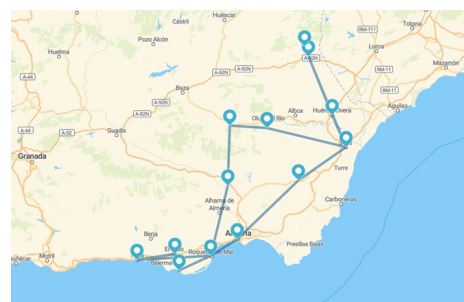


Spain, 6 Days · Tailor-made by car

Route around Almería, land of contrasts

We'd like to propose an unforgettable road trip exploring a land rich in beautiful and varied landscapes, proud of its important historical legacy and populated by welcoming, cheerful and friendly people who will receive you with open arms. On this self-drive tour around Almería, you'll get to admire rugged mountains, rolling valleys, fertile lowlands, pine and oak forests, jagged coastlines lined with spectacular beaches, arid lands and - of course - the unforgettable Desierto de Tabernas, the only desert in the European continent. For driving fans, Almería boasts an array of fascinating and attractive facets, the ideal destination to marvel at countless picture-postcard views while exploring charming inland hamlets, fishing villages and cosmopolitan cities brimming with history. You'll discover a whole host of amazing attractions: Almería, the quintessentially Andalusian capital city crowned by the imposing Alcazaba palace; the hanging houses of Sorbas; the natural beauty of the ancient rock formations of Karst en Yesos de Sorbas and Geoda de Pulpí; the castles, churches and historic quarters of Vélez-Rubio, Vélez-Blanco, Huércal-Overa, Serón, Las Menas, Adra and Roquetas de Mar; the swathes of greenhouses that cover El Ejido; and - last but not least - the Cueva de los Letreros, the cave home to the famous Indalo, a painting that depicts a man holding a rainbow with his hands, a true symbol of the province of Almería. And make sure you savour the mouthwatering range of culinary delights here, especially if you like tapas. They're experts!



NATURE

FAMILIES

Departure date: Departures from May 2026 till May 2027

From: Dublin

Travel details

● DAY 1 · CITY OF ORIGIN - ALMERÍA

Flight departure from the city of origin to Almería. Arrival and rental car pick-up at the airport, located on the Almería-Mijar road, about eight kilometres from Almería city centre. And now it's time to set off on your road trip through this spectacular Andalusian province! Christian and Moorish, Almería is a pocket-sized city rich in nuances and packed with history, inhabited by cheerful and welcoming people. Nestled in the middle of the eponymous bay and sheltered by the Gádor and Alhamilla mountain ranges, the city of Almería cherishes an amazing historical and artistic heritage, an excellent climate, stunning beaches lapped by the Alboran Sea, and a wonderful cuisine full of delicious tapas of all kinds. The immense fortress that crowns the city is its famous Alcazaba, one of the largest and most important Moorish archaeological sites in Spain. Over one thousand years old, this impressive legacy of the splendour of Al-Andalus, perched on the Cerro de San Cristóbal hill, is listed as a Site of Cultural Interest thanks to its construction over several periods. In fact, the fortress houses a castle and several towers from the late Christian medieval period. In addition to the Alcazaba, Almería is home to another Site of Cultural Interest, the Cathedral of the Incarnation, the only fortress-style church built in sixteenth-century Spain. It boasts an architecture that fuses Gothic and Renaissance styles with Baroque and Neoclassical touches. Other outstanding landmarks include the Cable Inglés, a spectacular mineral loading bay built at the beginning of the last century; the eleventh-century Arab Cisterns of Jairán; the Convent of Las Puras; and the Churches of Santiago and San Juan. The city also has a great range of museums, including the School of Arts and Crafts, the Museum of Almería, the Art Centre, the Olive Oil Museum and the Andalusian Photography Centre. Also well worth visiting are the Faluca Almaríya, a replica of a Hispanic-Muslim ship, and the Civil War aircraft shelter, recently restored by the City Council. To stroll around and savour some tapas or local dishes, we recommend Plaza Vieja, the popular neighbourhood of La Chanca and the Parque Nicolás Salmerón. And for a spot of local nightlife, head to Real, Martínez Campos, Trajano and Pedro Luque streets and the Paseo de Almería.

Overnight stay in Almería.

● DAY 2 · ALMERÍA - SORBAS - KARST EN YESOS DE SORBAS - VERA

You can spend some of the morning further exploring the cosmopolitan capital of Almería or you can leave early to drive over to today's first destination. It's up to you. About sixty kilometres from Almería on the A-7 motorway is the picturesque town of Sorbas, founded by the Arabs in the eleventh century under the name of Surba, which means "Sand Pot". It's known as the Chica Basin thanks to the marvellous hanging houses peering down onto the Afa ravine. What's more, there are some excellent viewpoints such as El Porche, the Castle, the Calvario and La Torreta, from which you can admire various perspectives of the town and its surroundings. Take a walk around the Alfarerías neighbourhood, home to artisan pottery workshops and a furnace of Arabic origin that still works to this very day. And stroll around its historic quarter full of steep and winding streets that eventually lead to the Plaza de la Constitución, the town's nerve centre that is the site of the Church of Santa Maria, the House of the Duke of Alba and the Town Hall. If you fancy hanging around for lunch, we recommend succulent local specialities such as ajoblanco (chilled almond soup), potaje de verduras (vegetable stew), gurullos con conejo (homemade pasta with rabbit), migas (sautéed breadcrumbs with meat) and gachas (a savoury porridge-style dish). On Calle Terraplén, to the south of the town, you'll find the Los Yesares Visitor Centre, the perfect stopping point before visiting the Karst en Yesos de Sorbas formations. Walk through its interpretation rooms and learn more about one of the most impressive natural treasures of Andalusia, and one of the geological jewels of the planet. It's a complex of caves, canyons, sinkholes, geodes and other karst formations carved into the gypsum by rainfall over six million years, which has given rise to a landscape of jaw-dropping beauty. And it's not exempt from life, as this apparent wasteland is home to plant species such as the Sorbas daffodil, the rock rose or the snapdragon, as well as animals like the iconic spur-thighed tortoise, among many others. A joy for lovers of untamed nature. The last stop of the day is the town of Vera, famous for its bright whitewashed houses with balconies and windows adorned with flowers. And also for its fascinating chapels. Located about forty kilometres northeast of the Karst en Yesos de Sorbas formations on the N-340a dual carriageway, Vera is a must-see destination famous for its cultural heritage, cuisine and beaches. You'll instantly fall in love with its winding and steep historic quarter, where you'll find multiple leisure and dining options, with must-try dishes including caldo colorao (vegetable broth), fritada de emperador (fried swordfish, choto al ajillo (kid goat stew), torticas reales (lemon and almond biscuits) and dedos de Jesus (almond fingers). Don't miss its vibrant Plaza Mayor, which houses the beautiful Fortress Church of Our Lady of the Incarnation, epicentre of the new city ever since the sixteenth century, the Town Hall and the fascinating Ethnographic Museum of Vera, a must-visit to gain an insight into local history. Make sure you see the chapels devoted to the Virgen de las Angustias (Our Lady of Sorrow), an eighteenth-century neo-Gothic style building and home to the local patron saint; to San Ramón (Saint Raymond), which dates back to 1731; to the Virgen de las Huertas (Our Lady of the Gardens), next to the Roman ruins of Roceipón; and to San Antón and the Holy Spirit. Of course, that's if you have the time to visit them all. Head up to the Mirador, crowned by an image of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, to admire magnificent panoramic views of the valley and the coast. And dip your toes in the sea, time permitting, on stunning beaches such as Puerto Rey, Las Marinas and Playazo.

Overnight stay in Vera.

DAY 3 · VERA - CUEVAS DEL ALMANZORA - PULPI GEODE - VÉLEZ-RUBIO - CUEVA DE LOS LETREROS - VÉLEZ-BLANCO - HUÉRCAL-OVERA - VERA

Just six kilometres north of Vera is Cuevas del Almanzora, another one of the many charismatic villages that dotted around inland Almería. Thanks to the mines in this region, which have been in operation for three thousand years, this town has notched up periods of great wealth that resulted in a wonderful heritage of beautiful buildings, churches and a magnificent fortress. This is the Castle of the Marquis de los Vélez, located in the heart of Plaza de la Libertad, a defensive bastion built around 1507 on top of another structure of Muslim origin. Besides its stately and sober Gothic-style architecture, the fortress houses the Goya Engraving Room; the Archaeological Museum, which dates back to the first human settlements in the province; an Exhibition Hall; the Municipal Tourist Office and the Municipal Library. The other iconic landmark of Cuevas del Almanzora is the elegant and majestic Church of Our Lady of the Incarnation, built in the eighteenth century just between the late Baroque and the Neoclassical periods. It has been declared a Site of Cultural Interest. Other tourist attractions are the Church of San Sebastián, dating from the eighteenth century; the Neoclassical-style Town Hall; and the Cuevas de Calguerín, just a few kilometres from the town centre of Cuevas del Almanzora and made up of almost three hundred caves that were used as refuge and housing in medieval times (some are still inhabited today). Next stop is the Pulpí Geode, also called the Pilar de Jaravía Geode, which lies about twenty-five kilometres east of Cuevas de Almanzora on the A-332 road. Discovered in December 1999 by the Mineralogist Group of Madrid, the Pulpí Geode is a spectacular rocky cavity adorned with shimmering gypsum crystals, in some cases almost two metres tall. What's more, this authentic geological treasure has some outstanding credentials: it's the largest geode in Europe and the second largest in the whole world. Don't miss it; you'll feel like you're inside a life-size diamond! Then it's back on the road to Vélez-Rubio, located about seventy kilometres away to the northwest on the A-91 road, a town blessed with landscapes of rugged mountains and the pine and oak forests of the Sierra María-Los Vélez Nature Park. Perched on top of a hill surrounded by meadows, the best thing to do in Vélez-Rubio is to leisurely stroll around admiring the evocative old town, declared a Site of Cultural Interest and an attractive compendium of eighteenth- and nineteenth-century construction styles. The historic quarter features buildings of huge architectural interest, including the Church of Our Lady of the Incarnation, also a Site of Cultural Interest; the Church of Our Lady of Carmen; and various stately mansions and modernist villas. Don't leave Vélez-Rubio without tasting its rich cuisine based around migas (sautéed breadcrumbs with meat), ajo colorao (fish and potato stew), the famous pelotas (stew with sweetcorn and sausage balls) and gurullos (flour-based stews with partridge or rabbit). And for dessert? Almond hornazos (pies) and alfajores (sandwich biscuits). They are simply delicious! Once you're ready, head north on the A-91 towards Vélez-Blanco, without crossing into the province of Murcia. Before arriving at this endearing town, about six kilometres away from Vélez-Rubio, you'll come across the unforgettable Cueva de los Letreros, a complex of caves decorated with examples of the so-called Levantine rock art dating back some five thousand years and listed by UNESCO as a World Heritage Site. Inside this National Historic Monument you can see the famous Indalo, a painting that depicts a man holding a rainbow with his hands and who has become an icon of the province of Almería. A true marvel! Onward drive to Vélez-Blanco, very close to the caves and another picturesque village in the Los Vélez region, dominated in this case by the imposing Vélez-Blanco Castle site. Built in the sixteenth century in Renaissance style with elements of late Gothic and Mudejar, it includes the castle itself and a palace presided over by a keep. The Church of Santiago and the Convent of San Luis also must-see attractions in the town. Now it's time to go to today's final destination before returning to Vera, where you'll be spending the night. So, head back to Vélez-Rubio and continue towards Puerto Lumbreras on the A-91. Once there, take the A-7 motorway directly to Huércal-Overa, a drive of around sixty kilometres. The landscape you'll drive through in this area is more similar to the Spanish east coast because of the fertile orchards that give a hint of colour to an eminently semi-desert environment of arid hills. Since ancient times a major trading point in eastern and southern Spain, Huércal-Overa retains an outstanding architectural heritage that includes three Sites of Cultural Interest: the Castle of Huércal-Overa, the most iconic symbol of the town since the second half of the fourteenth century; the Parish of Our Lady of the Assumption, a Baroque-inspired church built in the early eighteenth century; and the Castle of Santa Bárbara, a defensive watchtower built in the thirteenth century by the Nasrid Kingdom. And this is just a small selection of its outstanding historical legacy! Then it's back to Vera, located twenty-five kilometres south on the A-7.

Overnight stay in Vera.

DAY 4 · VERA - ALMANZORA VALLEY (MARBLE - INTERPRETATION CENTRE, - SERÓN, - LAS MENAS) - CALAR ALTO ASTRONOMICAL OBSERVATORY - TABERNAS DESERT - ROQUETAS DE MAR

Today's first drive snakes through the stunning Almanzora Valley until reaching the town of Macael, which is about fifty-five kilometres west of Vera, travelling first on the A-7 and then on the A-334. This is a picture-postcard route alongside the Almanzora River dotted with blooming almond groves, orange trees and crop fields that contrast with the marble-rich white mountain range that towers over the valley. Halfway, in the town of Tíjola, is the Almanzora Valley Interpretation Centre, the perfect place to learn more about the traditions and customs of this beautiful part of inland Almería. Upon arrival in the dazzling town of Macael, it's obvious why they call it the Land of White Gold. The marble from the quarries in the Sierra de los Filabres, famous across the world, has throughout history been used to adorn landmarks and buildings such as the Alhambra, El Escorial and the Burj Al Arab Hotel in Dubai, among many others. And, of course, it features strongly in the town itself, where the hallmark White Marble of Macael is seen everywhere. A stroll through the town will take you to the largest mortar in the world, a piece weighing fifty thousand kilos of local marble (featured in the Guinness Book of Records); an exact replica of the Fountain of the Lions of the Alhambra; various marble sculptures that adorn the main boulevard; and a host of world-renowned craft workshops. And if there's one must-visit in Macael, it's easily the Marble Interpretation Centre on Calle Federico García Lorca. Covering two hundred and fifty square metres, the centre explains the history of this majestic stone in the region and a very much alive industry with more than twenty-five centuries of history behind it. Information panels, ancient tools, archaeological finds, models and photos highlight the White Gold of Macael, describing everything from extraction techniques to its transformation and sculpting. If you're doing well for time, you can sign up for guided tour of quarries and craft workshops that set off from the Interpretation Centre itself. Once you're ready, hit the road again and head west on the A-334 until you reach the town of Serón, about thirty kilometres away from Macael in the upper basin of the Valle del Almanzora region. We hope you arrive here hungry, as Serón is known throughout the province for the amazing quality of its ham. Pop to the Posada del Candil and savour dishes such as olla cortijera (chickpea, cabbage and ham stew), gurullos (pasta) with hare, hormigos torcidos (nut butter pastries with oil), gachas colorás (flour balls with meat) and grapes in brandy. Located at over eight hundred metres above sea level in the foothills of the Sierra de los Filabres, landmarks in the town include the thirteenth-century Nasrid castle and the Parish Church of Our Lady of the Annunciation, where Mudejar and Christian traditions converge. The church was built in the seventeenth century and is listed as a Site of Cultural Interest. About ten kilometres south of Serón is another of its must-sees, the mining town of Las Menas, where you can delve into the past of the area's important iron mining industry. Then it's time to 'climb' up to today's next stop, the imposing Calar Alto Observatory, fifteen kilometres south on the A-1178 and over two thousand metres above sea level! Founded in 1973 thanks to an agreement between Germany and Spain, it holds the honour of being the largest astronomical observatory in the whole of Europe. After this, you can set off for the final destination of the day, Roquetas de Mar. To get to this famous town on the Almería coast, eighty kilometres south on the A-92 towards the city of Almería, you'll cross through the unforgettable and truly hypnotic Tabernas Desert. Stretching for more than twelve thousand hectares and with almost three thousand hours of sunshine per year Tabernas is considered the only desert region on the European continent. Famous for having been the setting of numerous Spaghetti Westerns, you'll want to take hundreds of photos of these evocative landscapes dotted with cacti, reddish rocks and all the typical desert features. When you arrive in Roquetas de Mar, head to the fishing port to taste delicious gastro treats such as arroz a banda (rice stew), moraga de sardinas (sardines in a tomato and pepper sauce), ajoblanco (chilled almond soup), encebollao (fish stew) or tarbinas (cod fritters). If you prefer some tapas, head to the main square and the surrounding streets. Enjoy!

Overnight stay in Roquetas de Mar.

DAY 5 · ROQUETAS DE MAR - ADRA - EL EJIDO - ALMERIMAR - CRISOL AGRO - ROQUETAS DE MAR (LAS SALINAS)

Framed within the Punta Entinas-Sabinar Nature Reserve, Roquetas de Mar is as an urban island amid a landscape of stunning dunes, beaches and lagoons, as well as hundreds of crop fields and commercial greenhouses. Inhabited since time immemorial and a favourite port of call for Phoenicians, Greeks and Romans, Roquetas de Mar is the true tourist heart of the province of Almería. It's famed for sun and sand tourism, thanks to a sixteen-kilometre coastal strip dotted with modern holiday villages such as Aguadulce, La Urbanización or Roquetas itself, with its well-kept and clean sands. There are also more unspoilt and off-the-beaten-track beaches, such as Cerrillos. Roquetas is also home to fascinating attractions, including the Castle of Santa Ana (Las Roquetas Castle), built at the beginning of the sixteenth century and of which only the original tower remains (the rest was rebuilt in 1997); the beautiful Roquetas Lighthouse, constructed in 1863; the Church of Our Lady of the Rosary, featuring Mudejar and Baroque styles from the mid-eighteenth century; and the Cerrillos Watchtower, built by the Arabs and located between the towns of El Ejido and Roquetas de Mar. On the Playa Serena development, you'll find all kinds of beach bars, restaurants, terraces and bars, all set in the perfect environment for some well-deserved fun in the sun. Head west on the A-7 for the fifty kilometres that separate Roquetas de Mar from the town of Adra, at the southwestern tip of the province and perched within the foothills of the Sierra de la Contraviesa. We don't recommend stopping in El Ejido for now, as it's easier to do so on the way back to Roquetas de Mar (but it's all up to you). The twenty-kilometre strip of coastline belonging to Adra is mostly occupied by greenhouses, excellent beaches and the Las Albuferas de Adra Nature Reserve, an important spot for observing migratory waterfowl. The town is home to several tourist attractions, such as the Parish Church of the Immaculate Conception, built between the sixteenth and nineteenth centuries; the Parish Church of Our Lady of Sorrows; a selection of eighteenth-century stately homes; and the Torre de las Perdigones, a remarkable tower highlighting nineteenth-century industrial architecture. It also boasts stunning beaches such as La Caracola, between the canyons of Fuente Ahijado and Bolaños, Sirena Loca and Carboncillo, the result of the construction of the port of Adra in 1911. One of the most amazing images of the road trip lies ahead now, the sea of silver waves made up by the greenhouses of El Ejido, located twenty kilometres east back on the A-7. These form part of the region's landscape and discovering the activity hidden inside is a wonderfully educational experience. What's more, thanks to its greenhouses this is one of the richest areas in Spain, so El Ejido is a modern city with a great cultural cache. There are many places to visit where you can soak up the culture and traditions of the civilisations that once inhabited this corner of Almería. Must-sees include the Daimún funerary monument, the archaeological zone of Ciavieja (a Site of Cultural Interest), and the Torre Fortificada, a tower in the heart of Balermo. Another iconic place in El Ejido is the Guardias Viejas Castle, a striking example of eighteenth-century military architecture built to defend the coast from the attacks of pirates and privateers. To the south of El Ejido is Ensenada San Miguel, known worldwide as Almerimar, the tourist resort par excellence of the town. Located between the Sierra de Gádor and the Mediterranean Sea, it's a laid-back development with vast landscaped gardens, a 27-hole golf course and a marina with over a thousand berths for yachts up to sixty metres. In short, an all-round holiday paradise. In the eastern part of Almerimar, bordering the Mar de Alborán Nature Park, is Clisol Agro, a two-hectare greenhouse that lays on guided tours of its facilities and provides information on intensive agriculture under plastic. As its slogan points out, the idea is to demystify the typical opinions on Mediterranean greenhouse agriculture. At the end of the tour, there's a tasting session of different varieties of tomato, cucumber and pepper with extra virgin olive oil, bread and honey, so you get the chance to check out the wonderful flavours, colours, aromas and textures of the produce grown here. Also on offer are fried vegetable platters, chutneys and vegetable mousse. This is the ideal aperitif before heading back for dinner in Roquetas de Mar, twenty kilometres east on the coast road, and enjoying a great evening in this wonderful corner of the Mediterranean.

Overnight stay in Roquetas de Mar.

DAY 6 · ROQUETAS DE MAR - ALMERÍA - CITY OF ORIGIN

Bear in mind that Almeria Airport is about thirty kilometres east of Roquetas de Mar, so you'll need around half an hour to drive there.

Arrival at the airport with enough time to drop off your rental car and flight back to the city of origin.

Arrival. End of the trip and our services.

Your trip includes

Your trip includes

- ✓ Return flight.
- ✓ Stay in selected hotel in Almería.
- ✓ Selected meal plan in Almería.
- ✓ Stay in selected hotel in Vera - Garrucha.
- ✓ Selected meal plan in Vera - Garrucha.
- ✓ Stay in selected hotel in Roquetas De Mar.
- ✓ Selected meal plan in Roquetas De Mar.
- ✓ Rent-a-car.

Your trip doesn't include

- ✗ Possible toll charges.
- ✗ Insolvency protection.

Destinations Visited

Almería



Sorbas



Vera - Garrucha



Vélez-Rubio



Vélez Blanco



HuércalOvera



Macael



Pannier



Desierto de Tabernas



Roquetas De Mar



Adra



El Ejido



Almerimar



Important remarks

- Triple rooms in Europe are generally rooms with twin beds or a double, in which a folding bed is installed to accommodate the third person. Due to the inconvenience this causes, we advise against using this option as far as possible.

- Check-in time at the hotel on the day of arrival depends on each establishment, but in no case will it be before 3:00 p.m., unless otherwise indicated.

- The proposed excursions and tours for each day are purely suggestions, as you can tailor the trip to suit your times, tastes and needs.
- A credit card is considered a guarantee, so sometimes you will need one for check-in at hotels.
- Hotels usually have cots available. Otherwise, babies will have to share a bed with an adult.
- To pick up your rental car, you'll need a credit (not debit) card in the name of the person who made the booking, who must also be the named driver of the vehicle.
- Consult the necessary documentation to enter the destinations visited and for transit in the countries where air stopovers are made.