The town of Almunecar is one of the most popular holiday destinations in Spain, and along with the neighbouring town of La Herradura is the tourist capital of the Costa Tropical.

Almunecar is located in the Andalusian province of Granada.

The town is distinctly medieval in its feel, with white washed houses and blooming geranium-filled balconies over spilling into the narrow streets.

Almunecar boasts 19 kilometres of coastline, with over 25 different beaches to choose from; it’s an ideal destination for families, offering lots of amenities and activities for the whole family.
TRAVEL INFORMATION

Almunecar
Almunecar, together with its neighbour La Herradura form the tourist capital of the Costa Tropical. The town sits upon a hill at the mouth of two rivers, meandering down to the coast, in the province of Granada in Andalusia.

From here you can almost reach out and touch Africa and its special climate. The town is backed by rugged hills, valleys and agricultural land of olive groves, almond and carob trees.

History
Almunecar was founded by the Phoenicians 3000 years ago and like the rest of the coast been invaded and occupied by the Romans, Moors and re-conquered by the Catholic Monarchs.

There are many monuments and architectural structures that depict the history and occupation of the town.

Around town
The town has medieval steep winding streets that lead to the Plaza de Constitución, where the Town Hall stands, and onto the highest old quarter called Barrio San Miguel and onto the Moorish castle. Most of this area is pedestrianised and residential. Geranium-filled balconies and small sunny plazas line the labyrinth of narrow passageways, the town’s archaeological museum is located here.

To the other side of the Plaza de la Constitución, next the Town Hall, a short rise leads up to the Iglesia Mayor de la Encarnación (the main church) is located on the other side of the Plaza de Constitución, leading away from the town hall. The Casa de Cultura (cultural centre and auditorium) is also located in this district.

The Carrera de la Concepción, once formed a part of the main coast road and is now an attractive, but busy avenue. Here there is a fountain, where the old valley road heads towards Granada and, not far along the road are the excavated remains of part of an aqueduct and important Roman baths.

The Playa Puerta del Mar is Almunecar’s principal beach backed by the palm-lined Paseo del Altillo, there are many banks located along the road. During the summer months parking can be difficult in the town.

Beaches
Almunecar has 19 kilometres of local coastline, which is diverse with 25 beaches along the coast of Almunecar and La Herradura. Secluded coves, long sandy beaches and the town’s main beachfront with all its amenities and facilities.

There are numerous options for water sports, including diving, the area is said to have some of the best underwater scenery anywhere along the southern coast.

Places to visit
Almunecar has its fair share of cultural and historic attractions, the first and most obvious being the Moorish castle, which was originally built on Roman foundations, however, what still stands is mainly from the Arab and Christian occupations.

The archaeological museum, which is located close to the castle; the building was formerly a Roman building, it is known as the Cave of the Seven Palaces, and holds some treasures, including a 3500 Egyptian vase.

The Majuelo Park is a lovely botanical garden, which sits in the shade of the castle. There is a vast array of exotic flora and the centrepiece of the park is the Roman ruins of old fish-salting pits.

The town has paid homage to local characters and resources with dedicated statues and monuments; there are monuments to sailors, fisherman, water, fertility, amongst others.

The area is also dotted with old watchtowers, as the area was infested with pirates. These look outs were built so that they could warn the local villages of certain invasion.

Further afield you can visit the interior of the region, to the Tropical Valley full of rich orchards, which line the...
Rio Verde (Green River), visiting small inland villages and learning a little of the culture of the area.

Follow the Rio Seco (Dry River) and you will reach the beautiful Peña Escrita Park, where you can go hiking, rambling, horse-riding or just taking in fresh air and magnificent scenery.

Salobreña is another coastal Moorish town, just east of Almunecar. A picturesque white-washed village, definitely worth a visit.

**Eating out**
Almunecar has a great selection of good quality restaurants, with a mix of traditional and international cuisines.

**Climate**
The Costa Tropical takes its name from the subtropical climate that it enjoys. With warm winters and long hot summers, the average temperature is around 20°C.
ESSENTIAL INFORMATION

Medical centres

The nearest public hospital is in Motril, about 20 kms from the centre of Almuñécar. The Santa Ana Hospital.

The Almuñécar Health Centre (known as the Centro de Salud) offers basic and emergency treatment. It is located near the town centre.

There are a number of private clinics and doctors in and around the Almuñécar area. The two largest ones are the Bellas Nieto Clinica in Almuñécar and the International Clinic, both situated near the centre of the town.

Pharmacies

Pharmacies/chemists take turns in Almuñécar operating an after-hours service. Signs are posted outside all pharmacies letting you know where the nearest one is that offers an after-hours service.

Opening hours

Most shops and businesses are open from Monday through to Saturday from 9:30 to 13:30 and from 16:30 to 20:00. Many smaller shops close on Saturday afternoons. Those which are open operate from 10:00 until 14:00.

Tipping

Do you tip in Spain? Tipping is common in Spain. It is not necessary, when buying a drink or having a ‘Menu de Dia.’

When it comes to a mid-level or expensive restaurant, things are slightly different. But there are no 10% rules or anything like it in Spain; the Spanish may leave whatever small change they have in their pockets.

Places of interest

A) Santa Ana Hospital Motril
Public hospital in Motril.
Avenida Enrique Martín Cuevas, 0 S/N, 18600 Motril
Phone: +34 958 038 200

B) Almuñécar International Clinic
Private clinic in Almuñécar.
Paseo del Altillo, 4, 18690 Almunecar
Phone: +34 958 881 511

C) Bellas Nieto Clinic
Private clinic offering general medicine, specialised care and dental.
Edificio Sofía, 1º, Avenida Juan Carlos I, 14, 18690 Almunecar
Phone: +34 958 630 809
Web: http://www.clinicabellasnieto.com

D) Almuñécar Health Centre
Public medical centre in Almunecar. Offers basic medical care and emergency treatment.
Calle de General las Palomas, 18690 Almuñécar
Phone: +34 958 649 754

E) Pharmacy P4
Pharmacy located in the centre of Almunecar.
Calle Larache, 18690 Almunecar
Phone: +34 958 630 581
Web: http://www.farmaciap4.es

F) Pharmacy Carmen Carrión Moles
Pharmacy.
Edificio Miranda Avda Costa del Sol, 30, 18690 Almunecar
Phone: +34 958 632 775

G) Tourist information office
Almuñécar’s tourist information office.
Palacete de la Najarra. Avda. de Europa s/n, 18690 Almunecar
Phone: +34 958 631 125
Web: http://www.almunecar.info
Email: turismo@almunecar.info
USEFUL PHRASES

Hello
Hola

Goodbye
Adios

Please
Por favor

Thank you
Gracias

Excuse me
Disculpe

Help
Ayuda

Yes
Sí

No
No

Where is the bathroom?
¿Dónde está el baño?

Where is ...?
¿Dónde está ...?

How much does this cost?
¿Cuánto cuesta ésto?

I don’t understand
No entiendo

I don’t speak Spanish
No hablo español

Do you speak English?
¿Habla inglés?

Please, repeat
Por favor, repita

Could you please take a picture?
¿Podría hacer una foto por favor?

Can you show me where on this map?
¿Podría indicarme en este mapa?

I would like a ticket / one way / return
Quiero sacar un billete / solo ida / ida y vuelta

I want to go to ...
Quiero ir a ...
TRANSPORTATION

Airports

Malaga's Pablo Picasso Airport (AGP) is located 90 kilometres from Almunecar. There are three ways to get to Almunecar from the airport. By car, bus or taxi.

Bus

Taking the bus from the airport to Almunecar is both feasible and inexpensive, but a little complicated. Firstly, you need to take a bus or train from the airport to Malaga's central bus station. There are trains and buses leaving every thirty minutes from the airport. A single ticket costs approximately €2.

From Malaga's central bus station, the company Alsa runs a line that goes to Almunecar. It takes about an hour and a half, costing about €7. There are buses leaving almost every hour.

Taxis

Taking a taxi is a convenient, but expensive option. A taxi fare to Almunecar from the airport costs approximately €100. There are plenty of taxis outside of the arrivals terminal.

Car rental

Renting a car is highly recommended. Book your car from home and pick up the car at the airport when you arrive.

Click here to book a rental car. It takes approximately one hour to drive from the airport to Almunecar.

Places of interest

Malaga Airport is also named Pablo Ruiz Picasso airport and has the IATA-code of AGP. It is the Costa del Sol’s main airport and the fourth busiest in Spain. It is situated approximately 8kms from Malaga city. Avenida García Morato, 29004 Malaga
Phone: +34 902 404 704
Web: http://www.aena-aeropuertos.es/csee/Satellite/Aeropuerto-Malaga/es/

B) Malaga Train station María Zambrano
Malaga’s central train station. Situated 1 km from the city centre. Trains depart for all major cities in Spain and there are many regional connections to destinations on the Costa del Sol as well. Explanada de la Estación, 29002 Malaga
Phone: +34 902 320 320

C) Malaga central bus station
Malaga’s central bus station. Situated approximately 1km from the city centre. Paseo de los Tilos, Malaga
Phone: +34 952 350 061
Web: http://www.estabus.emtsam.es/

D) Taxi company Almunecar
A taxi company based in Almunecar that offers a wide range of services, including pick-ups, reservations, custom cars and payment by credit card. Santa Amalia, 1, Almunecar
Phone: +34 958 630 017
THINGS TO SEE & DO

Almunecar's rich historical heritage and the beauty of the surrounding Costa Tropical, make Almunecar a great destination from which, you can combine a beach holiday with some more cultural highlights.

Almunecar is home to a popular botanical garden, a bonsai tree park and a fascinating aquarium. Here are some suggested things to do around Almunecar.

Places of interest

A) Majuelo botanical gardens
The Majuelo botanical gardens are home to one of the largest outside collections of tropical and subtropical plants in Europe. It also home to some important archaeological ruins as well. There are huge Phoenician/Roman salt pits right in the middle of the park. Entrance is free.
Calle Geraneos 9, 18690 Almuñécar

B) San Miguel castle
This historic fort has Punic origins and having gone through several civilizations (Roman, Arabic), it was mostly in the hands of the Catholic Monarchs. There's an interesting historical museum within the castle. Admission is approximately €2.50.
Calle San Miguel Bajo, 18690 Almuñécar

C) Bonsai garden museum
The bonsai garden museum is the most important bonsai museum in Andalusia. It is located in the heart of Almuñécar. Although relatively small in size, the park provides some interesting information on different types of bonsai tree. Admission is €2 for adults and €1 for children. Closed Mondays.
Calle Derrumbadero, 18690 Almuñécar

D) Bird park Loro Sexi
The bird park “Loro sexi” is translated literally as “sexy parrot.” It is located near San Miguel castle. It is home to dozens of species from all the World and a beautiful cacti garden. A visit is recommended. Entrance price for adults is €5 and €3 for children.
Calle Bikini / Plaza San Cristóbal, 18690 Almuñécar
Web: http://www.lorosexi.com/

E) Almuñécar aquarium
The Almuñécar aquarium is the perfect place to bring children. It has modern facilities and is home to a wide range of species. The aquarium also features a representation of the marine life of Almuñécar. Entrance for adults is approximately €12 and €9 for children under 12 years. In the summer months, the aquarium stays open until 22:00 hours.
PLaza Kuwait s/n, 18690 Almuñécar
Phone: +34 958 882 612
Web: http://www.acuarioalmunecar.es

F) Palacete de Najarra - Najarra palace
Situated very close to the San Cristobal beach, is the beautiful Moorish palace of Najarra. It was built in the nineteenth century. Similar in appearance and style to the Alhambra Palace in Granada, a visit is highly recommended. It is also home to the tourist office.
Avenida de Europa, 18690 Almuñécar
Phone: +34 958 631 125

G) La Herradura castle
The castle in La Herradura dates from the 18th Century during the reign of Carlos III. It was built as a defensive tower along with the towers of Cerro Gordo and Punta de la Mona. The castle can be visited every day except on Mondays. Admission is about €2.50 for adults and €1.60 for children.
Calle La Fortaleza, s/n, Parque del Castillo Carlos III, 18697 La Herradura

H) Scuba diving
The Costa Tropical has exceptionally clear waters and is a favourite with scuba divers. The visibility is fantastic and there are numerous beach and reef dives on offer. It is an ideal location for beginners.
Paseo de Andrés Segovia, 65, 18697 La Herradura
Phone: +34 670 818 094
Web: http://www.buceonatura.com
Email: buceo@buceonatura.com
DAY TRIPS

The town of Almuñécar is situated in an unbeatable location when it comes to exploring the Costa Tropical, the Sierra Nevada National Park, Nerja, La Herradura and the Jewel in the Nasrid crown, the city of Granada. Here are some suggested day trips from Almuñécar.

Places of interest

A) Acantilados de Maro-Cerro Gordo natural area
The Acantilados de Maro-Cerro Gordo natural area covers 1814 hectares of cliffs, beaches and coves. Situated just on the border with Malaga and Granada, it is an area of spectacular natural beauty and is known for its hidden beaches, clear waters and abundance of protected marine life.

B) Nerja caves
One of Spain's most visited landmarks, the huge limestone caves are one of the most important Prehistoric archaeological sites in Europe. Guided tours take about 45 minutes. There are ample parking places, a restaurant and picnic areas. A visit is highly recommended.

C) Frigiliana
The award winning village of Frigiliana is situated only 7kms from the centre of Nerja. One of the most picturesque villages in the area, Frigiliana has successfully maintained its traditional character throughout the years. The historical part of the village is of unparalleled beauty and is carefully protected.

D) Water park - Aquatropic Almunecar
A smallish sized water park (18,000 m2) situated right next to the beach in Almunecar. The water park is open from mid July to mid September. A popular venue with families. Slides, picnic areas, restaurants and shops. For prices and opening times, its best to check the website - they change according to season.
Playa de Velilla, s/n, 18690 Almunecar
Phone: +34 958 633 316
Web: http://www.aqua-tropic.com/
Email: info@aqua-tropic.com

E) La Herradura
The whitewashed village of La Herradura is home to one of the most beautiful bays in southern Spain. The 2 km sandy beach is one of the main attractions. La Herradura provides some of the best scuba diving on the coast, with exceptionally clear waters and plenty of marine life.

F) Nerja
Nerja on the Costa del Sol is one of the most sought after holiday destinations in Spain. The town attracts many thousands of holiday makers a year. Its appeal is easy understand. Fantastic beaches and over 300 days of sunshine a year combine to make Nerja a big summer beach destination. Nerja also offers numerous cultural, historical and natural highlights as well.

G) Granada
Granada needs very little introduction. It is one of the emblematic cities in Spain. The Capital of the Granada Province and located at the foot of the Sierra Nevada mountains, the city sits in a breathtaking location. The World Heritage site is home to the Alhambra palace, the Generalife gardens, the Alcazaba, the Albaicin and much more!

H) Sierra Nevada National Park
The Sierra Nevada National Park covers almost 86,000 hectares, making it the largest national park in Spain. There are more than 20 mountains over 3000 meters ensuring that Sierra Nevada is a mountaineer's and hiker's paradise. The National Park is also home
to Europe's most southerly ski resort - Pradollano.
Granada

I) The Alpujarras
The Alpujarras stretch southwards from the Sierra Nevada mountains near Granada and runs across to the province of the Almeria. The area is often divided up into Eastern (on the Almeria side) and Western Alpujarras (on the Granada side). A region of great natural beauty and home to some exceptionally beautiful villages.
Granada
BEACHES

Costa Tropical is still a relatively untouched coastal area where you can easily escape the crowds and enjoy a very relaxing day at the beach. The area is characterised by its small, hidden rocky coves and exceptionally clear water. Almunecar is the capital of the Costa Tropical and offers a wide variety of beaches. Here are some suggestions.

PlACES OF INTEREST

A) La Herradura beach
One of the best beaches in the area. La Herradura beach is 2,000 metres in length and approximately 40 metres in width. It is consistently awarded the Blue Flag for cleanliness and facilities. Restaurants, bars, watersports, everything is catered for.

B) Cantarriján beach
A hidden gem. Cantarriján is a famous clothing optional beach. There are actually two sections to the beach, one that is clothing optional and the other that tends to be completely nudist. It is an incredibly beautiful beach composed of both sand and small pebbles with crystal clear waters. The area around Cantarriján is a protected nature reserve and in the summer months you have to take a bus to get to the beach. The beach offers sunbed rentals, canoes and a restaurant.

C) Berengueles beach
A small sandy beach that is located next to Marina del Este. The beach is 250 metres in length and about 40 metres in width. It consists of a mixture of sand and pebbles. Berengueles can get crowded in the summer months.

D) San Cristóbal / La China beach
A popular Blue Flag beach that is located just West of Almunecar’s city centre. It is approximately 1,000 metres in length and 50 metres wide. The beach is composed of a mixture of sand and pebbles. There are plenty of bars and restaurants.

E) Cotobro beach
A popular sand and pebble beach that is located in a small cove. The calm, protected waters are ideal for children. From Playa de Cotobro it is possible to go to the beach Playa del Muerto, a popular nudist beach.

F) Puerta del Mar beach
Puerta del Mar is located in the centre of Almunecar and is the area’s largest beach. Popular with both locals and tourists, it can get crowded during the summer months. There are numerous restaurants, bars and nightclubs along the promenade that runs adjacent to the beach.

G) Pozuelo beach
A picturesque beach with shallow, calm waters, make it a perfect option for families with children. You have the possibility to rent pedal boats and canoes.

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EATING OUT

The Costa Tropical is named after its 'tropical' climate. Tropical fruit and vegetables are grown extensively in the area, avocados, mangos, cherimoyas and papayas are all common place.

The abundance of fresh fruit and vegetables, the heavy Arabic influence, all combined with the local/traditional cuisine, ensure that the Costa Tropical is a gastronomic paradise. Here are some suggested places to eat in and around Almunecar.

Places of interest

A) Restaurant el Torreon
Not far from the Santa Cruz resort lies this traditionally decorated restaurant. The menu consists of Andalusian dishes fused with Moroccan specialities. Average prices per person are around €40. Furthermore, the restaurant offers a weekly flamenco shows on Monday nights.
Carretera del Suspiro del Moro Residencial La Santa Cruz Resort, Almuñécar
Phone: +34 858 109 167
Web: http://www.restaurantetorreon.es/

B) Restaurant El Chaleco
The Franco-Belgian restaurant offers a comfortable dining room and a large terrace. For approximately €20 per person, you can have a three course meal. Outstanding price/quality. Highly recommended.
Avenida Costa del Sol 37, Almuñécar
Phone: +34 958 632 402
Web: http://www.elchaleco.com/
Email: elchaleco@terra.es

C) Restaurant Los Geraneos

Restaurant Los Geraneos is situated on one of the nicest squares in Almuñécar. It specialises in local and traditional dishes. The prices are very reasonable, for approximately €20 per person you can eat very well. The menu is changed daily according to locally sourced ingredients.
Plaza de la Rosa, 4, 18690 Almuñécar
Phone: +34 958 634 020
Email: webbichillo@hotmail.com

D) Restaurant By Larius
An Argentine steak house with sea views. One of more exclusive restaurants in the area. There is more detailed information on the website, but a main dish is around €20. Restaurant By Larius specialises in steak and meat dishes.
Paseo de Velilla 9, 18690 Almuñécar
Phone: +34 958 639 358
Web: http://www.bylarius.com
Email: larius@live.dk

E) Meson Francisco
The Meson Francisco restaurant offers a very varied menu. Suitable for groups and families. An average priced restaurant with quality food. The lunch menu is recommended and at €12 per person is great value for money.
Calle Alta del Mar, 12, 18690 Almuñécar
Phone: +34 958 639 842
Email: Rest.Franciscoll@hotmail.com

F) Restaurant La Corrala
Restaurant La Corrala is located in a charming street lined with whitewashed façades. It offers an elegant mix of local dishes, inspired on the freshly available local produce. Fish dishes are around €15, meat dishes cost between €12 and €38. There’s a free complimentary drink while you wait for your table.
Calle Antigua 11, 18690 Almuñécar
Phone: +34 958 634 607
Web: http://www.lacorrala.eu
Email: restaurante@lacorrala.eu

G) Restaurant Nuova Sardegna
A simple, but good Italian restaurant that serves excellent pizzas from €10. A good place to take the whole family and located a short walk from the beaches.
Paseo de las Flores 4, 18690 Almuñécar
Phone: +34 958 88 10 94
LOCAL EVENTS

There are numerous religious and festive events that take place in Almuñécar. There is something happening every month, so do not miss the opportunity to get closer to the local culture and traditions of the city.

Places of interest

A) Virgen de la Antigua fair
The Virgin de la Antigua is the patron Saint of Almunecar. The most important celebrations of the year are held in her honour. The annual event takes place from the 9th until the 15th of August. The celebrations are held in the Recinto Ferial (located at the entrance of Almuñecar). Concerts, contests and games for the whole family. The climax of which, is the procession, where the Virgin is loaded onto a fishing boat and taken up and down the port area. Plenty of fireworks and fun to be had by all. Not to be missed. 18690 Almuñecar

B) Dia de la Cruz
The Dia de la Cruz is celebrated every year on the 3rd of May. The streets and squares of the city are filled with flowers. The whole town gets involved. The floral arrangements are then judged and prizes are presented. This is a really cheerful and festive occasion, with plenty of music, wine, dancing and shows. Barrio de San Sebastian, 18690 Almuñecar

C) The Gastronomic fair
The gastronomic fair is usually celebrated at the end of May. It is one of the most anticipated events of the yearly calendar. For three days, the restaurants and bars in the town offer participants the opportunity to try small portions of many local specialities. The fantastic food is accompanied by plenty of music, dancing and a real party atmosphere. The festival is held in the Parque El Majuelo. Parque El Majuelo, 18690 Almuñecar

D) Jazz en la Costa
Jazz en la Costa has been celebrated yearly, since 1986. Every year, it gains in popularity. Thousands of fans come together to attend ten days of back-to-back concerts, by some of the most renowned jazz musicians in the World. The festival takes place in mid-July in the Parque El Majuelo. Check the website for further information and prices. Parque El Majuelo, 18690 Almuñecar Web: http://www.jazzgranada.es/jazz_enlacosta.html

E) Flamenco Festival
An unmissable event for Flamenco lovers. The Flamenco festival is held yearly on the third or fourth week of July - just after the Jazz en la Costa festival. Entrance is usually free. Parque El Majuelo, 18690 Almuñecar

F) Corpus Christi
This religious celebration is held every year on the second Sunday, after Pentecost. The procession passes over carpets of flowers and fragrant herbs. The balconies and patios are also all decorated with flowers and shawls. The procession has a very festive feel to it and is a great way to see the ancient traditions of the city first hand. 18690 Almuñecar

G) San Juan
San Juan (the night of Saint John) is a huge celebration across the whole of Spain and Almunecar is no exception. Taking place on the night of June 23rd, San Juan is one big beach party with bonfires, fireworks and celebrations that take place all night. There’s a traditional 'cleansing of sins' taking place at midnight, with people jumping over the bonfires and washing their sins away in the sea. The beaches of La Herradura and Almunecar are popular spots for the celebrations. Not to be missed. 18690 Almuñecar

H) Virgen del Carmen
Like most other Spanish coastal resorts, Almuñecar
also celebrates a festival in honour of the patron saint of the sea, the Virgen del Carmen. It is celebrated around the 16th July (check with the tourist office for exact dates). The colourful procession takes place in the traditional fishermen's neighbourhood. The 'Virgin of the sea' is carried through the neighbourhood to a waiting fishing boat, whereupon she is taken to out to sea. The Virgin is later carried back to the Church. There are plenty of fun and games organised for the whole family.

Barrio de Los Marinos, 18690 Almuñecar