



LANZAROTE 2012 Club Holiday Details

I have already booked another 11 weeks in Lanzarote for winter next year. There will be a Club Holiday during that period arriving Thursday 26 January and departing Thursday 9th February with the option to stay 1 or 2 weeks fixed centre in self catering apartments. Thursday is the normal changeover day for Apartments. I will use my extensive knowledge of the Island to lead rides on a variety of routes.

To make organisation of rides simpler please book those exact dates for 2 weeks. If you prefer to come for one week please note the rides will generally be shorter in the first week. Again to make it simpler could anyone planning to come for one week arrive on either the 26th January or the 2nd February. There is no need to worry about the number of bikes on a plane. I am not expecting a lot of bookings and I have learned that a plane can generally take up to 20 bikes in addition to other luggage. Also if you book with Monarch you can now book and confirm your bike carriage when making an online booking.

The intention would be to stay in Apartments in Puerto del Carmen, the largest resort which has the benefits of being the most central and close to a good network of quiet lanes a short way inland. The apartments are in a quiet area but within 5 minutes walking distance of the Beach and a large variety of restaurants. It is 15 minutes walk to the old Port area and more restaurants. The Apartments are £230 per week. All are twin bedded rooms so 2 singles sharing would pay half those prices each. There are well fitted out kitchens. The Apartments are Club Oceano. This has 40 Apartments, Reception and

Bar/Restaurant. As the restaurant and indeed most restaurants in town do not open until 9.30 we will self cater for breakfast and eat out in the evening. It is usually warm enough for breakfast outside on the Patio. Flights are currently available for about £200 including extras for checked in luggage and bike charge. Note that with fuel costs basic flight prices are likely to go higher the longer you leave it.

There are a variety of routes available from 17 miles to 65 miles. There is a flat route of



17 miles return along a beachside cyclepath. There is also a flat route of 30 miles return along the cyclepath, through the Capital of Arrecife and on to Costa Teguisse. This could be done on a Sunday when there is little traffic in Arrecife. To get to the main area of back roads involves a 1000ft climb to the central plateau. Easier rides can be done of 25 - 35 miles involving the one climb, riding on the plateau and then back down.

Harder rides can be done

between 35 and 65 miles involving multiple climbs and rides to the far south and far north and some rides with a 2000ft pass.



The scenery is spectacular with large areas covered with volcanoes and lava flows. Temperatures from January through March range from 18 to 25C. Most days it is 21 or 22. Most days are dry. The little rain there is comes in a short heavy shower. Inland it will cloud over some days while the coast stays sunny. Wind can vary a lot, often there will be strong winds of 15-25 mph.

There will be a variety of rides sometimes splitting into 2 groups depending on numbers and abilities. Being fixed centre you can opt out or do your own ride anytime. The plan will be to have a menu of rides and decide on 1 or more rides the previous evening rather than having a fixed schedule.

You can see photos of the area and descriptions of routes by looking at the Ride Notes Blog for January to mid March this year.

Note that it will be up to you to book flights and accommodation as the accommodation can be booked by a phone call to the English firm running the apartments based in Pulborough. You should sort out Accommodation first and then book flights as there are plenty of flight seats available at the moment. The accommodation is popular and recommended on customer review websites so books up early. If everybody is to get in I would suggest booking by **30 June** or earlier if you can. You can book by phone on 01798 875703 or online at

http://www.oceanclubholidays.com/site/pages/ui_property_details.aspx?PropertyID=15

Booking by phone may be better so you can ask for a room not too high because of getting bikes up. For the Club Oceano when booking ask for a room not on the top floor. The layout is that there are a few rooms on the Ground floor but most rooms are on the first floor and second floor. There is a short wide stairway to the first floor which is easy to get bikes up. The second floor though has narrow winding stairs which might be difficult with bikes. Bikes can be kept in the room. Note that Club Oceano has TV and wired broadband for a laptop for extra charges. When booking you should note there is an extra charge for credit cards of 2%. No charge on Debit Cards. When paying the balance it is a good idea to pay by credit card to get the extra protection this offers in the event of the company folding.

Any single who wants to book an Apartment to themselves is free to do so. Anybody needing somebody to share with let me know as others may express an interest. 3 sharing with sofa bed or put up bed may be possible. Enquire with the Apartments.



Note you need to pay a deposit when booking and pay the balance about 10 weeks before the holiday. I would suggest that when 2 singles are sharing I person makes the booking and collects the share of the deposit from the other.

For flights do not book with BA. Their current rules on luggage size prohibit anything other than a folding bike or small wheel bike. Do not book with Easyjet as we

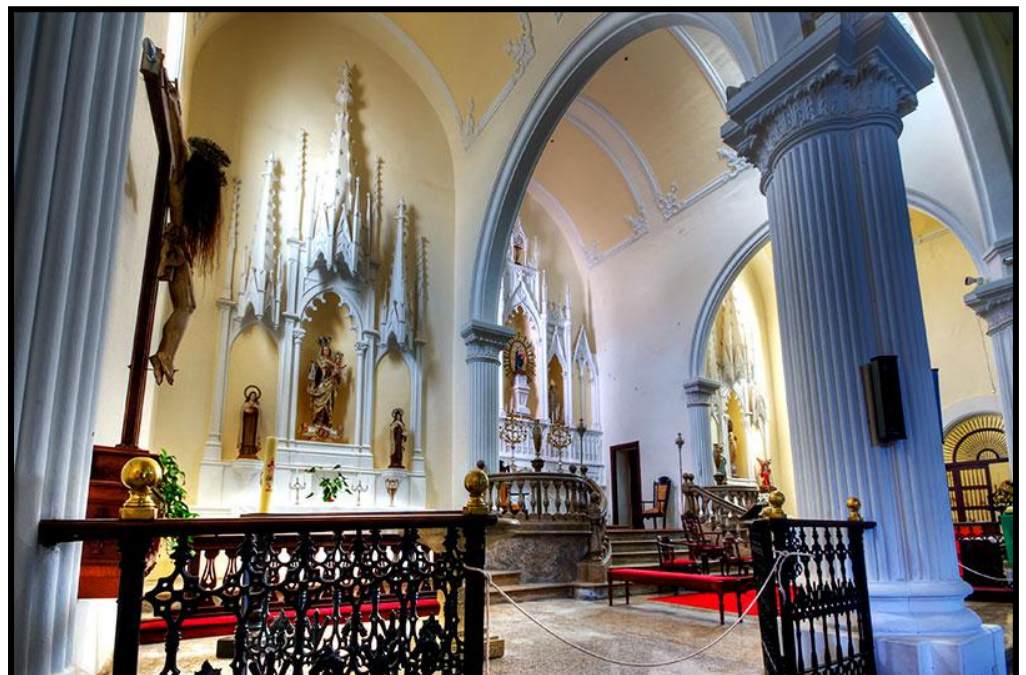
once had problems with them objecting to CTC Bike bags.

Monarch and Thomson both have flights from Gatwick. Current prices including Flights, Taxes, charge for ordinary luggage and bike charge return are Monarch £197 and Thomson £199. I would suggest booking with Monarch as you can book your bike in advance when making your online booking. They also allow 10 kg in hand luggage as opposed to 5 Kg by Thomson. Note that when making the booking with Monarch that there is not a specific category for bikes. You do this before paying during the online booking process. You just book for sports equipment as an extra. The baggage notes confirm this includes bikes. With Thomson you have to book by phone but wait until 2 months before the flight. Bikes can be taken in addition to the baggage allowance.

With both Airlines the flight cost is cheaper if you book online. The prices given above are online prices and in the case of Monarch they quote a £30 saving. Monarch is <http://www.monarch.co.uk/> Thomson is <http://flights.thomson.co.uk/en/index.html> . Both airlines require the bike to be properly packed and protected against damage and preferably in a bag and may not accept the bike at check-in if it is not. I would suggest pipe lagging, cardboard or bubble wrap or a combination and then put it in the CTC plastic bike bag. This can be obtained for £7.00 from the CTC Shop. Link is

<http://ctcshop.org.uk/cycling/default.aspx> and exact product link is http://ctcshop.org.uk/cycling/p/CTC/22/CTC_CT_C_Plastic_Bike_Bag/5360041697 Note that pedals have to be removed and handlebars turned sideways and the tyres deflated.

Estate car Taxis will take bikes from the Airport. Cost to the Apartments is about 15euros per taxi plus a 5 euro bike charge. Riding is not a



good idea as the only Airport exit is onto a motorway.

If you want a map the only decent one is the Discovery Walks and Trails. This is not available on Lanzarote but can be obtained from Elstead Maps. Link is –

<http://www.elstead.co.uk/cgi-bin/sh000001.pl?REFPAGE=http%3a%2f%2fwww%2eelstead%2eco%2euk%2f&WD=lanzarote&PN=Lanzarote%2html%23aDWG038#aDWG038>

Please let me know when you have booked flights and accommodation and dates you are coming and returning and which Airline

Edwin