



Almond Hill House Area Guide

A quick guide to help you get the most from your stay. Top three suggestions:

- 1) Visit Granada city and the Alhambra
- 2) Relax on a beach on the Costa Tropical
- 3) Visit the nearby '*pueblos blancos*' (white villages)

LOCAL TOWNS

The local towns are **Orgiva** (5 minute drive) and **Lanjarón** (12-minute). Here's a [good map of Orgiva](#).

Orgiva

Shops & supermarkets

Most local shops open from around 9am to 2pm, and 5pm to 8pm, Monday to Saturday.

There are several supermarkets – the best is [Consum](#). **Open 9am to 9.30pm** (closed Sunday).

Fishmonger: in the covered market (closed Mondays), off [Plaza de la Alpujarra](#). The covered market sells organic produce, ground coffee, fresh pasta, olives etc.

Sundays: Basic provisions at [CEPSA](#) and [BP](#) petrol stations. [Bodega los Arcos](#) (opposite) which has a small deli. A [butcher](#), normally open in the mornings.

Bars and restaurants

- [Baraka](#) – Moroccan food, including falafel wraps and great salads. No alcohol.
- [La Almazara](#) – Seating in a pretty orange grove or cosy dining room in winter. (closed Mondays and Sunday evenings).
- [El Limonero](#) – Good for breakfast, tapas and meals (closed Mondays).
- [Pizza & Love](#) – Tucked away in a backstreet. Great pizzas.
- [Venta Maria](#) – Italian bar/restaurant. *15 minute walk from the property*. Thursday to Sunday.

We are in Granada province where bars normally serve free tapas with wine, beer and soft drinks.

If you are a larger group (6+) we suggest you book a table in advance. Lunch service normally begins after 1pm and dinner after 8pm.

Hypermarkets outside the area

There are hypermarkets around 35-minutes away. Open all day, closed Sundays. [Al Campo](#) and [Mercadona](#) in Motril; and [Mercadona](#) in Nigüelas on the way to/from Granada.

Lanjarón

Lanjarón is an historical spa town famous for the famous [Balneario](#). There is a ruined [Moorish castle](#) that is free to walk around. You can fill up your water bottles with free mineral water from the many fountains around town.

Getting there: As you approach the town take the bypass (A-348 to Granada) and park on the several designated [parking spots](#) to the right.

There are places to buy ice-cream and a good cake shop, '[La Brújula](#)'.

Shops

Selection of greengrocers, bakeries and delis selling jamon – some open on Sunday mornings, including [Coviran](#) (10am to 1pm).

Bars and restaurants

- [Restaurante Asador Parque](#) – Great food and varied menu.
- [Casita del Papel](#) – Nice spot with a play area opposite (closed Wednesdays).
- [Hotel España Rincon de Lorca](#) – Historic hotel with charming terrace.
- [Bodega Gonzalez](#) – Traditional bar with good food. A bit like an English pub!

WHITE VILLAGES

These are the historic and Moorish '*pueblos blancos*' situated in the beautiful Poqueira gorge.

Tip: visit during the week – if visiting at the weekend, arrive early (around 10:30am) as the villages can get busy.

Pampaneira

A 25-minute drive. Drive in the direction of Orgiva and turn left at the roundabout just after the BP petrol station. (The other villages are also reached from this road.) Look out for the parking signs as you enter Pampaneira .

Artisan chocolate factory, bakery and shops selling traditional produce. You can walk between the villages starting at the top of Pampaneira (look for the route markers), via Bubión (about 40 minutes) to Capileira (further 40 minutes). The walk, while uphill to begin with, can be enjoyed by children.

Bars and restaurants

- [El Restaurante Ruta del Mulhacén](#) – pretty outside terrace on 2nd floor.
- [Bodega La Morelea](#) – stand-up place with great tapa and local products.

Capileira

A 25-minute drive. Look out for the parking on the left-hand side as you enter the village – the car park is 50m further on (closed Tuesdays). *Our suggestion as the best village to have lunch.*

Bars and restaurants

- [El Corral del Castaño](#) – good restaurant with a wide range of dishes (closed Wednesdays).
- [La Trastienda de la Monja](#) – nice bar with a good vermouth menu (closed Mondays).
- [La Pizzeria](#) – good pizzas and local dishes, next to the church (closed Tuesdays).
- [El Jardin de los Sabores](#) – lovely garden with fabulous views. It has a curry menu!

La Taha

Beautiful rural area with tiny villages and lovely walks along quiet lanes. Park in or around Mecina Fondales. Enjoy vegetarian food at [L'Atelier](#) restaurant and pizzas at Cuevas de la Mora Luna on nearby Calle el Rio.

Treveléz circular drive

[Treveléz](#), Spain's highest mainland village, is famous for its ham. The circular drive from Orgiva, takes around two hours.

GRANADA

55 minutes by car. Drive via Lanjarón and then onto the motorway. 35 minutes into the journey, make sure you follow the signs to Granada and not to Jaen, Madrid etc!

Look out for the pink Alhambra signs. Park at the Alhambra car park – there are three car parks. Enjoy a lovely walk into the city. A taxi to/from the centre costs around €7 or take a minibus.

Things to do

- explore the Albaicin district with magnificent views of the Alhambra
- stroll along the Rio Darro and explore the streets around the cathedral
- visit the covered market near the cathedral

The Alhambra

The Nasrid Palaces at the [Alhambra](#): you normally need to **book in advance** of your stay (tickets become available three months in advance). A small number of tickets are available on the day if you queue early (from around 7am).

Some parts of the complex don't require a ticket. Enter via the [Puerta de la justicia](#). Charles V palace has a museum and an art gallery..

The [Parador](#) has a good restaurant with lovely views of the Generalife.

Bars and restaurants

This website has a [good guide to tapa](#) in the city.

BEACHES AND THE COAST

In summer, beaches can be very busy – so go on weekdays if you can. Look out for the 'blue zones' – you need a parking ticket from the machines.

All have a good selection of chiringuitos (beach restaurants).

Tip: to get to the coast, take the scenic route A-348 (out of Órgiva) > A-346 > N-323a > N-340 towards the coast, avoiding the motorway. The scenery is lovely. Check route on Google maps.

Salobreña

A 35-minute drive. An old town overlooked by a castle that's worth visiting (walk up to it, rather than drive due to the narrow streets). We like [Emilio's](#) chiringuito.

Almuñecar

A 45-minute drive. Visit the [Castillo de San Miguel](#) (old Moorish castle), the 6,000 year old Phoenician fish salting factory and the [ornithological park](#) which also has reptiles and meerkats. Seafood restaurants on the seafront, including Salitre.

La Herradura

A 50-minute drive. Attractive [beach](#) with low-rise buildings. Watersports hire. La Sardina bar is a nice spot.

Nerja beach and caves

A 55-minute drive. Pretty whitewashed town with lots of European visitors. Plenty of restaurants and bars including Jaipur, for excellent Indian food. [Nerja Caves](#) (discovered in 1959).

Castell de Ferro

A 60-minute drive. Small fishing village. Drive over the mountains via Torvizcon for fabulous mountain views. Drive back via the coast (and there's a small Dia supermarket at the edge of town if you need provisions). Try [Restaurante Mare Nostrum](#) on the promenade.

ACTIVITIES

Walking, climbing (summer) and snowshoeing (winter)

A wide variety of guided walks, hikes, climbs and winter activities can be booked, with the highly-recommended [Spanish Highs](#).

Horse riding

Enjoy some fabulous views above nearby Lanjarón with [Caballo Blanco](#).

Skiing

The [Sierra Nevada ski resort](#) is a 75-minute drive – for skiing between late-November and early-May

BOOKS ABOUT THE AREA

Much has been written about Andalucia, Granada and La Alpujarra. Here are some choices:

- *'Driving Over Lemons'* by Chris Stewart: THE book about the area which is responsible for bringing many people to live in the area.
- *'Ghosts of Spain'* by Giles Tremlett: fascinating collection of thoughts about Spain's history and idiosyncrasies.
- *'South From Granada'* by Gerald Brenan: a classic about Brenan's time in a remote village (Yegen) in the 1920s.
- *'Granada' – a pomegranate in the hand of God'* by Steven Nightingale: an American family's quest to settle down in the city.
- *'Tales of the Alhambra'* by Washington Irving: a classic from the 1800s about Spain's jewel.