

































## SYMBOLS

-  MONUMENTS
-  MUSEUMS
-  ARCHAEOLOGICAL REMAINS
-  CASTLE-RAMPART
-  TOWER
-  SPA
-  PANORAMIC VIEW
-  HANDICRAFTS-CERAMICS
-  HANDICRAFTS-LOOM
-  TYPICAL GASTRONOMIE
-  RECREATION AREA
-  TREKKING
-  CYCLETOURISM
-  PARAGLIDING
-  HORSEBACK ROUTES
-  SNOW SPORTS
-  DOWNHILL SKIING
-  SKI STATION
-  CLIMBER
-  WATER SPORTS
-  GOLF
-  FISHING
-  CAMPSITES
-  MOUNTAIN PASS
-  AIRPORT
-  RAILWAY
-  AUTOROUTE
-  A ROAD
-  B ROAD
-  LOCAL ROAD
-  NATURAL PARK LIMIT
-  NATIONAL PARK LIMIT



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En

# Costa Tropical

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Granada in the world



## A Tropical Paradise



The sea and the sierras embrace this land and its rich cultural legacy which, due to its strategic position watching over the coastline, was much coveted by the most powerful civilisations.

Beaches, coves, beautiful scenery, quiet coastal and inland towns: these are perhaps the main attractions of an area with a **subtropical climate** and mild temperatures all year round which makes an ideal destination for a dream-like holiday.

The Granadan **Costa Tropical**, on the Mediterranean coast, is to the south of the province. To get there, one option is to take a plane to the airports of Almería, Málaga or Granada. By road the best access is via the A-92 which links with the N-323, much of which is motorway, or, from the Costa del Sol or Almería, through the network of national and local roads which run parallel to the coast.

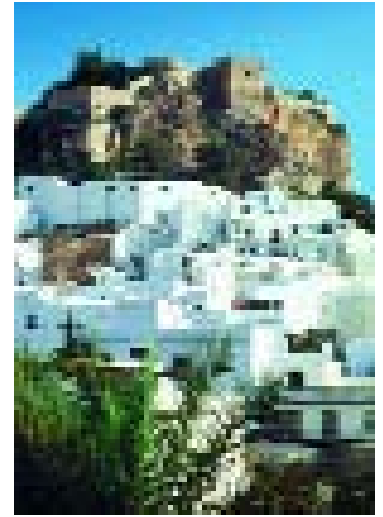
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## The gateway to the Mediterranean

Colossal Muslim fortresses and castles stand majestically above small coastal towns, next to marinas or well-developed seaside resorts. In the background stands the Sierra Nevada, above the steep gorges and cliffs which overlook paradise-like coves. The **Costa Tropical** is a land of contrasts which offers visitors a wide variety of possibilities.

The heritage and valuable archaeological remains which are conserved in the simple but charming towns and villages of the area should not be missed by anyone. There are also breathtaking natural areas which will delight lovers of sports and active tourism.



*View of Salobreña*

5



## The bastion of the coast

Due to their strategic situation, the towns and villages which stretch along the Granadan Costa Tropical, were much coveted by the numerous civilisations which chose the area to settle. Phoenicians, Romans, Muslims and Christians were captivated by its excellent climate of mild temperatures and its situation at the foot of a fertile valley sheltered by the Granadan sierras.

The remains found in the area are evidence of the existence of human settlements in the Neolithic, Bronze Age, and Argaric periods. The numerous peoples who lived there have left important vestiges such as the archaeological remains found in the **Cave of Los Murciélagos**, in **Albuñol**, which is one of the most important Neolithic sites in the Iberian Peninsula.

It was the Phoenicians however, expert traders and sailors from Asia Minor, who settled in the area's fertile lands and developed a buoyant economy based on mercantile traffic, agricultural production, and fish-salting. During this period the Phoenician-Punic **Sexi** (Almuñécar) became one of the most important commercial ports in the Mediterranean and its relevance was highlighted by ancient writers such as Strabon and Pliny "the Elder".

Under the Romans, who inherited the infrastructures and potential which had been developed by their predecessors, **Salobreña's** economy benefited from the fact that the town formed part of the route that linked Castulo with *Malaka*, whilst in **Almuñécar** the Impe-

rial period saw the construction of great monuments which have survived the passage of time.

The **Costa Tropical** reached the height of its splendour with the Muslims, under whose rule towns like **Lenteji**, **Otívar**, **Jete**, and **Almuñécar** became key parts of the Nasrid kingdom.

It was also during the Muslim period that the first defensive fortresses, watchtowers, and observation posts were constructed to defend the coast from potential invaders. They proved to be of great use during the Modern Age as a means of defending the coast from attacks by the Berbers and Turkish.

The Christian conquest and the expulsion of the Moriscos (converted Muslims) was followed by a period of development which would last until modern times, in which the cultivation of



*Tropical crops*

tropical fruits, the production of high quality wines, and the tourist industry all became important.

The legacy left by the Muslims is still clearly visible not only in the older parts of larger coastal towns like Almuñécar and Salobreña but also in small municipalities which are further inland such as Ítrabo and Jete.

*Statue of Abd-al-Rahman I, in Almuñécar*



*Marina del Este marina, in Almuñécar*

## A fortress of cultures

The significant number of valuable archaeological sites and monuments which remain in the area today are evidence of the numerous civilisations which have left their imprint on this land with its wonderful climate.



*Roman Aqueduct in Almuñécar*

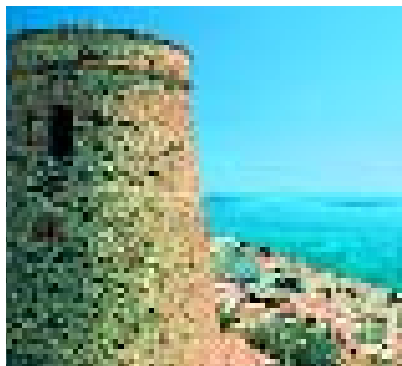
Thus, from the earliest settlers we can find valuable remains dating from the Neolithic and the Bronze Age at the **Cave of El Capitán**, in **Lobres**; **Llanos de Carchuna**, in **Motril**; **El Peñón**, **El Hacho** and **El Camino de los Barreros**, in **Salobreña**; and the **Cave of Los Murciélagos**, in **Albuñol**, where beautifully preserved basketwork from the Neolithic period has been found.

The Phoenician also left their imprint in **Almuñécar**, where the

**Necropolis of Puente de Noy** is to be found. One of the most interesting features in the necropolis is a funerary casket containing a body in the foetal posture and four ceramic vases. The most important remains in the town however are those from the impressive works carried out by the Romans: an **aqueduct** from the 1<sup>st</sup> century AD, the **Tower of El Monje**, the **Columbarium La Albina**, and the **Cave of Siete Palacios**. The latter, a large water cistern with vaulted ceilings surrounding the Cerro de San Miguel hill, is one of the most important urban constructions of Roman Hispania. The cave houses the **Municipal Archaeological Museum** which displays a valuable cinerary vase of the Pharaoh Apophis I, dating from between the 17<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> centuries BC.

During the Muslim period there was a proliferation of fortified castles, watchtowers and observation posts, which were used as a means of protection against incursions by the Christian troops. Examples include the remains of the **castles of Salobreña**, **Albuñol**, **San Miguel**, in **Almuñécar**, **Castell de Ferro**, **Carchuna** and **La Herradura**; later, in the 16<sup>th</sup> century, the Christians constructed fortresses such as the

The **Cave of Los Murciélagos** is considered to be one of the most important Neolithic sites in the whole Iberian Peninsular.

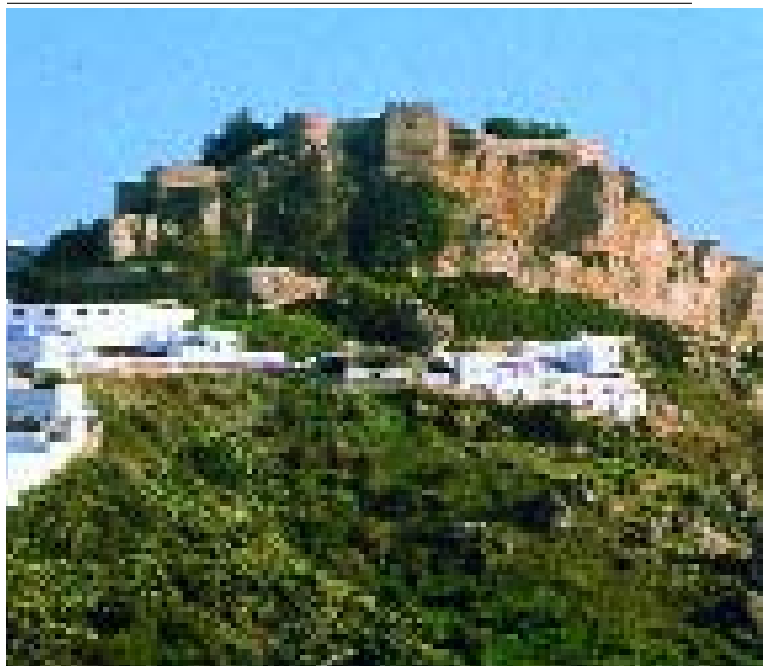


*Tower of Cautor*

**Castillo de Baños**. Numerous **towers** still keep watch over the area's coastline such as those of **Cautor** and **La Instancia** and others in **Albuñol**, **Cerro Gordo**, and **Punta de la Mona**, the last two in **La Herradura**.

Examples of religious architecture are also ubiquitous in the municipalities of the **Costa Tropical**. Thus, there are numerous **churches**, such as **La Encarnación**, in **Almuñécar**, which was one of the first in the province to be built in a proto-baroque style, and the Church of **La Virgen del Rosario**, from the 17<sup>th</sup> century, in **Albuñol**.

*Castle of Salobreña*

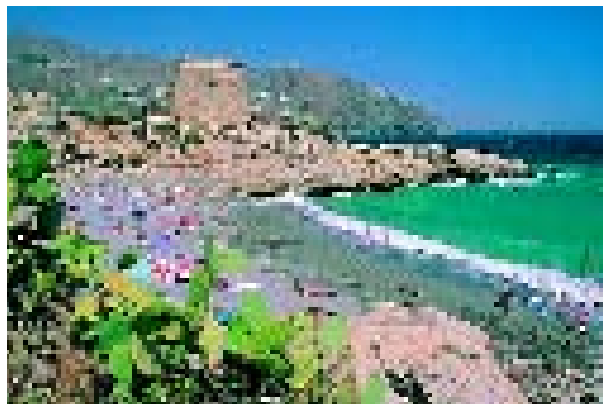


# Contrasting Beaches

A bright blue sky and the calm waters of the Mediterranean sea which stay warm all year round: in this wonderful setting there are a great variety of different beaches which are suitable for all kinds of visitors.



Those who like spending long hours sunbathing on the beach in the company of their family but crave the comforts offered by large tourist resorts, are sure to find the beach of their dreams in the municipalities of **Motril** and **Almuñécar**. They can while away the days relaxing and swimming on the beaches of **La Herradura**, **San Cristóbal**, **El Tesorillo** and **Velilla** – all of them in **Almuñécar** – or **Calahonda**, **Poniente**, **Granada**, **Torrenueva** and **Carchuna**, in

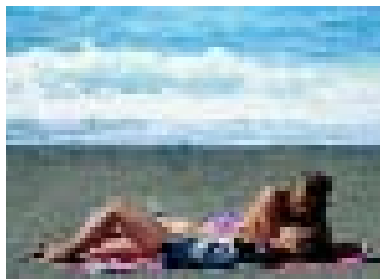


*El Tesorillo beach (Almuñécar)*



*La Caleta beach (Salobreña)*

**Motril.** These beaches are noted for their deep and crystalline waters and are ideal for practising marine sports, such as diving and fishing.



Lovers of peace and tranquillity, who prefer to be away from the more crowded tourist resorts, have a wide choice of sheltered and solitary coves which can be found all along the coast. Examples



include the beaches of **La Juana**, **El Pozuelo**, and **La Rábita**, in **Albuñol**, whilst in **Salobreña**, the solitary beach of **La Guardia** or the natural coves of **El Caletón** and **El Pargo**, which are concealed by cliffs and lie along the coast on either side of the Granadan municipality, are ideal.

For enthusiasts of naturism the beaches of **Cantarrián** and **El Muerto**, in **Almuñécar**, **La Joya**, in **Motril**, and **El Ruso**, en **Albuñol** offer a truly secluded paradise.

## Traditions with a distinctive flavour

The Mediterranean provides the municipalities of the area with a wide variety of delicious fish which is the basic ingredient of many traditional dishes. The tropical fruits, which are widely used to garnish seafood, vegetable, and meat dishes, add an exotic touch to the local gastronomy.

Accompanied by locally produced vegetables, or on its own, fish is cooked by capable and well-practiced hands to produce traditional recipes, such as *escabeches* (marinated fish), *salazones* (salted fish), stuffed squid, *moragas de pescado* and the popular *espetos de sardinas* (sardine skewers) which are grilled on the beach.

The tropical and exotic fruit, for which the local soils



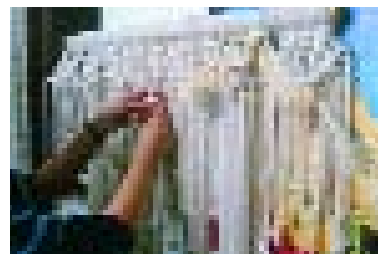
and climate are ideal, form the basic ingredient of the tastiest desserts. It is common to find delicious cherimoyas, date plums, mangos and papayas, accompanied by the exquisite sugar cane rum, which is produced both in **Motril** and **Salobreña**.

The wines produced in the **Costa Tropical** are renowned in the whole province for their high quality, the most widely recognised being those from vines grown in villages like **Polopos**, or the *mosto* (must) from **Molvízar** and **Itrabo**.

Some traditional crafts such as saddlery and barrel making, as well as *esparto* and wickerwork, have survived in the area. Likewise in municipa-

lities such as **Salobreña** and **Almuñécar**, there is a considerable level of production of hand-made leather goods (particularly horse tack).

For visitors who are tempted to take a souvenir home as a token of their holiday, there are numerous establishments selling macramé objects - such as bags - as well as a wide range of hand crafted shawls, tapestries, decorative lamps or glass vases.

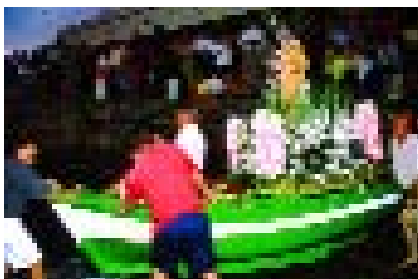


### Bonfires at night

If there is one scene which is truly evocative of the summer months it is the bonfires which are lit on the beach to grill the typical *espetos* on wooden stakes. This is a job with its own particular artistry and science and can't be hurried. First of all, the cook cleans the fish without gutting them, he then cuts a few reeds, sharpens one of their ends and removes the threads as they could get lodged in between the fish bones and meat. The reeds, or *espetos*, are inserted from under the backbone of the fish so as to avoid the meat from falling onto the fire when it is grilled.



The fiestas celebrated in the municipalities of the Costa Tropical of Granada have a marked idiosyncratic character and reflect traditions and customs which are deeply rooted in the area.



The coastal villages celebrate the **Night of San Juan** (with lighting of bonfires), the **May Crosses**, and the picturesque fiesta in honour of the **Virgen del Carmen**, the patron saint of seafarers,

which is taken out for a procession in July.

Folk music also plays a key part in the area's cultural life. An example of this is the **Trovo**, a type of traditional song of Arabic-Andalusian origins which is typical of some of the municipalities in the area, particularly **Albuñol**. Trovos are structured in five

line verses and are used by the locals to express their feelings and complaints and to tell stories in an improvised manner. Of considerable renown are the **Andrés Segovia International Classical Guitar Festival** and **Song Writing**

In the summer Salobreña hosts two important events which should not be missed: the **New Trends and Theatre Festival** and the **Luces del Alba Festival**, which includes performances by some of the biggest names in flamenco.



**Competition** which is named after the illustrious adopted son of **Almuñécar** and **La Herradura**. It is a delight for music lovers and is held in the municipality of **Almuñécar** during the first week of the year.

The old Roman **Sexi** also hosts a jazz festival (the **Festival Jazz en la Costa**) – an event which in its first fifteen years of history has attracted some of the best blues, jazz and bossa nova performers - and the **José Martín Recuerda Theatre Festival**, in tribute to the playwright from Granada.



## Festivals

### ALMUÑÉCAR

CERTAMEN INTERNACIONAL DE GUITARRA CLÁSICA Y CONCURSO DE COMPOSICIÓN ANDRÉS SEGOVIA

☎ 958630333

CERTAMEN DE TEATRO JOSÉ MARTÍN RECUERDA

☎ 958838605

FESTIVAL JAZZ EN LA COSTA

☎ 958247372

### SALOBREÑA

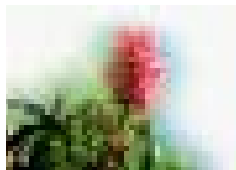
FESTIVAL NUEVAS TENDENCIAS Y TEATRO

☎ 958610314

FESTIVAL LUCES DEL ALBA



In addition to the paradise-like beaches, the Costa Tropical also has other places of great natural beauty, which, throughout the year, offer visitors the possibility to interact with nature and practice a wide range of activities.

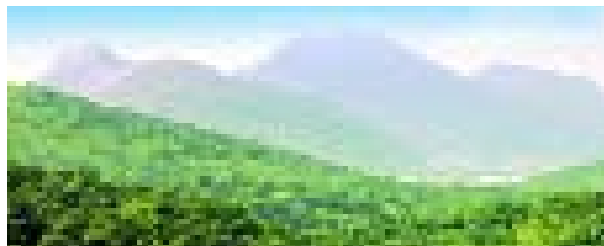
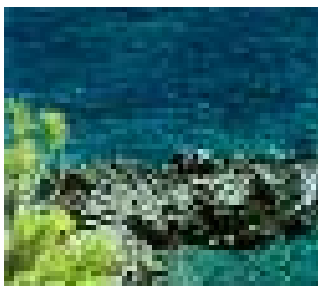


One of the largest of these – covering an area of some 40,600 hectares – is the **Natural Park of the Sierras of Tejeda, Almijara and Alhama**, which marks the border between the provinces of Malaga and Granada. Full of history and legends about revolts and *bandolero* raids, these mountains form a strikingly rugged landscape of high jagged peaks, with steep escarpments and deep gorges.

The diversity of the flora is another of the features of the area. Some of the most interesting species to be found there include: Aleppo pines, fan palms, spurge olives and box. There is also a small *tejeda* (an area populated with yew trees) whose main point of interest is that it is the southernmost one in the Iberian Peninsula and one of the best

examples of its kind in Andalusia. The fauna includes squirrels, wild goats, and large birds of prey, which fly high over the peaks like that of La Maroma.

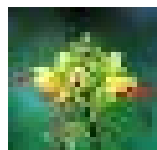
Nearby, between the towns of Nerja and Almuñécar is **Maro-Cerro Gordo Cliffs Natural Site**, a natural area formed by towering dolomitic limestone cliffs loo-



The peaks in the Sierras of Tejeda, Almijara and Alhama bear a striking resemblance to the Picos de Europa, each being almost a symmetrical mirror image of the other in the Iberian Peninsula.

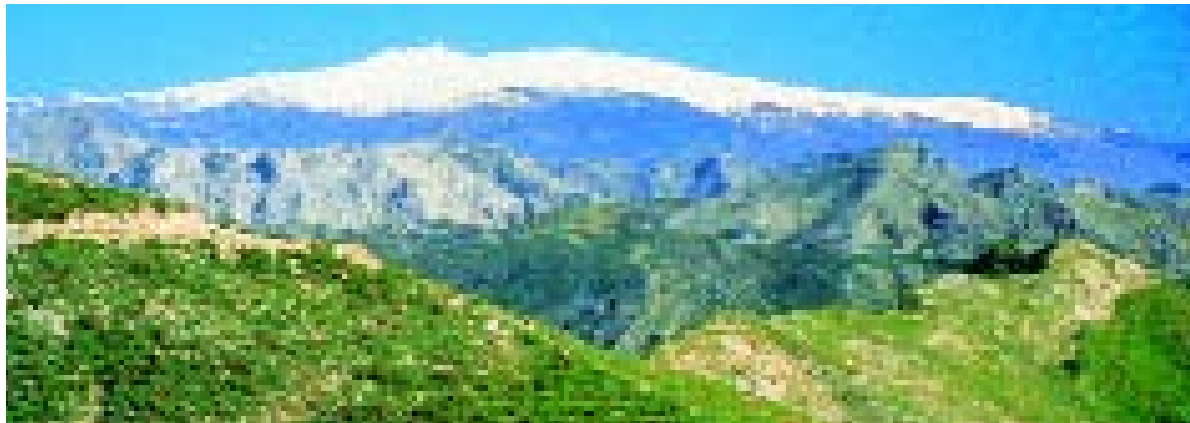
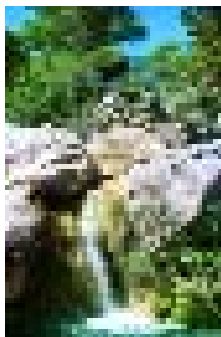
king down onto beautiful small coves. These craggy cliffs are pitted with numerous **caves** and **underwater grottoes** such as those of **Los Genoveses** and **La Cajilla**. The seabed in this area is covered with abundant *posidonia oceanica*.

Also in this area is **Los Peñones de San Cristóbal**, three large crags sticking out into the sea creating a geographical milestone on the western coast of Granada and a natural mirador.



Spectacular views are also a feature of the exceptional **Peña Escrita Ecological Park** in **Almuñécar**, an unspoilt environment with a combination of three types of landscapes: the foothills of the Sierra Nevada, the high mountain villages of

the Alpujarras, and a tropical valley which appears to blend into the Mediterranean.



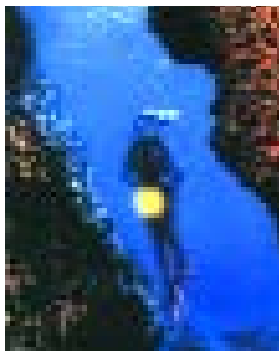
## For the more active visitor

The beaches and coastline of towns such as Motril, Salobreña and Almuñécar attract a large number of boats and yachts, as well as sailing, diving and windsurfing enthusiasts who fill the area with colour. In contrast to this, the natural areas which are further inland are a mecca for walkers and nature lovers who prefer to enjoy the quiet countryside and admire the rich flora and fauna.



The **Costa Tropical** offers lovers of nautical sports an incredible range of possibilities. The beaches of **Carchuna** and **La Herradura** are ideal for windsurfing, water-skiing or sailing, experiencing the exhilarating speed of a water-bike, or simply enjoying a swim in their warm and crystalline waters.

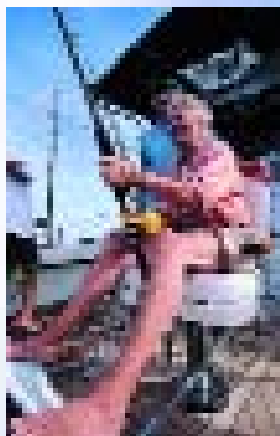
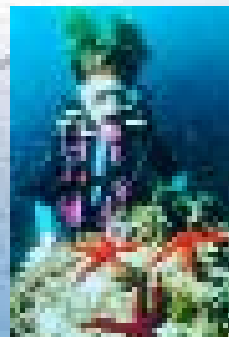
The rich marine life of the seabed, which is clad with abundant prairies of posidonia and is home to species like groupers, sea bass, red snappers, and wrasses, are a paradise for divers. The whole coast is dotted with enclaves of outstanding beauty such as **La Herradura** and **Calahonda**, as well as natural caves and grottoes – which provide a natural habitat for species such as congers and moray eels. Other interesting features include the **Maro-**



**Cerro Gordo**, a line of cliffs, formed by the action of erosion stretching over 395 hectares of the coast where the Sierra meets the Mediterranean.

For boat lovers, this part of the coast has the **Motril Sailing Club**, with 128 moorings, and the **Marina del Este Sailing Club** of **Almuñécar**, in **Punta de la Mona**.

Those who wish to combine a day by the sea with other kinds of pursuits could perhaps opt for the **Los Moriscos Golf Club** in **Motril** which is one of the two golf courses in the province.



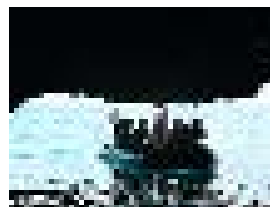
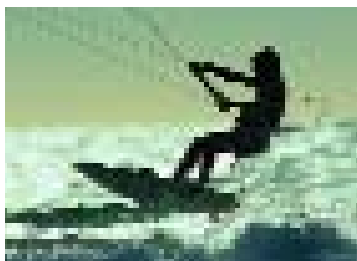
## For the more active visitor



With its excellent climate and unique landscape, Almuñécar and the surrounding countryside is a favourite destination for lovers of hang gliding and paragliding. There are numerous take-off sites in the area such as Cerro Gordo-Cañuelo, La Herradura, Otívar, Peña Escrita, Loma del Gato, and Sierra of Lújar.

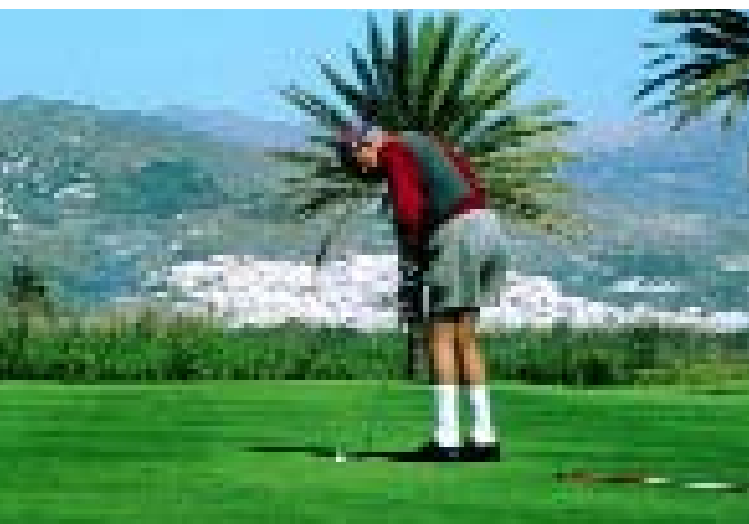
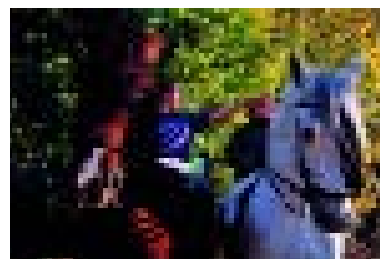
The natural areas further inland are also ideal for practising active tourism. The various footpaths and forest trails through the **Sierra de Almirajara** and the **Peña Escrita Ecological Park** offer visitors the possibility of following routes on horseback or in 4WD vehicles.

And for those who prefer more exhilarating experiences, there is nothing better than taking to the skies on a hang glider or paraglider, and taking in the spectacular beauty of the numerous coves, steep



cliffs and deep gorges which are dotted along the coast.

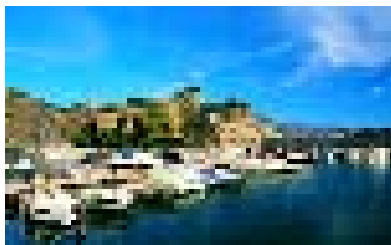
The wide choice of activities available on the **Costa Tropical** also includes with trike tours, canyoneering, climbing, and trekking.



## Route 1- Almuñécar

### *Cradle of the Mediterranean culture*

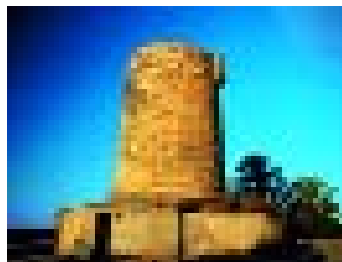
In addition to its great historical past, Almuñécar, the cradle of Mediterranean culture, is situated in a unique enclave between the sea and the mountains, and enjoys a subtropical climate with mild temperatures all year round.



*Marina del Este marina*

Bathed by the warm waters of the Mediterranean and sheltered by the peaks of the Sierra Nevada, Almuñécar was founded by the Phoenicians – who called it *Ex* –

in the 8<sup>th</sup> century BC. Later the Romans were to take full advantage of the well-structured city created by their predecessors who had developed a thriving economy supported by a salt-fishing industry. During the Al-Andalus period, **Almuñécar** became the most

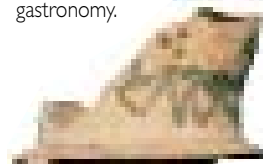


important coastal town in the area. It was here that Abd al-Rahman I landed in 755, fleeing from the atmosphere of unrest that befell Damascus. He then headed towards Cordoba, where he founded the Umayyad Emirate. A large bronze statue at the foot of the **Peñón del Santo** commemorates this historical event.

examples of this are the Phoenician **Necropolis of Puente de Noy**, the **Cave of Siete Palacios**, the **Tower of El Monje**, the **Columbarium of La Albina**, the **Arab Castle of San Miguel**, the observation posts and the **Church of La Encarnación**.

La **Cruz del Santo** is an ideal place to admire the diversity of landscapes that gives **Almuñécar** such a special character:

From this natural mirador one can also get good views of the fields of tropical fruit, which, together with fish, are the essential ingredients of the rich local gastronomy.



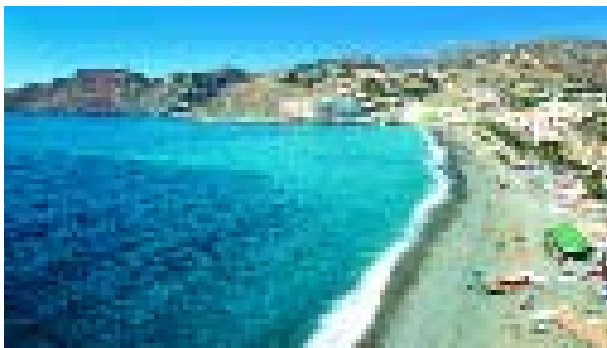
The Roman *Sexi* supplied the Roman Empire with the much-coveted *garum* (a paste made with fish entrails), which was considered to be a great delicacy.



The legacy of the many peoples and civilisations that lived in the area is clearly reflected in the town's rich heritage. Fine



*Remains of the fish-salting factory*



*Panoramic views of San Cristóbal beach*

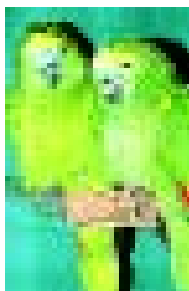
Its large beaches, **natural areas** such as the **Maro-Cerro Gordo Cliffs**, and its proximity to the Sierra Nevada Ski Station, make **Almuñécar** an ideal destination for lovers of nature and outdoor sports who also wish to enjoy some peace and tranquillity.

The **beach of La Herradura** is an ideal place for an unforgettable holiday. Forming a natural port, the bay of the municipality bearing the same name – the second largest area of population in **Almuñécar** – has outstanding natural qualities which certainly didn't go unnoticed by the various maritime expeditions of successive civilisations.

For the rich marine life of its seabed, **La**

**Herradura**, which stretches between the Punta de la Mona and the Peñón de Cerro Gordo, has become the favourite destination of divers and lovers of nautical sports. Likewise, its rugged and mountainous landscapes are a paradise for hang gliders and paragliders.

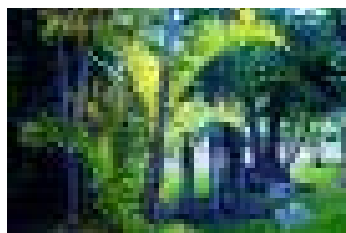
In the **El Majuelo Archaeological and Botanical Park** it is possible to see more than 182 plant species from all the different tropical zones in the world, while the **Loro Sexi Ornithological Park** contains some 1,500 birds - from common doves, to spectacular peacocks, parrots, cockatoos, macaws and swans.



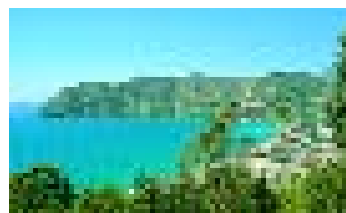
Far from limiting the already wide range of choices that the municipality can offer the tourist, **Almuñécar** has continued to grow and look for new alternatives. Thus, thanks to the numerous attractions and well-developed infrastructure, the target of becoming an important centre for hosting congresses and other events is now becoming a reality.

### ALSO VISIT...

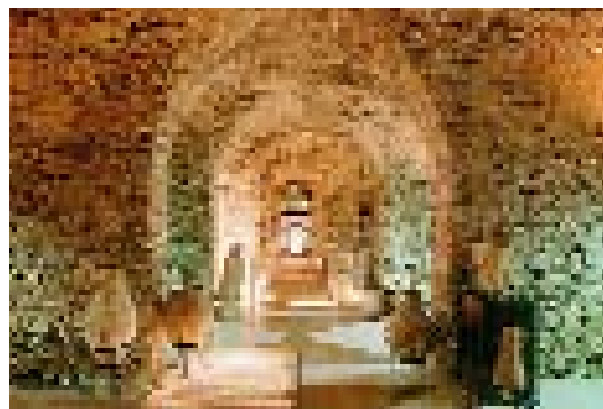
- **Remains of the Roman aqueduct**, from the 1<sup>st</sup> century AD. Of special interest are the parts found in the Torrecuevas quarter, La Carrera de la Concepción (right in the centre of the town), and the Cercado de La Santa Cruz.
- **Municipal Archaeological Museum**, housed in the cave of Los Siete Palacios.
- **City Museum**. Housed in a military pavilion from the 16<sup>th</sup> century which is conserved inside the Castle of San Miguel.
- **Watch towers**: Velilla, La Golondrina, La Herradura or Tamaray.
- **A pillar in Calle Real street**, 16<sup>th</sup> century.
- **Castle of La Herradura**, 18<sup>th</sup> century.



*El Majuelo Botanical Gardens*



*La Herradura beach, in Almuñécar*

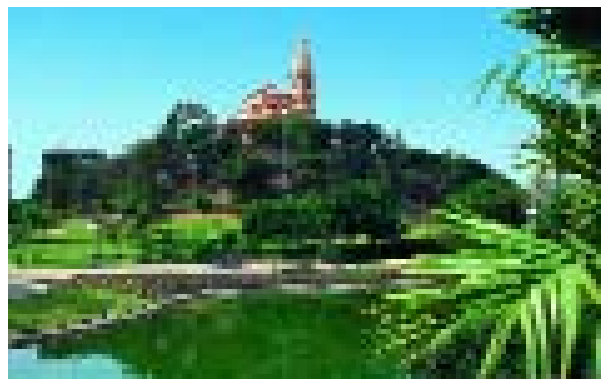
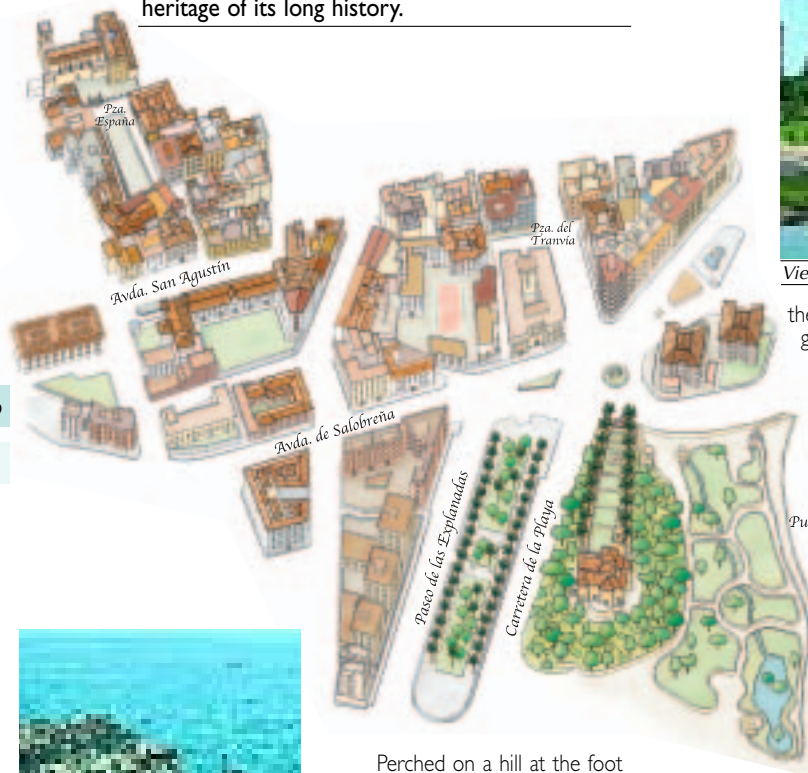


*Archaeological Museum*

## Route 2: Motril

### *Watching over the coast*

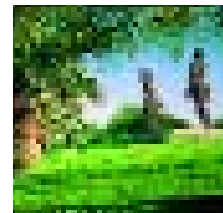
Perched on a hill at the foot of the Sierra de Lújar, Motril, the city with the largest population in the province after Granada itself, has much to offer the visitor. Apart from its sunny beaches and marvellous climate, there is exquisite tropical produce such as sugar cane and the rich heritage of its long history.



*View of the Sanctuary of the Virgen de la Cabeza*

the capital of the **Costa Tropical**. Its origins are extremely ancient and there are even those who believe that it is the site of the legendary Murgis. What is without doubt is that the Moors were here, and during the Andalusi period it was an important fortress, forming part of the defences on the Granada coastline.

Its unique location, 2 km inland from the coast, protected it during the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> centuries from the frequent attacks by Berber pirates, and from then on it has experienced a process of continual growth and development which has made it an important centre of communication and key point for coastal traffic.

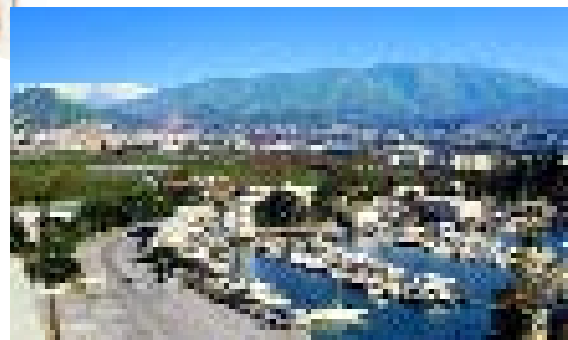


*The Puntos de América Park*



Perched on a hill at the foot of the Sierra de Lújar, **Motril**, the city with the largest population in the province after Granada itself, has much to offer the visitor: Apart from its sunny beaches and marvellous climate, there is exquisite tropical produce such as sugar cane and the rich heritage of its long history.

The calm sea and the blue sky have witnessed all the different peoples who have passed through what is considered to be



*Motril's Marina*



*The Calahonda Coast*

One of the most attractive aspects of the town is undoubtedly its port which is important for fishing, commercial activities,



and nautical sports. Another town in the municipality which also has a port is Calahonda.

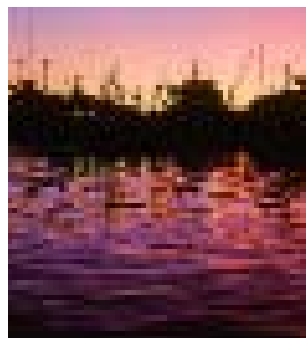
The mild breezes which blow gently over beaches such as La Joya, Poniente or Carchuna, are perhaps one of the reasons why King Baldouin of Belgium had his summer residence in Motril right up until his death.

For those who prefer sightseeing the municipality offers numerous possibilities. There are extremely important archaeological sites such as those of Los Llanos de Carchuna, declared a Site of Cultural Interest, in



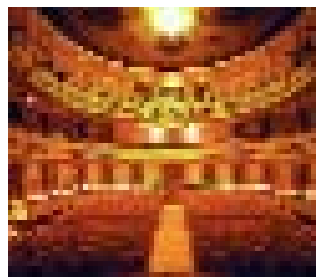
## ALSO VISIT...

- **The Church of la Victoria**, 16<sup>th</sup> century. Its main Chapel is a fine example of mannerist decorative style.
- **The Church of Capuchinos**, 17<sup>th</sup> century.
- **The Shrine of San Antonio**, 17<sup>th</sup> century.
- **The Church of El Carmen**, 17<sup>th</sup> century.
- **The Town Hall**. With beautiful Mudejar coffered ceilings.
- **The Calderón de la Barca Theatre**, 1880. Theatre designed in an Italian style. Of special note are the paintings of its ceiling depicting the Muses.
- **The House of the Countess of Torre Isabel**. A stately building in the Andalusian style, constructed in the second half of the 18<sup>th</sup> century. It is now a House Museum and one of Motril's most important cultural centres.



*Sunset over the marina*

which Paleolithic remains and numerous cave paintings from the Neolithic and the Bronze Age have been found. Also of inte-



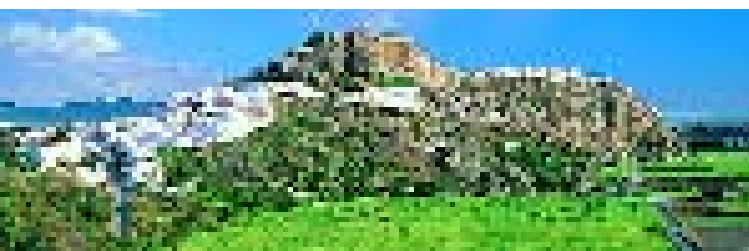
*Interior view of the Calderón Theatre*

rest are the **Parish Church of La Encarnación**, built over the old Main Mosque, the **Nuestra Señora del Pilar sugar factory**, and the **Sanctuary of the Virgen de la Cabeza**, constructed over the residence of the mother of King Boabdil, on a hilltop with magnificent views.

## Route 3: Salobreña

### *The taste of Andalusia*

Salobreña is one of the most distinctive towns on the Spanish Mediterranean coast. A town of white houses which seem to climb a rocky crag, with its carefully designed urban layout and the imposing profile of the Spanish-Moorish fort, it is surrounded by a sea of tropical crops and the Mediterranean itself. Its mild sub-tropical climate invites visitors to enjoy the beaches and sheltered coves, or perhaps to stroll through the old town, retaining as it does, the true flavour of Andalusia, with narrow, winding streets, and picturesque corners.



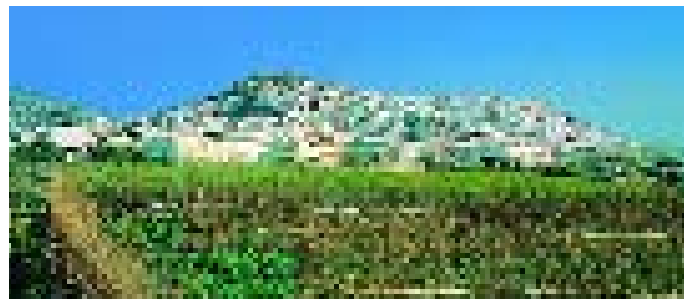
*The whitewashed houses of Salobreña climb the rocky crag*

The town, which was the Carthaginian *Selambina*, the Roman *Segalvina*, and the Moorish *Salawbiniya*, has witnessed history down through the ages, and remains have even been found of the Argaric and Phoenician cultures.

During the Roman period it was part of a route which linked Cástulo with Malaka. An important fortress in the Middle Ages, it was there that the expedition of Alfonso I, the Warrior, arrived in Andalusian territory.

Incorporated into the Kingdom of Castile in 1489, it took part in the Alpujarras uprising in 1568-69, after which the Moriscos were expelled from the town.

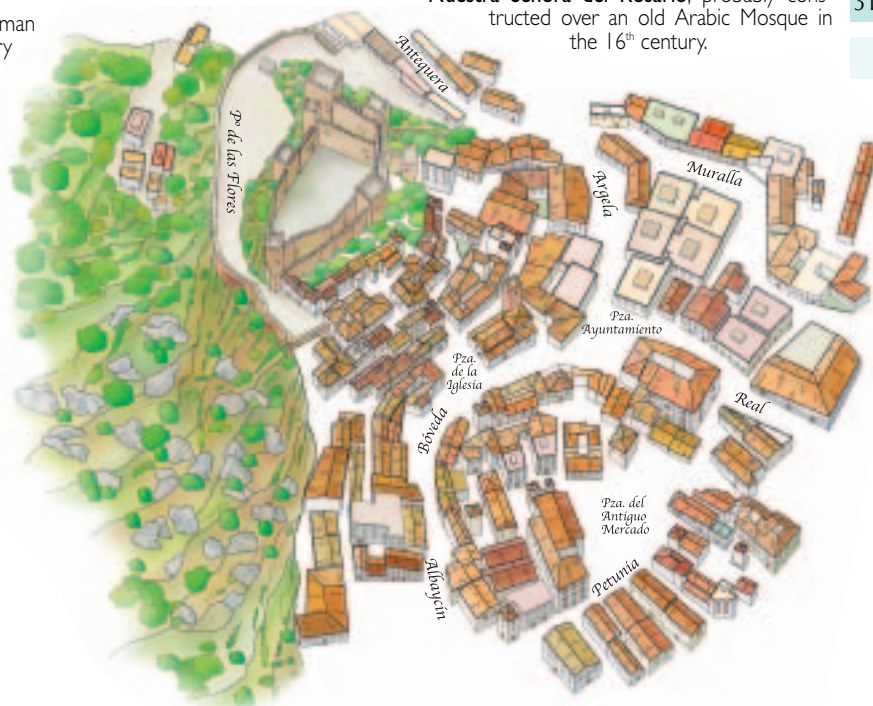
In more modern times the population has concentrated in the area called la Villa, around the old Plaza del Ayuntamiento (town hall square) and the Church of Nuestra Señora del Rosario. In the 19<sup>th</sup> century the profitable sugar cane once again became a viable crop.




*Panoramic view of the Granadan town*

The **Moorish castle**, the real jewel of the town's monuments has been well preserved. Although the structure dates from the 13<sup>th</sup> century, its true splendour was not attained until two centuries later and it became the summer residence of the Nasrid Kings of Granada. Subsequently it was used by the Christians as a Royal Prison and a military stronghold. The outer walls still remain, as do some of the towers, amongst which the **Torre del Homenaje** (keep) is particularly notable.

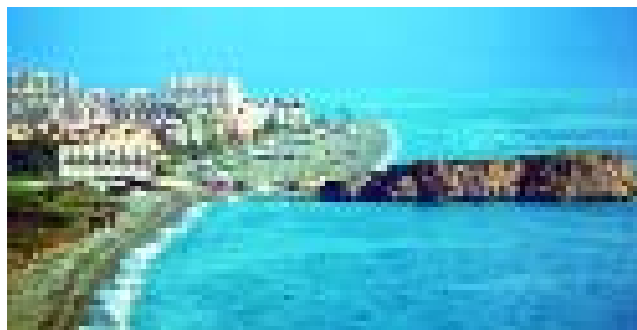
Salobreña also has important **archaeological remains** including those in the Cave of El Capitán, El Peñón, Monte Hacho or the Camino de los Barreros. Another building of interest is the **Church of Nuestra Señora del Rosario**, probably constructed over an old Arabic Mosque in the 16<sup>th</sup> century.



The town's beaches and sheltered coves are perfect for enjoying holidays to the full and are notable for their peaceful and tranquil nature. The crystal clear waters are ideal for nautical sports such as wind-surfing.



The historical centre of the town is made up of quarters next to, or inside the wall which formed the fortifications of Salobreña in the Middle Ages.



*La Guardia beach*

*Aerial view of Salobreña*



### ALSO VISIT...

- **Bóveda de la Plaza.**

A passage with vaulted ceilings which linked the Albaicín quarter with the heart of the Medina, the centre of commercial activity.

- **Tower of El Brocal.**

The only remaining part of the wall which surrounded Salobreña.

- **Paseo de las Flores.**

On this hillside the first settlers established their homes.

- **Mirador del Albaicín.**

Situated some 98 metres above the Tajo, it offers extraordinary views of the floodplains and their sugar cane plantations, the La Caleta quarter, the beaches, the cliffs, and the Sierra del Chaparral.

- **Mirador del Postigo.**

Takes its name from a secondary gate into the medieval city, known in later times as the Postigo del Mar, because it was used to gain access to the beach and the town's harbour.

- **Sugar Factory.** Built in 1876, the Ingenio de La Caleta plant is the only sugar cane factory operating in Europe.

## Route 4: The eastern part of the Costa Tropical

### Looking over the Mediterranean

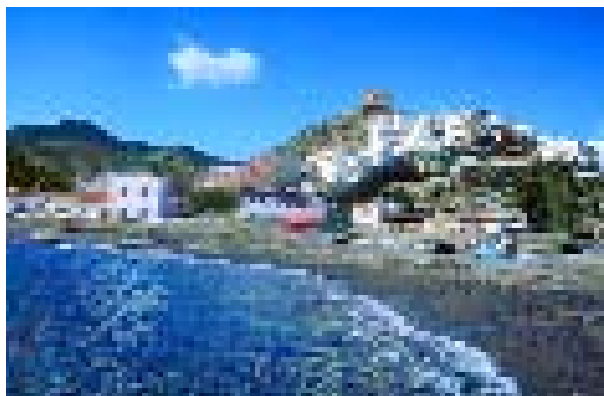


Charm, simplicity, and tranquillity are the main characteristics of the small villages to be found between the Alpujarras and the Mediterranean, retaining as they do, much of the essence of Arabic Andalusia. This can be seen by the observation posts and watchtowers which almost seem to still be protecting the coast.

In **Gualchos**, situated at the foot of the Sierra de Lújar, is the fishing village of **Castell de Ferro**, one of the first tourist resorts on the coast of Granada. Of particular interest here is the **Islamic Castle**, which, for centuries, has dominated the beach.

Its rich vineyards make **Polopos** a key wine producing area. It is likely that during the Nasrid period it was part of the ancient Moorish district of *La tahá del Gran Cehel*, which was ruled by Almegijar. It also governed villages like **Castillo de Baños**, which gives its name to its defensive fortress, and **La Mamola**, in which we can find watchtowers such as that of **Cautor** (16<sup>th</sup> century).

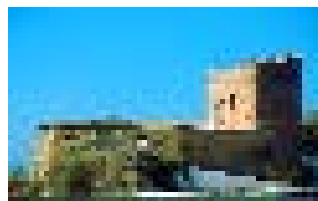
The southern part of the municipality of **Sorvilán**, where **Los**



*Fishing village of Castell de Ferro*



**Yesos** and **Melicena** are to be found, the latter with its Muslim tower, opens out onto the coast and thus receives the soft and mild breezes of the area.



*Castle of La Rábita*

Evidence of **Albuñol's** prehistoric past can be found in the famous **Cave of Los Murciélagos**, where a considerable number of skeletons from the Neolithic period were found, together with funerary objects and part of the cloth used to wrap the bodies.

The height of its splendour was reached during the Arabic-Andalusian period, thanks to the efficient use of the agricultural resources. An important construction dating from this era is the **Nasrid Castle of La Rábita**, from where there magnificent views of the hidden beaches which are shared by the inhabitants of neighbouring **El Pozuelo**.

#### ALSO VISIT...

- **Parish Church of San Miguel Arcángel**, 16<sup>th</sup> century. **Gualchos**.
- **Cave of Las Campanas**. **Gualchos**.
- **Archaeological remains and Tower of La Rijana**. **Castell de Ferro**.
- **Parish Church of Polopos**, 18<sup>th</sup> century.
- **Shrine of Santa Ana**. **Haza de Trigo**.
- **Parish Church of La Virgen del Rosario**, 17<sup>th</sup> century. **Albuñol**.
- **Casa de las Margaritas**, **Albuñol**. The house in which the Spanish author **Pedro Antonio de Alarcón** wrote most of his work.

## Route 5: Inland villages

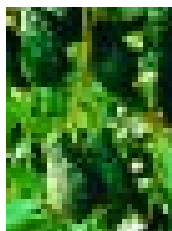
### *A simple charm*



Between the Sierra de los Guájares and the warm Mediterranean coast, visitors can explore a number of attractive inland villages such as Molvizar, Ítrabo, Jete, Otívar and Lenteji. Despite the fact that these villages are away from the most popular beaches in the province, they nonetheless benefit from having all the charm and tranquillity of the mountains.

Sharing a common past and history, each has their own distinctive character and there are remains which offer evidence of their key commercial role during the period of expansion of the first civilisations in the Mediterranean basin. Their height of splendour came with the Muslims who were responsible for the efficient exploitation of agricultural resources and they were to become authentic defensive strongholds against the constant threat of incursions by Berber pirates.

*Typical street in Molvizar*



Embraced by the Sierras of Cázulas and Almijara, Molvizar stands in an area of fertile floodplains, cultivated with tropical fruit, which gives it the appearance of a huge green tapestry. The well-conserved main town of the municipality is noted for its individual character and it provides an ideal setting for practising a broad range of outdoor activities from walking to paragliding. After a little exercise, there is nothing

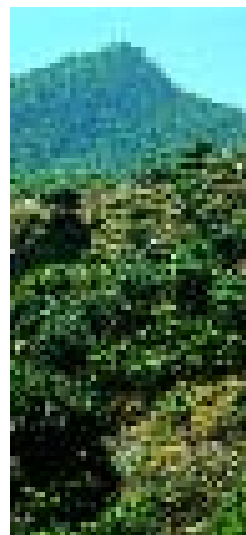


better than savouring the delicious dishes of its traditional cuisine accompanied by a good *mosto* (must).

The legacy of the Moriscos is evident in the narrow lanes and immaculate white-washed houses and gardens of Ítrabo. Two cultural routes pass through the village: the *León el Africano* (Leo the African) and al-Idrisi routes.

A stretch of pine forests lead the way to a spectacular natural area known as **Cataratas del Paraíso** - waterfalls originating from the **Nacimiento**, a stream which irrigates the fields of cherimoyas, mangos and citric fruits. These tropical crops blend harmoniously with extensive fields of vines which are used to produce a high quality *mosto*. Ítrabo's great wine tradition is reflected in the **Fiesta del Vino**, in which the best wine producers in the province compete.

An overwhelming feeling of calm envelops the visitor when they arrive in Jete, a village situated half way between the **Costa Tropical** and the **Sierra Almijara**, which is





Views of Jete

surrounded by spectacular green scenery.

The best way of getting a good idea of the village and its surroundings is either to stroll through its small and well preserved centre – where we can find the Parish Church which was built between the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> century and houses works by Alonso de Mena -, or to follow the paths to its natural areas or forest tracks. In the area known as **Las Angosturas**, a popular image of the **Virgen de las Aguas**, erected to commemorate a fortunate

event that rid the town from a long period of draughts, is worshipped.

Passing by gorges, steep slopes, and rushing streams which erode the rugged hills, we descend to **Otívar**, stopping on the way to admire one of its little treasures: the **Cascada de Árboles** waterfall. The village's most illustrious historical figure is **Juan Fernández Cañas**, the celebrated mayor; also known as *El Tío Caridad* (the Uncle of Charity) and *El Coronel* (the Colonel), who pinned down the Napoleonic forces, against whom he fought valiantly in the War of Independence.

For its ecological value, this site has been included in the **Sierras de Tejeda, Almijara and Alhama Natural Park**. Both the flora and the fau-



### ALSO VISIT...

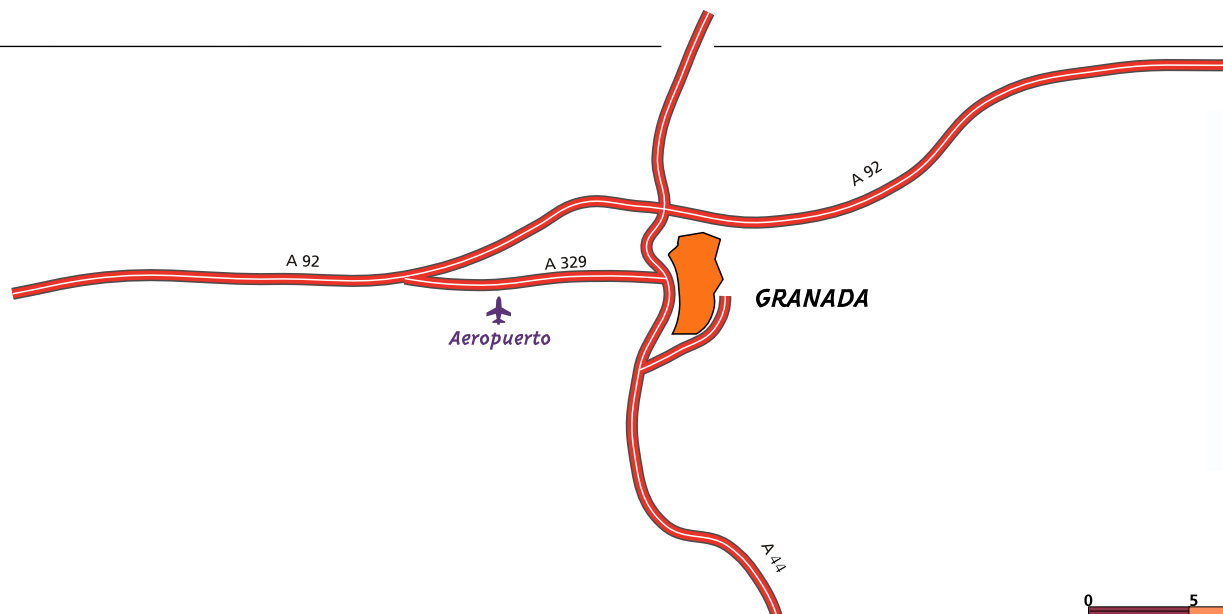
- **Parish Church of Molvizar**, 18<sup>th</sup> century.
- **Church of Nuestra Señora del Carmen**, 16<sup>th</sup> century. **Ítrabo**.
- **Shrine of Nuestra Señora de la Salud**, 17<sup>th</sup> century. **Ítrabo**.
- **Shrine of the Virgen de Bohijar**. **Jete**. Until 1936 housed a small sculpture believed to perform miracles which, according to tradition, appeared to a shepherd in the 16<sup>th</sup> century.
- **Parish Church of Otívar**. In Mudejar style, dedicated to San José.
- **Argaric Necropolis**, **Lentejé**. Situated in the shaded side of Tinajas, on a site known as Rotura de Cecilio, next to Chorrera del Papo.
- **Parish Church**, 16<sup>th</sup> century. **Lentejé**.

na, and particularly the mountain goat, make **Otívar** one of the most attractive places to visit in the area.

The last place on this tour of inland villages is **Lentejé**, from where there are marvellous views of the fertile fields and the desert, the open skies, the mountains, and the sea. It is the ideal spot for those who wish to go walking, ride mountain bikes, or enjoy the exhilarating experience of canyoneering.



Panoramic views of the town of Jete



GRANADA

COSTA TROPICAL

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Costa Tropical