In the south of the Spanish Peninsular stands the Alpujarra region, bordered by the Sierra Nevada to the north, the Mediterranean Sea to the south, and the Sierra de Lujar and Gador to the west and east respectively. It is made up of 66 towns and villages belonging to the province of Granada and Almeria. Due to its immense size and the numerous towns and villages it contains, it is divided into the higher Alpujarra Alta to the north and the lower Alpujarra Baja to the south. A further distinction can be made on historical grounds between the Granada Alpujarra and the Almeria Alpujarra.

The Alpujarra is an area of breathtaking countryside, sprinkled with almond trees, strawberry gardens and vegetable gardens. The region's landscape is particularly mountainous, so its towns and villages have had to adapt to the undulating terrain, their houses being built on different levels and facing south to make the most of the benign Mediterranean climate. The winding streets with their stone surfaces are an invitation to take a stroll and breathe in the peace and tranquility. They are really do appear to stand still.

The Granada Alpujarra

Balcón de la Alpujarra

Heading south from Órgiva towards the Alpujarra Alta, we come across the first of the white towns, emerging out of the drizzle and mist, the crops and terraces, the towns of Cazorla, Guadix and Alcaucín, on the way to the town of Guadix. A narrow mountain road runs along the crest of Guadix hill, the gateway to the Alpujarra. Its famous health spa offers a variety of treatments for a number of different conditions, the multiple properties of its medicinal waters being widely recognised. Its main place of interest is the Arab Baths, the Mudéjar-style La Comunión Church, San Sebastián Hermitage and the many vantage points scattered throughout the town.

Barranco de Poqueira

Without warning almost at the last minute, these towns suddenly appear before us, seeming to stretch as far as the eye can see. The three villages of Poqueira, Capileira and Pocaila, with their name, are a joy to stroll along. It is a must to visit the Museum of Alpujarra, not forgetting the church and a number of vantage points and fountains. The highlight of the trip is its 12th-century Church of St. James, which stands in the middle of the town. A narrow mountain road runs along the crest of Guadix hill, the gateway to the Alpujarra. Its famous health spa offers a variety of treatments for a number of different conditions, the multiple properties of its medicinal waters being widely recognised. Its main place of interest is the Arab Baths, the Mudéjar-style La Comunión Church, San Sebastián Hermitage and the parish church.

The Almería Alpujarra

The route to the coast

From Órgiva, the road leads into two directions. If we take the direct route to the coast, we will pass through Los Montesinos, Los Bérgares, Alhama and Alpardo white towns en route. If we follow the road north, we will reach Almuñecar.

The first towns we encounter as we enter the Almeria section of the Alpujarra are Armilla and Paterina del Río, followed by La Joya de Andújar, with its churches and terraced fields. Almuñecar, with its picturesque beaches and coves, is another town well worth visiting.

Cuisine

The Alpujarra is renowned for its cuisine, thanks to the excellent quality of the agricultural produce and livestock on which the region's specialities are based. Broths, soups and stews are a specialty of the area, which is also known for its wine and olives. The highlight of the famous Órgiva dish is Callos a la Napolitana, a dish of lamb and snails, and Arroz con Pollo, a dish of rice and chicken. Other dishes include Estofado de Res, a beef stew, and Pastel de Almendras, a typical almond cake.

Handcrafts

The Alpujarra is famous for its carpets, rugs and woven products, which are generally very colourful and can be seen being made in a number of workshops. Carpets are made using traditional techniques, and the colours used are often bright and bold. Other crafts include pottery, textiles, and leather goods. Pottery is made using traditional methods, and the designs are often inspired by local flora and fauna. Textiles include handmade clothing, tableware, and other household items, and the designs are often based on traditional patterns.

La Alpujarra

Active tourism

The Alpujarra offers a wide range of opportunities to enjoy hiking and other mountain pursuits, as well as cycling, horse-riding, and other activities. The area is home to a number of mountain huts and refuges, which provide shelter for hikers and other visitors. The town of Órgiva is a popular destination for visitors, and the region is known for its friendly locals and traditional hospitality.

Cuisine

The Alpujarra is renowned for its cuisine, thanks to the excellent quality of the agricultural produce and livestock on which the region's specialities are based. Broths, soups and stews are a specialty of the area, which is also known for its wine and olives. The highlight of the famous Órgiva dish is Callos a la Napolitana, a dish of lamb and snails, and Arroz con Pollo, a dish of rice and chicken. Other dishes include Estofado de Res, a beef stew, and Pastel de Almendras, a typical almond cake.

Handcrafts

The Alpujarra is famous for its carpets, rugs and woven products, which are generally very colourful and can be seen being made in a number of workshops. Carpets are made using traditional techniques, and the colours used are often bright and bold. Other crafts include pottery, textiles, and leather goods. Pottery is made using traditional methods, and the designs are often inspired by local flora and fauna. Textiles include handmade clothing, tableware, and other household items, and the designs are often based on traditional patterns.