

ALMERÍA INFORMATION



Almería is an Andalusian city located in the South-East of Spain, on the Mediterranean coast. It has many varying landscapes, which range from coast to mountainous areas and desert. The region has a rich cultural heritage due to its ancient history which first saw the Phoenicians settle there, followed by the Greeks. Founded in the 9th century, when the Iberian Peninsula was invaded by the Arabians, Almería grew around its Moorish Fortress, La Alcazaba, which is still today the symbol of the city. The name Almería stems from Al-miraya, which literally means mirror of the sea, and was first founded by Abd-Al Rahman III.

Nowadays, Almería is a prosperous city, whose economy is based on both tourism and intensive agriculture. With unique climatic conditions, it is less than 100 miles from the coast of North Africa and it is also close to other important historical tourist cities such as Granada (165 km) or Malaga (220 km). Almería enjoys the warmest and sunniest climate of Europe, with midday temperatures averaging 21°C in January and 37°C in July and August, and more than 320 days of sunshine a year.

Check here for the weather in Almeria during the workshop dates: <u>http://en.eltiempo.es/almeria.html</u>



In Almería, you can find beautiful natural beaches and excellent tourist facilities. One of the most famous natural spots in Almería is the Cabo de Gata-Níjar Natural Park. This park is of volcanic origin; it is the largest and most ecologically significant marine-terrestrial space in the European Western Mediterranean Sea. With one of the most beautiful and ecologically rich coasts of the western Mediterranean and an area of 380 square kilometres it is one of Spain's natural



jewels. The Cabo de Gata Natural Park runs through the municipal areas of Níjar, Almería and Carboneras. Its villages, dedicated to fishing in former times, have become tourism spots for those interested in nature. The biggest attractions of the Cabo de Gata Natural Park are the beaches.

MAIN SIGHTS



Due to the arid landscape, numerous spaghetti westerns were filmed in Almería years ago; some of the sets still remain in their original locations at the desert of Tabernas. This town and region were also used by David Lean in Lawrence of Arabia (1962), John Milius in The Wind and the Lion (1975), and others.



The Alcazaba of Almería is the biggest of the citadels built by the Arabs in Spain. Its construction begun in 955 by Abderramán III and finished by Hayrán, "taifa" king of Almeria, in the XI century. After the Christian conquest, it was reformed by the Catholic Monarchs and Carlos I. It has three walled enclosures. One of the three was built by the Catholic Monarchs. It was a royal residence and today stands at the foot of Al-Mutasin palace with all its rooms, its mosque (converted into a church by the end of the 15th century), and its baths. It has only one entrance, made almost invisible by the enormous walls as well as large



rooms with vaulted ceilings and gothic doors. From the top of the castle walls one can enjoy marvellous views of the city and the port of Almería.



The Cathedral of Almería has a fortress-like appearance due to its towers, merlons and protected paths, created to defend it from Mediterranean pirates. Originally designated as a mosque, it was later converted into a Christian church, before being destroyed in the 1522 earthquake. In the 16th century it was rebuilt in the

Renaissance style, whilst keeping some of its defensive features. The Shelters are a group of underground corridors designed by the architect Guillermo Langle, in order to protect the people against the bombings that occurred during the Spanish Civil War. This great work was carried out by well-diggers and mining engineers, with the help of the people who got involved in its construction, which began in February of 1937 and finished in



the spring of 1938. The shelters were built right in the city center and it outskirts, consisting of 4.5 km of underground corridors 9 m deep, capable of providing shelter to almost 35,000 residents.



The mineral loading platform, called the *English Cable*, is located on the Almadrabillas beach, next to the east dock and the terminal of a railway branch line. It is a great civil work and a prime example of iron architecture from the beginning of the 20th century.



Its construction was possible due to building the port and the railway, the use of electricity in its construction, but also because it introduced a new architectural language characterized by the use of new materials such as iron. It is surrounded by the beach and a bridge that connects it to the train station of RENFE.

More information: <u>http://www.almeria-turismo.org/</u>

WORKSHOP VENUE

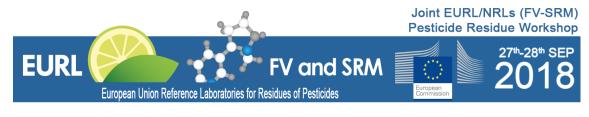
The Workshop Venue is located in the Hotel Barceló Cabo de Gata. It is ideally situated in the El Toyo Beach Resort Area, right at the beach of Retamar, and is very well served by public transport from both Almería airport (7 km) and Almería city centre (17 km).



The Barceló Cabo de Gata is a four stars hotel situated right on the beach of the extensive bay that joins the Cabo de Gata to the city of Almería. Its modern and fully equipped rooms, its facilities and services make it the ideal choice both for business and pleasure trips and it is a leading hotel in the area.

In the fantastic Spa of over 600 m² you can enjoy varied health and beauty treatments.

http://www.barcelo.com/BarceloHotels/en_GB/hotels/Spain/Almeria/hotel-barcelocabo-de-gata/general-description.aspx



HOW TO ARRIVE



This timetable may differ in 5-10 minutes at the hotel bus-stop

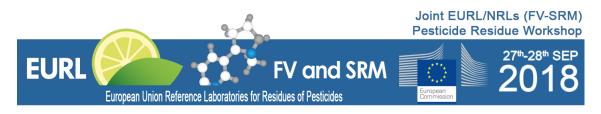
BY BUS FROM ALMERÍA: LINE 30

Bus stop No. 351 "Centro de Congresos" (If you arrive at Almería Bus Station, walk to Bus Stop No. 8 "Av. La Estación")

MONDAY TO FRIDAY ALMERIA CENTRE (Gregorio Marañón)→HOTEL 10:05 - 10:40 - 11:15 - 11:50 - 12:25 - 13:00 -13:35 - 14:10 - 15:00 - 15:50 - 16:40 - 17:30 -18:20 - 19:10 - 20:00 - 20:50 - 21:40 - 22:30 **HOTEL** ALMERIA 6:35 - 7:17 - 8:02 - 8:47 - 9:32 - 10:17 - 11:02 -11:47 - 12:32 - 13:17 - 14:02 - 14:47 - 15:32 -16:17 - 17:02 - 17:47 - 18:32 - 19:17 - 20:02 -20:47 - 21:32 - 22:17 - 23:02 **SATURDAY HOTEL** → ALMERIA 6:45 - 7:30 - 8:15 - 9:00 - 9:45 - 10:30 - 11:15 -12:00 - 12:45 - 13:30 - 14:15 - 15:45 - 17:15 -18:45 - 20:15 - 21:45 - 23:15 ALMERIA CENTRE (Gregorio Marañón)→HOTEL: 6:00 - 6:50 - 7:40 - 8:30 - 9:20 - 10:10 - 11:00 -11:50 - 12:40 - 13:30 - 14:20 - 15:10 - 16:00 -16:50 - 17:40 - 18:30 - 19:20 - 20:10 - 21:00 -21:50 - 22:40 SUNDAY **HOTEL** → **ALMERIA** 7:50 - 9:20 - 10:50 - 12:20 - 13:50 - 15:20 - 16:50 - 18:20 - 19:50 - 21:20 - 22:50 ALMERIA CENTRE (Gregorio Marañón)→HOTEL 6:00 - 6:50 - 7:40 - 8:30 - 9:20 - 10:10 - 11:00 -11:50 - 12:40 - 13:30 - 14:20 - 15:10 - 16:00 -16:50 - 17:40 - 18:30 - 19:20 - 20:10 - 21:00 -21:50 - 22:40

Last service at the Toyo Hospital: 23:15

Price: 1 ticket 1.05 € "Bono Bus" (10 journeys) 7.40€* *only available at Avda. Federico García Lorca Bus Stop (3€ reimbursable deposit)



BY CAR:

- From the A-7 "Autovía del Mediterráneo" motorway, take the exit 460.
- At the roundabout, take the second exit towards El Alquian/El
- Toyo/Retamar/Cabo de Gata. • At the next roundabout, take the forth exit indicating N-344, towards Murcia.
- At the next roundabout, take the first exit for Avenida de los Juegos del Mediterráneo.
- Proceed to the next roundabout and then take the forth exit, Calle de los Juegos de Casablanca.
- Proceed until the end of the road, there you will find the Barceló Cabo de Gata hotel.



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BY TAXI: