

Erasmus in Almería

One Month in Southern Spain

A personal travel report documenting a one-month Erasmus exchange in Almería, Andalusia — covering the road trip from Munich, accommodation, work experience, leisure activities, favourite places, and practical tips for future Erasmus students.

ERASMUS REPORT 2026

ALMERÍA, SPAIN

ONE MONTH EXCHANGE



The Road Trip: Munich to Almería

Rather than flying, we chose to drive together from Munich to Almería — a road trip of approximately 2,200 km through some of Europe's most spectacular landscapes. The journey was broken into manageable stages with overnight stops, allowing time to explore iconic cities along the way. From the Alps to the Swiss lakes, through France, and down the Spanish Mediterranean coast, this road trip was an adventure in itself.



The route passed through five countries — Germany, a small part of Austria, Switzerland, France, and Spain — offering a remarkable variety of landscapes, languages, and cultures in a single journey. Each stop provided a unique glimpse into the region's character, from the Alpine scenery of Switzerland to the sun-drenched Costa Brava and the vibrant cities of Barcelona and Valencia, before finally arriving in Almería.

Journey Facts

- Total distance: approx. 2,200 km
- 5 countries crossed
- 3 overnight stops (Lindau (1 night) - Lyon (1 night) - Lloret de Mar (2 nights))
- Duration: approx. 3-4 days driving with multiple stops in different cities (Lindau, Zurich, Geneva, Lyon, Lloret de Mar, Barcelona, Valencia)

Route Tips

- Book accommodation in advance for France and Spain
- Swiss motorway vignette required (CHF 40)
- French toll roads are faster but costly (approx. 70€)
- Spanish fuel is generally cheaper than in Germany, Switzerland or France
- Don't forget to turn off your data roaming before entering Switzerland (speaking from experience)

Home for a Month: Airbnb in Roquetas de Mar

For the duration of our Erasmus stay, we lived in a privately rented Airbnb apartment in **Roquetas de Mar**, a coastal town just 20 km west of Almería city. Roquetas de Mar is a popular seaside resort with a long promenade, sandy beaches, and a relaxed atmosphere — ideal for balancing work and leisure. The apartment was fully equipped with a kitchen, Wi-Fi, and air conditioning, making it a comfortable base for the entire month.



Why Roquetas de Mar?

Roquetas de Mar offered the perfect combination of affordability, proximity to Almería, and quality of life. The town has excellent bus connections to Almería city (approx. 25 minutes), by car it is only a 15 to 20 minutes ride. It has a wide selection of supermarkets and restaurants, and a beautiful beachfront for evening walks. Compared to staying in Almería city centre, Roquetas provided a more relaxed, holiday-like atmosphere while remaining well-connected.

Accommodation Highlights

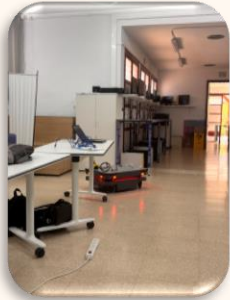
- Fully furnished Airbnb apartment with an ocean view
- Wi-Fi, air conditioning and all amenities included
- Walking distance to the beach (approx. 2 minutes)
- Close to local supermarkets (Mercadona, Lidl, Carrefour), cafés and restaurants
- Good traffic conditions: only 15 to 20 minutes from Almería by car
- Quiet residential area, safe at night

Cost Estimate

A one-month Airbnb rental in Roquetas de Mar during the Erasmus period typically ranges between **€1200-1700** depending on season and apartment size. Booking in advance and contacting hosts directly for longer stays can often secure a better rate.

Working in Almería: The Erasmus Placement

The professional placement was a central part of the Erasmus experience in Almería. Working in a Spanish environment provided valuable insights into local working culture, improved language skills, and offered practical experience in a professional setting. The working hours in Andalusia typically follow a slightly different rhythm compared to Germany, with a typical short brunch break around 11am, a later lunch break (often around 2–3 pm) and a more relaxed pace in the afternoon. We were placed at the partner school I.E.S. Al-Ándalus, where we worked on a robotic project with various software and platforms to improve our programming skills.



What to Expect

- Working hours from 9am–1pm with a 30 minutes brunch break
- Spanish workplace culture is generally friendly and informal
- Language barrier can be overcome with basic Spanish and patience
- Networking opportunities with local professionals
- Potential to gain references for your CV

Key Learnings

- Adapting to a different work rhythm and schedule
- Improving Spanish language skills in a professional context
- Understanding Andalusian business etiquette
- Building international professional connections



Tip: Even a basic level of Spanish goes a long way in the workplace. Colleagues appreciate the effort, and it significantly speeds up integration into the team.

Leisure Activities in & around Almería

Beyond work, Almería and its surrounding area offered a wealth of leisure activities. From exploring the historic city centre to hiking in the Cabo de Gata natural park, swimming in crystal-clear coves, and enjoying the vibrant nightlife, there was always something to do. The warm Mediterranean climate meant that outdoor activities were possible throughout the entire stay.



Alcazaba of Almería

The impressive Moorish fortress overlooking the city is one of the largest in Spain. A must-visit for history enthusiasts, offering panoramic views over Almería and the Mediterranean.



Cabo de Gata Natural Park

A unique volcanic landscape and protected natural park with pristine beaches, dramatic cliffs, and excellent hiking trails. One of the most unspoilt coastal areas in mainland Spain.



Beach Days

The beaches around Almería — from Playa de los Genoveses to Playa de Mónsul — offer some of the most beautiful stretches of sand and turquoise water on the Spanish coast.



Tapas & Local Cuisine

Almería is famous for its tapas culture. Many bars offer a free tapa with every drink. Exploring the old town's tapas bars is an essential part of the Andalusian experience.

Our Favourite Places in Almería

After a month in Almería, a few places stood out as personal favourites — spots we returned to again and again. These are the places that captured the essence of the city and its surroundings, from hidden coves to lively squares and scenic viewpoints. Each has a special memory attached.

Alcazaba & Cerro San Cristóbal

The historic heart of Almería, where the Alcazaba rises above the city beside Cerro San Cristóbal. Whitewashed streets, quiet plazas, and sweeping views give this area a timeless atmosphere, especially in the soft evening light. It is one of those places where Almería's history feels close and vividly present.

Mirador del Arrecife de las Sirenas, Cabo de Gata

A striking viewpoint on the edge of Cabo de Gata, where the volcanic coastline meets the deep blue sea in a dramatic sweep. Jagged cliffs, dark rock formations, and the constant sound of the waves create a wild, unforgettable atmosphere. It is one of those places that feels both remote and quietly powerful.

Paseo Marítimo, Roquetas de Mar

The seafront promenade in Roquetas de Mar was our daily retreat — perfect for morning runs, evening strolls, and sunset watching. Lined with cafés and ice cream parlours, it became our favourite spot to unwind after work.

Playa de Mónsul & Playa de los Genoveses

Two of Cabo de Gata's most iconic beaches, these wide stretches of golden sand are framed by dunes, rugged volcanic hills, and crystal-clear water. Playa de Mónsul feels dramatic and wild, while Los Genoveses offers a broad, peaceful bay perfect for swimming, walking, and soaking up the natural beauty.



Day Trips & Excursions: Málaga, Nerja & Granada

Almería's location in eastern Andalusia makes it an excellent base for exploring some of Spain's most iconic destinations. During our stay, we took several day trips and weekend excursions to nearby cities and towns, each offering a distinct character and unique attractions. Here are three of the most memorable destinations.



Málaga

Approximately 2 hours west of Almería by car, Málaga is Andalusia's vibrant cultural capital. The city boasts the birthplace of Picasso, a stunning modern art museum (**Centre Pompidou Málaga**), a lively port area (**Muelle Uno**), and the impressive **Alcazaba** fortress. The city's transformation over the past decade has made it one of Spain's most exciting urban destinations.



Nerja

A charming coastal town about 1.5 hours from Almería, Nerja is famous for its **Balcón de Europa** — a dramatic viewpoint overlooking the Mediterranean. The town has a relaxed atmosphere, excellent seafood restaurants, and the impressive Nerja Caves (Cuevas de Nerja), among the largest in the world. The beaches here are also worth exploring.



Granada

Approximately 2.5 hours from Almería, Granada is home to one of Europe's most extraordinary monuments — the **Alhambra**, a stunning Moorish palace and fortress complex. The Albaicín quarter, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, offers narrow winding streets with breathtaking views of the Alhambra against the Sierra Nevada mountains. Book Alhambra tickets well in advance as they sell out quickly.

More Destinations: San José, Barcelona, València, Lloret de Mar & more

The Erasmus month offered plenty of opportunities to explore further afield. From the unspoilt fishing villages of the Cabo de Gata coast to the major cities of Barcelona and Valencia, each destination added a new dimension to the experience. Here is an overview of the additional places visited during the stay.

San José & Cabo de Gata

The charming village of San José serves as the gateway to the Cabo de Gata-Níjar Natural Park. With its white-washed houses, artisan shops, and proximity to pristine beaches like Playa de los Genoveses and Cala del Plomo, it is a perfect escape into nature.

Barcelona

Barcelona is undoubtedly beautiful, and the Sagrada Família is a must-see — especially from the inside, although this requires tickets. However, despite its impressive architecture and lively atmosphere, unpleasant smells, numerous construction sites, and large crowds made it hard to fully enjoy the city.

València

València impressed with its blend of historic and ultra-modern architecture, the futuristic City of Arts and Sciences, and of course, authentic paella. The Turia Gardens — a park built in a former riverbed — is a unique urban space perfect for cycling. Beware that on Sundays a lot of restaurants are closed, too.

Lloret de Mar

Located on the Costa Brava, Lloret de Mar was one of the road trip stops on the way to Almería. Known for its beaches and lively atmosphere, it offers a different side of Spanish coastal life compared to the more tranquil Andalusian coast. To our surprise though, it offered a more relaxing atmosphere since tourism season peaks during July and August and we stayed there in an off-season period.

Felix / Enix

The small villages of Felix and Enix, located in the Alpujarras foothills near Almería, offer a glimpse into traditional Andalusian mountain life. Quiet, authentic, and surrounded by dramatic landscapes, these villages are ideal for hikers and those seeking tranquility.



Tips for Future Erasmus Students in Almería

Based on one month of living, working, and exploring in Almería, here is a collection of practical tips that we hope will help future Erasmus students prepare for their stay. From administrative matters to everyday life, these insights should make your experience smoother and more enjoyable.

Before You Go

- Download offline maps and translation apps
- Book accommodations at least 4–6 weeks in advance, the sooner the better
- Pack light — you can buy everything locally for the same price or less
- Learn basic Spanish phrases before arrival, this is essential since English is not very common in Spain
- Not everything can be planned — stay flexible, go with the flow, and adapt as things change
- Think carefully about how you want to travel there — by car or by plane. Make a simple pros and cons list, and keep in mind that fuel costs and prices in general can rise unexpectedly

→ Embrace the Local Rhythm

Life in Andalusia moves at a different pace. Lunch is late (2–4 pm), dinner is even later (9–11 pm), and the siesta culture is real. Adapting to this rhythm is part of the experience — don't fight it, enjoy it.

→ Get Out and Explore

Almería province is full of hidden gems. Rent a car or use public transport to visit the Cabo de Gata Natural Park, the Alpujarras villages, and nearby cities. The region's diversity is one of its greatest strengths.

→ Stay Flexible with Spanish Schedules

Daily life in Spain often runs later than expected. Shops may close in the afternoon, buses can be delayed, and appointments do not always start exactly on time. Plan with extra buffer time and stay flexible — it will make everyday life much less stressful.

Living in Almería

- Roquetas de Mar is a great, affordable base close to Almería
- Supermarkets like Mercadona and Lidl offer good value
- Tap water is safe but many locals prefer bottled water
- Summer temperatures regularly exceed 35°C — stay hydrated
- Many shops close during siesta (2–5 pm)
- Life in Almería rarely begins before 9am, but in larger, more touristic cities it often continues late into the night

Budget Tips

- Average meal at a local restaurant: €8–€15, but we recommend cooking at home for less money
- Free tapas often come with drinks in Almería bars
- Consider a monthly bus pass for regular travel
- If you travel by car, fuel prices are cheaper in Spain in general

Final Reflections

An Unforgettable Month

One month in Almería was not enough — but it was enough to fall in love with the region, its people, and its way of life. The Erasmus experience offered far more than a professional placement; it was an opportunity to grow personally, to experience a different culture firsthand, and to create memories that will last a lifetime.

5

Countries Crossed

Germany, Austria, Switzerland, France, Spain — on one epic road trip

10 +

Cities Visited

From Munich to Almería, with stops in Zurich, Lyon, Lloret de Mar, Barcelona, Valencia, Málaga, Granada, and more

1

Month Well Spent

A transformative Erasmus experience in the heart of Andalusia

> 6,500

Kilometres Driven

An unforgettable road trip from Munich to the Mediterranean coast

"Erasmus is not just an exchange programme — it is a life-changing experience that opens your mind, broadens your horizons, and gives you memories you will carry forever."

✔ **To all future Erasmus students:** Say yes to every opportunity, embrace the unknown, and make the most of every single day. Almería — and the entire Erasmus experience — is waiting for you.