



The dreamed
business climate





BEST

IN GRAN CANARIA

The perfect combination of life & professional ventures could only be achieved at a great location: a unique island that is connected, safe, stable and welcoming.

Gran Canaria offers a unique environment for investment, entrepreneurship and the development of business and commercial activities, including Europe's best tax regime.

It is a global island where professional and personal opportunities go hand in hand.

TAX AND INVESTMENT: A UNIQUE SET-UP WITHIN THE EU

Gran Canaria is one of the Canary Islands, an autonomous region of Spain. As a **fully integrated EU-territory**, the applicable legal system is that of Spain and the European Union.

The Canary Islands enjoy a **special Economic and Fiscal Regimen (REF)**, entirely compatible with European regulations. This regime is aimed at economic diversification and investment attraction, and it offers low tax pressure on company profits, reduced consumption taxes, as well as other investment incentives.

Any company located in Gran Canaria could benefit from a combination of incentives, deductions and tax breaks, according to the business case and the project cycle.

KEY TAX INCENTIVES

- **Canary Islands Special Zone (ZEC):** a fiscal status that allows for **reduced corporate tax rate (4%)**. Investment and job-creation requirements apply, plus the activity needs to be pre-approved, following a straightforward procedure. This regime is particularly attractive to investors from third countries as no withholding tax is levied to the repatriation of dividends nor on the payment of interests to the parent company.
- **'Canary Islands Investment Reserve' (RIC):** It allows for tax reduction in the corporate taxable income (**up to 90% of undistributed profits** generated in the Canary Islands), provided that the amount is reinvested in company's local growth plans, most importantly: new fixed assets, new jobs, R&D.
- **Deduction for investment in fixed assets:** 25% of the amount invested in new fixed assets, excluding land, may be deducted from the tax quota.
- **Deduction for the production of physical goods** (agriculture, livestock, fishing, industrial): This incentive offers a 50% deduction in the gross tax liability for all goods produced in the Canary Islands, ie. the effective tax rate goes from 25% to 12.5% for said income or 2% for ZEC-entities.

REDUCED TAXES

FINANCIAL SUPPORT



- **Deduction for investments in R&D and audiovisual production:** They can be applied as a tax credit on the ongoing year or in the following 15/18 years, but they can be transformed into a cash rebate.
 - **Technological Innovation:** Up to 45% of eligible expenses in the innovation/improvement of products or processes.
 - **Up to 75%** when it comes to actual **Research & Development (R&D)** expenses.
 - National and international **audiovisual productions: 54%-45%.**
- **Gran Canaria Free Trade Zone (FTZ):** Storage, transformation and distribution of goods are fully exempt from Customs duties and taxes. Gran Canaria has 2 FTZs in its main ports.

INDIRECT TAXES

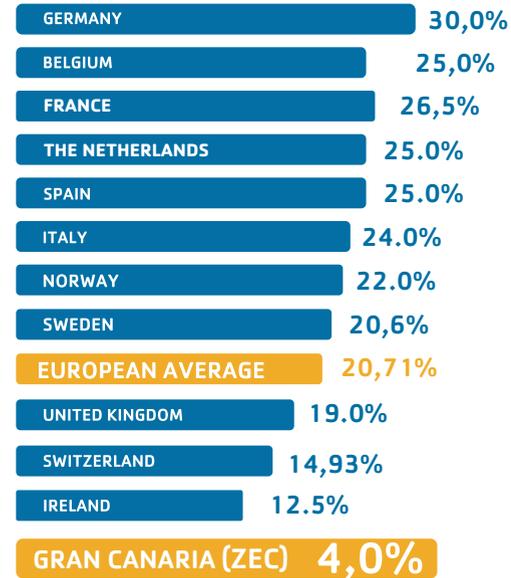
- **Indirect Canary Islands Tax (IGIC):** Canary Islands' VAT-equivalent stands at 7%, significantly lower than mainland Spain and the EU, where the average rate remains at 21.5%.
- **Special taxes:** Reduced rates compared to the EU (fuel and others).

FINANCING & DIRECT AID

Investments made in Gran Canaria are eligible for **subsidies and other national, regional and local financing instruments**. They serve as public direct support for industrial investment and business innovation. Gran Canaria (SPEGC) offers its own co-investment instrument (soft-finance) for innovative projects/startups.

Training and recruitment aid schemes are also widely available.

Corporate tax rate across Europe 2021



Compilation based on information supplied by KPMG 2021

ADVANCED CONNECTIVITY

Gran Canaria profits from a key geostrategic position and the likes of 4.5 million tourists per year, therefore making the island the single-most important connectivity node in the whole area.

Thanks to the excellent communications infrastructures and variety of service-providers, the island allows for a fully connected business experience.

AIR CONNECTIVITY

The Airport of Gran Canaria (LPA) links the island with over 130 destinations in Spain, the rest of Europe and África. It is widely connected not only to international hubs, but also to nearly all mid-sized airports of Western and Northern Europe (20x Germany, 21x UK, 38x Nordic countries). It is also the gate to 8 destinations in 4 West African nations.

Airport data 2019



13,261,405

PASSENGERS
#6 Spain



142

DIRECT
DESTINATIONS



19,629

CARGO
TONNAGE
#5 Spain



25

COUNTRIES DIRECTLY
CONNECTED



55

OPERATING
AIRLINES

Airport data 2021



6,900,493

PASSENGERS
#5 Spain



135

DIRECT
DESTINATIONS



15,878

CARGO
TONNAGE
#5 Spain



24

COUNTRIES DIRECTLY
CONNECTED



53

OPERATING
AIRLINES



MARITIME CONNECTIVITY AND PORT SERVICES

Gran Canaria is a key node in the Atlantic and the European gateway to West Africa and LATAM. It is also a solid and competitive partner, fully embedded in international routes, as has been proved by constant growth of its traffics during times of uncertainty (2020-21). The island has clearly made itself a name in the shipping, logistics and offshore industries.

It is home to the **Port of Las Palmas**, an ever-growing **logistics and service centre**, covering the whole scope of maritime activities (ship repairs & supplies, bunkering &

blending, cargo transits, passenger & cruise industries, offshore energies, etc.). It is a global base for offshore energies, a transit station for mining enterprises in West Africa and the distribution base for UN World Food Programme and The International Red Cross.

On top of hosting the busiest port in the Mid Atlantic, Gran Canaria has an extended network of 10 smaller ports and marinas, as well as 3 industry-specific bulk & general cargo ports.

Port data 2021



2,126,871

PASSENGERS
#3 Spain



723,655

CRUISE PASSENGERS
(2019)
#3 Spain



9,751

VESSEL CALLS
#2 Spain



1,088,356

CONTAINERS
(TEU)
#4 Spain



2,079,124

BUNKERS
DELIVERED (TM)
#2 Spain



SHIP REPAIRS/
O&G/OFFSHORE ENERGIES



>140

DESTINATIONS



FULLY CONNECTED
TO GLOBAL
MARKETS

BUSINESS ENVIRONMENT

Thanks to the connectivity, qualified workforce and tax system, Gran Canaria is highly attractive for professional and corporate ventures.

There are various factors that explain why Gran Canaria is a **Global Business Island**: the important regional market, influenced by the high demands of tourism and the availability of talented professionals. Ultimately, Las Palmas de Gran Canaria acts not only as the Canary Islands' capital but also as its main economic centre. Its traction in entrepreneurship & trade explain, much of the island's international business profile.

On top of that, there is a **rich offer of coworking and office spaces** and a **wide-range of services & modern infrastructure**.

A REGIONAL BUSINESS & TALENT HUB

Gran Canaria is home to slightly more than 850,000 inhabitants and the preferred travel destination to some other 350,000 tourists per month, on average. It is also the chosen home-base for many professionals arriving from mainland Spain, Europe, the Americas and the Far East. Most of them are involved in tourism, offshore energies, audiovisual production, start-ups and digital innovation. As a matter of fact, **the island has a reputation as an ideal destination for remote-workers and expats**, voted consistently as a top ten Global destination.

The multiple opportunities are to be activated not only in the Island, but also looking beyond our immediate reach. **Gran Canaria is indeed a relevant base for Africa-oriented companies**.

The **high proportion of skilled young professionals constitute the very heart of the island's value proposition**, including university and technical degrees. Gran Canaria is particularly associated with STEM studies (most notably, IT, industrial and data engineering, Maritime/Blue Sciences).

Local Market Data 2021



852,688
GRAN CANARIA
POPULATION



2,172,944
CANARY ISLANDS'
POPULATION



4,267,384
TOURISTS (2019)
1,789,513
TOURISTS (2021)



**REMOTE WORK
HOTSPOT**

Talent Pool 2021



152,757
YOUNG POPULATION
(15-30)



22,140
UNIVERSITY
STUDENTS



2,847
STEM UNIVERSITY
STUDENTS



62
DEGREES IN
3 UNIVERSITIES



18,787
VOCATIONAL TRAINING
STUDENTS



3,401
STEM VOCATIONAL
TRAINING STUDENTS

DIGITAL GATEWAY TO THE WORLD

Gran Canaria is connected to several subsea cables crossing the Atlantic and is therefore a full-scale digital node. **Expect cost effective, high quality and secure connectivity via local and international providers, matching West European standards.**

A vast fiber network (including dark fiber) is available. **Broadband access up to 1Gbps is guaranteed** in all major towns and Tech Parks, while mobile broadband up to 300/30Mbps is secured in 98% of the island's territory. Meanwhile, 4G+ network covers all urban areas. Private initiative and the public neutral telecommunications operator are equally involved in expanding the local network in remote areas.

TECHNOLOGY PARK AND BUSINESS CENTERS

The island has a broad-spectrum of locations where companies can set up their base: **different economic, commercial and logistics areas are spread throughout the island, all of them connected by car in less than 30 minutes.**

There are industrial and logistics premises in or around the main ports and airport, and several other private and publicly-managed commercial and industrial parks (eg. the 7 million+ sqm Industrial Area of Arinaga in the South East).

Likewise, the **Gran Canaria Technology Park** offers spaces and offices in its different locations for companies that develop innovative technology processes.

R&D RESOURCES

R&D resources are mostly linked to the University of Las Palmas de Gran Canaria: it has 118 research groups and more than 1,000 researchers, spread among 11 research institutes.

Gran Canaria hosts Spain's prime maritime test-bed and research station for offshore energies and aquaculture at **PLOCAN (Canary Islands Oceanic Platform)** and is home to the **Canary Islands Technology Institute (ITC)**. The island is home to two national High Tech Incubators (Marine Biotechnology and Aquaculture; Artificial Intelligence in the maritime sector).

Offshore energies, IT & communications and Biotech are among the fundamental research streams, combined with national leadership in BlueEconomy, Desalination and Agri-research.



QUALITY OF LIFE

Gran Canaria has been a tourist power ever since the introduction of mass tourism some 50 years ago. Here, the hard facts of a unique destination (climate, natural sceneries, local cuisine, historical heritage, year-round culture and sport activities, ...) are reinforced by some soft features (health services, broader safety and security concepts, cosmopolitan flair and hospitality). This hard-to-find combination is both a magnet for visitors and year-round residents, making Gran Canaria an ideal place to live and work.

HEALTH AND EDUCATION SERVICES

The quality of the health services available in Gran Canaria equals those of any large European city. Citizens of the European Union have the right to care and treatment in the public health centres and hospitals of the island. They may also use private health facilities via insurers, allowing for total health coverage for expats and remote workers.

Plenty of options are available for every level of education, including a wide array of international schools (English, German, Norwegian, Swedish and French). Gran Canaria has been traditionally linked with other

maritime nations, thus explaining the presence of the King Sejong Institute (Korean) and the Confucio Institute (Chinese).

CLIMATE AND NATURAL SCENERIES

An average temperature of 23°C with more than 4,800 hours of sunshine a year and rare extreme weather conditions make up another year of Gran Canaria at the top of all pleasant weather ratings.

Services 2021



4 PUBLIC HOSPITALS
11 PRIVATE HOSPITALS



3,121
HOSPITAL BEDS



89
PUBLIC
HEALTH CENTERS



263
ELEMENTARY
SCHOOLS



129
SECONDARY
SCHOOLS



15
INTERNATIONAL
SCHOOLS



209
BILINGUAL PUBLIC
EDUCATIONAL CENTERS
("AICLE")





THE CITY OF LAS PALMAS DE GRAN CANARIA: A MAJOR REFERENCE POINT

The city of Las Palmas de Gran Canaria, with a population of over 380,000, provides an excellent urban environment in which to live, work and enjoy oneself.

Its cosmopolitan atmosphere, legacy of a varied cultural influx, digital connectivity and wide range of shopping and recreational areas, together with its urban beaches, have attracted professionals from all parts of the world. It is by far the hottest cultural and live-events spot on the region.

A VARIETY OF LEISURE ACTIVITIES

Gran Canaria is an open-air sports & leisure centre where anything is possible, 365 days a year. Mild climate, healthy lifestyle and the islanders' natural care for the environment set the basics of an outdoor playground, equally available for the sports elite, the amateur golfer, the yacht-lover and the bike enthusiast.

At the same time, **Gran Canaria is brimming with natural parks and archaeological sites**, most of them dated back to the pre-Hispanic era. An UNESCO World Heritage Site at 'Risco Caído and the Sacred Mountains' and the Painted Cave of Galdar are some of the bucket-list experiences.

All these activities are **best combined with a taste of the local gastronomy.** From tropical plantations, high-mountain cheeseries and volcanic-land vineries to the only coffee producing area of Europe, the landscape already reveals a local like for the sheer simplicity in cooking and the uttermost delivery of flavour and quality.

Comparative of cost of living 2022



Compilation based on information supplied by Numbeo; 'Cost of Living Plus Rent Index', 02/2022.s

BEST IN GRAN CANARIA



MORE INFO/DOWNLOADS

More information:
www.bestingrancanaria.com



CONTACT