

# Almería

**Summer 2025**



**Indiana University Honors Program  
in Foreign Languages**

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## **Program Dates**

Departure from the U.S.: June 11, 2025

Arrival in Almería: June 12, 2025

Departure from Madrid: July 15, 2025

Arrival in the U.S.: July 15, 2025

## **Emergency Contacts in Spain**

### **Emergency**

112

### **Fire Rescue**

(34) -987- 216- 080

### **Almería Police**

092 o (34) 950 623 040

### **U.S. Citizen Services**

Emergency phone number: (34)-91-587-2200

From the United States, Office of Overseas Citizens Services:

1-888-407-4747

### **The American Embassy** (Houses U.S. Citizen Services)

American Embassy

Calle Serrano 75

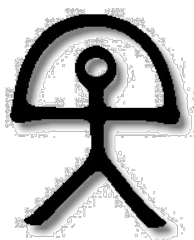
28006 Madrid

Email: askacs@state.gov

## Our Team Vision and Identity

### ***We are indalos in search of unity!***

The indalos are united as a diverse group, in a bond that begins within each person as a personal quest and connects us with the vastness that we are coming to know. Each of us holds a rainbow of dreams that will make our desires come true. By exploring our diverse worlds, we keep each other company.



### **¡Bienvenidos a Almería!**

#### ***Welcome to Almería!***

Almería is a port city and the capital of Almería province, in the autonomous community of Andalusia, southern Spain, on the Mediterranean Gulf of Almería. Known to the Romans as Portus Magnus and to the Moors as Al-Mariyah (Mirror of the Sea), it was captured by the Catholic Monarchs, Ferdinand II and Isabella I, in 1489. Almería's architecture and dazzling brightness give it a Moroccan rather than a European appearance. Almería is the most African of Andalusia's port cities (Huelva, Cádiz, Málaga), it is sometimes called an "extension of Morocco". Almería was until recently, the last well-known of Andalusia's provincial capitals. These days, thanks to the growing popularity of the province's beaches, especially nearby Cabo de Gata and its natural park, more people are getting to know Andalusia's fastest growing major city.

Almería is famous for its agriculture, especially greenhouse farming which produces much of Europe's winter produce. It is also known for its historic Alcazaba fortress, sandy beaches, and as a filming location for many famous Western films. Its unique landscape has been a popular filming location for numerous

Hollywood movies, earning it the nickname “The Hollywood of Europe”. The city boasts an average of 320 days of sunshine per year. The city hosts one of the most important European film festivals.

Almería is full of exciting places to see. The first that comes to mind is the Almería **Gothic Cathedral** (1524-43), built in the form of a fortress; the bishop’s palace and seminary in the **Moorish Alcazaba** (fortress), built in 773 by the Amir of Córdoba, on the site of a Phoenician settlement. This fortress offers panoramic views of the city and the Mediterranean Sea. You can also enjoy the ruined **Castillo de San Cristóbal**, which overlooks the city and harbor. Almería is home to the stunning **Cabo de Gata** nature park, where you can enjoy the spectacular coastal pathways and panoramic views as well as great beaches and varied wildlife. A real treat is the **Las Salinas salt flats**, home to pink flamingos and other wild animals. In Almería you can find the only desert in Europe, **Tabernas**. Also, Almería is known for its **Mini Hollywood**, located in the wild west, this place is a film set turned theme park.

## Instructor Team and Onsite Staff

**Alicia Sánchez de Ibarguen**  
**Language Instructor**  
**Financial/Logistic Coordinator**

Alicia is originally from Sevilla, Spain. She is currently working in the Department of Spanish and Portuguese at Indiana University - Bloomington, as well as doing a Hispanic Linguistics Master. She also completed her Master's degree in Translation and Interculturality in 2023 at the University of Seville and holds a B.S. in English Studies from the same university. Her primary research interests concern Second Language Acquisition and Pragmatics. She has studied abroad in Ireland, Poland, and France. Alicia likes traveling, and she is looking forward to mentoring and walking alongside a new generation of learners.



**Nick Blumenau**  
**Culture Instructor**  
**Communication & PR**

Nick Blumenau is a Ph.D. student in Hispanic Linguistics. Hailing from Michigan, he completed an M.A. in Hispanic Studies at Western Michigan University in Kalamazoo, MI. Nick completed a second M.A. in Hispanic Linguistics at Indiana University making him a M.A.M.A. In addition to a Ph.D. in Hispanic Linguistics at IU, he is also pursuing a minor

in Hispanic Literatures. Nick enjoys reading, listening to music, trying new foods, running, hiking, taking long walks on short beaches, biking, shooting archery, playing the sports, and throwing playing cards.



**Mónica Vega González**  
**Community Engagement**  
**Administrative Instructor**

Mónica is originally from Puerto Rico. She completed her bachelor's degree at the University of Puerto Rico (2014) and did a Master's in Editing and Publishing at UAB, Barcelona (2015). She completed a second Master's in Hispanic Linguistics at Indiana University. Mónica is now pursuing her graduate Ph.D. degree in Hispanic

Literatures in Bloomington with a Minor in Latinx Studies. Her primary research interests are in Puerto Rican and Caribbean contemporary art and culture. She has been teaching for five years at the IU Department of Spanish and Portuguese, and she is now teaching at the Latinx Studies Department. She enjoys listening to music, dancing salsa, reading, outdoor activities, South Korean culture, and traveling.

## **María del Mar Garrido** **Student Services Coordinator**

Mar has lived in several countries, with her first international experience as a student in Indiana, USA, where she discovered her passion for languages and international experiences. Later, she studied in Exeter, England for a year where she was part of the International Students Office. She used to spend long periods of time in Paris, where her family lived for 15 years, and she also taught in the city after obtaining her master's degree in Granada in the field of Modern Languages. Currently based in Spain, she works as a coordinator of international programs in various cities, ensuring that students from all over the world have successful and enriching experiences in Spain.



## **Patricia Fernández Rodríguez** **Housing Coordinator**



Patricia is the director of the London Thames Language School and Almería Spanish School, where she has been working for over 15 years. It is a family business that was founded 45 years ago by her father. Patricia is a secondary school music teacher and a primary school English teacher. She studied a Higher Music Degree in Granada and obtained her Master's in Education, as teaching has been her passion since childhood. She was a music teacher for 7 years at the municipal music schools in Mojácar and Turre. Later, she spent 1 year improving her English in London while also teaching Spanish to foreigners, as she holds a certificate from

the Instituto Cervantes to teach Spanish, which has been very enriching for her. She has always been connected to languages since she was born. After her time in London, she taught English for 5 years at a private school in Almería and music at the secondary school level. Patricia performs management functions at the school, as well as marketing, customer service, head of studies, coordination of Cambridge and Trinity exams at the educational center, and organizing summer and winter camps, English immersion programs in Ireland or the United Kingdom, exchanges with other educational centers, and more. Additionally, Patricia provides language services as an accredited agency, as well as leisure and free time services to both Spanish and foreign companies. She loves everything related to art, music, literature, and discovering other cultures.

## Almería 2025 Calendar (tentative)

June-July 2025						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Jun 1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11 DEPART US	12 ARRIVE SPAIN	13 LANGUAGE TEST  WALKING TOUR  7 PM ARRIVAL ORIENTATION	14
15	16 CLASSES	17 CLASSES  Visita Centro Interpretación Patrimonial (12pm)	18 CLASSES  Actividad: Asociación Down (9am TBC)	19 CLASSES	20 EXCURSION TO GRANADA	21
22	23 CLASSES	24 SAN JUAN HOLIDAY NO CLASSES	25 CLASSES  Flamenco Activity (2:20pm)	26 CLASSES	27 CLASSES  Visita Alcazaba (9am)	28
29	30 CLASSES	Jul 1 CLASSES	2 CLASSES  Visit of Civil War Shelters (12pm)	3 CLASSES	4 EXCURSION TO GUADIX & OASYS HOLLYWOOD	5
6	7 CLASSES	8 CLASSES  REHEARSAL	9 CLASSES	10 CLASSES  REHEARSAL	11 LANGUAGE TEST  FAREWELL SHOW	12
13 DEPART FOR MADRID	14 MADRID	15 DEPART FOR US	16	17	18	19



## Additional Activities

### Afternoon and Community and Cultural Engagement Activities:

This year we will have a variety of activities in which students will participate. For example:

- We will visit different important places in Almería, such as La Alcazaba, Los Refugios de la Guerra Civil, and el Centro de Interpretación Patrimonial.
- Students will also participate in Asociación Down, interacting with the students with down syndrome and their teachers. Some of the activities may be doing sports, walking around the city or visiting museums.
- Students will participate in a flamenco class. They will be taught different aspects of flamenco while practicing the typical dance.
- Students will sing/dance/act in preparation for the *Fiesta de despedida* that will be performed by the students in front of the host families.

Activities are subject to change (e.g., based on weather, community events, other factors). Flexibility in study abroad is key!

# Tentative Daily Schedule - Almería 2025

Almería 2025 HPFL Daily Schedule								
Hour	Amount of time	Activity						
8:45-9:00		Rollcall						
9:00-10:15	75 minutes	Class #1						
10:15-10:30	15 minutes	Break & Snack						
10:30-11:45	75 minutes	Class #2						
11:45-12:00	15 minutes	Announcements/Business						
12:00-12:45	45 minutes	FLEX (M: Community Engagement, T: Phone, W: Community Engagement: Th: Phone, F: S & S)						
12:45-2:00	75 minutes	Lunch						
2:00-4:00	120 minutes	Afternoon Activities (Sports, Magazine, Farewell Show Prep, Community Engagement Activities)						
4:00-curfew (site-specific)	Approx. 3 hou	Free time (groups of 3)						

## **Excursions and Important Dates**

In addition to local community activities, the program arranges trips to Granada, Guadix + Oasys Hollywood, and Madrid. These excursions form part of the instructional program and are integrated into the academic experience in various ways. Participation is therefore important and counts as class attendance. Please be aware that you will have to cover the cost of some of your meals during the overnight excursion (to Madrid) out of pocket.

### **Granada, Friday June 20th**

The students will visit the Alhambra, one of the most famous monuments of Islamic architecture. The visit will be guided so that the students can learn more in depth about the wonders of this World Heritage site. The students will also have the opportunity to explore the district called El Albaycin and the San Nicolás viewpoint, from where they can see the city of Granada and the entire structure of the Alhambra from a distance. The excursion will end with a visit to a flamenco show at Tablao Casa Ana.

### **Guadix + Oasys Hollywood, Friday July 4th**

The students will take a tour on a tourist train that will take them through the caves of Guadix, including the Cueva Iglesia de Nuestra Señora de Gracia and the Cueva José. They will also have a guided visit to the Catedral de Guadix. We will have free time in the Plaza del Ayuntamiento, where the students can eat at restaurants and bakeries while exploring the different souvenir shops. The students will also go to the Mirador del fin del mundo, and at the end, they will visit the Oasys Mini Hollywood theme park.

### **Madrid, Sunday, July 13th until July 15th**

The students will be able to visit several places in the capital of Spain. Upon arrival, they will visit El Palacio Real, the Mercado San Miguel, and the Plaza Mayor. They will also have the opportunity to visit El Museo del Prado, which is one of the most outstanding museums in the world and one of the most visited. The students will be able to visit other places such as the Palacio de Cristal, the Parque del Retiro, and the Museo Reina Sofía.

## **Other Important Activities**

### **La Fiesta de San Juan**

Although the San Juan festival is associated with the biblical figure of Saint John the Baptist, its origins are much older. The tradition of lighting a large bonfire at dusk on June 23rd and 24th has its roots in pagan rituals celebrating the summer solstice. During the summer solstice, the longest day of the year, pagan communities already had the custom of lighting a large fire symbolizing the sun's light. At that time, the inhabitants would make a large selection of everything they no longer wanted and set it on fire. This festival became religious later, during the reign of the Catholic Monarchs of Spain. They attributed this date to the birth of Saint John, Saint John the Baptist, a prophet who allegedly announced the arrival of Jesus. In Spain, this festival takes place on the night of June 23rd in various regions. During the "Nit del Foc" (the Catalan name for the festival), large bonfires are lit, which are believed to have magical and purifying qualities.

(source: <https://espagnol-pas-a-pas.fr/san-juan-en-espana-fuego-tradicion-y-fiesta/>)

## **Travel Information**

### **Climate:**

Along the Costa de Almería, the climate can be considered Mediterranean. In the summer it is sunny, the aridity is remarkable, and the landscape is a desert. There are several beaches that are located in a rocky and arid environment. In summer, the heat is generally bearable, and sea breezes blow, but there may be periods of intense heat. On the hottest day of the year, the temperature typically reaches 100 °F. The heat record is 107 °F, recorded in July 2019.

### **What to Pack:**

Since we will be gone all summer, it's important to have a large suitcase, but make sure to double check luggage size and weight requirements. Suitcases cannot weigh more than 50 pounds and cannot be larger than 62 inches for height + width + length combined. For carry-on you can only bring one bag + personal item. The bag cannot be larger than 22 x 18 x 10 and the personal item must be a book bag, laptop bag or a purse. We highly suggest that every student bring a collapsible duffle bag for new purchases and a backpack for excursions.

Since the climate of Almería can be very hot, it is important to be prepared for very dry weather with almost no rain. As such, it is advisable that everyone packs a couple pairs of light pants, light and airy clothes, breathable shoes and sandals, sunscreen. Additionally, you want to bring at least one dress outfit for the farewell show and the visit to the local government building. Also, make sure that you pack a few athletic clothes since we have a sports day once a week, and other outdoor activities may be planned. Lastly, don't forget a bathing suit! We do have a beach trip planned!

It is important to note that Spaniards tend to wear casual clothes less than Americans. It is not very common to see people out of their house dressed in sweatpants or baggy t-shirts. Additionally, we advise that you do not bring t-shirts that have American logos, sports teams, or English words written on them.

Your host family will ensure you can wash your clothes weekly (either by washing them for you or teaching you how to use their machines). Thus, you should only bring a little more than a week's worth of clothes. Think about pieces you can layer and those you can wear in multiple ways.

During the school week, you will bring a packed lunch to school from your host family. Please back an insulated lunch box and a small ice pack or two that can be refrozen each night to help keep your lunch cool during the morning.

Additionally, you should DEFINITELY bring sunscreen with you from the United States. Sunscreen or sunblock can be more expensive in other countries, and sometimes it is difficult to find higher SPFs. Consider bringing insect repellent, an umbrella, a hat, and a reusable water bottle.

If you have any particular makeup, lotion, hygiene, etc. brands that you prefer, you should probably pack those since it can be difficult to find some American brands in other countries. Additionally, if you take medicine (prescription or over the counter), pack enough for the whole program and keep it in its original packaging.

Don't forget to pack a digital camera! You won't be able to use your cell phones to snap photos since they will be locked in a magnetic pouch for most of the trip. You might also want to bring a travel alarm clock and a simple mp3 player, if listening to music

(only in the target language!) is important to you. Do not bring other electronics such as tablets and laptops as you won't be allowed to use them to connect to the internet.

### **Adapters and Converters:**

Another item that you should pack is an adapter (it attaches to an American plug on one side and has the European plugs on the other side) as well as a converter (it converts the European voltage [220 volts] to American voltage [110-120 volts]). You can often buy a device that is both an adaptor and a converter, but it is important to check. If you get just an adapter, you can destroy your electronics.

### **Currency:**

The currency in Almería is the euro, the official currency of 19 European countries. As of January 2025, one euro was worth 1.03 US dollars. Please keep in mind that it is not a direct 1:1 ratio when calculating your expenses.

It is important to have some Euros as cash on hand when you depart from the United States since there is no guarantee that you will be able to get to an ATM immediately when we arrive in Spain, and we may stop for a snack on the way from the airport to the host city. Sometimes the airport ATM machines run out of Euros due to high travel volume. Additionally, it is important to bring both a Debit card and a Credit card IN THE STUDENT'S NAME. It is best that this credit card is a Visa/Mastercard, which are much more frequently accepted than Discover/American Express in Europe.

Call your bank ahead of time and let them know where, when and how long you are traveling. You don't want them putting a block on your card while you are abroad!

## Cultural Etiquette:

### Tipping:

Tipping is not as common in Europe as in the United States and is not expected. The norm is to leave the change, that is, to round up to the nearest dollar. Thus, if your meal costs 10.12, often people leave the .88 cents.

### Customs Pertaining to Gift-Giving:

It would be appropriate to bring a small gift for your host family, such as a souvenir from your hometown or from Indiana University. Other ideas include photo albums to spark some of the first conversations with your host family.

### Food Abroad:

In Andalusia, Spain, food is not just sustenance; it's a cultural experience deeply rooted in tradition and history. With influences from various civilizations like the Moors and Romans, Andalusian cuisine offers a vibrant tapestry of flavors and ingredients. One of the most iconic dishes is **gazpacho**, a refreshing cold soup made from tomatoes, peppers, cucumbers, and garlic, perfect for the region's hot summers. Another beloved dish is **paella**, although it's more commonly associated with Valencia, Andalusia puts its own spin on this rice-based delicacy, often incorporating seafood caught fresh from the nearby Mediterranean Sea.

Andalusia is also famous for its tapas culture, where small plates of food are shared among friends and family. These tapas can range from simple olives and almonds to more elaborate dishes like fried fish, Spanish omelet (**tortilla española**), or grilled meats. Additionally, the region boasts an abundance of olive trees, making olive oil a staple in Andalusian cooking. From drizzling it over salads to using it in frying and baking, olive oil infuses a distinct flavor into many dishes. Furthermore, the region's sweet tooth is satisfied with treats like churros dipped in thick hot



chocolate or the delicate pastries of the Andalusian convents, such as ***pestiños*** and ***alfajores***.

In Andalusia, food is a way of life that brings people together. Meals are often leisurely affairs, where friends and family gather around the table to share stories and laughter. Whether enjoying a picnic in the picturesque countryside or dining al fresco in a bustling plaza, the essence of Andalusian cuisine lies in its simplicity, freshness, and the joy of communal dining. Through its rich culinary heritage, Andalusia offers a taste of Spain that is as diverse and vibrant as the region itself, leaving visitors with unforgettable gastronomic experiences.

### **Local Health Risks:**

In Almeria, Spain, like in many other regions, there are some local health risks that residents and visitors should be aware of. ***One significant concern is the intense sun and high temperatures***, especially during the summer months, which can lead to heat-related illnesses such as heatstroke and dehydration if proper precautions like staying hydrated and seeking shade are not taken. Additionally, due to its agricultural activity, there may be exposure to pesticides and other chemicals used in farming, potentially posing risks to health if not handled or consumed properly. Furthermore, like in many coastal areas, there may be concerns related to water quality, particularly in smaller, less regulated water sources, where there could be a risk of contamination from pollutants or bacteria. Overall, while Almeria offers a beautiful environment and a rich cultural experience, being mindful of these health risks can help ensure a safe and enjoyable visit to this stunning region of Spain.

### **Local Transportation:**

Some students will use the local buses, which are a very convenient and efficient way to get around in Almería. If you use

public transportation to get to and from the academy, the program will cover the expenses of your transit. We will also provide instructions for how to purchase bus tickets. Your host family will help you learn how to arrive using the bus routes.

### **Departure Day Travel Plan**

Please refer to your email correspondence from the IUHPFL office for details regarding the group flight and be sure to check flight times as departure day approaches, as flight times are subject to change.

Students and instructors will meet at the counter **3 hours before departure**, check in, and pass through security together. Be sure to keep your passport in an accessible and safe place in your carry-on bag or personal item; do not put your passport in your checked luggage. **Please wear your IUHPFL program shirt.** Parents/guardians must accompany their students to the airport and should stay with the group until they pass through security (e.g., in case of delays and/or to pay for any extra fees associated with additional or overweight baggage).

### **Additional tips:**

- Please bring a student ID.
- Both students and guardians should have a photocopy of the student's passport. Students should keep a paper copy of their passport with them at all times throughout the program.
- Do not forget to pack this handbook and your course materials.
- Please refer to TSA guidelines regarding prohibited items: <https://www.tsa.gov/travel/security-screening/whatcanibring/all>
- Please refer to TSA guidelines regarding liquids in carry-on luggage: <https://www.tsa.gov/travel/security-screening/liquids-rule>

In case of an emergency on departure day, call the IUHPFL office at (812) 855-7957.

We look forward to a safe and enjoyable first leg of our adventure with you!

## **Almería 2025 Blog Information**

**Blog Site:** For parents, families, friends and students!

**Website:** <https://almeria25.blogspot.com/>

**QR Code:**

