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Fuerteventura ...in a different way! Compact Travel Guide 2020

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1 Hint Fuerteventura in a different way

By Andrea Müller

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Fuerteventura... different! leads you beside endless long, dreamlike snow-white Caribbean beaches to the worth seeing attractions of the multifaceted volcanic island. In the north, from the largest and liveliest town of **Corralejo[1]** with its beautiful dunes, explore the small nature reserve **Isla Los Lobos[2]**, where the former lighthouse keeper runs a small restaurant, and enjoy the beautiful beaches of the Playas Grandes, which are particularly suitable for water sports in the sections Flag Beach, Playa Bajo Negro, Playa Moro and Playa Poris.

In the northwest, visit the fishing village of El Cotillo, which protected the coast from intruders with its centuries-old fortified tower, Castillo de Testón, and look out over the long beaches of Playa del Castillo, where kite and body-surfers meet.

Make a detour to the lighthouse **Faro de Tostón[3]** with the fishing museum and don't miss the yet unknown **popcorn beach[4]**.

Visit the historically important town of La Oliva, whose sights include the parish church of Nuestra Señora de la Candelaria, the Ermita de Puerto Rico, the impressive **Casa de los Coroneles[5]**, the dilapidated Casa del Inglés, and the former granary La Cilla, which dates back to the 17th century. Art lovers can admire the works of well over 80 artists in the spacious Casa Mané.

Marvel at the unique rock carvings of the indigenous people in Casa Alta de Tindaya.

Immerse yourself in the traditional rural life of the island at the **Ecomuseo de La Alcogida[6]** open-air museum in Tefía, where you can purchase genuine handicrafts directly on the spot.

In the little visited village of Tetír, next to the listed parish church of Santo Domingo de Guzman, you will find the Gofio Museum, run by the last active gofio miller in the world.

In the island's capital Puerto del Rosario, the largest shopping centre in Fuerteventura, Las Rotondas, awaits you,

where you can buy a wide range of products in specialist shops. Explore the centre with the parish church Nuestra Señora del Rosario, the museum Casa Museo Unamuno, buy local products in the market halls Mercado Municipal or the Mercado Agrario de Fuerteventura. Afterwards you can enjoy a sunbath on the city beach Playa Chica or on the main beach Playa Blanca.

In the popular holiday resort Caleta de Fustes you can enjoy the view of the marina from the gently sloping sandy beach **Playa de Castillo[7]**. Stroll along the long promenade past historic lime kilns and head to the Centro Comercial Atlantico shopping centre. In addition, the popular African market allows for further shopping opportunities.

Explore the historic **Salinas del Carmen[8]** with the Museo de La Sal, where salt was actively extracted until 1980.

In the centre of Fuerteventura you will meet even more island history: During a guided tour through La Ampuyenta you will see the small but impressive Ermita de San Pedro de Alcántara and learn all the details in the house Casa Museo Dr. Mena, as well as in the hermitage of Fray Andresito.

In sleepy Antigua, head to the Molino de Antigua windmill and its interesting cheese museum **Museo de Queso Majorero[9]**.

Don't miss a stop in Tuineje to see the altarpieces of the important battle of Tamasite in the church of San Miguel Arcángel.

In Pájara, visit the impressive parish church of Nuestra Señora de la Regla, in front of which stands a Noria, a restored water wheel driven by a donkey.

Drive to the rugged coast of Ajuy with the deep black beach of the dead, the **Playa de Los Muertos[10]** and explore along the sea cliffs the lime kilns, as well as the deep caves Cuevas, which served as a pirates' hideout.

In the former capital of the island **Betancuria[11]**, which belongs to the most beautiful villages of Spain since this year, you should visit the church Nuestra Señora de la Concepción with the attached museum for sacral art and the monastery ruins of the Convento de San Buenaventura with the Ermita San Diego, besides a city tour.

From the 645-metre-high Mirador de Morro Velosa lookout point, you can see the desert-like landscape of the island. You must make selfies at the **Mirador de Guise y Ayose[12]** with its 4.50 m high statues of the former island kings.

You can see how old windmills work on the island in the small museum Centro de Interpretación de Molinos in Tiscamanita.

You can even buy stuffed gofio biscuits on a trip to the Quesos de Belido cheese dairy.

Cross the impassable Malpais of the natives, which is interspersed with rubble and lava stones, and simply turn back time in the stone-built settlement of **La Atalayita[13]**.

If you come across the large holiday resort Las Playitas with a dark, fine sandy beach on the east coast, you must definitely visit the unique lighthouse **Faro Punta de la Entallada[14]**.

In Gran Tarajal you will meet locals who live here and work in the restaurant and hotel industry on the fine sandy dark beach.

You will find an almost German enclave in Tarajalejo with a hotel of the Spanish R2 group and apartments, which runs along the long promenade with a dark pebble beach. Worth mentioning are the new 5 sculptures of the Mareseum.

In La Lajita you should definitely spend a nice day in the huge **Oasis Wildlife Park[15]**, where children will also get their money's worth with the impressive shows.

Let yourself be impressed by the unique contrast of a barren mountainous landscape and a miniature Sahara:

Experience a rough coast with beautiful bays in La Pared, at the narrowest point of the island, the Istmo de la Pared, look northwards at the big rock gate, or face the waves of the Atlantic Ocean at the Playa de Viejo Rey. Visit the award-winning cheese dairy La Pastora, which offers sheep and goat cheese and liqueur made from goat's milk.

Feel at home on the Costa Calma, which is preferred by Germans, with a beautiful beach location and guaranteed sunshine. Shop in the shopping malls, stroll through the Africa market or enjoy tapas and typical German cuisine with a freshly tapped Pils.

An absolute must is the more than 20 km long beach section that starts after Costa Calma, leads over Jandía Playa and ends in the former fishing village Morro Jable. Take a break on the snow-white beach with the crystal-clear turquoise sea and simply let your soul dangle.

From Playa de Sotavento to the Risco del Paso, thanks to the René Egli Wind- and Kite Surf Center, beginners and professionals alike will get their money's worth.

Swim in the south of Fuerteventura in the beautiful bays of Playa de Butihondo and Playa de Esquinzo and continue endlessly relaxing beach walks to the south of the island to Morro Jable.

Relax at the Playas de Jandía, go shopping at the long shopping promenade in Jandía and enjoy the most beautiful beach section Playa del Matorral, which is especially suitable for children.

Set off from the harbour town of Morro Jable to the southern tip of Fuerteventura. Reach the sleepy village of Puerto de la Cruz with the lighthouse Faro de Jandía via jerky volcanic roads. Take the serpentine to Cofete to the endless **Playa de Barlovento [16]** with an incredible surf and visit the historic Villa Winter, where the rumour mill is bubbling.



4 La Isla de Los Lobos

The island **Isla de Los Lobos**[1], which is only 6 square kilometres in size, is located between the neighbouring island of Lanzarote and Fuerteventura in the strait of La Bocaina. It was formed by a violent volcanic eruption in northern Fuerteventura about 6,000-8,000 years ago.

Thanks to successful protests, neither building sins nor tourist development measures took place on Los Lobos. In 1982 the island was declared a Parque Natural and in 1987 it was integrated into the Dune National Park of Corralejo.

The name derives from the monk seals Lobos marinos, which romped in the 15th century before and on the island. Fearing dwindling fish stocks, the hunt for the seals was opened, which were then wiped out within a century.

In the year 1863, a lighthouse was built that until today guides the ships between Lanzarote, Fuerteventura and Los Lobos.

After the lighthouse was automated after more than a hundred years in 1968, the island government allowed the lighthouse keeper, who would otherwise have been without employment, to open a fish restaurant in the harbour to earn a living.

In the port of Corralejo, a glass bottom boat departs from the pier several times a day and after only 15 minutes it will dock at Los Lobos.

From the concrete landing stage a path leads to the visitor centre Centro de Visitantes, where information boards and toilets are available.

If you start your hike across the island in the direction of the lighthouse Faro de Martiño, after 10 minutes you will reach the small port of El Puertito with the restaurant of the former lighthouse keeper and a bathing opportunity in the crystal-clear lagoon.

This path continues along ruins of houses to the small lagoons Las Lagunitas. They are characterized by plants that can grow in the region of El Saladar, as in Jandía, in spite of sea water.

Along the seething black coast the following sand track passes and leads you to the lighthouse, which unfortunately is not accessible.

You follow the signs and can then climb the 127 m high volcanic mountain Montaña Caldera in 30-60 minutes.

In the Las Salinas del Carmen salt works, which are signposted, you can see a salt plant that has been restored but never went into operation. On your island tour you will find one of the most beautiful bays of Los Lobos, the Playa de La Calera. Here you can relax and enjoy the sun to the full.

🕒 daily, upon reservation on the Internet, ⓘ Since the beginning of 2019, there are only limited places to visit Los

Lobos. At www.visitaislasdelobos.com you have to register at short notice to be allowed to visit the island.