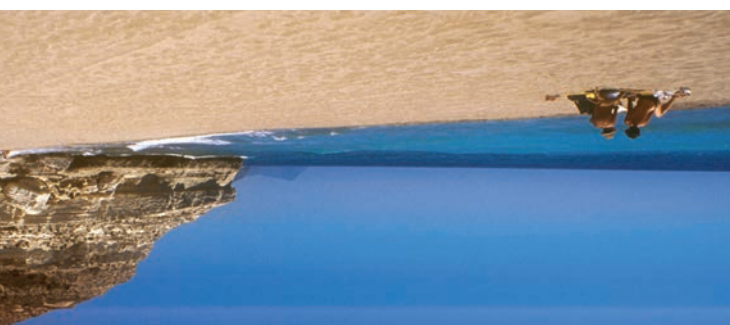




# Costa de Almería

Guía práctica costas / Mapa

Andalucía



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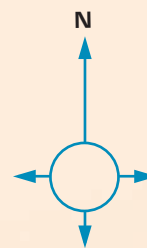
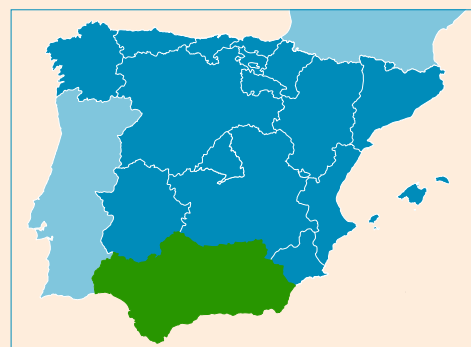


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# Costa de Almería

Municipio con declaración monumental Town with declared monuments	Hotel	Castillo Castle	Puerto comercial Commercial Ports	Cueva Cave	Refugio Mountain Shelter
Municipio con incoación monumental Town with monuments in process of declaration	Pensión	Torre Tower	Puerto deportivo Sports Port	Jardín Botánico Botanical Garden	Bañero Spa
Oficina de Información de la Junta de Andalucía Junta de Andalucía Information office	Hospital	Museo	Faro Lighthouse	Centro de Interpretación Interpretation Centre	Golf
Oficina Municipal de Turismo Municipal Tourism Office	Centro de Salud Health Centre	Monumento	Área recreativa Recreational Area	Mirador	Senderismo Walking
Autobús Bus	Parada de Autobús Bus Stop	Restos arqueológicos Archaeological Remains	Vista panorámica Panoramic View	Camping	Cicloturismo Cyclotourism
Oficina de Correos Post office	Parador		Punto de Información Information	Albergue Lodgings	Parapente Paragliding



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In the south of the peninsula, the Coast of Almería looks out over the Mediterranean Sea. Its peculiar landscape – desert in some areas, greenhouse crops in others, mountains and beaches, some stony, some covered in dunes – offers us a wide range of possibilities for leisure and enjoyment. Its villages and towns are still home to traces of ancient civilisations such as El Algar and Los Millares and noteworthy monuments such as the Arabic fortress in the city of Almería itself and the watchtowers and castles that line the coast, bearing witness to the area’s historical importance. Almería is also home to modern towns designed to take advantage of the province’s climate, sea and beaches, with tourist resorts and facilities that make the Almería Coast an ideal holiday destination. As far as nature is concerned, Cabo de Gata-Níjar Natural Park is a paradise of unspoilt, deserted beaches whose clean waters are ideal for scuba diving, sailing and windsurfing. The views from the cliff tops are impressive and the park is also home to a surprising number of different bird species.



## The South coast or “Poniente”

Our journey begins at Adra, a coastal town located in the Lower Alpujarra. Its sandy beaches are an invitation for the visitor to relax among tiny islands and cliffs. Its transparent waters are ideal for both swimming and scuba diving in search of a wealth of flora and fauna. We then continue to Dalías, whose urban layout still bears witness to its Muslim roots. Not far from here is Celín, whose monuments include the Aljízar Tower, La Reina Baths and, just below, the Arabic La Reina Reservoir. Celín still retains the essence of its past, its landscape filled with Moorish magic that reminds us of the town’s mediaeval origins. El Ejido’s privileged location means that it is home to a number of spots which are ideal both for rest and relaxation and the study of a highly-varied collection of flora and fauna. The town, which is home to one of the youngest, most enterprising populations in Spain, consists of a number of separate boroughs: El Ejido, Balerna, Guardias Viejas, Las Norias, Pampanito, Matagorda, Santa María del Águila and San Agustín. El Ejido boasts one of the few stretches of unspoilt coastline left on the European Mediterranean and, right on the doorstep of the residential areas themselves, offers the chance to enjoy unforgettable walks through areas of dunes and lakes inhabited by flamencos and other protected species.

All along the coast, the beaches take pride of place; the promenade in Balerna borders a huge, unspoilt beach that stands alongside the coastal dunes; the beach at Guardias Viejas is ideal for angling; San Miguel cove, where windsurfing is possible all year round, provides the venue for a number of sporting competitions; Almerimar is surrounded



by two beaches which offer all manner of facilities and, last but not least, Punta Entinas is an unspoilt paradise with breathtaking dunes and vegetation. Our next port of call is Roquetas de Mar. Situated in the Gulf of Almería, its climate, sea, beaches and natural areas make it a privileged location. The Natural Beauty Spot at Punta Entinas-Sabinar is one of the finest examples of a dune ecosystem to be found anywhere in the Peninsula, while the Barrera de Posidonia coral reef lies just a short distance off the coast. A long promenade winds in and out along the whole length of the beach. Aguadulce, with its beaches and pleasure harbour, is ideal for tourists. Our route ends in Almería itself, a city overlooking the sea and surrounded by mountains whose long history means that it is home to a wealth of monuments. Of particular note are the Cathedral, the Muslim fortress or Alcazaba, the old train station known as the Cable Inglés and the Port, though a long list of other surprises await us. We cannot leave without visiting beaches such as Almadrabillas, near the pleasure harbour, where we can enjoy sun and sea all year round.



## Cabo de Gata-Níjar Natural Park

The Almería coast is home to Cabo de Gata-Níjar Natural Park, a paradise of delightful coves tucked away among cliffs, long sandy beaches flanked by salt pans and dunes, and clean, crystal-clear waters which are an invitation to take a dip. Our first stop is San Miguel, a typical fishing village, before continuing to Las Salinas, home to a wide variety of birds that we can watch from the observatory: flamingos, herons, ducks, storks...169 species have been recorded in the reserve, making it a location of immense ecological importance. After passing through La Almadraba, the imposing Cabo de Gata lighthouse will appear from behind the cliffs. Standing on the reef of Las Sirenas, it affords spectacular views to the visitor. Retracing our steps, we will now take the road to San José, passing on our way through delightful little villages such as La Boca de Los Frailes and El Pozo de Los Frailes, where a XIV-century waterwheel can still be found.



San José, with its pleasure harbour and wealth of tourist facilities and services, is surrounded by unspoilt beaches of fine sand and crystalline warters which will delight scuba divers. A visit to the beaches of Los Genoveses and Cónsul is an absolute must, the former having witnessed the departure of the Spanish ships that sailed to the Battle of Lepanto. Heading back to El Pozo de Los Frailes along a road dotted with farmhouses as it wends its way towards the sea, we come to Los Escollos, an attractive fishing village that stands next to San Felipe Castle. Just alongside is La Isleta del Moro, consisting of a collection of white houses, a large rock and the islet from which its name is derived. Rodalquilar provides a spectacular setting, the former mining village, which now lies abandoned, being well worth a visit. Nearby are beaches and coves such as El Playazo where the visitor can enjoy the crystal-clear waters of the sea between rocks whose caves are ideal for diving. Next, we come to a little enclave of simple white houses, a location ideal for rest and relaxation. This is Las Negras, a small fishing village with attractive beaches and cliffs. A short detour through the cliffs will take us to Agua Amarga, another small fishing village and the final port of call on this unforgettable tour.



## The East coast or “Levante”

Carboneras is a white town of picture-postcard houses and attractive beaches ideal for bathing. Its main monuments, San Andrés Castle and El Rayo Tower, bear witness to its military origins. Mojácar, with its mediaeval town centre, appears to scale the mountainside, and breathtaking views can be admired from the vantage point of Plaza Nueva. The majestic Macenas Castle stands on the coast, watching over the 17 kilometres of beaches, some of which are completely unspoilt, which offer a variety of opportunities to enjoy the sun and sea. Heading inwards to the Sierra de la Cabrera, Turre is home to a number of craft workshops specialising in items made from esparto, bobbin lace and brass. Continuing along the coast, we come to Garrucha, a delightful fishing village overlooking the sea. The jewel in Garrucha’s crown is the promenade with its white marble balustrade. As dusk falls, the arrival of the fishing boats in the harbour and the auction of their catch at the

market provide a curious spectacle for the visitor. A walk through Vera, a location brimming with history, is not easily forgotten. Vera also boasts the only fully nudist beach with hotel facilities to be found in the area, at Puerto Rey. Nearby is Antas, whose highlights are its church and the prehistoric settlement of El Argar.



Next, we come to Cuevas del Almanzora, within whose boundaries 15 kilometres of coastline stretch from Palomares to Villaricos and from here to El Pozo del Esparto, offering the visitor the chance to enjoy open, sandy beaches or to search out delightful little coves which still retain their unspoilt beauty. Calguerin, where prehistoric caves once used as dwellings are dotted around the landscape, is a must. Its old centre, whose streets and squares are home to a number of ancestral homes, is also worth visiting. The stretch of coastline from Villaricos to El Pozo del Esparto is littered with the remains of chimneys, tunnels and platforms that bear witness to the fact that the area was once a hive of activity. All along the coast, we can find beaches to suit all tastes; whether they be small, secluded beaches such as El Calón or large, open ones like Villaricos, they all share a common characteristic: they are virtually unspoilt. Our final stop is Pulpí, on the border with the province of Murcia. The main attractions of this village are its beaches and the volcanic outcrops in the surrounding mountains.



# Costa de Almería

## Active Tourism

A number of activities are catered for on the Almería coast. Golf, mountain bike excursions, hiking, free flight above the cliffs, scuba diving, windsurfing... a wide range of options that has something for



everyone. The Bajo Almanzora area is ideal for potholing, horse riding and mountaineering.

## Cuisine

Almería’s cuisine is characterised by its varied nature. Dishes include snails served in a spicy sauce, fried breadcrumbs, and local specialities such as ajiþán, gurullos, ajo colorao, and pimentón. In addition, 200 kilometres of Mediterranean coastline mean that a wide range of fish and seafood are available with which to concoct exquisite fare such as fish soup, Arabic-style marinated fish, and a typical maritime rice dish known as arroz aparte, not forgetting fried and grilled fish and seafood. Garrucha in particular is renowned for its prawns. Nor are desserts neglected in Almería, the most famous being date sponge.



## Handicrafts



The visitor to the coast of Almería will discover a wide range of fine hand-crafted items on offer here. The highlight of local pottery is provided by the four-spout jugs made in Vera. Turre is famous for its esparto, bobbin lace and brass work, while glass workshops can be found in Roquetas de Mar and embroidery in the city of Almería itself, not forgetting the production of the rustic carpet typical in the Alpujarra region of the province, the jarapa.