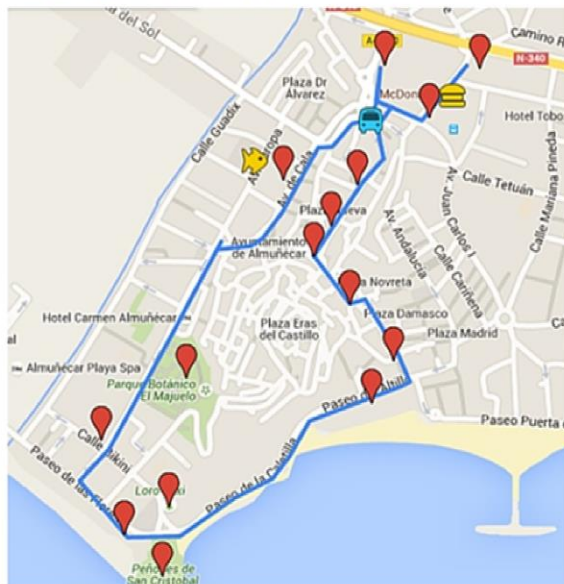


The Welcome Walk



- See 14 Points of Interest
- 2.4 km of walking
- Includes map
- Easily viewed on devices
- Perfect for individuals, small groups, & families



ALMUÑÉCAR WALKING GUIDE

A Perfect Combination of Exercise and History

A Wagoners Abroad Book

Written by Heidi Wagoner
Photography by Heidi Wagoner

Heidi Wagoner
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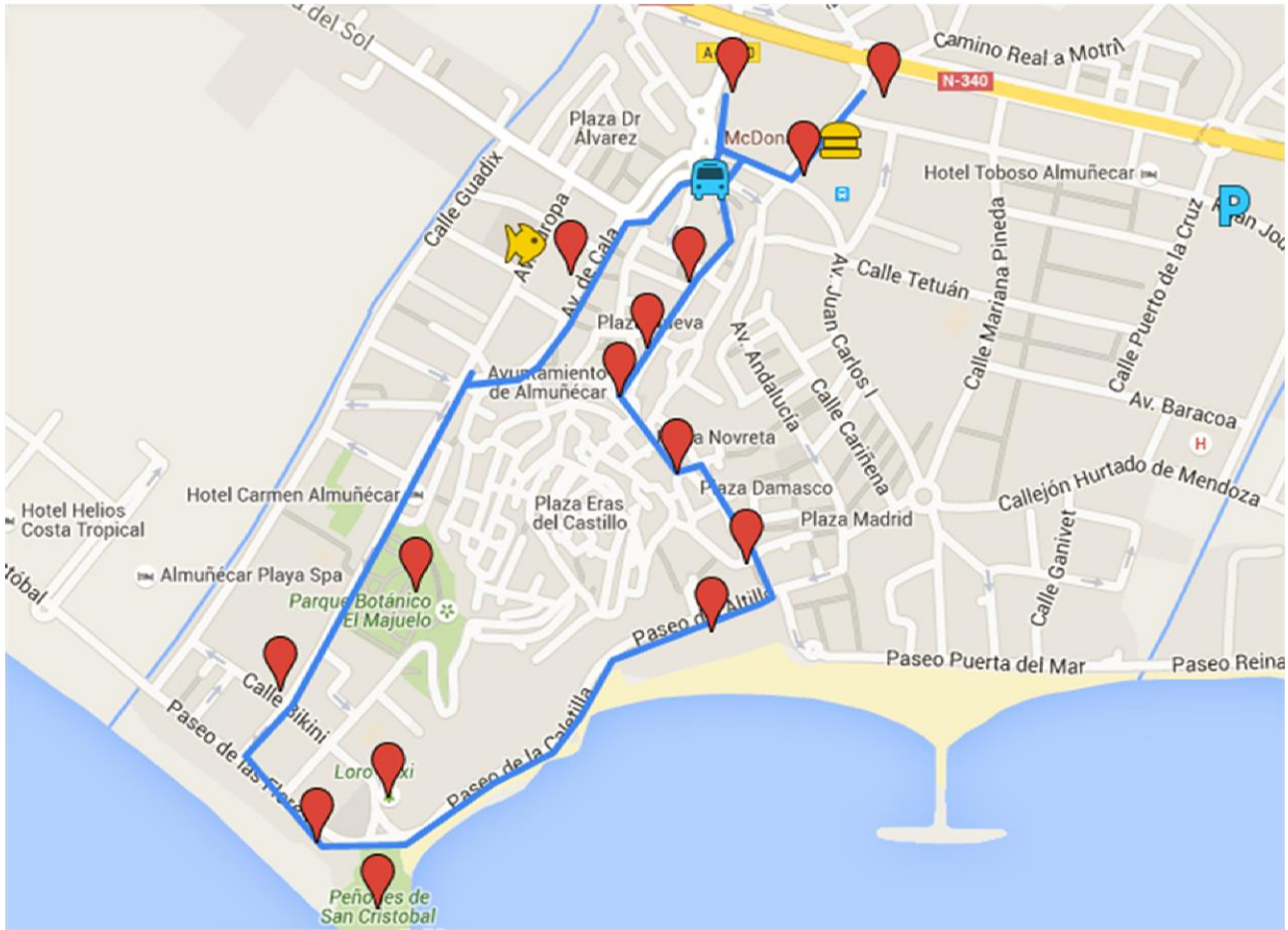
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The Welcome Walk



Distance: The Almuñécar Welcome Walk is 1.5 miles or 2.4 km in length.
(km = kilometer m = metre)

Duration: 1.5 - 2 hours, depending upon on how often you stop. There will be more activity between 10am – 2pm or 5pm – 8pm

Difficulty: Fairly easy walk

This walk will take you around and through the town, providing you a great overview. You will pass many sights, buildings and monuments along the way.

Some of the things you will see along the way: Roman Ruins, Municipal Market, Spanish neighborhoods, Majuelo Park, Castle Views, Local Monuments, Shops, Restaurants, Paseo del Altillio, Plaza de la Constitución, and more.

You will be provided with walking instructions as well as brief information about the sites. When online – you will be able to select the name of each site for more information and use the map.

[Interactive Google map](#)  End/Start Public Bus Routes  Free Parking  McDonald's

1. Blas Infante Arches



You will begin your journey at [Blas Infante Arches](#), just across from the local McDonald's, off of the N340.

These cream colored arches were built to commemorate Blas Infante Pérez de Vargas. Considered by many as the father of Andalucía nationalism and autonomy.

It is divided into 3 small arches, representing the three cultures that have had the biggest impact on the area and Almuñécar. These are the Muslims, Romans, & Christians.

Built in 1997 - the inscription "Almuñécar-Tierra de Luz, Paz Y Esperanza" (Almuñécar- Land of Light, Peace and Hope).

There is a local market held here each Friday from 9am - 2pm, and a second hand goods market on Sundays from 9am - 2pm. Each August this is where the Almuñécar Feria (Fair) is held.

All other times, this is a free parking lot for cars and a great place to park for the day, while you explore. Walk towards the McDonald's (towards town).

2. Monument to Water



Just beyond the McDonald's, on your left, you will find 3 strange sculptures of partial men over water, the [Monument to Water](#).

This is located in front of the local police station and above the city bus station.

This monument was built to recognize the importance of the town acquiring its own water supply. Water is one of the most important commodities in Almuñécar and the Costa Tropical due to its reliance on agriculture.

The 3 sculptures were created by the contemporary artist Miguel Moreno Romera. He has created several monuments in tribute to those before us. His work is displayed in Almuñécar and La Herradura, just 5 km to the west of Almuñécar.

At this point you will cross over Avenida Fenicia at the corner light. Continue straight until you pass Carbonell's. Once you reach the next corner, you will be in for a historic treat.

3. Roman Aqueduct and Baths



On your right, below the road, you will see the remains of the [Roman Aqueduct and Baths](#).

In the first century AD, coinciding with the construction of the main Roman monuments in the city, this structure was built.

These are part of the aqueduct, which is one of the most important monuments of cultural interest in the city. There are a total of 7 pieces of the aqueduct remaining within 8 km of town. This is just one of the well preserved pieces of history.

Go back about 30 feet, in front of Carbonelle's, to find the crosswalk. Cross over the road, Calle Carrera de la Concepción.

Once you are across the street, you will go to the right and pass the main local bus stop. Follow this road as it winds around to the left and then turns to the right.

At your first intersection, turn left onto Avenida de Cala.

You will see Yoigo phone on your left, just after you turn. Continue 1 block down, on the right you will find the Mercado Municipal (Municipal Market).

4. Mercado Municipal



The [Municipal Market](#) is open from 9am-3pm, Monday - Saturday. It is worth a stop to see all of the stalls with fresh seafood, produce, meats and more.

Continue along Avenida de Cala, you will pass a ceramic store and toy store.

There is some beautiful pottery, so it is worth the stop. Continue along the road until you reach an intersection. Turn left on Avenida Europa (A building named Almuslud, with a small plaza, will be in front of you).

Once you reach Avenida Europa, turn left. This is a typical street in town, full of shops, restaurants and more.

Remain on the left side of the road until you reach El Majuelo Parque.

5. El Majuelo Botanical Park



[El Majuelo Park](#) and botanical garden is full of amazing plants, sculptures, and paths to meander. You will also find authentic artisan workshops where you may see the artists' works and purchase goods.

In addition, the view of the historic Phoenician and Roman Fish-Salting Factory and Castle are the best. The fish-salting industry contributed enormously to the Almuñécar economy in ancient times, where it is often cited in the classical writings.

The pièce de résistance are the wide variety of botanical plants within this park. Visitors can see over 200 species of tropical plants from all parts of the world such as Central and South America, Africa, the Philippines and New Zealand.

Town events are often held in the botanical garden throughout the year.

You may exit out the gate you entered or another further down. As you exit the gate back onto Avenida Europa, turn left.

Continue for 1 block and across from you, will be a pink palace (Tourist Information Center).

6. Najarra Palace Tourist Information



This is the main tourist information office of Almuñécar. It is open daily 9:30am – 1:30pm and 4:30pm – 7:00pm.

La Najarra Palace is a beautiful neo-Arabic, Moroccan-style building inspired by the Arabic house-garden tradition. It was constructed as a vacation home in the middle of the 19th century by a wealthy Moroccan. The design is stunning with tiled paneling, frescoes, and Mozarabic designs covering the walls, and intricate carved patterns adorning the ceilings very much like the Alhambra.

Its large garden is very well cared for with lush cypresses and palm trees. The La Najarra Palace is often used for important local art exhibits and other events, as well. If you have kids, there is an adorable mini house in the garden. You may walk up the stairs and sometimes go inside.

Once you have finished at the tourist office, exit to your right and continue to the beach.

7. San Cristobal Beach



This will be San Cristobal Beach, turn left and walk along the paseo. Just 2 blocks down you will be able to see the Loro Sexi Bird Park on your left and the Peñones del Santo on your right.

[San Cristobal Beach](#) is Almuñecar's most well-known and the most widely photographed beach is the Playa San Cristobal. This beach measures 280 meters in length and runs directly into the historic San Cristobal Peñones at the eastern end.

8. Peñones del Santo



The Peñones dates back to Phoenician times when the ancient explorers disembarked here for a rest before they continued on to settlements in Cádiz.

Climb to the top of this natural monument, [Peñones del Santo](#), (Holy Rocks) and take in the stunning views of the town and beaches. There is a large plaza at the top with a very large cross at the highest point, installed in 1900.

The surrounding metal railings have become a location for people to leave behind their locks of love.

Continue your walk along the paseo, with the beach to your right. The path will weave around and take you to the Paseo del Altillo.

9. Monument to Phoenicians



On the upper level of the paseo, you will see another monument, made by the same artist as the monument to water.

This [monument honors the Phoenician fisherman](#). The Phoenicians first put Almuñecar on the map as a trading town in the 800s BC. At that time the town was

named Sexi. The people today still refer to themselves as Sexitanos.

Continue along the paseo and enjoy the sights. Once you reach the end of the paseo, cross over the cobblestone road, Paseo del Altillo (near the underground parking) and there will be a small path between 2 buildings on your left.

This path has ramp and step access, made of decorative stones. This will bring you to Plaza de la Rosa.

10. Plaza de la Rosa



You have now entered the pedestrian-only section of the Old Town. [Plaza de la Rosa](#) is great place to find souvenirs and ice cream in the summer months.

Continue straight along this path, now named Calle Baja del Mar, and see many shops along the way.

Continue until it ends at a building and turn to the left. After just a few steps, you will need to go to the right, onto Calle Real de Almuñécar.

Here you will pass a Roman Fountain, the Calle Real Fountain.

11. Calle Real Fountain



The [Calle Real Fountain](#) was originally built in 1559 and restored to its current state in 1994. The woman on the fountain represents the goddess of fertility, who offers water from her ample breasts signifying abundance.

Flanking either side of the goddess of fertility are two lion carvings. When the addition of water outlets were added, there was some damage done to these sculptures. The two marble bowls beneath the lions were added at a later date and are more modern.

You will now be on a beautifully designed white and black stone path. Follow this into the big central Plaza de Constitución.

12. Plaza de Constitución



The [Plaza de Constitución](#) is located in the center of the old town. Stop by for a drink or tapas at one of the many restaurants or cafes along the plaza.

This is also home to the Almuñécar Ayuntamiento (Town Hall), with many local activities are celebrated in this plaza. In the warmer months, you may find street performers or dancers out in the plaza to entertain you.

When you are finished in the plaza, continue up the hill to the right side of the town hall, Calle Cuesta de la Iglesias.

13. Iglesia de la Encarnación



You will see the town church on your left, Iglesia de la Encarnación. This was built between 1570 and 1600, and incorporates elements of Baroque and Renaissance.

They used materials from the old Arab mosque which was taken by the Christians during the reconquest in 1489. A graceful and elegant tower was later added, topped by a dramatic spire.

Continue up the hill and at the top you will see a 3-story beige building. This is the Cultural Center.

14. Cultural Center



The Cultural Center often holds concerts, performances, as well as a weekly cinema in English. There is also a museum and the public library.

Continue down the hill to the right side of the Cultural Center named Calle Puerta de Granada. This will return you to Calle de la Concepcion across from Carbonell Materials. The starting point will be across the street to your right, near McDonald's.

Congratulations!

You did it!

We hope you enjoyed this self-guided walking tour. Please visit AlmunecarInfo.com for more.

If you have any suggestions or feedback, please feel free to contact us at AlmunecarInfo@gmail.com