





Gran Canaria's skies are a paradise. Thanks to the island's special weather conditions with clear and stable skies, the physical features of its terrain with high mountains and its geographic location "allowing to see a large part of the **Southern Hemisphere**", this is one of the best places for sky enthusiasts to observe the cosmos.

Since 2018, our island is a **StarLight** Tourist Destination, a seal of quality awarded by the Starlight Foundation to unique locations with ideal conditions for observing the stars.

Located right in the heart of the Biosphere Reserve and within the Starlight Destination area, **La Aldea de San Nicolás** has one of the clearest and darkest skies in Gran Canaria. The geographical location of this unique village on the west side of the island and the protection offered by the surrounding mountain ranges, create an excellent microclimate, perfect for star gazing. At the same time, thanks to the low levels of light pollution in most of the municipality, it is possible to observe the night sky even near the main urban centre.

**The observatory has a 0.28m-diameter advanced optical equipment** on an automated mount. It is adequately and optically equipped for educational and scientific purposes for amateur studies, with cameras for astrophotography and telematic observations.

In addition, on top of the main equipment, there is a **second telescope** for observations and wide-field photography with autoguiding functions. There is also a professional Hydrogen-Alpha telescope, specifically designed to observe the chromosphere and solar activity, which is independently mounted so that it can be transported and used in other observation points within the municipality.

Thanks to the humid **trade winds** coming from the ocean, in the north of the island a cloud cover popularly known as panza de burro (literally: donkey's belly) is formed at an altitude between 500 and 1,800 metres, which is a great ally for **astronomical observation**. Over said cloud cover, an inversion layer is formed, a warm and dry air mass creating a stable atmosphere which allows clearer observation of the sky through the telescopes. At the same time, said sea of cloud acts as a screen against light pollution coming from the capital city and the north-central area of the island, thus further improving observation conditions in high altitudes.

It is precisely in this municipality where the Tasartico Astronomical Observatory is located, the first observatory situated within the StarLight area. It is built within the Guguy Interpretation Centre, in the former one-room school of this neighbourhood, which allowed to recover and make use of the old building, where activities to spread astronomical awareness are now carried out. This municipality has **three astronomical viewpoints**: Mirador del Balcón -the Balcony Viewpoint-, Mirador de la Cruz del Siglo -the Century Cross Viewpoint-, and Mirador Entre Montañas -the Viewpoint Between Mountains.

From the observatory, apart from **the Moon, the Sun and the planets**, it is also possible to observe at amateur level other exotic objects such as **comets, asteroids, galaxies, nebulae, double stars, novae, supernovae...** and to use this observation platform to watch meteor showers with your naked eyes.

