

Holiday with a religious connection: Lanzarote



Sculpture of Christ's Passion in the museum of religious art in the island's former capital, Tegwise Town.

In February 2017, **Martin and Magda** spent a week's holiday on the island of **Lanzarote** in the Canaries. One morning they took the bus to visit **Tegwise Town**, the island's old capital where they found a wonderful museum of religious art in a former convent.



HD Beach Resort, Costa Teguisse

We stayed in the HD Beach Resort hotel in Costa Teguisse over February 2017 half term. While there were plenty of children there over half term, it didn't affect us at all and was a very pleasant place with beautiful room which had an excellent sea view.

The weather was a bit mixed over the week. Anyone going there in February expecting the heat and perfect weather of Spain's Costa del Sol in summer will be disappointed. It's more like a pleasant summer's day at a UK resort. There is an ever-present breeze, strong at times, with a slight chill. However we found enough sunbathing to keep us happy and came back with a modest glow to our faces!



The Plaza de la Constitución in Teguise. In the background is the medieval church of 'Nuestra Senora de Guadalupe'.

We took the bus from our hotel at Costa Teguisse to the old capital of **Teguisse Town** on the Thursday of our week's holiday. The bus trip takes about half a hour.



Another view of the Plaza de la Constitución in Teguisse and the medieval church of 'Nuestra Senora de Guadalupe'.

In the church square there is a wonderful museum devoted to the Timple, a five-string Canarian ukulele instrument – those played in the Canary Islands and also similar instruments to be found elsewhere in the world.



A room at the Casa del Timple museum shows how a 'timple' is made. The timple is a Canarian five-string baroque ukulele.

Our next destination in Teguise was the church of Nuestra Senora de Guadalupe.



The chancel at Nuestra Senora de Guadalupe.

The church is an outstanding example of church architecture for its blend of medieval artwork and monuments with Canarian architectural elements. White décor throughout gives the church an ornate 'wedding-cake' feel.



Jesus's entry to Jerusalem on Palm Sunday is depicted in the church of Nuestra Senora de Guadalupe.



The pulpit and testa (cover) at Nuestra Senora de Guadalupe.



The beautifully carved church doors at Nuestra Senora de Guadalupe.

After leaving the church we explored further and walked uphill towards the castle.



The church from one of the huge public open spaces in Tequise.

Alas visiting the castle proved to be an issue – it was remote, on a steep hill and there was no shuttle bus. Taking a taxi would have been too expensive, as it would have had to wait for us. We didn't go – but the castle has spectacular views and a display of exhibits recalling the four centuries when the island was beset by pirates.



Castillo de Santa Barbara, Tegui.



The wonderful view from the Castillo de Santa Barbara, Tegui.

The castle was built by Sancho de Herrera in the sixteenth century as a watch tower on top of the hill. The history of the building is one of successive invasions by pirates. In 1588 renowned architect Leonardo Torriani reinforced the strength and structure to protect the inhabitants from the menace of pirates.

Our last stop on this morning tour of Teguise was the **Museum of Religious Art**. The 16th century **Convento de San Francisco** has been beautifully restored and is home to various pieces of religious pieces of art.



Inside the Museum of Religious Art in Teguisse.

The iglesia de Nuestra Señora de Miraflores (Our Lady of Miraflores) was the first convent on the island - work started in 1588. The convent of San Francisco was burned after an invasion in 1618 and reconstructed over several decades, only to be burnt again in 1658.

The building seen today is the third construction including three baroque style altarpieces. There are 8 themed areas to the museum:

1. History of the building
2. Messengers of God
3. God becomes a man
4. The Easter Way
5. The coming of the Holy Spirit
6. Bread of life
7. Witnesses of the Good News
8. Door of Heaven



The interior of the museum. Madonna and Child in the foreground.



Beautiful pulpit and testa cover.

The most striking exhibits in the museum are the depictions of Christ's Passion and death.



A figure of Christ's Passion.



Christ lying in the tomb.



The bay outside the hotel in Costa Teguisse; Magda enjoying a coffee at the hotel.



The pool area at the HD Beach Hotel in Costa Teguisé.

This was a wonderful holiday and we were especially delighted with the morning spent in Teguisse town.

Martin and Magda Jones
First written February 2017.

Sources:

Lanzarote information:

<http://www.lanzaroteinformation.com/content/diocese-museum-religious-art>