

ALBIR 1. - 31. JANUARY 2022

We started the year 2022 by traveling to Albir on mainland Spain. The trip started early in the morning on January 1st.



This is what it looked like from our terrace the day we left. There was snow and it was cold.



Here we have come to Gjemselund bridge in Kongsvinger.

We had booked parking at [Dalen Parkering](#). They have a shuttle bus to and from the airport, [Oslo Airport Gardermoen](#).

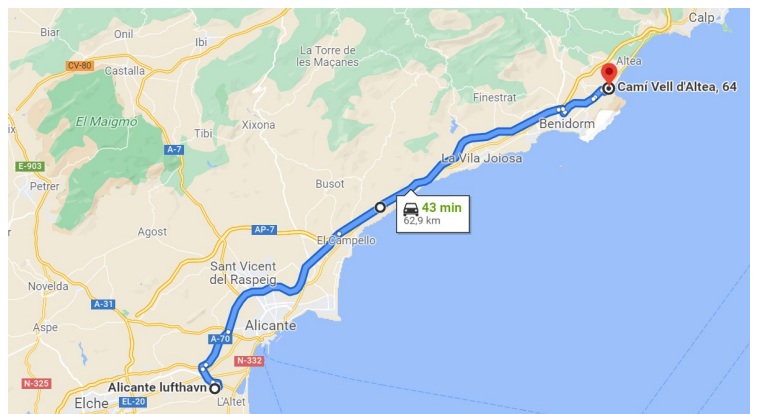


Then we are at the airport waiting for the plane to leave. We will travel with [Norwegian](#) at 15.30.



We landed at [Alicante Airport](#), also called El Altet, at 19.15.

Here we had booked a rental car with [OK Mobility](#) via [Rentalcars](#).



The driving route from the airport. It was dark when we drove from the airport. But by using GPS on the mobile, it went well.



We had ordered a Peugeot 2008. We have rented many types of cars before, but never experienced such special control buttons as on this car, but it was very good.



We had rented an apartment in Albir which we found at Finn.

It was very good and well equipped. The living room. It was a little differently furnished than in the picture.



The kitchen.



Two bedrooms. One large and one smaller.



Two bathroom. One large and one smaller. There was electric heating in the floor. It is not often found in the Mediterranean area.



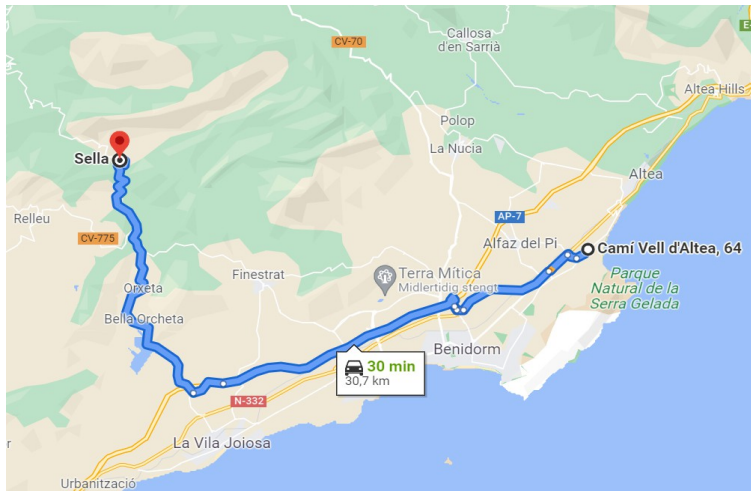
Huge terrace.



Here I am in the chair and log in to the Wifi network. It was a fast and stable network.

L'Albir was originally the port area of [L'Alfaz del Pi](#). Both of these small towns are located in the municipality of L'Alfaz.

There are traces of Iberian settlements from the 5th century BC. Archaeological excavations in Albir have shown that the Romans were in the area between the 2nd and 4th centuries AD. The Moors dominated from 711 to 1258.



On January 6, we drove to a small town called Sella.
[Spaniaposten](#) [Spaniaidag](#)



Here we come to [Orxeta](#)



Here we are past Orxeta.



Apartments directly above Orxeta.



Here we come to a mountain area called [Sierra de Aitana](#). There are many high peaks here. The highest is Aitana which has an altitude of 1558 m and is the highest peak along the coast of the Costa Blanca. Here on the edge of the mountain area, we see that many cultivation terraces have been made up the slopes. It was the Moors who started making these.

There are many hiking trails in these mountains.
[Spania24](#) [Spanish-walking](#) [Thecostablancaguide](#)



Here we come to Sella which is about 420 m above sea level. It is a small Moorish mountain village with 633 inhabitants.

[Spaniaposten](#) [Spaniaidag](#) [Turideer](#)



El Xalet del Belga is located on the outskirts of the town by the large car park.



El Xalet del Belga.



A restaurant along the main road through town.



On a hill above the city is an ancient Moorish castle and a chapel, the Ermita de Santa Barbara.



The streets inside the city are steep and narrow and most of the streets are one-way or pedestrian streets only. I have messed up in Spanish mountain villages before and had difficulty getting out again, so we turned around and drove back the same way we came.



On the way down again.

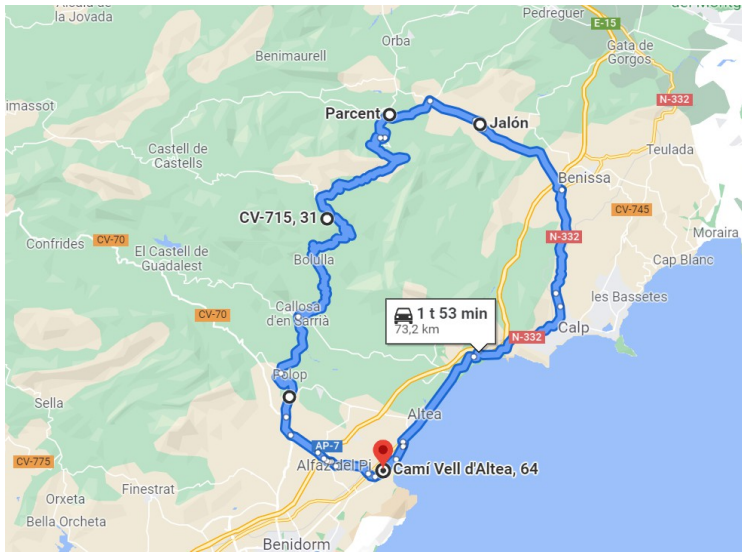


The same restaurant.



Before returning to the motorway, we took a couple of pictures of the Embalse de Amadorio. It is a water reservoir that was built in 1957 along the Amadorio River. It has a maximum capacity of 15.8 hm³. The pond is 63 m high and 318 m long at the top. It supplies water to Benidorm and Villajoyosa.

[Wikipedia](#)



On Friday the 14th of January we drove this round.



Here we have driven through La Nucia and look towards Polop. The ruins of the fortress are located at the top right.

Polop is located 200 meters above sea level and has 4559 inhabitants. The city itself was founded in the 10th century by the Moors. The main attractions of Polop are the medieval wall with the ruins of an Arab fortress from the beginning of the 12th century, the church of San Pedro with the shrine of Divina Aurora from 1723.

[Alegria](#) [Benidormseriously](#) [Video](#)

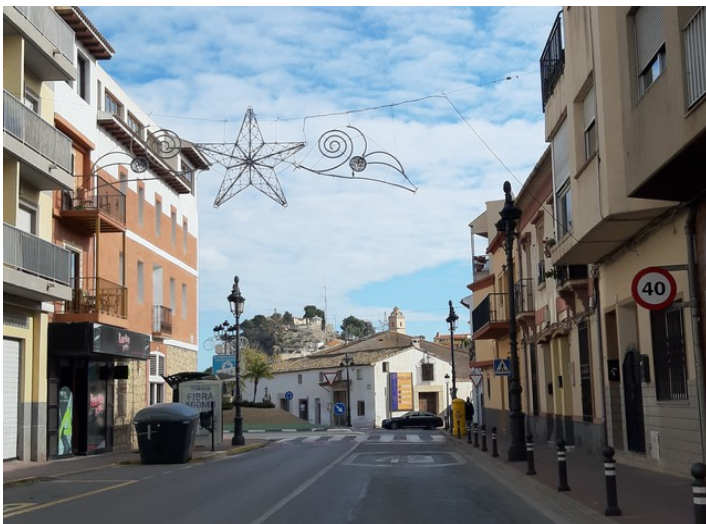


Here the church, Iglesia San Pedro Apostol, is shown.



Here we look back and see the outskirts of [La Nucia](#) to the right. To the left we see vegetables and fruit growing under plastic.

The history of La Nucia goes back to the ancient Moorish settlements. Later it belonged to the king of Aragon, Jaime I. In the early 17th century, the city belonged to Baron de Polop. La Nucia became independent from Polop in 1705. A Christian church was built here in 1705. [Alegria](#)



On the outskirts of Polop.



On the outskirts of Polop. We see that it is grown under plastic.



Here we have come a little higher up.



This is [Taberna](#). It is located about 560 meters above sea level.

Tarbena was first called 'Castell de Tarbena' and belonged to the Arab Abu Abdala Ben Hudzail. It was not until 1274 that one finds Tarbena's current name mentioned when King Jaume I gave his girlfriend Sibila de Saga a castle in Tarbena. In 1445, Gureau Bou bought the castle and the entire valley. By the way, the whole mountain town was depopulated when the Moors were expelled from Spain in 1609. It was Gasto de Moncada's wife, Catalina de Moncada who in 1612 and 1616 managed to get people over from Mallorca by offering free houses and land. It is said that seven families from Mallorca settled in Tarbena and to this day many of their customs and food traditions are still in use. [Spania.no](#) [Tarbena1](#) [Tarbena2](#) [Tarbena3](#) [Video](#)



In Tarbena. A restaurant at the roadside.



After driving a few miles in an uninhabited area up in the mountains, we can look down towards [Parcent](#) in [Vall de Pop](#). This stretch seemed to be very popular with cyclists.

[Spainmadesimple](#) [Hello2Spain](#) [Video](#)

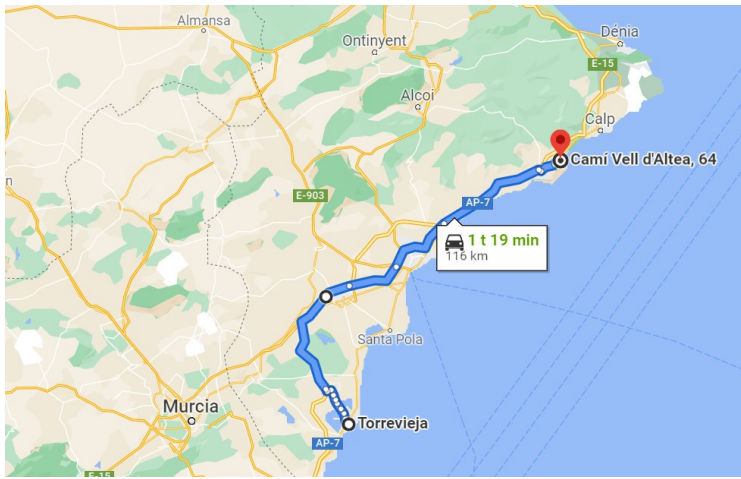


[Alcalali](#). [Spainmadesimple](#) [Video](#)



We made a stop in [Xalo](#) to take this picture. [Costablanca](#) [Video](#)

From here we drove back to the apartment.



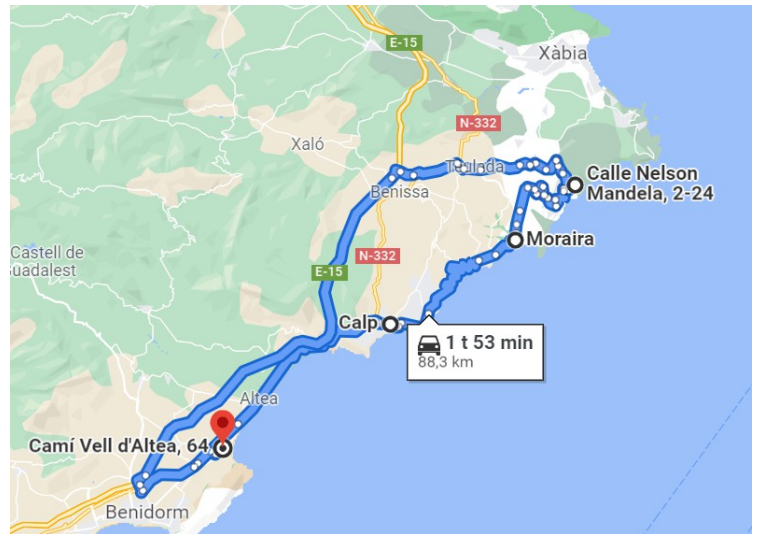
Monday the 17th of January we drove to [Torrevieja](#) to visit Solveig and Per Egil who were to work in [Sjømannskirken](#) there for a couple of months.



On the way back we saw the moon strait ahead.



Another moon image.



On February 20, we drove to Cumbre del Sol where we stayed January-March in 2010.



Here we look up towards the old town in [Altea](#).



Just beyond Altea is the Altea Hills where there are mostly only holiday homes.

The Iberian coastal settlements at the mouth of the Algar River in the wide Gulf of Altea were joined by a Greek marketplace, called Althaia.

During the Moorish domination, the land around Altea belonged to Taifa of Dénia until it was recaptured by the Christians in 1244 under James I of Aragon.

The city was quickly fortified, and walls were built around what is now the old town.

[Allertravel](#) [Feriebolig-Spania](#) [Spaniaidag](#)



When we drive the coastal road in the direction of Calpe we see the cliff outside Calpe, [Penyal d'Ifac](#). It is 332 meters high and there is a path all the way to the top.
[Spania24](#)



Views of Calpe. The photo was taken by me from the top of the Penyal d'Ifac in 2010. Activities have been fishing and salt extraction from the salt lake, but now tourism is dominating.
[Video](#) [Video](#)



We had a short stop in a parking lot just before we get to [Moraira](#). [Video](#)



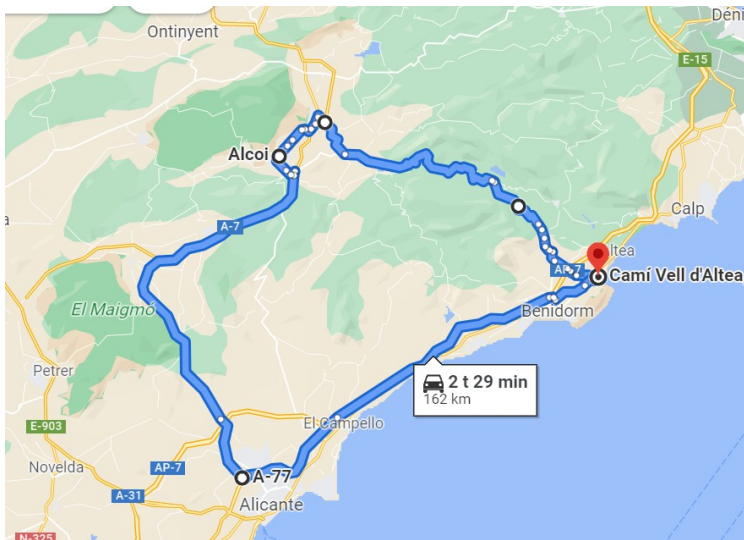
This is in Cumbre del Sol where we stayed in 2010.



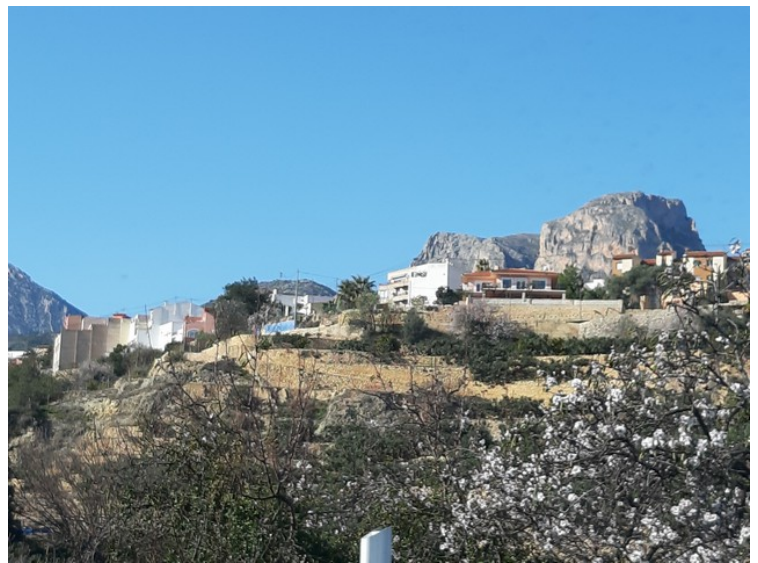
Here we see the apartment from the neighboring street. From here we drove back to Albir via the motorway.



On January 24, we were visited by Solveig and Per Egil. We had made bacalao for the occasion.



On January 26, we drove a slightly longer trip to Alcoi.



We drove on the CV70 which runs on the outskirts of La Nucia.



The almond trees are in bloom.

The almond trees have their origins in Asia and the Middle East, and were originally not a natural part of the Spanish flora. According to an ancient legend, it was the Moorish king Ibn-Almundim who introduced the tree to the Iberian Peninsula.

The almond blossom is the first sure sign of spring in Spain.

[Spania24](#)



Where we drive we get a glimpse of [Guadalest](#).
We were there in 2010.



A little further away we can also look down to [Embassament de Guadalest](#).



More almond tree flowering.



[Alcoy](#) is an industrial city with over 60,000 inhabitants. From here we drove the fastest way back to Albir. It was the highway south to Alicante and then north again.



Finally, some photos taken along the seafront in Albir.



Calpe cliffs.



Finally, a picture of me in a typical pose while solving sudoku.

We returned to Kongsvinger on Monday, January 31st. Our flight was to depart at 10.40 from Alicante, so we had to leave early. We were at Gardermoen 14.35. After we had picked up our luggage, we were given a quick-test package for Covid, which we were told to use if we got symptoms of illness. Then we went to the stop for Dalen Parking. We were lucky, because the Dalen bus came at the same time, so didn't have to wait. We had ordered our car to be warmed up when we arrived and it was ready for us, right at the entrance.