

2º Desafío Isla de la Palma





2nd Island of La Palma Challenge The Event

More prizes to attract Paraglider Pilots from all over the world to La Palma

Following the success of the first edition, which drew 1,350 visitors to the island – including 512 paraglider pilots and 115 participants – the special Island of La Palma Challenge returns on 1 December 2006. You can discover new ways to enjoy flying in this natural mini-paradise in the Canary Islands, one of the best spots in Europe for free flight, plus the chance to win excellent cash prizes. Organised by the Palmaclub Sports Association, the novelty of the 2nd edition is more and bigger cash prizes: over 24,000 Euros in total among the various categories depending on the glider class, as well as prizes for the longest flights in each category. A whole year to attain first place and then a week to defend it; the overall champion will take home 8,000€!

This new Paragliding Challenge is expected to exceed the high level achieved in 2005, when a total of 10,000km were flown on the Island in the 1st phase and 4,300km in the final week. Thirty-six pilots competed in the Grand Final, including the then Paragliding World Champion, 2 European Champions, the PWC Champion, the Spanish male and female Champions, the Winner of the Spanish League (also holder of various world records), as well as many other top-level pilots. A new Island distance record was set 3 times and the Challenge website was visited 45,000 times by people from 81 countries. The goal of the 2nd Challenge is to draw even more pilots and press, and to colour the skies of La Palma with gliders throughout the year.

The competition that has handed out the biggest cash prizes ever in this sport aims to promote the Island of La Palma, a mini-paradise of nature with an eternal spring climate where all year round paragliders can soar over volcanoes and warm beaches, woods and unique landscapes. Declared a Reserve of the Biosphere, La Palma is the highest island in the world in relation to its surface area of only 706km², with mountains rising over 2,000m; it also boasts a unique national park nestling in the impressive Caldera de Taburiente crater. In addition to first-rate flying conditions, visitors can also enjoy hiking or mountain-biking around the excellent network of footpaths which offer breath-taking views, or practise various water sports, especially scuba diving. Add to this the unbeatable hotel infrastructure, varied gastronomy and beautiful beaches, and you have the perfect spot to blend holiday relaxation with outdoor activities, above all flying.



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The Competition

As in 2005, the competition will consist of 2 phases: the first will last almost a year – from 1 December 2006 to 10 November 2007 – and works like a free distance event, where the pilot simply has to make as many valid flights as possible on the island in this time frame, taking off and landing within the terrestrial limits of the Island of La Palma and complying with Federation Rules.

To validate flights, pilots must first register for the Challenge, either on-line via the website or directly through the Organization on La Palma: secondly, pilots must download their GPS tracks showing all the details of each flight and upload them on the event website, or deliver them to the Organization HQ within 48 hours of completing the flight.

The total distance flown in the best 3 flights of each participant is what will decide whether they qualify for the Final, from 1 to 9 December 2007.

In the 2nd phase, the 50 pilots who qualify from round 1 will be ranked according to the average of their 3 qualifying flights; in addition, the Organization will reserve wildcards for 10 guest pilots, which brings the total to 60 competitors, double the number of 2005.

The format of the tasks set in the final week of the 1st Challenge was a huge success and will be repeated this time. Each day the Task Director will set a closed circuit between 10 and 30 km which competitors must complete as many times as possible in the window, normally 2 or 3 hours. Turnpoints or coordinates are set within the course and pilots must fly round these so that they are recorded by the GPS. In addition bonus points are awarded for landing in a 5-minute window defined by the Organization at the official landing site in Puerto Naos. Thus it is not simply a question of flying fast and clocking up kilometres, but also being able to stay aloft long enough to win the landing bonus points.

This type of task - flying a circuit against the clock - means that the gliders can be seen from many parts of the island guaranteeing many spectators, as well as more excitement for the competing pilots. The score will be the total kilometres flown in each task plus the landing bonus, if applicable. The final ranking of the 2nd Island of La Palma Challenge will depend on the total points scored in both the 1st and 2nd rounds. The ranking, as well as the flights uploaded by participants, will be available on the event website, which will be frequently updated during the event:
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Prizes

The 2nd Challenge offers new categories and prizes: even pilots with limited experience can perfect their skills, while combining a flying holiday in the most attractive and relaxed spot in Europe with the possibility of winning prize money in this Challenge.

Cash Prizes for the Open Category (all levels):

1st Prize:	8.000€
2nd:	4.000€
3rd:	2.000€
4th:	1.000€
5th:	800€
6th:	600€

DHV 2 or 1/ 1-2 Class Gliders (same for both):

1st:	1.000€
2nd:	700€
3rd:	500€
4th:	400€
5th:	300€
6th:	100€

Longest flight with a glider of any class (Open): 600 euros

Longest flight with a DHV class 2 glider: 400 euros

Longest flight with a DHV class 1 or 1-2 glider: 400 euros

Prize for the pilot with most flights of over 15 Km: 600 euros

“Country” Category: trophies for the top 3, as well as for the top 3 teams (2 male and 1 female pilot per team).

“Team” Category: trophies for the top 3 (2 male and 1 female pilot per team).

Registration

Pilots can register either online at the Challenge website (www.flylapalma.com, cost 40€) or at the Organization HQ on La Palma (cost 50€).

Team registration (e.g. manufacturers, brands, firms) will cost 100€ plus the individual registration of each team pilot.

Countries wishing to send a national team only need to send a list of the pilots' names to the organization and pay their individual registration fees.



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Some figures from the 1st Island of La Palma Challenge 2005:

- 1.350 visitors to the island thanks to the Challenge, with an average stay of 2 weeks;
- 512 pilots, 115 of which registered for the Challenge, from 11 different countries;
- 36 pilots qualified for the Final, including: the World Champion, the PWC Champion, the European Champion, a former European and PWC Champion, the Spanish Male and Female Champions, the leader of the Spanish League and many other top-ranking pilots;
- 10.000 km were flown in round 1 and 4.300km in the final week
- 5 tasks were flown in the Final and the Winner flew a total distance of 334 km, a daily average of 66,8 km;
- the longest distance flown in a task was 109,8 km (by the eventual winner, Maurer) in 3 hours, i.e. an average speed of 36,6 km/h!
- strongest thermal registered by a pilot in the Final was +7m/s
- the event website (www.desafioisladelapalma.com) was visited 44.917 times by people from 81 different countries from December 2004 to the beginning of October 2005
- 23.000€ prize money, of which 12.000€ was for the winner (Chrigel Maurer, European and PWC Champion)

In the words of the Winners:

Chrigel Maurer, Winner of the 1st Challenge: *"It's a very original competition, plus the biggest prize money I've ever won in paragliding!"*

Charles Cazaux, Runner-up: *"A real fun event in the perfect spot for winter flying and training."*

Kari Eisenhut, 3rd: *"A marvellous competition, great people and a really friendly atmosphere. And the island is incredibly beautiful!"*



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FLYING IN LA PALMA

La Palma is a delightful island for flying, since all the take-offs are relatively close and retrievals are rapid; moreover, there is a take-off only 10 mins from Puerto Naos with landing site on the beach, which makes it ideal to join your family, partner or friends for refreshment after a flight. The flights are very varied: you can choose from the Puerto Naos take-off with 240m top-to-bottom, or over 2,000m top-to-bottom from one of the mountain sites, 15km glides (at nights when a full moon permits), and the possibility of flying 3 or more times every day.

Puerto Naos

Puerto Naos is the main tourist attraction of La Palma's west coast; it is one of the sunniest parts of the island and the best place for paraglider pilots to stay. The black-sand beach is protected by low hills where the Palmaclub Sports Association has one of paraglider pilots' favourite take-off sites: easy access, excellent conditions, WSW orientation and you can land right on the seafront at Puerto Naos.

Los Campanarios

Strangely-sculpted rock formations in the remains of a volcanic chimney shaped like a finger in the SW corner of the island. This west-facing take-off is one of the best on the island at 930m above sea level; a good choice when conditions are weak at Puerto Naos, it starts working early and favours flights to the south or northeast if the ceiling is high enough. Glide to Puerto Naos landing site.

Las Indias

The best take-off near Fuencaliente, a village at the southern tip of the island in an area of small volcanoes. Thirty kilometres by road from Los Llanos de Aridane, 710m above sea level and with WSW orientation, which means spectacular views of the sunset; it has been used as official take-off in all the competitions on the island.

El Time

The take-off is right by the *Time* viewpoint in the Tijarafe area on the NW coast. With a NW orientation and 590m above sea level it offers fantastic views of the bay of Tazacorte and the Valley of Aridane. This take-off is not in very good condition, but is used when the wind in Puerto Naos has a northerly component. Land on the beach at Tazacorte harbour.

Torre del Time

Also near the Time viewpoint with NW orientation, but at an altitude of 1125m on the edge of the Taburiente crater. This take-off is in excellent condition and is usually used in the morning before the Aridane Valley heats up too much. On good days it is possible to cross the Ravine of Las Angustias and fly to Puerto Naos.

Risco de la Concepción

This is the only take-off on the East coast and permits a flight over the island capital, Santa Cruz de la Palma. It is a steep incline on the crest of the Concepción crater near some aerials with NW orientation and 350m above sea level; normally best for dynamic flight when the gentle northeasterly predominant winds are blowing. The landing site is on the Bajamar beach near the Santa Cruz de La Palma port.



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FURTHER INFORMATION

The official website will be regularly updated with news during the event:
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