

## Almería-Santa Fe de Mondújar

The beautiful monumental area of **Almería** is the starting point of the first stage of the Camino Mozárabe, an initial section that does not present significant slopes. The route begins next to the Cathedral, in the Alcazaba itself.

Your visit is free and from there it is possible to contemplate the city and the port. Going through the old town according to the pilgrimage directions, the route heads towards the Torrecárdenas neighborhood and runs along the Andarax river plain.

The first town to which the pilgrim arrives, after 7 kilometers traveled, is **Huercal de Almería**, with more than 16,000 inhabitants and all services. Continuing through the valley of the Sierra de Alhamilla, **Pechina** appears, a small agricultural village, where the Hermitage of Indalecio is located, patron of the provincial capital and whose relics are distributed between the Almería cathedral, that of Jaca and the monastery of San Juan de the sorrow. In Pechina there is also an Information Point for the Pilgrim, located in the Municipal Library.

Crossing the Camino del Duende and crossing the Rioja bridge, you arrive at the homonymous municipality. In **Rioja**, the hornazo is typical, a sweet bun with egg, which will serve to regain strength and continue to the next town, **Gádor**. Along the way is the Orange Interpretation Center, dedicated to the cultivation and properties of this fruit.

Leaving Gádor behind, there are 5 kilometers left for the final stop and end of the stage: **Santa Fe de Mondújar**. In this stretch is the oldest hermitage of the Reconquest. With white and typical houses, Santa Fe is a town of just 400 inhabitants surrounded by orchards, where the church of the Virgen del Rosario and its restored watchtower, from the Nasrid period, stand out. Next to it are Los Millares, a population settlement whose maximum splendor dates back to 2,500 BC.

### El consejo del cartero

"In Almería we can lose ourselves in the streets and corners of its historic center, which offers us an interesting monumental complex, and of course take advantage of the time for the "beer" (aperitif) to enjoy its excellent tapas and atmosphere. It can be assured that for their quality and quantity, they are recognized throughout Spain. If we have time we can see the English Cable (Mineral Loading) which is the hallmark of the city's seafront, from there we will approach its marvelous promenade. You can also see The Refuges of the Civil War or the House of Cinema, because Almería is "Land of Cinema", more than 500 films have been shot in our land. In Santa Fe there is a source of drinking water right at the entrance of the town and a picnic area by the river in case the pilgrim wants to eat the sandwich there. The most characteristic of the area is the Archaeological Site of Los Millares, it is about 4 km away and almost all uphill although it is asphalt and if you go by bike it is easy to get there". **Francisco J.**

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El Camino

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Gutiérrez Gomiz. Correos de Almería.

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