



Fuencaliente de La Palma

San Antonio Volcano

English edition

Updated on 9 September 2026



The San Antonio volcano rises next to Los Canarios, at the southern tip of La Palma. A path runs along the rim of its crater, with views of Teneguía, the salt pans and the sea, and the Visitor Center sits at its foot.

A team of experts, among them the director of Volcanology of the Institute of Natural and Agrobiological Resources of the Canary Islands, Juan Carlos Carracedo, discovered during a scientific study carried out between 1993 and 1996 on the Cumbre Vieja ridge that the extraordinary volcanic cone of San Antonio does not correspond to the eruption of 1677, as had been repeatedly recorded in the historical literature, but is a volcano well over three thousand years old.

The volcanic eruption of 1677 opened a small crater above the San Antonio volcano, through which it threw out material and ash, while the lava came out through a fissure that broke through the base of the San Antonio volcanic edifice — a frequent

circumstance in La Palma, «which may have caused popular confusion».

That eruption produced a platform on the coast of Fuencaliente, today covered by banana plantations, and raised a mountain of lesser size, resting its upper part on the base of the San Antonio volcano.

According to Mr Carracedo, the 1677 volcano was of low magnitude and caused hardly any damage, although the tremors did bring down the church's bell gable, whereas the eruption that produced the extraordinary volcanic edifice of San Antonio corresponds to a phreatomagmatic volcano, in which seawater enters and hurls enormous stones over an area of kilometres around.

For more information about the San Antonio Volcano, we recommend visiting the San Antonio Volcano Visitor Center.

Photo gallery



Volcán de San Antonio

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