

Place

Spanish tropical island Gran Canaria is located in the Atlantic Ocean, between Africa and The Caribbean. The Canary islands belong to Spain, but have a wide autonomy. A capital of the island is a small town called Las Palmas, but it isn't the most popular tourist destination, as visitors usually prefer another town - Maspalomas, located in the south of the island. But Maspalomas is the most expensive place there for long term living, so I prefer staying in the capital.

Las Palmas is famous for Las Canteras - a long waterfront and a beach. There are lots of hotels and restaurants and it's always crowded with locals and tourists.

There're also ports in the town, civilian and military. The military port has a very long history. As the Canary Islands are the closest point to the western hemisphere, they were used by Spanish sailors as a backup from the Columbus age.

The military port is also famous for Francisco Franco, who headed it after the conflict with the Spanish government. But the island was too boring for the future caudillo, he revolted the local garrison and returned soon to the Spanish mainland, as the national leader.

Nowadays, despite the tourism (which shrank a lot during the current pandemic), the Canary Islands are poor. The Spanish government applied a special tax rate for local companies (about 5%), it's the lowest income tax in Europe and the islands are nice for doing business. But beware - the archipelago isn't a member of European Customs Union, so any import and export operations with the mainland require paying customs fees.

Event

Signal festival is one of the most popular events happened yearly in Europe. Designers, engineers and artists use electronic projectors to paint with lights impressive pictures on buildings. The show also includes the background music, which makes it even more amazing.

The creators usually prefer working with antique buildings, as architecture features allow them to make everything creative and interesting. The events are always free for watchers and paid from city budgets.

This year, because of the pandemic, the performances were cancelled to avoid crowding, however creators decided to make them by their owns and they did it pretty nice. For example, in Prague, they turned the Petrin Tower into a giant Tesla-coil, which was visible from almost any point of the city.