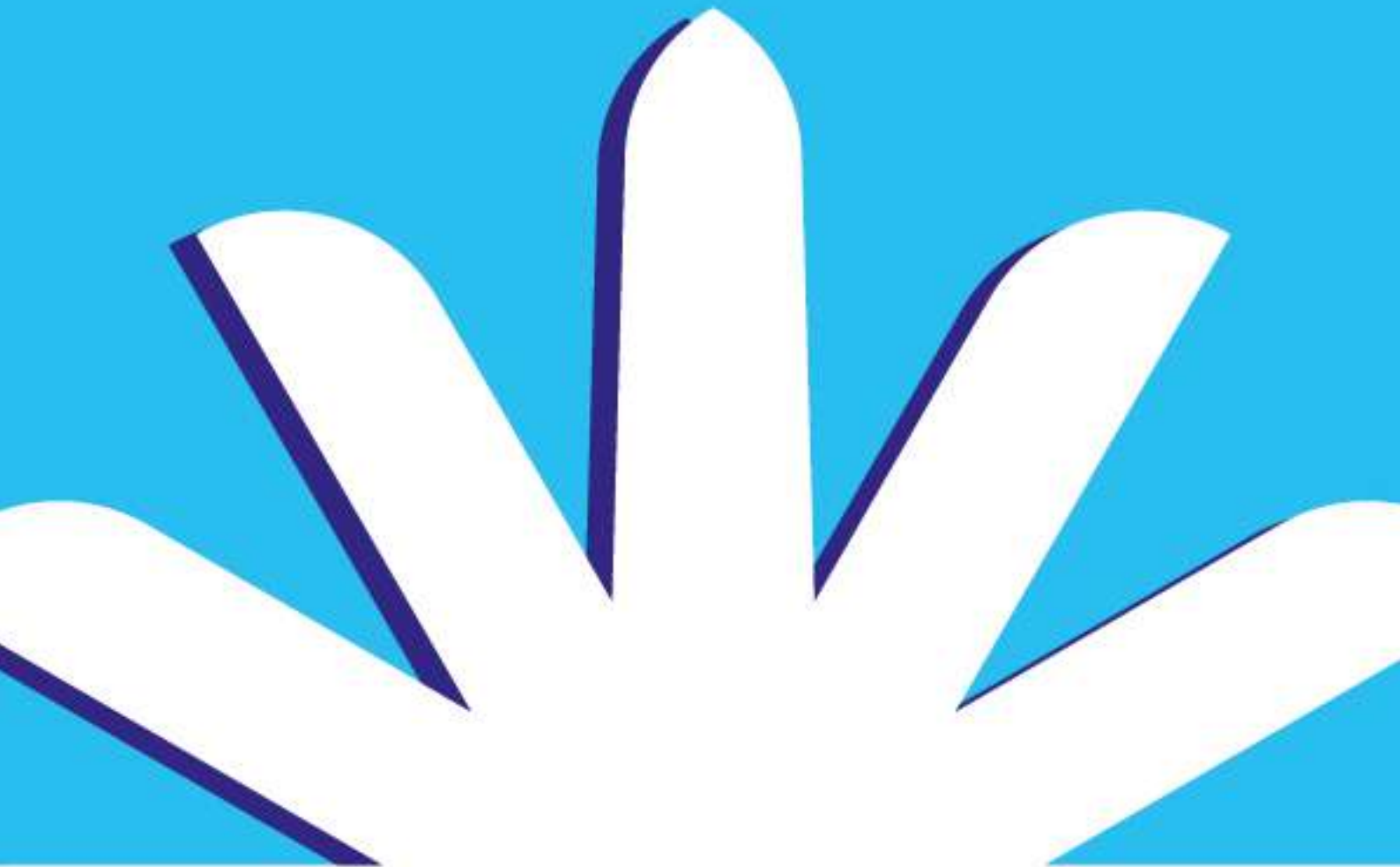




**Commemorative route  
for the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary  
of the filming of  
“Moby Dick”  
in Las Palmas de Gran Canaria**



# Credits.

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**Dedicated to the people who worked on the filming of *Moby Dick* in Gran Canaria and to those who have helped to keep its memory alive.**

**Luis Roca**

«*Moby Dick* was the most difficult picture I ever made. I lost so many battles during it that I began to suspect that my assistant director was plotting against me. Then I realised that it was only God. [...] The picture, like the book, is a blasphemy, so I suppose we can just lay it to God's defending Himself when He sent those awful winds and waves against us.

John Huston

# Commemorative route for the 70th anniversary of the filming of *Moby Dick* in Las Palmas de Gran Canaria.



In 1956, Hollywood adapted Herman Melville's literary classic *Moby Dick*, directed by John Huston and starring Gregory Peck as Captain Ahab. The screenplay was by Ray Bradbury, John Huston and Norman Corwin. It was filmed in Gran Canaria over the course of five weeks, from Friday 17 December 1954 to Wednesday 19 January 1955, almost all in Las Palmas de Gran Canaria.

## Production and reception.

The film was produced by Moulin Productions and distributed by Warner Bros. Elstree Pictures Ltd was involved as producer in the shooting in Las Palmas de Gran Canaria. It cost more than seven million dollars, exceeding its initial budget of 4.5 million dollars by nearly three million. The rights are now owned by Metro Goldwyn Mayer.



*Moby Dick* was the highest-grossing film of 1956 in the United States, with revenues of 10.4 million dollars. It was rated by the National Board of Review as one of the ten best films of 1956. In addition, this organisation awarded the prize for best director of the year to John Huston and for best supporting actor to Richard Basehart. Huston also received the best director award from the New York Film Critics Circle. The film's importance has grown with the passage of time and it is now considered one of the hundred best films in cinema history. In Spain it was released in 1958, four years after filming, at the Royal Cinema in Las Palmas de Gran Canaria. It is the most important film ever shot in the Canary Islands.

## Plot of the film.

Captain Ahab is obsessed with hunting the great white whale Moby Dick. At the helm of his ship, the *Pequod*, he pursues it tirelessly. Among the crew is Ishmael, the sole survivor of the story. He is the one who tells us how Ahab's thirst for revenge cost his own life and those of all his fellow crew members.



## Cast.

The main actors and characters included in the filming in Las Palmas de Gran Canaria were as follows: Gregory Peck (Captain Ahab); Richard Basehart (Ishmael, sailor); Leo Genn (Starbuck, chief mate); James Robertson Justice (Captain Boomer); Harry Andrews (Stubb, second mate); Seamus Kelly (Flask, third mate); Friedrich von Ledebur (Queequeg, harpooner, Starbuck's squire); Bernard Miles (Manxman); Tom Clegg (the Indian harpooner Tashtego, Stubb's squire); Edric Connor (the negro harpooner Daggoo, Flask's squire). The actor Michael Higgins, though uncredited, also took part in the filming in Las Palmas de Gran Canaria.



## What was filmed in Las Palmas de Gran Canaria?

Between 20 and 25 minutes of footage out of the film's total length of 110 minutes. The end of the film, that is, the hunting of Moby Dick and the epilogue, the shots of the crew on the whale-boats in the other two whale hunts shown in the film, at least two sequences on the deck of the *Pequod* and at least one interior sequence in Captain Ahab's cabin were shot in the sea off Las Palmas de Gran Canaria.



## Why was it filmed in Las Palmas de Gran Canaria?

These scenes were scheduled to be filmed in Fishguard (Wales), but bad weather prevented this, causing the loss of the two whales they tried to film, one destroyed and the other vanished in the fog. They then decided to move the filming to Las Palmas de Gran Canaria.



# The four main areas of the route.

## Zone 1: Avenida Marítima.

If we walk along the promenade that links the beaches of **Las Alcaravaneras** and **La Laja** and look out to sea, especially along the stretch that runs from **the Marina** to the **Vegueta** district, we can imagine the scene. On this strip of sea facing east a large part of *Moby Dick* was filmed. Shooting usually took place from nine in the morning to five in the afternoon a mile and a half to the south of the Muelle Grande, which was then the outer dock of the **Port of La Luz**. Everything we see today was then open sea, with no breakwaters of any kind.

The model of the whale Moby Dick had an underwater shackle at the bow and a seventy-metre rope fastened there and attached at the other end to the tug **Fortunate**, from the British shipping agency Miller y Cía, known as Casa Miller, founded in 1887, which was then the leading company in the Port of La Luz. José Carvallo was the tug's master. The whale raised or sank its head in the sea depending on how powerfully the tug was dragging it.

The vessel that carried John Huston, Gregory Peck and the other actors to the set every day was the yacht **Tishbite**. The crew consisted of a British captain and engineer and five Spanish crew. Queequeg's coffin, used in the epilogue, was always carried on the yacht.

As support vessels there were three Canarian *falúas* (motor barges) from Casa Miller, **the Teror, the Mirlo and the Cory**. Water jets were propelled from a distance from these *falúas* over the sperm whale, as they had been equipped with water pumps to simulate storms.

John Huston, Gregory Peck and the rest of the actors would spend the whole day on the yacht, having come from **Hotel Santa Catalina**. They had breakfast and lunch on the pleasure boat with food brought from **Hotel Parque**. Gregory Peck arrived at the makeup room every day at five in the morning to have the scar drawn running across the left side of his face. The actor Friedrich von Ledebur, who played Queequeg, arrived an hour earlier, as he had to work on the tattoos he sported all over his body. Throughout the filming Peck had a Canarian stand-in. There was also a dummy that was used in distant shots.



**Erich Lessing.** The filming was documented by the distinguished Austrian photographer Erich Lessing. In his collection of photographs, those taken on this side of the bay show the model plying the waters with members of the crew sitting on its back, John Huston at work directing the film, and the special operation required to film the moments when Peck was perched on Moby Dick's back, on a purpose-built tilting set.



Poster of *Moby Dick*. Promotional poster of the movie with Gregory Peck in the leading role.



Poster of *Moby Dick*. Promotional poster of the movie with Gregory Peck holding the harpoon.

### Tales from the set: Risk.

This is where the most dangerous shot for the actor Gregory Peck was filmed. Captain Ahab's body, with one leg stuck inside the whale, dead and trapped by the actual ropes of the harpoons that were used to try to hunt down the whale, had to sink below the water for a few seconds and then re-emerge, all by moving the model with a mechanical system operated with a crank by a port worker named Sindo. Peck wanted to do the shot himself without using a stuntman. When the sequence was over, Gregory Peck thanked Sindo for his skill, telling him that his life had been in his hands.



Group in charge of the launch of *Moby Dick*. Black and white photograph in Las Palmas de Gran Canaria. Work team posing next to the model and boat of *Moby Dick*.

### **Tales from the set: Tip.**

In this area there was an incident involving the boy Manuel Márquez, then aged thirteen, who was hired as the ship's cabin boy; because of his age, he was accompanied during filming by his brother, who was two years older. The incident occurred on the barge on which they were filming, during one of the poker games they played during breaks. A treacherous gust of wind blew the heap of dollars into the sea. After a few seconds of surprise, Manuel's brother jumped into the sea without hesitation and salvaged the banknotes. In return, he received a tip from Gregory Peck that they would never forget.



David J. Nieves. Black and white photograph of two people with the sea in the background.



General launch. Black and white photograph at the dock in Las Palmas de Gran Canaria. Staff working on the assembly of the *Moby Dick* models.

### **Tales from the set: The most important shot.**

It was also on this eastern coastline that the shot John Huston considered the most important of all was filmed. It is when we see Gregory Peck drowned, trapped in the ropes used to harpoon Moby Dick, waving his lifeless arm, as if he were signalling to the sailors that they should continue the hunt. As Huston admitted, it was an unforeseen shot, which arose through the movement of the sea and the swaying of the whale itself.



Dear English people. Black and white photograph at sea, with the city of Las Palmas de Gran Canaria in the background; in the water, the model of the whale and part of the filming crew on it.

**Elder.** Another important British firm in the Port of La Luz, Elder Dempster Canary Islands, known as Casa Elder, also played a significant part in the filming. Elder's role is demonstrated by the photos preserved by their descendants. These include one of Gregory Peck with the Gran Canarian filmmaker David J. Nieves, cameraman for the NO-DO state newsreel. The NO-DO report filmed in the city of Las Palmas de Gran Canaria was broadcast on 24 January 1955. It can be seen on the Radio Televisión Española website. NO-DO is the abbreviation of the Franco regime's Noticias y Documentos Cinematográficos (Cinema News and Documents), reports with political and social news screened before films in cinemas.

**Worldwide expectation.** The NO-DO report is a sign of the expectation that the filming aroused. Another is the news of the tumult caused at Madrid's Barajas Airport by the arrival of Gregory Peck, who stopped over on 12 December 1954 before flying to the Canary Islands, accompanied by John Huston. Special reports on the filming such as the one published in 1955 in the French magazine *Paris Match* show that it was a worldwide event.



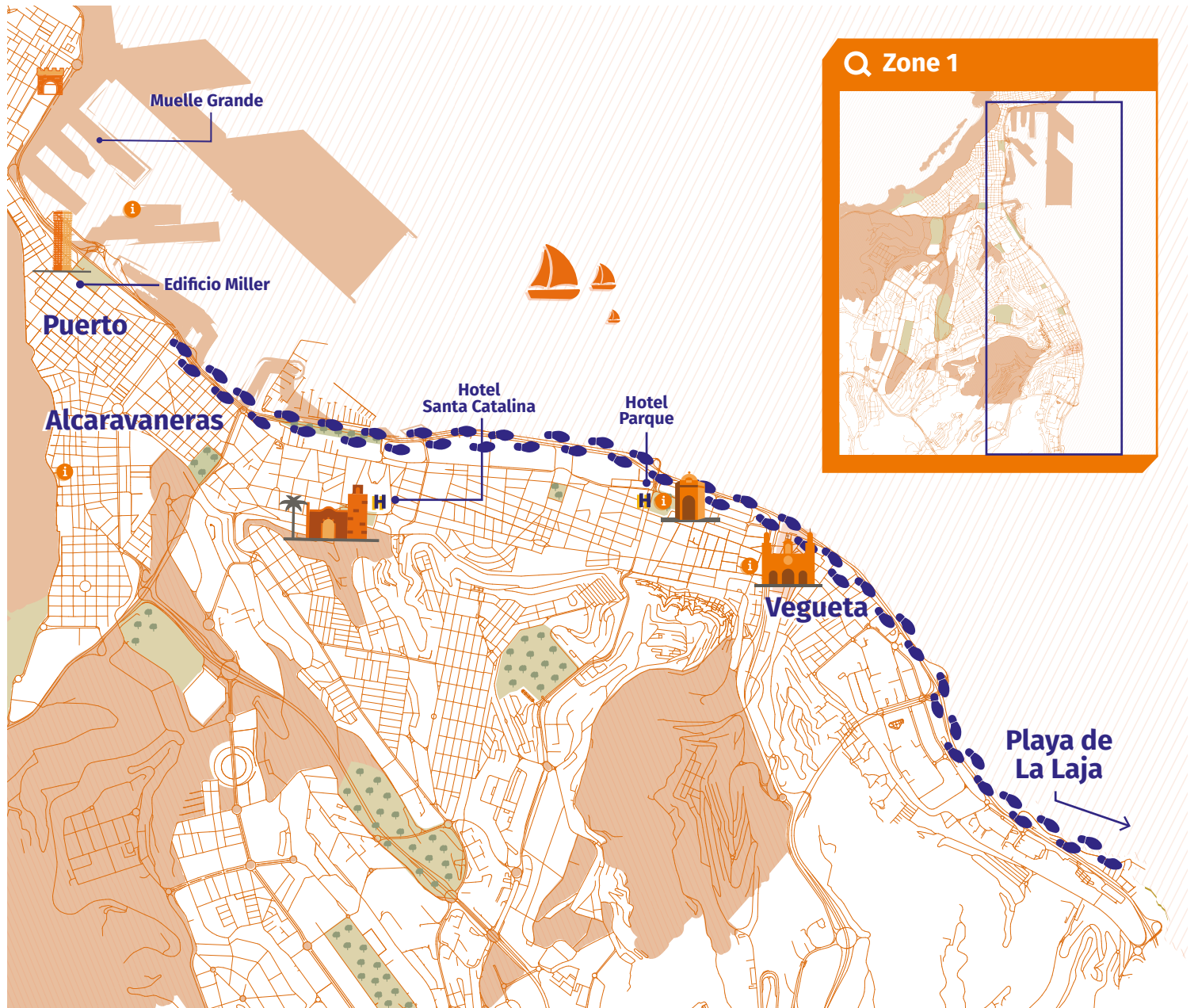
Tail of Moby Dick at the Puerto de la luz. Black and white photograph of the tail of *Moby Dick* being towed by a boat in Puerto de la luz, Las Palmas de Gran Canaria.

### **Tales from the set: Heroic feat.**

On 31 December 1954, the cable connecting the whale to the tug came loose. The whale had drifted and was heading towards the coast. To avoid another loss, John Huston climbed through a hatch into the sperm whale after grabbing a bottle of whisky. “See you next year”, he said to those outside, after giving a military salute to the crew and taking a long swig. The cable had to be passed through a hole in the belly of the whale, but now it was not just a matter of recovering the whale, but also of saving the director’s life. Overcoming the big waves which lifted the model out of the water and suddenly dropped it, the cable was recovered thanks to the skill of the Irish assistant director Kevin McClory and his assistant Isidoro Martínez Ferry, a champion swimmer from Barcelona, who jumped into the sea. “Big waves were lifting the whale out of the water and then suddenly dropping it. Those men risked their lives”, wrote John Huston.

## Map of zone one of the route.

Some relevant points marked along the way are: Vegueta, Parque Hotel, Santa Catalina Hotel, port area, Miller Building, and Muelle Grande.



Map of the city of Las Palmas de Gran Canaria with route one, from Alcaravaneras to La Laja Beach.

## Zone 2: Puerto-Canteras.

### 1. 3, Poeta Agustín Millares Sall, Street.

In the 1950s, the site where the **Mapfre Building** now stands was the headquarters of the **Compañía Carbonera de Las Palmas, S.A.**, whose original name in English was **Hull Blyth** workshops, access to which was via no. 13, Pescadería Street, now López Socas Street, perpendicular to Rosarito Street, which also adjoined the workshop. **Carbonera de Las Palmas** was part of Casa Miller.

This place near the Port Market, like the market itself, fronted directly onto the sea at that time. This land reclaimed from the sea is now the urban access route to the La Isleta district (the end of Eduardo Benot Street and Poeta Agustín Millares Sall Street), the Avenida Marítima, with its four lanes, the bridge called Onda Atlántica and plots belonging to the Port Authority, including the city's aquarium.

The model of the giant albino sperm whale Moby Dick, **25.6 metres long with a maximum weight of 100 tonnes**, was built by Hull Blyth's Canarian shipwrights. It was made using **wood, wire netting and rubber** on a flat-bottomed vessel they called an **aljibe (cistern) or barge**, which was used to carry water to boats anchored in the bay. The barge, belonging to Armando Torrent, was filled with water to give the construction more or less weight. The rubber used was unknown in the Canary Islands; it was introduced for the filming of *Moby Dick*.



Boxing Spectator. Black and white photograph of the cast of *Moby Dick* at an event.

Work began on 25 November 1954. The white sperm whale took a month to build. Between forty and fifty workers from the Canary Islands were involved, in addition to the British specialists. Other pieces were also built: **a section of the whale's back**, on a **tilting set**, mounted on another barge, on which a section of the deck of the whaling ship ***Pequod*** was built, including the **crow's nest**, and one of the four elongated eight-metre dory-type **whale-boats**, bowed fore-and-aft, which appear in the film, used to capture giant sperm whales in the mid-nineteenth century, when the action is set. The **articulated tail** of the whale was brought from England. Another port firm, **Varaderos Jorge**, at 38-40, Albareda Street, took part in building the sets of the *Pequod* on the barge and in assembling the pieces.

### Tales from the set: Canarian labour.

Initially, the British production company had transferred specialists from Britain to Las Palmas de Gran Canaria to build the whale. When the standard of the Canarian shipwrights became apparent, the British specialists were sent home and the Canary Islanders built the whale.



Pedro Glez. Fleitas. Black and white photograph of a group of the cast posing.

### Tales from the set: Launch.

A girl named María Amalia Guillén Martí was entrusted with the task of smashing the bottle of champagne against Moby Dick's head before the latter rolled into the sea for the first time. "Amalita" Guillén was the daughter of the Civil Governor of Las Palmas and provincial leader of the Francoist single party in Las Palmas between 1954 and 1956, Santiago Guillén Moreno. The launch took place on Wednesday 29 December 1954, at around three in the afternoon, and was keenly anticipated.



Launch of *Moby Dick*. Black and white photograph of the filming at the dock.

## 2. La Puntilla.



On the site now occupied by Plaza Eduardo Suárez Morales, where the ground floor is occupied by the **Club Victoria's** facilities, there were some distinctive houses in 1954 with balconies overhanging the sea. If we lean on the railings in the square we can imagine the cast and crew of *Moby Dick*, led by John Huston and Gregory Peck, walking down to the beach to board the vessels that took them to the filming on this side of the bay.

The production used the so-called **Millionaires' Club**, a society located on the upper floor of the **Juan Pérez Bar** (Prudencio Morales, 19), as a makeup and hairdressing room. The Juan Pérez Bar was a meeting place for crew and actors, offering rest and refreshments.

On the other hand, the **Real Club Victoria** opened its premises in the current location it still occupies at Paseo de Las Canteras, 4 on 23 December 1954. The New Year's Eve party at the club, three days later, was attended by many members of the film crew, who went straight from that party to the next day's work. During filming they worked every day, regardless of whether it was a Sunday or a public holiday.

#### **Tales from the set: Contact lenses.**

With the actors and crew in the area, La Puntilla was buzzing with people coming to see what was going on. Decades later, some still remembered how impressed they were to see the coloured contact lenses that Edric Connor, an actor particularly popular with children, put in and took out. Many, who had never seen contact lenses, let alone coloured ones, were amazed.



Connor at Santa Catalina. Black and white photograph of the cast.

### 3. Pepe el Limpiabotas Park.

This location was chosen because it offers the best views of the bay of **El Confital** without leaving the city centre. Two main sequences were shot in this west-facing bay: the whale-boats setting off in pursuit of the whale and the epilogue.

If we scan the sea where Roque Cabrón stands out, near the coast, we can imagine the four whale-boats in the film, with Gregory Peck, Richard Basehart, Leo Genn, Harry Andrews, Edric Connor, Seamus Kelly, Bernard Miles, Tom Clegg and Friedrich von Ledebur, accompanied by Canarian extras, along with the yacht Tishbite and other support vessels, filming the hunt for the sperm whale.

When distant shots of the boats had to be filmed, fishermen and *cambulloneros* (waterborne traders) were taken along as oarsmen. For this purpose, a recruiting session was held at **La Puntilla**. Sixty people applied and between ten and twelve were hired.

In this area the epilogue of the film was shot, with Ishmael (Richard Basehart) as the only survivor, in the middle of the ocean, clinging to the coffin built for his friend Queequeg. The shot was filmed on 27 December 1954.

Shots with the whale were also filmed on this side of the coast. In these cases, the filming operation took place both on the coast near El Confital and in the area of the former Lloret and Llinares factories, in the sea in front of the **Alfredo Kraus Auditorium**, as it was the deepest for the tug. There were days when the model of the whale “slept” at anchor off El Confital. We can imagine it if we turn our gaze towards Roque Cabrón at high tide, since at those times it looks like an enormous beached sperm whale. Some nights the yacht Tishbite was moored in the area of Los Nidillos..

#### Tales from the set: Meat or fish.



Erich Lessing's pictures taken in this area are notable for the large numbers of seagulls in the sky. They were needed to make the moment of the hunt more realistic, as they are the ones that warn of the presence of the whale and during the hunt they constantly fly over the scene. The point is that the British asked for beef as bait to attract the seagulls, without knowing that there were people in the neighbourhood who were keeping part of these substantial packets of meat and throwing leftover fish into the sea. The prices of meat were prohibitive for many people in those days. It is said in the neighbourhood that there was plenty of meat to eat in La Isleta thanks to *Moby Dick*.

## Map of zone two of the route.

1. 3, Poeta Agustín Millares Sall, Street.
2. La Puntilla.
3. Pepe el Limpiabotas Park.



Map of the city of Las Palmas de Gran Canaria with route two, from the Port to La Isleta.



## Zone 3: Ciudad Jardín.

### 1. Hotel Santa Catalina.

In **Ciudad Jardín**, the main historical residential district of Las Palmas de Gran Canaria, is **Hotel Santa Catalina**, the most important in the city. With its characteristic butterfly-shaped floor plan, it had been reopened in 1952, only two years before the filming, based on a design by the architect Miguel Martín-Fernández on the 1892 original by the Scottish architect James M. MacLaren.

The main members of the team stayed here, including Gregory Peck, John Huston, Leo Genn and Richard Basehart. In addition, Peck's girlfriend, the journalist Veronique Passani, slept in a different room from his. Peck described the hotel as "superb, definitely one of the best in Europe". It had a bowling alley at that time, where the artists and technicians who were staying there spent a lot of their spare time.

Gregory Peck arrived in Gran Canaria on 16 December 1954 by plane at Gando Airport with John Huston. He finished filming on 13 January 1955. At seven in the evening on that day he organised a farewell cocktail party at the hotel.



Benjaume. Black and white photograph of actors at a party.

**Ahab shaves off his beard.** Several photographers took snapshots of Gregory Peck shaving off the distinctive beard that characterises Captain Ahab. It was on the tug Gran Canaria, out at sea on the east coast, on his last day of filming, 13 January 1955. The person who had the honour of shaving him was the barber at Hotel Santa Catalina, César de Llanos Santana, a resident of Cruz de Piedra, boxer and trainer of prominent Canarian boxers.



### **Tales from the set: Flying pianos.**

The piano at Hotel Santa Catalina ended up rolling down one of its staircases when brawny British crew members and Canarians who knew that the film crew were in the hotel, both groups the worse for drink, bet on who was capable of carrying it. This anecdote gave rise to many versions, some very exaggerated, such as the story that the piano flew out of one of the hotel windows. The collection of anecdotes includes frequent binges of members of the crew and how in many cases they went straight from them to work the next day.



Group at a cocktail party. Genn Hustos. Black and white photograph of a group at an event.

## 2. British Club.

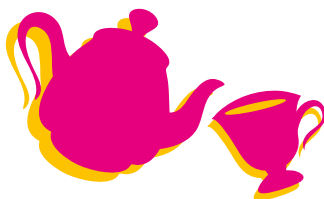
The **British Club (Club Inglés) of Gran Canaria** was founded in 1908. Located at **274, León y Castillo Street**, it is still a meeting place for the descendants of the British colony of Las Palmas de Gran Canaria. Several cocktail parties were held at the British Club to celebrate the film. They were hosted by the British Honorary Consul Gerardo Miller, Ian Kendall Park, director of Casa Miller, and Dorothy Park, his wife.

On one occasion Gregory Peck attended a children's Christmas party at the British Club wearing Captain Ahab's wooden leg to surprise the children and play with them. He spent many evenings with John Huston in the bar of the British Club drinking whisky.

Parties were also held at the house of the director of Casa Miller, Mr Park, in Ciudad Jardín, located at the junction of **Núñez de Arce Street** and **León y Castillo Street**.

### Tales from the set: Dances.

Many daughters of families in the British colony, then aged fifteen, studied all year at British private schools. Since the filming coincided with the Christmas holidays, many remember details of the event, as they returned to the city to celebrate Christmas and took part in the numerous receptions and parties that were held. They have provided access to many photos that have remained private for decades. These women, now in their eighties, recall that what was danced at the parties then was "waltzes and foxtrots, neither too distant nor too close".



### 3. Island Stadium.

There were three moments related to the filming of *Moby Dick* that took place in the former football ground of Unión Deportiva Las Palmas, opened in 1944, ten years before the filming, and closed for sports use in 2003. It has now been converted into a park with 6,000 square metres of grass and numerous palm trees, which preserves three of the original façades from the old stadium.

On Saturday 25 December 1954, Christmas Day, Gregory Peck performed the ceremonial kick-off in a match between the B teams of Unión Deportiva Las Palmas and Club Deportivo Tenerife. It was in aid of the Christmas and Epiphany campaign. Peck walked out onto the pitch with the president of Unión Deportiva Las Palmas, the vice-president of the Football Federation and a group of girls from the island's high society, who presented him with a bouquet of flowers.



Juana T. Bravo DL Blandy. Black and white photograph of Gregory Peck receiving a bouquet of flowers.

Also on Christmas Day, at 11 in the morning, a match was played in the Island Stadium between the cast and crew of the film. Gregory Peck played centre forward.

Another landmark event related to the filming took place on 7 January 1955. On that day Unión Deportiva Las Palmas, which had managed to return that season to the First Division, played against the Real Madrid of Di Stéfano, Puskás and Gento. The actor Leo Genn, together with his wife, attended the event at the invitation of the Canarian businessman and industrialist Juan Domínguez Guedes.

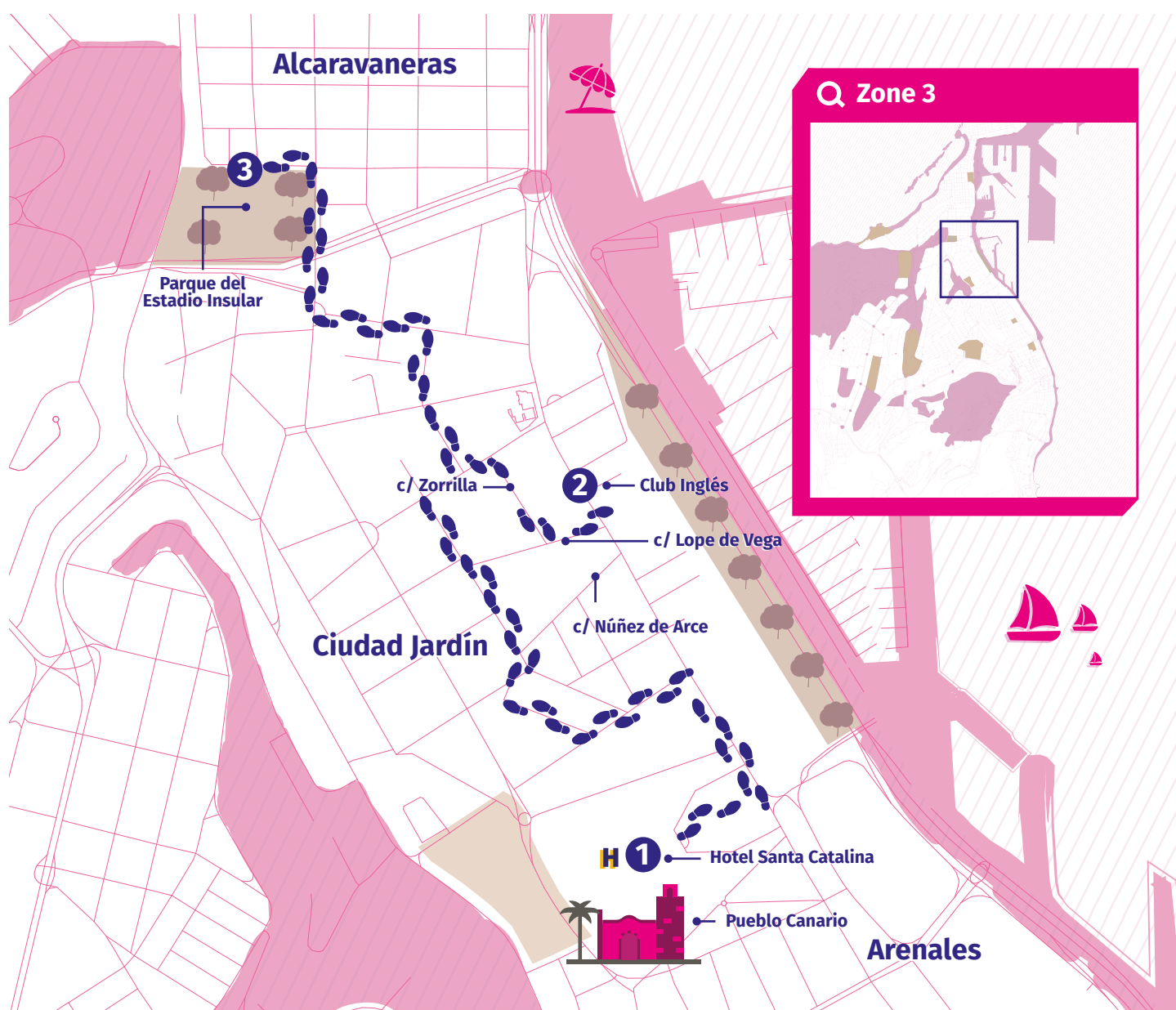
**Juan Domínguez Guedes.** A close friend of the actor Leo Genn, he found out from him about the problems that the filming in Wales was having with the loss of two whales. He was the one who informed the British about the possibility of filming in Las Palmas de Gran Canaria. He and his wife provided important help with the local authorities, port authorities and British shipping agencies based in the port. At his house, located at the junction of Zorrilla Street and Lope de Vega Street, he celebrated New Year's Eve 1954 in the presence of Leo Genn and Richard Basehart.



Basehart Pepita de Domínguez Guedes. Black and white photograph of people posing at an event.

## Map of zone three of the route.

1. Hotel Santa Catalina.
2. British Club.
3. Island Stadium.



Map of the city of Las Palmas de Gran Canaria with route three through the Ciudad Jardín area.

## Zone 4: Triana.

### 1. Hotel Parque.

Most of the crew from Britain stayed at **Hotel Parque**, occupying around fifty rooms. They arrived on the island by seaplane. This was one of the city's leading hotels at that time. It is still in operation today, in **Bravo Murillo Street**, next to **San Telmo Park**, very close to where the old pier of Las Palmas used to be.

The logistics of both the catering and taxis for the filming were centralised from this hotel. Much of the work of the Canary Islanders who participated in the production crew was concentrated here. Seven taxis were hired to transport the crew. The taxi drivers were paid each day according to the previous day's mileage.

Accounts of Gregory Peck agree in describing him as a steady, very calm type, like the image he conveys in most of his films, with a wry smile and a penetrating gaze. They also mention how "handsome and tall he was". He was nearly six feet three inches tall.



Cocktail Group. Black and white photograph of a cocktail party.

In **Clavel Street**, perpendicular to **Triana**, there was great excitement when word spread that Peck was buying Canarian table linen and other craft products in the **Drago shop**, located at no. 9 in that street.



Huston, Peck, and Park. Black and white photograph of celebrities.

Crossing to the other side of the **Guiniguada ravine**, in the Vegueta district, the former **Avellaneda cinema**, now the **Guiniguada Theatre**, was where the rushes of the film were screened as they were being shot. On 10 January it was announced that John Huston and Gregory Peck were visiting the **Casa de Colón**. That may have been the day when Peck stopped for refreshments at **Hotel Madrid**, in the nearby **Plaza de Cairasco**. Preserved inside the hotel cafeteria is a photo of Gregory Peck there during the filming.

#### **Tales from the set: The tug España II.**

A port worker has reported seeing filming inside the cabin of the tug España II decorated like Captain Ahab's cabin on the *Pequod*. It would be the only known interior filmed in Las Palmas de Gran Canaria. The sequence corresponds to the tense dialogue between Ahab and his chief mate Starbuck, when the latter realises that the captain is putting the death of Moby Dick before actually capturing whales or the very lives of the crew.



Mobile decoration. Black and white photograph of the construction of the Moby Dick model.

## 2. Cuyás Theatre.

On Thursday 30 December 1954, in what is now the auditorium of the **Cuyás Theatre** (then called Circo Gallera or Gallera del Cine Cuyás), a boxing match took place in a ring erected on the space normally occupied by the *gallera* (cockfighting arena). It was not the only event held there at which members of the cast and crew were present. Huston, Peck and Seamus Kelly are known to have attended one on Saturday 25 December.

The fight was organised to raise money for the city's neediest children. After four bouts between local fighters, the actor and singer Edric Connor performed two songs, the second of which was "Ol' Man River", popularised by the film *Magnolia* (1951). Gregory Peck, Leo Genn and Richard Basehart participated by carrying the collecting boxes. The contestants in the exhibition bout were the actor Tom Clegg and the stuntman Joe Powell. It was the first heavyweight fight held in Las Palmas de Gran Canaria. Gregory Peck, John Huston and Leo Gunn acted as seconds. Seamus Kelly was the timekeeper and Harry Andrews the master of ceremonies.



Boxing. Black and white photograph signed in a boxing ring.

John Huston presented a donation of 10,000 pesetas to the Civil Governor, Santiago Guillén Moreno. A photo of Gregory Peck in the audience with a cigar between his teeth, roaring with laughter with his girlfriend, the French journalist Veronique Passani, was published in the British *Daily Express*. This event provided the only public image of Veronique Passani in Las Palmas de Gran Canaria.

### Tales from the set: Premiere.

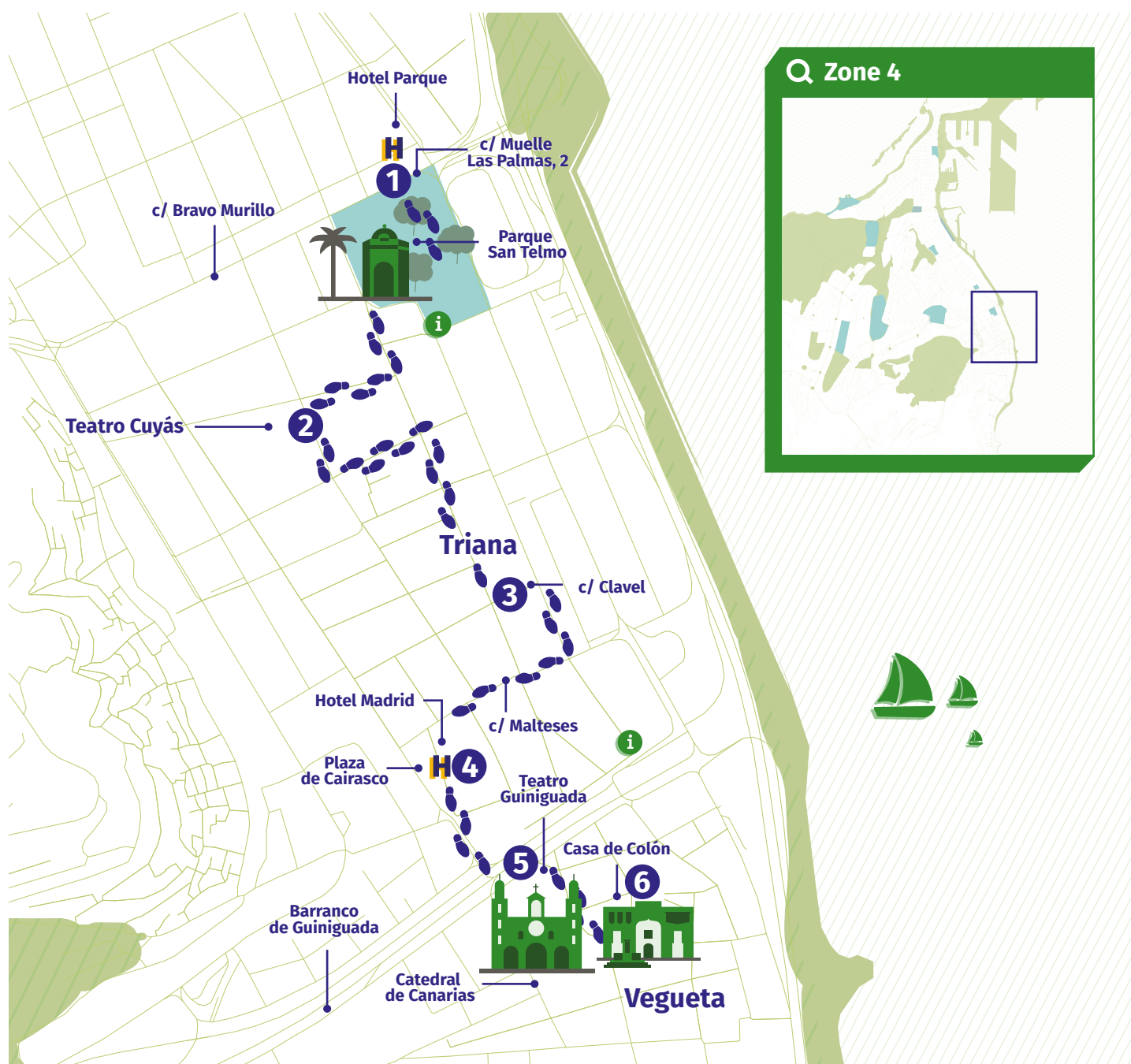
The premiere in Las Palmas de Gran Canaria of the film that gave Gregory Peck his greatest popularity, *Roman Holiday*, in which he starred with Audrey Hepburn and popularised the Vespa brand of scooters, coincided exactly with the actor's presence in the city. It was on Thursday 23 December 1954 at the now defunct Capitol Cinema (**Paseo Tomás Morales, 23**). At the end of January 1955 the film was shown at the Teatro Hermanos Millares cinema (the site is now occupied by **Hotel NH Imperial Playa, 1, Ferreras Street**), coinciding with the screening of the NO-DO report on the filming of *Moby Dick* in the city. This was announced in the local listings. Peck even had a publicity photo taken in Las Palmas de Gran Canaria with the Vespa representative..



Peck and Bogart in Gando. Signed black and white photograph at Gando Air Base.

## Map of zone four of the route.

1. Hotel Parque.
2. Cuyás Theatre.
3. Clavel Street.
4. Plaza de Cairasco.
5. Guiniguada Theatre.
6. Casa de Colón.



Map of the city of Las Palmas de Gran Canaria with route four, from Vegueta to Triana.



**Commemorative route  
for the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary  
of the filming of  
“Moby Dick”  
in Las Palmas de Gran Canaria**

