

WILDLIFE TRAVEL



Tenerife

22nd to 29th February 2024

Tenerife 2024: trip report and species lists

Leaders

Philip Precey
Phil Saunders

Derbyshire
Dorset

Check <https://www.flickr.com/photos/wildlifetravel/albums/72177720315128700> for a gallery of photos from our trip.

Front cover: *Canarina canariensis* in the shady laurel forests of Tenerife.

Day One: 22nd February. Arrival in Tenerife.

After a rather more eventful travel day than some of us might perhaps have liked, we touched down under the blue skies of Tenerife, and before too long we were at our hotel in the old town of La Orotava, on the rugged north side of the island.

Day Two: 22nd February. Anaga

The day started with the sound of singing Atlantic Canaries and Canary Island Chiffchaffs coming across the rooftops of La Orotava.

Our journey took us across to the south coast, past the metropolis of Santa Cruz de Tenerife, the largest city on the island, and then further east to San Andres, from where we struck inland, climbing from the coast through the 'thermophilous scrub' vegetation of the lower slopes of the Anaga mountains, dominated by the organ pipes of *Euphorbia canariensis* and the leafier, spreading *Euphorbia lamarckii*, along with the invasive Prickly Pear *Opuntia maxima* and *Agave americana*.

A handful of genera of plants are really noticeable for their diversity on the Canary Islands, plants that have reached the islands and radiated to fill a whole new set of niches. The *Aeonium* house leeks and *Echium* viper's buglosses are near the top of that pile, and our first stop gave us our first taste for both these groups. We pulled over near a short cutting through the rocks, where we found the white-flowered Anaga Viper's Bugloss *Echium leucophaeum* and *Aeonium lindleyi* subsp *lindleyi*, both restricted to the north eastern end of Tenerife. Higher up on the rocks were the large, 'blousey' rosettes of *Aeonium canariense*, along with the woody-stemmed *Aeonium urbicum* subsp *urbicum*.

Down by the roadside we found the leathery, shrubby *Rumex lunaria*, looking as un-dock-like as a plant could, along with various weeds from the warmer parts of the world: pink spikes of *Achyranthes sicula* and the broad leaves of *Ageratina adenophora*, both from Central America; the pretty southern African grass *Cenchrus orientalis* and a big patch of South African pelargoniums, the red-flowered *Pelargonium inquinans* and pinky *Pelargonium graveolens*.

A male Sardinian Warbler popped up, while a small group of Atlantic Canaries fed on the flowers of *Salix canariensis* in the 'barranco' beneath the road, and a Canary Island Chiffchaff flicked through the trees, while the butterfly list got off to a good start with a single Canary Islands Blue, posing on the *Echium* flowers.

Back on board the bus, and we headed uphill, noticing Tree Heather *Erica arborea* becoming a dominant part of the roadside scrub as we gained height, before we arrived at the ridge, and the laurosilva 'cloud forest', with the cloud rolling in from the north. Another of those radiating genera is the sow-thistles, with a great variety of *Sonchus* species, and we found our first two up here: the large rosettes and tall flower stems of *Sonchus acaulis*, growing alongside the woody, branching *Sonchus congestus*, something of a speciality of the humid laurel forest found along the ridges of northern Tenerife and on Gran Canaria. The rocks by the viewpoint had yet another house-leek, *Aeonium cuneatum*, and nearby we had our first up-close encounter with the Canary Islands Laurel *Laurus novocanariensis*.

A little further along the ridge, and we stopped for a walk through the 'Enchanted Forest', a very atmospheric, mist-filled habitat. Canary Islands Crane's-bill *Geranium reuteri*, Canary Islands Buttercup *Ranunculus cortusifolius* and the iconic Canary Island Bellflower *Canarina canariensis* added splashes of colour to the roadsides, and interest amongst the scrub layer came in the form of Shrubby Pellitory *Gesnouinia arborea*, *Viburnum rigidum* and *Phyllis nobla*.

Heading into the trees, we found ferns aplenty, including the beautiful tree-fern-like fronds of *Woodwardia radicans*. Along the path sides we found Canary Island Gentians *Ixanthus viscosus*, known as 'Queen of the Mountains' in Spanish, including at least a couple of plants in flower, something they don't normally do until April... No such luck with the carpets of Anaga Violets *Viola anagae*, nor the Large-leaved St John's-wort *Hypericum grandifolium*, both still a month away from flowering.

The normally-moist laurel forest was surprisingly dry underfoot, so it took some turning of logs before we found one of the stars of the forest, the endemic semi-slug *Insulivitrina lamarckii*. Legend has it that, when annoyed, they can wag their tails so vigorously that, on wet days, they can leap about like tiny fish out of water. I'm pleased to say, there was no annoying of semi-slugs on this occasion...

After lunch, the laurel forest decided to go back to doing what it does best, and became increasingly moist... and it wasn't long before we could no longer convince ourselves that it was just 'thick drifting cloud', but instead was actual rain... which made for a wetter-than-hoped walk back along the road.

Nonetheless, there was still plenty of interest to see, particularly around the rock cuttings at the roadside, where we found Hare's-foot Fern *Asplenium hemionitis*, our first *Aichryson laxum*, and two more species endemic to these north eastern mountains: the succulent little *Monanthes anagenesis*, and the furry-leaves of the Anaga False-Sage *Sideritis macrostachys*.

Alas, the rain really set in, and with the cloud pouring over the ridge it made for a rather view-less stop at the Cruz del Carmen viewpoint, and so it was back to the hotel, in a significantly-less-rainy La Orotava.

Day Three: 24th February. Teno

With the sea conditions too rough to venture out onto, a change of plans saw us heading west along the north coast, and then up into the rugged Teno mountains of the north-west corner of the island.

The switch-back roads took us up from sea level into the hills, through plenty more interesting succulent scrub: our first attempted stop revealed the wind was considerably stronger than we might have thought, so we headed higher up before finding a more sheltered 'mirador' stop.

The mountains of Teno are home to a different suite of plants to those in the eastern Anaga mountains, and our roadside stop introduced us to several of them, including *Aeonium pseudourbicum* (very similar to the eastern *Aeonium urbicum*) and *Echium aculeatum* (a western counterpart of yesterday's *Echium leucophaeum*). We got our first good up-close look at the

succulent ragwort-relative *Kleinia neriifolia*, doing it's very best Euphorbia impression, with a very similar growth form to *Euphorbia lamarckii*. And another impressive sow-thistle appeared in the form of the Canary Islands Tree Sow-Thistle *Sonchus canariensis*, a very definite tree.

Onwards, and we found ourselves in the very picturesque, but also very popular, village of Masca, perched up above the impressive Masca gorge. Pedro did a sterling job of finding us a suitable parking spot, and we went to investigate the village... and find ourselves some refreshments along the way.

A pair of Ravens were tumbling overhead, a Canary Islands Speckled Wood fluttered past, and a couple of young West Canaries Lizards scrapped beneath an *Opuntia*, here represented by the Northern Tenerife subspecies.

Coffee and post cards all successfully sourced, we made our way back to the bus, and then joined the painfully slow line of traffic heading out of the mountains... The glacial pace of the traffic did at least give us a good chance to see some more of the characteristic plants of the area, including the handsome Dark-red Spurge *Euphorbia atropurpurea*, the glaucous-leaved Tenerife Lavender *Lavandula buchii*, and two more Echiums, with the Giant White Bugloss *Echium giganteum* and the lavender-flowered Tenerife Bugloss *Echium virescens*.

Down to the market town of Santiago de Teide (complete with market), and then we were back on to 'normal' roads, and a short drive on to the hilltop village of Erjos, where we had our lunch and admired the stunning Parrot's Beak Lotus, an impressive scrambling plant with flame-like flowers: a popular garden plant in warmer parts of the world, the five related species of Parrot's Beak Lotus are all Canary Islands endemics, now all critically endangered in the wild, with the Tenerife endemic *Lotus berthelotii* perhaps lost as a wild species and the related species from La Palma and Gomera both found at just a single location each. The garden plants are mostly hybrids between Tenerife's two species, the deep red *Lotus berthelotii* and the orange *Lotus maculatus*.

After lunch, we wandered down through the village, enjoying a good array of wall-growing Crassulaceae along the way, including the pink-tinged rosettes and creamy flowers of *Aeonium haworthii*, the golden stars of *Aichryson punctatum*, the tiny spidery rosettes of *Monanthes brachycaulos* and the wall pennywort *Umbilicus gaditanus*.

Heading up onto the ridge, we scanned down either side, hoping for one of the Canary Islands' two endemic pigeon species to put in an appearance, but the strong winds kept any pigeons out of sight for today... although a male Sparrowhawk zipping through the trees and a trio of Buzzards enjoyed playing in the wind, both raptors represented here by endemic subspecies.

Plants along the way included the white-flowered broom *Chamaecytisus proliferus*, the shiny stemmed Canary Islands Strawberry Tree *Arbutus canariensis*, the bright pink flowers of *Convolvulus althaeoides* and the sorrel-like leaves of Madeiran Dock *Rumex maderensis*.

With the pigeons definitely not putting in an appearance, and time ticking on, we headed back to the bus, and the drive back down to the coast and along to La Orotava.

Day Four: 25th February. Erjos to Silos

Heading west along the north coast, our first stop of the day was at the Mirador de La Grimonas, overlooking the big waves breaking from the north: our attention was focused in the opposite direction, looking up the steep cliff behind us, where we eventually caught sight of our quarry: two or three Laurel Pigeons, flying amongst the dead trees half way up the slope, with one perching up, the white tip to its tale showing up nicely.

From here it was back to Erjos, and the start of our unrelentingly downhill walk through the Barranco de Cuevas Negras, to Los Silos.

A stately Canary Islands Juniper *Juniperus cedrus* was in the middle of the village, just outside the bar. On the edge of the village, interesting weeds and garden escapes included the large pink Tangier Pea *Lathyrus tingitanus*, showy *Salvia hispanica*, the clubmoss-like *Sedum lycopodiodes* and hedges made of the prickly *Aloe ciliaris*.

In the more sheltered open areas below the village, plenty of Canary Islands Chiffchaffs flitted about, a Tenerife Robin posed nicely for us, while another sang from the trees, and a handsome Canary Islands Red Admiral appeared, feeding on the sow-thistle flowers.

The path soon ducked into the shade of the laurel forest, and was much like this right past the abandoned village of Cuevas Negras. Canary Island Bellflowers were everywhere, while new plants came in the form of Kidney Fern *Adiantum reniforme*, the pinky-stemmed *Scilla haemorrhoidalis* and two rather cryptic orchids: Two-leaved Orchid *Gennaria diphylla* just bursting into flower, alongside the just-finished Three-fingered Orchid *Habenaria tridactylites*. One or two Bolle's Pigeons were heard cooing and flapping away, unseen, from the tree canopy, and we found a few tell tale (and tail) feathers on the path.

We also managed to get our eye in on to some of the confusingly similar laurel trees, thanks in part to their parasites: we found the large-leaved Indian Laurel *Persea indica*, a tree that, despite its name, is restricted to the Canary Islands and Madeira, as are all three of the laurels we found during the day; Barbusano Laurel *Persea barbujana* whose leaves were blistered by the galls caused by the mite *Aceria barbujanae*; and the Canary Islands Laurel *Laurus novocanariensis* with subtle pale spots along the midrib of the leaves, playing host to the 'Mother of the Laurels' *Laurobasidium lauri*, a fungus which causes the growth of tentacle-like galls exploding from the trunk of the tree.

As we emerged from the dark of the forest, we came out into the 'thermophilous' zone, where the Canary Islands Tree St John's Wort *Hypericum canariense* became dominant, with its yellow flowers lighting up the hillsides. The purple flowers of Canary Islands Wall-flower *Erysimum bicolor* appeared at the track side, before we reached an impressive rocky cliff, giving us stunning views down (even further) towards Los Silos, where a single wild Dragon Tree *Dracaena draco* hung on to its crag-top perch, and a couple of Laurel Pigeons flapped by. On the cliff face above us, the broad disks of *Aeonium tabulaeforme* were dotted about, together with the upright greyish 'pipes' of *Ceropegia dichotoma*, the broad 'lamb's ear' leaves of *Sideritis cretica* and two more species of *Monanthes*: the tiny globular rosettes of *Monanthes polyphylla* and the silver, succulent leaves of *Monanthes laxiflora*.

From here, it was down to Los Silos, and back to the hotel, with everyone's thighs and knees reminding us of our day's exertions...

Day Five: 26th February. La Orotava and Los Gigantes

A free morning was spent, for many of us, exploring the old town of La Orotava, with its gardens and museums, while others ventured further afield, into Puerto de la Cruz and its 18th century Jardin Botanico complete with 200 year old fig tree.

After lunch, we set off to the sheltered west coast, and our whale watching trip in the company of Mercedes and Matt from Whale Wise Ecotours, along with plenty of Cory's Shearwaters and a fantastic pod of around 100 Atlantic Spotted Dolphins, getting up to all sorts all around us, including plenty of 'exchange of genetic material'.

As we headed back into port, after a fantastic dolphin-filled two hours, a Loggerhead Turtle popped its head above the waves, before dropping back down into the deep...

In the evening, on the walk back to the hotel, we paid a visit to 'our' Tenerife Gecko, on his wall beneath a street light, and found a handful of interesting moths, including Macaronesian endemics, and The Traveller, a North American species that, like the Monarch butterflies in the botanic gardens, seems to have colonised the Canary Islands and Madeira.

Day Six: 27th February. Corona Forestal and Mount Teide

Despite our bus company's attempts to thwart us, this morning we headed up to the Canary Pine forests that circle the island between 1200 and 2200 metres above sea level, the 'corona forestal'.

Last year's forest fires had had a very obvious impact on the forests, and our wander through the forest had to be diverted away from an area where the forestry department are busy carrying out remedial works. Nevertheless, we still found plenty to keep us entertained.

The forests are a monoculture of the long-needled Canary Islands Pine *Pinus canariensis*, a tree whose closest relative is apparently *Pinus roxburghii*, a species from the western Himalayas, a distribution pattern similar to the laurel forests and *Bosea* species. The limited understorey was mostly made up of *Cistus symphytifolius* and *Cistus monspeliensis*, as well as some regenerating *Daphne gnidium* and another shrubby St John's-wort *Hypericum reflexum*. We found a big *Echium virescens* coming into flower, several spotty rosettes of Dense-flowered Orchid *Neotinea maculata* and, clinging to a pathside boulder, the lovely rosettes of *Monanthes brachycaulos*.

Up in the treetops were plenty of African Blue Tit, Atlantic Canary and Canary Island Chiffchaffs, while Tenerife Goldcrests seemed to particularly like the *Juniperus cedrus* around the picnic site, where both Canary Islands Chaffinch and Tenerife Robins were hoping for handouts. A little pack of swifts high above us seemed to be migrant Common Swifts, along with a single House Martin.

We left the pine forests, and headed over into the amazing other-worldly landscapes of the 'cañadas', the seemingly-barren crate plain, 14km in diameter, at the centre of the island. Our appointment was with the volcano rising up from the centre, Mount Teide, at 3718 metres the highest mountain in Spain.

The cable car took us up to the just below the peak, from where we explored the two short trails leading off to some spectacular views out over the Canary Islands, with the peaks of La Palma, La Gomera and Gran Canaria all visible poking out from beneath the clouds. One or two Western Canary Islands Lizards scuttled about, and a handful of rosettes of the endemic Teide Violet *Viola cheiranthifolia* were the only signs of life amongst the volcanic rocks of the mountain top.

Having all had our fill of the high altitude and thin air, we headed back down to the crater floor, and a refreshment stop at a café where, as well as coffees and ice creams, we found a wonderfully confiding pair of Tenerife Blue Chaffinch, hopping about the car park and surrounding bushes.

Day Seven: 28th December. The Cañadas

Back up to the cañadas, where we stopped at the El Portillo visitor centre, and spent our day exploring the dry slopes and arid plains between here and the 'Fortaleza' massif.

Our walk gave us the chance to see some of the special plants of this unique habitat: Teide Broom *Spartocytisus supranubius*, Teide Sticky Broom *Adenocarpus viscosus*, Teide Flixweed *Descurainia bourgeauana* and Teide Wallflower *Erysimum scoparium*, Teide Shrubby Scabious *Pterocephalus lasiospermus*, Teide Margarite *Argyranthemum tenerifae*, *Cheirolophus teydis* and *Carlina xeranthemoides*, as well as the spectacular 'skeletal' remains of Teide Bugloss *Echium wildpretii*. All are plants that are in flower during the hot summers, when the arid cañadas come into bloom.

Whenever we stopped for a rest, hopeful Western Canary Island Lizards appeared amongst the rocks, hoping to pick up crumbs, while a small white butterfly flitting amongst the wallflowers and flixweed was the endemic Tenerife Green-striped White, a butterfly whose entire world range is within the 14km diameter of the crater rim.

Amongst the dry scrub, we found a handful of Spectacled Warblers, along with a pair of Canary Islands Grey Shrikes, while Tenerife Blue Chaffinch again put on a show around the visitor centre.

Day Eight: 29th February. Departure

One last breakfast in the inner courtyard, and then it was time to bid farewell to La Orotava, and make our way back to Tenerife Sur.

Thanks to some very cautious time keeping from the bus company, we had plenty of time at the airport, so some of us went to explore the dry xerophytic scrub around the staff car park, maybe not the most scenic of locations, but one with plenty of interesting plants, including *Euphorbia balsamifera* and *Euphorbia canariense*, the 'droopy' *Plocama pendula*, two more shrubby yellow 'daisies' in the form of the chicken wire bush *Launea arborescens* and the succulent *Schizogyne sericia*, the rather lovely pink Bladder Dock *Rumex vesicarius* and the succulent grey pipes of the extraordinary *Ceropegia fusca*, with its enormous 'bull's horn' seed pod.

A couple of Berthelot's Pipits running about the car park bade us farewell, as it was time to venture back into the busy airport and, eventually, our various journeys home.



(clockwise, from top left): *Echium leucophaeum*, *Aeonium pseudourbicum*, *Sideritis cretica* subsp. *cretica*, *Sonchus acaulis*.

Tenerife 2024: trip report and species lists

E = endemic to Canary Islands. e = endemic to Macaronesia (Canary Islands, Madeira, Azores, Moroccan coast)

PLANTS		
SCIENTIFIC NAME	ENGLISH NAME	Notes
Selaginellaceae (spikemoss family)		
<i>Selaginella denticulata</i>	Mediterranean Clubmoss	Anaga
FERNS		
<i>Adiantum reniforme</i>	Kidney Fern	Cuevas Negra
<i>Anogramma leptophylla</i>	Annual Fern	Cuevas Negra
<i>Asplenium hemionitis</i>	Hare's-foot Fern	Anaga
<i>Asplenium onopteris</i>		Anaga
<i>Asplenium trichomanes</i>	Maidenhair Spleenwort	La Caldera
<i>Davallia canariensis</i>		Common 'wall top' fern, eg Erjos
<i>Polypodium macaronesicum</i>	Macronesian Polypody	Anaga
<i>Woodwardia radicans</i>		The large fern, Anaga
CONIFERS		
Pinaceae (pine family)		
E <i>Pinus canariensis</i>	Canary Island Pine	On lower slopes of Teide
Cupressaceae (cypress family)		
e <i>Juniperus cedrus</i>	Canary Island Juniper	Erjos, La Caldera: also found in Madeira
Araucariaceae (monkey puzzle family)		
<i>Araucaria heterophylla</i>	Norfolk Island Pine	Common street/town tree
DICOTYLEDONS		
Aizoaceae (fig-marigold family)		
<i>Aizoon canariense</i>		airport car park
Amaranthaceae (amaranth family) (includes former Chenopodiaceae)		
<i>Achyranthes sicula</i>		Pink flower spike, Central American weed, common at roadside
E <i>Bosea yervamora</i>		above Los Silos: laden with red berries.
Anacardiaceae (sumac family)		
<i>Schinus molle</i>	Peruvian Pepper Tree	A common street tree, eg around the airport
Aquifoliaceae (holly family)		
E <i>Ilex canariense</i>	Canaries Holly	Anaga
Apiaceae (carrot family)		
<i>Drusa glandulosa</i>		Very strange looking 'umbellifer', field edges, Erjos

Tenerife 2024: trip report and species lists

SCIENTIFIC NAME	ENGLISH NAME	Notes
E <i>Ferula communis</i> subsp <i>linkii</i>	Canary Islands Fennel	Yellowy 'fennel' at roadside
<i>Foeniculum vulgare</i>	Wild Fennel	Erjos
<i>Torilis cf elongata</i>		Masca
Apocynaceae (dogbane family) (includes former Asclepiadaceae)		
E <i>Ceropegia dichotoma</i>	Green Ceropegia	above Los Silos
E <i>Ceropegia fusca</i>	Brown Ceropegia	
<i>Periploca laevigata</i>		'bulls horn' seed pods: Anaga
Araliaceae (ivy family)		
E <i>Hedera canariensis</i>	Canary Islands Ivy	Anaga
<i>Schefflera actinophylla</i>	Schefflera	Town street tree: red flower spikes, originally from New Guinea
Asteraceae (daisy family)		
<i>Ageratina adenophora</i>		Weed, originally from central america
E <i>Allagopappus canariensis</i>		Yellow 'groundsel' shrub, Erjos ridge
e <i>Andryala pinnatifida</i>		Glaucous-leaved shrubby dandelion, Anaga
E <i>Argyranthemum frutescens</i>		Erjos
E <i>Argyranthemum tenerifae</i>	Teide Margarite	Las Cañadas
E <i>Asteriscus sericeus</i>		Yellow daisy shrub, La Orotava: originally from Fuerteventura, grown elsewhere as an ornamental
<i>Bidens pilosus</i>		Roadside weed, originally from Central America
<i>Calendula arvensis</i>	Field Marigold	Erjos
e <i>Carlina salicifolia</i>		Erjos
E <i>Carlina xeranthemoides</i>		Las Cañadas
E <i>Cheirolophus teydis</i>		Las Cañadas: eg El Portillo car park
<i>Cotula australis</i>		Tiny 'button flower' along pavements: originally from Australia
<i>Galactites tomentosa</i>		Purple flower, 'milk thistle' leaves, Masca
E <i>Kleinia neriifolia</i>		Succulent euphorbia-like shrub, common in the dry shrub zone. Eg Masca
<i>Laphangium luteoalbum</i>		Erjos
<i>Launaea arborescens</i>		Airport car park

Tenerife 2024: trip report and species lists

SCIENTIFIC NAME	ENGLISH NAME	Notes
E <i>Pericallis echinata</i>		Pink roadside daisy
<i>Phagnalon rupestre</i>		Erjos: 'shaving brush' flowers
e <i>Schizogyne sericea</i>		Airport car park
<i>Senecio angulatus</i>		Climbing, leathery-leaved 'ragwort', Erjos: originally from South Africa
<i>Silybum marianum</i>	Milk Thistle	White-veined thistle leaves, La Orotava waste ground
E <i>Sonchus acaulis</i>	Stemless Sow-thistle	Anaga
<i>Sonchus asper</i>	Rough Sow-thistle	Erjos
E <i>Sonchus canariensis</i>	Canaries Tree Sow-thistle	Masca
E <i>Sonchus congestus</i>	Laurel Forest Sow-thistle	Anaga
E <i>Sonchus leptcephalus</i> (= <i>Atalanthus pinnatus</i>)	Small-headed Sow-thistle	Fine-leaved 'tree' sow-thistle: eg Masca
<i>Sonchus oleraceus</i>	Smooth Sow-thistle	Anaga
E <i>Sonchus radicans</i>	Cliff Sow-thistle	above Los Silos: glaucous leaf rosettes
Bignoniaceae		
<i>Pyrostegia venusta</i>		Garden 'vine' with orange tubular flowers: originally from South America
Boraginaceae (forget-me-not family)		
E <i>Echium aculeatum</i>		White flowers, smaller bush: around Masca
<i>Echium bonnetii</i>	Canaries Viper's Bugloss	
E <i>Echium giganteum</i>	Giant White Bugloss	White flowers, large bush: around Masca and Erjos
E <i>Echium leucophaeum</i>		White flowers, smaller bush: lower slopes of Anaga
<i>Echium plantagineum</i>		nr Masca
E <i>Echium simplex</i>	Rocket Bugloss	tall white bugloss, planted on a roundabout
E <i>Echium virescens</i>	Tenerife Bugloss	Pinky blue flowers, large bush: around Masca, La Caldera
E <i>Echium wildpretii</i>	Teide Bugloss	Teide: rosettes and 'skeletons'
Brassicaceae (cabbage family)		
E <i>Descurainia bourgeauana</i>	Teide Flixweed	Las Cañadas
E <i>Descurainia millefolia</i>	Canaries Flixweed	Above Silos
E <i>Erysimum bicolor</i>	Canaries Wallflower	Above Silos
E <i>Erysimum scoparium</i>	Teide Wallflower	Las Cañadas

SCIENTIFIC NAME	ENGLISH NAME	Notes
Cactaceae (cactus family)		
<i>Opuntia maxima</i>	Prickly Pear	Common weed
<i>Opuntia dillenii</i>		Airport car park
Caprifoliaceae (teasel family)		
E <i>Pterocephalus lasiospermus</i>	Teide Shrubby Scabious	Las Cañadas
Campanulaceae (bellflower family)		
E <i>Canarina canariensis</i>	Canary Islands Bellflower	Anaga, Erjos
Caryophyllaceae (carnation family)		
E <i>Polycarpha divaricata</i>		eg Erjos
<i>Spergularia arvensis</i>	Corn Spurrey	Erjos
<i>Silene vulgaris</i>	Bladder Campion	Erjos
Cistaceae (rock-rose family)		
E <i>Cistus symphytifolius</i>		broad leaves, large pink flowers
<i>Cistus monspeliensis</i>		narrow leaves, small white flowers
Convolvulaceae (bindweed family) (includes former Cuscutaceae)		
<i>Convolvulus althaeoides</i>	Mallow-leaved Bindweed	Erjos
E <i>Convolvulus floridus</i>		Shrubby bindweed, La Orotava
Crassulaceae (stonecrop family)		
<p>The stonecrop family is particularly noteworthy for its diversity in Macaronesia: the area including the Atlantic islands and southern Morocco.</p> <p>Of the 36 species of <i>Aeonium</i> (including those sometimes split off as <i>Greenovia</i> species), 29 are restricted to the Canary Islands, one is found both here and in southern Morocco, two species are endemic to Madeira and one to Cape Verde. Just two species are found away from Macaronesia, in north east Africa between Yemen and Uganda.</p> <p>The 16 species of <i>Monanthes</i> and 18 of <i>Aichryson</i> are all restricted to Macaronesia.</p>		
e <i>Aeonium arboreum</i> subsp <i>holochrysum</i>	<p>A branching, 'tree' forming <i>Aeonium</i>, found in the lower areas of the island, particularly in towns on roofs and walls.</p> <p><i>A. arboreum</i> is found in the Canary Islands and Morocco. This subspecies is restricted to El Hierro, La Palma, La Gomera and Tenerife.</p>	
E <i>Aeonium canariense</i> subsp <i>canariense</i>	<p>Large, velvety rosettes, short stem, at the roadside stop north of San Andres, 23rd</p> <p><i>A. canariense</i> is found on El Hierro, La Palma, La Gomera, Tenerife and Gran Canaria. This subspecies is endemic to northern Tenerife</p>	

Tenerife 2024: trip report and species lists

SCIENTIFIC NAME	ENGLISH NAME	Notes
E <i>Aeonium cuneatum</i>	Large glaucous rosettes, very short stem, at the ridge of Anaga. Endemic to northern Tenerife.	
E <i>Aeonium haworthii</i>	Small rosettes, branching stem, white flowers, pink-margins to leaves: eg on walls in Erjos. Endemic to north west Tenerife.	
e <i>Aeonium lindleyi</i> subsp <i>lindleyi</i>	Small rosettes, branching stem, 'scrambler', at the roadside stop north of San Andres, 23 rd . This subspecies is endemic to north east Tenerife: <i>A. lindleyi</i> is also found on La Gomera.	
E <i>Aeonium pseudourbicum</i>	Large rosettes on a tall, unbranched woody stem, Masca. Endemic to western Tenerife.	
E <i>Aeonium spathulatum</i>	Small rosettes, branching stems: around 'Piedra Margarita'. Found El Hierro, La Gomera, La Palma, Tenerife, Gran Canaria	
<i>Aeonium tabuliforme</i>	Flat disc-like rosettes growing on cliff face, above Los Silos. Endemic to northern Tenerife	
E <i>Aeonium urbicum</i>	Large rosettes on a tall, unbranched woody stem, Anaga. Endemic to Tenerife	
E <i>Greenovia</i> (=Aeonium) <i>aurea</i>	Glaucous rosettes with yellow flowers, on the roadside cliffs around 'Piedra Margarita'. Found El Hierro, La Gomera, La Palma, Tenerife, Gran Canaria.	
E <i>Aichryson laxum</i>	'fuzzy' leaves, yellow flowers: eg Anaga, Erjos	
E <i>Aichryson punctatum</i>	Glabrous leaves with dotted edge. Erjos	
<i>Crassula lycopodioides</i>	Erjos: originally from South Africa	
<i>Crassula tetragona</i>	Erjos: originally from South Africa	
E <i>Monanthes anagensis</i>	Anaga	
E <i>Monanthes brachycaulos</i>	Erjos	
E <i>Monanthes laxiflora</i>	above Los Silos	
E <i>Monanthes polyphylla</i>	above Los Silos	
<i>Umbilicus gaditanus</i>	The navelwort, eg Erjos	
Euphorbiaceae (spurge family)		
E <i>Euphorbia atropurpurea</i>	Masca	
e <i>Euphorbia balsamifera</i>	Airport car park	
E <i>Euphorbia canariensis</i>	'organ pipe', dry lowlands	
E <i>Euphorbia lamarckii</i>	Lower slopes of Anaga	

Tenerife 2024: trip report and species lists

SCIENTIFIC NAME	ENGLISH NAME	Notes
<i>Euphorbia milii</i>	Crown of Thorns	Masca
<i>Euphorbia pulcherrima</i>	Poinsettia	Masca
E <i>Mercurialis canariensis</i>		Anaga
<i>Ricinus communis</i>	Castor Oil Plant	Common roadside weed
Ericaceae (heath family)		
E <i>Arbutus canariensis</i>	Canaries Strawberry Tree	Erjos
<i>Erica arborea</i>	Tree Heather	Anaga
Fabaceae (pea family)		
E <i>Adenocarpus foliolosus</i>		Anaga
E <i>Adenocarpus viscosus</i>	Teide Sticky Broom	Tiny-leaved broom, Las Cañadas
<i>Bauhinia variegata</i>	Orchid Tree	Pink-flowered street tree
<i>Bituminaria bituminosa</i>	Pitch Vetch	Common roadside plant
E <i>Chamaecytisus proliferus</i>		White-flowered broom, Erjos
<i>Delonix regia</i>	Flamboyant	Red-flowered street tree
E <i>Genista (=Teline) canariensis</i>		yellow-flowered broom, Erjos
<i>Lathyrus tingitanus</i>	Tangier Pea	Large pink 'sweet pea', Erjos
E <i>Lotus berthelotii</i>	Parrot's Beak	The scrambling red Lotus, originally endemic to Tenerife but now a common garden plant
<i>Senna didymobotrya</i>		Yellow-flowered senna, town tree
E <i>Spartocytisus supranubius</i>	Teide White Broom	Linear-leaved shrub, Las Cañadas
<i>Ulex europaeus</i>	Gorse	Erjos
Fagaceae (beech family)		
<i>Castanea sativa</i>	Sweet Chestnut	above La Orotava
Frankeniaceae (sea heath family)		
<i>Frankenia boissieri</i>		Airport car park
Gentianaceae (gentian family)		
E <i>Ixanthus viscosus</i>	Canaries Gentian	Anaga
Geraniaceae (geranium family)		
<i>Erodium moschatum</i>	Musk Stork's-bill	Erjos
E <i>Geranium reuteri</i>	Canaries Crane's-bill	Anaga
<i>Geranium robertianum</i>	Herb Robert	Erjos
<i>Pelargonium graveolens</i>		Pink flowers, originally from South Africa
<i>Pelargonium inquinans</i>		Red flowers, originally from South Africa
Hypericaceae (st john's wort family)		
e <i>Hypericum canariense</i>	Canary Islands Tree St John's-wort	Cuevas Negras. Also found in Madeira
e <i>Hypericum grandifolium</i>		Anaga. Also found in Madeira

Tenerife 2024: trip report and species lists

SCIENTIFIC NAME	ENGLISH NAME	Notes
E <i>Hypericum reflexum</i>		La Caldera
Lamiaceae (mint family)		
E <i>Lavandula buchii</i>	Tenerife Lavender	Masca
E <i>Lavandula canariensis</i>	Canaries Lavender	La Orotava
E <i>Micromeria lachnophylla</i>	Teide False Thyme	Las Cañadas
E <i>Micromeria ericifolia (=varia)</i>	Canary False Thyme	Erjos
E <i>Salvia canariensis</i>	Canary Sage	Not yet in flower: Masca
<i>Salvia hispanica</i>	Chia Sage	showy Salvia, Erjos: originally from central America
E <i>Sideritis cretica</i> subsp <i>cretica</i>	Teno False-sage	above Los Silos
E <i>Sideritis macrostachys</i>	Anaga False-sage	Anaga
<i>Stachys arvensis</i>	Field Woundwort	Erjos
Lauraceae (laurel family)		
e <i>Laurus novocanariensis</i>	Canary Laurel	Laurel with pale dots along leaf midrib, and hosting 'Mother of Laurel' fungus: eg Cuevas Negra
e <i>Persea (=Apollonias) barbuja</i>	Barbusano Laurel	Laurel tree with 'blister' galls on leaves: Cuevas Negra
e <i>Persea indica</i>	Indian Laurel	Laurel with very large leaves: Cuevas Negra
Moraceae (fig family)		
<i>Ficus carica</i>	Common Fig	Roadsides in towns
<i>Ficus rubiginosa</i>	Port Jackson Fig	The huge fig tree at Masca, and a common town street tree.
Myricaceae (wax myrtle family)		
<i>Myrica faya</i>		Anaga
Oleaceae (olive family)		
<i>Jasminum odoratissimum</i>		Cuevas Negras
Oxalidaceae (wood-sorrel family)		
<i>Oxalis pes-caprae</i>	Bermuda Buttercup	Common weed, originally from South Africa
Passifloraceae (passion flower family)		
<i>Passiflora edulis</i>	Passion-flower	Erjos: originally from South America
Plantaginaceae (plantain family) (includes former Globulariaceae)		
<i>Misopates oronticum</i>	Weasel's Snout	Erjos
Plumbaginaceae (leadwort family)		
E <i>Limonium arboreum</i>	Tree Sea Lavender	Planted, La Orotava
Polygonaceae (dock family)		
E <i>Rumex lunaria</i>	Canary Islands Shrubby Dock	Shrubby dock, common at roadsides
e <i>Rumex maderensis</i>	Madeiran Dock	Erjos

SCIENTIFIC NAME	ENGLISH NAME	Notes
<i>Rumex vesicarius</i>	Bladder Dock	Airport car park
Primulaceae (primrose family)		
e <i>Heberdenia excelsa</i>		Anaga
Ranunculaceae (buttercup family)		
E <i>Ranunculus cortusifolius</i>	Canary Islands Buttercup	Anaga: most not yet in flower
Rhamnaceae (buckthorn family)		
E <i>Rhamnus crenulata</i>		Cuevas Negras
e <i>Rhamnus glandulosa</i>		Anaga
Rosaceae (rose family)		
E <i>Bencomia caudata</i>	Mountain Tree Burnet	Cuevas Negras
E <i>Bencomia exstipulata</i>	Cañadas Tree Burnet	El Portillo
<i>Eriobotrya japonica</i>	Loquat	Masca
<i>Prunus dulcis</i>	Almond	Masca
Rubiaceae (madder family)		
e <i>Phyllis nobla</i>		Anaga: the common roadside shrub
E <i>Plocama pendula</i>		Airport car park
e <i>Rubia fruticosa</i>		broad-leaved madder, Cuevas Negras
e <i>Rubia occidens</i>		fine-leaved Madder, Cuevas Negras
<i>Theligonum cynocrambe</i>	Dog Cabbage	Erjos
Salicaceae (willow family)		
e <i>Salix pedicellata</i> subsp <i>canariensis</i>	Canary Islands Willow	Anaga
Scrophulariaceae (figwort family)		
E <i>Scrophularia glabrata</i>	Canaries Mountain Figwort	Las Cañadas
<i>Myoporum laetum</i>	Ngaio	The sweet-smelling, bee-covered tree behind the hotel. Introduced from New Zealand
Solanaceae (nightshade family)		
<i>Nicotiana glaucum</i>		Airport car park
<i>Salpichroa oranifolia</i>		Roadside weed, with small bell-shaped flowers and round leaves, La Orotava
<i>Solandra maxima</i>		garden 'vine' with enormous yellow trumpet flowers
Thymeleaceae (daphne family)		
<i>Daphne gnidium</i>		La Caldera
Tropaeolaceae (nasturtium family)		
<i>Tropaeolum majus</i>	Garden Nasturtium	Common roadside weed in towns

SCIENTIFIC NAME	ENGLISH NAME	Notes
Urticaceae (nettle family)		
E <i>Forsskaolea angustifolia</i>		nr Masca
E <i>Gesnouinia arborea</i>	Shrubby Pelitory	Anaga
e <i>Urtica morifolia</i>		nettle in Erjos village
E <i>Parietaria filamentosa</i>		Anaga
Viburnaceae (viburnum family)		
E <i>Viburnum rugosum</i>		Anaga
<i>Viburnum tinus</i>		Erjos
Violaceae (violet family)		
E <i>Viola cheiranthifolia</i>	Teide Violet	Teide (not yet in flower)
E <i>Viola anagae</i>	Anaga Violet	Anaga (not yet in flower)
MONOCOTYLEDONS		
Amaryllidaceae (daffodil family)		
E <i>Allium canariense</i>		small white onion, Erjos
<i>Agapanthus praecox</i>	Agapanthus	Common roadside weed
Aracaceae (palm family)		
E <i>Phoenix canariensis</i>	Canary Islands Palm	Eg around Masca
<i>Phoenix dactylifera</i>	Date Palm	Commonly planted in towns
<i>Washingtonia robusta</i>	Washingtonia	Commonly planted in towns
Araceae (arum family)		
e <i>Dracunculus canariensis</i>	Canary Islands Dragon Arum	Cuevas Negras
<i>Pistia stratiotes</i>	Water Lettuce	velvety leaves floating in the pond in the botanic gardens. Introduced, found around the tropics
<i>Zantedeschia aethiopica</i>	Cala Lilly	Roadside plant, in towns and villages: originally from S Africa.
Asparagaceae (asparagus family)		
<i>Agave americana</i>		Originally from Mexico
<i>Agave attenuata</i>		'droopy' Agave: originally from Mexico
e <i>Asparagus scoparius</i>		Cuevas Negras
e <i>Dracaena draco</i>	Dragon Tree	Commonly planted in towns: one wild plant above Los Silos
E <i>Scilla haemorrhoidalis</i>		Cuevas Negras
e <i>Semele androgyna</i>	Climbing Butcher's Broom	Anaga
Asphodelaceae (asphodel family)		
<i>Aloe arborescens</i>		Red flowers: originally from South Africa
<i>Aloe ciliaris</i>		Looser flowers, garden hedges in Erjos: originally from South Africa

Tenerife 2024: trip report and species lists

SCIENTIFIC NAME	ENGLISH NAME	Notes
<i>Aloe vera</i>		Yellow flowers: originally from Arabia
<i>Asphodelus ramosus</i>		Roadside asphodel, eg near Masca
Smilacaceae (smilax family)		
<i>Smilax aspera</i> subsp <i>mauritanica</i>	Common Smilax	eg Anaga: heart shaped leaves
e <i>Smilax canariensis</i>	Canary Islands Smilax	Cuevas Negras: shield-shaped leaves
Orchidaceae (orchid family)		
<i>Gennaria diphylla</i>	Two-leaved Orchid	Cuevas Negra
E <i>Habenaria tridactylites</i>	Three-fingered Orchid	Cuevas Negra: gone over
<i>Neottia maculata</i>	Dense-flowered Orchid	La Caldera: rosettes
Poaceae (grass family)		
<i>Arundo donax</i>	Giant Reed	Cuevas Negra
<i>Cenchrus orientalis</i>		'garden' grass escaped at roadsides: originally from South Africa
<i>Lamarckia aurea</i>		Cuevas Negra

BIRDS

This checklist follows the taxonomy published in the **HBW and BirdLife International Illustrated Checklist of the Birds of the World**, as updated by www.birdsoftheworld.org

English names follow those used in the **Collins Bird Guide** (3rd edition).

E = species endemic to Canary Islands. e = species endemic to Atlantic Islands (Canary Islands, Madeira, Azores). *E* = subspecies endemic to Canary Islands. *e* = subspecies endemic to Atlantic Islands.

ENGLISH NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME	22 nd	23 rd	24 th	25 th	26 th	27 th	28 th	29 th
Family Phasianidae (Pheasants, Grouse and allies)									
Barbary Partridge	<i>Alectoris barbara</i>			X	X				
Family Columbidae (Pigeons and Doves)									
Feral Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>		X	X	X	X	X	X	X
E Bolle's Pigeon	<i>Columba bollii</i>				X				
E Laurel Pigeon	<i>Columba junonii</i>				X				
Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>		X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Family Apodidae (Swifts)									
e Plain Swift	<i>Apus unicolor</i>			X	X	X	X	X	
Common Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>						X		
Family Laridae (Gulls, Terns and Skimmers)									
Yellow-legged Gull	<i>Larus michahellis</i>		X	X	X	X			X
Family Procellariidae (Shearwaters and Petrels)									
Cory's Shearwater	<i>Calonectris (diomedea) borealis</i>					X			
Family Ardeidae (Herons, Egrets and Bitterns)									
Western Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>			X	X	X			
Family Accipitridae (Hawks, Eagles and Kites)									
e Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter nisus granti</i>			X					
E Common Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo insularum</i>			X	X				
Family Falconidae (Falcons and Caracaras)									
e Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus canariensis</i>		X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Barbary Falcon	<i>F. (peregrinus) pelegrinoides</i>				X			X	x
Family Psittacidae (Parrots)									
Ring-necked Parakeet	<i>Psittacula krameri</i>		X			X	X	X	X
Family Laniidae (Shrikes)									
E Great Grey Shrike	<i>Lanius excubitor koenigi</i>							X	
Family Corvidae (Crows, Jays and Magpies)									
E Raven	<i>Corvus corax canariensis</i>			X	X				
Family Paridae (Tits)									
E African Blue Tit	<i>Cyanistes teneriffae teneriffae</i>		H	X	X	X	X	X	
Family Hirundinidae (Swallows)									
House Martin	<i>Delichon urbica</i>						X	X	

Tenerife 2024: trip report and species lists

ENGLISH NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME	22 nd	23 rd	24 th	25 th	26 th	27 th	28 th	29 th
Family Phylloscopidae (Leaf Warblers)									
E Canary Islands Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus canariensis</i>		X	X	X	X	X	X	
Family Sylviidae (Sylviid Warblers and allies)									
Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>		H	H	X				
Sardinian Warbler	<i>Curruca melanocephala</i>		X	X					
Spectacled Warbler	<i>Curruca conspicillata</i>							X	
Family Regulidae (Kinglets)									
E Goldcrest	<i>Regulus regulus teneriffae</i>		H		X		X		
Family Turdidae (Thrushes and allies)									
e Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula mauritanicus</i>		X	X	X	X	X	X	
Family Muscicapidae (Old World Flycatchers)									
E Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula superbis</i>		X	X	X		X	X	
Family Motacillidae (Wagtails and Pipits)									
Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>			X	X	X		X	
e Berthelot's Pipit	<i>Anthus berthelotii</i>						X	X	x
Family Fringillidae (Finches and allies)									
E Canary Islands Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla canariensis canariensis</i>		X		X		X		
E Tenerife Blue Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla teydea</i>						X	X	
e Atlantic Canary	<i>Serinus serinus</i>		X	X	X	X	X	X	

MAMMALS									
Atlantic Spotted Dolphin	<i>Stenella frontalis</i>					X			

AMPHIBIANS AND REPTILES									
Iberian Water Frog	<i>Pelophylax perezi</i>		H				H		
E Western Canary Lizard	<i>Gallotia galloti</i>			X	X		X	X	
E Tenerife Gecko	<i>Tarentola delalandii</i>			X	X	X	X	X	
Loggerhead Turtle	<i>Caretta caretta</i>					X			

BUTTERFLIES									
E Tenerife Green-striped White	<i>Euchloe eversi</i>							X	
Bath White	<i>Pontia daplidice</i>							X	
Large White	<i>Pieris brassicae</i>		X						
Small White	<i>Pieris rapae mauretanica</i>		X	X	X	X	X		
E Canary Blue	<i>Leptotes webbianus</i>		X						
Long-tailed Blue	<i>Lampides boeticus</i>				X				
e Canary Red Admiral	<i>Vanessa vulcanian</i>				X	X		X	
E Canary Speckled Wood	<i>Pararge xiphioides</i>		X	X	X	X	X	X	
Monarch	<i>Danaus plexippus</i>					X		X	

MOTHS		
e	Macaronesian Mocha	<i>Cyclophora maderensis</i> Endemic to the Canary Islands and Madeira, where it lives in the Laurel forests. Larvae feed on <i>Erica arborea</i> . Cuevas Negras
	Yellow-underwing Pearl	<i>Uresiphita gilvata</i> A rare migrant to the UK. On roadside, north of San Andres
E	Canary Islands Footman	<i>Eilema albicosta</i> Endemic to the Canary Islands: commonly seen at the street lamps in La Orotava.
	Bordered Ermel	<i>Ethmia bipunctella</i> Beautiful black and white moth, feeds on Echium species. A rare species in the UK associated with Viper's Bugloss. La Caldera.
	The Traveller	<i>Costaconvexa centrostrigaria</i> North American species that, like the Monarch, has established itself in the Canary Islands. One or two at street lamps, La Orotava
E	Canary Islands Pug	<i>Eupithecia tenerifensis</i> Endemic to the Canary Islands: at street lights, La Orotava
	Hummingbird Hawk Moth	<i>Macroglossum stellatum</i> In the gardens, La Orotava

MISCELLANY		
	Mountain Semi-Slug	<i>Insulivitrina lamarckii</i> Anaga and Erjos
	Tropical Tent-web Spider	<i>Cyrtophora citricola</i> Pan-tropical, semi-colonial spider, forming big 'tent' webs: eg the gardens in La Orotava
	Portuguese Man O' War	<i>Physalia physalis</i> One small blue 'balloon' floated past during the boat trip.



(clockwise, from top left): Canary Islands Red Admiral, Tenerife Blue Chaffinch, Monarch, Atlantic Canary

thank you for travelling with us

www.wildlife-travel.co.uk

01954 713575

wildlifetravel@wildlifebcn.org



[/WildlifeTravel.UK](https://www.facebook.com/WildlifeTravel.UK)



[@wildlifetraveller](https://www.instagram.com/wildlifetraveller)



[@travel_wildlife](https://twitter.com/travel_wildlife)

The Manor House, Broad Street, Great Cambourne, Cambridge CB23 6DH