

Getting away from winter – on a trip around Almería in Spanish Andalusia

start: Almería

finish: Almería

duration: 1-2 days

kilometer: app. 200 km

best season: year around

The landscape directly around Almería is mainly affected by its spectacular coastal region around Cabo de Gata as well as its mountain regions of Sierra de Gádor, Sierra de Alhamilla and Sierra de los Filabres. Further motorcyclists find a unique desert region between the latter two mountains. Vamos!

The trip starts in Almería, the capitol of the province, with almost 180,000 inhabitants. From here it directly enters the spectacular coastal region. After a short 15 kilometer one reaches San Miguel de Cabo de Gata, a small fishing village. Here motorcycling globetrotters might feel like they have entered South America. One can visit Flamingos breed in the close by "Reserva de las Salinas". Leaving the beautiful birds the road leads on to the fishing villages of San José, Los Escullos and La Isleta del Moro. For the viewpoint at "Mirador de La Amatista" one has a great overview far into the country.

If anyone catches the feeling of wanderlust it is time to ride along on one's KTM again. The route continues via Rodalquilar, an unoccupied village with remains of an old gold mine, via Las Negras and Fernán Pérez to Níjar. The village is located in a broad plain overgrown with agaves. About 20,000 inhabitants settle here. The village is known for its craftworks. Anyone looking for a nice souvenir will surely find something tasteful here. Anyone else might just want to ride on and enjoy a motorcycle ride far away from the Central European winter. Art and culture also play an important part in Lucainena de las Torres. From the village on the outskirts of Sierra de Alhamilla one might want to take a short detour via Los Llanos towards Sorbas. "Karst en Yeso", an extended system of caves, is located here. Visitors are welcome to take a look at the caves, but only within a guided group tour.

Anyone not in the mood for a detour might want to direct ones bike towards Tabernas and the Moorish Alcazaba from the 11th century. The unique desert of the same name offers a great chance to leave one's tracks in the sand on the way to Los Millares.

The town, approximately 30 km from the finish at Almería, is one of Europe's most important archeological sites from the era of copper manufacturing. That was approximately 2,700 years B.C.

The short course around Almería is just a suggestion and might be extended in any direction. For example one could ride towards south Spain where KTM riders find a variety of different trips to learn more about the country and its culture. One of the routes is for example Ruta del Toro. It runs through the "ethnic landscape of the Spanish steer" – from Utrera via Lebrija, Arcos, Medina Sidonia, Paterna de Ribera and Vejer to Facinas. Or how about following a hot Flamenco dance through Andalusia? Start of the trip is also Almería. From here one follows north to Jaén, via Baeza, Úbeda and Linares to Andujar.

overview of the trip:

Almería - Las Negras - Níjar - Tabernas - Los Millares – Almería

accommodation:

Almería

4-star Hotel Almería Plaza Suites

Juegos del Mediterraneo, s/n Urb. El Toyo

phone: +34 (0) 902 48 70 70, www.zthotels.net

4-star Gran Hotel Almería

Allee Reina Regente, 8

phone: +34 (0) 950 23 80 11, www.citymar.com

4-star Hotel Elba Almería

Prolongación Avda. del Mediterraneo

phone: +34 (0) 950 14 53 90, www.hoteleselba.com

3-star Hotel Costasol

Paseo de Almería, 58

phone: +34 (0) 950 23 40 11, www.hotelcostasol.com