

# **Almeria – ten things not to miss**

## **1. Walk up the valley to the spring at Fuente Amarga**

Set in its own oasis of green the local women still do their washing at the natural spring half a mile up our valley. Locals take bottles to fill with drinking water. The water is great and free.

## **2. Drive from Mojácar to Carboneras**

Apart from the shocking cement factory chimney in Carboneras, the drive along the coast from Mojácar to Carboneras is definitely stunning. Driving through the mountains of the national park you'll feel like you're in a car advert. Sheer drops, hairpin bends but breathtaking views.

## **3. Go on a “paseo” through the town early evening**

The national pastime of parading around town before having some tapas in the local bar is the real Spain. Drive to Huércal-Overa in the evening and just wander, but look proud.

## **4. Admire the views from the castle at Vélez Blanco**

The 16th Century castle above the quaint town of Vélez Blanco once had impressive marble courtyards (now in the Met in New York!), but it's still worth a visit. Carry on past here to the town of María for full-on nature.

## **5. Eat fish**

Whether you buy your fish from the fantastic fish counter in the Mercadona supermarket in town or at the beach bars in Mojácar, don't miss the prawns and squid and dorada and mussels and mackerel and .....

## **6. Explore the old town of Mojácar**

A traditional old “white village” built by the Moors is an excellent place to explore. The steep cobbled lanes, secluded squares and stunning views are worth the climb.

## **7. Star gaze**

Standing by the pool, facing the house look to the right of the house and see the darkest sky you've seen in ages. You can easily see the milky way on a clear night.

## **8. Sit below a three hundred-year old olive tree**

There are now sadly not many left in Andalucía, having all been shipped off to be planted in Madrid's wealthy gardens. Sit below ours, and no, we're not selling.

## **9. Visit Almería**

Although a relatively unknown town, Almería is really worth a visit. Beautiful squares, stunning castle and gardens and great tapas.

## **10. Fight your way round gorgeous Granada**

Although a good two hour drive away and packed with tourists, Granada's Alhambra palace is one of those sights you simply must see.