
ARMAS
FRED. OLSEN
ESPECIALES

The Port Briefing Series

Landfall

Santa Cruz de Tenerife

The Canary capital beneath a volcano - a warm Atlantic city of a soaring opera house, a great carnival, and the ghost of Nelson

Santa Cruz in a Nutshell

Capital of Tenerife, largest of the Canary Islands - a Spanish city off the coast of Africa, crowned by the volcano Teide, famous for its carnival, and the place where Nelson lost his arm in 1797

Port Day

Thursday 5 November 2026

A short orientation before you step ashore

Where in the World



African Waters, Spanish Soil

A Spanish archipelago far out in the Atlantic, closer to the Sahara coast than to mainland Spain

In Teide's Shadow

The city climbs from its harbour beneath Spain's highest peak - Teide, a 3,715 m volcano

Local Time - Same as the UK

The Canaries keep British time, and sit an hour behind mainland Spain

0h	0h	+5h
vs GMT	vs UK	vs New York

The Facts at a Glance

950,000 Islanders

On Tenerife, with about 210,000 in Santa Cruz, the capital

The Euro

The Canaries are part of Spain - and enjoy special low-tax prices

Spanish

The language, with English widely spoken in the tourist heart

Mount Teide

Spain's highest peak at 3,715 m / 12,188 ft, a UNESCO volcano

Eternal Spring

warm and bright the year round, the islands of endless spring

The Guanches

the aboriginal Berber islanders, here long before Spain came



The Spanish Flag the blood-red and gold of Spain, its arms flanked by the Pillars of Hercules - the ancient edge of the known world, which lay just here in the Atlantic

What Tenerife is Known For

Mount Teide

Spain's highest peak, a UNESCO volcano crowning the whole island

The Great Carnival

The second-largest carnival on Earth, after only Rio de Janeiro

Eternal Spring

Warm and bright the year round - drawing sun-seekers for a century

The Guanches

The aboriginal Berber people, and their mummies in the city museum

A Volcanic Land

Black-sand beaches, lava fields and cool, high pine forests

Canarian Wine

Volcanic-soil wines once shipped and praised across all Europe

What Santa Cruz is Known For

The Auditorio

Calatrava's soaring white wave of a concert hall on the waterfront

Plaza de Espana

The great circular sea-water lake at the very heart of the city

The Carnival

The city's own dazzling February festival, a riot of costume and music

Las Teresitas

A golden beach of Sahara sand beneath the Anaga mountains, north of town

The African Market

A Moorish-styled market loud with fish, tropical fruit and flowers

Garcia Sanabria

A lush subtropical park that doubles as an open-air sculpture museum

A Famous Son of the City



Dominguez

Born 1906

Born on Tenerife in 1906, Oscar Dominguez became one of surrealism's wildest imaginations. From Paris he befriended Picasso and Breton, and in 1935 brought the surrealists to Santa Cruz for a landmark exhibition

Inventor of Decalcomania

He pioneered the dream-technique of pressing paint to conjure strange landscapes

The Dragon Tree of the Canaries

Breton's own name for the fiercest imagination in the surrealist movement

He Brought Breton Here

In 1935 he lured the surrealists to Santa Cruz, which Breton declared a surrealist island

Three Things They Will Not Tell You

1

Nelson's Arm is Here

The cannon 'El Tigre', said to have taken it in 1797, sits free in the old castle beneath Plaza de Espana - most passengers walk right past it

2

Teide Is a Big Commitment

Spain's highest peak is glorious but far - a full excursion, an hour each way plus a cable car; you cannot nip up independently in a port day

3

Mind the Siesta and the Market

Some shops shut from 1 to 4pm, and the wonderful African market closes at 2pm - so see it early in the day

Don't Mention... with wounded pride, that 1797 was a rare Nelson defeat - the Canarians are rightly proud of it, so wear it with good humour

Money - What It Buys

The Euro

The Canaries are part of Spain - the same euros, and famously good value

£1 buys about **€1.16**

£1 buys about **$1.32**

Eating and drinking here cost noticeably less than on the Spanish mainland

Low-tax islands - perfume, tobacco and electronics are cheaper than the mainland or the ship

Indicative mid-market rates, November 2026

What You Might Reasonably Pay

Coffee	Beer or Wine	A Barraquito	Papas con Mojo
€1.50	€2.50	€2.50	€5.00
about £1.30	about £2.15	about £2.15	about £4.30

Top Tips to Save

- The waterfront and Plaza de Espana cost nothing to enjoy
- The El Tigre cannon and old castle beneath the plaza are free
- The TEA art centre and the city's churches are free to enter
- Garcia Sanabria park and its sculptures are free and lovely

Why Here? The Founding



1494

The Holy Cross

On 3 May 1494 the Castilian conqueror Alonso Fernandez de Lugo landed on this shore and planted a cross - Santa Cruz, the Holy Cross. It was the bridgehead for the conquest of Tenerife, and the end of the Guanche kingdoms

Lugo's Landing, 1494

The conqueror raised a cross on this beach and named the new settlement for it

The Guanche Fall

Tenerife was the last island to resist - its Berber kingdoms subdued by 1496

A Staging Post

The port grew as the last stop for Spanish fleets bound for the Americas

Nelson's Repulse, 1797

The Arm Left Behind

In July 1797 Rear-Admiral Horatio Nelson led a night assault on Santa Cruz, certain of an easy prize. General Gutierrez's gunners and militia cut the landing to pieces. As Nelson stepped onto the mole he was struck in the right arm by grapeshot - said to be from the cannon 'El Tigre' - and it was amputated aboard HMS THESEUS that same night. The attack failed, and the arm never left



See El Tigre for yourself - the very cannon stands, free to visit, in the old castle beneath Plaza de Espana

Two Hundred Years Ago



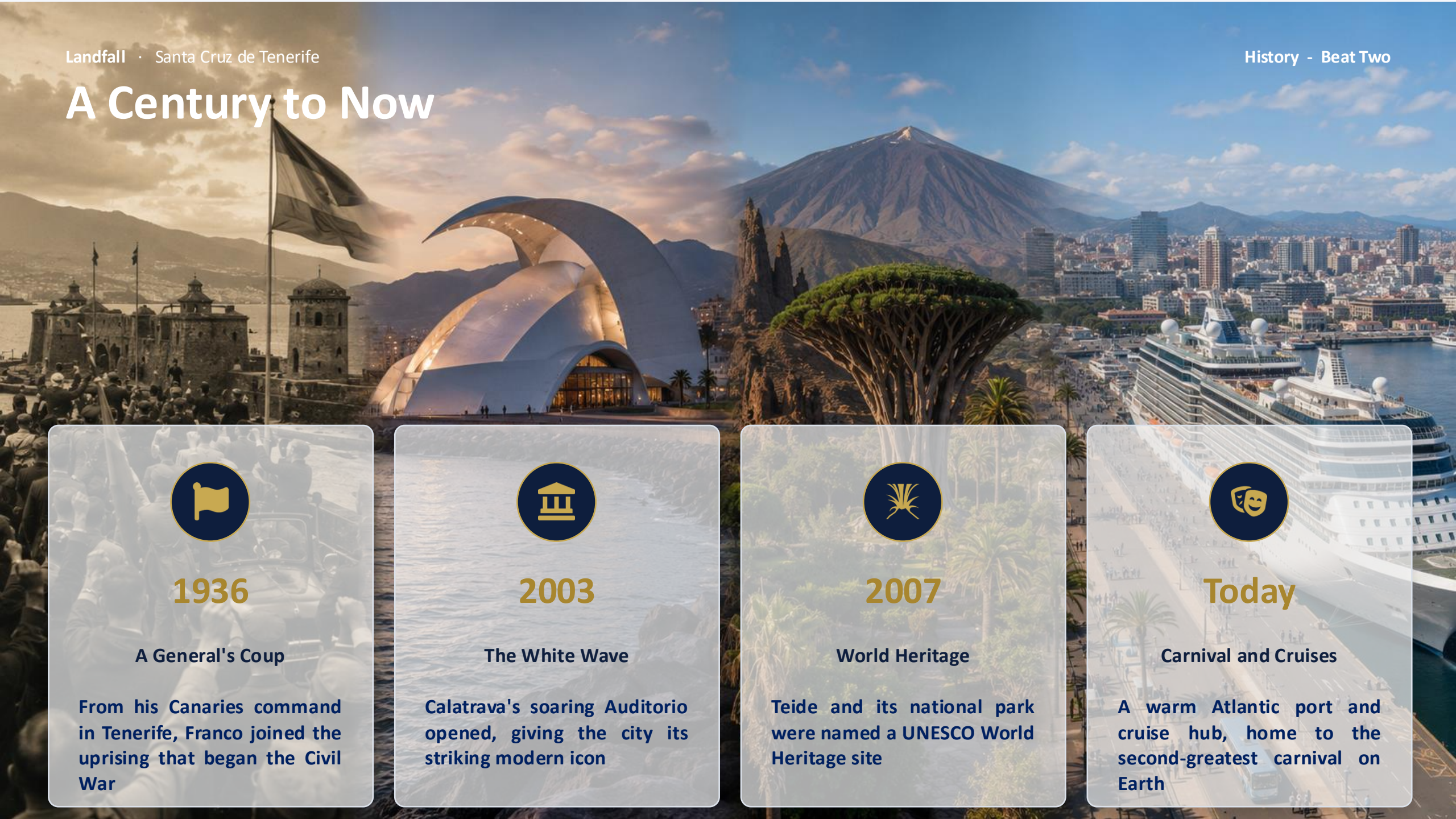
1822

Capital of the Canaries

Two centuries ago, Santa Cruz was rising fast. In 1822 it was made capital of the whole Canary archipelago - a fortified Atlantic port, its harbour the gateway between Europe, Africa and the Americas, still bristling with the guns that had seen off Nelson

Capital, 1822	Santa Cruz was named capital of the Canaries, over older and grander La Laguna
Atlantic gateway	Its harbour was a vital staging post between Europe, Africa and the New World
Fortified still	The batteries that had repulsed Nelson stood guard over a growing port town

A Century to Now



1936

A General's Coup

From his Canaries command in Tenerife, Franco joined the uprising that began the Civil War

2003

The White Wave

Calatrava's soaring Auditorio opened, giving the city its striking modern icon

2007

World Heritage

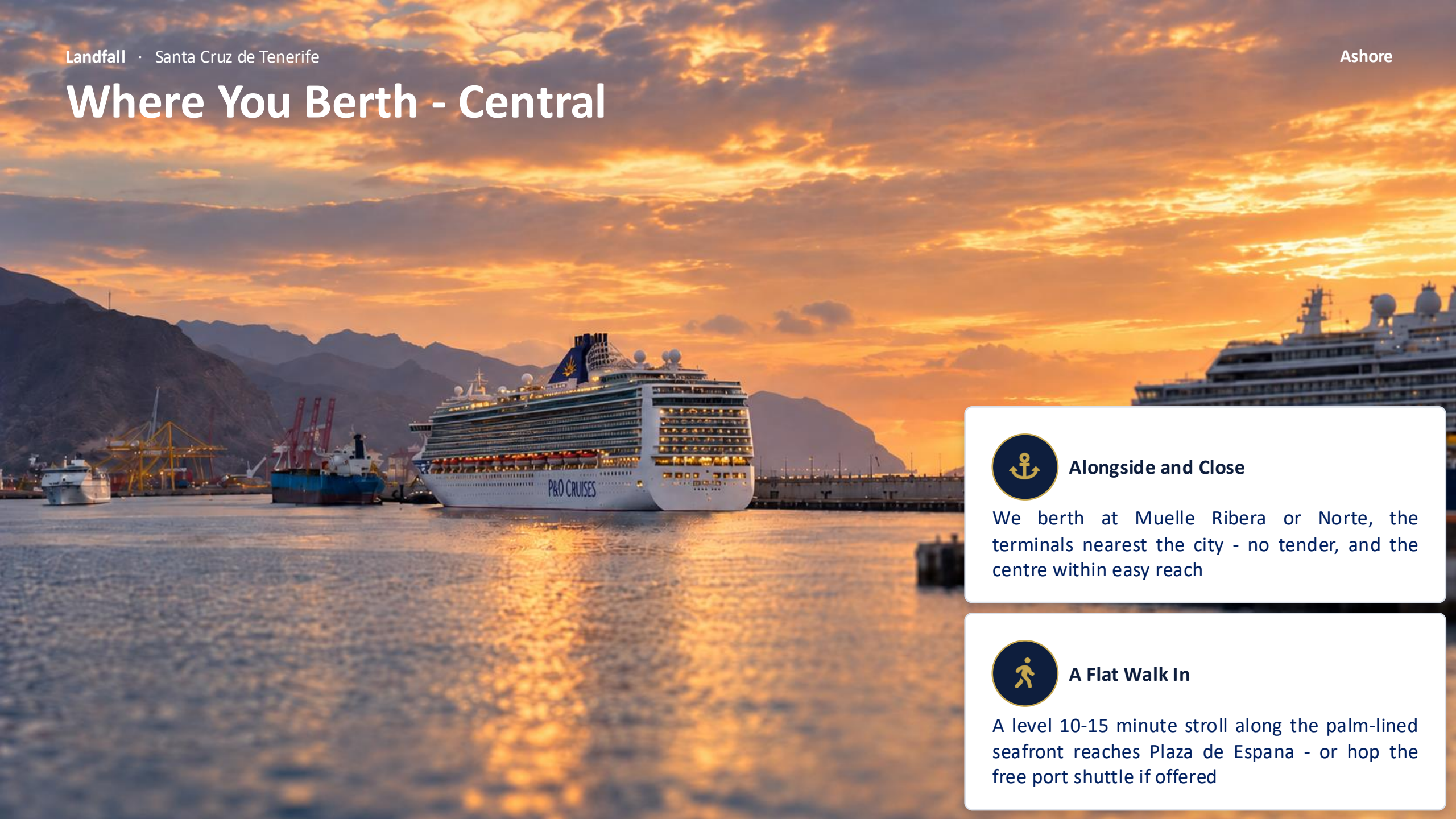
Teide and its national park were named a UNESCO World Heritage site

Today

Carnival and Cruises

A warm Atlantic port and cruise hub, home to the second-greatest carnival on Earth

Where You Berth - Central



Alongside and Close

We berth at Muelle Ribera or Norte, the terminals nearest the city - no tender, and the centre within easy reach

A Flat Walk In

A level 10-15 minute stroll along the palm-lined seafront reaches Plaza de Espana - or hop the free port shuttle if offered

The Best View - and the Walk

The Best View

Teide, and the City Gardens

The grandest view is from Teide itself, on a tour. In town, climb to the Palmetum or Garcia Sanabria for city and ocean, or take the waterfront by the Auditorio in the afternoon light

- **Mount Teide** - the grandest view of all, from Spain's highest peak (by tour)
- **The Palmetum** - a hilltop palm garden by the sea, with fine views over the bay
- **The Auditorio Front** - the white wave against the ocean, best in the afternoon light

The City Centre Circuit

Terminal to Plaza de Espana

0.9 km / 0.6 mi · **12 min** · flat waterfront

Plaza to the African Market

0.6 km / 0.4 mi · **via Calle Castillo** · shops, cafes

The church and museums

clustered · **Concepcion, MUNA, TEA** · old town

On to Garcia Sanabria

0.7 km / 0.4 mi · **gently uphill** · gardens, sculpture

The whole centre is flat and compact - an easy couple of hours on foot, with the plaza, market, museums and park in a tidy loop

The City, or the Island



The City on Foot

Flat, Compact and Free

- Plaza de Espana and El Tigre beneath it
- The African market and Calle del Castillo
- The Concepcion church and the old town
- Garcia Sanabria park and the Auditorio

The Island Beyond

A Tour, a Tram or a Bus

- Mount Teide, Spain's highest peak, by tour
- La Laguna, the UNESCO old capital, by tram
- Playa de Las Teresitas, the golden beach, by bus
- The Anaga mountains and their laurel forest

Santa Cruz on a Budget



Waterfront and Plaza

The palm-lined seafront and the sea-water lake of Plaza de Espana are free

El Tigre and the Castle

The cannon and the underground castle ruins beneath the plaza cost nothing

The TEA Art Centre

Herzog and de Meuron's building and its galleries are free to enter

The Concepcion

The mother church of Santa Cruz, with its cedar and its bells, is free

Garcia Sanabria

A subtropical garden and open-air sculpture museum, open and free

Las Teresitas

Golden Sahara sand for the price of a 1.50-euro bus ride north

For the Cultured

MUNA Museum

The Guanche mummies and the natural story of the islands (about 5 euros)

TEA Art Centre

Contemporary art in a striking Herzog and de Meuron landmark (free)

The Auditorio

Calatrava's great white wave, with guided tours of the interior (about 5 euros)

The Concepcion

The five-naved mother church of Santa Cruz and its landmark tower (free)

The Military Museum

Nelson's captured battle flags and the story of 1797, in an old fort (free)

Plaza de Espana

The sea-water lake and the castle ruins and El Tigre cannon beneath (free)

Landfall · Santa Cruz de Tenerife – Outside Cruise Terminal




Landfall · Santa Cruz de Tenerife – city Centre

Landfall · Santa Cruz de Tenerife - African Market





If You Do One Thing

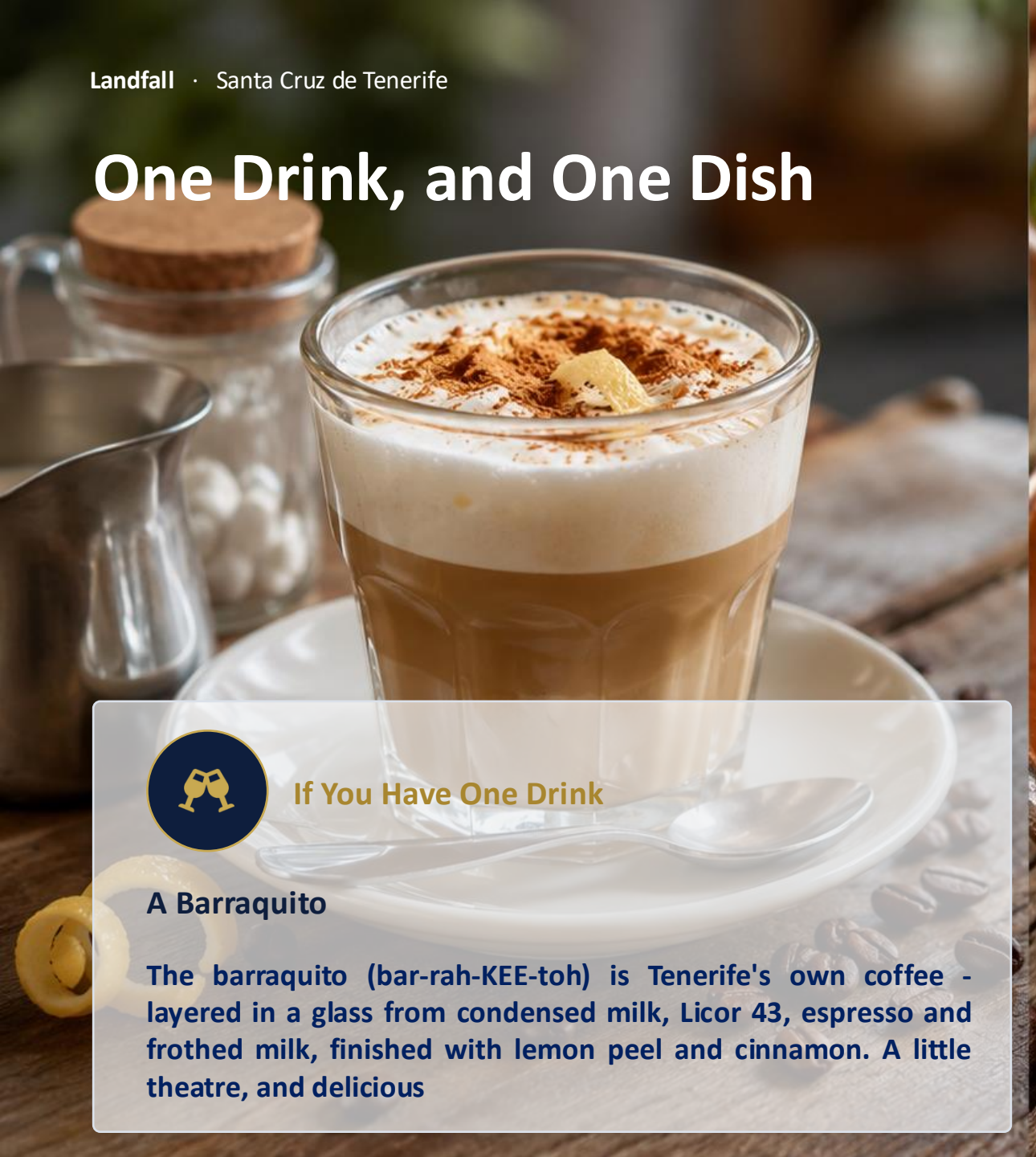
Ride to the Roof of Spain

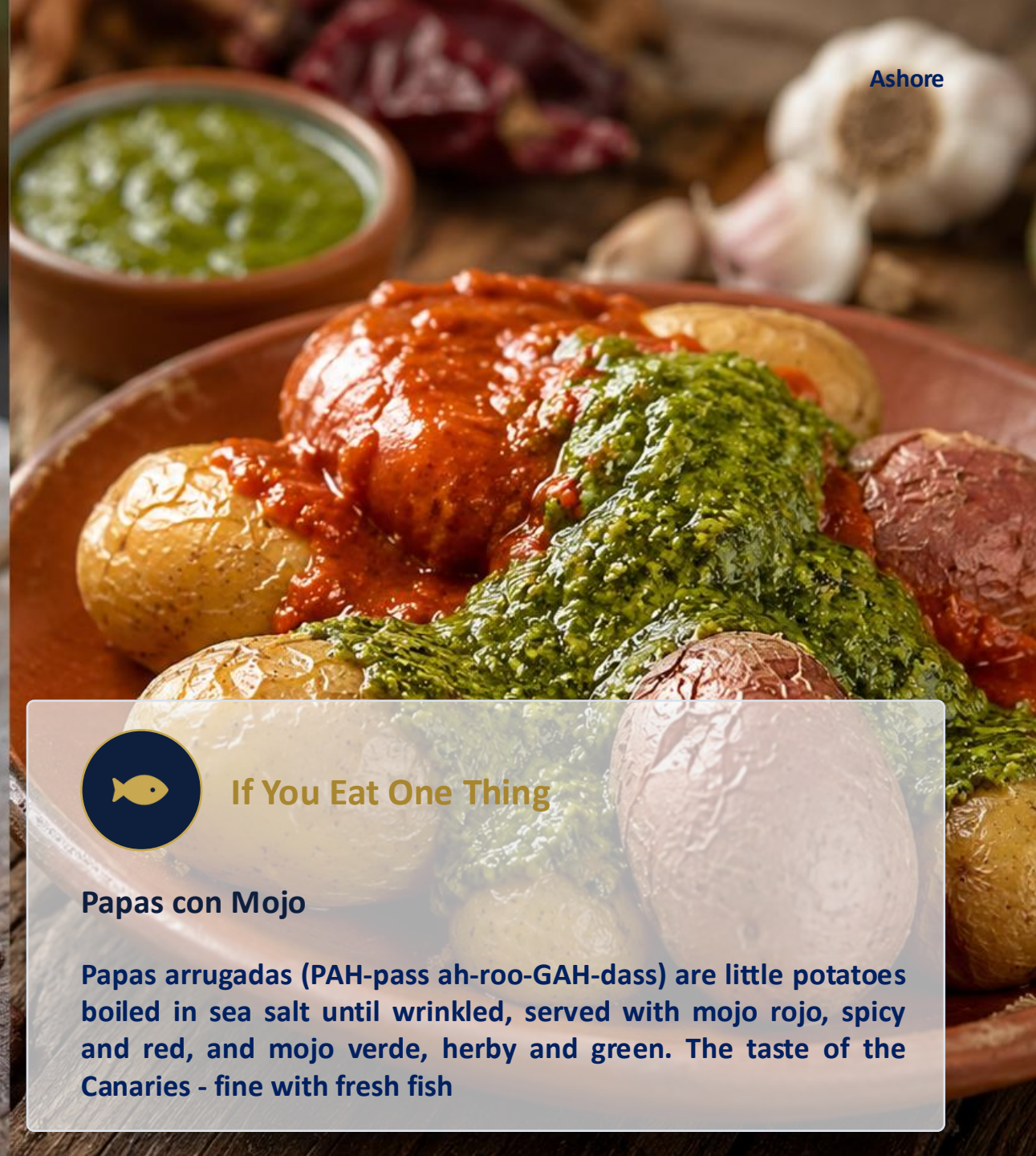
If you have the day for it, take a tour up into the Teide National Park - an hour's climb through pine forest into a vast volcanic caldera, a moonscape of lava beneath Spain's highest peak. A cable car lifts you towards the 3,715 m summit, the island and ocean far below



A full excursion - book through the ship; the summit cable car is about 40 euros return

One Drink, and One Dish





If You Have One Drink

A Barraquito

The barraquito (bar-rah-KEE-toh) is Tenerife's own coffee - layered in a glass from condensed milk, Licor 43, espresso and frothed milk, finished with lemon peel and cinnamon. A little theatre, and delicious

If You Eat One Thing

Papas con Mojo

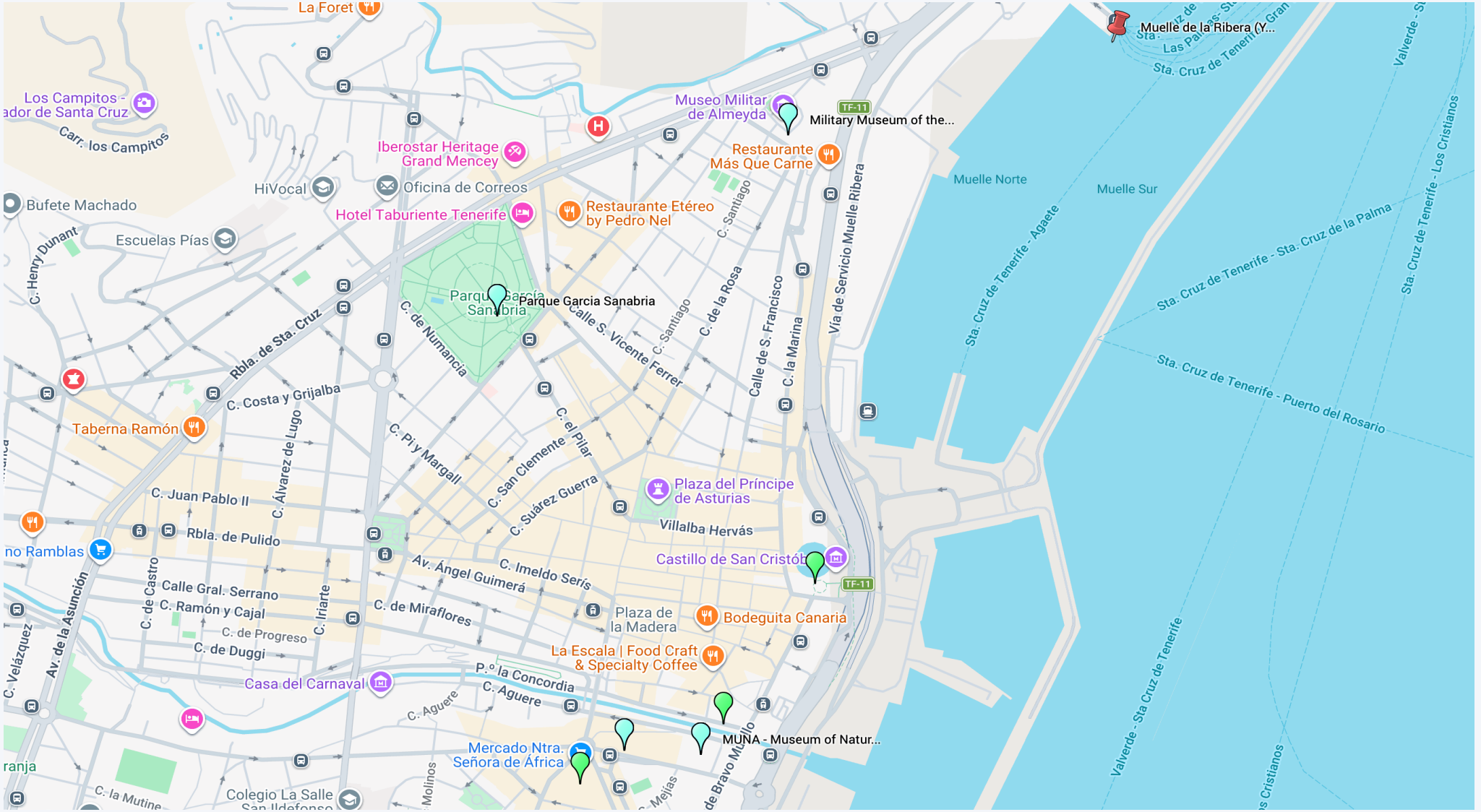
Papas arrugadas (PAH-pass ah-roo-GAH-dass) are little potatoes boiled in sea salt until wrinkled, served with mojo rojo, spicy and red, and mojo verde, herby and green. The taste of the Canaries - fine with fresh fish

Santa Cruz in Motion



Expedia's Guide to Tenerife

The Lie of the Land



The Lie of the Land



Apps Worth a Download

A few apps to smooth and enrich your day ashore - grab them on the ship's wi-fi before you step off

Google Maps

Pin the plaza, market and museums - and save Santa Cruz to use offline

TITSA

The island's buses and tram - a single ride is about 1.50 euros; note there is no Uber here

Google Translate

Handy Spanish, though English is widely spoken in the tourist centre

Your Cruise App

The all-aboard time in your pocket - and the walk back is only 15 minutes