

# Will the TARDIS Land in Tenerife for Series Finale?

Submitted by: Cabildo de Tenerife

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For this weekend's finale of Series 9 of Dr Who (<http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b006q2x0>), the Doctor will return to the Canary Islands, where the first two episodes of the series were filmed. The Doctor isn't on holiday, however – the landscapes of the island group, which vary greatly, make them ideally suited to the science fiction genre.

Produced by the BBC (<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news>) and starring Peter Capaldi, Jenna Coleman and Michelle Gomez, the iconic programme used the volcanic landscape of Mount Teide in Tenerife in the first two episodes to replicate an alien world. The final episode of Peter Capaldi's second series is shot, in part, on the neighbouring island of Fuerteventura.

It is not only television companies that have been drawn to Tenerife – the island's filmography also includes a number of blockbuster films, including Fast & Furious 6, the 50th highest-grossing film of all time, and the Clash of the Titans and Wrath of the Titans films, which were huge box-office successes.

The fifth instalment in the Bourne series, starring Matt Damon, was also filmed on the island. In the film, the Tenerifan capital Santa Cruz de Tenerife stands in for Athens. But what draws these world-renowned productions to such a small island, only slightly larger than Greater London?

In an area of just over 2,000km<sup>2</sup> Tenerife has a huge range of potential film settings. Holidaymakers might be aware of the black sand beaches and breathtaking cliffs, but may not have ventured far enough to see deserts, subtropical forests and volcanic areas, and the island's two UNESCO World Heritage sites: the Teide National Park – containing the world's third-largest volcano – and San Cristóbal de La Laguna, a colonial city founded at the end of the fifteenth century.

Sharon Backhouse, Director of London-based company GeoTenerife (<http://www.geotenerife.com/>), which champions the diverse regions of Tenerife, said, "Tenerife's natural beauty makes it perfect for film, but what's even more incredible is how many different settings can be found there. The volcanic peak of Teide looks like the surface of another planet, and to think that within a short drive a production company could be in a unique laurel forest, a desert or beneath breathtaking cliffs is incredible.

"Add to this a charming and well-preserved fifteenth-century city and a wealth of modern architecture, plus one of the most consistently sunny climates in the world.

"Tenerife's importance to the global film, television and commercial production industries has been cemented in recent years as companies realise the benefits of working on the island, and the Tenerife Film Commission has been valuable to a large number of productions."

The Tenerife Film Commission ([www.tenerifefilm.com](http://www.tenerifefilm.com)) supports all foreign film production projects on the island, giving advice about locations, introducing appropriate local companies to support and much more.

Tenerife's versatility in terms of filming locations is just one factor that attracts production

companies to the island, however:

#### 1. Excellent transport links

Although its landscape and weather are unlike those found in Europe, Tenerife's relative proximity makes it an attractive film destination. Only a two-and-a-half hour flight from Madrid and four hours from other major European cities and with the same time zone as the UK, Ireland and Portugal, it is very close to Europe.

#### 2. Experienced professionals

Tenerife has a healthy local film industry. Whether actors, extras, producers or equipment is needed, the Tenerife Film Commission helps to connect foreign production companies with the best local talent.

#### 3. A film-friendly island

Having welcomed many film, television and commercial production companies to the island, Tenerife's government and residents have earned a reputation for being film-friendly. For example, a section of newly-built motorway was made available to the makers of Fast & Furious 6.

#### 4. Consistently good weather

Tenerife's latitude and its position in the Atlantic mean that it enjoys 3,000 hours of sunshine a year (an average of eight hours and fifteen minutes a day) and average temperatures of 23°C. This makes it ideal for outdoor filming.

#### 5. Unbeatable tax incentives

Tenerife is in the Special Canary Zone, which means that businesses pay 4% corporation tax, compared to a European average of 25%. On top of this, foreign producers can qualify for a 35% tax rebate if they invest at least €1 million in the Canary Islands and hire a local production company.

#### 6. Brilliant accommodation and service infrastructure

Tenerife's hotels are regarded some of the best in Europe, and it has 75,000 beds at three, four and five-star establishments.

The trailer for the Dr Who series finale can be found here: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p03978pw>

ENDS

Photos courtesy of the BBC and Simon Ridgeway ([www.simonridgeway.com](http://www.simonridgeway.com)).

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Tenerife Film Commission

The Tenerife Film Commission ([www.tenerifefilm.com](http://www.tenerifefilm.com)) was founded with the aim of encouraging film production on the Island by Spanish mainland and foreign production companies. Some of the ways that the Tenerife Film Commission can help film production companies are:

- Giving advice about locations
- Easing the process of obtaining film permits
- Providing information about accommodation and service companies
- Acting as a link between foreign and Tenerife Film Commission-member local production companies
- Introducing production companies to its network of member businesses which can offer the services needed while shooting on location
- Collaborating with other institutions to boost local industry

The Tenerife Film Commission is also a founding member of the Board of Directors of Spain Film Commission and a founding member of the European Film Commission Network (EUFCN).