The then and Now of Tenerife

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Tenerife offers excellent weather with an intriguing Atlantic culture that blends with sea and nature. The diverse landscapes are breathtakingly beautiful as befitting the Canary Islands.

Tenerife Island was formed over three million years ago from the oldest mountain ranges found at the Atlantic Ocean. The island came into being when the awesome Teide volcano melted Anaga, Teno and Valle de San Lorenzo together. Teide volcano itself is very obvious on Tenerife with 17 km diameter crater. It last erupted near Santiago village in 1909.

History

Tenerifeâ€™s history sparked off 500 years ago with the Spanish conquest of Tenerife by Alonso Fernandez from Lugo. The original inhabitants of the island are the Guanches who tried to defend themselves. A great massacre left 2000 Spaniards dead with a badly injured Alonso when the Guanches were to be annihilated.

Tenerife honors the dead with a memorial spot called la Matanza in Spanish or â€˜massacreâ€™. There is a large stone wall with a Guanche victory near the highway. The Gaunches were defeated when they were stricken by a plague and the Spanish crown took advantage of the situation. Hence, the Guanches culture became like a whiff of the wind with their existence on earth.

Not much is known about the Gaunches except that they may be cavemen feared by other island inhabitants. They were purportedly dangerous with strange customs such as burying their dead in the cave homes. It was also purported that the Guanches might have come from northwest Africa.

Sights at Tenerife

Tourists would be delighted to view the ancient kings of Tenerife in their lava statues on Candelaria beach but the constant weather have slowly eroded these away over time.

However, one can enjoy the AÃ±aza harbor as well as a delightful lagoon nearby with Lake MartiÃ¡nez that offers several natural pools for recreation. These pools were founded by a famous artist named Lanzarote CÃ©sar Manrique. There is also a well known Botanical Gardens situated outside Tenerife with Loro Park aviary. These spots are easily accessible by car or foot as their location is close to the city.

Activities

One can choose from a myriad of activities available in Tenerife for a fantastic holiday. Tourists can enjoy the lovely beaches at many holiday resorts in and around Tenerife with a lot of water sports available. Tourists can try out scuba diving, surfing, snorkeling and deep sea fishing besides sunbathing, swimming and frolicking on the beach and warm waters.

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