

The Route of the Alpujarras



The Route of the Alpujarras is the historical path that connects Almería with Granada, passing through the rugged and stunning region of La Alpujarra, one of the most diverse and captivating routes of El legado andalusí.

Starting from the fascinating beaches of Almería bathed by the Mediterranean, it takes the traveller on a journey through striking landscapes full of contrasts: the Tabernas desert, the highest peaks of the Iberian Peninsula, and mountainside farmhouses with terraces of agricultural bounty, all lead to the lush Genil River valley, on the edge of Granada. This landscape is adorned with verdant orchards brimming with fruit and vegetables, interspersed with chestnuts, oaks, and holm oaks that are mostly part of the Sierra Nevada National Park, which occupies a large area of the provinces of Granada and Almería. The region's unique ethnological and historical peculiarities are a result of its historical isolation. The Alpujarra, the last *Morisco* (Moorish) stronghold in Spain, is home to numerous remains of medieval fortifications, including watchtowers, castles, forts, and turrets. Additionally, the area boasts a valuable archaeological heritage from the Muslim period.

The legacy of al-Andalus can still be appreciated in many fields, particularly in the curious and distinctive architecture of the region. The thick stone walls, supported by oak or chestnut trunks, and the use of slates and tiles for the roofs are characteristic of this style. Additionally, the typical *terraos* and *tinacos* of La Alpujarra add to the unique architectural charm of the area. The steep slopes of the region are transformed into fields of crops through expert irrigation by the waters of Sierra Nevada. The area's gastronomy thrives on the simplest ingredients, and the *labanas* (bakeries), farmhouse kitchens, and recipes have remained relatively unchanged over time. The traditions of the Alpujarras are a product of the mixture of cultures that have passed through the region throughout history, with the culture of al-Andalus leaving the greatest mark.

The Routes of El legado andalusí

During the period of Muslim Spain, the Iberian Peninsula experienced one of the most privileged moments in history, giving birth to a brilliant civilization in which Andalusia became the cultural hub of Europe and a bridge between East and West.

The Routes of El legado andalusí trace the paths once used to connect the Kingdom of Granada with the rest of al-Andalus. These routes offer travellers the opportunity to admire breathtaking landscapes, travel peacefully, taste gastronomic delights, and let their imaginations run wild, bringing the past to life in the present.

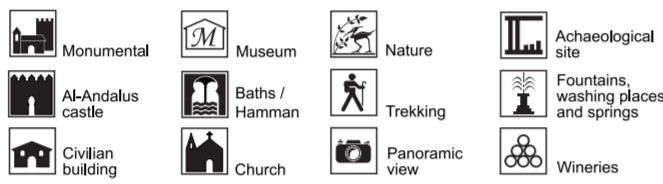
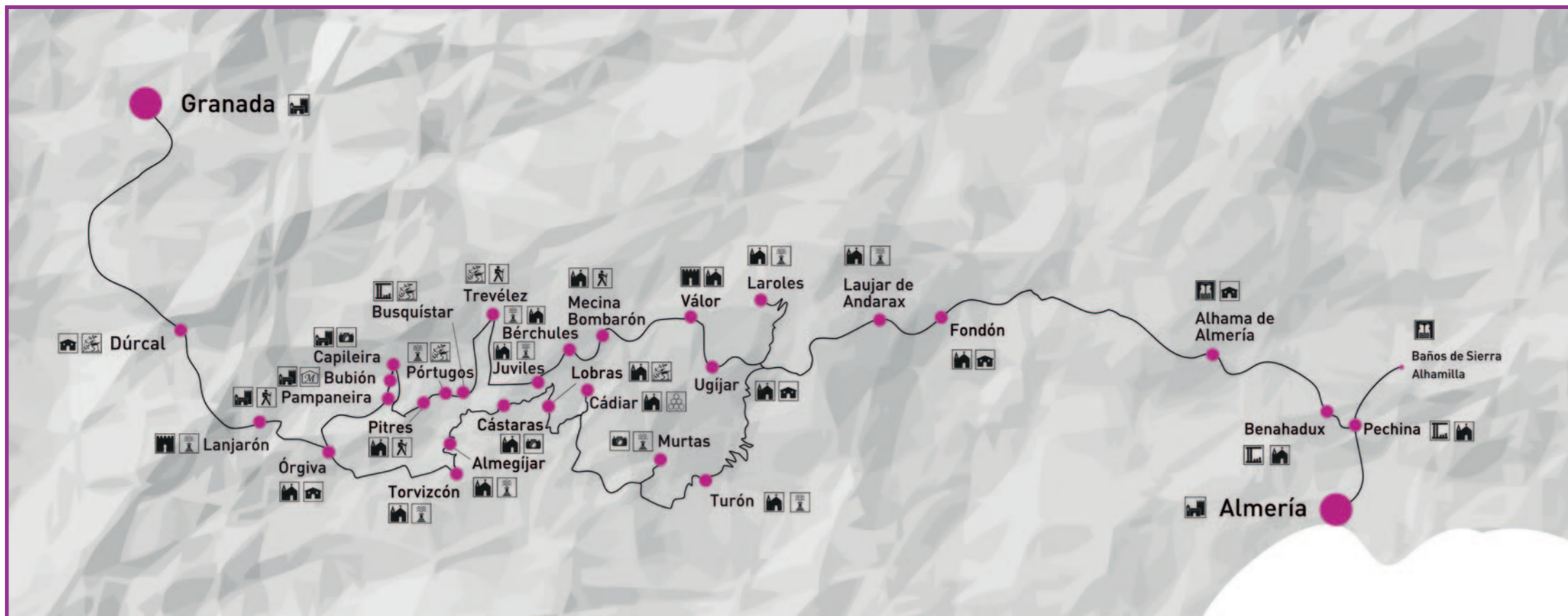
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ROUTE AND DISTANCES

Almería ■ Pechina ■ Benahadux ■ Alhama de Almería ■ Fondón ■ Laujar de Andarax ■ Turón ■ Murtas ■ Cádiar ■ Lobras ■ Cástaras ■ Almegijar ■ Torvizcón ■ Órgiva ■ Laroles ■ Ugijar ■ Válor ■ Mecina Bombarón ■ Bérchules ■ Juviles ■ Trevélez ■ Busquistar ■ Pórtugos ■ Pítes ■ Capileira ■ Bubiión ■ Pampaneira ■ Lanjarón ■ Dúrcal ■ Granada.

The Route of the Alpujarras begins its route of more than 400 km. in Almería and runs in its beginning by the N-340a to Benahadux to take the A-348, axis that goes inside and crosses the Alpujarra. At the crossing of the river Alcolea the traveler must decide whether to continue towards the A-337, a road that leads to the high Alpujarra and the most renowned villages, Trevélez, Capileira, Pampaneira... or take the local AL-6400 that begins the route through the most unknown part of the Route through the Sierra de la Contraviesa, to leave the province of Almería and continue along the local GR-6202 to reach Turón, Murtas, Cádiar... to Órgiva where both branches of the Route meet. The road continues again by the local A-348 to leave La Alpujarra and continue through the Valle de Lecrín by the A-44, occasionally taking the detour to visit Dúrcal, and continue until you reach the final destination, Granada.

LANDSCAPE

This Route takes the visitor through a journey of strong contrasts -from the dark volcanic mountains to the white beaches, passing through the barren, eroded Tabernas Desert and ascending to the Gádor and Contraviesa mountain ranges as a prelude to the Sierra Nevada Natural Park. Here, the visitor will experience the striking contrast between the dry high peaks and the lush green terraces filled with fruit trees, chestnut trees and unique endemic species nourished by the waters of perpetual snows.

The Alpujarra region takes great pride in a rich folklore that has been passed down from one generation to another, mainly through oral tradition. It collects the contributions from all the cultures that have left their mark on this land over the years. It is expressed through popular *coplas*, *coplillas*, sayings, riddles, lullabies, and *canciones de ánimas* (song of souls) or Christmas carols. They are often associated with celebrations, patron saint feasts, and agricultural works, and accompanied by the sounds of string instruments like the violin, lute, bandurria, and guitar and folk dances like *robao* or *mudanza*.

Trovo
The *trovo*, the most remarkable living cultural expression in the Alpujarra, is a direct inheritance from the ancient troubadour poetry of the 11th to 13th centuries. *Troveros*

The Alpujarra villages generally show a characteristic cascading layout on the mountainous slopes of Sierra Nevada and La Contraviesa. They adapt to the rugged terrain, predominantly facing the South or East to maximize sunlight exposure. In the Alpujarra villages, houses shape narrow, cobbled streets with connecting huts. The urban structure preserves a strong Morisco heritage that has endured virtually unchanged in many places to this day. Without any preconceived construction scheme, the construction of houses gives rise to narrow, cobbled streets, adorned with connecting sheds between the houses.

They are simple constructions, built with local materials, featuring thick lime-whitewashed stone walls that support two or three storeys, small windows with wooden lintels, flat *laua* -slate clay for waterproofing- roofs, and chestnut or oak beams, which either serve as terraces or as passageways between houses, forming the characteristic *tinacos*. Typical features include *terraos* (roof terraces) used for drying clothes and socializing, and chimneys topped with slate hats.

Other characteristic elements are washing places, fountains and troughs, which are typical meeting points and watering places for animals and population.

The religious architecture is predominantly Mudejar style, characterized by single-nave buildings adorned with intricate rich wooden frames. Additionally, there are hermitages with simple plans and vaulted roofs reminiscent of old Muslim *ribaitas*.

On the left, two examples of the landscape diversity of La Alpujarra. On the right, the characteristic *terraos*.

FOLKLORE

(trovo singers) engage in discussions with the rhythm of *fanfango* singing, improvising five-verse stanzas known as *quintillas*, accompanied by guitar, lute, and violin. Its best-preserved area in the Alpujarra is centred around the region of La Contraviesa.

Festival of Traditional Music of La Alpujarra
The Festival of Traditional Music of La Alpujarra has been celebrated in the month of August since 1982, playing a vital role in preserving and sharing the rich folklore of the region. Each year, a different village in Granada or Almería hosts the festival, featuring troubadours, dance groups, and traditional musicians who showcase the diverse aspects of Alpujarra's cultural heritage. It serves as a gathering place for locals and contributes to the local economy through craft fairs and a wide range of gastronomic and tourist offer.

ARCHITECTURE



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GASTRONOMY

This Route offers subtle culinary delights. In addition to savouring the delectable seafood dishes of Almería, it can also be appreciated the dominant influence of mountain cuisine, that masterfully handles raw ingredients, ensuring their optimal preservation for as long as possible while making use of the region's own products. This is why the region's culinary gems are those derived of wheat and pork, complemented by vegetables, game, and fruits.

Among the standout dishes are *migas*, crafted from flour or bread, water, oil, garlic, and peppers, served with bacon, *chorizo* (spicy sausage), or dried fish. Locals savour this dish at any time of day. Another culinary masterpiece is the *plato alpujarreño*, based on fried potatoes prepared *a lo pobre* ("in humble style"), accompanied by eggs and pork products. Among these culinary elaborations, one stands out: air-cured ham, produced predominantly in the town of Trevélez. This ham pairs exquisitely with the exceptional wines of La Contraviesa, as well as cheeses and cured meats prepared in the traditional manner.

Other local gastronomic delights include *gachas* (porridge), partridge with rice, and *talvínas*, a wheat flour porridge served with bread and fried almonds. The confectionery delights inherit the *morisco* tradition, with a base of almonds and sugar. Typical local dishes include chestnut stew, *pan de bigo* (dried fig bread), *soplillos* (meringue and almond sweets), and *buñuelos* (fritters).

FESTIVALS

The Alpujarras Route meets a full calendar of festivals all year round. From the Virgen del Mar fair in Almería to the Corpus Christi celebration in Granada, the route is adorned with a multitude of festivities. Each village hosts patronal feasts dedicated to their respective patron saints, organized by the "mayordomos" (butlers). San Marcos pilgrimages with the traditional *bornazov* (bread with boiled eggs inside), and the pet blessings during San Antón are traditions celebrated in many villages.

The Moors and Christians festivals have a deep tradition in this region, such as the one celebrated in Válor, where symbolic confrontations between Christians and Moors take place. Other significant festivities include the procession of Cristo de la Expiración in Órgiva, San Juan celebrations like the *Noche del Agua* (Night of Water) in Lanjarón, grape harvest festivals like the Wine Festival in Cádiar, the *Mauraca de Castañas* (chestnut tasting) in Pampaneira, the *Entierro de la Zorra* (Burial of the Fox), and Christmas celebrations.

HANDICRAFTS

The traditions of the Alpujarras are the result from the mixture of diverse cultures that have shaped this region over time, with al-Andalus leaving an indelible mark on its historical and cultural heritage. These influences are evident in the basketry and pottery crafts, the *jarapas* and *mota* carpets, embroidery and assorted weavings. Remarkably, some Morisco looms still produce handwoven textiles, while wood-fired ovens and pottery wheels from the Islamic period continue to be used.



Above, Benecid Museum. Below, *Jarapas* from La Alpujarra.



The Routes of El legado andalusí

Cultural Route of the Council of Europe

Route of las Alpujarras

From Almería to Granada



Information Points

ALMERÍA Oficina de Turismo de la Junta de Andalucía Parque Nicolás Salmerón, esquina C/ Martínez Campos. Tlf. 950 175 220	CÁSTARAS Ayuntamiento. Plaza del Ayuntamiento, 1. Tlf. 958 855 533	PÓRTUGOS Ayuntamiento. Calle Sierra Nevada s/n. Tlf. 958 766 001
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The Routes of El legado andalusí

ALMERÍA

Almería, a luminous Mediterranean city and the easternmost of the Andalusian capitals, lives facing the sea. It has been inhabited since prehistoric times, being home to the Neolithic cultures of Los Millares and El Argar, as well as various civilizations including Phoenicians, Carthaginians, and Romans. During Arab rule, it was an important maritime suburb of the capital, Pechina, with *Mariyyat al-Bayyana* as the origin of the current city. In 955, Abd al-Rahman III founded Almería as a city, which became the most significant port of Caliphal al-Andalus and underwent notable urban development during that time. The impressive citadel presides over Almería, with its colourful houses stretching down to the sea. Along the way, numerous monuments serve as witnesses to the city's rich past. Notable landmarks include the Cathedral, designed as a fortress against pirate and Berber attacks, and a variety of religious and civil architecture that reached its splendour in the 19th-century bourgeois and industrial architecture, of which numerous examples remain. Today, Almería is a thriving city that takes pride in its history and is open and welcoming to visitors.

PECHINA

The town, located at the foot of the Sierra de Alhamilla mountains, has been inhabited since the 4th century. According to tradition, it was designated as an episcopal see by Saint Indaletius, one of the seven Apostolic Men and the patron saint of Almería. During the Arab occupation, *Bayyana* became a significant commercial city in al-Andalus and was the capital of the *cora*. It was even defined as an Independent Maritime Republic by merchants and sailors from North Africa, Jews, Yemenis, and Mozarabs who defended the coasts and walled the city. *Bayyana* became a cultural and spiritual center during this time but declined in importance in favour of Almería with the consolidation of the Caliphate of Córdoba. The surrounding area houses the Baths located in the Natural Park of Sierra de Alhamilla, a place of great ecological and landscape interest.

BENAHADUX

Nestled between orchards and fruit trees in the river Andarax valley and the aridity of the foothills of the Sierra de Gádor, Benahadux has a rich history dating back to the Copper Age. The Iberians founded the town of *Urki*, which later became *Urci* during Roman times. In the 8th century, present-day Benahadux was born from the settlement of one of the Yemeni clans, the Banu Abdus. During this period, intensive irrigated agriculture flourished in the area, with fruit trees, cereals, vegetables, olive trees, and mulberry trees for silk production. Benahadux was also the site of one of the bloodiest episodes of the Alpujarras War, known as "la encamisá (shirt-wearing) of Benahadux".

ALHAMA DE ALMERÍA

Gateway to the Alpujarra of Almería, it has been inhabited since Roman times, as evidenced by the archaeological remains found in the area. Its history is closely linked to thermal waters, which were exploited by the Muslims, giving rise to its name Alhama —from the Arabic *al-Hamma*—, meaning bath. The fortification on Cerro de los Castillejos hill also dates back to this period. In the 19th century, Alhama became a popular resting place for people from Almería and underwent considerable development due to mining operations in the Sierra de Gádor. The current Hotel and Spa of San Nicolás was constructed during this time, leading to a resurgence of thermal baths in the area.

FONDÓN

This town, settled in the course of the river Andarax, has three population centers of Muslim origin: Fondón, Benecid and Fuente Victoria. The War of the Alpujarras ended in *Cortijo del Halid* (nowadays Cortijo de las Paces) with the signing of a peace treaty between Don Juan de Austria on behalf of Philip II and El Habaquí -Aben Aboó's emissary- in 1571. The town's patrimonial wealth is a result of the economic development that mining exploitations in Sierra de Gádor brought in the 18th and 19th centuries.

LAUJAR DE ANDARAX

Nestled at the base of Sierra Nevada, overlooking all the Alpujarra of Almería, of which it is the capital, it was originally a Muslim farmhouse. It was transformed into a town with a fortress by the Nasrid administrative organization, becoming the fortified capital of the *taba* of Andarax and the most important in the Alpujarra, where the Nasrid kings and their court would reside during their retreats, according to Ibn al-Khatib. After the Capitulation of Granada in 1492, Boabdil was granted the lordship of the Alpujarras by the Catholic Monarchs. He established his residence in Laujar before being definitively expelled to Fez, making it the last capital of the Kingdom of Granada and therefore, of al-Andalus.

Later, during the uprisings of 1568, Fernando de Valor, also known as Aben Humeya, the most important Morisco leader, established his headquarters in Laujar. After Aben Humeya's assassination at the hands of his cousin Abén Aboó, he took refuge in the citadel, which today only preserves sections of the wall and the remains of several towers.

The Great Mosque was replaced by the Church of La Encarnación, known as the Cathedral of the Alpujarra due to its extraordinary size. The neoclassical Town Hall overlooks the Plaza Mayor, and nearby are two fully restored stately homes: the 17th-century Casa del Vicario (Vicar's House) and the 18th-century Palacio de los Moya (Moyas Palace). Sixteen historic fountains scattered throughout the village provide an abundance of water from the peaks of Sierra Nevada.

TURÓN

Although Turón has been inhabited since the Neolithic period, its origins possibly date back to the Ibero-Roman era when it was called *Turobriga*, giving it its current name, unlike other place names in the Alpujarra, which have Arabic roots. Turón was an important population center that emerged from the exploitation of lead mines in La Contraviesa. It was a crucial link in the roads that connected with the Vía Hercúlea, along which the mineral was transported.

Turón was part of the *taba* (province) *del Gran Cebel* during the Muslim period. Its original and picturesque urban layout, white terraced houses, washing places, and fountains are its main artistic heritage. The Hermitage of San Marcos, with its twin towers and extraordinary choir grille, and the Church of La Encarnación, dating back to 1711 but rebuilt after its destruction in the Civil War, are significant landmarks.

MURTAS

Located at the foot of the Cerrajón mountain, this privileged locality of the Alpujarras boasts the most hours of sunshine in Europe and has been inhabited since the Bronze Age. With a climate that combines the sea and mountains, its flora and fauna are diverse. Not in vain, its name comes from the Mozarabic *mirto*, referring to the myrtle or "murta", a shrub that was likely abundant in the area. It is worth walking through its streets, enjoying its typical Alpujarra corners, and visiting the Church of San Miguel or the Hermitage of La Santa Cruz. Among all its fountains, the Fuente del Cuartel stands out, where a beautiful 18th-century public washing place is preserved.

CÁDIAR

This town is the main one in the eastern Alpujarras, and its origins date back to the Muslim period. The geographer Al-Idrisi mentioned a castle called *bón al-Qadir*, or the judge's castle, in the 12th century, which gave the place its name. The town had a mosque, several cemeteries, *rabatas* (military and religious fortresses), and at least three walled neighbourhoods. During the Nasrid period, it became the capital of the *taba* of Juviles. In 1568, it played a leading role in the uprisings, and according to tradition, Fernando de Córdoba y Valor, also known as Aben-Humeya, was proclaimed king of the *moriscos* under an olive tree between Cádiar and Narla.

The town's typical al-Andalus urban structure was maintained after the *moriscos* expulsion, which can be seen in the charming streets of the Barrio Bajo (Lower District), where ancient Muslim potteries still stand. The historic church of Santa Ana, dating back to the early 16th century and one of La Alpujarra's oldest, is located in the same square as the renowned Fountain of Wine. During fair days it waters neighbours and visitors with good wines from the Sierra de la Contraviesa.

LOBRAS

The first written records of Lobras and its annex Tímar date back to the 14th century, although their existence is likely earlier, as evidenced by the presence of an ancient mercury mine and the place names of Lobras, of Celtic origin and Tímar, Iberian. Since Muslim times, they would have formed small, sparsely populated population centers with a distinctly *morisco* layout around the church of San Agustín, which has persisted to this day. Much of the buildings, including the church, date back to the 18th century.

CÁSTARAS

The locals describe Cástaras and its annex Nieleas as a "garden asleep between stone and water". Its existence dates back to the 11th century, although there may have been occupation in earlier times. With a layout of Berber roots, white houses and steep streets adapted to the terrain, the majestic 16th-century church of San Miguel stands out.

ALMEGÍJAR

This small and hidden village on the right bank of the Guadalfeo River, together with its annex Notáez, are an example of the characteristic Alpujarra town with its steep streets and white houses with flat roofs made of *launas*, *tinacos*, and chimneys. It experienced prosperity during Muslim times thanks to the cultivation of mulberry trees for the production of rich Andalusí silks. In addition to its urban layout, its main heritage includes the Mudéjar church of Cristo de la Salud, the fountain of the seven spouts, and in the annex of Notáez, its church built on an old mosque.

TORVICZÓN

Torvizcón has its roots in the Nasrid era, when it stood out for its silk production and the cultivation of vines for the export of raisins. In the 17th century, it was granted the title of villa.

It preserves one of the best-maintained urban ensembles in the region, where the Mudéjar-style parish church of Nuestra Señora del Rosario stands out. In the town square, travellers are drawn to a fountain popularly known as "El Pilón", which dates back to the 18th century.

ÓRGIVA

By designation of Queen Elizabeth II in 1859, it became the capital of La Alpujarra, head of judicial district, a commercial nucleus, and the main communication hub of the region. It was known for centuries as Albacete de Órgiva after taking the name *al-ba'it* (the plain) during the Nasrid era. Its roots date back to Roman times, as evidenced by the archaeological remains found in El Castillejo. However, it was during Muslim times that it became a prosperous fortified agricultural village.

After the Christian conquest, the Catholic Monarchs granted lordship of Órgiva to Don Gonzalo Fernández de Córdoba, the Great Captain, as a reward for his actions during the war against the Muslims and in campaigns in Italy. We owe to his heirs the construction of the palace-house of the Counts of Sástago in the 16th and 17th centuries, now the Town Hall. Also dating back to the 16th century is the church of Nuestra Señora de la Expectación, whose two slender twin towers are a hallmark and draw the city's skyline.

LAROLES

Laroles, the head of the town hall of Nevada, owes its importance during al-Andalus to its strategic location near the natural pass of La Ragua. This made it a significant transit point for people and goods through the Guadix and Marquesado area with the Alpujarras. The town's agricultural and livestock development was made possible by the abundance of water, which irrigates the town through numerous channels and sources of great interest. Additionally, Laroles is famous for its magnificent chestnut trees, whose specimens and fruits are highly celebrated.

The Rosario church in the town center is an excellent representation of the transformations that religious Mudéjar buildings underwent in the 18th and 19th centuries. Its 18th-century brick tower stands out, topped with a unique Byzantine-style dome.

UGÍJAR

The settlement, known by the Arabs as Uxixar de Albacete, has a long history dating back to Roman and possibly Greek times, linked to the gold that could be extracted from the area. It gained fame during the Muslim period and was recorded in the chronicles of al-Udrí, al-Idrisi, and Ibn al-Khatib. In the Nasrid period, it thrived as the head of the *taba* of Ugjíjar, with a prosperous economy based on agriculture and crafts. In 1493, Uxixar de Albacete was granted to Boabdil under the Capitulations of Granada "by right of inheritance forever", but it later returned to the crown and became the Main Municipal Government of the entire Alpujarra. It became a political, administrative, judicial, and religious center with a Collegiate Church granted by Pope Innocent VIII. Noble families and a retinue of scribes and attorneys settled in the town. Despite the Alpujarras wars, *Ugjíjar* —as it was known at the time— maintained its status as the capital of La Alpujarra and later became the seat of the Corregimiento (jurisdiction of a Corregidor) in 1782.

The town's rich heritage is evident in its captivating history. One notable example is the church of Nuestra Señora del Martirio, built in the late 15th and early 16th centuries. It features a remarkable Gothic-Mudéjar façade in the Levantine style, making it the only church in the region with such architectural splendour. *Ugjíjar* also surprises visitors with its stately architecture, including fifteen palace-houses from the 16th to 19th centuries adorned with noble coats of arms representing significant historical figures of the Alpujarra.

VÁLOR

Nestled between two rugged ravines of the Higher Alpujarra, the white village of Valor shines brightly, offering breathtaking views of the Sierra Nevada foothills. It was the land of Don Fernando de Córdoba y Valor, famously known as Aben Humeya. He rose to become the King of the Moriscos after leading a rebellion against Philip II, sparking bloody revolts in 1568. One cannot miss the Moors and Christians festivities, where the stories and dramatization are passed down orally from one generation to another. These festivities come alive in September, coinciding with the popular celebrations honouring the Christ of La Yedra, filling the air with colours and the scent of gunpowder.

MECINA BOMBARÓN

As the head of the municipality of Alpujarra de la Sierra, which also encompasses Yegen, El Golco, and the farmhouse of Montenegro, this region was inhabited since the Neolithic period. Evidence of its ancient past can be seen through numerous archaeological remains from the Roman era. During the Andalusí period, the area gained significance for agricultural activities. In the rebellion of the Moriscos in 1568, "Mecina del Buen Barón" (Mecina of the Good Baron) played a decisive role, with Abén Aboó, the successor of Aben Humeya, hailing from this very area.

BÉRCHULES

The occupation of Bérchules traces back to the 8th century. Initially, it consisted of scattered population centers surrounding the present-day town, with only the district of Alcútar remaining today. During the Nasrid period, Bérchules flourished agriculturally and served as a refuge for the last moriscos during the Alpujarras rebellion. Its caves and ravines played a significant role in this historical moment before their defeat by Don Juan de Austria's troops. Alongside its characteristic Alpujarran architecture, Bérchules is blessed with abundant water sources, including numerous washing places throughout the town and the Fuente Agria spring, situated at the valley's bottom next to Grande river, offering ferruginous and carbonated waters.

JUVILES

Juviles boasts a splendid past that dates back to the 10th century, as it served as the head of the *taba* with the same name during the Nasrid period. Little remains of its famous castle, which once provided refuge for nearby settlers during challenging times, but it was ordered to be demolished by Ferdinand the Catholic as a punishment for the population's strong resistance during the territory's conquest. Juviles still preserves the charm of Alpujarran architecture and is also known for its traditional Moors and Christians festivals and its delightful air-cured ham.

TREVÉLEZ

Trevélez, situated at an altitude of more than 4,800 feet above sea level and sprawled on the slopes of the impressive Mulhacén peak, is one of the highest villages on the Iberian Peninsula. Its name derives from the valleys —*velaz*— where its three districts are located, possibly with Roman origins. During the Nasrid period, Trevélez thrived as a town under the *taba* of Juviles, boasting a main mosque and two *rabatas* (religious and military fortresses). Chroniclers from the 16th century praised its "...very good harvests of bread, wheat and barley...".

Trevélez is renowned for its exquisite hams, cured to perfection due to the unique climate and awarded with the royal seal since Elizabeth II granted the privilege in the 19th century. Additionally, it boasts the highest crops in Europe and is home to one of southern Spain's finest trout rivers.

BUSQUÍSTAR

If there is a town that most genuinely embodies the traditional flavour of the Alpujarra, known for its picturesque location near the precipice of the river Trevélez and surrounded by a lush chestnut forest, that is Busquístar. It offers breathtaking mountain views and is perfect for hiking and adventure sports. The streets of Busquístar emanate the essence of Berber culture and showcase the iconic Alpujarran style, with *tinacos*, chimneys, and *launa* roofs. Additionally, the municipality is home to the Mozarabic settlement of La Mezquita Archaeological Site, the oldest in the Alpujarra, dating back to the 8th to 14th centuries.

PÓRTUGOS

Pórtugos, which derives its name from the Latin word 'portus' meaning "place of passage", was a significant village in the Nasrid demarcation of the 14th century. It was one of the nine villages that formed the *taba* of Ferreira and held a crucial position between the Barranco de Poqueira and Trevélez, at the foot of Mulhacén mountain, making it a central location in the area. It still preserves its original urban structure, the clearly defined neighbourhoods, and agricultural features such as irrigation ditches that once supplied water to the population and cultivation on terraces.

The traveller must experience a visit to Fuente Agria and the Chorrerón, natural sources to drink their ferruginous water which has "prodigious virtues and healthy qualities".

PITRES

Pitres, the head of the municipality of La Taha, has well-preserved neighbourhoods with traditional architecture. The Church of San Roque, which draws inspiration from Mudéjar style, was built on the site of the old mosque and was reconstructed after the Spanish Civil War. Its characteristic tower and narrowness have become one of the emblems of the town. A curious fact for travellers is that Pitres has a seaport, a Fishermen's Guild, and even a boardwalk - a result of an anecdotal request that, according to the chronicles, the locals made to politician Natalio Rivas, candidate to Courts, during his visit to the town in 1905.

CAPILEIRA

Capileira, located in the upper part of the Barranco del Poqueira, stands out as one of the most enchanting villages along the Route. Its resilient nature has allowed it to preserve its social, cultural, and religious traditions throughout the centuries, despite facing hardships and the dispersion of its Morisco inhabitants, much like the rest of the region. Today, Capileira is a charming town that beckons the visitor to take a leisurely stroll and explore its intricate Alpujarran architecture and immerse himself in its breathtaking landscapes, verdant vegetation, and stunning views of the Sierra Nevada peaks, the horizon, the Mediterranean Sea, and on clear days, even glimpses of African mountains. A must-visit is the Church of the Virgen de la Cabeza, a magnificent Mudéjar-style church constructed on the grounds of the ancient mosque. Inside, a 15th-century sculpture of the Virgin Mary donated by the Catholic Monarchs, stands out.

BUBIÓN

This town, which may have Roman roots, as testified by the discovery of burial sites in the 19th century and having been documented as a Visigoth settlement, saw its peak during the Muslim period when it, along with nearby towns, established its present layout that survived over time. Alongside the neighbouring Capileira and Pampaneira, this town and its surrounding area hold the prestigious declaration of being an Artistic Site and Asset of Cultural Interest. It is worth exploring its church and the adjacent Nasrid tower, as well as the Agriculture Museum and Casa Alpujarreña Ethnographic Museum, which exhibit over five hundred artifacts reflecting the daily life of the Sierra villages.

PAMPANEIRA

Pampaneira is the lowest of the three villages of Barranco del Poqueira. The urban area revolves around the 16th-century Mudéjar church and its square, making it one of the most beautiful settings in the region and keeping a well-preserved Berber village ambiance. This town is renowned for its diverse and abundant handicrafts, including all kinds of pottery, textiles, and carpets, particularly the famous *jarapas* composed of cloth and rags. Visitors can observe the live production of these exquisite textiles using ancestral techniques inherited from the Moriscos, such as wooden looms and low-warp looms.

LANJARÓN

Lanjarón, the natural gateway to La Alpujarra, was referred to as a "poets' dream" by the writer Pedro Antonio de Alarcón. Nestled on the slopes of Caballo hill, the inhabitants of this stunning white village can proudly claim to be one of the longest-living on the planet; the town's abundant water sources, which earned it the Arabic name *al-anjarun* (place of abundant waters), have contributed to its fame as a "spa city" since the 18th century, with its renowned mineral water possessing medicinal properties.

Apart from being home to the most visited spas in Andalusia, the waters of the six springs existing offer natural treatments for rheumatism, arthritis or liver and kidney ailments. Lanjarón offers to the visitor the fascinating Water Museum, showcasing the vital role of water in the environment. Exploring the Hondillo quarter with its narrow, Alpujarran streets is a must, where visitors will be surprised by *tinacos* (covered walkways), abundant fountains, pillars providing precious water, and facades adorned with niches, flowers, and pots.

DÚRCAL

Dúrcal, the fertile gateway to the Lecrín Valley, lies nestled between the foothills of Sierra Nevada and Sierra de los Guájares. This enchanting enclave boasts a unique climate and picturesque landscapes adorned with olive trees, almond trees, springs, and the nearby mountain massif. Its rich history dates back to the Neolithic era, as evidenced by the ancient remains discovered within its territory. Due to its strategic position as a passage between Granada and the coast, and its fertile lands, Dúrcal likely originated in Roman times and flourished during the Muslim era. The area is adorned with notable bridges, including the ancient "Roman" bridge from the Andalusí period and the majestic Puente de Lata (bridge), a magnificent iron engineering masterpiece built in 1924, reminiscent of the Eiffel style.

GRANADA

As the traveller reaches the final stage of the Route of the Alpujarras and common destination of the Routes of El legado andalusí, from the port of *Suspiro del Mar* (Moor's sigh) he can begin to understand Boabdil's emotions when catching a last glimpse of what would become the last great capital of al-Andalus on the horizon. Granada expands across the fertile plain, showcasing the Alhambra as a formidable bastion that, from the hill of Sabiqa, it emerges and, like a boat, navigates through the "waters" of the city. The Complex of the Alhambra and the Generalife, along with the neighbouring Albayzín district, have been declared World Heritage Sites. They are among the most valuable and distinctive treasures left by the Hispano-Muslim civilization after eight centuries in the territory.