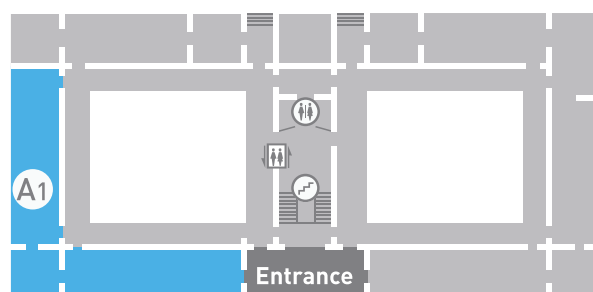


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GROUND LEVEL



A1 Origin and nature of the Canary Islands

1st FLOOR



A0 Culture, discovery or population "

A3 Rock Carvings in the Canaries

A1 The Collections

A4 Classroom Teaching

A2 Archaeology of Tenerife

2nd FLOOR



A0 Canarias over time

A3 Biological Anthropology

A1 The Collections

A4 Classroom Teaching

A2 Prehistoric Canary

A5 Gallery

MUSEUM OF NATURE AND ARCHAEOLOGY

The current Museum of Nature and Archaeology began with the creation, by the Tenerife Island Council, of the Museum of Natural History in 1951 and the Archaeological Museum in 1958, following the acquisition of important naturalistic and archaeological collections. Currently, the pertinent collections of both 'founding museums' are exhibited at these premises.

The building that houses the Museum of Nature and Archaeology, one of the most important cultural centres in Tenerife, was originally the Hospital of Our Lady of the Forsaken. Its construction began in 1745 and it underwent major architectural redevelopments until the last work on its expansion in 1920. The part including the main façade, which was remodelled in the late 19th century, is one of the most prominent examples of Canarian Neoclassical architecture and perhaps the masterpiece of the architect Oraá y Arcocha.

By 1979, the work had begun on its restoration and adaptation as the Museum and Centre of Cultural Activities, and in 1982 rooms were set up, which allowed the Museum to exhibit its natural history collections for the first time.

Inside the building, four courtyards of equal size provide brightness to the galleries. Around two of the courtyards, that overlook the main façade from both sides of the hall, approximately 32,300 ft² have been allocated to the permanent exhibition: the Archaeological Museum collection surrounding the leafy courtyard of Manuel de Oraá and the Museum of Natural History collection along the walkway that encloses the courtyard of Las Palmeras.

GROUND LEVEL:

Introduction to the Canary Archipelago

Learn about the origin of the Canary Archipelago and approach the natural wealth of the beautiful islands of Macaronesia. To start your tour, head towards the left side of this floor, starting from the entrance hall and skirting around the courtyard of Manuel de Oraá. On the ground level (Floor 0) you can also find other services like a teaching classroom, a library and a cafe. The room for temporary exhibitions is located on the lower level

(Floor -1).

01.txt Canary Islands: an archipelago in the Atlantic Ocean

This large satellite image reflects the condition of the Canary Islands in the geographical context of Macaronesia. Macaronesia is one of the planet's most important biogeographic regions. It includes the oceanic archipelagos of Azores, Madeira, Savage Islands, Canary Islands and Cape Verde.

This interesting Atlantic area used to provide a refuge for the important flora that lived in southern Europe and North Africa during the Tertiary Period, which today is extinct on these continents. It shelters a unique biodiversity, rich in endemic species that are the product of insular evolution.

02.txt The origin of the Canary Archipelago

This Area summarizes the most accepted hypothesis on the origin of the Canary Archipelago: the hot spot theory; from the beginning of the separation of the continents, over 200 million years ago, and the subsequent formation of the Atlantic Ocean.

Hot spots are areas of the Earth's mantle which have higher temperatures, resulting in the production of magma. When lithospheric plates move over a hot spot, a string of progressively younger islands emerges as the distance from the continent increases. The age span of the Canary Islands ranges from 20 million years for Fuerteventura, the oldest island, to one million years for Ferro, the most recent island of the archipelago.

03.txt Biodiversity

The oldest islands of the Canary Archipelago surfaced from the sea over 20 million years ago. Since then, plants and animals from the nearest continents have managed to cross the Atlantic Ocean by different means and reach the islands.

Among those that managed to arrive, some species survived and adapted to the new conditions, colonising the habitat. Over time, many of them evolved and started differentiating from their continental ancestors, giving rise to new, entirely endemic species, which are exclusive to the Canary Islands.

The percentage of Canarian endemic species is extremely high. For example, it exceeds 33% of the group composed of flowering plants and ferns, it extends to around 40% of insects, makes up over 60% of spiders and, finally, among terrestrial molluscs, the endemic wealth reaches 80%.

04.txt **Canarian ecosystems**

The first part of the room is equipped with six pairs of monitors, each dedicated to a vegetation zone. They are ordered from the lowest to the highest altitude, so that the first one covers the coast, and the last one, the high mountains.

Within each vegetation zone, the left monitor schematically shows its location and altitudinal position, as well as concise data on precipitation and temperature. The right monitor shows the characteristic species of fauna and flora, landscapes, and brief comments on certain adaptations of living creatures with respect to the habitat in question.

The audio-visual material at the back of the room displays images of the environment, as well as cultural and architectural manifestations.

1st FLOOR: ARCHAEOLOGY

With the creation of the Archaeological Museum in 1958, on the initiative and under the auspices of the Island Council, all archaeological material and anthropological remains of the *Guanches*, the first settlers, who had inhabited Tenerife before the Europeans had conquered the islands, have been gathered into a single collection. These items, which have been part of various municipal and private collections, have been brought together with the remains exhumed in archaeological excavations carried out since the 20th century to the present date. They were originally located in the building of the Island Council and were transferred to their current location in 1994.

We dedicate this part of the first floor exclusively to the archaeology of Tenerife. We begin with a large selection of archaeological materials that have, until recently, been part of private collections. Next, we focus on the physical characteristics of the insular environment in relation to its colonisation. We then go on to describe the daily activities of the *Guanches*, their habitat, territorial organization, religion and funerary practices. Finally, we present the rock art of the islands as a whole.

01.txt **Culture, discovery and settlement**

We start the tour in the **Area 0**. The collections of the Archaeological Museum and the Museum of Natural History converge in this introductory area, dedicated to the colonisation in order to explain, from a double perspective, human settlement and the rich biodiversity of animal and plant species we can find in the archipelago.

The arrival of man at the Canary Islands was marked by geographical, cultural, technological and economic factors; the migration of Mediterranean and North African peoples to an Atlantic archipelago was justified by the search for products like purple dye or fish.

The **purple** dye extracted from a marine mollusc which can be seen, along with other dyestuffs, in the top right corner of the fourth display, was an important economic resource and a manifestation of exclusivity and power in ancient times. Its high price was expected to yield a profit on the cost involved in the long journey to the islands. Our research on Lobos, an islet located between Fuerteventura and Lanzarote, confirms the existence of a Roman purple dye production workshop from the 1st

century. In his narrative of the expedition of Juba II to the Fortunate Isles, Pliny mentioned Purple Islands on which this Mauretanian king had decided to manufacture Gaetulian purple dye. On the second floor, Area 0, we will have the opportunity to see a fabric dyed this colour.

Our waters also make up an area of enormous fish wealth. In ancient times, the industry of salting and sauces such as *garum* was a lucrative activity. Roman amphorae and other evidence suggest that fishing was another important motivation that fostered the discovery and subsequent colonisation of the Canary Islands.

Rome's decline and loss of interest in the islands from the 4th century determined the isolation and adaptation of each group to its insular environment, giving rise to the origin of Canarian cultures.

02.txt **The collections**

This large room gathers human remains, terrestrial fauna and objects of varied nature: ceramic containers and necklace beads, insignia of power (*añepas*), spears (*banots*) and other wooden tools, punches and hooks made of bone, mills, spheroids or polishing stones, obsidian knives (*tabonas*), fragments of leather, etc. Most of them are characteristic elements of the *Guanche* culture, that have been selected by individuals unrelated to historical research from a large number of archaeological sites scattered over the islands. They all come from donations of large private and institutional collections.

Private collecting of archaeological remains has been a common practice on our islands, particularly in Tenerife, that has led to the loss of a large amount of scientific information and has, therefore, recently been curbed by the Historical Heritage Act of our community. In order to ensure the protection and social enjoyment of the heritage, this mandatory regulation states that all archaeological objects are of public domain.

Upon entering this room, in a small display case we find an *exceptional piece*: a human thoracic **vertebra** crossed by a wooden spear. Its study has yielded information on the sex and age of the individual, a 30-35 years old man, and the position of the victim in relation to his aggressor, either on a higher plane or lying on the side. Death overtook him a few hours after the attack.

03.txt **Archaeology of Tenerife: the island**

In this area, we approach the subject of insular settlement. At 12,198 ft AMSL, Teide is an excellent nautical point of reference in the geographical centre of the island with a coastal perimeter unequally accessible for human settlement. The trade winds and topographic relief outline particularly dense forest vegetation on the northern slope. Along with the vegetation and terrain, volcanic activity must have been an important barrier that favoured the setting up of the first settlements on the coast.

The piece that introduces us to this complex subject, the so-called **Zanata Stone**, was recovered from a high mountain hideout. The hideout is a type of deposit composed of different remains such as fragments of pottery, leather, stone, etc., hidden in small lava cavities. The common location of these deposits in karst areas of Las Cañadas del Teide may link them to ritual offerings made by the *Guanches* to avoid adverse phenomena deriving from volcanic eruptions.

The piece has an intended recess with an inscription, enclosed in an incised fish-shaped frame, which is written in a Libyco-Berber alphabet with atypical features. The inscription has been read as ZNT, and hence the ethnonym Zanata or Zenete, since it is a consonantal alphabet. Several Latin historians describe the pre-Roman people settled in the southwest of the Iberian Peninsula as Cinetes or Kineti. But we also identify the Zenata as an ancient nomadic tribe belonging to the great Berber cultural group in North Africa.

04.txt Insular settlement

The colonisation of an insular territory has specific characteristics. The loss of regular contact with the mainland implies that, for a successful settlement, the initial groups must have been formed by young individuals with a high capacity to reproduce and to adapt rapidly to new environmental conditions upon their arrival. These are the factors that enabled the survival, reproduction and subsequent settlement of this group of humans throughout our territory.

The dating of the caves of Don Gaspar and Las Palomas in the midlands, and the Los Guanches cave in the coastal area of the former menceyato of Icod, ranges between the 8th and the 3rd century BC. These date estimates are corroborated by a literary reference that mentions the establishment in Icod of a group of 60 individuals in immemorial time. It is possible that this area could have been chosen as the first settlement because it provides good conditions for subsistence.

The existence of different amphorae found under the sea of Tenerife proves the frequenting of our shores since ancient times. On the left, we can see the top of a **Roman amphora manufactured in Baetica** during the early Empire, between the 1st century BC and the 1st century AD. It is a container for shipping fish preserves, which was widespread throughout the western and central Mediterranean, the Atlantic seaboard and the Moroccan coast.

05.txt Production of goods: economy and food

The food of the *Guanche* population was closely related to their economy, the main activity being livestock farming, alongside agriculture and harvesting. These activities have left much evidence, as we can see from the numerous remains found in archaeological sites.

Currently, methods of chemical analysis are employed to know the food of past populations. The study of bones and teeth allows us to understand the proportion of plants and animal products from trace elements and also recognize their origin and type through the study of stable isotopes. The content of trace elements such as strontium, zinc or calcium in *Guanche* bones has shown that their diet was based mainly on meat and dairy produce. Vegetables represented a less important part of the diet, although the analysis of stable isotopes such as carbon and nitrogen has shown that the spectrum of plants consumed, either cultivated or wild, was quite wide. The consumption of vegetables was higher on the northern slope, due to the development of agriculture and harvesting. Despite the abundance of mollusc shells found in the numerous shell mounds (*concheros*) on the island, marine resources appear to have represented a very small part of the diet.

There are not a lot of markers of nutritional deficiency and associated diseases among the *Guanches*. They are concentrated in the north, in individuals between 6 and 10 years of age.

06.txt Production of goods: industry

Drawing on current research and experimentation, experimental archaeology reconstructs the techniques and knowledge applied by people in the past in the manufacture of different tools used in their daily activities. The goal is to determine the degree of complexity involved in each of the production processes and their meaning within the socioeconomic structure of the group that carried them out: from the collection of raw materials to the completion and use of the objects in the tasks assigned. To this end, in the four videos located on the upper level of this room, we reconstruct the work done by the *Guanches* in the production of various pottery, stone, bone and leather objects.

Although skin is a very delicate organic matter, our Museum contains exceptional examples of **skins treated by the Guanches**, found mainly in burial caves. The chronicles by the Europeans who arrived on the island at the end of the 15th century AD describe the skill observed in treating the skin of goat, sheep or pig, especially considering that metal was not present among the tools used. As we can see, some of these skins are decorated and many of them have been patched, indicating the best use made of the raw material. The Guanches used animal skin to make clothes and shoes, shrouds, pouches, leather flasks, sleeping blankets and other miscellaneous objects.

07.txt Models of settlement

Tenerife's coastal areas and midlands have been, from the very beginning to the present times, the preferred places chosen by man to live. This fact has had a negative impact on the conservation of aboriginal above-ground constructions, especially since the strong real estate development observed in recent decades. Therefore, the best known model of native habitat is the cave, followed by the cabin, represented in smaller proportion.

The caves are concentrated on ravine slopes and in coastal cliffs. The spaciousness of the cavity, its orientation and access to different resources, such as water and pastures, are all factors involved in their election as places to live. These are, precisely, the conditions that characterize the cave of Los Cabezazos, in Tegueste, replicated in the model.

The cabins, as we can see from this example from Ifara, in Granadilla, are built with blocks of dry stone without mortar, and may be separated from each other or form sets. The roof could have been covered with leather, wood or branches. The low height of the walls and the small size of their floors indicate that domestic activities would be mostly carried out outside the home.

A common type of above-ground constructions in Las Cañadas del Teide seemed to have a seasonal character linked to livestock farming or exploitation of lithic resources. They have very irregular floors and simple walls that use natural rock formations to rest on.

08.txt Guanche aboriginal room

The **fireplace** is one of the most important parts of the house and a particularly interesting spot for research. Its study allows us to know the diet of the *Guanches*, the way they used to prepare food, the species used to make a fire, or even to infer that in the past Tenerife had denser forests.

Food remains found in the fireplaces of some caves on the northern slope, to which archaeological methodology has been applied, confirm the consumption of goat, sheep and pig. Among foods of marine origin, especially limpets, winkles and some fish species like the parrotfish were consumed. Planting of cereals and legumes has been confirmed by the appearance of charred seeds of wheat, barley, beans and vetches or peas, as we can see in the central display case. Also, remains of palm, fig and vine have been found.

Not all foods, like pine nuts or *mocanes* (*Visnea mocanera*), for example, whose consumption has been confirmed, can be eaten directly. Many plant species are difficult to digest and need to be processed. Aside from the discovery of cereals mentioned, a written source exists with reference to the *gofio* of barley, roasted and ground in stone mills, which was a common food among the *Guanches*. Roasting is the simplest process. Meat and legumes were usually tenderised by cooking, which would be done in deep ceramic vessels, frequently used in places of habitation.

Heather firewood was appreciated for its good combustion qualities.

09.txt Territorial organization, religion and death

The chronicles from the 15th century AD tell us that the *Guanches* worshiped the sun, moon and stars. Heavenly bodies represented the different forces of nature which were governed by supreme beings. Teide was home to *Guayota* who expressed his evil power through devastating volcanic eruptions. Appealing to these powers ensured the protection of the group against disasters and calamities. The *Guanches* did not have temples in the strict sense of the word, but they did make offerings and conducted different practices in places of cult. These were open spaces, such as the so-called *baladeros* where, through the bleating of the flocks, they begged for rain in the face of cyclical droughts.

In the expression of religious cult symbolic, elements have been used that have not always left evidence. However, there are some objects that, for their uniqueness, can be linked to the world of beliefs. As an example, the stone mill that we can see is decorated in a way that goes beyond purely domestic functionality.

The existence of grave goods and the purposeful preservation of bodies reflect a profound belief in life after death. The aim of using stretchers or *chajascos* was to avoid the contact between the corpse and the earth, symbolising the separation between the two worlds. Above the top display, we can see a good example of such plank. It has lateral holes to fix the body with ropes or straps in order to carry it to the burial cave.

10.txt Rock carvings of the Canaries

The rock carvings are one of the most attractive archaeological elements of the Canary Islands. They are cultural manifestations located in the open air that, being vulnerable to the destructive effect of time, atmospheric agents and vandalism, have deserved the highest degree of heritage protection.

In order to facilitate their study, they have been classified according to their performance technique or subject. From amongst all the motifs, the alphabetical characters are of enormous interest, as they represent the different linguistic and cultural contexts existing in the archipelago in relation to the origin of its first settlers.

Among the figurative motifs, the depiction of ships stands out in coastal areas that offer clear visibility. They are boats with very different characteristics, that have witnessed the navigation through our waters since ancient times, which also indicates that the practice of rock carving outlived the time frame of European colonisation.

By screening the audio-visual material, we emphasize the close relationship between the rock carvings and the landscapes where they are found. Elevations or significant landforms, prominent outcrops with some spatial isolation, watersheds, mountain passes, resource provision points, etc., are the places chosen to perform these signs.

Some rock art may be related to collective rituals. The so-called *cup and ring marks* would be the setting for holding sacrificial ceremonies, pouring milk or water to run through this meandering network of grooves carved in the stone. According to the chroniclers, these practices were held in elevated places.

2nd FLOOR: ARCHAEOLOGY

We begin the tour around the second floor with two major pottery collections from ancient Egypt and the Berber area. Next, we take a brief overview of the early history of the islands of the Canary Archipelago, except for Tenerife which we feature specifically on the first floor. We conclude the visit in the rooms of Mummification and Bioanthropology.

01.txt Collection of ancient Egyptian vases

The visit of a curator from the Museum of Liverpool to Santa Cruz de Tenerife in the early 20th century has led to the exchange of this collection for some seventeenth-century glazed tiles (*azulejos*) that used to cover the dome of the tower of Saint Francis Monastery, which was then home to the Municipal Museum of our capital.

These 13 funerary vessels of ancient Egypt, that can be seen today in our Museum, are owned by the City Council of Santa Cruz. They come from the archaeological excavations carried out, between the late 19th century and the early 20th century, in several ancient Egyptian necropoleis, located in Diospolis Parva, Esna, Hierakonpolis and Abydos, and date from different periods, from predynastic times to the New Kingdom.

In the upper left corner of the first display, we can see **one of the most important pieces in the collection**: a predynastic **black rimmed vase** from the necropolis of Diospolis Parva. This period was one that had the greatest splendour and creativity of the ancient Egyptian pottery. The vase is more than 5,000 years old and was made by hand with careful craft. Its reddish outside contrasts sharply with the black coloration of the rim and inner surface, proof of a great mastery of a mixed—oxidising and reducing—firing technique, through which this double coloration is achieved.

02.txt Berber pottery collection

Among the Berbers, handicraft production, and pottery in particular, were delegated to women, along with the domestic tasks. These ceramic objects are mainly household items with little or no decoration, used until very recent times in the kitchen for serving and storing foods. They have been modelled by hand, without a potter's wheel, following ancient traditional techniques passed down generation to generation, from mother to daughter. The firing of these pieces generally took place in open ovens and did not reach high temperatures, resulting in fragile containers. This pottery technique basically precedes the manufacturing process of aboriginal ceramics on our islands.

Alongside these containers, we can also see in our collection **decorated pieces with a great aesthetic and symbolic value**. Although the production of painted pottery is almost non-existent today among the Berbers, due to rapid lifestyle changes that have affected these tribal groups, this is where we find a complex ornamental symbolism. Different motifs are drawn from geometric and abstract patterns, usually including a human, animal, and plant figure, as well as celestial bodies. These designs, as in tattoos, jewellery and other decorative arts, identify their owner, enhance fertility or protect against the evil eye or from other misfortunes.

03.txt The early history of Ferro (El Hierro)

Ferro, the smallest and most distant island from the African continent, has the earliest rock carvings known in the archipelago. The impressive lava outflow that runs from summit to sea down the El Julan slope contains a long series of geometrical, figurative and alphabetical motifs, which you can see several examples of here, telling us about the socio-economic significance this big meadow used to have for the Bimbache population. This vast area in the south of the island also has burial caves, shell mounds and remains of structures, such as the so-called *Tagoror* which we replicate in the model, a venue for collective ceremonies of ritual nature chaired by the only king of the island.

Ferro (El Hierro) has the largest number of Libyco-Berber inscriptions in the islands. **One of the best examples of this writing can be observed on the so-called 'Guarazoca Board'** from the necropolis Hoyo de los Muertos, dated between the 8th and the 10th centuries AD. The board, made of pine heartwood from the Canary Islands, is presumed to be a *chajasco* or stretcher, used to transport and then deposit the body of the deceased in the burial cave, where they were to find their final resting place. On one of its sides, the board contains an exceptional inscription consisting of 13 Libyco-Berber alphabet symbols whose meaning is still unknown.

04.txt The early history of La Gomera

La Gomera, small island of rugged terrain, shares some cultural traits with Tenerife, from which it is not distant. However, it also has its own idiosyncratic elements. Unlike in other islands, the burials in foetal position were common in La Gomera. Bodies were usually accompanied by a small set of burial goods that often included wooden objects, such as certain tools similar to combs, also seen in Tenerife, although to a lesser extent. Its important laurel forests must have been a useful resource to carve these unique wooden objects, such as the container that can be seen in the central display, with a handle covered possibly by alphabetical characters.

Both the model and the photograph behind it depict the so-called Chipude Fortress in Valle Gran Rey. It is a natural, hardly accessible elevation, identified as the mythical fortress *Argodey* mentioned in chronicles, where the Portuguese decided to retreat in the face of fierce harassment of indigenous people. This high plateau is interpreted as a sacred place with a set of households, large standing stones and other structures associated with altars, where animals would be sacrificed during the celebration of different collective rituals. Alongside this purpose, the existence of enclosures and natural formations for collecting water also demonstrates the economic role of La Fortaleza in relation to livestock farming, the main activity of ancient inhabitants of La Gomera. This site has been dated to the 7th century AD.

05.txt The early history of La Palma

Items such as *boomerangs* are a good proof of the unquestionable cultural idiosyncrasy of La Palma's early history. Two of these pieces, whose replicas are exhibited in the lower part of the display case, come from a burial cave located in Breña Alta. They are part of an original set consisting of four cane-shaped objects made of pine heartwood from the Canary Islands, nicely carved and polished. They might have been hierarchical symbols of individuals to whom they belonged.

Perhaps what best identifies La Palma is the rock art and ceramics. As we can see, their dark coloured motifs with a profusion of decorations are reminiscent of the designs of the insular carvings, with a definite predominance of the curved line.

The site of Belmaco, in Mazo, is the most emblematic settlement of the island. This huge cave or *caboco*, that we can see replicated in the model, opens up in the middle stretch of the bed of a ravine and offers excellent living conditions, which is the reason for it having been occupied since the 7th century AD until very recently. A huge quantity of pottery, as well as stone and bone items have been recovered from archaeological sediments approximately 10 ft deep, along with several fireplaces and abundant food remains: goat, pork, molluscs, barley and different harvested fruits. Large stone blocks with interesting carvings also came from this site.

06.txt The early history of Gran Canaria

The archaeology characterises the society of Gran Canaria as very hierarchical and with a proto-urban structure. The chronology established so far suggests that the settlement appeared from the 2nd century AD. As the Spaniards arrived, the island was divided into two *guanartematos*: Telde and Gáldar. The plain of Gáldar was a very fertile area that was densely populated. The first inhabitants of the Canary Islands made their homes in natural and excavated caves, but they also built solid stone houses, some among which have a very particular cross-shaped plan.

In the model we replicate the La Guancha Tumulus, a collective burial mound, located in Gáldar, which is associated with several coastal population centres. It is a large circular stone structure arranged in concentric rings that are divided inside. The main burial place, belonging most probably to an individual of great social relevance, is at the highest point in the centre of the structure. Around it, at a lower level, a total of 42 graves were set out, dated from the 11th to the 15th century AD. This distribution clearly reflects the great complexity of Gran Canaria's pre-Hispanic society.

Pottery is a high quality manufacture, as can be seen from the replica of a vase decorated with astral motifs. We can also see other art objects that are typical of this island, such as the stamps called *pintaderas*, items difficult to interpret, usually associated with property or personal adornment, as well as with different types of *idols*.

07.txt The early history of Fuerteventura

The island was divided into two territories when the Norman conquerors arrived at the beginning of the 15th century. According to the oldest chronicle of the island, the relations between the two kingdoms were marked by great hostility. Remains of the stone wall that separated Jandía from the rest of Fuerteventura are still to be found in the town of La Pared. Furthermore, written sources mention another wall in the central area of the island, which accumulates the largest number of archaeological sites.

One of the most interesting places on the island, the village of La Atalayita, in Antigua, that we can see in the model, is located in a central karst area. Its location links it directly to goat herding, the main economic activity of the *majos*, the ancient inhabitants of the island. These lava formations, which retain moisture very well, are the key reserve of pastures in such arid lands like Fuerteventura. One of the most notable features of some of the buildings that make up this town is their small size, which is why they can hardly be considered houses; these buildings are made of scoria from their very surroundings. The entrance is very narrow and low, and the ceilings, also made of volcanic rock, are 'false' domes constructed by corbelling in successive courses of stone.

Stable population groups existed in Fuerteventura from at least the 2nd century AD.

08.txt The early history of Lanzarote

The first human groups settled in Lanzarote were found in the 6th century BC, and in the 1st century BC we find evidence of a group of people linked to the Roman cultural sphere passing through the central part of the island.

It is the most archaeologically rich area with the walled village of Zonzamas, in Tegüise, located on a hill over an extensive and fertile agricultural valley. This site, represented in the model, consists of several dwellings that match the type of deep circular houses built below ground level; a rectangular semi-subterranean enclosure, presumably a storehouse; and other stone structures. In the place named Peña de Zonzamas there is an internally divided cave known as the Palace of Zonzamas, the last king of the island.

Elements valued for their great iconography interest come from this site: large blocks of carved stone, small polished plates and uniquely crafted objects that form a singular set of pieces, unseen on the rest of the islands. Among them, a seated female figure, made of sandstone and reminiscent of the Egyptian goddess Taurt, a protective deity of infants and pregnant women whose cult was very popular in the Mediterranean, is replicated behind the model on the right hand side.

Other nearby rock art manifestations that highlight the importance of Zonzamas are called Quesera and Peña del Letrero.

09.txt Mummification

Since their discovery in the fifteenth century, Guanche mummies have been subject to ongoing desecrating until the twentieth century. Museums, cabinets and universities in France, Germany, United Kingdom, Spain, Canada, Russia, or Argentina, have guarded and exhibited those valuable specimens for decades.

Mummification among the Guanches of Tenerife was based on the external treatment of the body with aromatic herbs and drying substances (pumice, heather bark, pine dust, and sometimes, moss), subsequently subjected to the sun's heat during the day and, presumably, bonfire smoke during the night.

Later, after a period of about 15 days, according to the chroniclers, bodies were wrapped in animal skins (the number of layers increased, according to the social status; in some cases, up to ten and even twelve layers have been seen) and deposited inside caves with difficult access, which were then closed with stone walls.

According to written sources, this work was carried out by specialised individuals who had no dealings with the rest of the population and who divided the duties among themselves by gender of the deceased.

Similarly, there is evidence of so-called intentional natural mummification, which involved making use of the environmental conditions prevailing in burial caves without further treatment, external or internal.

The collection of mummified remains of the Museum of Nature and Man includes two fetuses, one of about 5-6 months in uterus and the other, full term.



10.txt Bioanthropology

Bioanthropology of the Guanches is a fascinating field of research within which surgical practices stand out.

Surgery as a practice of removing diseased areas or restoring corporal architecture was not developed by the indigenous people of Tenerife. However, if it is viewed as any intentional manual procedure to restore health to the individual, then these people did develop certain techniques, such as cranial procedures or operations on the skull and the treatment of fractures or trauma surgery.

Cranial procedures can be classified into three types:

- Trepanning, a practice of connecting the inside of the cranial cavity with the outside through a hole made with stone tools, that has not yet been linked to any specific pathology.
- Cauterisation, a technique consisting of burning the outer surface of a body part, especially the skull, with red-hot stones or boiling fat.
- Finally, scarification or bleeding through incisions made in the cranium surface with obsidian knives. Cauterisation and scarification have been seen to be connected with skull fractures.

Trauma surgery practiced by indigenous people has reached a certain degree of development, since a high percentage of fractures were seen to be put back together well. This involves a treatment based on reduction, immobilisation and rest, and aftercare which was required.

Several specimens exemplifying these surgical practices occupy a prominent place in the Bioanthropology Section of the Museum of Nature and Man.