



ECOTOURISM GUIDE

OF THE VILLA DE LOS SILOS



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LOS SILOS, A NATURAL, CULTURAL AND ECOTOURISM DESTINATION



OLD SUGAR MILL

Los Silos, located in the far northwest of Tenerife, is one of the best preserved places of the island. At the foot of the gorgeous massif of Teno and on the coastal shelf of the Isla Baja, it possesses a rich and varied biodiversity. Unique plants and animals coexist in harmony with the agricultural and commercial activities of the municipality. It is an example for sustainable development that has made it worthy of indexing more of half of its territory as a protected natural area. The great environmental diversity allows the visitor to perform nature activities all year round. Beaches and coastal puddles, plains of cardoons and tabaibas, deep ravines covered with tertiary laurel forests and medium-sized cultivated land until reaching its summit at Cruz de Gala, at about 1,400 meters high, are only a few highlights of Los Silos.

Hiking lovers find here an ideal place to walk to some of the lesser-known corners of the island such as the Monte de Agua y Pasos and the Rural Park of Teno. The coast line converts, with good weather conditions, into an excellent place to practice surfing and bodyboarding, diving, sport fishing and other water sports. Furthermore the tranquility of the area and the poor traffic allow the practice of cycling and mountain running.

Throughout the year there is a unique programming of cultural activities that goes from the traditional Cavalcade of Magi, the carnival masquerade dance, the fireworks of the night of San Juan, the "Festival Boreal" or the "Festival Internacional del Cuento" of Los Silos. All of them unique reasons to spend a few days staying in some of the hotels or rural houses, savor the local gastronomy and enjoy the tranquility that characterizes this area of the island.

This ecotourism guide aims to be a tool to discover Los Silos in a different way, bringing the most singular of this unique region closer to the traveler and facilitating the link between visitors and the local population. For them is set this authentic model of ecotourism, where we understand the ecotourism as "the environmentally responsible trip, to relatively undisturbed areas to enjoy and appreciate the nature, the rural world and the local culture while promoting its conservation and protection. It has a low environmental impact and it provides a socio-economic benefit to the local population. "

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HISTORY OF A VILLAGE



To see the origins of Los Silos we must go back to the immediate period after the conquest of Tenerife. Before the assault, the territory that today occupies Los Silos belonged to a well-known “Menceyato” with the name of Daute. Although there is no foundational act, its origin is intimately linked to the Portuguese Gonzalo Yanes (Gonzalíanes), holder of land in the place since the end of the fifteenth century. The name of Los Silos appears for the first time on a document dated March 15, 1509. The origin of this denomination refers to three silos to store cereal built on the farm of Gonzalo Yanes.

During the sixteenth century evolved the hamlet, which was mainly composed of Castilians, Catalans, Extremadura,

Portuguese and Genoese, in addition to some migratory flows from other islands, especially La Gomera, El Hierro and Gran Canaria. By the middle of the century, it already had a hundred residents. At the beginning the village obtained its economic increase due to cereal as the main good. Other products the first settlers cultivated were sugarcane and vine. In this century the town became established with the construction of the most significant buildings. At the same time was also acquired the most important religious imagery that nowadays is preserved in the Church of Nuestra Señora de La Luz.

The eighteenth century was the century of progressive prosperity according to the illustrious historian José de Viera y Clavijo, who points out that a large number of houses were built in the sectors of Daute y Palma, Esparragal, Erjos



OLD BERNADINE CONVENT OF SAN SEBASTIÁN WITH THE CHURCH OF NUESTRA SEÑORA DE LA LUZ IN THE BACKGROUND

THE CABLE HOUSE AND THE OLD SUGAR MILL

THE CABLE THAT PUT LOS SILOS ON THE MAP



On the coast of Los Silos one of the most important milestones in Spanish telecommunications history was set. In 1883 Spain installed for the first time an underwater telegraph cable in the Atlantic that linked La Palma with Tenerife, which meant that the cable house was the first telecommunications center in Canarias, transmitting its first communication in November of that year. Shortly after that, the telegraphic union with Cádiz put the Canary Islands on the map of European communication. The presence of the cable house made Los Silos again attractive for the plantation of Sugarcane. In 1889 the English company Lathbury & Company builds a sugar mill very close to the cable house, which guaranteed privileged communications.

The Old Sugar Mill, which chimney is still preserved, became the most important entrepreneur center of the region. The Monte del Agua y Pasos was the main supplier for firewood to heat the boilers, requiring a lot of manpower for all tasks in cultivating the sugar cane planting and preparing the sugar. Subsequently, the bankruptcy of the sugar market, led to a change in the agricultural landscape, with the banana as a new export crop.



and Tierra del Trigo, which facilitate the concentration of 965 inhabitants after the half-century. In this period the town took the form we know today, with the main square, the church and the old convent, becoming the center of Los Silos life, together with the parochial house, the Vicar's house, the town hall and the lost granary. To the square led (and lead) the main streets of village, where the 149 houses of the historic center with a total of 589 inhabitants are concentrate.

In the 19th century, the main focus was set on the production of cochineal (used to obtain natural dyes, and driven by the boom of the textile companies in Europe), although It was abandoned quickly. In the fifties there were 961 inhabitants, who were mainly working in agriculture, livestock farming and the exploitation of the mountains and the sea. At the end of the 19th century, began an agrarian reconversion promoting the expansion of banana plantation, it was accompanied by notable cattle rearing. The economic boom resulting from this situation led to a population increase making a massive house building necessary. It is also the time they realized infrastructural improvements in Tierra del Trigo and Erjos.

In the first decades of the 20th century, Los Silos continued consolidating its economy, which generated an extraordinary population increase. The manorial buildings were increasing as well as the urban infrastructure. These conditions gave rise to the granting of the title of Villa on July 28, 1921.

The following years were marked by an economic boom that was interrupt by the Civil War. The population, which had doubled between 1920 and 1940 from 2,003 to 4,172 inhabitants, only increased in 600 in the 50s and 60s. The primary sector continued being the pillar of the economy of the Villa headed by the banana cultivation. Numerous retail stores were created extending in all areas of the municipality. In the seventies, the first effort was made to attract tourism; it created the fundament for the actual tourism development. In the last years, Los Silos increases its population, surpassing five thousand inhabitants and generates an economy based on agriculture, but with a great advance towards others business models.

OLD SUGAR MILL



ARCHAEOLOGICAL HERITAGE



Before the Spanish conquest of Tenerife the territory of Los Silos belonged to the Menceyato de Daute (one of the nine Guanches Kingdoms), where the most important activity was cattle farming. The discovered findspots in the lower area of Buenavista and Los Silos testify that it was a place of transit, rather than permanence for the shepherds. The highlands till Erjos have been used as summer pastures by the shepherds of the Teno area.

Beyond cattle farming, the Guanches got food from gathering and hunting, but also from agriculture. The find spot in Los Silos are all sepulchral caves, where have been found human remains like skulls, clay necklaces, necklaces of vertebrae fish, ceramics, piercers, shells and handaxes. These finds were mainly discovered



ROQUE DE LAS MORADAS FROM EL SENDERO DE CUEVAS NEGRAS

SMALL TRACES OF THE PAST



Along the path that runs from El Puertito to the lighthouse of Punta de Buenavista, you can find several spots looking like small accumulations of tiny amphoras. These structures are fossil nests of wasps, bees and beetles living on the coast of Los Silos in the past. They were made less than 150,000 years ago, during the coldest and rainy periods of the Pleistocene.

Most of these nests are of a type of potter wasps that became extinct in the Canary Islands a long time ago. Currently, similar species live in the Siberian tundra, a place with a very different climate from ours, much more humid and cold. The wasps collected mud next to puddles, springs and backs, and little by little built the nests where they laid their eggs. When the larvae hatch, these structures were useful for them: the prey from which they fed kept trapped.

By the time, water and sun helped to solidify these structures, turning them into small bowls which remained under the earth. Now, long after, erosion has made it appear again, providing interesting information about climates of the past and the fauna that lived in that time.

In Tenerife, very few paleontological find spot of this type are known, what turns them into an authentic window to that time. Those are small traces of our past, unknown to many of us and that still endure in this natural enclave of Los Silos.



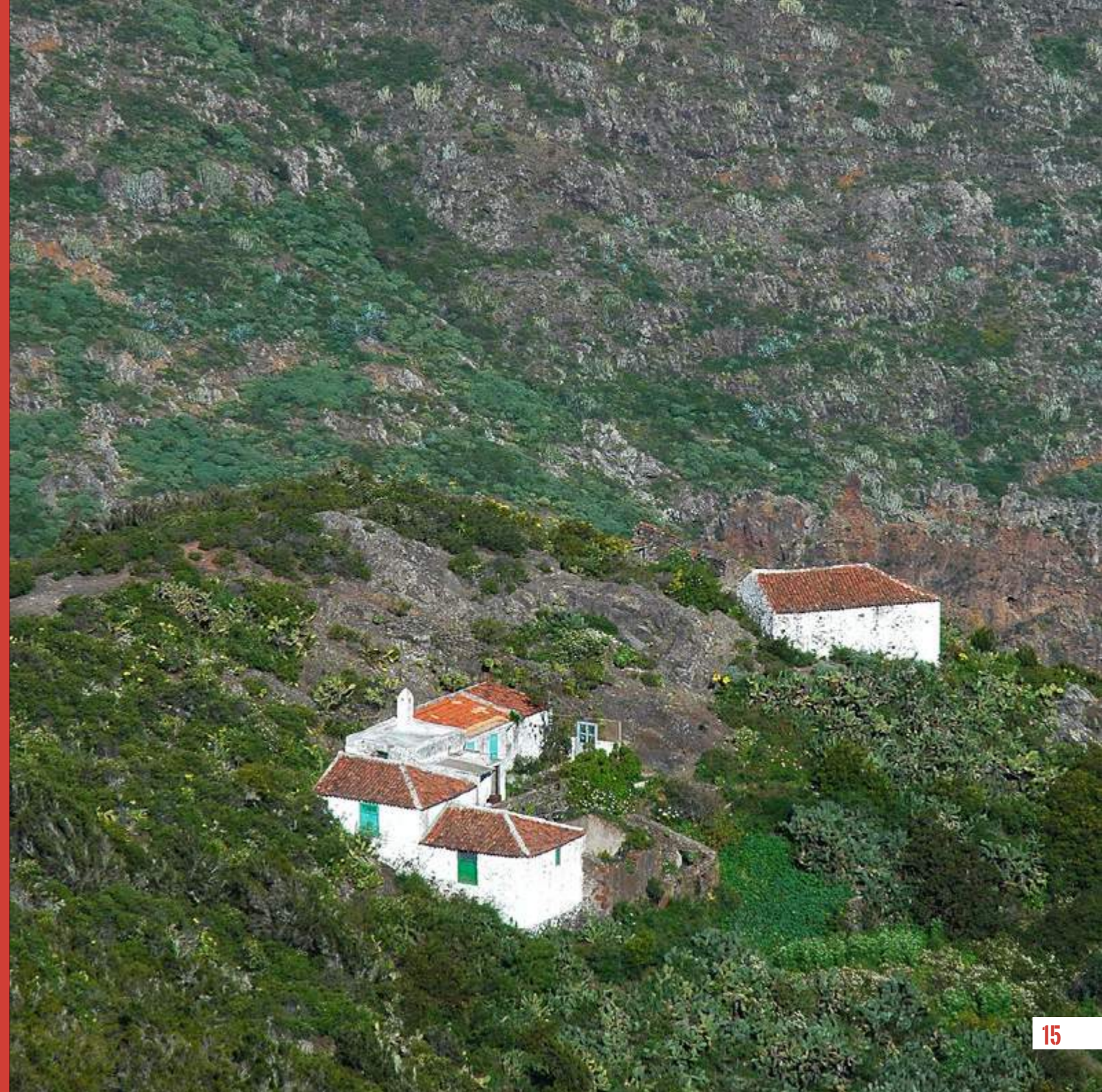
in the localities of Vinatea, El Polvillo, Las Moradas, La Isleta and Talavera.

Furthermore, there are other find spots, probably also sepulchral caves. The first is a small cave discovered in 1944, inside were two complete adult skeletons, whose skulls rested on two basalt slabs, without any coats, necklaces, wood or any other type of grave goods. Unfortunately the skeletons were thrown down the hill a few days after its discovery, only the slabs remain in the cave.

Another cave was plundered in the seventies, and from there originate numerous clay beads which are currently in possession of private collectors, it has caused the lost of valuable information about the ancient settlers of what is now Los Silos. Good part of the discoveries archaeological studies were carried out when the works of construction of the different channels that are located in the old coastal cliff.

Surely, there are still many archaeological vestiges to discover in some of the inaccessible caves, that the Guanches shepherds used as funerary niches. The story will rest unknown in the ravines of our island.

LOMO MORÍN



ARTISTIC HERITAGE OF LOS SILOS



In Los Silos, as it is a rural area, traditional culture has been less deformed than in other region of the island and has a diversified artistic heritage you can discover during your stay in the municipality. As usual in the cultural tradition of the islands, much of this heritage is of religious character, with outstanding sculptural, painting and goldsmith's art, although also exists an important architectural cultural heritage that is reflected in the historic municipality center and other elements of civil architecture.



CHRIST THE MERCIFUL

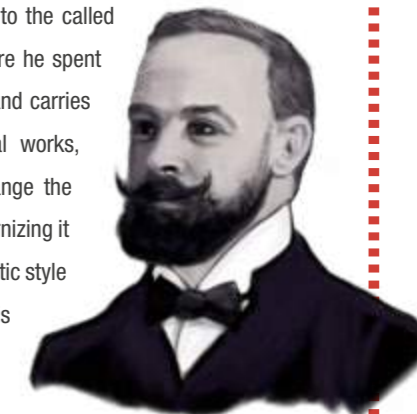
SCULPTURAL HERITAGE

- **Cristo de La Misericordia** (Church of Nuestra Señora de La Luz). This oeuvre with the highest artistic value is preserved in the Church of Nuestra Señora de La Luz. Dated from 1632, approximately, but its author is still unknown. The Christ is in a retable-niche that fits in the mannerist style, possibly very close to the School of Martín Andújar. Today it is kept in the Capilla de la Misericordia.
- **Cristo de La Humildad y Paciencia** (Church of Nuestra Señora de La Luz). Woodcraft from the first half of the 17th century and the work of a local carver, Francisco Alonso de la Raya, originally from La Gomera and disciple of Martín de Andújar. The beautiful altarpiece-niche with Solomonic columns is dated in the second quarter of the eighteenth century.
- **Cristo Yacente** (Church of Nuestra Señora de La Luz). Representation of the dead Christ. The naked body, bleeding and covered by the Perizoma. Image made between the end of the 17th and the beginning of the 18th century.
- **El Nazareno** (Church of Nuestra Señora de La Luz). It is a recent work that represents Christ with the cross on his shoulder, with the tunic cinched at the waist with a string of threads of gold. It have carved and polychrome head, hands and feet in Baroque style. It is most likely to come from the workshop of the Baroque sculptor Francisco Alonso de la Raya.

MARIANO ESTANGA AND ARIAS-GIRÓN IN LOS SILOS



The town of Los Silos owes part of its current aspect to one of the most outstanding architects of the early twentieth century: Mariano Estanga and Arias-Girón. Estanga was one of the promoters of classicism, an architectural style inspired by elements of the classic ancient era. The architect and town planner from Valladolid established his residence in Los Silos after his marriage with Angela Cologán Ponte in 1910. At that time they moved to the called «Hacienda de Daute». Here he spent the last years of his life and carries out his late architectural works, which would forever change the aspect of the town, modernizing it and bringing a characteristic style that is still preserved and is part of the originality of the town.



Some of his most important works are the facade of the Church of Nuestra Señora de La Luz in neo-Gothic style, the side wall of the “casona de los Trujillo”, currently the town hall, the private house located in Calle de la Estrella 15, the neo-Gothic chapel of Calvario or the popular Plaza de la Luz, with a rectangular layout, chamfered corners, balustrades and jars. The town center, where so many generations have grown up, played, danced and fallen in love.

- **San Antonio Abad** (Church of Nuestra Señora de La Luz). Oeuvre of the painter and sculptor Juan de Abreu, produced in 1872, in which the realism stands out. It is confirmed that there was an earlier carving of Saint Anthony the Great which was brought to Los Silos in 1748, whose whereabouts is unknown since 1862.
- **San Bernardo** (Church of San Bernardo, Las Canteras). The sculpture of Saint Bernard of Clairvaux is carved in wood, the arms are articulated on shoulders, elbows and wrists. This work belonged to the Bernadine convent of San Sebastián in the center of Los Silos. It is dated between the seventeenth and early eighteenth century. The authorship is unknown.
- **San Francisco de Asís** (Church of Nuestra Señora de La Luz). Representation of the Saint Francis of Assisi wearing the brown frock of his order. In the torso appears the tattered tunic revealing the stigma on his chest. The sculpture was made by an anonymous sculptor belonging, surely, to the Canarian school of the baroque period. It was executed during the seventeenth century.
- **San Juan Evangelista** (Church of Nuestra Señora de La Luz). Saint John the Evangelist has his head tilted to the right and the eyes fixed looking up. He holds a feather (silver) in the right hand. The parchment, which he currently holds, is tied to his fingers. It is a sculpture of the year 1894 carved in wood with dress, attributed to the sculptor Aurelio Carmona López (1826-1901).

- **San Sebastián** (Church of Nuestra Señora de La Luz). This sculpture represents Saint Sebastian according to the traditional iconography: tied to a tree with the right hand on his back and the left hand pointing at the sky, only covered by the Perizoma. The image is carved in wood and polychromed by an unknown craftsman from the Canarian school of Baroque in the 18th century.
- **Virgen de La Luz** (Church of Nuestra Señora de La Luz). Even nowadays the origin of the Virgen de La Luz is not completely clear. The popular legend tells that the sculpture was found by a fisherman named Simon Gonzalez of Herrera in 1521 on the shores of Garachico. Others say it was first found in Adeje and then, while trying to carry it to La Orotava, a storm forced to land in Garachico. In the same way it was speculated with its origin, but the most probable hypothesis is that it is a Portuguese carving by the Portuguese sculptor Antonio de Sylva. In any case, the image hanging over the parish is now posterior to the one of origin. The artistic highlights of the current carving are the details revealing certain classicism like the idealization of the face, the rectilinear profile of the nose or the semi-drooping eyelids. The mantle of The Virgin, embroidered in thread with leaves and flowers, is dated between the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries and has openings for the columns of the canopy when the sculpture is taken out to a procession. It is considered as the only example with this characteristics existing in the Canary Islands.



VIRGEN DE LA LUZ

PICTORIAL HERITAGE

- **Apoteosis de Santo Domingo de Guzmán** (Church of Nuestra Señora de La Luz). Oil on canvas of Saint Dominic painted by an anonymous artist. It belongs to the Canarian school of Baroque of the 18th century.
- **Cuadro de Ánimas** (Church of Nuestra Señora de La Luz). Oil on canvas dated from 1732, most likely made by some disciple of Cristóbal Hernández Quintana and restored in 1872 probably by

the painter Gumersindo Robayna, according to the initials that appear in the lower right side. The reredos where the painting incorporated was made in the first half of the 18th century by an anonymous artisan.

- Contemporary tapestry of the **Diálogo de Jesús con La Samaritana** (Church of Nuestra Señora de La Luz).
- **Dios Padre** (Church of Nuestra Señora de La Luz). Oil painted on canvas from the 17th century.

- **Jesús curando al hijo de la viuda** (Church of Nuestra Señora de La Luz). Canvas in which you can appreciate the realism of the artist Manuel López Ruiz. Painted in the first decade of the 20th century.
- **Oración en el huerto** (Church of Nuestra Señora de La Luz). Oil on canvas painted by Manuel López Ruiz in the early 20th century.
- **San Fernando Rey** (Church of Nuestra Señora de La Luz). Oil on canvas by an unknown artist belonging to the Canarian school of Baroque in the 18th century.
- **San Juan Nepomuceno** (Church of Nuestra Señora de La Luz). Oil on canvas by an unknown artist belonging to the Canarian school of Baroque, dated from the 18th century.
- **Virgen de La Luz protegiendo a unos pescadores de la tempestad** (Church of Nuestra Señora de La Luz). Large sized canvas where you can appreciate any brushstrokes of the painter Manuel López Ruiz (1872-1960) from Cadiz. It was made in the first decade of the 20th century.
- **Virgen con el niño** (Church of Nuestra Señora de La Luz). Oil on canvas painted by an unknown artist belonging to the Baroque, possibly very close to the American school or at least with clear influences. From the 18th century.

- **Tabla del Martirio de San Sebastián** (Town Hall of Los Silos). Without a doubt this is the most important pictorial piece of art in Los Silos. It is a Gothic carving from Alonso Sedano from Burgos that was acquired 1981 in an auction in Madrid by the Municipal Representation. This large work is dating from the late 15th century; it is painted with tempera on a stucco base. It is unique on the Canary Islands.



VIRGEN DE LA LUZ PROTEGIENDO A UNOS PESCADORES DE LA TEMPESTAD

GOLDSMITH HERITAGE

- **Processional Cross.** (Church of Nuestra Señora de La Luz): Without doubt this is the most accomplished piece and of greatest artistic value of the Canarian Renaissance. It is a splendid silver oeuvre on which medallions, caps, pilasters, placards, drawings, etc can be hung. Its dating generates controversy, while Alfonso Morales dates it on 1580, Professor Rosa Olivera believes that it is a later work that was produced in around 1650.
- **The Imperial Crown** (Church of Nuestra Señora de La Luz). From Mexican origin, it has been dated from the second half of the 17th century and is one of the few existing exemplar on the Canary Islands.
- **Silver candle holder**, (two). (Church of Nuestra Señora de La Luz): From Venezuelan origin, were donated in 1762.
- **Embossed silver bookrest** (two) (Church of Nuestra Señora de La Luz). In Rococo style of Venezuelan origin, they were donated in 1762 and 1784.
- **Set of baroque silver wine jugs** (Church of Nuestra Señora de La Luz). Of Mexican origin and dated from 1770.
- **Tabernacle door covered with embossed silver** (Church of Nuestra Señora de La Luz). Dated from 1795.
- **Palanquin from the baldachin of the virgin** (Church of Nuestra Señora de La Luz). Baroque work from Leopoldo Fernández Trujillo made from nickel plates. They arrived at the Parish in the first decades of the 20th century.



DETAILS FROM THE IMPERIAL CROWN

ARCHITECTURAL HERITAGE

When you walk through Los Silos you will see many examples of traditional architecture and other representations, both civil and religious, of great value. Los Silos went on to increase the list of BIC (Bienes de Interés Cultural de Canarias / Assets of Cultural Interest of the Canary Islands) with its historic center with the declaration in 2004. Likewise, the lime kilns located in the San José neighborhood were included as "BIC islets". The reasons given by the responsible

for cultural heritage to declare the municipality as a Historic Site were based, fundamentally, on the fact that the increasing urban pressure could lead to the deterioration of the center, modifying the old buildings and the cityscape. The conservation status is good and its most outstanding aspect is the harmony of the historical nucleus as well as the homogeneity of its urban morphology. Another highlight is the cobblestone covering the roads, contributing to the reinforcement of the historic image of the town.



LIME KILNS IN EL PUERTITO

CIVIL ARCHITECTURE

There are many examples of traditional Canarian architecture conserved in Los Silos. When walking through the center many architectural elements traditionally used in the constructions in the Canary Islands can be appreciate: overhanging eaves, carpentry in tea wood, guillotine window or of two leaves with lifting windows, etc.

- **Cable house.** Small building of brick, lime and French roof tile, which housed the office for the submarine telegraph cable, which linked telegraphically the island of La Palma and Tenerife.
- **The Old Sugar Mill.** This building is mainly characterized by his large chimney that has become the emblem of the city. The factory workshop next to it is banana packing machine, currently in service, a unique example of the industrial architecture of the 20th century.
- **Plaza de la Luz.** Designed by Mariano Estanga, it has a rectangular layout, chamfered corners, balustrades and jars. It is the nerve center of the town, the meeting place for natives and visitors of Los Silos, where occur many of the traditions and cultural activities.

- **Historical center of Los Silos.** Los Silos has a historic-artistic entity that shows a remarkable merit for its high degree of conservation and continuity, composed of several dozen buildings of local architecture and a relevant heritage interest. Some of the most outstanding buildings are:

- Casona de los Trujillo, actually the Town Hall, la Plaza de La Luz.
- Casa de Los Páez in Calle Félix Benítez de Lugo, 3.
- Casa de los Caraveo in Placeta de la Constitución, 6.
- Casa del Señor Estévez in Calle Doctor Jordán, 6.
- Casa de Los Báez in Calle Doctor Jordán, 23.
- Casa Parroquial in laPlaza de La Luz.
- Office of the “Escuela de Música Nueva Unión” in Calle El Olivo, 2.
- House in Calle La Estrella, 15.
- House in Calle La Estrella, 30.

SOME OLD OVENS THAT MARKED THE APPEARANCE OF OUR VILLAGE

Next to El Puertito, on the coast of Los Silos, they are two lime kilns, the oldest one built at the end of the 19th century and the largest and most modern one in 1931. These infrastructures were a great advance for the municipality, because till then the buildings were made of loam, stone and wood. The popularization of the use of the lime improved the life conditions for the inhabitants of the area and also facilitated more resistant constructions for agricultural purposes, such as tanks and reservoirs, boosting the sector. The lime stones used in these furnaces cataloged as an Asset of Cultural Interest were brought by boat from Fuerteventura, to the nearby landing and then transported by land to the furnaces, where they were transformed into powder.

The construction is simple, made of stone and brick, with an annexed warehouse and a small water tank, necessary for the lime to be extinguished. It has a large hole in the upper part where smoke from the combustion was evacuated, and stairs to load fuel and lime stones for the furnace. In addition the ovens have a lower lateral opening protected from the winds to control burning. The lime industry slowly decayed between the sixties and seventies, until its definitive decline, because of the prevailing imported cement imposing on the Canarian market, making the use of lime kilns unnecessary.



RELIGIOUS ARCHITECTURE

- **Old Bernadine Convent of San Sebastián.** It was founded on August 31st of 1649 by the captain Sebastián Pérez Enríquez and his wife Luisa Francisca Montañez. The convent life began with the installation of eight religious, three of them daughters of the founder. In the decade of the nineties of the 17th century, the monastery had less of a dozen religious, due to extreme poverty. This period of crisis led to its definitive disappearance in 1836. After some attempts of demolition, failed thanks to the initiative of some organizations such as Pérez Enríquez Cultural Association and public pressure, it was declared as an Artistic Historical Monument in 1986. Nowadays it is an emblematic building of the town. It is housing the municipal library, departments of the town hall and several multipurpose rooms. This is where the cultural life of the municipality is organized, with exhibitions, conversations, concerts, documentaries and an important part of the well-known International Storytelling Festival. Visiting the patio is a must for anyone who comes to Los Silos.
- **Church of Nuestra Señora de La Luz.** The construction began in 1568 and was completed in 1570. It consisted of a single nave with a wooden roof and a main chapel. The townsmen obtained in September of 1605 the uprating of the church to the category of Parish and the segregation from Buenavista on the condition that new construction works were carried out: the installation of a choir and the extension of the main chapel. In 1629 started the construction of a

new arch and stone stairs, furthermore some doors and a new coffered ceiling were elaborated. In 1680 the arch of the main chapel on two Tuscan columns has been reformed. The cruciform shape of the church such as we know it today was completed with construction of two lateral chapels: dedicated to Mercy and the Heart of Jesus. In the second half of the 18th century was build the shrine of the Virgin that is located on a base from the begin of the century, a unique piece on the Canary Islands on which the image can be lift up. In the twenties of the last century a major renovation was realized, according to the plans of the architect Mariano Estanga, significantly modifying the façade by adding a central tower over the attic, flanked by two towers in neo-gothic style. The church houses the most important sculptural and pictorial works of the municipality, from the 16th century till today.

- **Hermitage of San Bernardo.** In 1951 began the administrative work for the realization of the building project that was presented in 1953. A single nave was built with tile roof and two hips. Its façade is quite simple with a main door flanked by two small windows and, above them, others for more light. In the center of it is a small bell tower. The building was finished in 1955.
- **Hermitage of Nuestra Señora de Lourdes.** It is located in the area of Tierra del Trigo and built at the end of the 19th century. When it was edified, materials from a demolished hermitage in the near Barranco Hondo, in Garachico, were used. The date of the construction is not clear, if we look at the inscription on the main façade, it is dated back to the year 1908, but in the back of the belfry is engraved 26.10.1907; these dates have definitely nothing to do with the origin of the small and attractive bell tower.

- **Parsonage of Erjos.** It dates from 1955 and was built on a "Calvary" that already was there. Little by little the masonry was achieved, structured in a single nave, with facade topped by a two-sided hip and covered with an arch, on that three small windows were placed; and about those was set up the bell tower. It was finished in 1959.

- **Hermitage of El Calvario.** It is a tiny building with a gable facade (triangular top) with a pointed arch and crosses ornament, in neo-gothic style. We can date it, probably, in the first decades of the 20th century.



OLD BERNADINE CONVENT OF SAN SEBASTIÁN

FUNERAL ARCHITECTURE

- **Municipal cemetery.** Located on the outskirts of the town, it is a building from 1886. Of simple construction, rectangular with basaltic cobblestone floor, the facade presents a door frame carved out of stone.
- **Cemetery of San Sebastián** (on the back of the convent). It is a simple building surrounded by a low wall and burials. This was the first holy place of the town. Thereafter there were some burials in the choir, under the hermitage of the monastery. The cemetery was used until 1884.



ILLUSTRATION OF THE CHURCH OF
NUESTRA SEÑORA DE LA LUZ

FESTIVITIES AND TRADITIONS



Los Silos is a very animated town, and this is reflected in the many festivities and events that take place all the year round, some of them with an international impact and others, with a great reputation on the island due to their traditional roots. Check the following calendar and if you coincide with any of the dates, we invite you to visit the traditional festivities or one of the cultural events that are among the most important on the island. It will surely surprise you.



CELEBRATION OF NUESTRA SEÑORA DE LA LUZ

CHO PERICO



Cho Perico is one of the protagonists of the carnival in Los Silos. What previously consisted of a masked man running through the town after the inhabitants, to sting them in the legs with nettles, has become calmer over time. Cho Perico has multiplied in two or three people who threaten to sting children, although now with less painful plants. This tradition was reintroduced in 2013, 60 years after it disappeared from the streets of the Los Silos. Of course, the appropriate disguise is maintained: plantation worker clothes with old trouser and shirt, a carton mask and a hat made of newspapers topped by feathers and leaves. On Carnival Tuesday, around six o'clock in the afternoon, at the rhythm of Tajaraste, Cho Perico enters the scene and runs through the town. Then he chases dozens of nervous children and adults avoiding the cane of Cho Perico, who in turn tries to sting them.



FESTIVITY CALENDAR

This is the calendar of traditional Festivities held every month:

JANUARY

- **Celebration of San Antonio Abad.** This festivity takes place since 1749. It is celebrated on the third Sunday of January of each year in Los Silos, where the cattle of all those who want to bring their animals will be blessed. At the same time, a handcraft and livestock fair is held.

FEBRUARY

- **Carnivals.** Traditionally the pupils of Los Silos make costumes, they present them to the neighbors of the town during a parade through the town center. For some years now, the Association of Friends of La Sardina is responsible for not missing any representative act in one of the most traditional carnivals in the north of Tenerife.

APRIL

- **Festivities in honor of San José.** This celebration occurs in the neighborhood of San José from April 28 to May 1 of each year. Beside playful activities, parish fairs and festivals are held.

MAY

- **Celebration of Fátima.** The day of Our Virgen de Fátima is held on May 13 and the celebration of popular and religious acts converges on it.
- **Celebration of Día de Canarias.** The festivity is held on May 30 with different popular acts. The most outstanding event is the traditional dance “Baile de Magos”.

JUNE

- **Festivities in honor of La Begoña.** In the first half of June these celebrations are held in Erjos.
- **Corpus Christi of San Bernardo.** Although the creation of carpets is carried out throughout the municipality, in San Bernardo it has a special interest due to the strong neighborhood collaboration, the creativity and originality of their designs and the quantity. This tradition dates from the year 1979.
- **Festivities of San Juan.** During the decade of the 60s and 70s it was called the celebration of the sea. Although the day of San Juan is celebrated on June 24, at the end of the afternoon of the 23rd the saint is transferred from the church to the beach, where is offered the burning of bonfires marking the beginning of the celebration putting the fire in the focus of the shortest night of the year. The beaches are filled with hachitos and everyone awaits the arrival of midnight for the traditional bath. Although they are celebrated throughout the town, the festivities in La Caleta de Interián and in San José are especially interesting, they are accompanied by folklore and children festivals.

JULY

- **Celebration of San Bernardo and San Cristóbal.** They are celebrated in San Bernardo and the main day is July 20. Its celebration began in the middle of the 20th century and, although during the first years the celebrations were strictly religious, popular acts began to be programmed in the 50s.

AUGUST

- **Celebration of Nuestra Señora de Lourdes.** The celebration with different religious and popular acts is held in Tierra del Trigo during the first week of the month of August.

SEPTEMBER

- **Celebration of Nuestra Señora de la Luz.** Its celebration is held on September 8 in the town center where the Virgen de la Luz is worshiped. The first information about this celebration goes back to 1722. In the past, the festivities consisted of purely religious acts, but with the time, popular festivities were included.

OCTOBER

- **Celebration of La Milagrosa.** They are celebrated during the second week of October and are held in Erjos. For the celebration religious and popular acts are carried out.

NOVEMBER

- **Celebration of Santa Cecilia.** It takes place at the end of November and during the festivities, the Agrupación Musical Nueva Unión de Los Silos delights the neighbors with various concerts. Parallel festivals, tributes and religious acts are held.
- **Celebration of San Andrés.** It takes place from 29th November to 6th December and is celebrated in the neighborhood of La Caleta de Interián. Both, popular and religious acts are held, among other the traditional water and aerial fireworks in honor of the Saint.

DECEMBER

- **Christmas celebration.** Like in the rest of the island, Christmas is celebrated and on January 5 the traditional Kings' Cavalcade is celebrated and gifts are given to the children of the municipality, in the town center and in La Caleta de Interián.

TRADITIONS OF LOS SILOS

As one might expect from a rural area, it has maintained popular traditions that have been passed down generations and being absorbed by the newest generation of Los Silos, lasting despite technological and cultural advances. Most have a festive character, which, together with the efforts of the neighbors, not to lose them, is probably the reason of its conservation.

- **Mascaritas of carnival.** The elders of the municipality remember with special affection the days of carnival in which they disguised themselves in a very simple way with faces completely masked, in order to cheat their neighbors by not being recognized by them. Today there is still this desire to mask the faces on Tuesday of Carnival, generating very funny situations among the inhabitants.
- **Pan por dios.** It is one of the oldest traditions of the town. It is held on All Saint's Day, on November 1, and consists of the distribution of sweets, fruits and seasonal products to children knocking on the doors of the Municipality and asking for "bread for god". It is supposed that the custom is of Portuguese origin according with the provenance of the first settlers of the Isla Baja after the conquest.
- **Cabañuelas.** In Los Silos there is a singular tradition that still exists. Each alternation of season is accompanied by a weather forecast, which will serve to know the weather of the next three months of the year. Every day 21 of December, March, June and September, a group of people meets at a specific point on the coast of the municipality, where an observation is held that lasts

half an hour and in which they consider the prevailing wind, the cloudiness degree, the sea conditions and other climatological factors. Each minute is equivalent to the weather they will have during three days of the coming months. After the observation, a table is drawn up with the expected atmospheric conditions until the next change of season. This popular technique was the only way to know when it was going to be the best time for agriculture, to go fishing or to land the lime stones, which came from Fuerteventura.

- **Silkworms.** One of the traditions that was lost in Los Silos and for which it was famous in the past, was the sericulture and the subsequent elaboration of fabrics of great durability and extraordinary quality. In the Old Bernadine convent of San Sebastián the best silk of the island was spun, preferable to many others for the quality of its finish.

- **Traditions of the festivity of La Luz.** During the celebration of the saint patron of the town a series of specific traditions are held. Notable among these are the peal of the bells announcing the beginning of popular and religious events, when the bells of the church of Nuestra Señora de La Luz are heard on the square, "rosquetes" and handmade liqueurs are distributed there. Beyond that, on September 6, before the main day of the festivities, one of the most unique religious acts of the island takes place: the parishioners elevate the Virgen Nuestra Señora de La Luz manually to the altar using a lifter, a unique piece on the islands.



CELEBRATION OF
SAN ANTONIO ABAD

CULTURAL EVENTS



INTERNATIONAL FAIRY TALE FESTIVAL

Los Silos has a rich cultural life and events of national and international importance, which, for a few days, occupy the covers of the most prominent culture Medias. At the same time, thousands of people come together in Los Silos to enjoy a cultural program decentralized from the larger cities, an additional incentive to the island's cultural offer. We invite you to visit the municipality to enjoy some of the best cultural activities of the moment.

- **Festival Internacional del Cuento.** Listening to fairy tales like in the past is a fact that happens in Los Silos each year during the last days of November and the first days of December. Since 1996, the "Festival Internacional del Cuento" has been held on the initiative of the Asociación Cultural para el Desarrollo y Fomento de la Lectura y el Cuento (Cultural Association for the Development and Promotion of Reading and Tale), where authors and storytellers from all over the world meet for a few days in Los Silos. In it, storytelling, activities for children and adults, workshops and courses related to literature are hold. Undoubtedly, during its years of activity, the "Festival Internacional del Cuento" of Los Silos has broken through and serves as a tourist attraction for the town and as a cultural reference for Tenerife. The "Festival Internacional del Cuento" is an idea that has emerged to develop the desire for reading, listening to stories and to discover writers and letters, a very special event, in which you will feel the magical atmosphere of the tales in every corner of Los Silos.

- **Los Caprichos Musicales de la Isla Baja.** This cycle of instrumental and vocal music broke into the region in 2005, with the setting of unique enclaves of the Isla Baja; mainly old convents and squares of the municipalities of Garachico, Los Silos, Buenavista del Norte and El Tanque. The cycles run through these municipalities every year, during the months of April to July. Following the concerts is, generally, free. Each edition maintains a structure of two well-differentiated musical cycles: one of vocal music, which celebrates its concerts mainly on Fridays and Saturdays at night; and another with instrumental music or music bands, which is hold in the main squares of the four municipalities, every Sunday at midday. In both cases, the concerts are held on a rotating basis by the different municipalities. In addition, workshops are held, which are another activity within the cycle, led by prestigious teachers of vocal or instrumental technique and interpretation.

- **Festival Boreal.** Since 2008 in mid-September it is celebrated in the municipality. A festival that combines art, music and the environmental conservation, and whose origin and motive is the life of great traveling whales. It hosts music concerts by top-level artists, talks, film forum, exhibitions, nature activities, eco-market, workshops, dance, etc., aiming to be a space for environmental awareness and reflection for the dozens of thousands of people who have participated to the festival since its beginning. This festival, of international importance, has seen hundreds of people pass through its stages, with first class groups from the national and international scene. Each year, through the Boreal Festival, Los Silos becomes the cultural, artistic and environmental reference of the Canary Islands.

- Since 2016, in the end of August, the **Malas Pulgas Rock Fest.** is held, a free music festival dedicated to alternative and independent rock. It arose from the idea of a group of young people from Los Silos who, supported by the town hall, wanted to make from the festival a platform to raise awareness for Canarian rock groups. It is part of the rock serie of Tenerife and attracts each year more followers, little by little, it has become an unmissable event in the music scenery of the island of Tenerife.



BOREAL FESTIVAL



SCULPTURES FROM THE NATURE. THE SKELETON OF THE SEI WHALE

Since the month of August 2008, on the coast of Los Silos stands one of the symbols of the municipality and of the Isla Baja: the natural sculpture of the skeleton of a Sei whale, a whale about 15 meters long, which aims to be a tribute to the great travelers of the ocean and a symbol for the conservation of the sea.

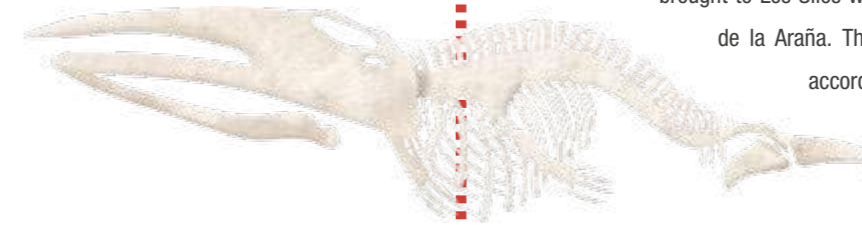
On the Canary Islands, scientists have identified to date some 30 different species of cetaceans, from the 80 known in the world, representing 34% of the world's diversity, and making this place almost unique for the observation of these big animals.

This skeleton belongs to a female Sei whale (*Balaenoptera borealis*), one of the largest animals on the planet: in life it reached about 16 meters and weighed around 20 tons. His body was located floating in waters near the south of the island of Gran Canaria and taken ashore to study the causes of his death, later his skeleton was

brought to Los Silos with the aim of being displayed in the Charco

de la Araña. The whale apparently died of natural causes,

according to the presence of numerous intestinal parasites in his digestive tract, as inferred from his necropsy.



It was this sculpture that motivated

the celebration of the first Boreal Festival, which counted with the collaboration of numerous local artists, companies and residents of the region. It was organized with resounding success and recognition at a regional and national level. Initially, the Boreal Festival arose to involve the youngest people of the region in the conservation of this natural sculpture and to put it in value as a regional symbol.

THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT OF LOS SILOS



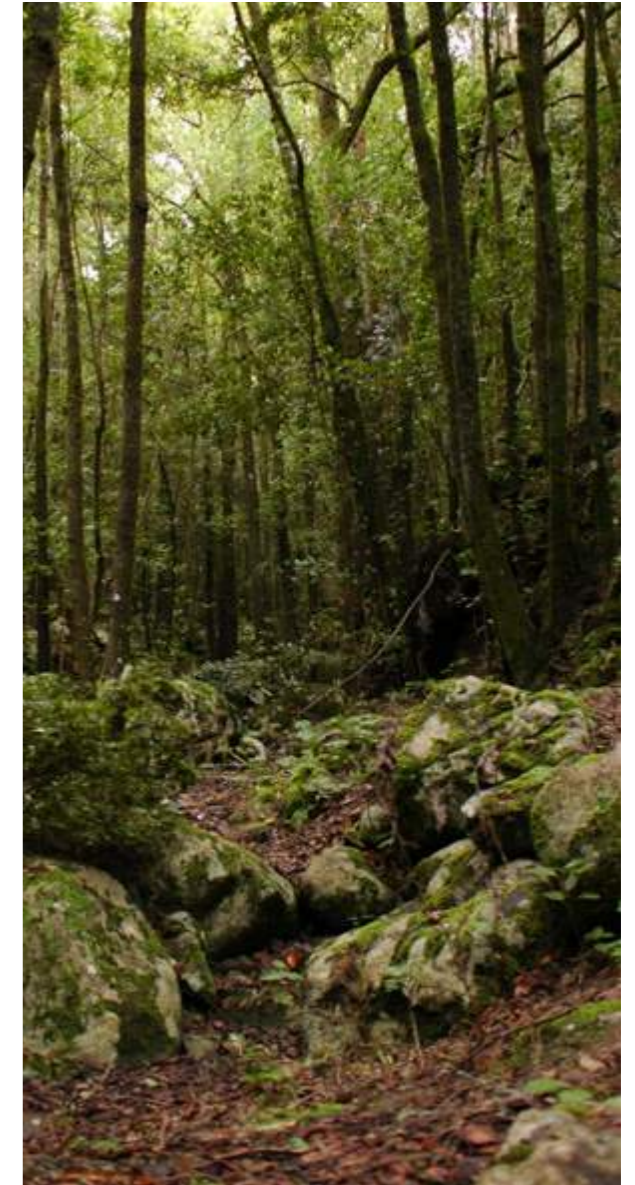
DRAGONFLY IN THE CHARCAS DE ERJOS

Los Silos, despite its small size, hosts a rich and unique biodiversity. In its territory from the coast to the summit of Cruz de Gala, at about 1,400 meters high, different environments can be discovered, ranging from the cardonal-tabaibals of the coast and the Montaña de Taco, influenced by a high insolation and rare rain fall, to the leafy laurel forests of the Monte del Agua reminding of tropical rainforests.

In this environment, they are several species of plants which cannot be observed anywhere else in the nature worldwide, such as the *vieraea* (*Vieraea laevigata*) or the pinwheel (*Aeonium haworthii*). The same occurs with several species of invertebrates, more than 20 endemic species of the Teno massif are known. And it is the same with birds, of which more than 150 species have been counted, as well migratory, wintering and nesting.

A large part of its territory, more than 50%, is highly protected for its biological and geological values. The Teno Rural Park, the Protected Landscape of Acantilados de La Culata, the Site of Scientific Interest of Interián and the Zona de Especial Protección para las Aves de Teno, are the most outstanding protected areas in the territory of Los Silos.

Undoubtedly, Los Silos is an ideal destination for nature lovers, nature photography and ecotourism. Here, in a few kilometers, the landscape changes completely and in a very short time you can discover an exclusive flora and fauna, like on a continent in miniature..



MONTE DEL AGUA

NATURAL PROTECTED AREAS

TENO RURAL PARK (PARQUE RURAL DE TENO)



- **Municipalities:** Buenavista, Los Silos, Santiago del Teide and El Tanque.
- **Area:** 8063,6 hectares.
- **Declaration:** it was declared by Law 12/1987, of June 19, Declaration of Protected Natural Areas of the Canary Islands, as Teno Natural Park, and reclassified to its current category by Law 12/1994, of December 19, to Natural Area of the Canary Islands.
- **General characteristics:** this mountainous massif houses abundant values of scientific interest with large forest masses in the summits, which exert an important role in the capture of water and the protection of soils. The forests are mainly of laurisilva, important for its reliquary character, its scarcity and its great endemic biodiversity. This importance also extends to the xeric plant communities and to the rock vegetation of the lower zone. Among the endemic and endangered species there are some that are located

exclusively in Teno, and others that find areas of vital importance (laurel pigeons, osprey, etc.). The geomorphological structures are equally well represented, with spectacular ravines, steep cliffs and elements of scientific interest that make up a peculiar landscape full of contrasts and beauty. To such values, it is necessary to add those of cultural type derived from the archaeological importance of the Region, with towns where the traditional architecture still marks the edificial tonic.

- **Other protections:** this area has been declared a Special Protection Area (SPA), as established in Council Directive 2009/147/EC on the conservation of wild birds. Within the same is the area of public utility nº 11 " Aguas y Pasos ".

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PROTECTED LANDSCAPE OF ACANTILADOS DE LA CULATA



- **Municipalities:** Garachico, El Tanque, Los Silos e Icod de los Vinos.
- **Area:** 552,1 hectares.
- **Declaration:** this area was declared by Law 12/1987, of June 19, Declaration of Protected Natural Area of the Canary Islands, as a natural area of national interest of Acantilados de Los Silos, El Tanque, Garachico and Icod, and reclassified to its current category by Law 12/1994, of December 19, to Natural Area of the Canary Islands.

- **General characteristics:** it is a fossil marine cliff, of considerable geological and geomorphological interest and important landscape valuation that combines natural and rural components, to configure an area of great scenic value surrounding the populations of the Isla Baja. It also houses remains of thermophilic forests of great scientific interest and some endangered and protected species such as the *Cheirolophus webbianus*.
- **Other protections:** a part of the protected landscape is coinciding with the Site of Scientific Interest of Interián, which is an area of ecological sensitivity.

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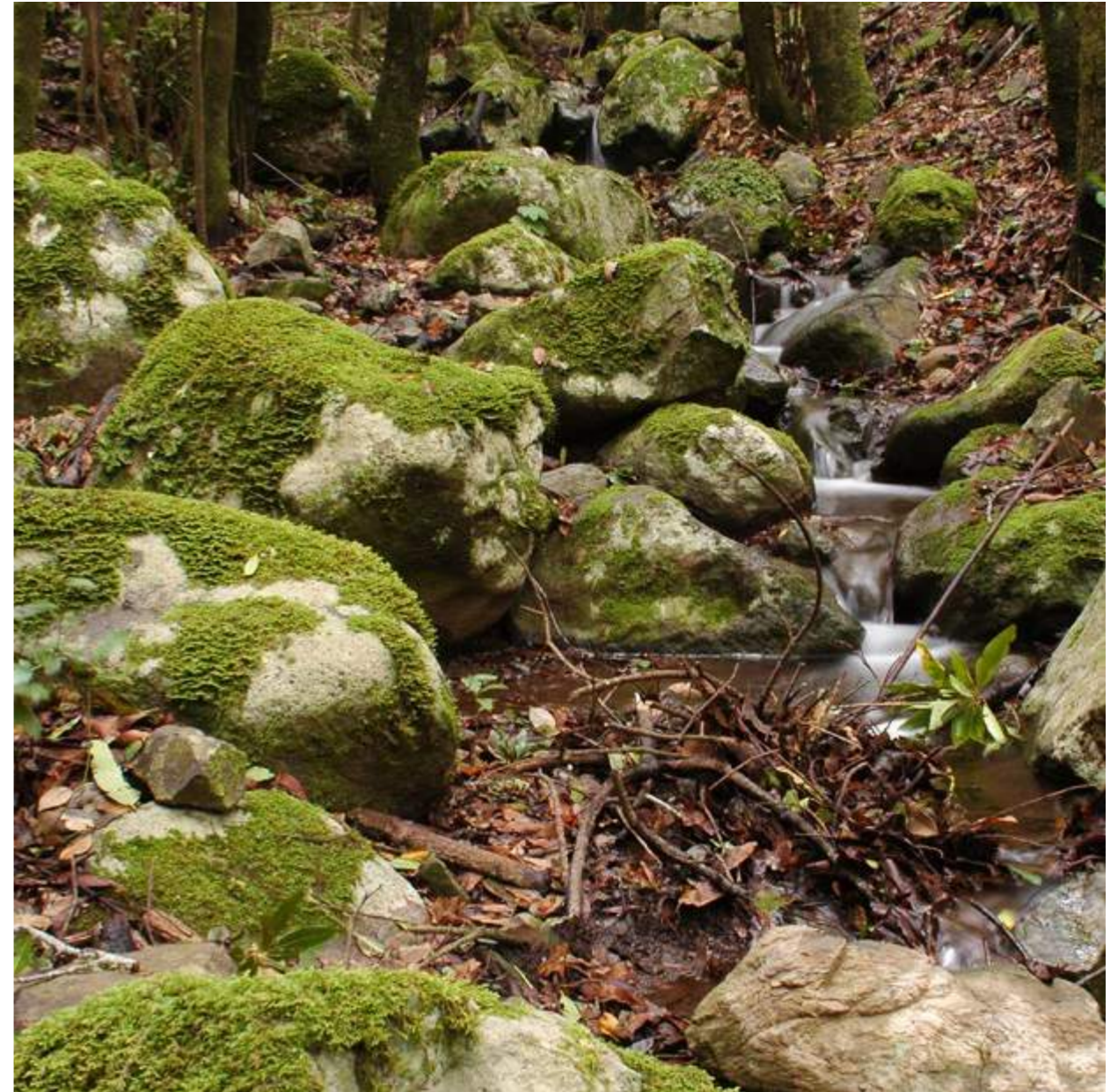
SITE OF SCIENTIFIC INTEREST OF INTERIÁN



- **Municipalities:** Garachico, Los Silos y El Tanque.
- **Area:** 101,8 hectares.
- **Declaration:** this area was declared by Law 12/1987, of June 19, Declaration of Protected Natural Area of the Canary Islands, as a part of natural area of national interest of Acanilados de Los Silos, El Tanque, Garachico and Icod, and reclassified to its current category by Law 12/1994, of December 19, to Natural Area of the Canary Islands.

- **General characteristics:** this section of cliffs and its piedmont, host an interesting residual community of thermophilic forest, with magnificent populations of evergreens, marcetella moquiniana, etc. Among the flora, there are many protected and endemic species, and a few endangered species, such as the Sideritis kuegleriana and the Cheirolophus webbianus. On the other hand, the entire cliff represents a scenic screen of great aesthetic value for the Isla Baja.
- **Other protections:** the site is by definition in its entirety an ecological sensitivity area, for the purposes of the Law 11/1990, of July 13, for the Prevention of Ecological Impact.

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RILL IN MONTE DEL AGUA

THE MONTE DEL AGUA, STRONGHOLD OF THE TERTIARY

The Monte del Agua y Pasos, located on the top of the ravines of Cuevas Negras, Los Cochinos and Blas, is one of the main forested formations of laurisilva on the Canary Islands. It is an authentic stronghold of biodiversity formed by more than 600 hectares of trees.

The Canarian laurisilva, had its origin in ancient tertiary forests extended in the Mediterranean basin, which disappeared millions of years ago. Its extinction was due to the Quaternary glaciations and the advance of the desert, but a small part has remained alive in some of the islands of Macaronesia, this forest, typical of shady environments, has found in this area the optimal conditions of humidity and warm temperatures.

The Monte del Agua is home to several species of flora and fauna unique on the Canary Islands, including some that are only known in this place. Among the faunistic gems are the pigeons of the laurisilva. The Bolle's pigeon (*Columba bolli*) that has a plumage of bluish tones, in flight shows a band of gray color in the middle of the tail, lives inside the forest and builds its nests in the treetops. And the Laurel pigeon (*Columba junoniae*) is somewhat darker, with shades of purple in its plumage, has a striking white band at the end of the tail, locates its nests on the ground and lives mainly at the edge of the forest in ravines and cliff areas.

Both pigeons feed basically on the fruits of the forest trees, they usually move from one place to another, depending on the stage of maturity of the different fruits throughout the year. In species

such as the *Laurus novocanariensis*, the *Persea indica*, *Arbutus canariensis*, small-leaved holly (*Ilex canariensis*) and other endemic trees, find the pigeons their best allies. They play an important role in the conservation of the laurel forests, by helping to disperse the seeds, traveling from one place to another in their stomach. Both the Bolle's and the Laurel pigeon, are two extremely protected species by international, Spanish and regional regulations. Their limited distribution worldwide makes them very vulnerable to drastic changes in their habitat or in the face of poor management and conservation policies.

The high value of the biodiversity of this place has made it worthy for different protection categories, being an area of high protection within the Rural Park of Teno. You can visit it hiking along the track that starts from Erjos or along the trails starting at Tierra del Trigo or from the historic center of Los Silos.



BARRANCO DE LOS COCHINOS. MONTE DEL AGUA

LAS CARVAS, BETWEEN PALMS AND DRAGON TREES

On the way from Los Silos to Tierra de Trigo we find palm trees that populate Las Carvas at the foot of the Risco de Los Poyos, which never cease to impress those who visit this place, because of its uniqueness and the wide chromatic range, which gives this place a unique beauty in the sunset.

The Palm Grove of Las Carvas, also known as the Palm Grove of Daute or of the Tierra de Trigo, is a relict of the old vegetation that covered a good part of the Isla Baja, long before the arable land replaced the natural vegetation. Undoubtedly, it is one of the least known places in the region despite its high environmental value. Its importance for the scientific community has been evident on several occasions, including it in the Canary Islands Network for Protected Natural Areas in the categories of Protected Landscape of Acantilados de La Culata and Site of Scientific Interest of Interián. Without a doubt and well-deserved it is a grove to highlight.

It is mainly composed of specimens of the outstanding Canary Island Date Palm (*Phoenix canariensis*), an endemic species of the islands widely distributed throughout much of the archipelago, both in natural environments and gardens, due to its beauty and ornamental interest. The palm tree is one of the vegetal emblems of the islands, next to the dragon tree, the Cardón (*Euphorbia canariensis*), the Junipers, the *Laurus novocanariensis* and the canary island pine.

In addition to beautiful palm trees, this corner houses several exclusive species of the islands such as evergreens, adernos,

acebuches, junipers, *Withania aristata*, Jasmines, *Hypericum canariense*, *Rhamnus glandulosa*, *Rubia fruticosa*, *Allagopappus dichotomus*, *Aeonium canariense* and some dragon trees, even with some local endemisms like the *Vieraea*, an exclusive plant from the Northwest of Tenerife.

To contemplate its beauty, you only have to climb the *Montaña de Aregume*, in the center of Los Silos, and look up at the neighborhood of La Tierra del Trigo: in the area that is just below you can enjoy the remains of the thermophilic forest biodiversity.



PALM GROVE OF LAS CARVAS

THE CHARGAS DE ERJOS, A UNIQUE WETLAND

Those are some of the very few wetlands of Tenerife. In this area, different species of aquatic environments come together, scarce in other places of the island. During the 70s and the beginning of the 80s of the last century, important extractions of fertile land were carried out of this area to take it to the new crops in the south of the Island. This caused the modification of the land leaving the level of groundwater rise to the surface, originating the blockage of the water during the periods of winter rain.

After its abandonment as a quarry, the area became naturalized until it reached the current landscape, dominated by plant species adapted to water such as the canary willow (*salix canariensis*), the southern cattail (*Typha dominguensis*), the rushes (*Juncus* sp.) and papyrus (*Papyrus australis*).

The ponds attract an important group of invertebrates finding here the right conditions for living, dragonflies, butterflies of various species, beetles and bees are the most abundant.

Furthermore, it is a paradise for birds. In this area you can usually see more than thirty species, which use it as a feeding, rest and reproducing place. Raptors such as the sparrowhawk (*Accipiter nisus*) and the common buzzard (*Buteo buteo*), songbirds such as the canary (*Serinus canaria*) and waterfowl such as the common moorhen (*Gallinula chloropus*) and the eurasian coot (*Fulica atra*) are some of the most unique. In addition, at certain times of the year you can observe pigeons of the laurisilva, which arrive from the nearby Monte del Agua.

During the migration and winter periods have been observed up to more than fifty species of migratory birds, such as the grey heron (*Ardea cinerea*), the common snipe (*Gallinago gallinago*), the sandpiper (*Actitis hypoleucos*) and the common teal (*Anas crecca*).

Due to their fragility and interest, for the conservation of biodiversity and for the singularity and scarcity of this type of landscape on the island, they have been included in the Teno Rural Park.



CHARCAS DE ERJOS

THE COASTLINE OF LOS SILOS. FROM LA CALETA TO CASADO

It is one of the most important attractions of the municipality. In it you can enjoy natural pools formed by the whim of the union of the sea and volcanic lava, beaches of "callados" with black sand bottoms, basaltic rock outcrops, low and shallow, different historical heritage elements, sculptures of nature and a very interesting botanical, paleontological and faunal diversity. All this puts at your fingertips a very complete experience along its approximately 5 kilometers. Then we will walk along the coast from La Caleta to the boundary to Buenavista del Norte, at the foot of the Montaña de Taco; so you discover each corner to get an idea of what is here.

Leaving from Caleta de Interián, coastal neighborhood of fishing tradition, going towards Sibora, you will find different puddles where you can bathe depending of the tide: the Charco de Juaniquín, the Charco del Cumplido, the Charco del Romancito, the Charco de Las Damas and the Charco del Inglés, fully adopted by the local population to enjoy a bath by the sea.

Next to the Old Sugar Mill and at the foot of the Cable house, you will find the famous beach of Agua Dulce, named after an ancient spring that flowed from the rocks of the small cliff very close to the beach. It is a beach with "callados", but during the months of September and October, at low tides, it reveals the black sand that it hides under its waters.

Once we left Sibora behind, we arrive to the municipal pools and El Puertito. This area forms a coastal tourist complex where you can enjoy two swimming pools (one for adults and one for children),

at very affordable prices, with a changing room and showers. It also has a bar-cafeteria, a playground and a gym. El Puertito is a small quay for artisan fishermen located at the foot of the lime kiln, next to the mole, you will find a great area for swimming that has stairs with hand rail with direct access to the sea.

Following the coast to the west we find the Charco de la Araña, a beach of "callados" known by this name due to the presence of an harmless crab (*Stenorhynchus lanceolatus*). It is surrounded by a promenade with solarium, wooden pergolas, exercise area and the impressive skeleton of the Sei whale, a very pleasant space where families and visitors come together to spend a pleasant time near the sea.

Continuing along the coast to the municipal boundary with Buenavista del Norte, some of the most popular puddles of Los Silos follows another: the Charcos de Los Chochos, Don Gabino, Los Topos and Casado sound in the mouths of the neighbors when the weather invites to take a bath and enjoy the Atlantic Ocean on the north coast of Tenerife.



SALINAS OF LA CALETA DE INTERIÁN

SALT, A MARINE TRADITION INHERITED FROM MOTHERS TO DAUGHTERS

The Canary Islands, due to their coastal situation, have always been places where salt has been produced. Until a few years ago, small salt industries still survived in almost all the islands. In La Caleta de Interián, some of those salinas, known locally as "lajas", are still preserved. Most of the families of this seafaring neighborhood owned lajas that were inherited from mothers to daughters. Today there are still women who continuing to do this activity, exploiting the natural cavities of the rocks of this volcanic coast. In the lajas, water was collected from nearby puddles or from the shore with buckets. After the initial evaporation, the resulting salt is transported to be poured into the dryers or flat surfaces in

order to complete the drying process. The exploitation of the lajas begins in June and lasts until the first rains fall, usually in October. During these months the lajas must be periodically cleaned so that the obtained salt is as pure as possible, since the tides sometimes contaminate them. In good years up to 100 kilos of salt per family can be collected. The sea salt that is produced here has different characteristics to those that can be found in any shop, it is a much purer and more intense salt, used for culinary purposes, to preserve food or as a medicinal remedy.

LOS SILOS UNDERWATER



SEA BREAM NEAR EL PUERTITO

To speak of the sea of Los Silos is to speak of an enclave of great biodiversity that has always had a fishery, scientific and tourist interest. Submerging us in its waters allows us to enjoy a unique underwater environment typical of the northern slopes of the western islands, with rocky landscapes, abundant shallows and extensive sand bars from 5 to 50 meters depth approximately.

Entire generations of the village have been connected to the sea, accumulating great experiences and knowledge about it. There are many places full of stories, fishermen who saw the sea turn black because of the lot mantas which now are a diving eye-catcher; Other fishermen swimming to disentangle a fishing lead from the rocks and the fin of a shark was saw behind him, probably a shortfin mako shark, even many neighbors of Los Silos who have seen near the coast those groups of rare Risso's dolphin. In addition, there are testimony for the passage of large pelagic species such as fin whales or sperm whales whose stranding have been popular phenomena of visit and observation: "Let us see the whale!" was to hear in town, and then, numerous groups of people approached the coast to see those impressive animals, sometimes not in very good conditions. The last time a large cetacean ran ashore, was in September 2011, it was a 11-12 meters long sperm whale, one of the largest found on the Canary Islands. We have also witnessed the stranding of another large migratory species, a large specimen of leatherback sea turtle was found in El Puertito some years ago. All these stories hide the great biodiversity of this coexisting marine environment in the extreme northwest of the island.

In its waters you can enjoy the passage of large pelagic species like mantas or Japanese devilray, hammerhead and shortfin mako

sharks (which, unfortunately, are becoming less frequent), turtles, fin whales previously named and Risso's dolphin (in which case, more than just passing through, they are resident populations of the north coast of Tenerife).

On the other hand, if we submerge, even with a basic equipment of glasses, tube and fins, a world opens up before our eyes that we sometimes only know about from documentaries, the barbecue or conversations with fishermen. The seasons of calm are an auspicious time in these slopes to obtain better visibility and access to places where breaks or currents typical of the area are generally created; In these months, which usually coincide with those of September and October, it is relatively safe to swim along the coast but always considering the prediction of weather and sea state.

To get a prestigious and calm view of the underwater world of Los Silos at any other time of the year, a simple dive from El Puertito de Daute (where the fishermen's club with the same name is located) is sufficient. It is an access that runs through a rocky reef starting from the mole of "El Puertito" , it does not exceed 25-30 meters deep.

The underwater communities of the environment are varied and change depending the season. They are an important eye-catcher for divers who take advantage of the calm of September to look for the longed for blankets, or during the recruitment, because this area is an important refuge for juveniles of several species such as

Breams, Yellow barracuda, Bastard grunt or the Dreamfish.

Throughout the year around the Emerald Wrasse, Mediterranean parrotfish, Bream, Ornate wrasse, Mediterranean rainbow wrasse, Salemas ... all of them herbivores associated to a good algal cover and also species that represent a good conservation of the environment, for being at a higher level in the food chain , as Dusky groupers, Island grouper, Spotted burrfish, Blacktail Comber ...

In the sandy bottoms that surround the shallow there are infinity of species adapted to this always changing environment. It is the perfect hiding place to find Variegated lizardfish, Greater weever or larger species such as the Common Stingray, the Bull ray and even sharks like the angelshark.

Some characteristics in particular of this area and that gives name to some toponimias of the site, are the accumulation of listed Bastard grunt (La Burrera) in hollows, habitat and refuge for many species such as octopus, Muraena augusti or Brown moray. Other attractions include the geological formations along the way and the figure of the Virgen de la Luz (patron saint of Los Silos), in a mosaic that is almost at the end of the diving site at about 15-20 meters, in a small rocky entrance west of the shallow that starts from the mole.

In the underwater environment of this municipality we find several species included in the Canary Islands catalogue of endangered species:

In the category of species considered endangered there are at least three in this area: two endemic species of algae of the genus



SPECIES FROM THE AREA (ISLAND GROUPER)

Gelidium and one of the most frequent marine mammals of the islands, the bottlenose dolphin.

In the category of Interest for the Canarian ecosystems more species are represented: algae as the *Cystoseira abies marina*, in clear regression with respect to previous years, or *laurencia*; invertebrates such as the Green ormer, hiding under stones or the Mediterranean red sea star that gives a touch of color to the bottom on which it sits temporarily. Also interesting species such as the Mediterranean slipper lobster or the Short-beaked common dolphin, whose sighting is not as frequent.

And finally, under special protection category, species of marine mammals have been placed, such as the Gervais beaked whale, the Atlantic spotted dolphin, the Pygmy sperm whale and reptiles such as the Green sea turtle.

Therefore, this northern enclave has under its waters an indisputable wealth which is relatively easy to access, that is why, it has a tangible fragility.

COMMON CETACEANS ON THE COSTA DE LOS SILOS



1



2



3



4



5



6



7

1. Sperm whale / *Physeter macrocephalus*

2. Bryde's whale / *Balaenoptera edeni*

3. Risso's dolphin / *Grampus griseus*

4. Common bottlenose dolphin / *Tursiops truncatus*

5. Atlantic Spotted Dolphin / *Stenella frontalis*

6. Striped Dolphin / *Stenella coeruleoalba*

7. Short-beaked Common Dolphin / *Delphinus delphis*

ECOTOURISM ACTIVITIES



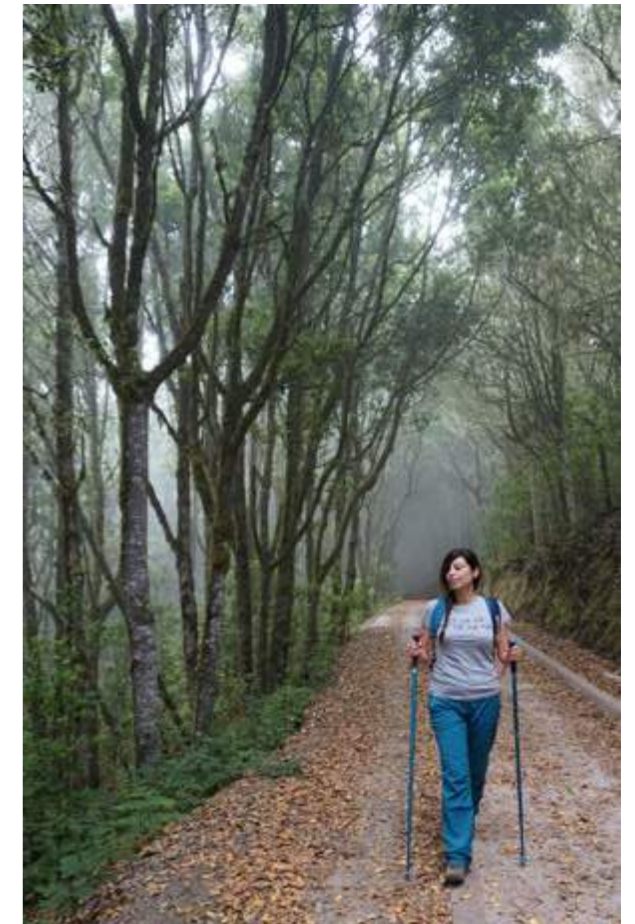
HIKING GROUP ON THE CAMINO DE TALAVERA

TREKKING. WALKING ALONG THE PATHS OF THE PAST

Los Silos is a well-known municipality of the island of Tenerife for its trails that ascend from the town center to Erjos and Tierra del Trigo, as well as to the hamlets of Talavera and Las Moradas, with the possibility to connect with other trails from the Teno Rural Park network, which has more than 100 kilometers of approved trails. The municipality has a large part of its territory within the Rural Park, which guarantees a magnificent state of conservation of its natural resources, where you can enjoy spectacular views, a flora full of endemisms that will delight any botanist, and a fauna that will accompany you throughout the tour in the form of exclusive birds or invertebrate that you will not see anywhere else on the planet.

There are currently three trails that can be accessed by walking from the center of Los Silos, approved, signposted and prepared for the visitor's enjoyment, and that will bring you closer to the area of Monte del Agua y Pasos, one of the most valuable forest mass of the Canary Islands. And another, which leaves from Erjos and will take you to the neighborhood of Las Portelas, crossing the Monte del Agua from end to end.

Below, we show you these trails with information for each of them:



SENDERO DE LOS SENTIDOS (PATH OF THE SENSES), MONTE DEL AGUA

1 PR-TF 53 TRAIL OF CUEVAS NEGRAS 2 PR-TF 54 TRAIL OF LAS MORADAS



START: Los Silos → **FINISH:** Erjos
 *It can be done in both directions

DEGREE OF DIFFICULTY: Intermediate

TYPE OF TRAIL: Linear

DISTANCE: 5,7 km → **DURATION:** 3h

HIGHEST ALTITUDE: 1.000 m — **LOWEST ALTITUDE:** 105 m

CONNECTIONS TO OTHER TRAILS:
 PR-TF 51 San José de Los Llanos - Punta de Teno
 PR-TF 52 Erjos - Las Portelas (Monte del Agua)
 PR-TF 53.1 Cuevas Negras - Tierra del Trigo
 PR-TF 54 Los Silos - Las Moradas - Monte del Agua
 PR-TF 55 Los Silos - Talavera - El Palmar

The trail begins in Calle Susana towards La Isleta and runs along the Cuevas Negras ravine; This path was an old royal path linking the historic center of Los Silos with Erjos. The main utility of this route was to facilitate the transport of products and goods between the hill and the center or vice versa. Half way along the route you will reach the Caserío de Cuevas Negras and El Barbusano, at this point the road forks and you can take the ascent to the Juncia. Throughout the tour you can enjoy the enormous diversity of flora and fauna. The trail can also be done in contrary direction, from Erjos to Los Silos.



START: Erjos ↔ **FINISH:** Los Silos
 *It can be done in both directions

DEGREE OF DIFFICULTY: High

TYPE OF TRAIL: Linear

DISTANCE: 11,7 km → **DURATION:** 4h

HIGHEST ALTITUDE: 1.034 m — **LOWEST ALTITUDE:** 105 m

CONNECTIONS TO OTHER TRAILS:
 PR-TF 51 San José de Los Llanos - Punta de Teno
 PR-TF 52 Erjos - Las Portelas (Monte del Agua)
 PR-TF 53 Los Silos - Cuevas Negras - Erjos
 PR-TF 55 Los Silos - Talavera - El Palmar

The trail starts at Calle Susana and goes up on the slope of the ravine to Caserío de Las Moradas. One of the most spectacular views of this trail is the panoramic view of the Los Cochinos ravine, a dense wooded formation that in the past was exploited to obtain charcoal, it is one of the most important laurisilva relic on the island. This road or old royal path, was used by the residents of the town for their tours up to the mountain. As in the previous route, the Monteverde trees and endemic faunal species of great interest can be appreciated. The route can also be done in contrary direction, from Erjos to Los Silos.

3 PR-TF 55 TRAIL OF TALAVERA



START: Los Silos → **FINISH:** Talavera

DEGREE OF DIFFICULTY: Intermediate

TYPE OF TRAIL: Linear

DISTANCE: 5,0 km → **DURATION:** 2h 30m

HIGHEST ALTITUDE: 774 m — **LOWEST ALTITUDE:** 165 m

CONNECTIONS TO OTHER TRAILS:
 PR-TF 52.1 Monte del Agua por Las Huertas
 PR-TF 52.2 Monte del Agua por Las Lagunetas
 PR-TF 53 Los Silos - Cuevas Negras - Erjos
 PR-TF 54 Los Silos - Las Moradas - Monte del Agua
 PR-TF 56 El Palmar - Cumbre de Bolico

This time, the path starts from the Calle del Camino de la Cruzada, in the area of Pina. Talavera is an old farmhouse located in the area known as Lomo de Los Cardones. Nowadays, some vestiges of those constructions remain, and many of their orchards are now covered by extensive masses of evergreen vegetation. The slopes accused of this path are a property known by those who pass through it, but the views of Teide on clear days make it one of the iconic trails of the municipality. The trail to Los Silos can be done from Las Portelas, El Palmar or Erjos to Los Silos.

4 PR-TF 52 ERJOS - LAS PORTELAS (MONTE DEL AGUA)



START: Erjos ↔ **FINISH:** Las Portelas
 *It can be done in both directions

DEGREE OF DIFFICULTY: Intermediate

TYPE OF TRAIL: Linear

DISTANCE: 10,7 km → **DURATION:** 2h 30m

HIGHEST ALTITUDE: 1.035 m — **LOWEST ALTITUDE:** 689 m

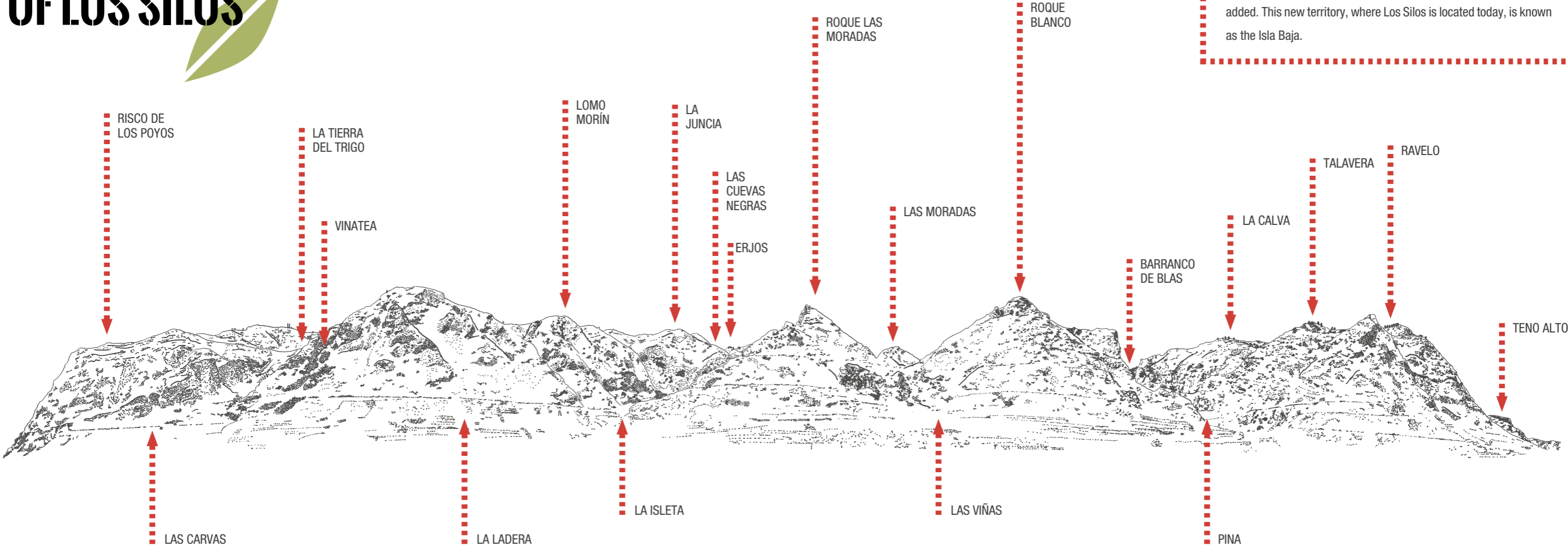
CONNECTIONS TO OTHER TRAILS:
 PR-TF 51 San José de Los Llanos - Punta de Teno
 PR-TF 52.1 Monte del Agua por Las Huertas
 PR-TF 52.2 Monte del Agua por Las Lagunetas
 PR-TF 53 Los Silos - Cuevas Negras - Erjos
 PR-TF 54 Los Silos - Las Moradas - Monte del Agua
 PR-TF 56 El Palmar - Cumbre de Bolico
 PR-TF 59 Las Portelas - Masca

It begins in the Parroquia de Erjos, at the end of Calle Las Cruces we go left and continue until we reach a wider way. We continue to the right following the signs, after about 150 meters the track goes into the forest mass of Monte del Agua. The laurel forest that dominates the route is one of the best representations for this type of vegetation on the Canary Islands, it is a trip back to the time of the last glaciation, when the Mediterranean basin was covered by plant species similar to those found here.

PROFILE OF THE RAVINES AND PLACES OF INTEREST OF LOS SILOS



Several million years ago, while this cliff wall came the waves of the Atlantic, the island had a different orography than today. Over the time, the lava of several volcanoes located in the valley of El Palmar, Tierra del Trigo and Talavera, gained ground to the sea, leaving this cliff face far from the ocean. Somewhat later the volcanic materials of the mountains of Taco and Aregume were added. This new territory, where Los Silos is located today, is known as the Isla Baja.



ASTROTOURISM. KNOW THE NIGHT

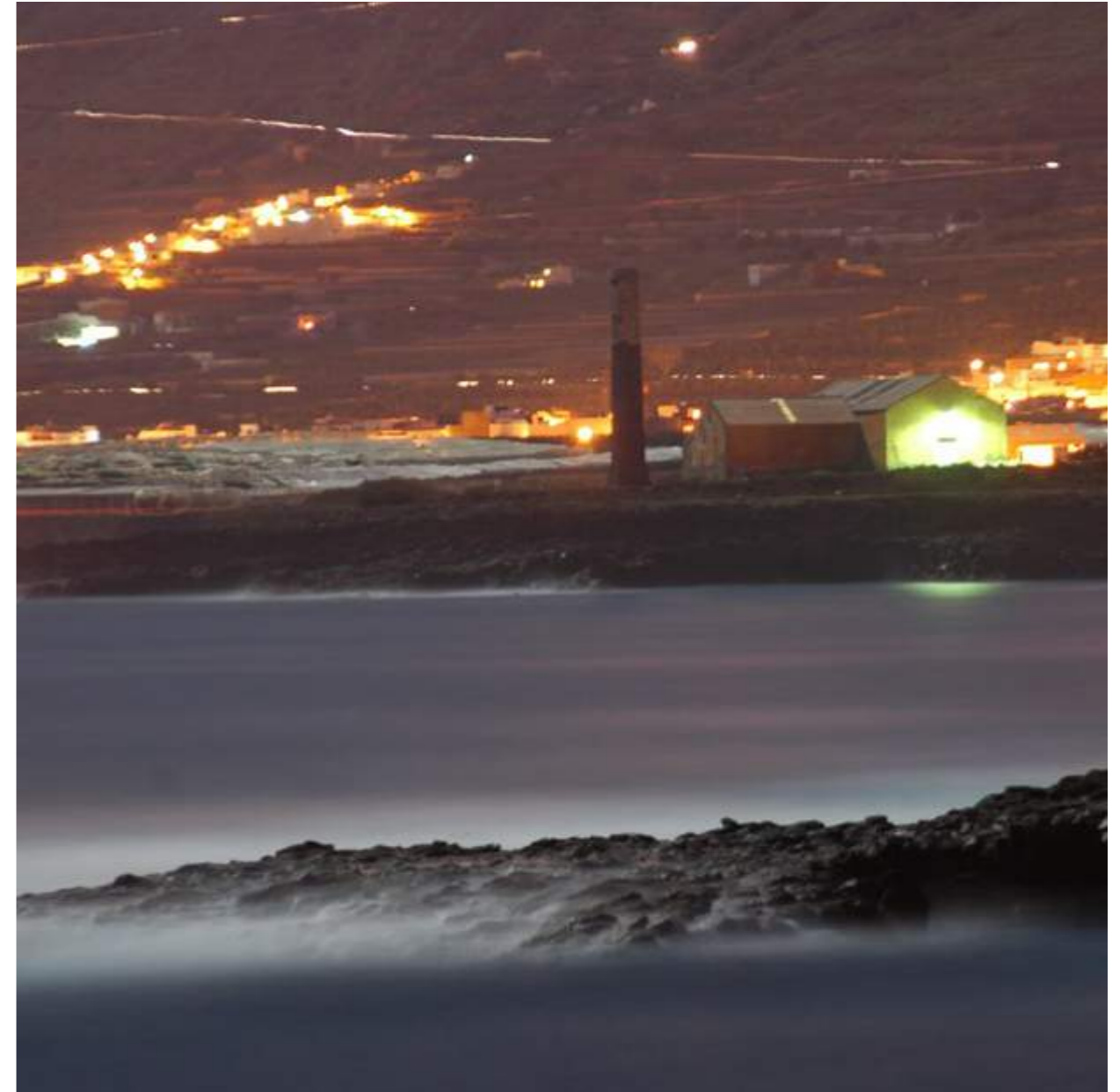
The sky of Tenerife is known worldwide for being of an extraordinary clarity. The island has an important astrophysical institute, with the participation of institutions from different countries, which is mainly dedicated to the study of the sun, with the best European telescopes.

Approaching the sky observation is something simple and extraordinarily rewarding, and thousands of people do it every year in Tenerife. In Los Silos, you will find the best conditions to observe the stars in the area of the top of Cruz de Gala and Erjos, where usually the sky is clear and out of the influence of the trade winds, with a firmament in perfect conditions for night photography, astrophotography or simply for observation. You can include the spectacular Teide in the background of your photos.

Other interesting spots of Los Silos for observation, are the darkest areas of the coast, such as the environment of Casado where, on nights without trade winds, astronomical phenomena can be observed at sea level, such as the Moon in any of its phases, planets like Mars, Venus or Jupiter, the Perseid, Lyrid or Leonid Meteor Shower. On certain days, many aficionados are concentrated in different places of the island to see specific constellations, the Milky Way or even the passage of the International Space Station. From these spots, a small telescope or good binoculars allow you to enjoy in detail the beauty of the celestial vault.



FULL MOON FROM THE MONTAÑA DE AREGUME



NIGHT VIEW OF THE COAST OF THE SILOS DURING THE CABAÑUELAS

THE NIGHT SKY OF LOS SILOS



BIRD WATCHING. WHERE AND WHEN TO OBSERVE THEM

Only by taking binoculars and an identification guide in the backpack, you can enjoy bird watching throughout the year. Spring is the period to enjoy nesting birds because it is when they show the most beautiful plumages and sing the most beautiful songs in order to attract females for reproducing. In summer, the land is full of birds, since chicks born weeks before have left their nests. In autumn we can observe mixed groups of different species that roam from one place to another in search of food, and with some luck, after some storm, to observe rarities from North America. The winter months are the most interesting to watch the winter migratory birds arriving from Europe.

From the coast of Los Silos you can watch to numerous groups of Scopoli's shearwater (*Calonectris diomedea*) flying near the shore and with some luck, the rare and scarce Barolo shearwater (*Puffinus baroli*). Furthermore, during the months from August to October you can see the migratory passage of Manx shearwater (*Puffinus puffinus*), Great shearwater (*Puffinus gravis*) and different species of skuas and terns.

The area of Las Carvas, formed by small forest of Canary Island date palms, seedlings and wild olive trees, presents ideal conditions for small insectivorous and frugivorous birds. Sardinian warbler (*Sylvia melanocephala*) and Eurasian blackcap (*Sylvia atricapilla*), wander from one place to another, among the branches of the dense bushes, while the great array of canaries (*Serinus canaria*)

twittered, macaronesic endemism shared with Madeira and others islands of the Canary archipelago. In these areas of thermophilic forest, we also find an important number of Canary Islands chiffchaff (*Phylloscopus canariensis*), a Canarian endemism that lives in all the western central islands and is common in all wooded areas, crops and gardens.

The cultivated areas of the hills of Tierra del Trigo and Erjos are home to important populations of farmland birds and open environments birds, now in decline at regional level. Common linnet (*Acanthis cannabina*), canaries and goldfinches (*Carduelis carduelis*)



GOLDCREST OF TENERIFE



BOLLE'S PIGEON

constitute numerous groups that feed on the slopes near the crop area. In addition, in all open areas, with few trees and shrubs, we find the Berthelot's pipit (*Anthus berthelotii*), an endemic species of the archipelagos of Madeira, Savages and Canaries.

The Monte del Agua is an ideal place for the observation of forest birds such as the African blue tit (*Cyanistes teneriffae*), the common chaffinch (*Fringilla coelebs*) and the little Tenerife goldcrest (*Regulus teneriffae*), endemic to the forests of the Canary Islands. The also endemic Laurel pigeon (*Columba junoniae*) and Bolle's pigeon (*Columba bolli*), have here one of their largest populations, observing them is easy. Raptors such as the sparrowhawk (*Accipiter nisus*) and the common buzzard (*Buteo buteo*) are also frequent.

Between the charcas de Erjos and the irrigation tanks for the cultivation zones, some aquatic birds can be observed like the red gallinule (*common moorhen*), common coot (*Fulica atra*), black-crowned night heron (*Nycticorax nycticorax*) or the Grey wagtail (*Motacilla cinerea canariensis*) all of them with very small and localized populations.

During the autumn and spring migratory passages and the winter period, different species of migratory birds can be observed in the wetlands of the charcas de Erjos, the irrigation tanks of El Polvillo and the coastal strip between La Caleta de Interián and the Buenavista Lighthouse. The most common are the grey heron (*Ardea cinerea*), little egret (*Egretta garzetta*), common sandpiper (*Actitis hypoleucos*), whimbrel (*Numenius phaeopus*), and the common greenshank (*Tringa nebularia*). During the spring days in which the easterly and southeasterly winds dominate, various species of wheatears, warblers, wagtails, reed warblers, common

swallows and Common house martins may appear too.

Furthermore, some rare bird species have been observed in these areas, such as the ring-necked duck (*Aythya collaris*), the American wigeon (*Anas americana*), the pectoral sandpiper (*Calidris melanotos*) or for the first time in Spain the pied-billed grebe (*Podilymbus podiceps*).



COMMON BUZZARD



LAUREL PIGEON

COMMON BIRDS OF THE SILOS



1. Barbary falcon
(*Falco pellegrinoides*)

2. Cory's shearwater
(*Calonectris borealis*)

3. Plain swift
(*Apus unicolor*)

4. Canary Island raven
(*Corvus corax canariensis*)

5. Berthelot's pipit
(*Anthus berthelotii*)

6. Laurel pigeon
(*Columba junoniae*)

7. Bolle's pigeon
(*Columba bolli*)

8. Spectacled warbler
(*Sylvia conspicillata*)

9. Tenerife goldcrest
(*Regulus regulus teneriffae*)

10. African blue tit
(*Cyanistes teneriffae*)

11. Canary Islands chiffchaff
(*Phylloscopus canariensis*)

12. Atlantic canary
(*Serinus canaria*)

NATURE PHOTOGRAPHY. TO NOT FORGET YOUR VISIT

Los Silos offers infinite possibilities for photography aficionados, the variety of ambience is an attraction for all those who like to take pictures of natural landscapes, the orientation towards the northwest of the island, where the Sun goes down, gives the possibility of making pictures of sunsets using warm lights and backlights.

The possibility of diving in our waters during calm sea days, gives underwater photographers the opportunity to take pictures in locations that have rich diversity of marine flora and fauna species, which some of them have very small populations in the whole archipelago.

During the night, the low incidence of light pollution in the height allows us to take beautiful pictures of the Milky Way, the different constellations, the shapes of the rocks after sunset or even the silhouette of the Teide from Cruz de Gala.

For wildlife photographers, birds are the main attraction, with around forty species of nesting birds. In the municipality you will find some of them which are real winged jewels, unique on the Canary Islands or on the island, such as the Laurel and the Bolle's pigeon. Three species of reptiles, more than half a dozen species of mammals and a whole army of terrestrial invertebrates offer the photographer plenty of reasons to walk through the area with the camera in hand.

In Los Silos and in the rest of Isla Baja you can photograph all year round. From the summit to the coast, numerous motifs can

be found. The clear winter skies give intensity to the predominant greens and blues of this season. Spring is the time with the greatest color diversity with hundreds of plants bloom giving a multicolored rainbow feeling. It is an excellent period for macro photography using as themes the flowers or the invertebrates visiting the flowers.

The summer, especially the months of June and July, are the best for photographing birds with our telephoto of 300 mm, 400 mm or even more. It is the time when the countryside is full of young birds leaving their nests for the first times, a period in which we must take extreme precautions for impacting as less as possible on them.

In the fall brown and ochre dominate, it is the ideal season to photograph mushrooms and natural still life, and to capitalize on dry branches, fallen leaves or other dead elements in the middle of the forest.

In short, with very light amateur equipment, you can take excellent photos in a unique place, a true luxury setting to enjoy photography, but of which it needs to be taken care and looked after for future generations. Therefore you must take precautions, comply with the regulations, apply the ethical code of the nature photographer and request the necessary authorizations to photograph wildlife within the protected natural spaces, Teno Rural Park, Site of Scientific Interest of Interior and Protected Landscape of Acanilados de La Culata.

CANARY BELLFLOWER
(*CANARINA CANARIENSIS*)



ACTIVE TOURISM. ENJOYING THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT IN A SUSTAINABLE WAY



SURF IN PLAYA DE AGUA DULCE

The great diversity of natural environments of the municipality means that you can find many different opportunities to practice active tourism. The fact a great affection for surfing, cycling, hiking, running, diving or paragliding among the inhabitants of Los Silos exists, shows us that it is an ideal place to practice sports in the nature. It is not surprising that there are numerous sports clubs organizing and participating to different sports competitions all year round, taking the name of Los Silos and Isla Baja throughout the whole country.

Among the possibilities for the practice of active tourism, we suggest the following:

:



MOUNTAIN RUNNING RACE IN LAS MORADAS

CYCLING

It is one of the most performed sports in this part of the island. Both, MTB and road biking are part of the usual view in the region. There is a great affection at local level that is reflected in the sponsorship of the "Loro Parque - Los Silos Natural" cycling tea, competing on the highest island level. Among the routes you can take, we propose the following:

MTB TRACKS

Mountain biking has many aficionados on Tenerife and Isla Baja is one of the places where it is settled. In fact, some contests of the island downhill circuit are held here. But as the downhill is not suitable for everyone we propose two options that will surely please the majority.

- **Coast track.** The coast of Los Silos with approximately 5 kilometers in length you can ride of by bike peacefully, with the ocean on one side and the imposing view to the Acanilados de la Culata accompanying you on the other. It is a simple route and without large slopes, suitable for everyone.
- **Monte del Agua track.** Here you have the opportunity to visit one of the most impressive laurisilva forests on the Canary Islands. It is a different route of more than 10 kilometers in length in a setting difficult to outmatch.

ROAD BIKING ROUTES

The roads of the island are well known for going up and down, which is why many professional cycling teams spend the winter time in Tenerife for preparing the race season. Any road is likely to be used as a sporting challenge, but we propose you three different routes depending on your level in order to make you enjoying it.

- **Ascent to the Tierra del Trigo.** It is one of the steepest roads on the island, known among enthusiasts of elevation gain, which can exceed up to 20% in some moments.
- **Old road from Los Silos to Garachico via La Caleta de Interián and Las Cruces.** It is a circular route, very undemanding and suitable to everyone. Starting from the Recreational Park of La Gomera, we go in direction of Tierra del Trigo, turn left and take the old road to Las Cruces to reach Garachico via San Pedro. From Garachico you return to the starting point along the main road until La Caleta de Interián, where after crossing the village, you take the coastal road towards El Puertito to ascend to the town of Los Silos.

- **And if you want to make a longer route,** we suggest you a circular route of 54 km which is very popular among cyclists coming to the island: Los Silos for the TF 42- Garachico TF 421 - El Tanque TF 82 - Santiago del Teide - Masca TF 436- Buenavista - The Silos TF 42. The landscapes of the Rural Park will leave you breathless, almost as much as the ascent you will have.

MORE
INFO



MTB CONTEST

SURF AND BODYBOARD

On the coast of Los Silos, it is usual to see surfers in the water. The municipality has several spots where you can surf or bodyboard. Due to its waves, the beach of Agua Dulce and some areas of La Caleta de Interián, offer unbeatable conditions to surf. In addition, every year, at the end of September, the Agua Dulce beach hosts an important Surf and Bodyboard Festival that bears the same name. In it, the best surfers of the area compete. In addition to the sports competition, the IBATE Surf and Bodyboard Club of the municipality organizes various workshops, exhibition, live music acts and activities related to the care of the environment. It is an annual appointment you should not miss.

TRAIL RUNNING

Los Silos is conscious of the development of this discipline exercised in nature has taken. Proof of this are the various mountain running races, which have been organized for several years in the region and the existence of the team "Isla Baja Trail", which has in its ranks several residents of the municipality, reaping good results at a national level. Here you can test your legs and your mind through the network of trails of Teno Rural Park, starting from the historic center, with slopes that will make you push to the limit while discovering spectacular landscapes overlooking the Teide and the Atlantic.

DIVING

The seabed of the municipality of Los Silos is a must for all diving and snorkeling lovers. The calm season usually coincide with the months of September and October. This is the most favorable time for diving and snorkeling, especially in these area because it presents a better visibility of the seabed and the accessibility to the sea and rocky outcrops less complicated. From El Puertito de Daute, where the underwater communities of the environment are varied and change seasonally, we can go for a simple dive. In the mentioned calm periods or in the time of recruitment, we can see mantas, because this zone is an important refuge of youngsters of several species like breams, barracudas, Bastard Grunt or salemas.



BODYBOARD IN CHARCO DE LA ESPUMA



DIVING IN EL PUERTITO

PARAGLIDING

For this fascinating experience of feeling like a bird in the skies, you should look for a company specialized in it. The professional trainers will give you the opportunity for a tandem flight whenever the weather conditions allow it. In Isla Baja, the best-known flight you can take is the one starting from La Tierra del Trigo, at approximately 600 meters high. It goes over the coastal platform of the region. From the air you will have spectacular views of the ancient volcanoes of Taco and Aregume and over the historic center of Los Silos. In addition, you can contemplate the imposing Acantilados de La Culata. On clear days, behind Buenavista del Norte you can clearly see the island of La Palma. The landing place of this popular flight is in the well-known Paseo del Charco of La Araña, next to the skeleton of the Whale.



PARAGLIDING FLY FROM TIERRA DEL TRIGO.

SPORTING EVENTS CALENDAR

MARZO

- **Marcha ciclista Monte del Agua.**
Ciclismo de Montaña.

MARCH

- **Marcha ciclista Monte del Agua.**
Mountain Biking Race.

MAY

- **Open Los Silos Natural.**
Tennis.
- **Teno Trail.**
Trail Running.
- **Game Day.**
Leisure and sports activities.

JUNE

- **Copa Cabildo de Tenerife – Trofeo Los Silos Natural.**
Road Bicycle Race.

JULY

- **Carrera x la costa x la vida.**
Running.
- **Trail K21 Monte del Agua.**
Trail Running.

AUGUST

- **Trofeo Los Silos Natural.**
Road Bicycle Race.

SEPTEMBER

- **Festival de Surf y Bodyboard Agua Dulce.**
Surf and Bodyboard.
- **Memorial José Luis Rodríguez Cabrera.**
Tennis.
- **Travesía popular a nado Villa de Los Silos.**
Swimming.
- **Tenerife de Faro a Faro.**
Mountain Running.

OCTOBER

- **DHI Tierra del Trigo.**
Mountain Biking Race. Downhill.

NOVEMBER

- **MTB-DHI Aregume.**
Mountain Biking Race. Downhill.

ECOTOURISM SERVICES. COMPANY DIRECTORY



BIRD WATCHING IN THE CHARCAS DE ERJOS

EL CARDÓN NATUREXPERIENCE

It is a nature tourism agency bringing the island of Tenerife to you with a wide variety of unique experiences in the most beautiful natural area of the island. You can enjoy special hiking routes with different themes: such as the traditions of Teno, flora and fauna, high mountain, astronomical observation, and many more.

Buenavista del Norte
Phone: 922 12 79 38
E-mail: info@elcardon.com
Web: www.elcardon.com

BIRDING CANARIAS

The specialists in ecotourism and biodiversity conservation on Canary Islands, Macaronesia and West Africa. The pioneer company for ornithological tourism on the Canary Islands.

Los Silos
Phone: 609 36 65 74 / 651 32 02 81
E-mail: info@birdingcanarias.com
Web: www.birdingcanarias.com

MARE NATURADVENTURES

Company for leisure activities and nature enjoyment offering you: sea kayaking, stand up paddle, diving, canyoning, hiking, caving, climbing, ethnographic routes, bicycle routes, paragliding and whale watching.

Buenavista del Norte
Phone: 661 26 56 85 / 646 86 77 13
E-mail: info@marenatura.es
Web: www.marenatura.es

TENO ACTIVO

Outdoor activities company, where you can enjoy the nature of Tenerife in a different way, away from the typical sun and beach tourism. Its most frequent activities are: sea kayaking, diving and hiking, but they also offer climbing, mountain biking, canyoning and paragliding.

Buenavista del Norte
Phone: 618 00 09 72
E-mail: info@tenoactivo.com
Web: www.tenoactivo.com

FUN BIKE ADVENTURES

They offer the possibility of enjoying the beauty of the island of Tenerife in a different way, discovering wonderful places in the northwest of the island through its guided routes on electric mountainbikes.

Los Silos

Phone: 626 34 27 41

E-mail: info@funbikeadventures.com

Web: www.funbikeadventures.com

PATEA TUS MONTES, SENDERISMO Y AVENTURA

It is a company for nature activities in the Canarian archipelago. Hiking, kayaking, canyoning, climbing, bike, canyoning, bungee jumping, and caving are their specialties.

La Orotava

Phone: 922 33 59 03 / 608 64 16 75

E-mail: info@pateatusmontes.com

Web: www.pateatusmontes.com

ENMINUBE

The company is integrated in the active tourism activities sector. They offer tandem paragliding flights for everyone, always with the accompaniment of qualified pilots. The aim for the traveler is to enjoy the free flight and observe the most unique natural corners of Tenerife from a different perspective, with the safety and quality of service, which is the maxim of the team.

Tegueste

Phone: 606 97 79 20

E-mail: info@enminube.net

Web: www.enminube.net

IBRAFLY

Dedicated "to take people to heaven" for more than 20 years, they are specialized in tandem paragliding flights, free flight with introductory courses and in guiding flights, so that foreign pilots can discover the amplitude of the Canary skies. They stand out for offering premium services, with certified instructors and a lot of experience. Languages: Spanish, German and English.

Los Realejos

Phone: 609 54 61 92

E-mail: info@ibrafly.net

Web: www.ibrafly.net

IT'S ON PRIVATE SURF COACHING

Born after a long time dedicated to the technification of many surfers, who have wanted to improve their technique when surfing a wave. After many ideas, to find the best ways to help improving the skills, this project comes up to offer our experience to those who want to get better, and especially enjoy this sport.

Icod de Los Vinos

Phone: 635 69 55 05

Web: www.surfcoaching-tenerife.com

TENOSUB

Specialized in recreational diving in the northwest of Tenerife. We offer scuba diving baptisms at sea, guided tours as well as basic and advanced courses. We work especially on the coast of Teno, because of the quality and tranquility of the site, both outside and under water.

Los Silos

Phone: 650 09 91 90

E-mail: tenosub@gmail.com

CENTRO CLUB ESCUELA DE BUCEO SIB-SUB

If you want to make a good dive in the municipality, at the SibSub Diving Club Center "Sibora Isla Baja" you will find everything you need to fully enjoy diving. In addition, courses are taught at all levels and even if it is your first dive, a diving baptism is offered in the area.

Los Silos

Phone: 659 11 10 66

RURAL ACCOMMODATIONS. COMPANY DIRECTORY



TRADITIONAL CANARIAN HOUSE

HOTEL RURAL CASAMARILLA

A beautiful colonial-style house dating from the middle of the 19th century. Located in the middle of a banana plantations in which its wonderful gardens stand out. The tranquility and silence that you can enjoy there is unique. An exclusive place in the region.

Finca Casa Amarilla. La Caleta de Interián. Los Silos.

E-mail: info@fincacasamarilla.com

Phone: 922 84 01 18

www.fincacasamarilla.com

HOTEL LUZ DEL MAR

It is located next to the Sibora ravine, nearby the banana plantations and only 200 meters from the sea. It is a 4 star accommodation with Spa, specialized on active and cultural tourism. From its heated pool it has beautiful views to the Old Daute Sugar Mill.

Av. Sibora, 10. San José. Los Silos

E-mail: info@luzdelmar.eu

Phone: 922 84 16 23

www.luzdelmar.eu

CASA RURAL MONTE DEL AGUA

Complex consisting of 3 beautiful rural houses of traditional Canarian architectural style. They are more than 200 years old. They are located in the area of Erjos, rural enclave of the municipality of Los Silos, in the northwest of the island, and about 1,000 meters high next to the Teno Rural Park.

C/ Lomo Corto, 3. Erjos. Los Silos

Phone: 922 13 61 51 / 636 97 24 80

www.casamontedelagua.com

HOTEL RURAL FINCA LA HACIENDA

It is located in the area of the Tierra del Trigo, in an agricultural landscape of enormous beauty. The incomparable natural setting of La Isla Baja extends to its feet. The hotel is located on a farm surrounded by fruit trees and has 9 apartments that can accommodate up to a total of 41 people.

C/ Ntra. Sra. de Lourdes, 2. Tierra del Trigo. Los Silos.

Phone: 922 84 08 95 / 610 69 43 26

www.fincalahacienda.es

CASA LA RANITA - ECO HOSTEL

Located next to the town square, it has a familiar and homelike atmosphere. It has 3 double rooms and 1 triple, 2 bathrooms, a patio and a dining room. The large roof terrace is open and allows you to relax, sunbathe or enjoy the wonderful view over the mountains.

Plaza de la Luz, 4. Los Silos

E-mail: info@casalaranita.org

Phone: 667 63 86 86

www.casalaranita.org

CASA LA MORINGA HOSTAL

It is located in the municipality of Los Silos, just 5 minutes from the plaza, inside the historic center. It offers 2 double rooms with private bathroom.

Calle Canapé, 11. Los Silos

E-mail: info@casalamoringa.com

Phone: 672 79 08 59

www.casalamoringa.com

CASA EL OLIVO

The charm of this house lies in its antiquity. It has been completely renovated in 2016, without modifying the structural design of the house. It has a large terrace with beautiful mountain views, barbecue, outdoor shower, sun loungers, garden and outdoor kitchen.

Calle El Olivo, 22. Los Silos

E-mail: lossilosencantonatural@gmail.com

Phone: 646 03 20 19

**MORE
INFO**



THE NOW LOST
HACIENDA DE DAUTE IN 1880.
PLACE WHERE THE FIRST TRAVELERS
WHO CAME TO LOS SILOS STAYED



GASTRONOMY AND RESTAURANTS



GOFIO, HONEY AND CHEESE. TRADITIONAL CANARIAN PRODUCTS

The gastronomy of Los Silos is known for the quality of its typical dishes. As in a good coastal town we find among the usual old exquisite dishes, blacktail combers, groupers and salemas, fish that are served with different varieties of local potatoes and seasoned with mojo picón, saffron or cilantro. Other typical products of the sea are the "burgados en escabeche", the grilled limpets, the pollack casseroles and the "escaldones de gofio". Among the meats are the goat meat and the rabbit and pork salmorejos.

In the desserts you can find bananas from the coastal area, frangollo canario, rosquetes de vino, egg and cream, delicious quesos de almendra (a typical Christmas sweetness), rice pudding and trucha (filled with sweet potato or cabello de ángel).

In addition, white, red and rosé wines of good quality are produced in different areas of the municipality, all under the Icoden-Daute-Isora appellation of origin. A deeply rooted tradition is the production of liqueurs, especially ruta and mistela, consumed at Christmas and at the Fiestas de la Luz during the famous peal of bells, every August 31.

But this is not the only thing you can find at the tables of the bars and restaurants of Los Silos. There are other Canarian and international specialties that you can discover during your visit to the municipality.

AGRICULTURAL MARKET



Every Sunday, from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., the Plaza de La Luz becomes a market where farmers from the region sell their fresh products and artisans exhibit their creations. Here you will find locally grown fruit and vegetables, organic farming stands, honey, cheese, bread, pastry, crafts and musical entertainment. Buying at the Farmer's Market of Los Silos is one of the best ways to support the local economy and reduce your ecological footprint by consuming zero kilometer products. It is worth spending the Sunday morning at the square, which is plenty of people because of the very familiar and lively atmosphere. It is unmissable event in your visit to Los Silos.

Every year, on the Friday before the celebration of San Antonio Abad, in January, the Farmer's Market organizes a gastronomic tasting with products from the Mercadillo and wines from the region, a good opportunity to discover the flavors of Isla Baja.



BARS - CAFÉS - BAKERIES - PASTRY SHOP

BAR LA LUZ

C/ Félix Benítez de Lugo, 2.
CASCO
Phone: 922 12 00 38

BAR CAFETERÍA AREGUME

C/ Felix Benítez de Lugo, 18.
CASCO
Phone: 922 84 09 66

KIOSCO LA PLAZA

Plaza de la Luz, s/n.
CASCO
Phone: 922 84 17 74

SITO'S BAR

C/ Doctor Jordán, 7.
CASCO
Phone: 636 39 93 77

BAR LA HACIENDA

Plaza de la Luz, 5.
CASCO
Phone: 664 43 64 64

PASTELERÍA EL ARMARIO DE LOS

DULCES

C/ El Olivo, 9.
CASCO
Phone: 650 15 11 14

BAR EL CARMEN

Ctra. Gral. el Puertito, 141.
SAN JOSÉ
Phone: 922 84 12 31 / 608 43 33 58

BAR PLAZA LAS MANZANILLAS

Plaza las Manzaniillas, s/n.
SAN JOSÉ
Phone: 618 49 88 00

PANADERÍA-PASTELERÍA HERMANOS

DURÁN

Ctra. Gral. El Puertito, 49.
SAN JOSÉ
Tlfn: 922 84 01 37

BAR CACHIMBA

C/El Carmen, 26.
SAN BERNARDO
Phone: 922 84 11 98

BAR CAFETERÍA SAN BERNARDO

Ctra. Gral. Los Silos - Buenavista, 26.
SAN BERNARDO
Phone: 606 06 11 12

TASCA VIVE

C/ Avenida Interián, Nº 23
LA CALETA DE INTERIÁN
Phone: 626 37 09 15

BAR ABREU

Ctra. Gral Icod. Guía de Isora, s/n
ERJOS
Phone: 922 13 61 97

TAVERNS AND RESTAURANTS

RESTAURANTE EL MOCÁN

Ctra. Gral. El Puertito, 79.
SAN JOSÉ
Phone: 626 30 45 73

TASCA LA BODEGUITA

Ctra. Gral. El Puertito, 10.
SAN JOSÉ
Phone: 675 28 82 43

RESTAURANTE LAS PISCINAS

Ctra. Gral. El Puertito, s/n.
EL PUERTITO

BAR RESTAURANTE LA ERMITA

C/ Tierra del Trigo, 46.
LA TIERRA DEL TRIGO
Phone: 922 84 00 88

PIZZERIA LA ESCUELA

C/ La Estrella, 27.
CASCO
Phone: 922 84 16 79

TASCA LA MORADA

C/ Félix Benítez de Lugo, 26.
CASCO
Phone: 605 21 93 07

RESTAURANTE ASADOR - LA FERRETERÍA

Plaza Iglesia, 7.
CASCO
Phone: 922 12 01 98

RESTAURANTE EL RUBIO

C/ José Dorta Pérez, 4.
LA CALETA DE INTERIÁN
Phone: 922 84 09 75

RESTAURANTE MUNDIAL 82

C/ La Marina, 18
LA CALETA DE INTERIÁN
Phone: 922 84 09 69

THE ECO TOURIST'S CHARTER



Ecotourism is not only a form of tourism, but also establishes a philosophy and proposes a model of sustainable development that respects local resources. In this way, and given the guidelines of the World Tourism Organization, we propose the following decalogue for you to become a true ecotourist.



Ecotourism is the environmentally responsible trip, to relatively little altered areas, to enjoy and appreciate nature while promoting its conservation, it has a low environmental impact and provides a socioeconomic benefit to the local population.



Héctor Ceballos Lascuráin
The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).



1. Enjoy the natural and cultural resources that you visit in a **respectful and sustainable way**.
2. Hire services that integrate educational, informative and interpretation elements of the **cultural heritage** into the tours.
3. Hire small **local companies** that work with small groups.
4. **Avoid leaving your mark** on the natural and cultural resources of the area.
5. **Contribute to the conservation** of the natural, cultural and ethnographic resources of the place.
6. **Avoid unnecessary travel** and compensate your emissions by planting trees.
7. **Consume local**, ecological and natural products.
8. Stay in rural houses, camping or hotels managed by local companies or communities, **legalized and with quality certifications**, respecting the environment.
9. Take the time to **talk to the local population** and to discover other ways of life.
10. **Respect** the rules for the conservation and the public use of the protected natural areas.

10 THINGS YOU CANNOT MISS IN LOS SILOS



1. Go up to the **Monte del Agua y Pasos** via some of the trails leaving from the Plaza de La Luz.
2. Let yourself be charmed by the tales and legends that are told each year during the "**Festival Internacional del Cuento**" in Los Silos.
3. Have a **bath** in the charcos de Los Chochos, Don Gabino, Juaniquín, La Araña or en Playa de Agua Dulce during the big tides in September.
4. Eat **fresh fish** in some of the restaurants next to the sea in La Caleta de Interián.
5. Watch the sunset at the foot of the **skeleton of the whale** at the Charco de La Araña.
6. Dance to the rhythms of the world during the celebration of the "**Festival Boreal**".
7. Run away from "**Cho Perico**" or put a mascarita on your face during the traditional carnival of Los Silos.
8. **Riding by bicycle** along the coast from La Caleta de Interián to the Faro de Buenavista.
9. Stroll through the historic center of Los Silos, discovering the footprint of the architect **Mariano Estanga**, listening to the secrets that await their corridors or chatting with the elders of the town.
10. Observe the migratory water birds that frequent the **charcas de Erjos** during the cold wintertime.



ECOTURISM GUIDE

OF THE VILLA DE LOS SILOS



Il.tre. Ayto. de la Villa de
Los Silos



Consejería de Agricultura,
Ganadería, Pesca y Aguas
Dirección General de Agricultura



Unión Europea

Fondo Europeo Agrícola
de Desarrollo Rural

Europa invierte en las zonas rurales