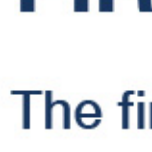


CANARY ISLAND



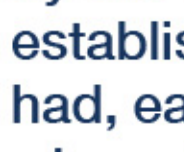
ORIGIN

The Canary Islands are part of an archipelago of volcanic origin, that is, as a group of islands that have been formed by the constructive action of volcanic activity in the ocean. Their origin dates back to the middle of the Tertiary age, 35 million years ago.



FIRST INHABITANTS

The first inhabitants of the islands were the North African Berbers who arrived on the islands between the 5th and 1st centuries BC. Receiving the name of Canarian aborigines, popularly known as Guanches.



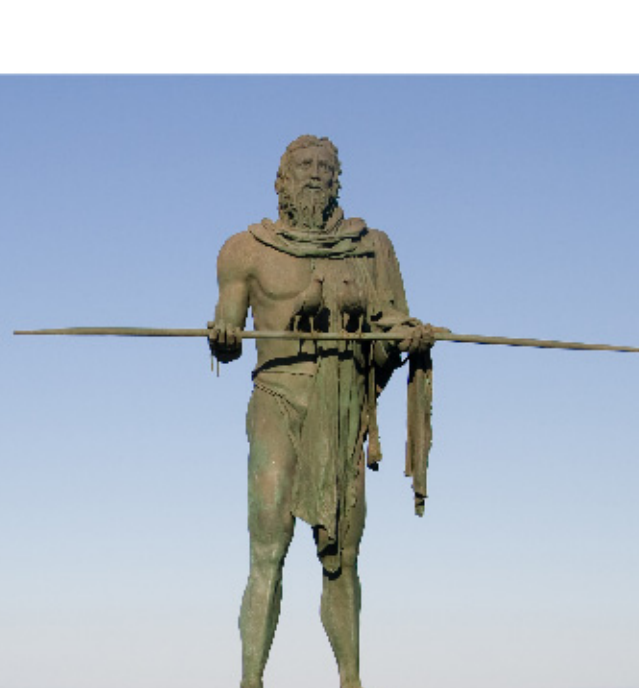
These Guanches were divided into strata defined by the wealth they possessed, this being established mainly by the heads of cattle they had, each island was divided into territories whose king was known as the guanarteme in Gran Canaria and mencey in Tenerife. Kings who were high-ranking nobles and to become a mencey, said purity of blood had to be demonstrated.



The economy was based fundamentally on livestock, made up mainly of goats and sheep. Using both its meat and its milk and butter, as well as the skins for making clothing, the bones for making decorative elements and the horns for making manual plows. As for agriculture, it was fundamentally cereal, cultivating species of wheat and barley, where one of the main uses of cereals was the elaboration of the traditional gofio.



The aborigines developed great hunting and fishing skills using rudimentary methods. The Canarian aborigines lived mainly in caves or in volcanic tubes, although there were also stone shelters, cabins and villages on the surface. There were settlements where later the Europeans founded cities and towns, such as Añazo, which today is the city of Santa Cruz de Tenerife, or Agüere, where the city of La Laguna is located.



The aborigines stood out for having a very robust physical appearance with large shoulders, brown skin and beautiful features and with a height between 164 and 170 centimeters for men and between 152 and 158 centimeters for women. The language spoken by the Guanches was a set of varieties of the Berber languages (inhabitants of North Africa).

The Guanches had their own religion, polytheistic and animalistic, this being a religion in which the aborigines had their own gods, different on each island. Regarding the funeral ritual, the Guanches stood out for mummifying their deceased with very diverse and sophisticated techniques, being these buried in remote caves accompanied by a funeral trousseau necessary for eternal life.



The end of the aboriginal or Guanche race came during the conquest of Tenerife, at the end of the 15th century, where the Guanches suffered a terrible epidemic with symptoms similar to the flu that struck the population and paved the way for the seizure of the island, according to the historian's said disease that they called "drowsiness" killed about 5000 aborigines.



HISTORY

During its history, the islands have gone through several attempts at conquest, from the year 1402, when it was the Norman army who attempted it, and from the year 1477, which was initiated by the crown of Castile.

Although perhaps the best known has been that of the year 1797 where the well-known British admiral Nelson, hero of the battle of Trafalgar, attacked Santa Cruz de Tenerife without imagining that he would find a part of the native civilian population who, at the head of the General Gutiérrez, managed to defend the port of Santa Cruz de Tenerife.

The islands, like the rest of Spain, were ruled by the Franco dictatorship between 1939 and 1975.



PRESENT

The Canary Islands are an archipelago located in the Atlantic Ocean that forms a Spanish autonomous community. And it is also one of the outermost regions of Europe.



The Canary Islands are made up of eight islands; Tenerife, La Palma, El Hierro, La Gomera, which make up the province of Santa Cruz de Tenerife and the islands of Gran Canaria, Lanzarote, Fuerteventura and La Graciosa which make up the province of Las Palmas de Gran Canaria.