

breeze

making island life easy

FUERTEVENTURA ...
WELCOME TO NATURE'S PLAYGROUND



Products from Fuerteventura

Biosphere Reserve

The taste of tradition



Left to right: Liz, Alison, Rob, Elaine, Gal-la

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W

inter on the island is different to the long, still days we see in autumn, but it's by no means any less special. It's the perfect time of year to explore the rock with fresh eyes, spend days enjoying leisurely brunches, and take long walks through the dramatic landscape. You can surf the best waves in Europe and enjoy north shore sunsets, as well as cosy dinners, live music and much more. And, of course, there are a few beach days thrown in for good measure - we enjoy year-round sunshine for a reason!

The new year also means that Breeze is back!

We were absolutely blown away by the response to our launch, and we are thrilled to share our second issue with you. Whether you live here or are enjoying some well-deserved winter sunshine as a break from the cold back home, our latest publication is packed full of ideas to help you enjoy the best of the season.

We have stunning photography from Pablo Prieto featuring the sublime underwater landscape of the island, teamed with an incredible interview with Tahitian 'water-man' Teiva Joyeux, founder of Brothers Tahiti, and familiar face in El Cotillo.

If you're looking to get active, you can learn all about how to start SUP boarding, follow a guided walk or try your hand at surfing. Or why not read about the best places to enjoy locally produced food or what Stronger Together is up to? You could even plan your move to the sun while taking things at a more leisurely pace.

And very importantly, as we celebrate the island as 'nature's playground', we draw attention to important environmental issues through the amazing artwork of ghost-net weaver Kittie Kipper, and, yes he's back, the one, the only, Captain Canarias!

However you choose to spend this time of year, we hope you enjoy our latest offering and we wish everyone a fantastic start to 2022!



air + h3



Is there life on Mars?

It is entirely natural when landing on Fuerteventura for the first time to compare this oddly shaped 'rock' in the Atlantic ocean to an unknown, uninhabitable landscape from a different planet or universe.

But then, if like us, you take the time to discover the island and its unique landscape, climate and environment, it's difficult not to be charmed by its purity and the melting pot of varied habitats all working together in just over 1500 square kilometres of volcanic rock.

From the picture-postcard turquoise ocean, with its incredible underwater seascape, to the arid desert conditions of the volcanoes, sand dunes and barrancos, and in between the hidden oasis of the lush, green, centre of the island ... Fuerteventura has it all.

And with this diversity, nature has gifted us the most wonderful natural playground for us to enjoy.

Surfing, SUP, windsurfing, kitesurfing, sailing, kayaking, swimming, foil, walking, hiking, cycling, running, triathlon, tennis, padel, and many other activities - with year-round sunshine, the outdoor lifestyle is here to be enjoyed.

Sounds idyllic, right?! And herein lies the problem. We are not looking after it.

Our ongoing consumption of plastics remains too high - whilst we may all now understand the importance of not using products such as plastic straws, unfortunately we have replaced these with disposable masks and single-use Covid-tests.

We continue to drop litter and not pick-up after ourselves. The products and chemicals we use are polluting the ocean. We import food and produce when the island provides almost everything we need to thrive. The 'popcorn' rhodoliths, which are an important part of the eco-system, are being taken. And at times 'development' is uncontrolled and decisions made to support 'progress' are potentially at the expense of Mother Nature.

Something needs to change. And thankfully it is.

Numerous organisations are working hard to raise awareness of the impact of everyday activities and actions on the island's landscape. Educational initiatives are being run to support children and young people's understanding of what it means to live in this beautiful place we call home, and to conserve it for future generations.

Alongside this, inspirational groups and individuals, such as Limpiaventura, Clean Ocean Project, the unforgettable Captain Canarias, are dedicating their time and resources to spreading the word about protecting our island and motivating others to support the cause.

And here's where you (and I) come in. We all love this island - that's undeniable. So it's up to us to do something.

Maybe we start small and we can't do it all at once. But if we all do something, maybe, just maybe, we all get to enjoy this paradise for a good while longer.

Welcome to nature's playground. Welcome home.



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Stronger Together news

We're growing. Growing in numbers. Growing in relation to the services we provide. And we're certainly growing in reputation.

And that's in no small part due to the support afforded us by local authorities and service providers which are increasingly seeing the value that forming partnerships with Stronger Together brings to all concerned. Our goal has always been, and continues to be, to simply make life easier. You know, cut through the red tape and to the chase. We want to resolve issues. Quickly. Efficiently. Smoothly.

It would have been difficult to believe a few short months ago, but the hospital and health centres are now calling us when they have patients in need of the kind of home-help the association provides. By working hand-in-hand, those requiring assistance are getting exactly that.

We're grateful that we've been able to assist hundreds of people. Our work is genuinely rewarding. But we've also realised something else. Being based in Corralejo, the vast majority of our members, and as such those whom we help, are resident in the northern part of the island. We're only reaching a small proportion of those needing help - the tip of the iceberg. In fact, it hit us that expansion was unavoidable if we were to be accessible to residents living elsewhere on the island.

So, we're delighted to be able to announce that we're broadening our reach with a presence in Caleta de Fuste. And we're even more delighted to have the fabulous Mel Vittle at the helm. Her drive, experience and mindset have meant that her integration into the team has been seamless. With an office soon to be secured, the Stronger Together Caleta de Fuste office



Mel Vittle



Susan Maxwell



Left to right: Rob, Mags, Alison, Elaine, Phil

will soon be mirroring the work done in Corralejo and that includes the highly-lauded Spanish classes, so keep your eyes and ears peeled!

Not only that, we now have the incredible Susan Maxwell working her magic in El Cotillo. Because of her, Breeze is now to be found in places we'd never have been able to reach.

So, once again it's a huge thank you to all of those who've supported us. Because of you, we're getting bigger and better.

If you or anyone you know could benefit from joining our (not so) little family, please drop us a line at strongertogetherfuerteventura@gmail.com

P.S. If you want to keep abreast of the association's goings-on or would like to become a member, have a look at our brand new website: www.strongertogetherfuerteventura.com

Things to do Wheels in motion



It's great to hire a car and explore the island. But there's only so many places you can really get to. You can walk anywhere, but then again there's only so much ground you can cover.

So what about something that combines the best of both worlds?

Let me ask you something. Have you ever considered hiring a bike? No? Then you're missing out. Big time. I mean, let's face it, there's so much to discover, and the weather's perfect.

Breeze met up with Stefan Wakeman, owner of Easy Riders Bike Center, for an expert's overview of cycling on Fuerteventura.

Hi, Stefan. Tell us, is biking really a thing here?

Hi. Yeah. It might come as a surprise to some people, but cycling is huge here. We have professional bike teams like Saxo Bank and Leopard Trek who regularly train here. It's the same with people preparing for Ironman events or triathlons. Fuerteventura is also one of the very few places where group cycling is allowed.

Wow. And for those of us who're anything but pro cyclists?

The landscapes here are as varied as they are interesting. There really is something suitable for everyone.

So how do you decide where to go, especially if you're a tourist?

As well as providing information on hundreds of routes, we also offer guided tours that are aimed at a range of abilities. There are routes

for those who just fancy a great day out seeing places they'd otherwise never get to - perfect for a family day trip to remember. Then at the other end of the scale, we can take you places that even the top guys will find a challenge. It's entirely up to you. Flat, hilly, coastal, volcanic landscapes ... we even have a day trip to Lobos.

And you supply the bikes?

Most certainly. Road bikes ... mountain bikes ... city bikes... e-bikes (engine assisted) ... kids' bikes. We have them all. We also supply the necessary protective equipment. Oh, and if you really get bitten by the biking bug, we've got an unbeatable range of top-grade previously-owned bikes for sale.

We love sharing our expertise and knowledge with visitors to the island. Biking is simply a fun and healthy way to discover some of Fuerteventura's secrets. Up for it?

www.easyriders-bikecenter.com



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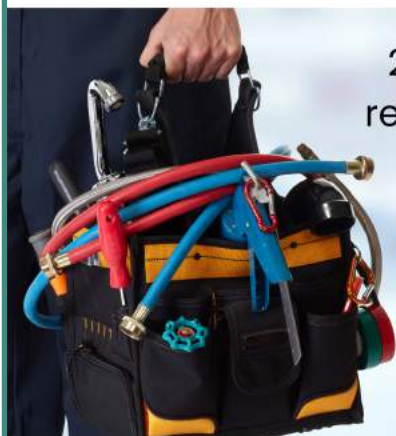


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Teiva Joyeux

Faces of Fuerteventura



It was way back in 2005 when professional watersports athletes and brothers Teiva and Malik Joyeux decided to form the clothing brand Brothers Tahiti - an environmentally aware surf brand. Tragically, shortly after embarking upon the project, Malik died in Hawaii (where the boys were living) at the infamous Pipeline surf spot. The outpouring of love that followed from the surf community helped inspire Teiva to push forward in memory of his brother. The project would be a success. And it would be a tribute to his brother.

Now living in El Cotillo, Teiva runs both the Brothers Tahiti brand and Brother of the Ocean foundation. And that's all in addition to being a surf instructor!

The brand itself aims to draw like-minded surfers closer together as regards to acting responsibly for the benefit of the planet we all share. He won't settle for it being "just another surf-wear brand", but rather strives to be a pioneer in the athleisure sector. The goal is to inspire greater community, environmental awareness, and action.

Taking time out of his hectic schedule, Teiva spoke to Breeze.

So, hi Teiva. It's great to have the chance to talk to you. Tell me, what's your story?

Hi. Well I'm from Tahiti, French Polynesia. I've been a professional 'waterman' (someone who's involved in many different watersports) for a long, long time, and I've been sponsored by Quiksilver for many years. Now I'm here in Fuerteventura teaching surfing and also developing my on-the-side projects. One of them is a clothing company called 'Brothers Tahiti'.

Okay. When did you first visit Fuerteventura? What was your first impression?

I first heard about Fuerteventura in the 90s when I was living in



Malik Joyeux

Hawaii. Fuerteventura and Gran Canaria were famous for windsurfing at that time, and surfing came a bit after.

I came here for the first time maybe 10 years ago. Like many people, my first impression wasn't quite what I'd expected it to be! I think a lot of your readers will know exactly what I mean when I say that I thought I'd landed on the moon hahaha. But, of course, I knew better things were just a short journey away.

Oh, we definitely know what you mean! When did you decide to make the island your home then?

I was living in Norway with my ex-wife, and we'd been spending all of our holidays here on the island. We also had a lot of friends back then who'd come and visit us here - friends who'd travel from Hawaii and Tahiti. That made us feel very much at home here. They kept asking us, "why don't you move here?" Now, when people who live in those kind of places recommend living on a particular island, you know that island's got something going for it!

So one day, we thought 'yeah, let's do it'. We were ready for island life again, and this time we had our daughter.

What, for you, makes FV's landscape and ocean a great 'nature's playground'?

I firmly believe that Fuerteventura is one of those places that you love more and more as time passes and you delve deeper into what it has to offer. Initially, it can come across as just a combination of rocks, dust and beaches. But dig a little deeper, and you'll find a true natural paradise. You really can find more environments than you'd expect, although I do grant you that lush forests might be a step too far.

And believe me when I say that for watersports it's like Tahiti and Hawaii. You can practise all of them on the island. That's obviously a huge plus.

What is your favourite part of island life? Any 'must-see' places or experiences?

There are many different kinds of people who come from very different backgrounds that live here. One thing that does seem to link them all, however, is their desire to try and live life a simpler way. Most folk want a slower-paced life. They want to have time to enjoy being alive. I think that's amazing.

As for places to see, go out and discover them for yourself. It's well worth it.

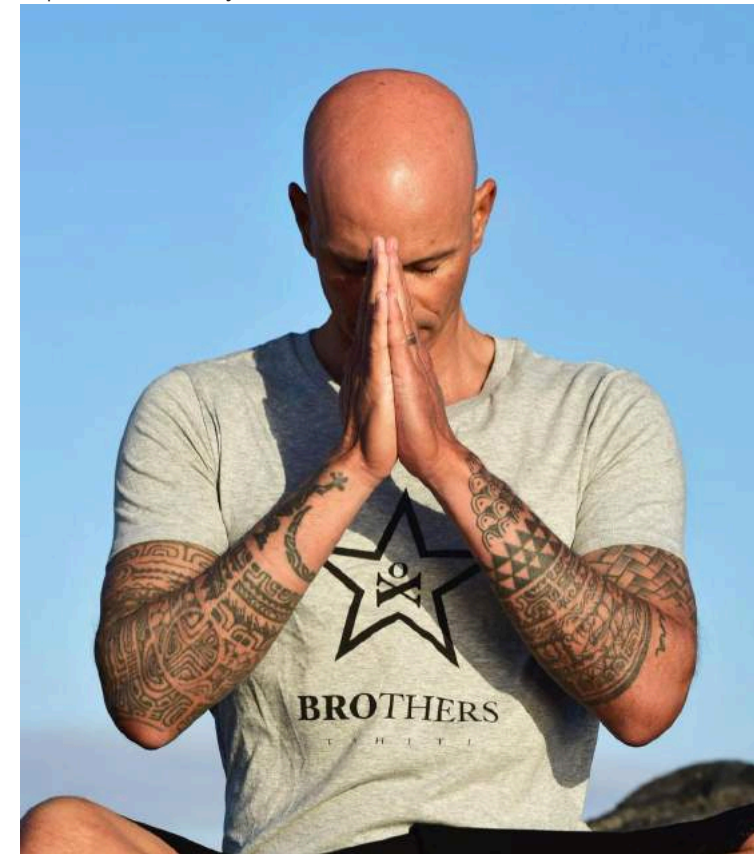
Brothers Tahiti is a brand that aims to bring people together. How do you think people on FV can work together to take action to protect the ocean and island landscape?

Yeah, one of the brand's missions is to bring people together through a love of sport and nature. Sometimes that's easier said than done.

I said earlier that people here want a simpler way of life, But sometimes, I feel there's a gap between how the



Swimming with whales in Tahiti - one of the best experiences of my life



The story of your life is your soul



Enjoying Fuerteventura

foreigners (immigrants) want to go about things, and how the locals do. The locals often feel that 'their' island is being taken away from them. The 'well if it wasn't for us they'd have nothing' attitude displayed by some immigrants is plain offensive.

So, I believe that, as is often the case, genuine communication is key. In the end, everyone loves Fuerteventura. Nobody wants to see it destroyed through overdevelopment. If we realise we have the same goals, and if we can communicate effectively with one another, the island has the best chance of remaining a true, shining example of what is meant by 'nature's playground'.

That's worth fighting for, right?



Create, focus, and express yourself



Island life

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Things to do

Spotlight on: Surfing



From left to right: Tamzin, Patrick and Sue

In every issue of Breeze, we shine the spotlight on one of the island's must-do sports, activities, or places-to-go.

And next up, as the winter waves arrive in abundance, is the sport that has earned Fuerteventura its nickname as the 'Hawaii of Europe' - surfing.

Of course, surfing isn't something new. In fact the riding of waves has likely existed since humans began swimming in the ocean, an idea supported by cave paintings from the 12th Century discovered in Polynesia. It's a universally popular watersport, found throughout the world wherever favourable conditions allow, and it's never had a higher profile thanks to its recent inclusion in the Tokyo 2020 Olympics.

But surely it's not for everyone... right?! Well that's where you might be mistaken. Despite its image as an extremely physical and challenging discipline that only attracts the young and fit, surfing can in fact be enjoyed by almost anyone.

Breeze met with three generations of surf fans on Fuerteventura to find out more... well if we can get a word in edgeways!

Sue Whiteley

We were taught our manners, so it only seems right to start with the most 'experienced' of our trio. While we would never ask a lady like the lovely Sue her age, she is more than happy to volunteer that she is 79 years young. She also tells us with pride that she is still enjoying the waves of Fuerteventura whenever she can! And that is 'girl power' right there!

Thank you so much for sitting down with us Sue - where did your love of surfing come from?

It was back in 1951! I was 8 years old, and we were on the beach in Saunton, Devon, UK. My first experience of 'surfing' was on a wooden belly board - they definitely don't make them like that any more!

I fell in love with the ocean, and, then in 1962, I was the first woman in Devon to stand up. Whilst this may not sound like a huge achievement



Sue Whiteley

now, it's important to remember that it was on a 9' 3" board with no fins and there were no wetsuits available to buy until they finally introduced them in Lillywhites, London.

I got married and had my family in the 1970s, so there was no surfing for a number of years, but it has always remained an important part of my life in Devon and here in my second home of Fuerteventura.

What have been your favourite surfing experiences over the years?

I have been incredibly lucky to surf all over the world, including Australia and Barbados, but FV remains one of my favourite spots. I love the warm water here. Being able to drive just a few minutes down the road and head out in my shorty to the sand break at Oliva Beach and catch a few waves (even at my age!) is a wonderful way to spend an afternoon.

My husband, Dave, and I have also been incredibly proud of watching our daughter Sarah succeed in the sport. She was both European Junior and British Champion, and now runs a surf-school, Walking On Waves, in Saunton on the south coast of England.

What advice would you give to those who think surfing might not be for them?

Just give it a go! My days of stand-up surfing are now behind me - I've returned to bodyboarding and still love my Hot Buttered bodyboard - but honestly, the feeling of coming down a green wave just before it breaks, is the best feeling in the world.

You can find out more information on Walking on Waves in Saunton, Devon at www.walking-on-waves.com

Patrick Hoffmann

Patrick, from Frankfurt in Germany, is almost the new kid in Fuerteventura compared to both Sue and Tamzin when it comes to surfing the island's waves, despite having been here on and off for many years!

Hi Patrick ... what's your surfing story?

Hey ... well, I've been surfing now for 11 years and have been an instructor for the last nine, having originally learnt to surf in France. I've been coming to FV on and off for the last eight years, initially working at Venga Surf with Uschi, before recently setting up my own coaching business in 2021.

What is it you love so much about surfing here?

I love connecting with the ocean and how there is something different to experience every single time you go into the water. My surf coaching school is called Amped Surf, which is from the Latin meaning to amplify



Patrick Hoffmann

and energise. It's such a buzz to take people in the water and see them take it to the next level - that's what it's all about for me.

How else do you enjoy your time on the island?

Well, most days are spent taking my clients to different surf spots to find the best waves, so if and when I get any free time, I like to make the most of good surf conditions myself!

Apart from that I enjoy playing padel and there's a rumour that I recently went on German TV to take part in their version of Pasa Palabra - I couldn't possibly comment though!

For more information about Amped Surf's small group coaching, check out his Instagram @amped.surf.fv or call Patrick on +34 692346243.



Patrick on German TV

Tamzin Roche



Tamzin with Jenny Jones

Some of you may know 10 year-old Tamzin as Breeze magazine's kids correspondent and all round awesome member of the team... well, it turns out she's a bit of a whizz-kid in the water too!

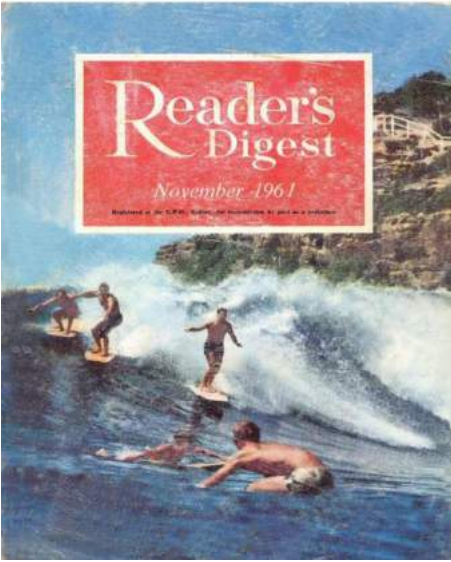
You're back, Tamzin! Please remind everyone about yourself.

Hi again everyone! My name is Tamzin and I was born here on Fuerteventura. My mum and dad run Wave Rider Surf School here, and I first tried surfing when I was four!

Wow. Tell us about that.

We were on holiday in Devon, and my dad took me surfing at the

beach at Saunton (coincidentally this is also where Sue learnt!). I was a bit nervous, but did it anyway, and then we saw Jenny Jones, the British snowboarder, who was also there surfing, and we had our photograph taken together so I was really happy!



Tamzin's great-uncle Kevin

I wanted to learn to surf partly because my dad is an instructor, but also because my great-uncle Kevin is the man who made surfing popular in Ireland, and he is still surfing at age 80!

Where are your favourite places to surf?

Sometimes, after school I go with my dad to Rocky Point near our surf camp - I love it there at sunset. I also love the left at Majanicho because I'm a goofy rider. I think surfing is great here on the island because the sunny weather, warm water and pretty light make everything easier.

What are your surfing goals?

Well, at the moment, I go to Ocean Life Saving Club and my teacher Trystan teaches us surfing and lifeguarding skills to help us be safe in the water, which is very important. I have definitely got better and I have got over some of my fears. I love the feeling of landing a new trick - it's the best!

I would love to compete in the Olympics one day, but I can't decide who I would compete for... the UK, Ireland or Spain!

Wave Rider Surf School - www.waveridersurfschool.com @waveridersurf

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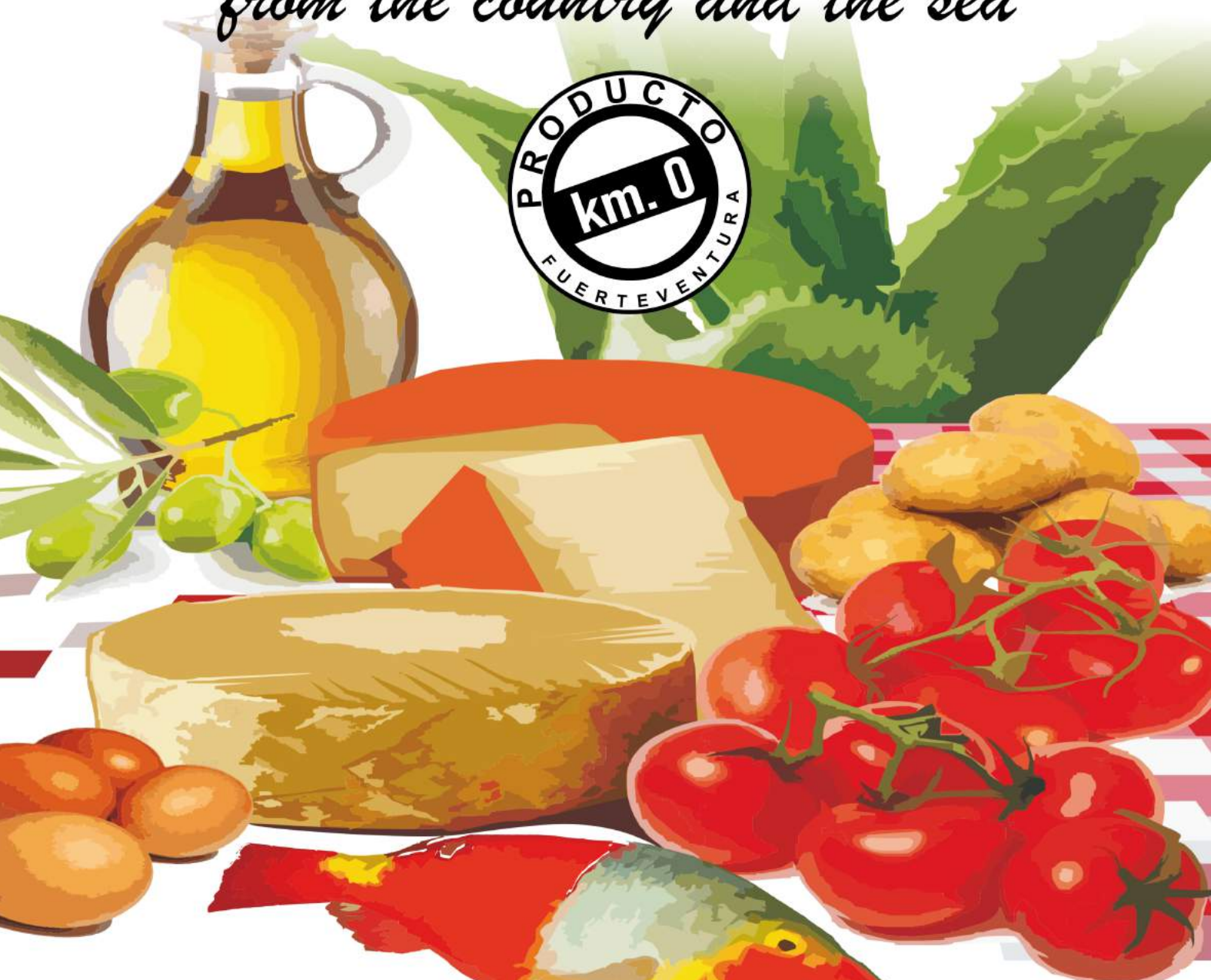
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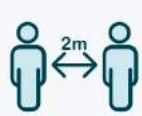
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Food

Grow it, cook it, eat it

Whilst this issue of Breeze is celebrating the landscape of Fuerteventura as 'nature's playground', when it comes to food, perhaps it's easy to presume that the island's harsh, desert environment doesn't lend itself to growing an abundance of fresh produce or supporting agriculture.

Surprisingly though, that couldn't be further from the truth. In fact, this Mars-like rock in the middle of the Atlantic with its unique terrain and climate is the perfect place not only for traditional farming, but also the cultivation of an array of fruit and vegetables, and, of course, the freshest fish straight from the sea.

An increasing number of artisan producers are choosing to work with local ingredients to create speciality products, plus more and more eateries are adopting a 0km approach to their food ethos. This means making everything from scratch, or sourcing from local suppliers only if they can't. It's fair to say the future of food on FV has never looked better.

Quadrophenia in Corralejo is a meeting point for surfers, artists, remote workers and free spirits. It has good music, good vibes and great food!

Julia Otto, head of the kitchen there, moved to the island from mainland Spain with her musician husband, Chip, and their two children, Nina and Sebastian. That was almost a year ago. Team Breeze went to meet her and chat about her passion for cooking and Quadrophenia's approach to food. And we thought we'd best try a locally sourced brunch made with Canarian ingredients and, without doubt, a lot of love.

As we walk in, we're met with a warm atmosphere, the music of days gone by, and the inviting aroma of freshly baked cakes on the counter. We order a coffee and a freshly made Molokai juice (green apple, papaya, ginger and lime) before spending a few minutes perusing the extensive menu of brunch dishes, energy bowls, poke, burgers and a great selection of vegan options... we might be here a while...



Hi Julia. Thanks for having us! Let's get started ... what's your story?

Ha ha. I'll try to keep it short! I'm half German and half Spanish. I was born in Germany, but we moved to Catalonia in Spain when I was five years old. We spent about 10 years there, but I'm used to always moving around!

How and where did you learn to cook?

I was working as front of house in a bistro in San Sebastian, which happened to house a sourdough bakery in the basement. Whilst it was technically my job to look after the customers, I was always sneaking into the kitchen to see what they were doing and to get any tips I could! This was where my food education began, and San Sebastian will always remain one of my favourite cities, not only because of the incredible food culture of the Basque Country, but also because it's where I met Chip.

After a couple of years, Chip and I decided to move to the States. I ended up working in the kitchen of a 120



Julia

cover restaurant in Alabama. And when my boss at the time decided to expand and open a second venue, I ended up taking over and running it myself!

We moved back to Spain when I was pregnant with Sebastian, and then I began working in a historical family restaurant in a building from the 1760s. It's here my food ethos really started to take shape.

What brought you to Fuerteventura?

I've been coming to Fuerteventura for over 10 years as a solo traveller. It's the place I escape to...

When the first lockdown hit, I lost my job and Chip's work as a musician dried up overnight. I decided to start baking my own sourdough bread, brioche, bagels and doughnuts and see if the neighbours were interested. Well, it turns out they were! I had 160 customers in only three weeks!

I did this for more than a year, but living on zero sleep with a new baby and trying to produce dozens of loaves of bread at home in a domestic oven eventually takes it toll. I needed a break. And, of course, I headed to my sanctuary ... Fuerteventura.

After only three days I felt like myself again and when I got home told Chip we should move here!

What's the ethos of Quadrophenia?

Food-wise — very simply, we make EVERYTHING from scratch. The bread, the cakes, the juices, the dressings, the labneh, the sauces.

And if we can't, we source it from a local, or, at the very least Canarian, supplier.

Mix that with local art, live music, small-scale clothing, originally-designed skateboards and more, and we kind of like the vibe we've got going on.

Where are your products sourced from?

Fruit and vegetables - Frutalia. Wherever possible our ingredients are grown on Fuerteventura or within the Canary Islands to avoid unnecessary importing and to eat with the seasons.

Fish - everything is supplied via local fishermen.

Cheese - the goat's cheese we use has been produced by a local family for over 100 years. I think the guy is still making it in his 80s! Our vegan cheese, made from cashews, is also made on the island by a local couple.

Sourdough bread - my signature bread recipe contains rice, spelt and whole-wheat, which when combined with the natural sourdough 'masa madre' creates baking magic!

Cakes - banana bread using local fruit, New York style baked cheesecake with cherry marmalade, freshly



made cookies, chocolate brownie, and carrot cake. All made on site with local produce and lots of love!

How can our readers embrace this approach to food?

There are so many fantastic local products available. The easiest way to use them is to shop locally using small businesses or by visiting one of the many markets on the island. You can save money by shopping with the seasons at the local greengrocer or by subscribing to a veg box. Plus, try to eat out, at independent eateries. It's been a difficult couple of years and they really appreciate your support.

@quadrophenia.ftv

Other island producers to try ...



Cerveza del Viento FTV
Small craft brewery in Guisguez,
@cervezadelvientofuerteventura



El Invernadero - vegan restaurant and
organic Okm finca near Antigua
@restaurante_invernadero



Bodega Conatvs Fuerteventura D.O.P.
is a vineyard and cellar in Lajares.
@bodegaconatvs

Canarian Banana Bread

by Julia

INGREDIENTS:

- 1/2 CUP MELTED BUTTER
- 1 CUP SUGAR
- 2 EGGS
- 1 TSP VANILLA
- 1 1/2 CUPS FLOUR
- 1 TSP BAKING SODA
- 1/2 SALT
- 4 VERY RIPE BANANAS

Preheat the oven to 180c

Whisk the first two ingredients in a large bowl.

Add the eggs one at a time and continue whisking.

Add vanilla, flour, baking soda and salt and keep whisking.

Mash the bananas with a fork in a separate bowl and add them to the mixture and stir with a spatula. Put the batter in a loaf tin and bake for 50 minutes.



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FUERTEVENTURA THROUGH MY LENS

by Pablo Prieto

Sometimes, two passions and skills complement each other in such a way as to provide a result that is greater than the sum of its parts.

Pablo Prieto is proof of that.

Having grown up on Tenerife, Pablo had always been aware of what Fuerteventura offered to watersports enthusiasts like himself. Making the move here was something he describes as a 'natural progression'.

Being a pro-bodyboarder, he was used to having images taken of him. He became friends with the professionals who took the photos, and his interest in developing his own photographic skills grew more intense - particularly in regard to the incredible art of underwater photography.

He's now following his dream of being a full-time water-photographer, and we are thrilled to share his work with you ...

Q&A



To view more of Pablo Prieto's work, including his guides to the secrets of the island, check out

@pabloprietoslife

on Instagram

Hi, Pablo. Thanks for chatting to us. What's a typical day for you?

Umm. There's not really a 'typical' day. My work sort of falls into two broad categories - work with surf professionals, and work with models.

Working with the pro surfers tends to be less complicated. They understand the water and waves. They know what's a realistic shot and, as importantly, what's not! The day before a shoot, I'll make sure everything's properly prepared. You can't rush anything. If, for example, you get the housing wrong (that's what makes the camera waterproof), you're going to have a major (and very expensive) headache.

Understandably, models don't have the same relationship with the water. I take care to explain what's achievable and what's not. Often, there's a huge gap between expectation and reality.

What happens on the day of a shoot is never the same as the previous day.

I bet! As well as being difficult, I imagine your line of work is potentially dangerous. What is it that inspires you?

Mmm. I love the water. Always have. But I'd say my biggest inspiration is to do something new. I don't just want to keep repeating what I've already done. It's this that motivates me day in, day out.

I'd imagine that you belong to a quite select group of photographers. By that, I mean that even the best photographer in the world couldn't do what you do if they haven't got the necessary skills in the water to complement their ability with a camera.

I've never really thought of it like that. I consider myself so lucky that I've been able to mesh my two passions and make an amazing lifestyle from them. But, yeah, you're right. If you can't manoeuvre yourself into the right spot in the water or hold your breath several metres down, what you can do with a camera's irrelevant, I suppose.

Other than what the natural environment offers, what is it about Fuerteventura that holds such a pull?

It's the vibe. The island's laidback, stress-free and non-judgmental. It's not about what job you do or how much money you have. It's who you are as a person that counts. That's as it should be in my opinion.

We're with you on that one. While we're on about Fuerteventura, do you know of any hidden gems?

Loads. But if I told you about them, they wouldn't be hidden, would they? Tell you what, a glance through my Instagram might give you a few clues. How's that?

I've got a feeling that that's going to have to do. One final question. Where are you favourite places to work?

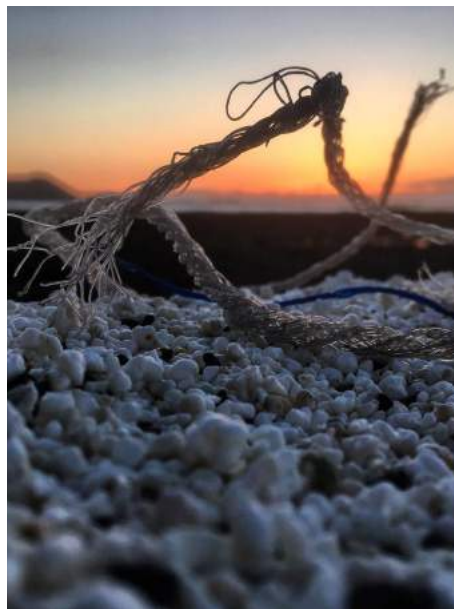
You can't beat Fuerteventura, but if I had to choose a couple of other spots, I'd go for Tahiti and Ibiza. Tahiti's corals and marine life are simply stunning. And for modelling shots, Ibiza offers so much, if you know what I mean, lol.



Introducing... Kittie Kipper

Caroline Bond, aka Kittie Kipper, is a passionate eco-activist and artist who uses 'ghost nets' to weave beautiful baskets and sculpt. These abandoned or lost fishing nets are recovered from different coastlines as part of her daily beach cleans and the #2minutebeachclean campaign, whether she's at her home in East Sussex in the UK or spending time on her favourite Canary Island, Fuerteventura.

By using reclaimed materials from these beach cleans, Caroline demonstrates that instead of consuming new art materials, you can have a positive impact on your environment. With her imaginatively woven bowls and mats, she gives this waste material a purpose. Her stunning animal creations made with fishing nets and line highlight the species affected by the presence of these materials in the marine environment.



We spoke to Caroline to find out more about her passion and love for Fuerteventura.

What first brought you to Fuerteventura?

My husband brought me to FV around 12 years ago, and we've been visiting ever since. We love the waves, we love the wind, and we love the dust. You get skies that have no light pollution, meaning endless stars to lose yourself in. Then there are enormous lightning storms over the dunes and the blue of the Atlantic against that lava. My mind is full. It's wild out there. What's not to love?

What would be your perfect day on the island?

My perfect day? Dawn surf... beach clean and breakfast by the water... dogs out and onto volcano hikes... explore caves and the nature of the island with lunch in El Cotillo. Then the luxury of a lengthy day-sleep, a couple of more waves before food with friends, and a sunset from the west coast. Throw some music in there somewhere too. And cake.

Sleep out in the dunes and lose myself in the sky. Sounds good to me anyway.

How can people get involved in the environmental movement on FV?

Fuerteventura has pretty well-established beach clean groups. Limpiaventura in particular are doing amazing work both on the beach and by going into schools to educate the young on what's going on in the water.

Whenever I visit, I try and go to an organised clean. If that's not an available option, I just work my beach clean into my morning walk/exercise. I've met some wicked people cleaning on FV who are still friends to this day. It's a huge leveller. It's a global problem that unites us all.

Check out when they are cleaning and go join in. You learn about so much when you clean up. It'll change the way you shop, eat, and what products you use. You've got some cool shops there offering plastic free alternatives too. You guys are lucky to have so much great stuff in a small area. It means change is more possible, and that's so positive.

There's the Clean Ocean Project too. Their shops offer plastic-free alternatives, and also run campaigns from Fuerteventura looking at plastic/plastic packaging in products, like coffee pods. And they help businesses reduce their single use plastic by connecting with business owners and passing on knowledge. You've got a lot of great people trying

to do good for your island. All hands that can help, should!

And finally, you're known for your incredible animal sculptures. Which is your favourite animal and why?!

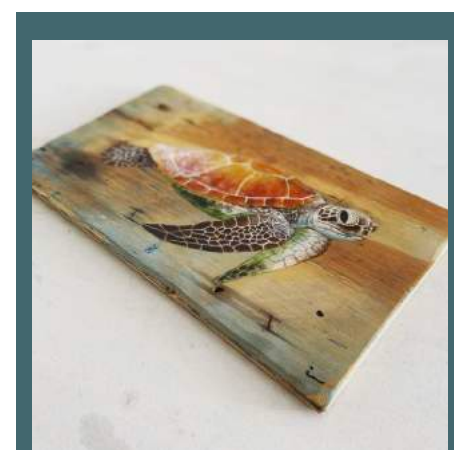
My favourite animal is the saltwater crocodile. Prehistoric, powerful and relentless. Incredible swimmers that cover insane distances. With beautiful scales, these outstanding predators are very patient when it comes to stalking and catching prey.

Amphibious predators in general are cool. You gotta watch out in the water and on the beach. But on the flip side, they are amazing mothers. When they build their nests and hatch their babies, you get to see the gentle side of their power dynamic. But no-one wants to mess with one. I just love strong women I guess haha.



Instagram - @kittiekipper

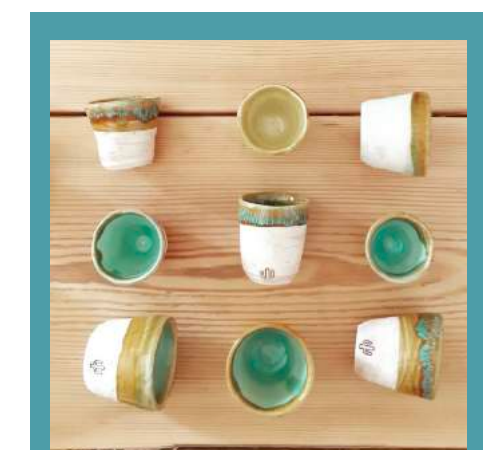
Other local creatives to follow...



@ile_ostroposky



@mizunatura



@cactoo_canarias

Let's write a **love** story...

If this Christmas brought you the extra special surprise of an engagement, you may well be spending the start of 2022 beginning the process of planning your dream wedding.

Of course, this is a very personal decision, but nowadays more and more couples are opting to tie the knot in the sunshine and say 'I do' surrounded by their loved ones at a destination wedding in paradise. But what exactly does this entail, and how exactly do you get hitched on Fuerteventura?

We spoke to those in the know to find out!

If you've spent much time in Corralejo, there's a decent chance that you'll at least have heard of Gary and Lewis. As owners of The Model Camp (and with over 20 years of experience as professional models themselves), they're often seen on shoots with budding new talents at beauty spots around the island.

But working life aside, Fuerteventura will always hold a unique and exalted place in their minds - it's where they married.

With ever more people looking to tie the knot on this paradisiacal island (and who can blame them), Breeze chatted to the boys about their special day, and how they made it happen.



Thanks for finding time to speak to us. The photos are incredible. How'd you go about getting everything organised. There's obviously a tonne of effort needed.

We know the island quite well. We'd stumbled across a special little spot on the north shore, and it was exactly what we wanted. It was remote, authentic and, most importantly for us, rustic. By happy coincidence, a friend of ours happened to know the landowner. They spoke, and we got the green light.

I guess it was a bit of a case of 'who you know' rather than 'what you know'. With it literally being off the beaten track, getting guests and things like food and drink must have presented a bit of a challenge, though.

Yes and no. Again, we're lucky to have such great friends here. They did shuttle runs, ferrying our guests to us. It looked fantastic as they all arrived. We'd asked that guests wear colours that complemented the beauty of the natural surroundings - whites and blues for example. Everyone looked incredible - even the ones who'd been on the stag do the day before.

The stag do? That sounds like it could have been a bit messy!

Oh, we didn't mention that, did we? To be honest, it was a quite civilised affair. Honest.

We'd spoken to the guys at Fuertecharter and hired two of their catamarans. With 12 people

on each boat, 24 of us sailed over to Lobos. We dropped anchor, made the most of the booze and food provided, and soaked up both the sun and the moment - it's a special thing to do, and to share it with so many close friends was yet another unforgettable experience. We'd recommend it to anyone. Sometimes you really need to take a step back and appreciate how fortunate you really are and the natural beauty of your surroundings.

Yeah, that's not the kind of thing you could just do anywhere. And you're right, it's important to not take all that this wonderful island offers for granted.

You asked about the food at the wedding. Well, we struck it really lucky there. The guy whose land we were on cooked special wedding tapas. Not only that, but he freshly catches all of the fish and other seafood that he uses. It knocked us for six, and to this day, our guests say it's by far the best food they've had at a wedding. Ever.

The word 'awesome' is often overused these days, but in this case it sounds like the perfect fit.

Too right! Even more so when you consider that after the ceremony, which was perfectly conducted by the wonderful Jackie Lee from Lanzarote (we actually legally got hitched in the UK), we had the mind-blowing good fortune to see a blood moon rise as the sun set. Just imagine that and sharing it with those closest to you. The whole thing was a unique experience for us, and



one that we will cherish forever. It simply took our breath away.

After that, we had our great friends and talents, Frank Ramírez, Johnny Dale and Michel Hussmann entertain us right through until the early hours. Singing, dancing and lots of laughter. It was exactly how we'd envisioned it. Magical. The entire day was perfect.

Sounds like it was some party.

It was. But that was only part one! We had so many people that we wanted to share in our wedding that we knew we had to do something extra. Again, we completely landed on our feet. We've always loved Sunset Lounge in Corralejo. It's an idyllic spot. Our close friend, and local legend, Andreas Brass organised a

truly spectacular white party. The whole venue was done out in white, our guests all wore white, and Sunset had even gone to the trouble of having models dressed in white as waiters. It's those little details that make such a difference. We reckon that there must have been around 200 of us in total. Again, it just couldn't have been any better.

So given that you had a stag do, the wedding itself and another big party after that, I'm guessing the organisation was a nightmare.

Listen. We were in a very privileged position. Living on the island and having the contacts we did through both our professional and social lives meant that we had the local knowledge and network to be able to

bring it all together by ourselves. But even then it wasn't a walk in the park by any stretch of the imagination.

Fuerteventura is a wonderful place to marry. But our advice to anyone wishing to follow that route is this - speak to a company that specialises in organising weddings. There are many potential pitfalls, and things can get complicated and very stressful. So, chat with a reputable, experienced company. Hopefully, they'll be able to organise your day so that it's exactly how you'd had it in your mind's eye.

Website - www.themodelcamp.co.uk
Photo credits - www.stuartpearce.com
www.themodelcamp.co.uk



AFTER SURF & MEETING POINT

enjoy your time in Fuerteventura

AVENIDA GRANDES PLAYAS 83

//

AVENIDA GRANDES PLAYAS 75

Fuerte Fine Weddings are Paul, Gail & Gary. They have been blessed to have been a part of over 1000 weddings in the UK and Australia in their roles as award-winning wedding entertainers and masters of ceremonies. They are also certified as celebrants and wedding planners in Fuerteventura with The Fellowship of International Celebrants.

We spoke to them about the all important 'how'.

Why a destination wedding in Fuerteventura?

The real joy of a destination celebration is that you get plenty of time with everyone. There is no rush. You get the opportunity to share more than just a few hours with your nearest and dearest friends and family, creating beautiful memories that will live on forever. Fuerteventura is the perfect place for this, with year-round good weather, great food and lovely people. As a destination, it also offers amazing value for money.

Can we actually 'get married' on the island?

Yes and no. If you're a resident here then you are able to after two years, but, if you are just flying over to incorporate your wedding into a holiday, there's another option ... do the legal bit in your home country!

It can be just the two of you if you choose with two witnesses, it takes about 10 minutes and it only costs a small amount at your local registry office or town hall. Then you have your 'true' ceremony, with whoever you want, wherever you want here.

When is the best time for a wedding on FV?

It's beautiful here all year round. However, you may want to avoid the busiest times to reduce the cost of your flights.

What's the best time of day? Again, your choice. During the day, at sunset, in the evening – what would you like?

What are the main venue options? Can we get married on the beach?

Unsurprisingly it's many people's dream to get married on the beach. However you need to be aware there is paperwork involved and up to three licences that need to be obtained. Our recommendation would be a 'golden hour' photo shoot a day or two after the ceremony.

Venue-wise, the easiest option is probably one of the hotels that offer a wedding service. These include the Secrets Bahia Real Resort & Spa (adults only) in Corralejo, The Sheraton in Caleta, and many others that usually have a dedicated wedding department.

Another alternative would be restaurants or bars who are happy to locate a private area. Sunset Lounge in Corralejo is an amazing location on the beach for a destination wedding.

A third option would be private villas - but then catering has to be brought in and planning can be



tricky in the current environment.

What about in the local church?

Yes this is possible. In the north of the island, my recommendation would be to talk to Judie and Bob Horrocks

How can a wedding planner help us achieve our dream day?

As well as helping you find venues and suppliers you might need for your celebration, a wedding planner can advise you on accommodation, excursions and restaurants. Planning from a distance can be daunting, but it needn't be with the right help.

You may want a very small, intimate, elopement style wedding ceremony on the beach with just a couple of guests, a few photos and a meal. Or maybe you're bringing a large group over and would like a full-on traditional wedding day experience with a ceremony, meal, evening reception and party. The best thing is to think about your brief and then take it from there.

Fuerte Fine Weddings are here to help you create your ultimate personalised celebration experience. They can help with proposals / engagements, weddings, vow renewals, anniversaries and birthdays.

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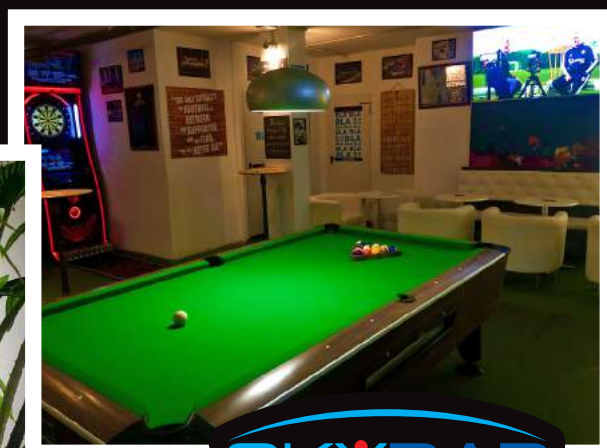
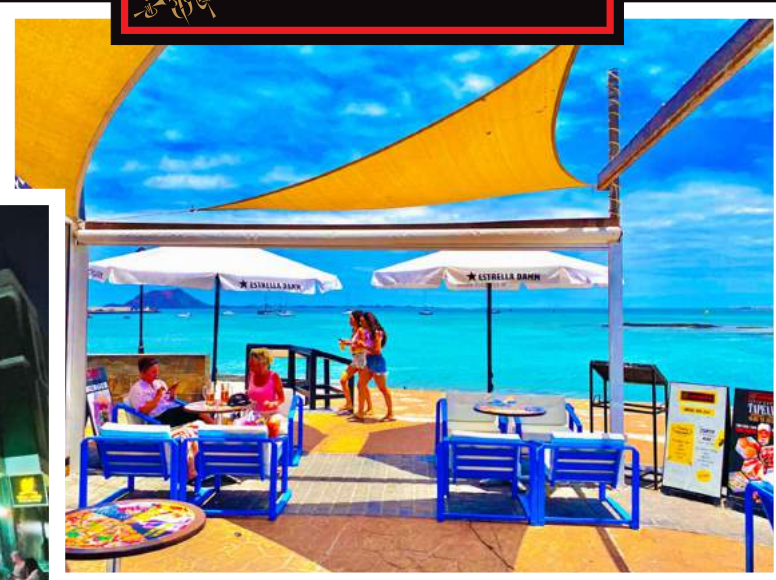
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Co-working, coffee and CBD in Cotillo

As we reported last time, the guys from the Cantante group have teamed up with the top people in the field to open Cannabis Store Amsterdam's Fuerteventura branch.

And while Breeze always wants to explore new ground, it's also important that we cast an eye back at earlier features sometimes to see how things have progressed. Has a new venture taken off? You know, that sort of thing.

So off we trundled to El Cotillo and Bo Jan's Cannabis Store Amsterdam.



It's beautifully geared up for remote workers. The high-speed fibre optic internet connection, comfy seating and abundance of plug sockets (for keeping those laptops going) provide an environment suitably conducive to a productive day's work. There's shade for when it's too hot, and there are heaters for those winter evenings when there's a slight chill in the air. Of course, it's equally suited to those after a chilled few hours in welcoming surroundings.

In the cafe, as well as great coffee, you'll find over 200 CBD-infused products. Alongside the chocolate, smoothies and lollipops, you find cosmetics, massage creams and oils.

We felt obliged to sample the tiramisu, by the way, and we'll definitely be sampling it again. That's for sure! And with all products being regulated by the government, you can rest assured that all standards are met.

One thing we hadn't realised is that the cafe takes its responsibility to Mother Nature seriously. Very seriously indeed. You won't find any single-use plastic items here. Not the cutlery nor the packaging.

So it's all going brilliantly, right? Well, yes. Sort of.

There's been one obstacle. One little hurdle to overcome.

Education has become a vital part of promoting the cafe. There has certainly been a level of misunderstanding by some as regards what the cafe does, and in particular, what it sells. You see, some folk still only associate the word



'cannabis' with getting stoned. And we guess that's understandable to some degree. Both CBD and THC (the stuff that gets you high) are found in cannabis. They are both from the same plant and belong to the same family, but very importantly they are different.

So let's be clear, CBD will not get you stoned. Not even a little bit.

But what it may well do is help with all of those nasty ailments listed in Issue 1. Sufferers of chronic pain, stress, inflammation, epilepsy, ME and fibromyalgia all claim to have experienced vast improvements as a result of taking CBD. World Health Organisation findings back this up. For some, CBD has been life-changing.

But what it really boils down to is this. Whether you want work or relax, whether you're looking for health benefits or just devious food... this cracking little place has got you covered.

And as word spreads and people understand just what CBD is, you might have to fight a little harder for a seat.

Av. Hermanas del Castillo Carreras, 8, El Cotillo



The Adventures of Alex

What's SUP?!



Alex and Ben

As a first foray into the adventures available here on Fuerteventura, I decided to give SUP (Stand up Paddle) a whirl. I am sure you have seen everyone out there on their boards, majestically striding through the bay - they're upright, elegant, and enjoying the beautiful surroundings.

I rope my son in to take me out for my first adventure on a SUP board. Now, it's important to point out at this stage that my son, Ben, is a bit of a superstar on a SUP board. Since arriving on Fuerteventura back in 2013 and getting on a board for the first time, he hasn't really looked back. In fact, he became the Spanish champion at under-14, under-16 and under-18 levels, and he's also competed in World SUP championships as an adult. He's pretty good. But it appears his skill did not come from his mother!

It's a stunning day as I attempt to take the board out. The first thing I realise is that I am actually terrified of deep water. It's a beautiful calm day in the bay of Corralejo, and the water is so clear I can see the fish and stunning sea bed beneath me. This fills me with fear. My legs, arms, stomach and entire body turn to jelly.

Ben coaches me gently in to how to hold the paddle, how to stand up, (don't look down!!!) and focus on the horizon (not my wobbly legs). I gingerly paddle out on my knees. As the board I am on is somewhat

We've all got that one friend, haven't we? You know, THAT friend. However well they plan things, they never turn out as expected, do they? Even the most routine day-to-day activities seem to take a turn for the worse.

And Breeze thought we could use just such a person to entertain you, the reader. So it's with a wry smile of anticipation that we introduce Alex, and "The Adventures of Alex".

For those of you who don't know her, she has a gift. Everything she does ends in disaster - and, quite often, a cracking story follows ...



similar in size to a small double bed, I should be fine. This is not a 4m, 35cm wide racing board. It's a HUGE floating surface. Nothing can possibly go wrong. This is easy.

I take a deep breath, centre my core (yeah, yeah, whatever that is, mine seems to be on holiday!) and I stand up. I am over the moon. I am up, and I am paddling!!! I am wobbling, but I am paddling. I am ecstatic. Ben waves at me frantically. I think to say how well I am doing. He waves again. I smile, grinning from ear to ear. I can do this. I wave back and, you guessed, promptly plop straight into the water with a splash and damaged pride. Ben paddles over to me at speed, and now I can hear him. "Your sunglasses. You forgot to take



your sunglasses off your head!!!!". So, I am now sunglassesless!!! Ugh!!! I can clearly see the bottom of the ocean, but it's a fruitless search for them. What an utter pillock!!! Top tip - don't wear your sunglasses on your head when attempting to paddle for the first time.

I mourn the loss of the one pair of good sunglasses I have, but bravely attempt to get back up again. Guess how elegant and ladylike I looked!

I am paddling again. It's truly wonderful. I can feel that this would be a really good way to get fit and enjoy the ocean and its surroundings, except all I'm doing is going round in circles.

And then I hear the giggling.

It's Ben. I'm a bit miffed that he's laughing at his poor old mum, but when he points out that I'm on the board backwards and paddling against myself, I let him off.

I manage to right myself (not as easy as it sounds!!!) and we paddle off around the bay of Corralejo. It is gorgeous.

After not too long, I am completely worn out. I sneakily start making my way back to shore. My core has returned from its holiday, but is now demanding a gin & tonic and a lie down.

I will do this again. I will work out which way round the board goes, and I won't wear sunglasses!! Of course,



I now believe that I can now be an old lady SUP champion. I will be doing yoga on this board before you know it, but for now, I will just take my double bed board out a couple more times and explore the lagoons of El Cotillo and other beautiful calm spots.

SUP really is a wonderful sport. There are so many elements of it that you can try. I think the yoga element is one that really should be attempted at some point in the future. Maybe I'll give myself a little more time on that one though!

Alex is the co-founder of Sail The Canaries, who offer RYA sailing courses in the year-round sunshine of the Canary Islands.

Website: sailthecanaries.com
Email: info@sailthecanaries.com

Ben trains with OR Training in Fuerteventura.

Fuerteventura has actually produced some of the top names in SUP racing, with Espe Barreas being a Gold Medal champion.

SUP board hire and lessons are available at a variety of water-sports centres around the island.

Look out for Alex's next adventure thanks to our friends at the **One Stop Holiday Shop**... coming soon!





Captain Canarias

Name: Capitán Canarias

His ongoing mission: To inspire others to protect the environment, its wildlife and its plantlife.
Superpower: Motivating people to dispose of litter responsibly, respect the environment and to rid Fuerteventura's beaches and streets of litter.



In Fuerteventura, we are lucky enough to have some beautiful beaches covered in hundreds of candy-like rhodoliths. You may have seen photos of one such beach, which is famously known on Instagram as "Popcorn Beach". Rhodoliths are calcareous structures of red coralline algae that, once dead, are washed ashore by the sea. They are aquatic plants that serve as food, shelter and nurseries for fish, in addition to becoming, over time, grains of white sand that form beaches.



Capitán Canarias says: 'These algae fossils are vital to the marine ecosystem and are an important part of the natural habitat. They belong here. Not in your house.'



Capitán Canarias loves his planet. His work is essential, non-stop and unpaid. He wants you to know that with just a little effort from each of us, our world will be a better place for all of us. You can follow [Capitán Canarias](#) on Facebook or YouTube.

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Hidden Gems

Lajares to Corralejo walk

Written by Jules.



For this edition, I decided to do something a little closer to home. How's a lovely 10k walk from the bustling village of Lajares back to Corralejo through some great wild volcanic scenery strike you?

I started at the football stadium in Lajares at the top of the road to Majanicho, which is easily reached by catching the number 8 bus from Corralejo. The bus route goes on a bit of a roundabout tour, but it gets you there soon enough, and you'll see some extra bits and bobs along the way.

Follow this road for about 1km, past a couple of lovely little bars and eateries on your left. You'll see Agua Tiki, Fuerte Vida and Kikere. And as tempting as it may be, no, it's far too early to pop in for a cold one just yet!

On the right you will see the track leading off towards



the first volcano, and there is a chance at this point there will be a few camels loitering around in the "Camel parking" zone. I recommend staying up wind... just to be on the safe side. But if you want to gamble, on your head be it!

Follow the track up and round keeping the volcano on your right hand side. On this section there are some great views of the wild north shore in the distance.

After a while, there is a right-hand turn and the little crazy-paved path will take you up to the rim of the crater. This is one of the best on the island. Here, there is a viewing platform, but beware, this is also the hangout of a notorious chipmunk gang. The chipmunks are actually Barbary ground squirrels, but that sounds too posh to me.

As I sat quietly enjoying my lunch here, minding my own business, one of the little critters stole a piece of my tangerine and proceeded to devour it just out of arms reach.



Leaving Alvin to his stolen goods, I returned back down to the main path. After about 200m, you turn left and cut across a track which leads you to a dirt road that takes you all the way back down to the outskirts of Corralejo. You pass through some really dramatic and stunningly rugged scenery. This is part of the GR131 walking route, which runs the whole length of all the islands.

Now there's an idea...

This route could, of course, also be done the opposite direction. Finish in Lajares and then jump on the bus (it's the number 8, remember, and the stop is on the main road on the football stadium side of the road). Perhaps you'd rather jump in a taxi, which'll cost about €15, or on an odorous camel back to Corralejo. Your choice.

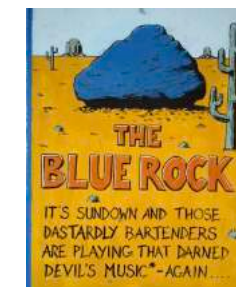
The path starts just behind the school, which is the first building down from the BP petrol station.

ENJOY!

ROUTE INFO:
DISTANCE - 10KM
RATING - EASY
TYPE- ONE WAY
DURATION - 2 HRS.
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Looking after your skin



Elisabeth Gierus

As an island that enjoys year-round sunshine, Fuerteventura is a paradise for many of us seeking the feel-good factor. However, we all know the damage that too much time in the sun can do to our skin, and we need to protect ourselves (and the environment) from the impact of the potentially dangerous chemicals contained in sunscreens and other cosmetics.

With this in mind, Team Breeze spoke to Elisabeth Gierus, an award-winning Danish cosmetologist, who is launching her brand new organic sunscreen and skincare range on the island in 2022.

As a specialist in how you can use natural ingredients to keep your skin healthy, an advocate for organic and vegan ingredients, and of course, a big fan of Fuerteventura, she has some expert advice for having fun in the sun safely for you AND the island.

Hi Elisabeth! Thank you for talking to us. What's your story?

Hi! I'd been working in skincare in Denmark since 1994 as a cosmetologist and make-up artist, when I was diagnosed with skin cancer in 2004 while pregnant.

This was a huge wake-up call, so I began to search for alternatives to the products I had been using my whole life and became an expert in how natural products can help keep skin healthy and beautiful.

I started making my own products at home, and then I launched my own brand and niche product range in 2007. Recently I was incredibly proud to be awarded a Danish Beauty Award whilst up against many famous international brands.

What is your connection to Fuerteventura?

My sister lives in Puerto del Rosario, so I love to visit on holiday! Everything feels so pure on the island - the volcanic landscape, the fresh air, the sunshine, the ocean. It's a happy place for me.

I was last there in November 2021 for a winter sun break, but also for meetings with distributors for my skincare range which is launching in FV in 2022. I'm hoping to be back in February to enjoy the island again.

Many people move to the island to enjoy the year-round sunshine. What advice can you give people about how to protect their skin in the sun?

Choosing the right SPF is key! Not only in terms of



making sure you don't burn and cause skin damage (especially for sensitive skin types), but also in terms of the ingredients that your body can absorb from the products. Many products contain parabens and chemicals that pass through the skin and can affect our hormones, digestion and more.

New Spanish law has recently banned many dangerous ingredients, but it is still important to research the ingredients of your sunscreen and other cosmetics.

What natural products can people use at home?

You're blessed on the island to have lots of natural resources available to you! Natural salt can be used as a body exfoliator. The ocean and fresh air are Mother Nature's healers. Aloe Vera is a wonder plant that soothes the skin and aids many skin conditions. Work with the environment to look after your skin and body.



What about the impact on the environment?

Natural products not only benefit the body, but also the planet! Many products contain micro-plastics that pollute the ocean and are consumed by marine life. Chemical-laden sunscreens also enter the water when people go swimming and can damage the coral. Choosing eco-friendly, vegan options is better for both us and the environment.

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This product contains natural active ingredients with shea butter, aloe vera and hyaluronic acid that has been well-documented to give an anti-aging effect.

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Living the dream

Education, education, education

Many families, especially post-lockdown, dream of selling up in their native homeland and taking that leap to move to a better life in the sunshine. They seek less stress, outdoor living, more family time and a fantastic childhood for kids and young people of all ages thanks to a fantastic year-round climate, great beaches and a welcoming community spirit - sounds perfect doesn't it?!

But what about education? Would you know what's involved in uprooting your child from their local school and moving to a new education system in a foreign country?

No? Well, thankfully Breeze has gone to that trouble for you. Read on to find out the all important answers you'll need to know to make your dream a reality.

GUARDERÍAS, COLEGIOS Y INSTITUTOS - THE CANARIAN SCHOOL SYSTEM - HOW DOES IT WORK?

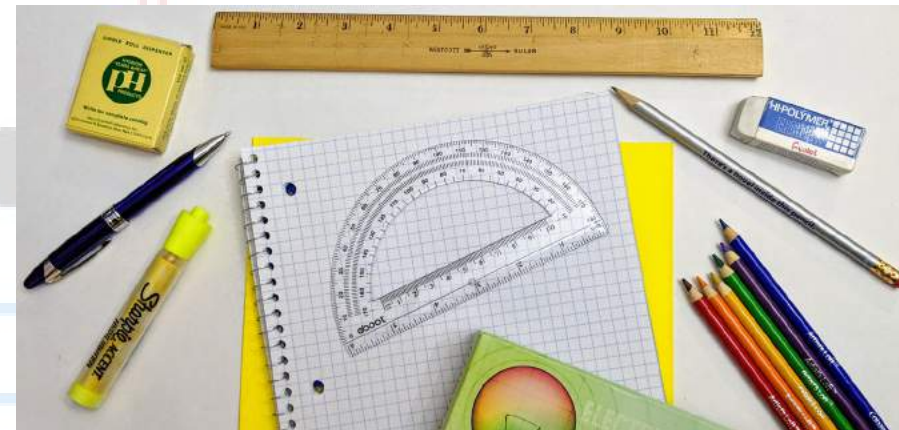
Full information regarding each school in a given area is available on their website, but the key details you need to know are as follows:

- Compulsory education starts in the calendar year when your child turns six, but the majority of little ones attend either a public or privately-run nursery (guardería) from as young as one..
- This is followed by 'educación infantil' between ages three and six.
- Primary education begins at age five or six depending on your child's birthday, with the typical school day running from 8.30am to 1.30pm including a break (snack-time) followed by school lunch for those staying behind to eat.
- Secondary education begins in the calendar year your child turns 12, and consists of four years of compulsory education before the majority of students opt for a further two years of Bachillerato (16+) or professional qualifications at a further education college.
- At high school, the day usually runs from 8.00am to 2.00pm, which includes a 30 minute break. Lunch is not included, with most students eating their main meal of the day at home.

So that's the basics covered, but what do you really need to take into account when moving to a new school in a new country? We spoke to Alicia Maestegui del Palacio, head of high school IES Corralejo, to find out everything you need to know.



Alicia



Hi Alicia... Thank you for talking to us. What information can you give families looking to move to Fuerteventura in relation to putting children into school?

First of all, I'd like to reassure your readers that we are here to help and there is no need to worry. That being said, there are definitely some ways to make your integration into your local school community easier.

Great - what's your biggest piece of advice?

Perhaps unsurprisingly, I'm going to say that learning the language is the thing that is going to make the single biggest difference for you and your child...

It is important for children of all ages (and their families), but often, younger children will find a new language easier to pick up. They tend to adapt quicker, so I would particularly stress the importance of Spanish classes for high school students. This can particularly be an issue for English-speaking pupils, who can be at risk of isolation if they find it difficult to engage with their peers.

Of course we are here to help, whatever your native language, and there is plenty of support available, but undoubtedly school-life will be much easier from the outset if your child is able to fully engage in their lessons, feel more confident and make new friends. If you are thinking of moving to the island, I would strongly recommend starting language classes in your country of origin as soon as possible.

What support is the school able to offer?

We can offer up to five hours a week of additional Spanish classes to students to support language learning and particularly to improve confidence in speaking. However, these are five hours when students would normally be attending other lessons, so if they're not needed or only required for a short period of time, it's better all round.

Classes are also available for parents via the school's on-site language school 'Escuela de Idiomas', or of course they could attend intensive or regular classes at Stronger Together!

What about the school year? Is there a best time to start?

Absolutely yes. If it is at all possible, I would highly recommend starting at the beginning of the academic year in September. If students join midway through the year, it can result in months of lost education where they are struggling to catch up, followed by a lengthy summer break, so it really is better to start the year with the other students if you can. It's the ideal time for both the school and the student in terms of being able to start the school year in the best way possible.

As a good rule of thumb, you should start the transition to a new school in March or April before the academic year begins in September. You need to apply for all schools, primary or secondary, directly through their website at this time. Unfortunately, it's never 100% guaranteed that your chosen



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school has a place, but the earlier you apply, the better chance you have. Your provisional space will then be confirmed in June, and the matricula (registration) is completed ready to start in September.

As a high school, we have up to 40% foreign residents and well over 40 different nationalities in our student population, so we are very experienced in supporting new students who join our institute.

I have a teenage son or daughter... is the process the same for primary and secondary schools?

As a general rule, yes. However, things are a little more complicated if your child is 16 or over.

Post-16 education is not compulsory in Spain. Therefore, you are not entitled to enrol on a course or gain an educational place in the same way as is the case for younger children.

In order to join the Bachillerato or enrol in a college course, you will either need to repeat the 4th year of high school to graduate with the necessary qualifications, or have the qualifications you have achieved at home validated by an official organisation in Puerto del Rosario.

Ok great - we've followed the above steps and we have a place! What do we need to think about now?

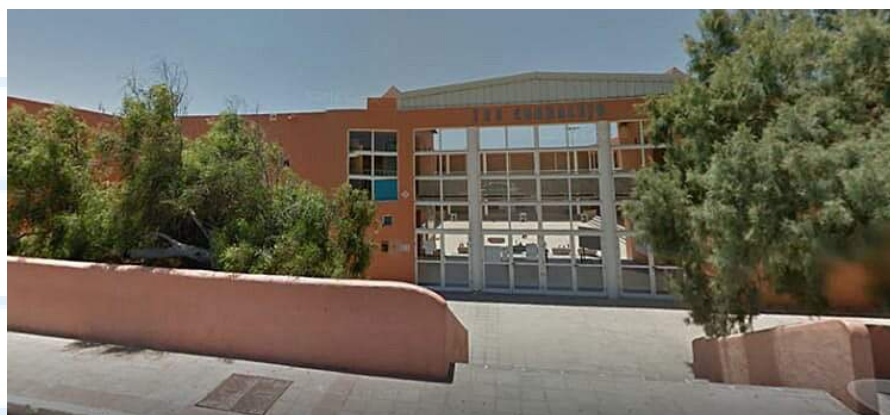
Understandably, certain aspects of school life are going to be different to what you are used to at home. I would encourage you to talk to your child's school individually, but here are some general things to consider:

- Books and resources: unlike some countries, you are required to buy all your own books and resources here in the Canary Islands. This may sound complicated, but once you have completed the matricula, you are provided with a list and the contact details of the suppliers, who will ensure you have everything you need to start the new school year. There are also grants and support available for low income families.
- Transport: school transport is only provided to students that live in a school's designated admission zone. If you enrol in a school outside of this, you will need to arrange your own transport. It is rarely a problem for primary aged children, but perhaps something to think about for high school students.
- After school activities: as a high school we provide relatively few extra curricular activities, but know that these are a hugely important part of a young person's life. As well as additional Spanish classes, I would highly recommend looking at the Ayuntamiento's sport and activity programme for lots of new things to try!



And finally, is there any other advice you can give our readers?

Come to our parents' evenings and other school events (even if you're not that confident in Spanish) as they are a fantastic way to help your child to achieve their best and become part of the family. Organisations including Stronger Together can support with translation to ensure the best relationship between the teachers and the family.



Secondary School - IES Corralejo

It is so important that families and teachers get to know one another, not only for their child's academic education, but also for all manner of pastoral support. We can help with lots of aspects of moving to a new country, so please ask.

Please talk to us and become part of the school community - we are here to help!

www.iescorralejo.org



Augustin Kivunghe - My experience

Things moved fast for Augustin Kivunghe. After first visiting in 2010, and then buying a house here in 2015, he saw a gym was up for sale. He already had gyms in Luxembourg and his native Belgium, but the long hours that restricted family life had taken their toll. He made a decision, and three weeks later he was the owner of the gym here!

We wanted to know more ... Augustin, what's your story?

Hi! Yes, I moved here in 2015! Initially I was living on my own here, setting up the business, but eventually my family were able to join me and we could all start life here as a family, including settling into the local schools.

Perhaps unsurprisingly, the kids quickly discovered that things weren't going to be like they were when they'd been on holiday here. And this proved to be a bit of a bumpy road!

Two of my children joined a primary school, while a third went into high school. One of my kids found it pretty difficult to integrate. However, the school was fantastic.

Teachers recognised the need for a little extra help, and that's exactly what was given. She was even put into a class all by herself where the focus was on learning Spanish.

Fortunately, everything has worked

out brilliantly and my children all now consider themselves majoreros, But I would do things slightly differently if I were to do it all again. Everything was done on the spur of the moment! I should have planned it better and arranged Spanish tuition for my family prior to them moving here - it would have definitely made their first few months on the island a lot easier. Thankfully, though, once settled, the kids loved their new school life and have enjoyed a well-rounded education and the best of island life ever since.

Definitely follow your dreams. Go for it, just like I did, but remember that having a plan and having done your homework properly will make things so much easier for you. And, of course, for your children.

Augustin's bootcamps are more popular than ever - he's even been on Belgium television talking about his business and life in Fuerteventura - find out more at @AKFitCoaching

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Property

Let's talk lettings

With many of our clients not living on the island, we thought it would be a good idea to look at what you can do with your property once you have purchased on Fuerteventura.

OPTION 1 - HOLIDAY LETS

This option can be the most lucrative of the rental options as it generates the best return on your investment. However, there are many things to take into consideration.

One is that you will require a VV or V licence from the town hall. This is what gives you the right to rent your property by the night. Paradoxically, an individual tourist rental licence can only be granted in a residential complex, so if you have purchased an apartment in a tourist complex, you will not be granted a licence for holiday lets.

Once your application is presented, you can legally start to advertise your property for holiday lets and use platforms such as Airbnb, Trip Advisor and Yrbo (previously Owners Direct).

If you don't live on the island, you will require a property manager to help take care of the guests and the property. The management company will liaise with the owners, meet the guests, organise the cleaning and laundry, and take care of any damages and any other issues that may arise.

Another thing to bear in mind is that there are taxes to pay on this income, which vary depending on your country of residence. Therefore, it's vital to speak to an accountant before making your decision.



Audra

OPTION 2 - LONG TERM RENTAL



In terms of income, this is the more consistent option: you're guaranteed a monthly income. Be aware that 'long term' means a stay of at least three months. The monthly rates attainable vary, but the most important thing to take into consideration is that you will not be able to use the property yourself anytime soon. So this could be an issue if you planned to use it for your own holidays.

The tenant pays for water, electricity and wifi, with the owner responsible for the annual council tax and community fees. You might also decide to pay a management company to collect the rent and deal with any property issues that may arise during the tenancy. There is no licence required for long term rentals, but, again, this is a taxable income. Remember, normally, the landlord is responsible for replacing white goods and major items during the tenancy, but this is down to the bespoke contract between you and your tenants.

OPTION 3 - LOCK UP AND LEAVE

If renting doesn't appeal to you, but you want to make sure your property is looked after, then it's a good idea to contract a management service to check the property at agreed intervals - once a week, once a month, for example.

For a small fee, you get peace of mind knowing your property is just as it was when you left it.



VILLA NINA - Stunning 3 bedroom, 2 bathroom townhouse in Corralejo with private heated pool and stunning decoration for rent from 1050 euros per week contact ali@albapropertyfuerteventura.com



To finish off with, I want to say a huge, huge 'thank you'. In the run-up to Christmas, my colleague Alison and I decided that we'd like to help out the most needy in town by collecting donations and buying presents for children who'd otherwise not get any. We were overwhelmed by the level of support we received from residents and those who keep the island close to their hearts despite not living here. Thank you so much.



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Expert *financial advice*

By Kevin Birtles Managing Partner PCC

Digital Finance and Senior Citizens

Considering the rate at which technology is progressing, it is no doubt that we are living in the golden age of technology. Financial technology (fintech) especially has had a profound impact on the way we navigate through our day-to-day lives. The days of cheques, paper statements, and bills sent by post are soon to be over. For many, they already are. Britons are increasingly using services and products provided by fintech companies to manage their finances. In fact, it is becoming such an integral part of the global financial infrastructure that we are heading towards a cashless society more quickly than ever before. According to The Guardian, note and coin payments dropped by 35% in 2020.

The pandemic has caused many to switch to cashless payments because businesses have been promoting contactless and mobile as the preferred methods of payment. This was largely because these methods were believed to decrease the risk of virus transmission. However, many companies have kept their cashless policies intact even though the world is beginning to return to some semblance of normalcy. 10 years ago, half of all transactions were made using cash. Now, cash is used for only one in six payments.

It is no surprise that the younger generations are largely embracing this tech transformation. With smart phones and tablets at their fingertips from such a young age, it is no wonder why the youth is so digitally literate. Understanding how to navigate a digital program is practically second nature to them. In many instances, and not just for young people but also for the average person, these technological shifts have made our everyday processes easier and far more efficient. However, if we continue to move away from cash and move towards more fintech solutions, we must also consider the older generations.

According to Age UK, a registered charity aimed at helping older people, around 2.4 million people over the age of 65 relied on cash daily in 2020. Having effective and readily available banking services is essential for managing one's finances, which in turn makes it an essential aspect of life. Therefore, because the elderly population still relies so heavily on cash and physical bank branches, they are at risk of financial exclusion. This would only work to increase the divide between them and the rest of the society that is growing more digitally literate by the minute.

To avoid this, promoting financial inclusion is essential. This means ensuring that financial services and products are accessible to all individuals. To be in control of one's finances promotes autonomy. This in turn allows the individual to feel a sense of safety and empowerment, making the ageing process that much easier. Thus, access to these resources is a necessity.

Unfortunately, physical bank branches are at risk of becoming obsolete as technology advances. Some brick-and-mortar institutions are already closing all around the UK. Since 2015, 4,299 bank branches have either been closed or scheduled to close. There are communities that this has happened in, where one bank branch was removed, resulting in the high street being without a bank. Some new emerging banks don't have any physical branches at all. Companies like Monzo and N26 offer banking services that are entirely online. This causes great problems for those that do not use digital banking. For this demographic, it is necessary to have a network of branches in order to effectively manage their finances.

This is largely the reason for why ministers announced in the 2020 budget that they would implement policies protecting access to cash. Nevertheless, the country's cash system is still in peril because the income of cash-sorting centres and ATMs is declining. It is no longer a matter of waiting for cash-users to switch to digital banking. This may never happen, and many businesses have already transitioned into being completely cashless. And unfortunately, physical banks cannot single-handedly solve this issue. With the rate of closures, it is becoming more difficult for people to rely entirely on in-person banking for their financial needs.

Additionally, if a person has less access to digital resources, this opens opportunities for fraud and scams. Official crime figures showed that a person aged 65 or older becomes a fraud victim every 40 seconds in England and Wales. Scammers are savvy, and they typically target those who live alone, are likely home in the daytime, have savings or valuables, and are more willing to speak with them. In just two weeks, seven cases of courier fraud were reported in Lancashire. In addition to this, a sum of £23,500 was stolen from three elderly residents through telephone scams. This is precisely why digital literacy is imperative as cash is phased out.

For those apprehensive about digital banking, the best place to start is on a desktop computer rather than an app on a smart phone. This will be easier to navigate, and you can always download the apps to your mobile once you gain confidence. Additionally, many banks offer a live online chat option. Some even allow you to book appointments for video calls.

At PCC, we understand how digitalisation risks leaving people behind. That is why we are committed to a user-friendly approach that helps our clients understand how they can effectively manage their finances. Our advisers are always here to answer your questions about lost pensions, retirement planning, investments, and more. Contact Managing Partner, Kevin Birtles, today by emailing him at Kevin.Birtles@pccwealth.com

Island Guide Fuerteventura



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Highlights of El Cotillo

El Cotoillo is coastal town situated on the northwest coast of Fuerteventura, surrounded by some of the island's best beaches, and is easily accessible from Corralejo, Lajares and La Oliva by car, bike, public transport, as well as on foot for those who enjoy the challenge of a longer walk (4-5 hours from Corralejo along the north track). Team Breeze headed there for a Sunday stroll to check out the latest goings on...

If there's one thing El Cotillo is known for, it's undoubtedly its incredible beaches - arguably some of the best in Europe. To the north of the centre, you can find the family friendly Playa La Concha and Los Lagos, whereas to the south is Playa La Piedra - it's crashing waves and stunning sunset making it a firm favourite with surfers.

Once a sleepy fishing village, the town is now an increasingly buzzing location, with new work spaces, roof-top bars, boutique shops and independent eateries all popping up alongside the traditional fish restaurants of the old harbour.

From old favourites like La Vaca Azul set in its unforgettable location and serving some of the best fish on the island to new fusion concepts such as Pintxos where you can enjoy the perfect sundowner, you can find great food for any occasion including vegan cafes, poke, paella, fresh seafood, tapas and much more.

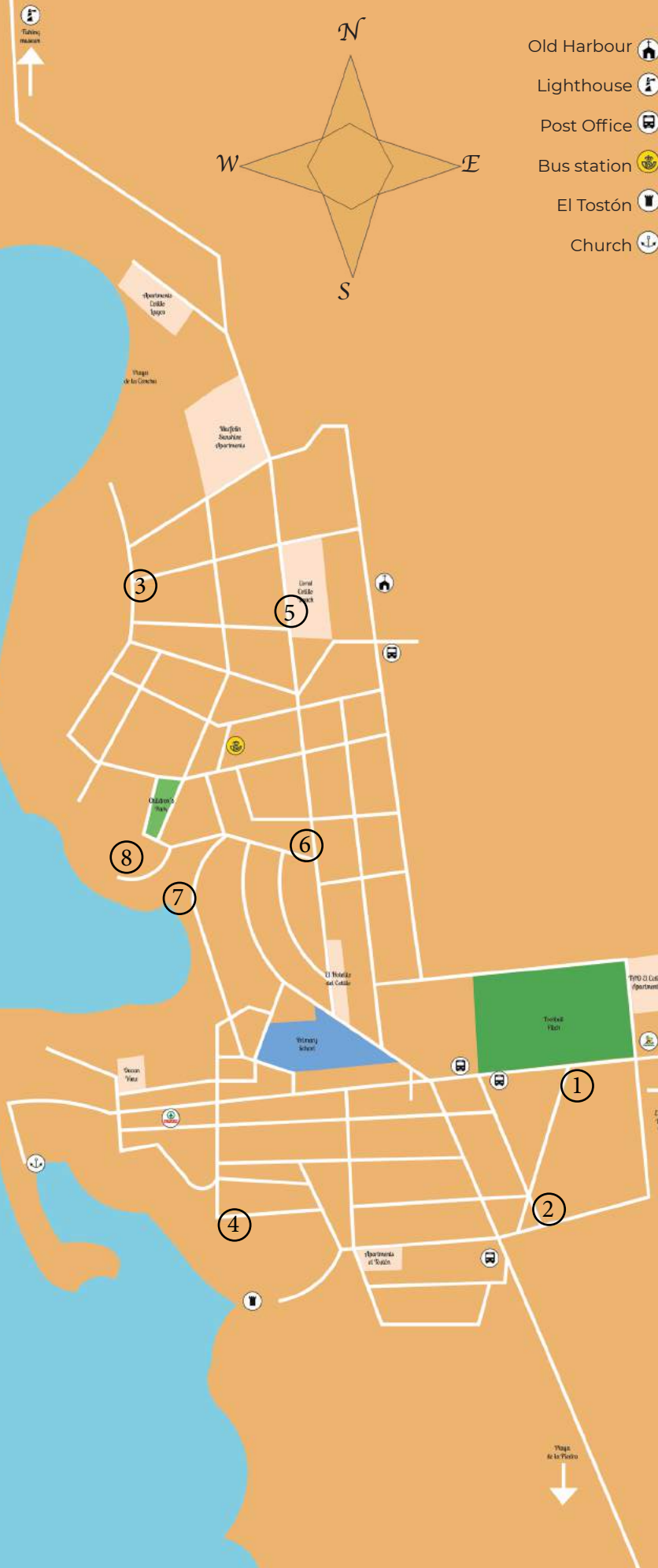
It's also a fantastic place to try new activities such as cycling or all manner of water-sports. Or if that seems like too much like hard work, why not simply enjoy a saunter around the old town, drinking in the views, enjoying the street art and browsing the local shops.

Whether you choose to stay in the now-bustling resort or head there for a day out from your base, you'll find something for everyone.

Watch this space for more from El Cotillo coming soon - we'll definitely be back!



El Cotillo



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- Petrol Station
- Taxi
- Bus Station
- Tourist Info
- Church
- Shopping Centres: El Campanario, Las Palmeras

8



Flicks



10



THE BLUE ROCK



12



SHAKERS
COCKTAIL BAR



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ISLAND HOME
Aparthotel Corralejo



16




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PUNTA ELENA
BEACH



19



SUNSET
Lounge



20



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21



Citrus
SURF CAFE & RESTAURANT



23



El Patio
TAPAS & GASTROBAR

24



UGA - UGA
Restaurant - Cocktail Bar



Thank you from us

Well, that's it. You've made it through to the end of our latest issue of Breeze. Thank you.

We hope that you've enjoyed it and found at least bits of it helpful.

Stronger Together Fuerteventura is growing day by day and is continuing to expand its range of services to you.

So, whether you need help with:

- › residency issues
- › resolving medical matters
- › translation
- › learning Spanish

Or whether you've got something else that's giving you a headache ...

We can help.

Now, the level of ongoing interest in our Spanish classes tells us how far word has spread. But what you might not know is that we're now expanding what we can offer to our members.

Sometimes when dealing with our members, we hear grumblings along the lines of 'I'm no good with all of this technology stuff' or 'can you give me a hand with the online bits'. And that got us to thinking. We realised that many people just haven't been shown the basics. So, we spoke to local technology wizard Darren, and are now offering training in a range of computer skills completely FREE of charge.

To join the Stronger Together family and enjoy free expert advice, exclusive discounts and avoid missing out on the peace of mind that membership guarantees (or just to have a chat) email us today at strongertogetherfuerteventura@gmail.com

P.S. If you're looking to move here, contact us now, and you'll get all the necessary help you need well in advance. It could save you a lot of money.



For more info: email Tara at strongertogetherfuerteventura@gmail.com

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IT Workshops

We will be running a series of **FREE** IT workshops with Darren, a specialist with many years' experience of running courses and working in IT.

The workshops will take place once a week from 12noon-2pm in our office in Corralejo on Mondays / Caleta on Thursdays.

Below is a list of the courses proposed with dates:

1. Staying safe online 7 Feb / 10 Feb
2. Introduction to Social Media 14 Feb / 17 Feb
3. Using the internet 21 Feb / 24 Feb
4. Using email 28 Feb / 3 Mar
5. Using Microsoft Word 7 Mar / 10 Mar
6. Using Microsoft Excel 14 Mar / 17 Mar
7. Using Microsoft Powerpoint 21 Mar / 24 Mar
8. Social Media for business 28 Mar / 31 Mar
9. Using your Smart Phone 4 Apr / 7 Apr
10. Get to know your tablet 11 Apr / 14 Apr

For more information please contact Susanna at strongertogetherfuerteventura@gmail.com

Local government offers free accredited training in digital skills to anyone aged 16 or over

Having launched last October in Fuerteventura, the Cabildo's new BECAMOS2021 initiative offers island residents the fantastic opportunity to become officially certified in digital skills.

One of a range of courses available, BECAMOS 2021 aims to improve digital expertise on the island. It is part of a project designed to give workers the opportunity to gain accreditation and build on skills they may have obtained informally at work or at home.

After the success of the pilot programme run with interns at the Cabildo this summer, BECAMOS 2021 will now be rolled out over the coming months in the island's educational centres, business and professional associations, and public administration organisations.

This initiative is subsidised and is offered free of charge.

Anyone aged 16 or over is eligible to apply for the course in order to develop the skills they need to gain the official MOS (Microsoft Office Specialist) qualification.

BECAMOS 2021 is a project developed by the Department of New Technologies in Fuerteventura in collaboration with the Esplai foundation. It is supported by RED CONECTA, Microsoft and Ministerio de Sanidad, Consumo y Bienstar Social. In addition to the BECAMOS 2021 programme, other courses being launched include digital robotics, 3D printing, and an introduction to artificial intelligence.

For more information visit: www.semillainnova.com

"I now have an official Microsoft qualification, which is incredible. To get that for free is genuinely amazing! Thank you."



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Gratuito

Organiza:



Colaboran:





conocer para proteger *medio ambiente*

A new programme in 2022 by Cabildo de Fuerteventura

'Back home'

Interpretive tales, songs and stories about endangered species, are used to highlight the release of injured animals via rescue centres.

'Our coastlines'

An initiative to increase knowledge of the island's coastline, promote an understanding of the challenges currently being faced and raise awareness of the work being done to conserve them

'Get to know your island'

This aims to awaken a curiosity in young people to discover new things and take on the challenge of actively participating in the conservation of Fuerteventura's flora and fauna

'Green footprints'

Encourages people to go walking and enjoy the natural environment and sights of the island, whilst showing the importance of conserving the biodiversity of the area through respect for the landscape.

CONOCER PARA PROTEGER' is a new innovative, educational campaign that is designed to increase awareness of environmental issues in schools and community groups.

Find out more at www.cabildofuer.es