

7.6 View from Las Torres, Las Palmas.



archeological sites exist today. The mouth of the Barranco de Guinguada was the only part of the city to be urbanized until the middle of the nineteenth century. Until then, the city remained within the limit of walls. In 1881, work began on the Puerto de La Luz at the southeast end of La Isleta and a new population center soon developed. An esplanade covers the site of the original port at Triana, which occurred with the construction of the Ciudad del Mar in the 1960s.

The growing importance of the port led to the construction of more wharves and the area around the port developed, producing a new city center. Between 1925 and 1950, the two urban centers grew toward each other. The edge of the waterfront soon developed as the port esplanades began to take over the coastline. Land was reclaimed to increase the depths of moorings and to construct the water's edge. During the 1960s and 1970s, the two centers continued to grow together, eventually filling in the valleys that cut the escarpment. Today the city is undertaking a major revitalization. Of critical importance is the improvement in city infrastructure. A new ring road and various highways, under construction, are intended to improve communication with the rest of the island. The intention of these improvements is to improve the "urban quality" of Las Palmas, including such things as parks, beaches, sporting and cultural facilities.

Since 1852, the Port of Las Palmas has been a Free Port. In the 1960s, tourism became a significant revenue generator for Las Palmas and gradually changed the social and economic structure of the Canaries. Since the 1960s, Las Palmas has become the commercial and cultural center of Gran Canaria. Until the nineteenth century, agriculture was the fundamental base of the economy of Gran Canaria. During the second half of the twentieth century the ports, trade and commerce, tourism, and the export of agricultural produce underwent spectacular growth. The Canary Islands have traditionally been granted a special and specific fiscal and economic