

sotavento -fuerteventura

Sixty miles off the west coast of Africa lies Fuerteventura: Aptly named, the literal translation of 'fuerte' being 'strong' and 'ventura' describing the 'accelerated winds'. Although the second largest of the Canary Islands, it is the least populated. The main tourist areas are Corralejo in the north and Costa Calma & Morro Jable in the south. The rest of the island is relatively isolated with small villages of whitewashed houses and windmills found dotted along the roadways.

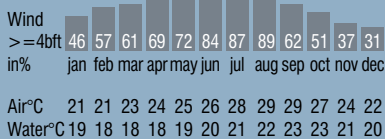


Sotavento

20 years ago, the magnificent beach of Playa Barca had little more than the Bar Costa Calma and a few private villas dotted around a barren, windswept, Sahara like landscape. Only 1½ hours drive from the airport, it is now a bustling, small resort. More commonly known as Sotavento, it is now one of the most famous venues in the world hosting the PWA Windsurfing and PKRA Kiteboarding World Cup events in partnership with the Rene Egli Fuerteventura Centres.

Fact File

- Best Time:** April – October.
- Launch:** Huge, wide sandy beach.
- Wind Direction:** Cross off-shore from left.
- Wind Type:** Tradewind. Unique double venturi creates exceptional cross-offshore winds.
- Shorebreak:** Slight.
- Water Conditions:** Flatwater, some windchop.
- Suitability:** Intermediate/Advanced, Slalom/Speed/Wavesailing. Beginners at Centre II.



RENE EGLI FUERTEVENTURA

Centre I – main centre on 1km beach next to Meliá Gorriones Hotel (10 mins walk). Deep water from beach. Facilities include sheltered sunbeds, use of showers, bar and free W-LAN. Rescue, repair shop & storage.

Centre II – on the beach 4km from Meliá Gorriones. Restaurant/Bar & sunbeds. Shallow, tidal lagoon Kit Range: 2010 JP and Starboard approx 400 boards and 1000 rigs. Neil Pryde sails, size 1.5-7.2m².

Board Hire 1 wk from £217 from 2 wks £363

Kite Centre: Large dedicated kite zone for instruction, launch and landing.

Shallow, tidal lagoon perfect for training. Compressor. Rental: Cabrinha approx 120 boards and 350 kites 3.5-14.0m². All 2010.

Kite Hire 1 wk from £252 from 2 wks £424

Instruction: All levels. VDWS - children (windsurf min. 8 years / kite min. 50kg), beginners, refresher, technique specifics, private. IKO taster. Certificates charged locally.

Other Sports: Diving, Cycling, Surfing. SUP free on all rental packages.

Excursions: Local bars & restaurants in Costa Calma. Historic town of Morro Jable.



Sailing Spot & Conditions

With specific local conditions, the prevailing north-east trade wind receives a double acceleration effect making the wind substantially stronger and the perfect freestyle, speed and slalom spot. Consistent winds, flat water and waves up to 2m with the right conditions. The wide beach & tidal lagoon offers a vast kitesurfing training zone with no shortage of space. The second centre, a short 5 minute drive, has more sheltered conditions with a lagoon for windsurf beginners and training.



Meliá Gorriones Hotel



Location: 1 hour drive South from Rosaria airport. Set on a huge, undeveloped beach. Local town Costa Calma 10 minutes drive away.



Accommodation: A stylish, modern hotel with 418 spacious, air conditioned double rooms with sitting area. Flatscreen TV, minibar, safe, bathroom with bath tub and balcony with sea/garden views. Executive 'Level' rooms with exclusive services and areas.

Facilities: Main buffet style restaurant, pool restaurant & snack bar with terrace. Several bars, Fun Pub for regular evening entertainment/disco. 3 pools, tennis, gym/spa centre. Children's pool, play area, free Kid's Club (5-12yrs), with babysitting (extra fee). Extensive tropical gardens & direct access to beach. Gift shops & mini-market.

Windsurfing/kitesurfing: Pro Centre Rene Egli centre next to the hotel about 10 minutes walk away. Bookings office and shop in hotel.

Casas Del Mares



Location: Located in the grounds of the Sol Gorriones, the Casas del Mar suites are in a separate building away from the main hotel building.

Accommodation: 144 air conditioned rooms, double bed with sitting area (sofaded), kitchenette with basic equipment, microwave & fridge (no cooker). Flatscreen TV, safe, bathroom with bath tub, balcony or terrace with panoramic sea views.

Facilities: Use of all facilities at Hotel Gorriones. Access 5-10 minutes walk through gardens.

Windsurfing/Kitesurfing: Rene Egli Centre 1 is 10-15 minutes walk or 5 minutes by car. Centre 2 is 10 minutes by car.



Prices (7 nights) from:	Low	High
Meliá Gorriones	£549	£889
Casas Del Mares	£619	£949

Price includes return flights, accommodation & car hire.