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A Stars and Stripes Community Publication

COMMANDER

SEAN P. KLIMEK, Lt Col, USAF, PhD

**BUSINESS OPERATIONS
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CAROLINE MILLER

**PUBLISHING & MEDIA DESIGN,
DIRECTOR**

MARIE WOODS

WRITER-EDITOR

MARY DEL ROSARIO, AMANDA PALUMBO

GRAPHIC ARTISTS

CARRIE FARRELL, LAURA HERSH,
ANDREA VARGAS

ENGAGEMENT MANAGER

KAREN LEWIS

MARKETING COORDINATOR

RACHEL COTTER

**MULTIMEDIA ADVERTISING,
MANAGER**

DOUG DOUGHERTY

**MULTIMEDIA ADVERTISING,
CONSULTANTS**

SEAN ADAMS, HEIDI BAYFIELD,
NATE JAMISON, TOM KEYS,
CLAUDIA STIER, JEFF TEESELINK

ADVERTISING COORDINATORS

AL GREEN, KRISTI KIMMEL

COVER DESIGN BY

LAURA HERSH

ADVERTISING OFFICE

Unit 29480, APO, AE 09211
Postfach 1980, 67607
Kaiserslautern, Germany
+49(0)631-3615-9000
or email: dougherty.doug@stripes.com

CONTACT US:

Telephone: +49 (0) 0631-3615-9111
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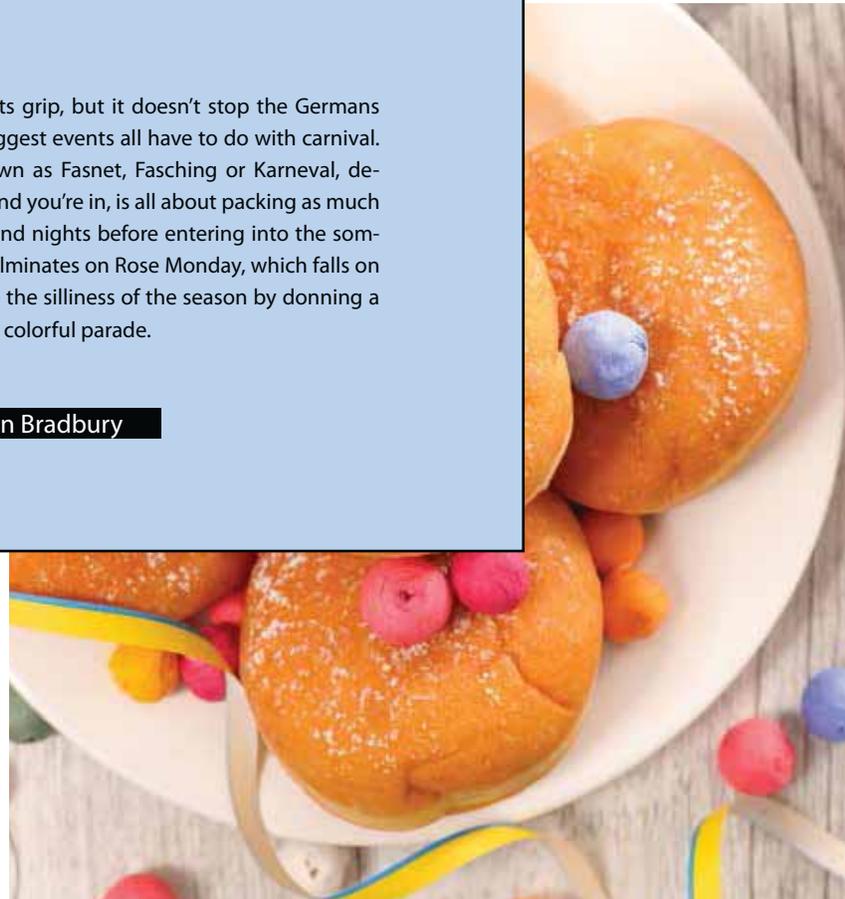


HELLO February

EVENTS AROUND GERMANY

Winter may hold us firmly in its grip, but it doesn't stop the Germans from having fun. February's biggest events all have to do with carnival. The period of merriment known as Fasnet, Fasching or Karneval, depending on what part of the land you're in, is all about packing as much fun as possible into the days and nights before entering into the somber season of Lent. Partying culminates on Rose Monday, which falls on February 24 this year. Embrace the silliness of the season by donning a costume and watching a crazy, colorful parade.

By Karen Bradbury



Editor's Picks

February



©SPORTPOINT74/123RF.COM

FIS SKI WORLD CUP

Feb. 1–2 and 8–9 in Garmisch-Partenkirchen

The world's best skiers take on the legendary Kandahar slope. Men race the first weekend, ladies the second.



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INTERNATIONAL MOTORCYCLE EXHIBITION

Feb. 14–16 in Munich

Discover the latest models of motorcycles, scooters, trikes, quads and other motorized bikes as they take center stage.



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HALLIA VENEZIA

Feb. 16 in Schwäbisch Hall

Carnival here is otherworldly, as some 100 figures clad in Venetian-style masks and robes strike poses in and around the Old Town.



©MELANIE_LEMAHIEU/123RF.COM

BLUES CARAVAN

Feb. 20 in Kaiserslautern

It's cold outside but warm inside the Cotton Club, the venue in which three talented musicians present their take on the sound of the Blues.



TORCHLIT DEVIL'S PARADE

Feb. 20 in Triberg im Schwarzwald

As evening falls, over 400 "devils" march in a torchlight parade through the eerily illuminated streets of this ideal Black Forest town.



ROSE MONDAY PARADE

Feb. 24 in Mainz

Carnival celebrations in Mainz culminate with a lively, five-mile-long parade made up of satirical, politically themed floats and marching bands.



FINE AND WINE TASTING FESTIVAL

Feb. 28 – 29 in Wiesbaden

The inaugural edition of this event sees 50 exhibitors present top wines and accompaniments from cheese to chocolate.



BAD DÜRKHEIMER (W) EINKAUFSNACHT

Feb. 29 in Bad Dürkheim

Enjoy a night of shopping and sampling the wines of local vintners in the illuminated pedestrian zone of this charming spa town.

PLAN
AHEAD

ST. PATRICK'S DAY FESTIVAL

March 14–15 in Munich

There's no need to travel to Dublin when Munich celebrates St. Patrick's with a parade made up of more than 1,300 marchers. Side events include Celtic sounds and Gaelic rock concerts, Irish folk dancing demos and the city's landmarks lit up in green.



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Make a special date with MWR in February

Super Bowl Party

View Super Bowl LIV on one of 32 large screens at the Wiesbaden Entertainment Center on Feb. 2 starting at 11 p.m. The WEC Super Bowl Party will feature giveaways and prizes at halftime. There will also be a limited menu available and bowling special rates.

Leap Into the Lounge Party

Come on up to the Wiesbaden Entertainment Center Lounge on Feb. 29 starting at 8 p.m. and add a day of partying you don't get every year. A limited menu will be available from the Strike Zone from 8-10:30 p.m. Themed drinks will also be available for purchase. Call civ (0611) 143-548-9404 or 9406 for details.

BOSS Meetings

Wiesbaden's Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers meets every first and third Wednesday of the month from 4-5 p.m. at the Warrior Zone. Find out about upcoming outings for single service members, community support and more. Call civ (0611) 143-548-9816 for details.

Blind Date With a Book

Different genres of books will be gift wrapped and ready for Wiesbaden Library patrons to check out throughout the month February. Readers are asked to "take a chance on book love" by selecting a book they may otherwise never have checked out. Stop by the library in February.

CYS Special Opening

Wiesbaden Child and Youth Services has a special opening for children ages six weeks to fifth grade on Valentine's Day, Feb. 14, from 6:30-11:30 p.m. Cost is \$25. Make reservations at Parent Central Services at least four working days in advance. Call civ (0611) 143-548-9356.

'Blue Door'

The Amelia Earhart Playhouse invites play-goers to this dramatic exploration of the male



Valentine's Day Dinner

The Little Italy Restaurant and Catering Center offers a special Valentine's Day Dinner on Feb. 14 from 6-9 p.m. The special meal will include an Aperitif, Appetizer, Main Course and Dessert. Cost is \$80 for two people. Call civ (0611) 143-548-9413 to reserve a table.

African-American experience. "Blue Door" is about a college professor coming to terms with his personal and cultural identity. Performances are Feb. 1, 14, 15, 21 and 22 at 7:30 p.m.; Feb. 2, 16 and 23 at 2 p.m. Purchase tickets at the Playhouse or Wiesbaden Arts and Crafts Center.

Get tips to grow your TSP

Enhance your financial literacy by learning how to make the most of the Thrift Savings Plan during ACS's free Making the Most of My TSP class on Feb. 4 from 9-10:30 a.m. in Building 1023W, Room 007, on Clay Kaserne. Call ACS at civ (0611) 143-548-9201 to reserve a space in the class.

Trivia Night

Share your knowledge of pop culture, history, science, literature and more during Trivia Night at the Wiesbaden Entertainment Center. Join a team and compete for door prizes. Trivia Nights are on Feb. 12 and 26 from 7-9 p.m.

Sweetheart Karaoke, Valentine's Bowling

Sing your sweetheart a love song up in the Wiesbaden Entertainment Center Lounge on Feb. 13 with Valentine's-themed karaoke. Bring your sweetheart and bowl from 11 a.m.

to 6 p.m. on Feb. 13 and 14. There'll be special food and bowling packages available. Call civ (0611) 143-548-9404 for more information.

Ski/ snowboard trips

Wiesbaden Outdoor Recreation holds trips to Engelberg, Switzerland, on Feb. 29 and March 28; and to the Black Forest on Feb. 1. Register at the Wiesbaden Sports, Fitness and Outdoor Recreation Center.

Toddler Playgroup

A Toddler Playgroup meets Feb. 7 and 21 from 10-11:30 a.m. at the Army Community Service Cafeteria. The free playgroup is for children ages 1-4. Call civ (0611) 143-548-9201 for more information.

Guitar and Bass Lessons

Enjoy individual electric and acoustic guitar lessons or electric bass lessons for adults at the



Wiesbaden Arts and Crafts Center. Lessons are 30 minutes long and generally available Tuesday through Fridays from 2-4 p.m. Register at the Arts and Crafts Center or call civ (0611) 143-548-9838.

Car Care Class

Learn Basic Car Maintenance during this class at the Wiesbaden Automotive Skills Center on Feb. 16, 2020, from 10:30-11:30 a.m. Topics include checking fluids, jump starting your vehicle, changing a tire, proper tire pressure and oil changes. Cost is \$15. Call civ (0611) 143-548-9817.



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“Bezirksschornsteinfegermeister”

– noun –

A district chimney sweep master



DICK VAN DYKE’S CHARACTER IN
“MARY POPPINS” COULD POSSIBLY BE A
“BEZIRKSSCHORNSTEINFEGERMEISTER” IF HE
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Embrace the Language

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Embracing GERMANY

The German Language

By Amanda Palumbo

Language barriers can be stressful but they can also make great memories and funny stories, not to mention quite the learning experience. When you're immersed in a country's culture you do start to learn the language more than you realize.

One of the most common problems is pronunciation. For more than a year I was pronouncing the grocery chain "Rewe" as "ree-wee." Our lead-writer finally told me it's pronounced "ray-vuh." When I asked a German friend why he never corrected me he responded, "It was not that big of a deal and I did not want to be rude." That's about as German as someone can get.

There are words I see that invoke a level of anxiety similar to that time I bombed in a fifth-grade spelling bee. (The word was rabies. I'll spare you my answer.) Words like, "Bezirksschornsteinfegermeister," which translates to "district chimney sweep master." Imagine that on a business card. Dick Van Dyke's character in "Mary Poppins" could possibly be a "Bezirksschornsteinfegermeister" if he focused on his chimney sweep career. I can only hope the company would be named "Supercalifragilisticexpialidocious Bezirksschornsteinfegermeister, LLC."

If you're researching beef in Germany you may come across the word, "Rindfleischetikettierungsüberwachungsaufgabenübertragungsgesetz." Those 63 letters mean "beef labeling regulation and delegation of supervision law." To save on ink, the acronym, ReÜAÜG, is often used instead. This was also the 1999 German Word of the Year, which I did double-check and that is a real thing.



I CAN ONLY IMAGINE HOW HIGH GERMAN SCRABBLE SCORES ARE. IMAGINE PLAYING WITH A WHOLE SET OF EXTRA VOWELS BECAUSE OF THE UMLAUTS.



If you write out a check for 7,254 euros, you would have to write out: "siebentausendzweihundertvierundfünfzig." Good luck.

There is a reason German words seem incredibly long to us. The language loves a good compound noun as much as they love puffer jackets and saying "genau," meaning exactly. The German language tends to smush the compound nouns together. Where we would say "shop owner" the German translation is "Ladenbesitzer" which is four letters and two syllables longer.

I'm currently adding "attend a German spelling bee" on my travel bucket list. Also, I can only imagine how high German Scrabble scores are. Imagine playing with a whole set of extra vowels because of the umlauts.

While you will likely never use the word, "Donaudampfschiffahrtsgesellschaftskapitän" (Danube Steamship Company Captain), here are some much shorter and more common phrases.



Hello - Hallo

Bye - Tschüss

Thanks - Danke

Thank you - Dankeschön

You're welcome (formal) -

Gern geschehen

You're welcome (less formal) -

Bitte schön

Please - Bitte

Sorry (formal) - Es tut mir Leid

Sorry (less formal) - Entschuldigung

My German is not very good - Mein Deutsch ist nicht sehr gut

Do you speak English? - Sprechen

Sie Englisch?

Another beer, please. - Noch ein

Bier, bitte

Cheers! - Prost! ■

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GERMANY'S HIGHLIGHT

Winnweiler

By Amanda Palumbo



Anytime someone finds out I live in Germany, they assume I travel every single weekend, dine nightly on schnitzel in a castle while drinking Bier in a Dirndl seven nights a week. One of those is correct...



IF YOU'RE MORE LIKELY TO HAVE FUN ON TWO WHEELS, YOU CAN HIT THE ALSEZTAL CYCLE ROUTE, A 30-MILE STRETCH THAT STARTS IN NEARBY ALSENBORN, TAKES YOU THROUGH WINNWEILER AND ENDS NEAR BAD MÜNSTER.

Traveling to a famous European destination every weekend simply isn't possible or economical but there are several hidden gems hiding in your own backyard. Beautiful Winnweiler is small in size but mighty in experiences. Just a 20-minute drive or 35-minute train ride north of the Kaiserslautern area, there's something for everyone.

For the history buff

Winnweiler is home to the Jewish Museum of the North Palatinate, a museum dedicated to the rich Jewish history in the Pfalz starting in the 1600s all the way through World War II. Just down the street is the Synagogue Memorial Stone dedicated to the synagogue burned down by the Nazis.

If you have "visit a really old castle that sits on top of a former volcanic vent" on your bucket list, you can check that off here. Now ruins, the Falkenstein Castle was first mentioned in 1135. The ruins are just 10 minutes north of Winnweiler and you guessed it, sits on top of a former volcanic vent. French troops blew up the castle in 1647 and it was finally destroyed 20 years later in yet another battle. Now the ruins serve as a backdrop to a number of festivals and even a Christmas market.

For the outdoorsy type

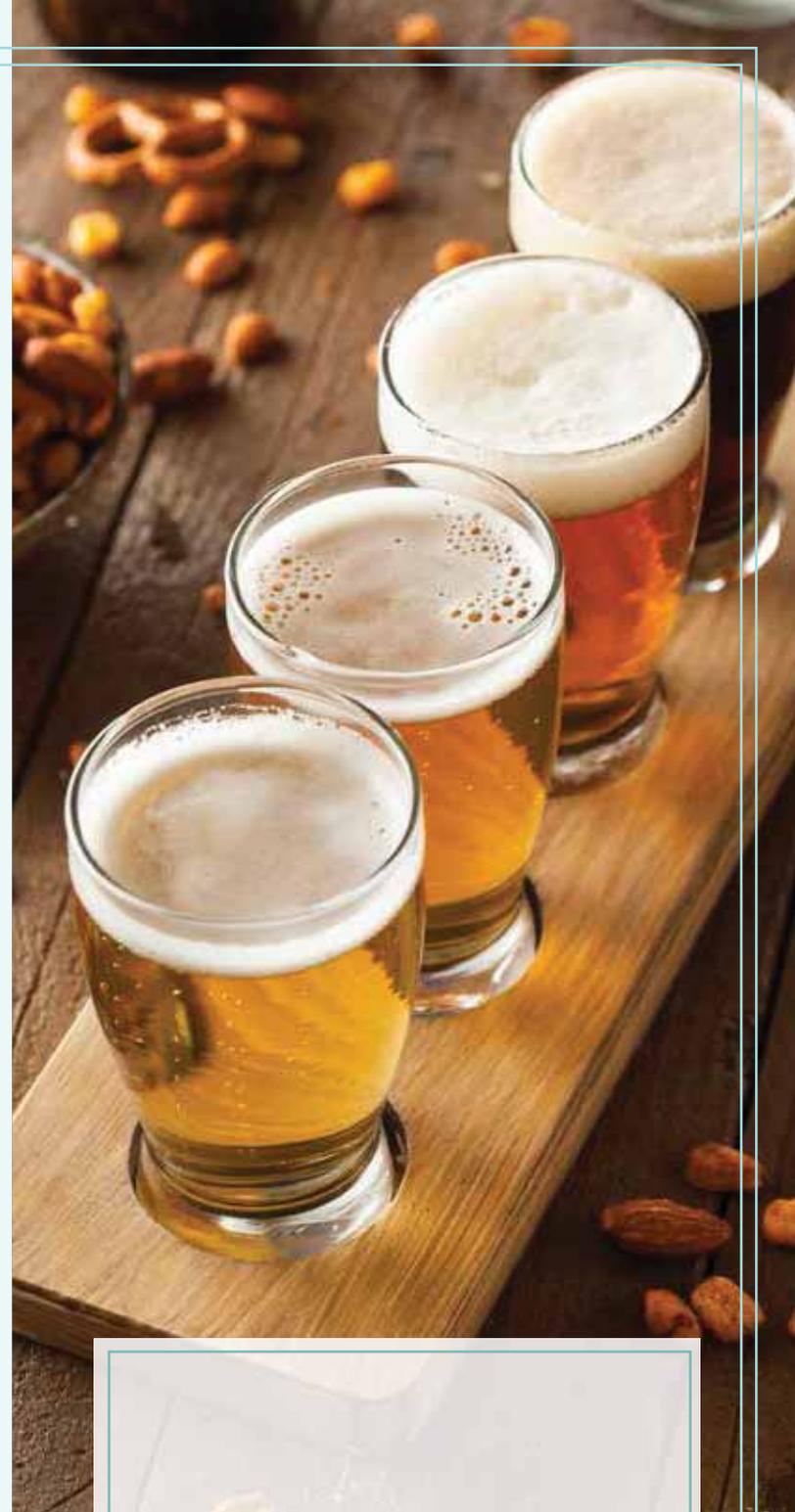
Winnweiler is considered the "Gateway to the Donnersberg" and is a starting point for a number of trails that weave through the forest and mountains. You can save leg day for the Pfälzer Höhenweg (Palatinate High Route). It's a trail with monster hills and beautiful sites, including the area's highest elevation.

If you're more likely to have fun on two wheels, you can hit the Alsenz Cycle Route, a 30-mile stretch that starts in nearby Alsenborn, which takes you through Winnweiler and ends near Bad Münster. The trail moves along the river and through dozens of small picturesque villages where you can stop and take a break

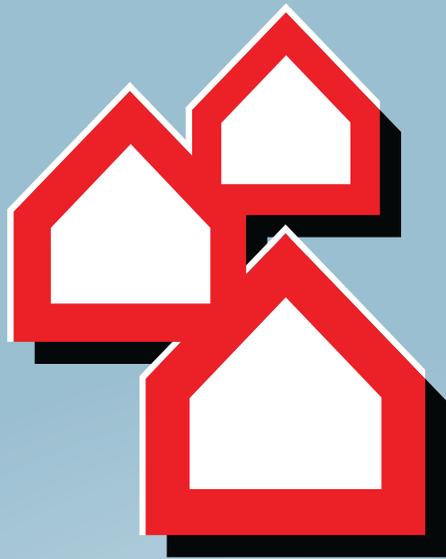
For the fun-loving social butterfly

It's Germany, so naturally, there's a brewery. If you're a craft beer snob, look no further than Schnorres Brewery. Located in a former butcher shop, these Winnweiler brewers specialize in small craft beers. They even offer tastings in their taproom which ends with a Palatine Worscht & Cheese Platter. If you're beer shopping in the Pfalz, you've likely seen their brews. They're the ones with the big black mustache logo.

The Winnweiler community knows how to throw a party. Several festivals are held here each year including street food festivals, fire shows, beer fests, medieval festivals and Christmas markets. This introvert loves Winnweiler festivals because you can avoid the ridiculously large crowds and actually find a seat to enjoy your beer and brat. ■



IF YOU'RE A CRAFT BEER SNOB, LOOK NO FURTHER THAN SCHNORRES BREWERY. LOCATED IN A FORMER BUTCHER SHOP, THESE WINNWEILLER BREWERS SPECIALIZE IN SMALL CRAFT BEERS.



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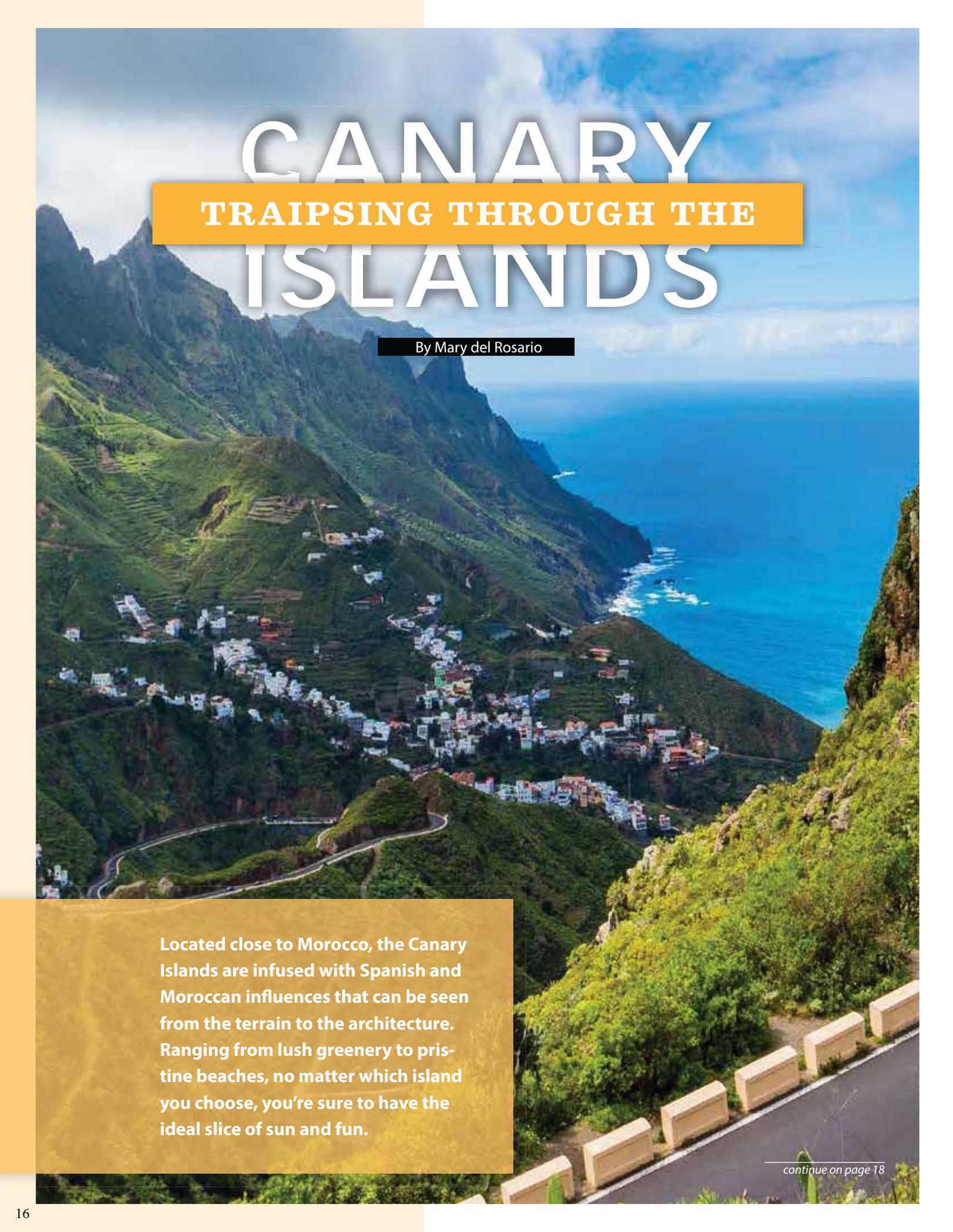
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CANARY TRAIPSING THROUGH THE ISLANDS

By Mary del Rosario

Located close to Morocco, the Canary Islands are infused with Spanish and Moroccan influences that can be seen from the terrain to the architecture. Ranging from lush greenery to pristine beaches, no matter which island you choose, you're sure to have the ideal slice of sun and fun.

continue on page 18



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THE TOP ISLANDS

The Canary Islands are an archipelago belonging to Spain but is located off the coast of northwestern Africa. There are seven main islands: Tenerife, Fuerteventura, Gran Canaria, Lanzarote, La Palma, La Gomera and El Hierro. Here are our top picks.

TENERIFE

The largest of the Canary Islands, Tenerife is perfect for vacationers who love to hike, bask in the sun and enjoy a cocktail or two after as a reward. Beach bums will also love the number of beaches—to include sandy, pebbly and volcanic—sprinkled throughout the island. From family-friendly, active and lively, beachgoers are spoiled with a variety of atmospheres that Tenerife has to offer. The beaches to put on your itinerary are Abama, Benijo, Masca, El Bollullo, El Medano, Las Teresitas Los Guios, Playa La Arena, Playa de Puerto Santiago and Fañabé.

For those who have “stargaze on a beautiful island” on their bucket list, head to the Teide Observatory on Mount Teide. It’s the world’s largest solar observatory perfect for star gazing. Admission is free and guided tours are available. If you enjoy a more active vacation, hike up Mount Teide, Spain’s highest mountain peak that boasts the most gorgeous views of Tenerife. Looking for more of a family-friendly adventure? Head to Siam Park, a waterpark that is open year-round.

Aside from the stunning landscapes and beaches, Tenerife also prides itself as being the top party island in the Canaries. If dancing the night away while enjoying some mojitos is your idea of the perfect vacation, then head to Playa de la Américas, a strip peppered with bars and the best nightlife.

FUERTEVENTURA

Fuerteventura is the second-largest island filled with long stretches of sand dunes ideal for dune buggies and beaches water sports enthusiasts and families can’t get enough of. Corralejo Natural Park is a sight to be-



FUERTEVENTURA



Mount Teide is Spain's highest mountain peak that boasts the most gorgeous views of Tenerife.

hold with beautiful turquoise waters and white sand. While walking on the beach, you'll catch glimpses of Los Lobos, an islet north of Fuerteventura. Corralejo is a bustling, small town on the north of the island and provides a mix of modern and traditional city vibes.

The north part of the island provides desert landscapes while the south is lush with greenery. However, the island is small enough to drive from north to south enjoying the change in scenery in one day. Since Fuerteventura is known for being the hotspot in the Canaries for kite and wind surfers, be sure to check which beach is compatible with your wishes. Sotavento, located in the south, is a beach only the professional kite surfers would dare to go due to aggressive sandstorms that may occur. Otherwise, the notable beaches are Corralejo, Pájara, Cofete, Gran Tarajal, La Concha and Caleta de Fuste.

GRAN CANARIA

Known for the contrasts in terrain, Gran Canaria is a diverse island many tourists flock to and for good reason. The black lava and white sand beaches allow you to enjoy nature in its finest form. If you've ever wanted to sand surf or even take a long walk along the beach, explore the island's finest sand at the Maspalomas Dunes located in the south of the island. However, if you would rather lay out on the beach and enjoy the sun's rays, head to Playa de las Canteras and Amadores beach, Gran Canaria's popular beach-

es. Other popular activities include dolphin watching, Palmitos park (a zoo perfect for kids) and getting lost in the capital, Las Palmas.

If you came to this island with a group of friends, Playa del Ingles is the place to be seen as it is known for merriment and memories in the making. Dotted with bars and entertainment, this lively spot is the perfect way to enjoy a night out. However, if you prefer the opposite, Pico de las Nieves, the highest peak in Gran Canaria, is the ideal location for natural sights to see away from crowds.

LANZAROTE

Whitewashed villages, turquoise waters and volcanic landscapes make Lanzarote a beautiful destination to experience. Lanzarote is also known for being the best in wellness throughout the Canaries due to the many surf camps offering yoga, meditation and an overall spa experience.

Lanzarote also has an abundance of highlights to include the Museo Atlántico – an underwater sculpture museum, Jardín de Cactus – a cacti garden, Haría – an enclave filled with whitewashed villas and Timanfaya National Park. For the thrill seekers, try surfing at Famara Beach. Its mountainous landscape will be a perfect backdrop as you surf the waves.

CANARIAN CUISINE

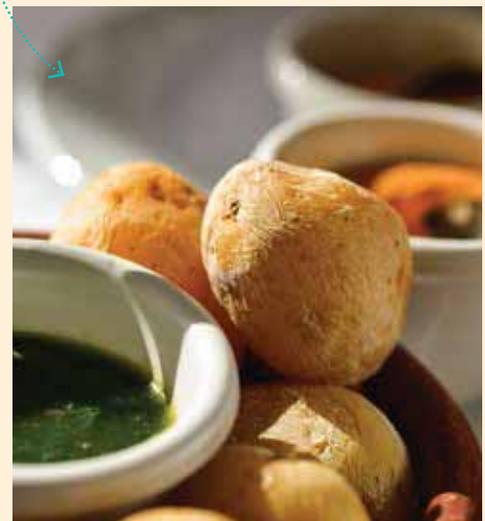
Whenever traveling to a different country, it's always best to eat like the locals. With so many fresh seafood options and good eats, sink your teeth and delight your taste buds with these Canarian dishes.

"Papas arrugadas" — small, boiled potatoes rolled through salt and topped with "mojo picón," a spicy, garlicky sauce.

"Sancocho canario" — salted and spiced fish.

"Baifo" — young goat meat marinated in herbs and garlic.

"Queso de cabra" — goat cheese. The fried kind is a popular choice! ■



Whitewashed villages, turquoise waters and volcanic landscapes make Lanzarote a dream destination.



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BEAUTY & HEALTH

March to your orthodontist in the same step!

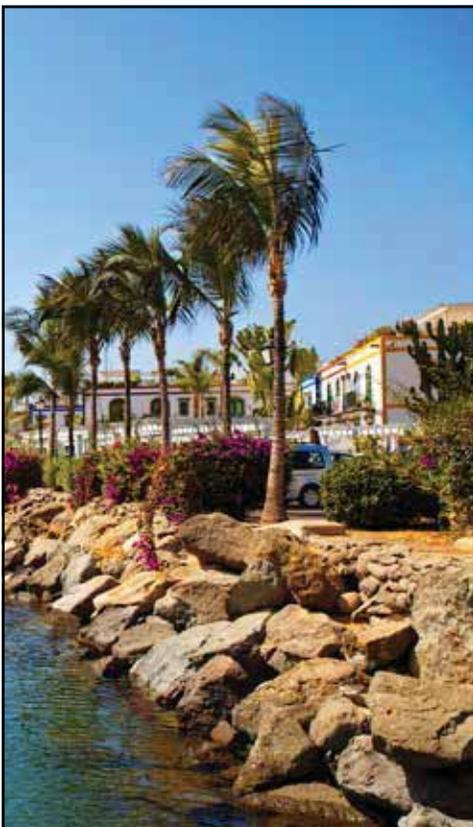
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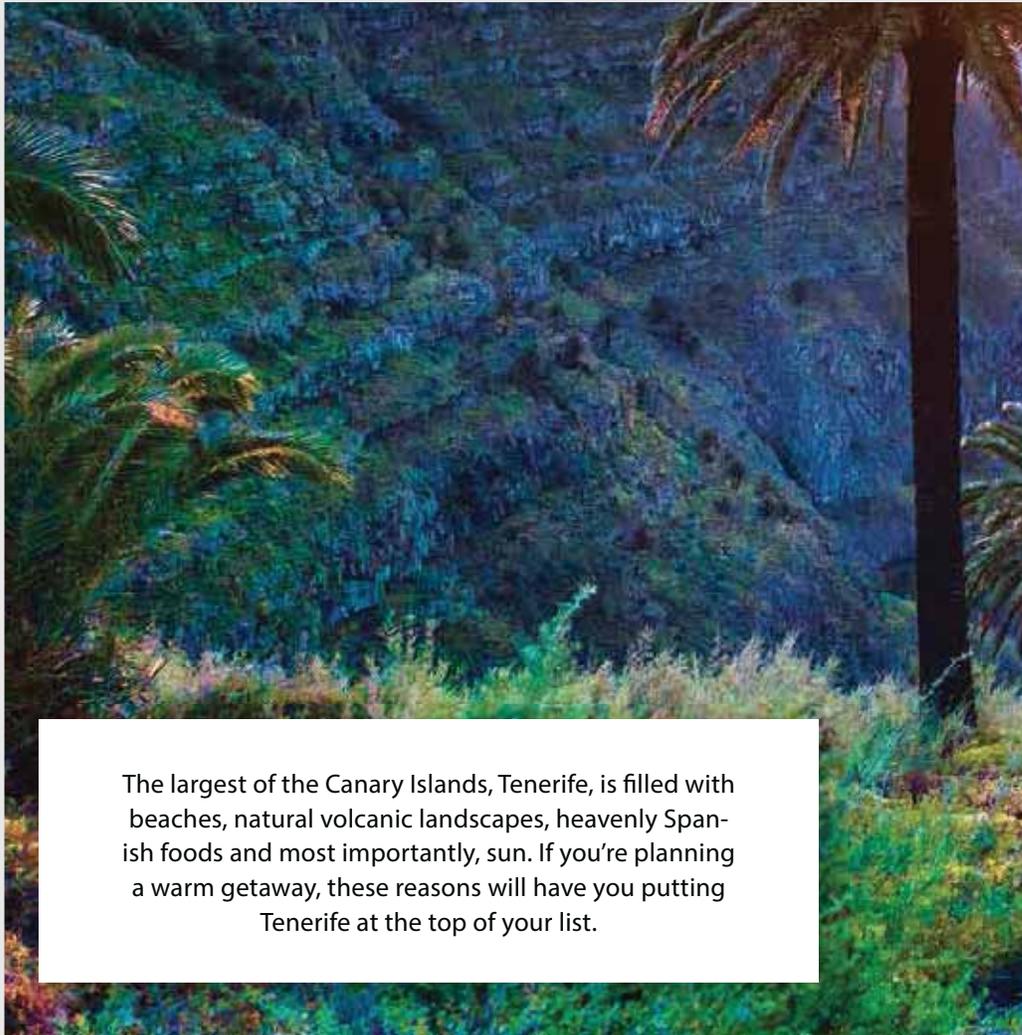
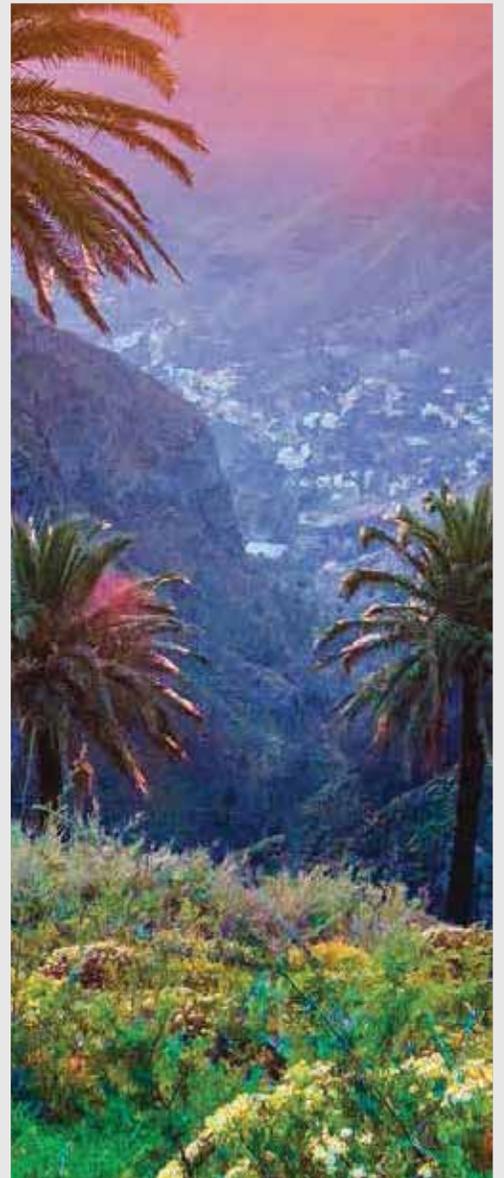
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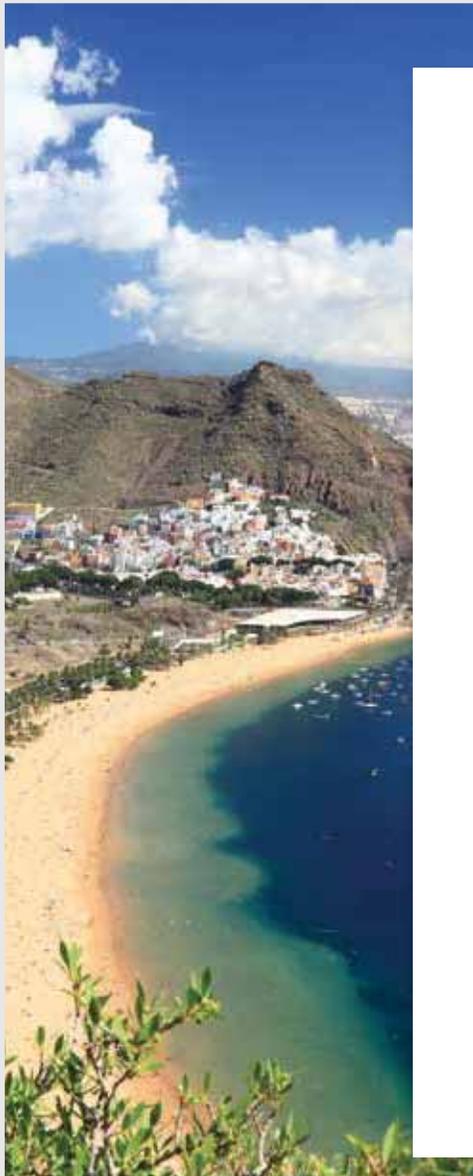


Hup two three four...
it's time to see your Orthodontist!





The largest of the Canary Islands, Tenerife, is filled with beaches, natural volcanic landscapes, heavenly Spanish foods and most importantly, sun. If you're planning a warm getaway, these reasons will have you putting Tenerife at the top of your list.



10 REASONS TO LOVE Tenerife

By Mary Del Rosario

1. You are spoiled for choice when it comes to golden sand beaches to relax on.
2. Considered to be Europe's Mardi Gras, the Carnival of Santa Cruz de Tenerife is a celebration not to miss.
3. You'll be kissed by the sun's rays whenever you go as there is an abundant amount of sunshine all year long.
4. Star gazing at Mount Teide is every astronomer's dream come true.
5. For partygoers, Veronica's Strip on Playa de las Americas is the place to be seen.
6. Jaw-dropping views of the island can be seen at Masca Valley. Bring hiking boots!
7. Los Gigantes Cliffs will humble you. It's also a great spot for adventure seekers.
8. The underwater creatures and coral are a colorful sight when scuba diving or snorkeling.
9. There are plenty of attractions for kids to include Siam Park and Loro Parque Zoo.
10. Tapas, tapas and more tapas.

Martinhal Beach



WHY GO THERE

If you've been looking for a low-key, less touristy beach location, you've hit the jackpot. Bring the family to Portugal for as much activity or relaxation as you require. Hop on a plane to Faro and enjoy the Algarve region as you make your way to the beach. From lazy days in the sun to windsurfing the hours away, all family members can enjoy Martinhal Beach. The glittering ocean water is calling your name.

Martinhal Beach

ON YOUR RADAR

By Jessica Zen

There's just something about the thought of a beach that makes everyone yearn to go on a vacation. To stroll through the fine sand while the waves lap over your feet and the sun sets in the distance is a magical experience. Add a drink to the mix and you have a recipe for a fabulous getaway! Martinhal Beach in Portugal is the perfect place to forget your troubles and relax.

Located east of Sagres in the Algarve, Martinhal Beach is a hidden gem just waiting for you to ascend upon it with your finest beach gear. Grab a towel, snorkel gear or even a body board and get ready for a fun-filled beach trip. Over 2,000 feet of glittering, turquoise Atlantic Ocean waters await your arrival in southern Portugal. The beach is lined with fine, white sand and couldn't be more perfect for constructing epic sand castles. The mostly calm waters are irritated only by the wind, which creates enough gentle waves for water sports like windsurfing or body boarding.

The backdrops to this little slice of heaven are varied and beautiful. The middle of the beach is backed by rolling dunes, whereas the east holds picturesque cliffs. The photography opportunities here are amazing! Just off of the beach you'll find limestone islets. Take a boat to one of these islets and go diving or snorkeling in the caves and underwater grottos where you'll see a colorful variety of marine life. If you'd prefer to stay dry, take a leisurely stroll along the beach or sunbathe. There's certainly plenty of sand for you to find a spot for your towel.

Once you've worked up an appetite, there are two restaurants close to the beach where you can satisfy your hunger. Nortada is a quick walk down the boardwalk to a vibrant blue building with a seriously beachy vibe. Here you'll find fresh seafood and a perfect view. Grab an ice-cold drink or a piece of cake and enjoy watching the boats and windsurfers as they pass by. Restaurante Martinhal is a beach bar on the eastern part of the beach.

Fish are served up fresh here in a friendly atmosphere. If you're feeling daring, try a squid salad or arroz con marisco, a signature Portuguese seafood and rice dish. Regardless of where you choose, you're sure to be pleasantly surprised by the catch of the day specials and incredible freshness of the seafood.



Though beach fans will flock to almost any sand and sea combination they can locate, at Martinhal Beach, you'll find it never gets overly crowded. Even the summer months don't draw a huge crowd and you can certainly find room for the whole family to relax. If you visit outside of the summer months, you will be pleasantly surprised to find you have almost the entire area to yourself. Talk about paradise! ■



JAMIE ROACH © 123RF.COM

CRUFTS

March 5 – 8 in Birmingham, England

The world's greatest dog show features not only a competition for best in show, but also in the categories of dog agility, obedience, flyball and heelwork to music.



SNOW JAZZ GASTEIN

March 12 – 15 in Gastein, Austria

The glorious sounds of jazz ring out through the Gastein Valley, with day and evening performances by solo artists and ensembles, top talents and rising stars.



COUNTRY TO COUNTRY FESTIVAL

March 13 – 15 in Glasgow, Scotland

Luke Combs, Eric Church and Darius Rucker headline arena concerts in Europe's biggest country music festival. C2C also makes stops in Amsterdam, Berlin and London.



FALLAS BONFIRE FESTIVAL

March 13 – 15 in Valencia, Spain

Valencia welcomes spring with this festival in which gigantic, elaborately crafted cardboard effigies are set alight in a spectacle of light, music and fireworks.

Things
to do
next
month!

March

By Karen Bradbury



DUBLIN BAY PRAWN FESTIVAL

March 17 – 19 in Howth, Ireland

A picturesque fishing village just east of Dublin plays host to this sublime foodie experience featuring shellfish and other foods, drink and cooking demos.



MICHAEL SHERIDAN © 123RF.COM

SNOWBOXX FESTIVAL

March 21 – 28 in Avoriaz, France

The close of the ski season is celebrated with round-the-clock happenings, from top acts on outdoor stages to epic après ski parties to DJ sessions in an igloo.



©MICHAEL ABRAMS/STARS AND STRIPES

CARNIVAL OF THE BLANCS-MOUSSIS

March 22 in Stavelot, Belgium

The stars of this carnival parade are the white-robed, red-nosed Blancs-Moussis, who shower onlookers with confetti and pummel them with inflated pig bladders.



VLADY © 123RF.COM

FLORENTINE NEW YEAR

March 25 Florence, Italy

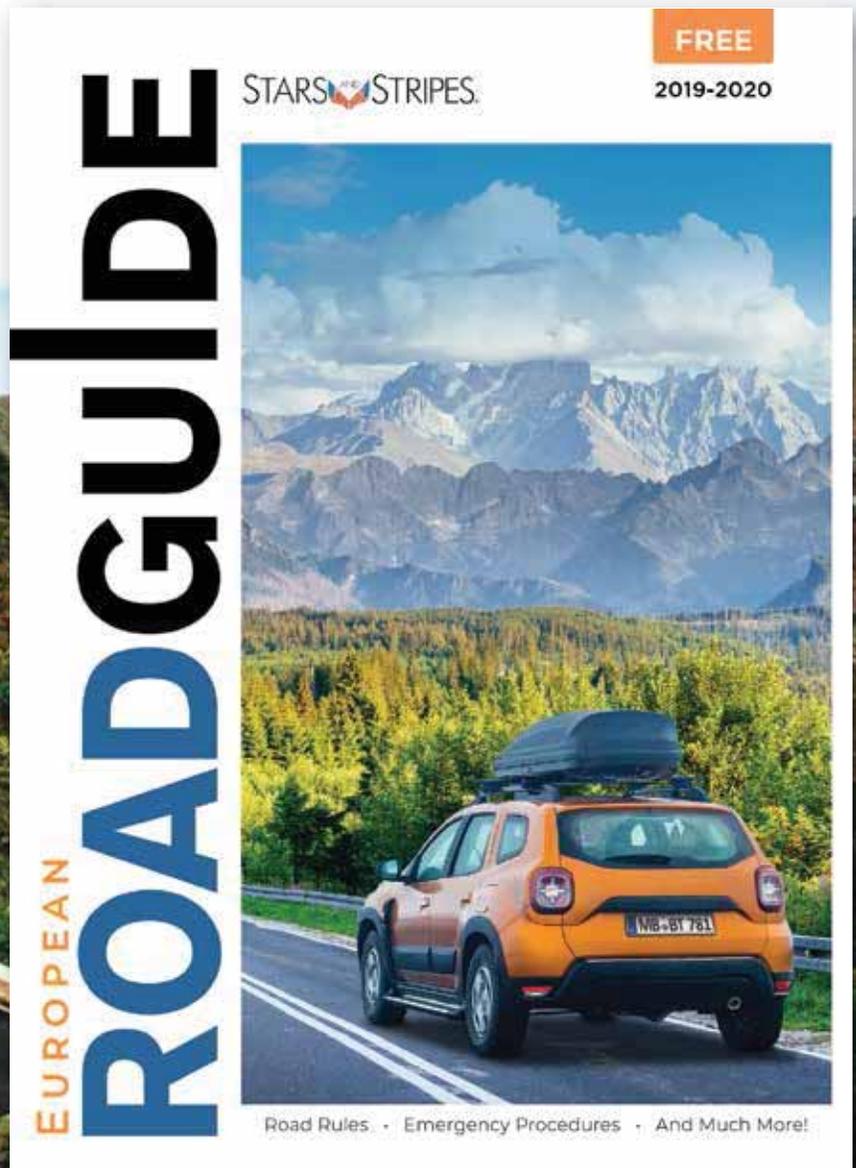
Florence's residents celebrate the New Year on Annunciation, the day Archangel Gabriel told Mary she would bear the Christ child, with a colorful historical parade.

EUROPEAN

ROADGUIDE

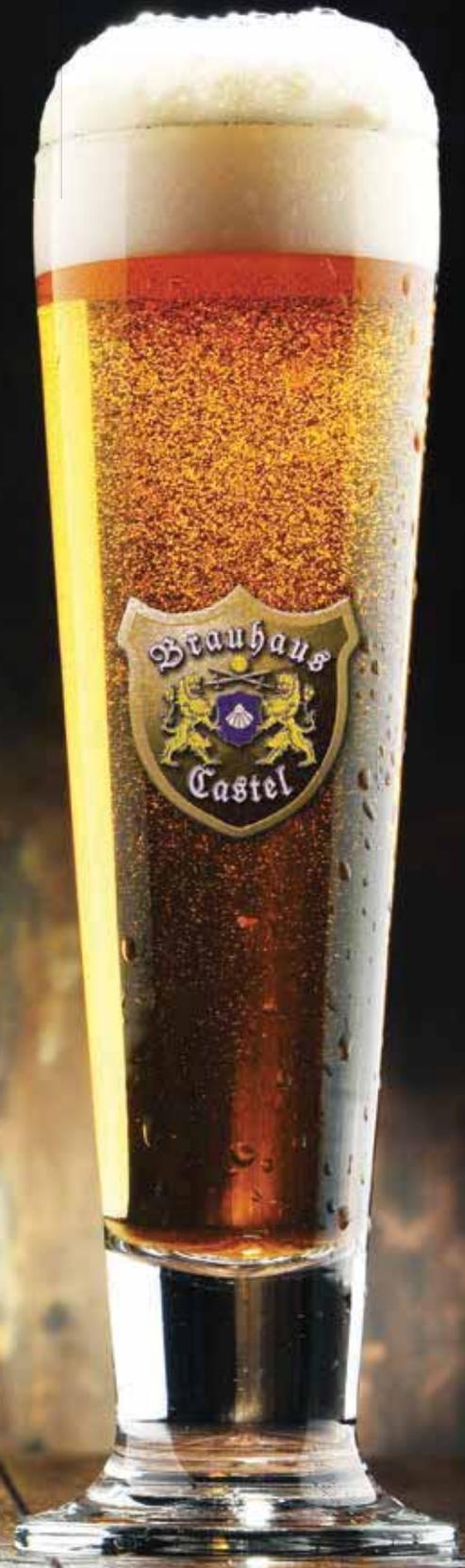
Grab the free Stars and Stripes European Road Guide to learn Europe's road rules, road signs, child safety laws and helpful resources such as an installation GPS list, European map and more! The guide also features special sections for Italy, Germany and the U.K. In case you ever have an emergency, keep the guide in your car for easy access to the accident report sheet as well as emergency phrases and numbers.

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