



Winter Sun and Two-Wheeled Fun in Gran Canaria

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Day 1 – From Frost to Free Cocktails

On a cold, dreary day at the end of November, six members of the BMW Club Southern Section escaped the grey skies and boarded a plane bound for Gran Canaria. By lunchtime we had swapped coats for sunglasses, landing in glorious sunshine and temperatures in the low to mid-20s. The holiday got off to a promising start when our hotel rooms weren't ready and we were offered free cocktails by way of apology. We decided this was an excellent omen for the week ahead.



Day 2 – New Bikes and First Bends

The following morning we made our way to Pic y Poc Motos Canarias to collect our hire bikes. The lineup was impressive:

- Chris and I on a BMW F900 GS
- Mike and Lesley on a Suzuki V-Strom 650
- Helen on a Yamaha Tracer 7
- James on a Ducati Scrambler 800

Once the paperwork was done and helmets fastened, we headed off along the motorway towards Puerto de Mogán, a picturesque fishing village where we stopped for refreshments and our first proper dose of island atmosphere. From there we took the GC-505 towards Soria – a shorter ride designed to ease us into the bikes and the small matter of riding on the right.



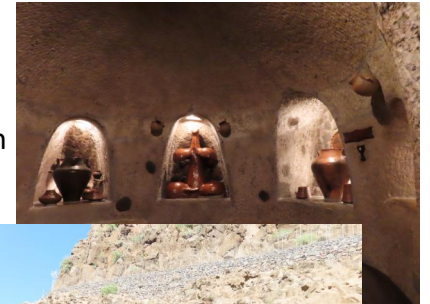
The roads were beautifully winding and the scenery already spectacular. After lunch, we followed a long, twisty route back to Maspalomas, grinning like Cheshire cats.



Day 3 – Caves, Craters and Karaoke (Sadly)

We took the motorway to Vecindario, then headed inland to Montana de las Tierras near Ingenio for coffee at an unusual cave restaurant. From there it was on to Caldera de los Marteles, an extinct volcano, and then up to Artenara. At Artenara we had to divert because of a road closure so we headed to Tejeda, then back through San Bartolomé and south through Fataga to Maspalomas.

That evening we attempted to use our free cocktail vouchers, only to discover the alcohol had mysteriously been omitted – a crushing disappointment. We then stayed up to watch the karaoke. I don't know why. We didn't sing. We survived.



Day 4 – Local Bikers and Festive Chaos

North again through Fataga and San Bartolomé, we stopped for coffee at Cruz de Tejeda, which was buzzing with local bikers – always a good sign. We continued north to Aracas, then south through Teror (very busy), on to Vega de San Mateo and east to Telde. Here we encountered Christmas decorations going up and a road closure with no diversion signs, so we joined the motorway back to Maspalomas.



After dinner, we entered the hotel music quiz. We didn't come in the top three, we're not sure what we scored, but we laughed a lot and considered it a moral victory.



Day 5 – Sheep, Switchbacks and Mama Conchita

Motorway to Vecindario, then inland to Santa Lucía, where we encountered the legendary Mama Conchita. If you go into her shop, you will buy something. Resistance is futile. Coffee followed next door before riding on to San Bartolomé and Artenara, then looping back.

The highlight was the GC-210 – a very tight, very twisty road through a dramatic ravine. At the top we were greeted by a flock of sheep, then it was down past the dam on a ribbon of tarmac that seemed to coil endlessly towards La Aldea. Pure motorcycling joy. From there, the main road took us back to Mogán and the motorway to Maspalomas.



Day 6 – Tomatoes, Goats and Goodbyes

Our final ride took us north through Fataga to Santa Lucía for coffee on a terrace with stunning views, then along the GC-550 to Agüimes. After skirting Maspalomas, we rode the GC-503 to Ayagaures and stopped at a café famous for its plate of seasoned tomatoes – absolutely gorgeous – and, for the adventurous,



curried goat. Then it was back via the GC-504 to Maspalomas, where we returned the bikes to Pic y Poc and walked back to the hotel for our last evening.



As it was our final night, we headed out for tapas followed by cocktails at a local bar – proper ones this time.

The Bikes

Chris was surprised at how good the BMW F900 GS was – plenty of power and it handled like a dream. The only downside was that it was very short... and you could barely fit a feeler gauge between us.

Mike and Lesley loved the Suzuki V-Strom 650 – roomy, comfortable, handled well and more than enough power for these roads.

Helen's Yamaha Tracer 7 also had plenty of poke, but she found the gearing less suited to the tight twisties.

James' Ducati Scrambler was in its element – perfect for the bends and full of character.



Final Thoughts

We had a really brilliant time. The roads and scenery in Gran Canaria are truly stunning, with just the right amount of traffic to keep things interesting without spoiling the ride. November is ideal for motorcycling, with temperatures in the low to mid-20s, although it can get cooler in the mountains and fresh in the evenings if the wind picks up.

Every day we had to find a different route through Maspalomas because the Christmas lights were going up ready for the switch-on just after we left – a festive obstacle course to end a perfect winter escape.

Sun, bikes, twisty roads, good company... what more could you want?

