

# Almeria







Almería occupies one of the

Peninsula, looking out to the

geographical tips of Spain, a privileged

point in the south-east of the Iberian

Mediterranean Sea. The first marks

of man's presence on this land is the

rchaeological site of Los Millares

n the municipality of Santa Fe de

Mondújar, just twenty kilometres from

the city of Almería. The site dates

back five thousand years and the main constructions were erected during the

Bronze Age. The Moorish culture shaped the personality of the city of Almería

as well as most of the province. From the period of the Emirate, Almería played

a major role as a sea harbour and a port of call for trade. However it was during

the Caliphate of Abd al-Rahman the third when the city multiplied its number

began to move their urban features to new streets and squares where mansion

houses were built with Renaissance tones and occupied by the Aristocracy,

who owned most of the lands and industries that surrounded the city. However







month of August the city of Almería

celebrates its main fair in honour

of Our Lady of the Sea. During the

fair the streets and squares in the

city are taken over by thousands

of local people and visitors who

visit the fairground and the caseta

type bars that have been installed

and stay open into the early hours.







Rambla river and the Cable

there is still a statue in the Plaza

Circular commemorating the

victims of the various floods,

the Statue of Charity. The Cable

Inglés structure is situated in

that was used to load the boats

the estuary, an iron building

with minerals at a more

economic price.

**Almería** 

The nineteenth-

century city of

This route starts off from the

Cathedral (10), where there

traditional architecture in the

Almería of this period, like the

house of the Música. From here

we go on to the Plaza Vieja (7)

in the Almería of the first half

house of Los Puche and the

are clear examples of the

laza de Bendicho, behind the

**Almería** 

A coastal town, Almería is the perfect place to discover on foot,

where monuments like the Cathedral , the Alcazaba castle, the

Cable Inglés or the convent of the Puras make up the testimony

of a rich history that continues to be present for the local people.

From the

Santiago

**Cathedral to** 

Calle del Cubo takes you to the

square where the Catedral is

situated, it has recently been

remodelled and palm trees have

been planted. To the right of the

Cathedral (10), hidden behind

the convent of Las Puras (8),

dating back to the eighteenth

Cervantes. It is an enclosed

According to the testimony of

Gutierre de Cárdenas, Duke of

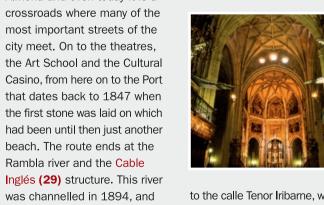
Maqueda and Knight Commander

convent, founded in 1515.

century, with access along calle

the ancient seminary, you will find

of León, he was given numerous houses and lands for his office of Mayor of the Alcazaba and the important job he carried out during the Wars of Granada. Calle Cervantes takes you to the Plaza de la Administración Vieja, of the nineteenth century, here opposite there is an arcade that is where the bullfights and takes you to the Plaza de la festivals are held just outside Constitución (7). Calle Mariana the urban centre of Almería, is on the right, at the end of the even today it still has the street you will find Las Claras sobriety and luminosity that convent (6), built in the eighteenth makes it stand out in its century using elements from the setting. We go on to the Plaza ate baroque and neoclassical de San Pedro (15), which is a periods in its foundation and curious contrast between the construction. The Calle Mariana Almería from last century and leads to the pedestrian street of a more than symbolic las Tiendas (17) dating from the ntegration of twenty-first-century eleventh century, one of the main Almería, mainly because of its shopping streets today that was privileged situation beside the it was the ancient calle de las Paseo de Almería, an area Lencerías, during the sixteenth adjacent to La Rambla that is century. The church of Santiago the centre today. Continue on (18) is at the beginning of this to the Puerta de Purchena (20) street dating from the sixteenth a clear example of new suburbs developing the city to the east It was the green belt area of Almería and even todav it is a crossroads where many of the



of hotels, where there are tourists

and visitors. Go down calle Routes Torres, to plaza de San Pedro, where the church of Saint Peter (15) is situated, it is in neoclassical style and was built

The Port and

From Almería Port going through the Almadrabas Park you come

to the beginning of the Paseo

Marítimo promenade, these are the most popular beaches with

local people and tourists alike.

An example of the traditional

importance of the sea for the

city of Almería is that in the

period of Abderramán III, the

port of this city was one of the

most important on the western

Mediterranean. However afte

earthquake of 1522, work on

start until 1847 when the Port

received a Royal concession to

trade directly with America as

infrastructure to export the

The city of Almería has 14

beaches along its 20

bathers go to the Paseo

grapes, iron and esparto grass

kilometres of coastline, most

Marítimo beaches, with bars

well as the need for

the present-day Port did not

it was destroyed by the

beaches of

**Almería** 

#### **The Paseo** de Almería

If you take the street that runs down from the Puerta de Purchena (20), it brings you to the Paseo de Almería, the most central street of the city. On the right side of the Paseo is the Plaza del Educador with the Post Office at the bottom. On the left of the Paseo, take the calle Navarro Rodrigo that ends in Obispo Orberá, where the



and terraces along this promenade giving it a lively atmosphere in summer. The beaches of las Conchas, los Provincial Council building (24) Tritones, San Miguel, el Zapillo and the Palmeral are along this is situated, housed in the promenade. Behind the Paseo ancient palace house of Juan Marítimo, you come to suburbs Lirola dating from 1884. like Ciudad Jardín with its low Walking down the street on the right is the Círculo Mercantil e houses with their extensive patios. A few metres from el Industrial (1899) (13), at Palmeral, there is a large present there is an Irish pub wooded area, on the right there on the ground floor, although is a round-about with the the upper part is used for Avenida del Mediterráneo or cultural acts and other the right, this is where the activities. To the back of this Almería fair is held in honour building, calle Poeta of Our Lady of the Sea. The Villaespesa takes you to the Maestro Padilla Auditorium is Cervantes Theatre (13), it at the beginning of the Avenida opened its doors in 1921, at present it is used as a cinema, occasionally staging plays. At the back of the theatre in plaza Cazard, calle General Tamayo and Plaza de la Virgen del Mar, where you find the Art School, the ancient Santo Domingo

Andalusian centre of

decorated in the French

academist style of the second

half of the nineteenth century.



del Mediterráneo, one of the focal points of cultural life in the city, it was opened in 1991 Continuing on from the Palmeral you come to the Térmica beach and then on to Nueva Almería, at the foot of the Nueva Almería urbanisation. Carry on along the coast to the east and you come to the beaches of la Cañada and el Alquián, near the airport and University. Continuing on after these you reach the Retamar and Torregarcía beaches, on the first Sunday of every new year thousands of pilgrims come here to recall that back in 1502 the Virgin Mary appeared here. The last beach in the province of Almería is at Cabo



### Geography and history

of inhabitants, extended its alcazaba

citadel castle and the solid city walls

that protected it; its port became the

entrance of the shipping channel for

The Christian conquest forced the

Mosques to be made into churches.

So the land where the Mosque stood

became the foundations of the new

catholic Cathedral. The medinas

the kingdoms of al-Andalus.













#### www.andalucia.org

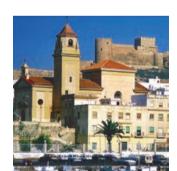


resa Pública para la Gesti Turismo y del Deporte de Andal Compañía, 40 - 29008 Málaga

> that has been erected over centuries, it contrasts with quarters of the city like la Chanca or Pescaderías, where you can still see traditional architecture linked to the development of the fishing industry. The climate in Almería is Mediterranean and warm, with average maximum temperatures of 24°C and minimum of 14°C.



La Alcazaba castle (1) is the monumental jewel of the city of Almería and it dominates the city as a watchtower and military defence. It is the second largest Andalusi construction on the Iberian Peninsula after the Alhambra Palace in Granada. As many



as twenty thousand soldiers could be billeted in the castle. The city walls, that climb up to the Alcazaba, explain the strategic importance of this city as a defensive bastion against the Berber pirate attacks at the time when Islam began to break up in the lands of Andalucía. The same impression is given

by another of the city's most representative monuments, the Cathedral of Almería (10) is a solid construction situated in the heart of the Barrio Vieja. It has a certain military and defensive air about it that contrasts with the subtlety and refinement of the interior, where there is a mixture of styles as diverse as the Renaissance of the ground plan or the Baroque and Neoclassical design of the chapels that encircle the main altar. From the Plaza Vieja (7), where the Town Hall is situated, winding streets take you down to the port passing emblematic places in the city like the Puerta Purchena (20) and the busy, bustling Paseo de Almería and churches like Santiago (18) and San Pedro (15) that look over lively plazas.

The close relationship that Almería has established with the sea is reflected in its port and industrial architecture. There was a time when some of the most sought after metals, by merchants from the known world, left from this port. The mineral loading platform

> remains from this golden age, locally called the Cable Ingles (29), a metallic invention that goes into the sea like a ship about to be launched. The museums of the city include the Museum of Almería, a reference on the list of Spanish museums.





**Festivals** 

The same as with the rest of the fairs in Andalucía, in Almería the aesthetics of the South are on display, the lively sevillana type dances, the liturgy of sherry wine like manzanilla, the local shellfish and cooked pork products. During the fair there is a parallel programme of plays and there are bullfights that take place in the

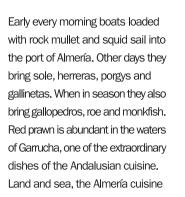


the top matadors. At the beginning of March the city of Almería celebrates its carnival. The local people dress up and take part in the different carnival group Lent which announces Easter. prepare processions of floats

competitions before the start of Easter week in Almería has been declared to be of National Tourist Interest. Fifteen religious guilds depicting the Easter story using baroque religious images and

floats that have an extraordinary artistic value. Another festival not to be missed is the "Night in honour of Saint John" or midsummer's night on the 23rd June, bonfires are lit on the beaches and Júas, or effigies of Judas Iscariot are burnt. It is a festival that attracts many people especially the younger crowd and because of the excellent temperatures of the seawater it is a tradition to have a dip in the sea after midnight.

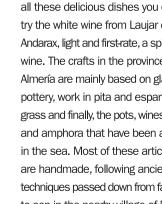
### **Gastronomy** and crafts





the lower parts of the province pork products from the pig slaughtering are added. The shellfish paella is also one of the main dishes on the Almería table, not forgetting vegetables, rabbit, mackerel Moorish style, a spicy dish served cold like a salad as a starter to open your appetite and prepare your stomach. There is also cuajadera de jibias y patatas a kind of stew made with cuttlefish and potatoes, a revoltijo or scramble made with onions, garlic and whole tomatoes cooked in the oven for and hour and a half or so. To wash down

to son in the nearby village of Níjar.



all these delicious dishes you can try the white wine from Laujar de Andarax, light and first-rate, a spirited wine. The crafts in the province of Almería are mainly based on glazed pottery, work in pita and esparto grass and finally, the pots, wineskins and amphora that have been aged in the sea. Most of these articles are handmade, following ancient echniques passed down from father

has colourful touches as well as

brush strokes of creativity. There are

bright dishes like the cold gazpacho

de ajoblanco soup, pimentón or

grilled vegetables seasoned with

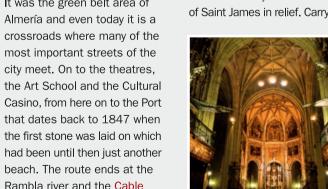
extra virgin olive oil from the Tabernas

desert. Dishes you eat with a spoon

like ajo colorao or the olla de trigo,

a substantial soup that is popular

along the east coast of Almería, in



to the calle Tenor Iribarne, where the Moorish aljibe (19) or water cisterns are situated. Jairán had them built in the eleventh century to supply the city with water. The side porch of the church of Santiago leads onto Calle Hernán Cortés, from where you can get to the plaza de las Flores, an area



## monastery (1728) and the house of the politician Emilio Pérez Ibáñez until it housed the Casino Cultural club in 1905. The central patio of this building is outstanding, it has a lavish glass-window, a Muslim hall and ballroom, that are

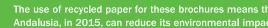






















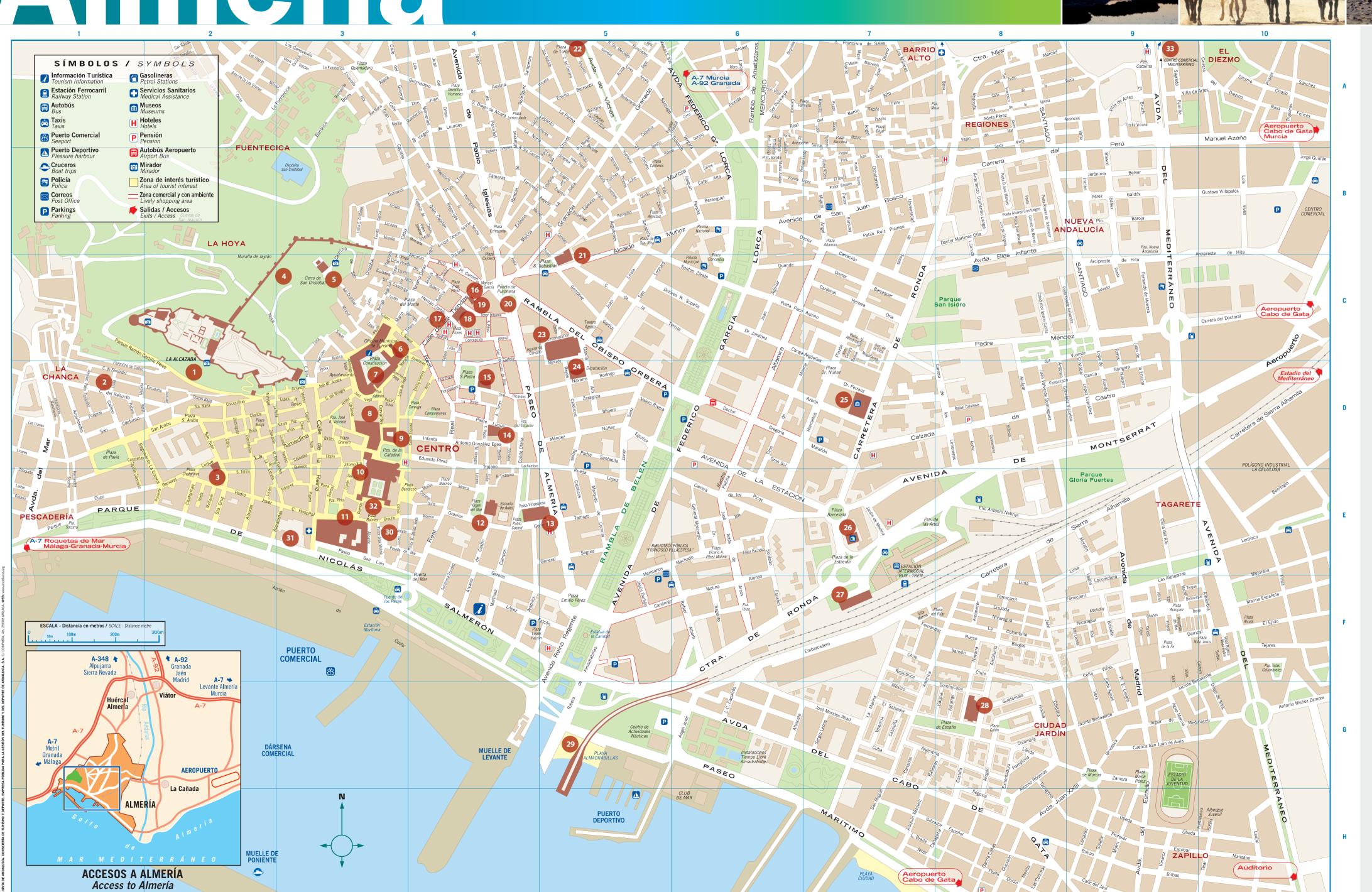




## it was not until the nineteenth century that the image of the city acquired a certain elegance that can still be seen in the oldest parts. The Plaza Vieja is an example of this new architecture

## A meria





- 1 La Alcazaba
- Barrio de la Chanca
- Iglesia de San Juan. Muro de la quibla y mihrab
- Muralla de Jayrán e
- Instituto de Aclimatación de Fauna Sahariana
- Cerro de San Cristóbal
- 6 Iglesia Convento de las Claras
- Plaza Vieja (Plaza de la Constitución)
  Avuntamiento
- Iglesia Convento de las Puras
- Palacio Episcopal
- Catedral
- Hospital Real
- Basílica de Nuestra Señora del Mar
- 13 Teatro Cervantes y Círculo Mercantil
- 14 Iglesia del Sagrado Corazón de Jesús
- Iglesia de San Pedro
- 6 Refugios de la Guerra Civil
- Calle de las Tiendas
- 18 Iglesia de Santiago
- 19 Aljibes arabes
- Puerta de Purchena
- Iglesia de San Sebastián
- Plaza de Toros
- 23 Mercado Central
- Diputación Provincial
- Museo Arqueológico
- Centro de Arte. Museo de Almería
- 27 Estación de Tren
- 28 Iglesia de San Antonio
- 29 Cable Inglés
- Comité inigies
- 30 Centro Andaluz de la Fotografía
- 31 Centro de Interpretación "Puerta de Almería"
- Museo de la Guitarra
- 33 La Casa del Cine

