimum scoparium</i> **	Canary Island Wallflower	5	Roque de los Muchachos
<i>Hirschfeldia incana</i>	Hoary Mustard	4	Juan Mayor
<i>Lobularia canariensis</i> *	Canary Islands Alison	3	Barranco de las Angustias

Cactaceae	Cactus Family		
<i>[Opuntia maxima]</i>	a Prickly Pear	3	Barranco de las Angustias
Campanulaceae	Bellflower Family		
<i>Canarina canariensis</i> **	Canary Bellflower	2	Los Tilos
<i>Wahlenbergia lobelioides</i> (ssp. <i>lobelioides</i> **)		6	San Antonio volcano
Caprifoliaceae	Honeysuckle Family		
<i>Centranthus ruber</i>	Red Valerian	2	Roadsides
Caryophyllaceae	Pink Family		
<i>Petrorhagia nanteuillii</i>	A pink	4	Juan Mayor
<i>Polycarpea aristata</i> **		6	San Antonio volcano
<i>Polycarpea divaricata</i> **		1	Near hotel
<i>Silene gallica</i>	Small-flowered Catchfly	2	Mirador La Tosca
<i>Silene vulgaris</i>	Bladder Champion	4	Juan Mayor
Cistaceae	Cistus Family		
<i>Cistus monspeliensis</i>	Narrow-leaved Cistus	2	Mirador La Tosca
<i>Cistus symphytifolius</i> **	Canary Cistus	6	La Cumbrecita (leaves)
<i>Tuberia guttata</i>	Spotted Rock-rose	4	Juan Mayor
Commelinaceae	Spiderwort Family		
<i>Tradescantia fluminensis</i>	Small-leaf Spiderwort	2	Cubo de la Galga
Convolvulaceae	Bindweed Family		
<i>Convolvulus althaeoides</i>	Mallow-leaved Bindweed	5	West Coast
<i>Convolvulus cantabrica</i>	Pink Bindweed	7	Calle Virgen del Pino
<i>Convolvulus floridus</i> **	Canary Tree Bindweed	7	Botanic Garden (planted)
<i>Ipomoea purpurea</i>	Common Morning Glory	2	Roadsides
Crassulaceae	Stonecrop Family		
<i>Aeonium arboreum</i> subsp. <i>holochrysum</i> **	-	3	Roadsides
<i>Ae. canariense</i> subsp. <i>christii</i> ***	La Palma Canary Houseleek	3	Barranco de las Angustias
<i>Aeonium davidbramwellii</i> ***		4	Juan Mayor
<i>Aeonium nobile</i> ***		3	Barranco de las Angustias
<i>Aeonium spathulatum</i> **		6	Fuencaliente picnic site
<i>Aichryson palmense</i> ***		2	Los Tilos
<i>Umbilicus gaditanus</i>	-	2	Cubo de la Galga
Ericaceae	Heather Family		
<i>Arbutus canariensis</i> **	Canary Strawberry Tree	2	Cubo de la Galga
<i>Erica canariensis</i> **	Canary Tree Heather	2	Cubo de la Galga
Euphorbiaceae	Spurge Family		
<i>Euphorbia balsamifera</i>	Balsam Spurge	1	Near hotel
<i>Euphorbia canariensis</i> **	Canary Island Cactus-spurge	1	Near hotel
<i>Euphorbia (broussonetii) lamarckii</i> **	-	3	Barranco de las Angustias
<i>Euphorbia peplis</i>	Petty Spurge	4	Juan Mayor
<i>Mercurialis canariensis</i> **	Canary Island Mercury	4	Juan Mayor
<i>[Ricinus communis]</i>	Castor Oil Plant	2	Roadsides
Fabaceae (Leguminosae)	Pea Family		

<i>Adenocarpus viscosus</i> ssp. <i>spartioides</i> ***	La Palma Sticky Broom	5	Roque de los Muchachos
<i>Bituminaria bituminosa</i>	Pitch Trefoil	2	Mirador La Tosca
<i>Chamaecytisus prolifer</i> ssp. <i>palmensis</i> ***	Tagasaste	2	Mirador La Tosca
<i>Cytisus filipes</i>	A white broom (low alt.)	3	Barranco de las Angustias
<i>Cytisus (Spartocytisus) supranubius</i> ***	Teide White Broom	5	Roque de los Muchachos
<i>Genista benehoavensis</i> ***		5	Roque de los Muchachos
<i>Genista stenopetala</i> ssp. <i>sericea</i> ***	-	7	Calle Virgen del Pino
<i>Genista stenopetala</i> ssp. <i>stenopetala</i> **		2	Los Tilos
<i>Lathyrus clymenum</i>	-	2	Mirador La Tosca
<i>Lathyrus tingitanus</i>	Tangier Pea	2	Mirador La Tosca
<i>Lotus campylocladus</i> ssp. <i>hillebrandii</i> ***	La Palma Bird's-foot Trefoil	1	Near hotel
<i>Lupinus pilosus</i>	Blue Lupin	7	Calle Virgen del Pino
<i>Ononis laxiflora</i>	A Rest-harrow	3	Barranco de las Angustias
<i>Ornithopus compressus</i>	Compressed Bird's-foot	4	Juan Mayor
<i>Trifolium campestre</i>	Hop Trefoil	2	Mirador La Tosca
<i>Trifolium subterraneum</i>	Burrowing Clover	4	Juan Mayor
<i>Vicia disperma</i>	Smooth Tare	5	West Coast
<i>Vicia lutea</i>	Yellow Pea	5	West Coast
<i>Vicia sativa</i>	Common Vetch	2	Mirador La Tosca
Fagaceae	Beech Family		
<i>Castanea sativa</i>	Sweet Chestnut	2	Los Tilos
Frankeniaceae	Sea Heath Family		
<i>Frankenia ericifolia</i>	a Sea Heath	1	Near hotel
Geraniaceae	Geranium Family		
<i>Erodium chium</i>	A Stork's-bill	4	Juan Mayor
<i>Erodium cicutarium</i>	Common Stork's-bill	7	Calle Virgen del Pino
<i>Geranium purpureum</i>	Little Robin	2	Mirador La Tosca
<i>Geranium rotundifolium</i>	Round-leaved Crane's-bill	4	Juan Mayor
Hypericaceae	St.John's-wort Family		
<i>Hypericum canariense</i> *	Canary St.John's-wort	4	Juan Mayor
<i>Hypericum grandifolium</i> *		2	Mirador La Tosca
Lamiaceae	Dead-nettle Family		
<i>Bystropogon origanifolius</i> **	-	4	Juan Mayor
<i>Calamintha sylvatica</i>	Common Calamint	6	San Antonio volcano
<i>Lavandula canariensis</i> ssp. <i>palmensis</i>	Canary Lavender (La P)	3	Barranco de las Angustias
<i>Micromeria herpyllomorpha</i> ***	La Palma Savory	2	Los Tilos
<i>Origanum vulgare</i>	Marjoram	4	Juan Mayor
Moraceae	Fig Family		
[<i>Ficus carica</i>]	Common Fig	5	West Coast
Myricaceae	Sweet Gale Family		
<i>Myrica faya</i>	Wax Myrtle	2	Los Tilos
Nyctaginaceae	Bougainvillea Family		
[<i>Bougainvillea glabra</i>]	Bougainvillea	2	Roadsides
Oleaceae	Olive Family		

<i>Chrysojasminum odoratissimum</i> *	a Jasmine	2	Cubo de la Galga
Oxalidaceae	Wood Sorrel Family		
<i>Oxalis pes-caprae</i>	Bermuda Buttercup	2	Cubo de la Galga
Papaveraceae	Poppy Family		
<i>Fumaria montana</i>	A Fumitory	2	Cubo de la Galga
<i>Glacium flavum</i>	Yellow Horned-poppy	6	San Antonio volcano
<i>Papaver rhoeas</i>	Common Poppy	2	Roadsides
<i>Papaver somniferum</i> subsp. <i>setigerum</i>	Opium Poppy	4	Juan Mayor
Phytolaccaceae	Pokeweed Family		
[<i>Phytolacca dioica</i>]	Ombu	4	Juan Mayor
Plantaginaceae	Plantain Family		
<i>Misopates orontium</i>	Weasel-snout	3	Barranco de las Angustias
<i>Plantago lagopus</i>	Hare's-tail Plantain	4	Juan Mayor
Plumbaginaceae	Thrift Family		
<i>Limonium pectinatum</i> *	Dwarf Sea Lavender	1	Near hotel
Polygonaceae	Dock Family		
<i>Persicaria capitata</i>	Pink-headed Persicaria	2	Mirador La Tosca
<i>Rumex lunaria</i> **	Canary Dock	1	Near hotel
<i>Rumex vesicarius</i>	-	7	West Coast
Primulaceae	Primrose Family		
<i>Lysimachia arvensis</i> var. <i>caerulea</i>	Blue Scarlet Pimpernel	4	Juan Mayor
Resedaceae	Mignonette Family		
<i>Reseda lueola</i>	Weld	5	Roque de los Muchachos
Rosaceae	Rose Family		
<i>Bencomia exstipulata</i> **	-	5	Roque de los Muchachos
[<i>Prunus dulcis</i>]	Almond	2	Mirador La Tosca
<i>Rubus palmensis</i> **		2	Cubo de la Galga
<i>Sanguisorba megacarpa</i> *	a Burnet	5	West Coast
Rubiaceae	Bedstraw Family		
<i>Galium aparine</i>	Cleavers	2	Mirador La Tosca
<i>Phyllis nobla</i> *	Capitana	2	Cubo de la Galga
<i>Rubia fruticosa</i> *	Madder (bush)	3	Barranco de las Angustias
<i>Rubia fruticosa</i> ssp. <i>periclymenum</i>	Madder (climbing)	2	Cubo de la Galga
Salicaceae	Willow Family		
<i>Salix pedicellata</i> subsp. <i>canariensis</i> *	Canary Willow	2	Cubo de la Galga
Solanaceae	Nightshade Family		
<i>Hyoscyamus albus</i>	White Henbane		
<i>Nicotiana glauca</i>	Shrub Tobacco	3	Barranco de las Angustias
<i>Solanum lycopersicum</i>	Tomato	2	Roadsides
Tamaricaceae	Tamarisk Family		
<i>Tamarix canariensis</i>	Canary Tamarisk	1	Near hotel

Tropaeolaceae	Nasturtium Family		
<i>Tropaeolum majus</i>	Garden Nasturtium	2	Mirador La Tosca
Urticaceae	Nettle Family		
<i>Forsskaolea angustifolia</i> **	Narrow-leaved Forsskaolea	6	San Antonio volcano
<i>Gesnouinia arborea</i> **	Tree Pellitory	2	Los Tilos
Verbenaceae	Verbena Family		
[<i>Lantana camera</i>]	Lantana	2	Cubo de la Galga
Viburnaceae (Adoxaceae)	Viburnum Family		
<i>Sambucus palmensis</i> **	Canary Island Elder	2	Los Tilos
<i>Viburnum rugosum (rigidum)</i> **	Canary Island Gelder Rose	2	Cubo de la Galga
Violaceae	Violet Family		
<i>Viola palmensis</i>	La Palma Violet	5	Roque de los Muchachos
Monocots	Monocotyledons		
Arecaceae	Palm Family		
<i>Phoenix canariensis</i> **	Canary Palm	2	Native but often planted
Asparagaceae	Asparagus Family		
[<i>Agave americana</i>]	Century Plant	3	Roadsides
<i>Asparagus asparagoides</i>		4	Juan Mayor
<i>Asparagus scoparius</i>	-	7	Botanic Garden (planted)
<i>Dracaena draco</i>	Dragon Tree	2	Mirador La Tosca
<i>Semele androgyna</i> *	-	2	Los Tilos
Asphodelaceae	Aloe Family		
<i>Asphodelus ramosus</i>	Common Asphodel	2	Roadsides
Dioscoraceae			
<i>Dioscorea communis (Tamus edulis)</i>	Black Bryony	2	Cubo de la Galga
Orchidaceae	Orchid Family		
<i>Habernaria tridactylites</i>	Canary Twayblade (over)	4	Juan Mayor
Poaceae	Grass Family		
<i>Arundo donax</i>	Great Reed	2	Cubo de la Galga
<i>Briza maxima</i>	Greater Quaking Grass	2	Mirador La Tosca
<i>Lamarckia aurea</i>	Lamarck's Golden Grass	1	Near hotel
<i>Pennisetum setaceum</i>	Fountain Grass	1	Near hotel
FUNGI:			
<i>Laurobasidium lauri</i>	Laurel Fungus	2	Los Tilos
<i>Daldinia macaronesica / palmense</i>	A King Alfred's Cake fungus	2	Los Tilos
<i>Stereum hirsutum</i>	False Turkey Tail	2	Los Tilos
	Sooty Mould on Holly	5	First stop
	Bracket Fungus sp.	4	Juan Mayor