

Tenerife

In December 2008 a group of Location Managers and Producers travelled from a particularly grey and cold Gatwick Airport and flew to sunny Tenerife. Once there we were met by Concha, from the islands film office. After a short drive under a warm sun we found ourselves around a large table eating local produce and chewing over all that we were to see while on Tenerife.

I must admit to knowing very little about the island other than its tourist hot spots. However it soon became apparent that there is a great deal more to the place than poorly behaved British tourists.

The trip split into two distinctive sections. The first section being a recce, over three days, of the sites. We saw huge modern stone and steel event spaces that screamed out as lairs for Bond villains. We also had the opportunity to see fantastic, almost cathedral-like white auditoriums. This is a place that encourages modern design that contrasts as much as complements the traditional buildings. But it's the combination of old world architecture and the variety of natural vistas that sells Tenerife best. The island is the result of the volcanic activity, and the areas closest to the Volcano are vast, grey and unwelcoming moonscapes. As the mountain roles down towards the coast it passes through lush rain forests and then, as the clouds clear, into alpine woods. The laws (regarding the protection of the natural environment) and logistics for filming in these areas would put restrictions on crews but it is manageable.

The second part of our trip saw an opportunity to meet with local companies involved in "film making" whether it be casting and extras agencies or camera and equipment high firms. These firms would be essential contacts should you want to film on the island. It would appear that with enough run-up time these local hire companies such as 24 – 6.com are able to source any equipment. However the only real stumbling block for filming on this stunning island is the paper work. A "carnet" is required when transporting any equipment on to the island. From my experience of Production Managing shoots in New York and Istanbul this is a real stumbling block. If the Tenerife government is serious about attracting the film industry they would be best advised to wave this piece of red tape.

Tenerife has a fantastic climate, warm and sunny for much of the year. She has dark sandy beaches, tourist resorts, vicious cliff lines, lush forests, Mediterranean towns and uninviting lunar planes. Between its locations, both natural and man made, and its desire to be film friendly this is certainly an island that lends itself to location shoots.

Your first port of call, should you want to consider Tenerife for a shoot is Concha the island's film officer. Her email is: concha@webtenerife.com and her office number is: +34 647 346462. Their web address is: www.tenerifefilm.com and you will find them very helpful!

For the lucky few see below...



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