

Directions from Almeria airport to Mairena

Before we begin..... Don't be alarmed by all the plastic greenhouses you see! The first part of your journey takes you through a truly hideous example of how humans can devastate the landscape if they put their minds to it. Don't despair: as soon as you leave the coast it all starts to look lovely.

Exit the airport and head North, ie inland. Go across the first and second roundabouts, thus ignoring the chance to turn West (left) to travel into Almeria city. Instead keep heading inland for 5kms until you reach the Autovia(motorway) signs for the A7. Go around the roundabout, and now head West, following signs direction Malaga.

Carry on West along the A7. To your right you'll pass a small hill with the legend "la legion" painted in white. In fact this barren area, on the edge of the only sub-desert in Europe, is still home to the notorious Spanish Foreign Legion. Keep going. Do not take the option to take the motorway to Granada, but keep hugging the coast, always west. As you look down to your left you'll see the city of Almeria and the Moorish castle dominating the port.

Keep going for 30 kms, admiring (?) the industry of the greenhouse growers.

In the distance ahead you'll see two tall towers in the town of El Ejido, one of which is now the highest building in Andalusia.

There are 3 possible exits (*salida*) for El Ejido. Ignore the first, east (Este), and the second (centro) but keep on for another 3kms until you reach the exit **El Ejido Oeste / Berja**

You need to navigate 3 roundabouts, always following the Berja signs.

You're now on the main road, heading north, so away from the sea behind you.

Carry on for around 15 minutes until you reach **Berja**.

Do not go into Berja town, but keep on the by pass to the East.

Keep heading North, up hill.

Just after the town you need to make sure that you take the A347, direction Alcolea. Note that it's easy to carry on the main road which goes under the intersection – don't do this but take the ramp on the right that leads up to the roundabout. Now take the road direction Alcolea.

Continue for 15 kms, always North, always uphill.

You've been following signs for Alcolea and Laujar, but you don't want to go there. Instead, as you reach the junction, leave the A347 on the sliproad to the right, and follow the signs for **UGIJAR**. Follow the mazy triple(!) roundabout and exit on the A348.

Now heading West, continue on this good road downhill towards **Cherin**.

At the roundabout just before Cherin, head west again, following signs for Ugijar/ Cadiar/ Orgiva.

Carry on this road (new in 2009, so some satnavs might call it either the A348 or the AL-6400)

Continue for 5 kms then exit on the sliproad to the right to Ugijar.

As you leave the dual carriageway, go right at the top of the slipway, and over the speed bumps and follow the narrow road up towards Ugijar town. Go left at the junction next to the Caja Rural bank, and head out of town, heading uphill and to the North.

Keep on uphill until you reach **Mecina Alfahar**. Go right here, head through the village and out the other side, and keep climbing for 7 winding kilometres until you come to Mairena. Turn left into the village at the first entrance, then continue for 200 metres until you come to the village square. Park here. Las Chimeneas is just downhill, to the left, at the very bottom of the village.