Canary Islands

Macaronesian Endemics



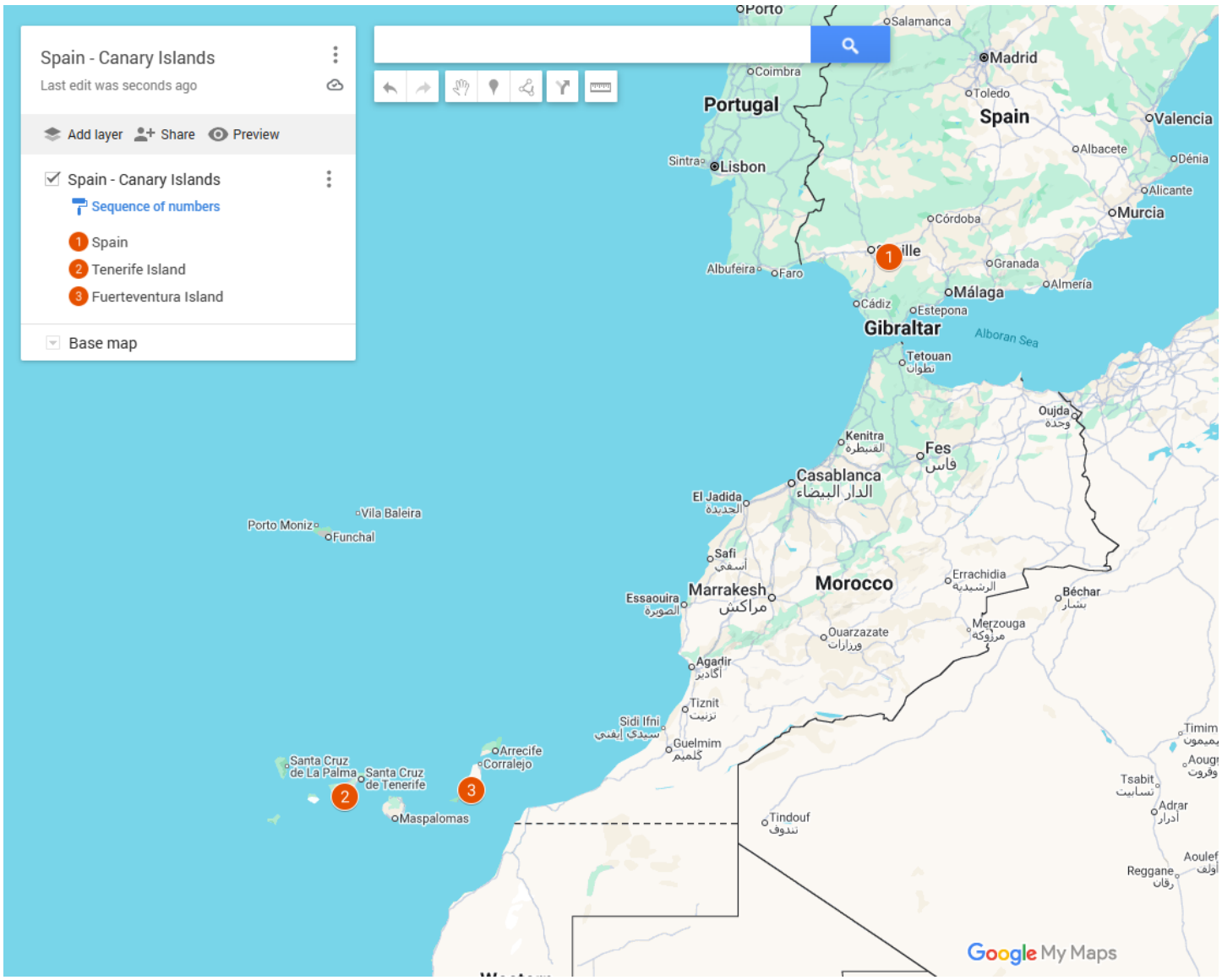
Tenerife Blue Chaffinch by Yeray Seminario

These sun-drenched islands, belonging to Spain, lie just north of the African coastline and the Tropic of Cancer and were known by the Greeks as the remnants of the lost Kingdom of Atlantis. The earliest settlers were the Gaunches, sturdy people with blue eyes and fair hair, who were eventually displaced by Spanish invaders before finally settling in South America. Called the "Garden of Europe" due to a wonderful climate, it's a place where flowers and vegetables can be grown in the middle of the European winter.

On this tour, we visit the desert-like landscape of Fuerteventura to the moist forested slopes of Tenerife, a volcanic island with huge tracts of solidified lava. The isolation of these islands has favoured the evolution of endemic forms of species including Laurel and Bolle's Pigeons, Canary Islands Stonechat, Goldcrest (Canary Island Kinglet), Canary Islands Chiffchaff as well as Tenerife Blue Chaffinch. This promises to be a pleasant week with comfortable hotels, excellent cuisine, stunning scenery and a selection of island endemics.

Itinerary & Map

Day 1	**Arrive on Tenerife Island**
Day 2	**Tenerife Island – Teno & Monte del Agua**
Day 3	**Tenerife Island – El Teide & surrounds**
Day 4	**Tenerife Island; flight to Fuerteventura Island & desert exploration**
Day 5	**Fuerteventura Island – Catalina Garcia & Tindaya**
Day 6	**Fuerteventura Island – Fimpaire & El Carmen saltpans**
Day 7	**Final departure**



Birding sites in detail

Tenerife Island – Teno & Monte del Agua. We will visit the western part of Tenerife, exploring Teno and Monte del Agua. Our main targets are the endemic Bolle's and Laurel Pigeons, which are among the most challenging endemics to find. We may also encounter Canary Islands Chaffinch and 'Barbary' sub-species of Peregrine Falcon.



Laurel Pigeon by David Hoddinott

Tenerife Island – El Teide. We will explore the scenic route around El Teide, Spain's highest peak. The crater has large black lava fields with twisted rock formations, and a trip across the plateau gives the impression of being on the surface of the moon! There are a number of vegetation types here but our primary focus is the Laurel forests on the moister northern slopes, as opposed to the southern area of the island that tends to be sunnier, drier and windier. These forested slopes hold the endemic Laurel and Bolle's Pigeons, both of which are shy denizens of the forest. We will stand at vantage points to look out for the pigeons as they fly across the more open places.

We'll also make several strategic birding stops to and from the peak, visiting Canarian Pine forests that provide good opportunities to see Tenerife Blue Chaffinch and other local specialties like Atlantic Canary, The 'Canary Islands Kinglet' race of Goldcrest, widely considered a full species. It is an attractively plumaged bird and occurs in mixed forest. The Canary Islands Chiffchaff with its distinctive song can be heard throughout the woodlands. Other possible birds in this area include the local races of Common Buzzard, Greater Spotted Woodpecker and European Robin, and Berthelot's Pipit.

Tenerife Island – Coast. We'll spend some time birding along the northern coast of Tenerife, where Cory's Shearwaters are typically abundant. If needed, we'll make additional attempts to see any missed endemics.



Canary Islands Stonechat by Yeray Seminario

Fuerteventura Island – Desert Exploration. This windswept, sandy, Saharan looking island lies a mere 110km from the North African coastline. During the summer months, the hot Harmattan winds blow across from the Sahara Desert. The island has a North African feel due to its villages with palm trees and hedges of prickly pears. We will, however, be spending our time in the interior where few people occur. We'll explore the dry El Cotillo area for coastal species and potential sightings of African Houbara, Eurasian Thick-knees, Mediterranean Short-toed Larks, and Great Grey Shrikes.



Tenerife Island scenery by Yeray Seminario

Fuerteventura Island – Catalina Garcia & Tindaya. We will explore the ponds at Catalina García, visit the vulture feeding site at Tiscamanita, and stop at the historic town of Betancuria, where we have good chances of seeing the endemic subspecies of African Blue Tit (ssp. degener).

Los Molinos Reservoir. This reservoir sometimes holds Black-crowned Night Heron, Black-winged Stilt, Little Ringed and Kentish Plovers, and Green and Wood Sandpipers. Spotted, Baillon's and Little Crakes have also been recorded here on passage, staying for a day or two before heading south. The surrounding scrub is often a good place to see the endemic Canary Islands Stonechat, which is not only endemic to the Canary Islands but endemic to the island of Fuerteventura.



African Houbara by Yeray Seminario

Las Parcelas and Tindaya. These areas are a good place to seek out the endemic subspecies of Egyptian Vulture, flocks of Black-bellied Sandgrouse, Ruddy Shelduck, and the colorful Trumpeter Finch.

Fuerteventura Island – Fimapaire & El Carmen Saltpans. We will start the day with an early visit to Fimapaire Barranco, a reliable spot for the endemic sub-species of Canary Islands Stonechat and Barbary Partridge. In the afternoon, we will head south to explore Gran Tarajal, Alares Pond, El Carmen Salt Pans, and Barranco de la Torre, which are good sites for shorebirds and passerines like Spectacled Warbler and Trumpeter Finch.

Tour Grading & Key

Overall Ease		Suitable for all birding / wildlife interest levels.
Birding Ease		Moderate to easy. Most species provide good visuals in open conditions.
Accommodation		Comfortable.
Walking / Trails		Mostly short walks & hikes at a slow to moderate pace. Some areas of uneven/rocky ground.
Vehicles / Roads		Good quality sealed roads, many of which are winding. No long drives without stops.
Photography		Good to very good. Some species may be distant of obscured, landscapes can be harsh/bright depending on time of day.
Annoyances		Nothing of note

Financial Arrangements and Important Notes

Tour dates, prices, single supplement, approximate flight costs and tour spaces are displayed on our website.

Tour inclusions:

- All meals from dinner on day 1 to breakfast on day 7;
- All lodgings;
- Bottled water;
- Ground transportation;
- Internal flight from Tenerife Island to Fuerteventura Island;
- Reserve and historical site entrance fees;
- All local guiding services;
- Tips (including local guides, drivers and hotels);

Tour exclusions:

- Visa fees;
- ANY flights;
- Any beverages (**including bottled water** and mini-bar charges at hotels);
- Optional excursions;
- Special gratuities;
- Telephone calls, laundry and other items of a personal nature.

Single Supplement: The single supplement cost for this tour will be charged if you wish to have single accommodation. If RBL cannot provide you with a rooming partner for these nights although you choose to share, the single supplement will become applicable. We will make all reasonable efforts to ensure that a rooming partner is found if you do wish to share.

Tipping: As noted above, gratuities (drivers, hotel staff, restaurants etc.) are included on this tour. However, this does NOT include your Rockjumper leader/s. If you feel that they have given you excellent service, it is entirely appropriate to tip them at your discretion.

- **Due to constantly fluctuating exchange rates, we quote our tours in 4 currencies. The tour price is fixed only in the currency printed in bold, and the actual cost in the other currencies listed will be adjusted according to prevailing exchange rates at the time of final invoicing. The same applies to approximate flight and single supplement rates.**
- **Rates are based upon group tariffs; if the tour does not have sufficient registrations, a small group supplement will be offered to confirm the tour.**
- **Tour prices are subject to unforeseen increases in tour related costs and may have to be adjusted as a result.**
- **The designated tour leader/s may be changed at short due to unforeseen circumstances.**
- **The itinerary is indicative only. Changes may need to be made to the order in which the tour is conducted, or some of the venues we visit closer to departure. We will attempt to adhere as close to the original program as possible.**

- It is important for the comfort of your fellow travellers that you do not over-pack. Kindly stick to 18kg (40 lb) for check in luggage and 8kg (+-18 lb) for hand luggage.
- Fitness: this tour does not require a high level of fitness, but participants should be in good general health. Should you have any physical limitations, please notify us in advance of departure.
- Accommodation throughout the trip is of a generally good standard and the hotels and resorts that we make use of are comfortable. There is no camping on this trip.
- The weather and temperatures can be variable, ranging from warm to mild, but colder weather to be expected during the evenings. Layers of warm clothes are recommended.
- Some hiking, particularly in the mountainous areas is involved. These are easy hikes on clean trails, but they can take a few hours each. These will be done in an easy and comfortable pace, as we will be birding along the route.

Arrival and Departure Details

The tour begins in the early afternoon of day 1 on Tenerife Islands and will conclude around mid-morning of day 7 on Fuerteventura Island.

The above information in respect of arrivals and departures is a guide only. Precise arrival and departure information will be sent to you in your Tour Confirmation package once the tour has been officially confirmed. If you wish to arrive early and/or depart late and would like assistance in this regard, kindly contact the Rockjumper office.

Tenerife South Airport (IATA: TFS) & El Matorral Airport, Fuerteventura (IATA: FUE) are the main ports of entry and departure for this tour.

Visa requirements differ by country, nationality of the traveller and duration and purpose of your intended stay. It may be necessary to obtain a visa or an electronic travel authorization in advance of your travel. It is therefore vitally important that you check with your travel agent/consulate/embassy for exact visa requirements.

DO NOT book any flights until the Rockjumper Team have officially confirmed the tour.