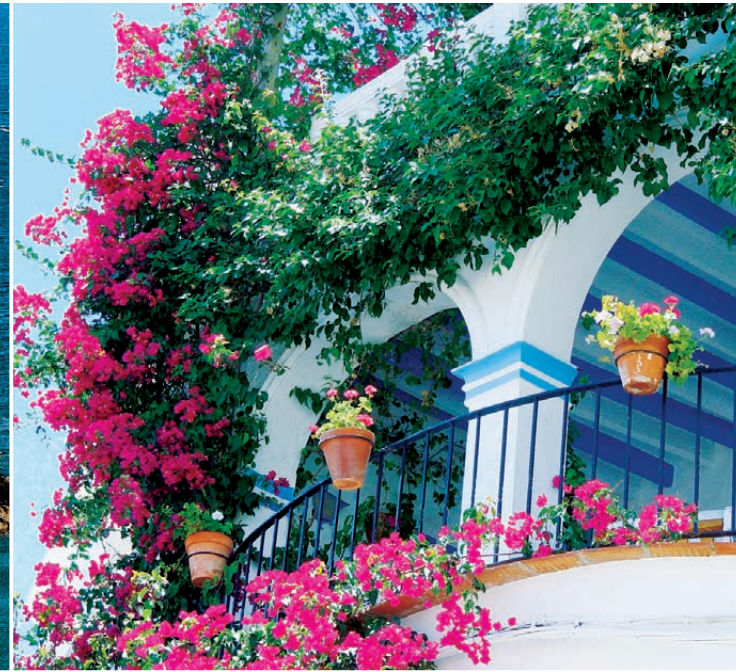




# Almería



## Art and Culture      Handicrafts      Festivals and Traditions      Gastronomy

Almería boasts a **rich archaeological legacy** which is the result of the numerous peoples who have left their imprint on this corner of Southern Europe over the centuries. Examples include the **cave paintings of Los Vélez**, and the sites of **Los Millares** (Santa Fe de Mondújar) and **El Argar** (Antas). After the



Phoenicians (who founded the ancient Adra or **Abera**) it was the Iberians, then the Romans, and finally the **Muslims** who were to land on Almería's coast. They turned the capital city into the **main port of Al-Andalus**, and set out to construct numerous **fortresses, watchtowers, aljibes** (water cisterns), and monuments throughout the province, such as the **Mosque of Fiñana** and the **Alcazaba** in the city of Almería itself. The **Castle of Vélez Blanco** is one of the finest architectural jewels of this period.

The **Christian conquest** brought new **European artistic styles** which were used in the construction of numerous churches, shrines, and convents. **Civil architecture** also thrived thanks to the patronage of the **nobility** and, especially from the 19th century onwards, a growing **bourgeoisie**. As a result the province boasts a wealth of **mansions and palatial homes**, whilst the booming **mining industry** created the typical **industrial archaeological landscape** of the Sierra de Gádor or the Levante coastline.



Throughout the province of Almería there are **numerous artistic centres** for the production of handicrafts which range from traditional **pottery** and **esparto work**, to the famous pieces made with **marble from Macael**, a material which is exported throughout Europe and was even used in the construction of Granada's Alhambra. **Pottery and ceramic workshops** are to be found in towns like Vera, Nijar, Sorbas, Albox, and Alhabia whilst the typical **jarapas** (colourful traditional blankets) which are woven on looms in **Nijar, Berja** and **Laujar de Andarax** are the most important **textile products**.

Alhama de Almería is home to a number of workshops creating **stained glass windows** and the province's craftsmen also produce **leather goods**, wood carvings depicting religious images, and figures made from **red coral** which is found on the **Isla de Alborán**.



**Fire**, very much a Mediterranean element, is the central theme of many of the Almería's festivals, notably the traditional **Noche de San Juan**, deeply rooted are the "**Fiestas de Moros y Cristianos**", during which locals recreate ancient battles between Moors and Christians wearing spectacular costumes specially designed for the occasion. Although these fiestas are celebrated in many towns and villages of the **eastern and western sides** of the coast and **inland areas**, those held in **Mojácar** are particularly colourful. Also interesting are the **Abén Humeya Morisco Games** in **Purchena**, a festive event of a similar nature.

**Almería's Feria**, which is held in honour of the Virgen del Mar, is one of the highlights of the summer season. During the **10-day event**, various marquees are set up in the centre of the city where people can sample the local delicacies during the **day**, and then the party moves to the main feria area where there are many more marquees and the feasting and revelry goes on well into the **night**. There are also a number of popular religious festivals such as **pilgrimages** or **romerías**, the **Day of the Cross**, the **Día de la Vieja**, the **Jueves Lardero**, and the festivity dedicated to the **Virgen del Carmen**.



If there is one thing that characterises Almería's gastronomy, it is the **rich variety of tapas**. This way of **sampling small dishes** whilst going from bar to bar is particularly popular thanks to the warm mild climate. **Coastal areas** share a culinary tradition based on the combination of **fresh fish and shellfish** (red porgy, grouper, pearly razor fish, john dory...) with a variety of **vegetables and pulses**. The most popular dishes include the **moragas**, a variety of **fish soups, marinated fish, rice and seafood dishes**, and **migas with sardines**, amongst many others. All these culinary specialities are prepared with a range of exceptional **olive oils produced in Almería** and accompanied by the "**Vinos de la Tierra**", a denomination which certifies the quality of the wines from the Desierto de Almería, Laujar-Alpujarra, and Ribera del Andarax areas. Similarly the **melva** (bullet tuna) and mackerel landed in the city of Almería itself and in towns such as Adra, Garrucha and Roquetas de Mar have been awarded the "**Melva de Andalucía**" and "**Caballa de Andalucía**" denominations.



# Routes

## Almería

### Cabo de Gata-Nijar Route



This route features the city of **Almería** and the **Cabo de Gata-Nijar Nature Park**, a nature reserve of invaluable ecological importance with magnificent beaches (Las Negras, Cala de Enmedio, El Playazo...) and **dramatic seabed** locations which are ideal for **diving**. This area which includes Benahadux, Gádor, Huércal Almería, Nijar, Pechina, Rioja, Santa Fe de Mondújar, Viator, and Almería itself, is the least developed and most unspoilt in the whole province.

### The Almerian Alpujarras Route

This area situated between the **Sierra Nevada** and **Sierra de Gádor** is characterised by strikingly **beautiful scenery** and



### The Poniente Route



Of great **archaeological interest**, the Poniente area (Adra, Berja, Dalías, El Ejido, Enix, Felix, La Mojonera, Roquetas de Mar and Vicar) combines **coastal places** with the **rural inland area** of the **Sierra de Gádor**. On this route visitors can enjoy magnificent **beaches** and **protected natural areas** (**Paraje Natural Punta Entinas-Sabinar**, the **Albuferas de Adra**, and the **Posidonia Reef Barrier**). The route's attractions include modern **golf facilities** and **marinas**.

### Filabres-Sierra Alhamilla-Río Nacimiento Route

Situated in the heart of the province, this route offers **highly contrasting landscapes** (from the desert to snow capped mountains), **traditional villages**, a whole range of **archaeological sites**, and impressive **natural surroundings** (Tabernas Desert, Sierra Nevada, Sierra Alhamilla, and Sierra de los



Filabres). It is well worth seeing the unusual "**western**" **villages of Tabernas** which have been used as the setting for numerous films. The area comprises the municipalities of Abia, Abruena, Alcudia de Monteagud, Benitagla, Benizalón, Castro de Filabres, Fiñana, Gérgal, Las Tres Villas, Lucainena de las Torres, Nacimiento, Olula de Castro, Senés, Tabernas, Tahal, Turillillas, Uleila del Campo, and Velefique.

### The Levante Route

The **stretch of coastline** running from the **Cabo de Gata-Nijar Nature Park** to the



border with the province of Murcia offers **wide sandy beaches** as well as **semi hidden coves** in tall cliffs which are ideal for **naturism**. This route will also take you through charming **fishing**

**villages**, and the fascinating **Sorbas Gypsum karstic landscape** whilst offering you the opportunity to practise various **water sports** or play **golf**. The route passes through the localities of Antas, Bédar, Carboneras, Cuevas del Almanzora, Garrucha, Huércal Overa, Los Gallardos, Lubrín, Mojácar, Pulpí, Sorbas, Turre, and Vera.

### The Almanzora Route

An inland area which is **ideal** for lovers of **rural and nature tourism**. This route offers the visitor the opportunity to see historic **hillside villages**, surrounded by **springs and**



**streams**, whilst also enjoying natural areas such as the **Sierra de los Filabres** or the **Sierra de las Estancias**, both of which are ideal for **walking and potholing**. Municipalities covered by the route include Albánchez, Albox, Alcóntar, Arboleas, Armuña de Almanzora, Bacaes, Bayarque, Cantoria, Cheros, Cóbdar, Fines, Laroya, Lijar, Lúcar, Macael, Olula del Río, Oria, Partalao, Purchena, Serón, Sierra, Somontín, Sufí, Taberno, Tijola, Urrácal, and Zurgena.

### The Los Vélez Route

This area, dominated by the **Sierra María-Los Vélez Nature Park** and comprising the municipalities of Chirivel, María, Vélez Blanco and Vélez Rubio, contains numerous important **archaeological sites** including shelters and caves with cave paintings which have been declared a **World Heritage Site**. As well as **hillside villages** which are covered in snow during the winter, there are a number of **towns and villages** whose **monumental buildings** reflect their noble past.



www.andalucia.org

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- 188.790 kWh de energía
- 160.060 kg de madera

# Almería

Almería lies next to the crystal clear waters of the Mediterranean, between the provinces of Granada and Murcia and thanks to its magnificent network of communications it is easily accessible both by air and sea (via the Airport and the city's port) and by road (via the A-7, which follows the coast from east to west and the A-92 /A-92 N which connects it with the rest of Andalusia). A land of contrasting landscapes, the benign climate and long summers characterised by pleasant temperatures and many hours of sunshine, undoubtedly make it the ideal place to enjoy its idyllic beaches to the full. Areas of outstanding natural beauty such as the Sierra Nevada, charming mountain villages with their own distinctive flavour, its wealth of monuments, the exquisite gastronomy, and a variety of possibilities for active tourism which ranges from golf to sailing or diving, make Almería a truly unique tourist destination.

- Provincial Capital
- Town/city of over 100,000 inhabitants
- Town of from 20,000 to 100,000 inhabitants
- Town of from 5,000 to 20,000 inhabitants
- Town of less than 5,000 inhabitants
- Tourist area
- Airport
- Yachting Harbour
- Trading Port
- Dual Carriageway
- Motorway
- "A" road
- "B" road
- Local road
- High Speed Railway
- Railway
- Tourist Information
- World Heritage City
- World Heritage Complex
- Vélez Town declared of Monumental Interest
- Museum
- Castle/Walls
- Civil Monument
- Religious Monument
- Megalthic Monument
- Archaeological Remains
- Parador
- Tourist Town
- Spa
- Golf
- Ski Station
- Campsite
- Nature Park
- Panoramic View
- Cave
- Mountain Pass
- Water Park
- Zoo



- ### Festivals of National Tourist Interest
- ALBOX** - Festivity in honour of the Virgen de los Desamparados del Saliente
  - ALMERÍA** - Easter Week
  - CUEVAS DE ALMANZORA** - Easter Week
  - DALÍAS** - Fiesta in honour of the Santísimo Cristo de la Luz
  - EL EJIDO** - Theatre Festival
  - HUÉRCAL-OVERA** - Easter Week
  - LUBRÍN** - Fiesta of San Sebastián (Fiesta of Bread)
  - OLULA DEL RÍO** - Fiesta of San Sebastián and San Ildefonso
  - PURCHENA** - Abén Humejya Morisco Games
  - ROQUETAS DE MAR** - Fiestas in honour of the patron saint Santa Ana and the Virgen del Carmen
  - VÉLEZ RUBIO** - Easter Week

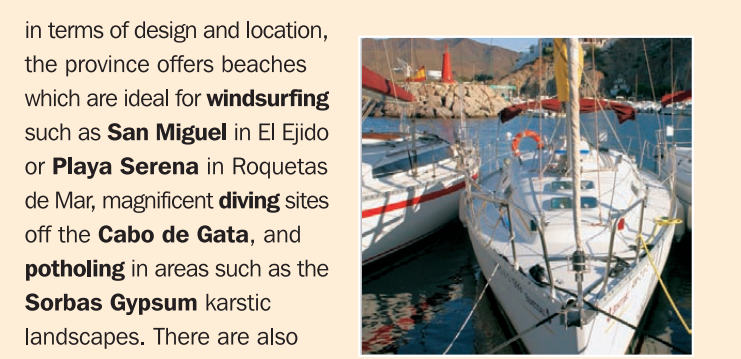
## Nature and Active Tourism



One of the most attractive features of the province of Almería is the wide diversity of **protected nature areas** and its beautiful scenery. In addition to **nature parks** (Sierra Nevada, Cabo de Gata-Níjar and Sierra María-Los Vélez) the province boasts environmental treasures such as: the impressive **Desert of Tabernas**, the only desert on the European continent; the **Sorbas Gypsum karstic area**; and the reserves of **Las Albuferas de Adra and Punta Entinas Sabinar**.

**Almería's coastline** (214 km) is one of the most attractive destinations in Spain due to the great variety and quality of its beaches. Especially **popular** is the coastal strip on the **Poniente or western side**, with numerous beaches which have been awarded the **Blue Flag** for

including a stretch designated for **naturists** which attracts tourist from the whole of Europe) - or the **Cabo de Gata-Níjar Park**, the most underdeveloped area of Almería, with its **sandy virgin beaches** and coves (**Playa de los Genoveses, Cala de la Polacra, El Mónsul, Cala Media Luna...**). With such a great diversity of landscapes, it is hardly surprising that Almería has become a prime destination for **active tourism**. In addition to **8 marinas**, and some of the best **golf courses** in Spain both



their excellent facilities and safety (Roquetas de Mar, Adra, El Ejido...). Equally attractive is the **eastern or Levante side** (Vera, Garrucha and Carboneras) - which is enhanced by a number of completely **unspoilt beaches** such as the **Playa de los Muertos, Cala Cristal** or the **Playazo de Vera** (the latter



plenty of possibilities for practising a whole range of other outdoor activities such as **winter sports** in the **Sierra Nevada** and the **Puerto de la Ragua** pass, **aerial sports, walking, horse riding or mountain climbing** in the Sierra María, and **mountain biking**.

## Oficinas de Turismo

|  |  |  |   |
|--|--|--|---|
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