

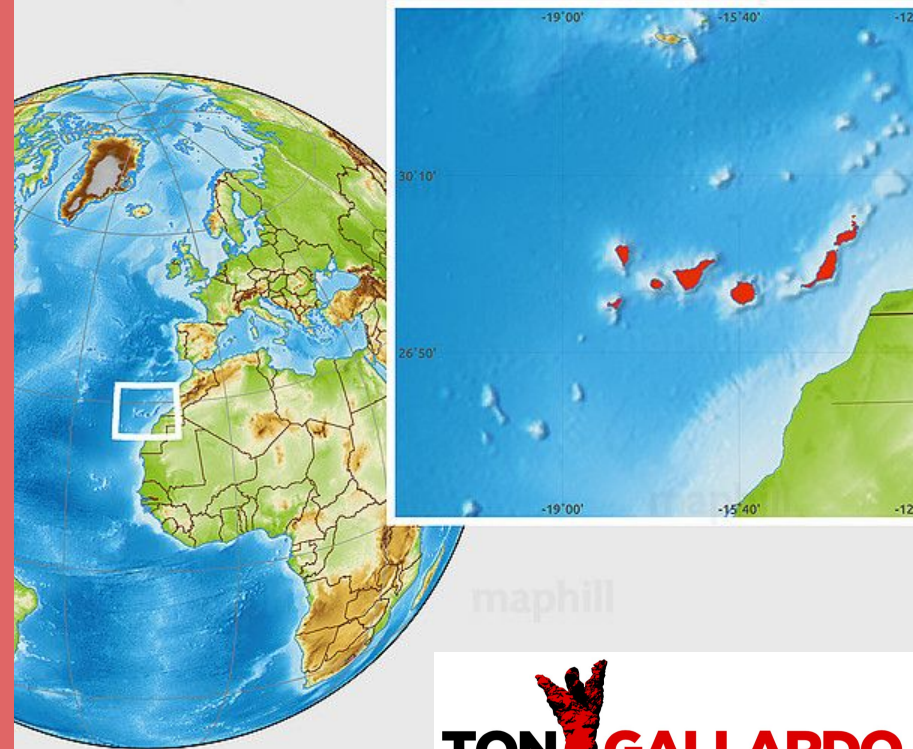
Flora and Fauna

of the Canary Islands



The Canary Islands

- Located opposite the west coast of Africa.
- 1200 kms south-west from the Iberian Peninsula.
- Macaronesian region, in the Atlantic Ocean.
- Volcanic origin (still active).
- Subtropical climate, with mild temperatures.
- About 2 million inhabitants (12 million tourists!).
- Great number of endemic species (biodiversity hotspot).



Climate

- Average temperature of 21°C (sea level).
- Average rainfall 200 mm.
- Predominance of trade winds (north east).
- Great climate differences
 - north and south
 - altitude
- Flora and fauna are influenced by all these factors, plus the isolation.



Geology and Relief

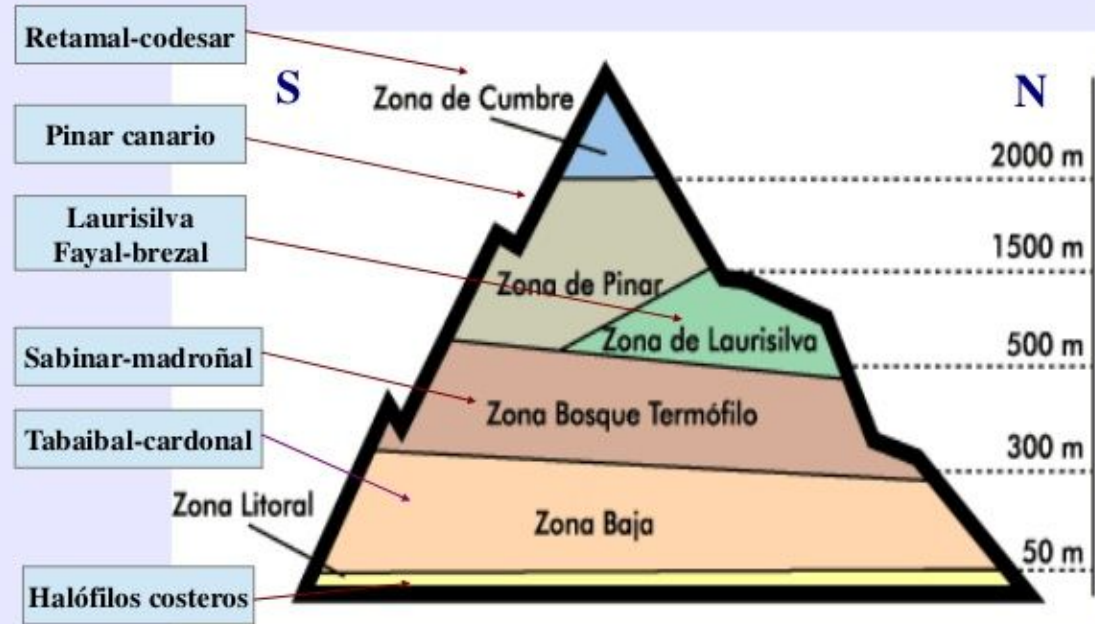
- Volcanic rock (malpaís)
- Volcanic soil (very fertile)
- Great differences between eastern and western islands
- High altitude
- Deep valleys



Flora

- High number of endemic species.
- Diverse distribution depending on:
 - Altitude
 - Orientation (North-South)
 - Soil & Rocks

LOS PISOS ALTITUDINALES EN CANARIAS



Coast vegetation

- 0-300 mts.
- Resistant to:
 - heat
 - sunlight
 - high-salinity soils
 - very low rainfall
- Small plants and bushes.
- Little green surfaces to prevent evaporation.



Foto: Felicia Oliva

Astidamia Latifolia



Foto: Felicia Oliva

Euphorbia aphylla



Cardones and
Tobaihan



Foto: Felicia Oliva

Limonium Tuberculatum

Thermophile forests

- 300-500 mts.
- Resistant to low precipitation.
- Present in valleys and ravines.
- Bushes, small trees and palm trees.
- Little green surfaces to prevent evaporation.



Palm tree



Dracaena Draco (Drago)



Sabina (Juniperus Canariensis)



Orobol

Laurisilva / Fayal-Brezal

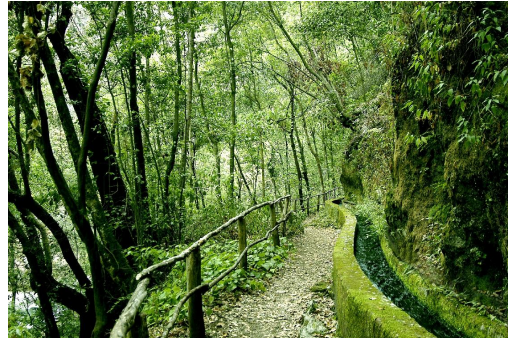
- 500-1200 mts.
- Dense, evergreen forest.
- North of the islands.
- High precipitation.
- Big number of endemic species.
- Considered a “living fossil” of ancient European forests.
- Very protected.



Brezo



Faya



Tilos



Bicácaro
(*Canarina canariensis*)

Pinar (pine forest)

- 1200-2000 mts.
- Not-so-dense forest.
- In the mountains (extreme weather).
- Low precipitation.
- Highly resistant to fires (adaptation to volcanic eruptions).
- Not many species.
- Strictly managed.



Pinus canariensis



Jara



Codesos

High Mountain

- >2000 mts.
- Small plants and bushes.
- Very high altitudes.
- Very extreme conditions (wind, sunlight, cold, snow).
- Low precipitations.
- Only in two islands (Tenerife, La Palma)



Tajinaste rojo



Hierba pajonera



Violeta del Teide



Margarita del Teide

Fauna

- Very rich in the ocean.
- High number of birds.
- High number of land invertebrates.
- A few vertebrates (two mammals and numerous lizards).
- In danger, due to the introduction of new species,
- Protected by law (National and Natural Parks and Biosphere Reserves).



Birds

- Small in general
- Some birds of prey
- Many marine birds



Pinzón Azul



Canary bird



Hubara canaria



Pardela cenicienta



Mirlo

Mammals and reptiles

- REPTILES:
 - numerous
 - different species depending on:
 - Ecosystem
 - Island
- MAMMALS:
 - very few originary species: musaraña and some bats.



Giant lizard



Tenerife's lizard



Lisa



Musaraña

Sea animals

- Very rich (vertebrates and invertebrates).
- Presence of numerous cetaceans.
- Attractive for scuba-diving.



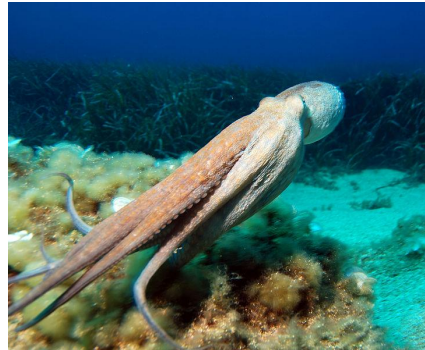
Sperm whale



Parrot fish



Dolphins



Octopus



Morena