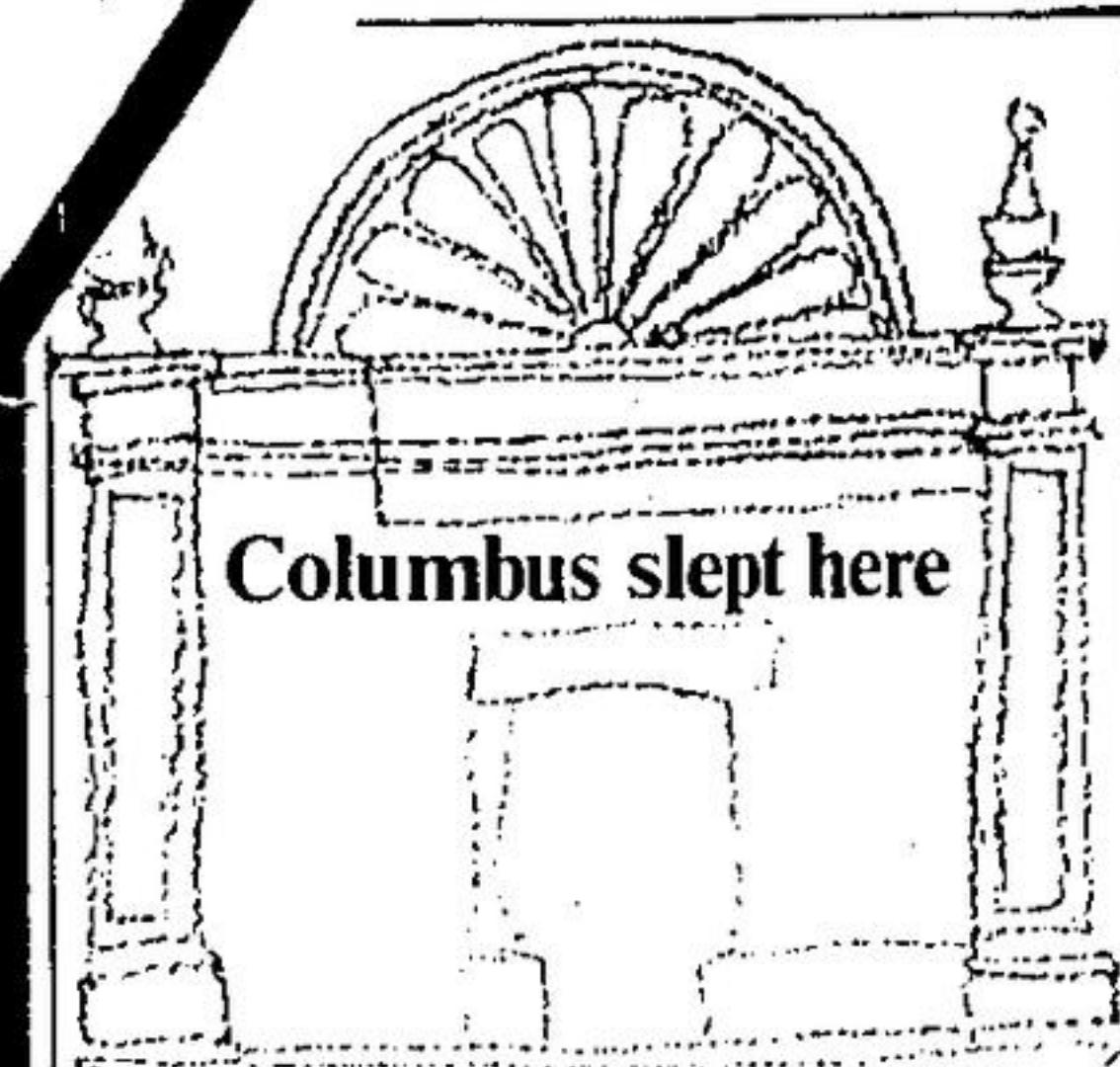


# Travel



Columbus slept here

**SYNDICATED TRAVEL NEWS** — On his way to the unknown, Columbus stopped to stock up with food and water at Gomera, a 14-square-mile Shangri-La in the newly-Spanish Canary Islands.

Since 1492, the Canaries have been at the crossroads of world trade and shipping, but this almost circular island of just 25,000 people still lacks a commercial airport and so remains relatively unaffected by the 20th Century.

Gomera is one of the smaller of the 13 Canary islands and its capital, San Sebastian, is only two hours by car ferry from Santa Cruz de Tenerife, the capital of the western group of islands.

Aside from one 10-storey "skyscraper," San Sebastian appears the typical sleepy tropical town enjoying a perpetual siesta.

**THE ISLAND HAS LITTLE BUT HISTORY TO COMMEND ITSELF TO THE AGE OF MASS TOURISM.** The highest peak, Alto de Garajonay at 4,900 feet is not high by Canaries standards, but because the island is so small the impression is of a labyrinth of crags and crannies. The principal highway zig-zags up, over, around and between hills and valleys.

In fact, it was the need for hilltop-to-hilltop communications that gave rise to the unique Gomera whistling language. In addition to Spanish, a few of the islanders still communicate in silbo (the whistle), a real language of moderated tone, rhythm and volume representing words.

If you've come this far from Tenerife for a day-stop, the Church of Our Lady of the Assumption is worth a visit because it was here that Columbus prayed before sailing west on September 6, 1492.

Legend hints at a romance between the Genoese sailor and Beatriz, the wife of the Count of Gomera. Herman Peraza, Columbus slept here in 1492, 1493 and 1498 so it's possible he discovered more than just America.

Gomera is the kind of place that's guaranteed to raise an eyebrow and gain points in one-upmanship when you say you've been there. Another advantage is its proximity to that most cosmopolitan of Canary Islands, Tenerife, which offers today's tourist everything he wants — hotel service, entertainment, meals and discotheques "just like back home."

But if Gomera is too desolate, and Tenerife too touristy, La Palma is the perfect compromise. Less than half an hour by plane from Tenerife, La Palma is 280 square miles of contrasts, a collection of superlatives beginning with its topography.

Roque de los Muchachos, at 7,950 feet, gives La Palma the highest mountain within so small an area. The steepest island in the world, in common with the others in the Canary archipelago, is volcanic and boasts the world's largest crater.

Caldera de Taburiente National Park is situated in a volcano whose crater is 17 miles in circumference and more than 2,300 feet deep — it's extinct, although the last major eruptions on La Palma were as recent as 1949 and 1971.

**PRICES HERE AS THROUGHOUT THE CANARIES BORDER ON THE RIDICULOUS.** Declared free ports during the last century, the islands form the world's largest duty-free shop and goods often cost less than half what they would fetch in duty-free stores in North America or Europe.

To match the low cost of hotel accommodation, entertainment and meals in the Canaries, airlines are offering bargain airfares and holiday packages to make the archipelago accessible to Canadian travellers this fall and winter.

Toronto and Montreal-to-London charter class airfares start at \$299 return this winter and one carrier is offering London originating, inclusive tour charters to the Canaries from \$245.

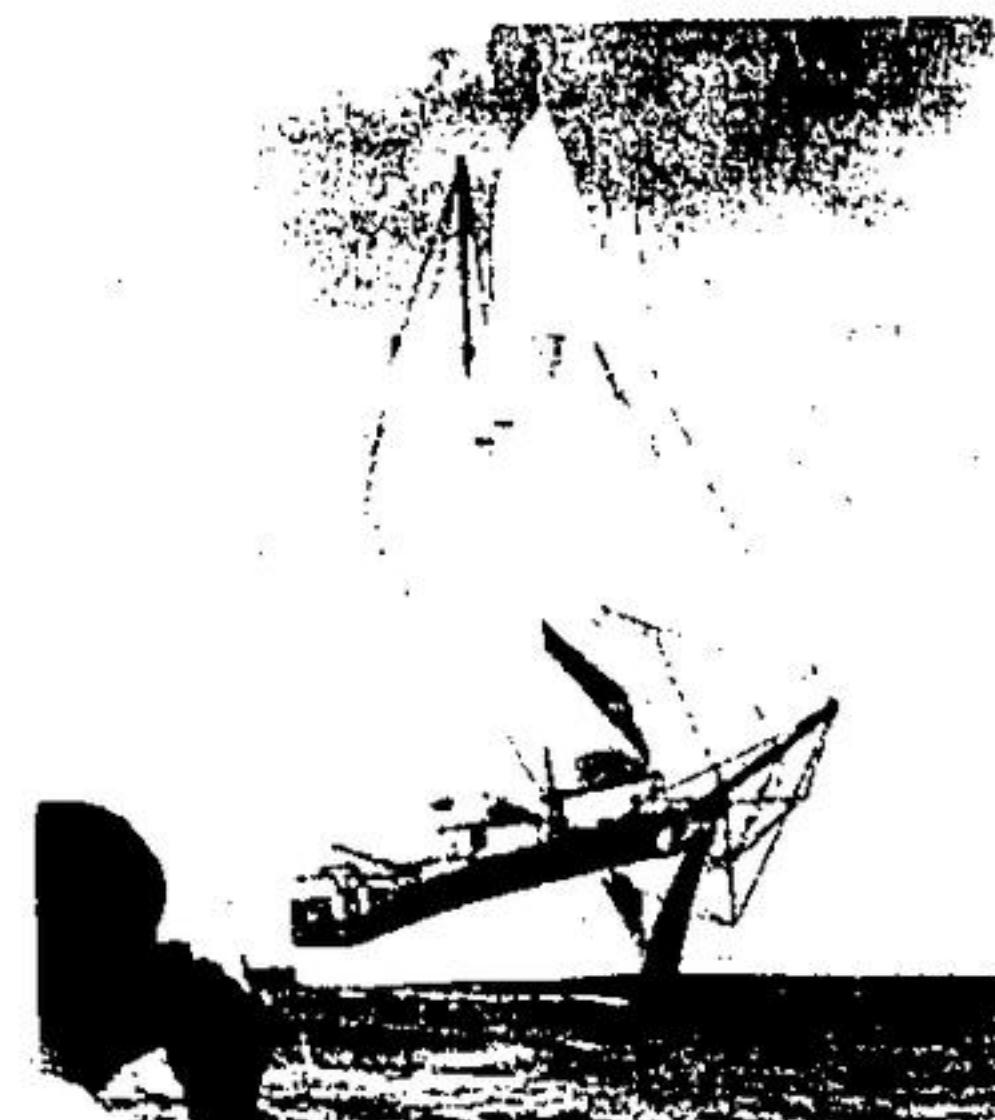
Travel agents can provide more information on this one-week British Airways holiday package that includes flights, hotel accommodation and two meals daily.

Columbus slept here, but with the variety of nightlife, sports, scenery and entertainment facilities, most visitors will agree they can catch up on their sleep when they get back home.



Best Wishes  
for a Heart-warming  
Holiday!

**BARBER AND HENLEY**  
Insurance and Travel Agency  
Ethel, Sophia, Kathleen, Marie,  
Joan, John R. and Murray



**THE FLYING CLOUD**, a 235-foot barqueentine, is one of the largest sailboats sailing in the world today. She sails her 14 sail crew week from Tortola, B.V.I., for 10 months through the British Virgin Islands under the banner of Windjammer "Barefoot" Cruises of Miami Beach, Florida. Passengers help with the sailing, swimming, and running.

By SANDRA HART

Christopher Columbus made four voyages to the New World from 1492 to 1502, claiming and naming islands discovered along the way. He sailed forth with seasoned sailors and three small ships looking for a new route to China. He found the Bahama and Caribbean.

Windjammer "Barefoot" Cruises of Miami Beach, Florida, has discovered these waters, but more intentionally. They invite modern day sailors to sail in the wake of Columbus on five super-sized schooners that ply the same waters explored by him and his sailors.

Windjammer deliberately concentrates on the little-known islands where beaches lay deserted, snorkeling reefs are unspoiled, and the "natives" really are friendly.

The ships in the Windjammer fleet make four separate cruises, often in the Bahamas, three in the Canaries, and one around the world.

The flagship of the fleet, the 248-foot *Polyneisa II*, home ported in St. Martin where she sails on alternating itineraries through the Grandcayes and Windward Islands. Most passengers decide to stay for both island itineraries.

The newest ship to join the fleet is the 248-foot *Polyneisa II*, home ported in St. Martin where she sails on alternating itineraries through the Windward or Leeward Islands.

Take your choice of heading to tiny 5-mile "round Saba" on St. Eustatia, the first island to salute the U.S. flag, or to the Frenchambiance of St. Barts.

Or, perhaps you'd prefer to count the 365 beaches of Antigua or explore the butterfly-shaped island of

Barbuda. A choice of two sailing week trips mixes the known islands of Nassau and Freeport, with the unknown islands of Spanish Wells, Great Exuma, Abaco, the Berry Islands and Gorda Cay.

True to the legend of Quasimodo, the 4-masted, fantome sports wood-paneled double cabins, air conditioning, deep red carpeting, and a stereo system in the saloon. This is the largest schooner sailing in the world today.

A sister ship, the 235-foot *Flying Cloud*, sails through the waters of the British Virgin Islands on 6 or 13 day island-hopping adventures.

Days are spent sunning and swimming, nights are spent on deck, gazing at star-splashed skies, or perhaps taking a turn at the helm under the watchful eye of the captain.

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