



[Press release, January 2007]

## **24,000 euros in prizes in 2nd Paragliding Challenge Island of La Palma**

**The paragliding competition that has handed out most prize money ever in this sport is now back in the Canary Island of La Palma (Spain), a mini paradise of nature with an eternal spring climate. Following the success of the first edition, which drew 1,350 visitors to the island – including 535 paraglider pilots and 115 participants- the 2<sup>nd</sup> Challenge of La Palma started on December 1<sup>st</sup> and will last until December 2007.**

Groups of pilots from Belgium, Germany and Spain have already visited La Palma and are scoring flights for the Challenge, as it is the best time for thermal flying in the island. A good motivation is that in this 2<sup>nd</sup> Challenge there are more chances to win for pilots of all levels, with a total of 24,000 euros in prizes for the best pilots in three categories: General, DHV1/1-2, and DHV2.

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 competition. Top pilots will certainly find the big prize interesting enough to fly their best in La Palma: 8,000 euros for the overall winner!

Also: Prize money for the first 6 pilots overall; for the 6 first pilots flying DHV1 or DHV1-2 gliders; and for the 6 best pilots flying gliders up to DHV2. Plus, prizes for the longest flights in each category and for the pilots with the highest number of flights over 15 km; and trophies for the best teams and nations.

### **The Challenge**

As in 2005, the competition will consist of 2 phases: the first lasts 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. Pilots will be ranked according to the average of their 3 qualifying flights: one point for each kilometre flown (in straight line) plus a 20% of the resulting points.

In the 2nd phase, the 50 pilots who qualify from round 1 will have the chance to defend their place during 1 week, from 1 to 9 December 2006: a unique Final, with fun and exciting set tasks perfectly suited to the characteristics of La Palma. In addition, the Organization will reserve wildcards for 10 guest pilots, which brings the total to 60 competitors, double the number of 2005.

One hundred and fifteen pilots from 11 countries accepted the 1st Challenge, including the then World, European and PWC Champions, the Spanish male and female Champions and many top-ranking world and PWC pilots. The two times PWC Champion Chrigel Maurer was the winner of the big prize: 12,000 euros! "It's a very original competition, plus the biggest prize money I've ever won in paragliding!", he said. For French pilot Charles Cazaux (2<sup>nd</sup>), it was "a real fun event in the perfect spot for winter flying and training."

Pilots willing to accept the Challenge can register now at the official site [www.flylapalma.com](http://www.flylapalma.com) or personally in La Palma, at the Palmaclub office located next to the landing zone in Puerto Naos (beach promenade).

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### Practical info:

**Accommodation & Guiding:** There are all-inclusive packs for pilots offered by the local club, Palmaclub, including free registration to the Challenge, accommodation in apartments right in front of the beach, guiding and transport to take-offs by expert local pilots, briefings, retrieves, etc. Info in [www.palmaclub.com](http://www.palmaclub.com)

**How to get there?** La Palma is the most westerly island of the Canary, and there are regular flights to/from Madrid and Barcelona in Spain, and connections to/from Germany, United Kingdom, France, Belgium, Austria, Netherlands, Russia, Argentina and Venezuela (some via Tenerife), among others.