

WHAT TO SEE IN ALMERÍA

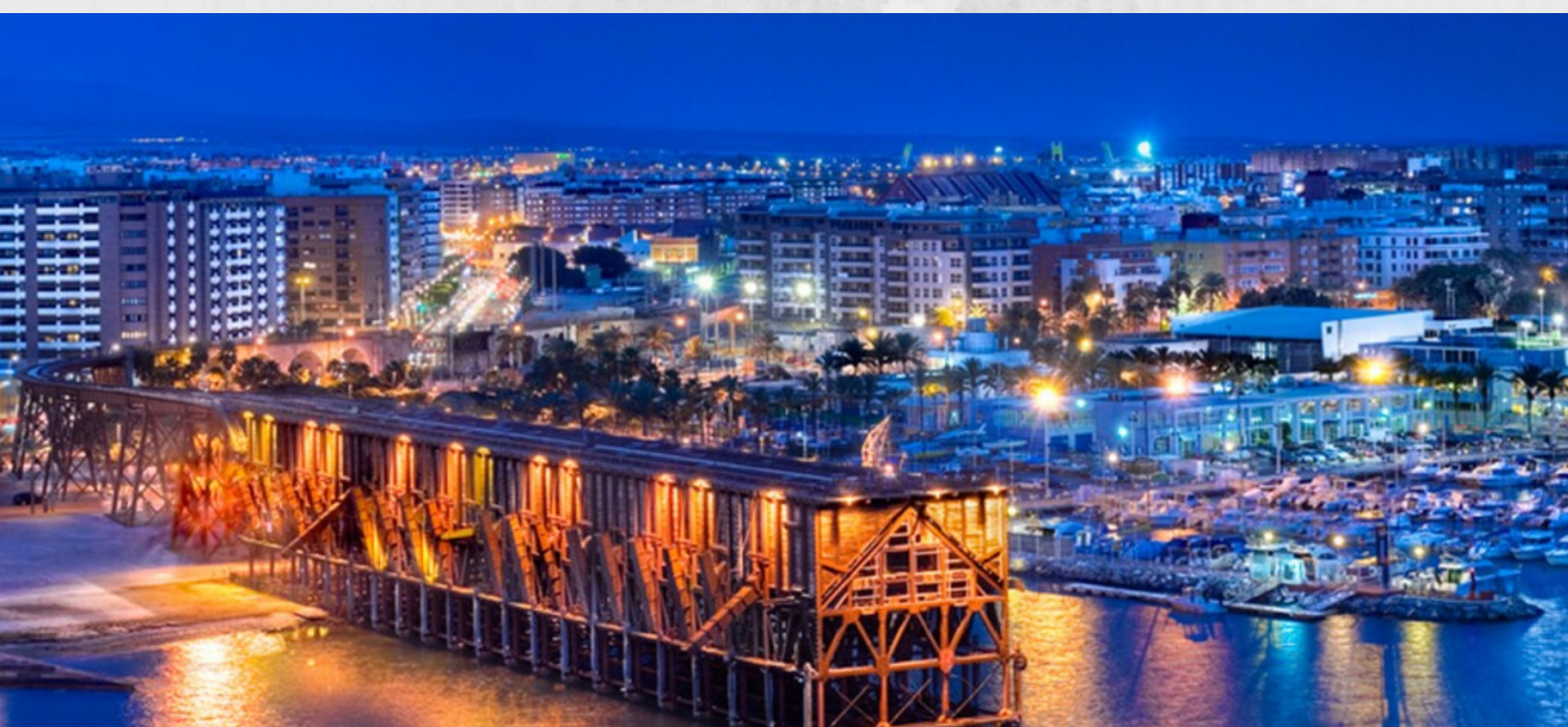


ALCAZABA

Commissioned in the mid-10th century by the Caliph of Cordoba, Abd ar-Rahman III, and completed during the early 11th century under the supervision of Al-Jairan, King of the taifa of Almería, the Alcazaba is a defensive citadel towering over the city of Almería and its coastline. The Alcazaba hosted military barracks and facilities such as houses, baths and a mosque for the governors, soldiers and servants. It was later expanded by Christian kings and has been frequently used as a set for various films from the 1980s to the present day. No visit to Almería is complete without taking in the breathtaking sights from the top.

CATHEDRAL

Almería's cathedral is at the heart of the old part of the city and was begun in 1524 to replace a predecessor wrecked by the 1522 earthquake. The architecture is a combination of Gothic and Renaissance, its fortress-like appearance was to protect the citizens from North African pirates. The north facade is an elaborate mid-16th century design by Juan de Orea. Visitors are invited to marvel at its spacious interior topped by a Gothic ribbed ceiling, which makes use of jasper and local marble in some of its Baroque and Neoclassical trimmings. Trying out some tapas at the nearby bars and strolling by the lit up Cathedral at night is a must for visitors.



"CABLE INGLÉS"

Built by The Alquife Mines and Railways Company Limited in 1904, this ore dock is considered as one of the finest examples of iron architecture from the Gustave Eiffel School. In its construction more than 3,800 tons of steel and over 1,000 cubic meters of concrete were used. It was inaugurated by King Alphonse XIII and remained active until 1973. In 1998, the "Cable Inglés" was declared "Bien de Interés Cultural" (Heritage of Cultural Interest) and nowadays is a favorite landmark for all locals. A monument dedicated to the victims of the nazi Mauthausen Concentration Camp was erected in May 1999 next to the "Cable Inglés".



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CIVIL WAR SHELTERS

A set of underground galleries designed by architect Guillermo Langle between 1936 and 1938 to accommodate over 30,000 Almerians, the Civil War shelters stand today as a material remembrance of the feelings of uncertainty, anxiety and fear experienced by the citizens during the Spanish Civil War (1936-39). They were over 4.5 kilometers long and 9 meters deep and were equipped with protected ventilation tubes, lighting, seating spaces, a food pantry and an improvised operating room. The shelters were key in safeguarding the citizens from the German bombings of May 21, 1937, which resulted in the death of 40 people, over 150 injured and hundreds of destroyed buildings. Visitors are advised to book in advance due to the popularity and appeal of the site.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MUSEUM

With a special focus on findings from prehistory to the Muslim period, the Archeological Museum is conveniently located between Carretera de Ronda, one of the main arteries of the city, and La Salle, the preferred downtown meeting point for locals. The museum was awarded the European Museum of the Year Award in 2008 and often hosts a variety of activities such as conferences, exhibitions and festivals. Visitors with an interest in prehistoric archeology should not miss the exhibitions on “Los Millares”, a Chalcolithic settlement dating from 3200-2300 BC and located 17 kilometers north of Almería.



"DOÑA PAKYTA" ART MUSEUM

A Basque-style house built in the 1920s is home to this 2015 art gallery. It is now a cultural centre which features Almerian art by artists of the Grupo Indalino (late 1940s and early 1950s) such as Miguel Martínez Gómez and Jesús de Perceval. It is named after Doña Pakyta, whose real name was Francisca Torres Díaz (1911-2014), an Almerian entrepreneur and environmentalist who worked all her life to ensure the preservation of the Cabo de Gata-Níjar Natural Park. It is minutes away on foot from Fundación Unicaja, the Conference Venue, at the end of the Paseo de Almería.

