



TOUR

Civil War Shelters and Saint Cristóbal Hill

Capacity: Up to 40 people **Duration:** 3 hrs. (approx.)

Times		Description	Min	Type Of Ground	Restrooms
From	To				
0:00	0:30	Panoramic tour	30	Concrete and Pavement	●
0:30	0:45	Arrival at Purchena Tour	15	Asphalt, Sidewalk	●
0:45	2:00	Shelters	75	Asphalt	●
2:00	2:25	Cerro San Cristobal	25	Tiles, Marble	●
2:25	2:40	Heritage Interpretation Center of Almería	15	Asphalt, Cobblestones	●
2:40	3:10	Visita CIP	30	Slabs and Marble	●
3:10	3:30	Return	30	Asphalt	●



Tour description

Almería boasts one of the longest, deepest, and best-preserved underground shelter networks in Europe, used during the Spanish Civil War to protect the population from air raids.

For a tourist journey through these shelters and other historical landmarks, we propose a route that will allow you to explore the rich history of this period in Almería.

Starting from the harbor, we will take a tourist train toward the heart of the city, enjoying views of its oldest green space, **Nicolás Salmerón Park**, and the monumental **Mineral Loading Dock**, a prime example of early 20th-century iron architecture. Upon reaching **Purchena Gate**, designed in the mid-19th century after the demolition of the city's Caliphal walls, we will observe its vibrant atmosphere, surrounded by shops, cafés, and architecturally significant buildings. Due to its importance and beauty, Purchena Gate has been a Historic Ensemble since 1991.

Today, Purchena Gate is a unique pedestrian structure that represents one of the best examples of bourgeois architecture from the 19th and early 20th centuries in Almería. The square is crowned by the emblematic **House of the Butterflies**, inaugurated in 2011, and the famous **"Canillo del Agua"** fountain from 1900. According to legend, anyone who drinks its water will forever feel connected to the city of Almería.

We will then continue our train journey to the **Saint Cristóbal's Hill** area, where recent urban and landscape regeneration works have highlighted nearly a millennium of civil and military architectural evolution in the city.

From its viewpoint, we'll enjoy an unparalleled panoramic view of the city, its port, and the **Alcazaba**, with a close-up view of the only remaining defensive wall from the Muslim period (11th century). At the top of the hill stands a marble statue of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, blessing the city. Interestingly, the hill is called Saint Cristóbal's Hill because, before the Spanish Civil War, it housed a chapel of the same name.

As the final highlight of the itinerary, we suggest visiting the **Almería Heritage Interpretation Center**, located in **Constitution Square**, also known as **Old Square**, in the heart of the city. We'll reach it via the tourist train as well. Plaza Vieja, the oldest square in Almería, is a showcase of the city's rich history.

Through scale models, interactive panels, backlit displays, and audiovisual presentations, the center narrates Almería's story from its origins to the present day, with a special focus on key periods such as the Muslim and Christian eras, as well as the city's development in the 19th and 20th centuries. The Center culminates with an excellent viewing terrace, offering spectacular photography opportunities of Old Place, the city, and the Alcazaba.

STOPS

Civil War Shelters of Almería

The **Underground Civil War Shelters Network of Almería** extend for 4.5 kilometers and was designed by municipal architect Guillermo Langle Rubio, along with mining and civil engineers Fernández Celaya and José Fornieles. These shelters were built to protect the civilian population from 54 air and sea bombings, during which a total of 752 bombs were dropped on the city. Today, visitors can explore the main gallery, which runs approximately 900 meters along Almería's Path. The gallery lies 9 meters underground and includes notable areas such as: the storage room, the private shelter of architect Guillermo Langle, and the operating room, with all the medical instruments of the period. The entire shelter network had a capacity to hold over 36,000 people, while the city's population at the time (1936-1939) was about 45,000.

The tour exits behind the emblematic **Cervantes Theatre**, built between 1886 and 1921. The theater's interior features the horseshoe-shaped seating typical of Italian theater design. Immediately after exiting the shelters, the building across the street is the School of Arts, a 19th-century building known for its majestic 18th-century cloister, originally part of Dominican Convent.

Further info

Winter Hours (October to May): Closed Mondays.

Tuesday-Saturday: 10:30 AM-1:30 PM and 5:00 PM-8:00 PM.

Guided tours: 10:30 AM, 12:00 PM, 5:00 PM, and 6:30 PM.

Sunday: 10:30 AM-1:30 PM.

Guided tours: 10:30 AM and 12:00 PM.

Summer Hours (June to September): Closed Mondays.

Tuesday-Saturday: 10:30 AM-1:30 PM and 6:00 PM-9:00 PM.

Guided tours: 10:30 AM, 12:00 PM, 6:00 PM, and 7:30 PM.

Sunday: 10:30 AM-1:30 PM.

Guided tours: 10:30 AM and 12:00 PM.

Phone: 950268696

Address: Pl. Manuel Pérez García 1, Almería. [How to get there.](#)

Web

PET friendly

You cannot miss:

- The Pantry
- The Operating Room
- Graffiti Art



Heritage Interpretation Center Of Almería

It consists of 3 floors, a reception area and an observation deck. In the reception area, there is a large model representing each of the most notable buildings in Almería.

The first floor is dedicated to **Muslim Almería**, covering the period from the 10th to the 15th century, and features a model of the Alcazaba. It narrates the history of al-Mariyya, from its foundation in 955 by Abd al-Rahman III, through the establishment of the Taifa of Almería by Jairán, to the city's surrender by El Zagal in 1489 to the Catholic Monarchs.

The second-floor houses two rooms dedicated to Christian Almería (16th–18th century) and **Contemporary Almería** (19th–20th century). The Christian Almería room explains the transformations of the city after it was taken by the Catholic Monarchs on December 26, 1489, known as the "Day of Banner". Exhibits include Moorish clothing from the era, a restored reproduction of the "Banner", and a model of the Cathedral of the Incarnation.

The Contemporary Almería room highlights the city's growth after the demolition of its walls in 1855, and its economic development through the mining industry. This period is presented interactively through the figure of Almerían writer Carmen de Burgos.

The third floor is dedicated to modern-day Almería, featuring an exhibition of images that portray it as a modern city.

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Phone: +34 671 09 99 81

Address: Plaza de la Constitución s/n, Almería. [How to get there.](#)

[Web](#)

Free Entry

You cannot miss:

Located in the same Plaza de la Constitución:

- A panoramic photo from the terrace
- The Monument to Los Colorados
- The history of the council houses



The Ultimate undiscovered treasure



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CIUDAD