

Annual festivals in Spain

Festivities in Spain span annually with a collective mix of events and celebrations from taking to the streets with giant paper matches that are burnt into massive bonfires at Las Fallas, to throwing tomatoes at each other at La Tomatina.

JANUARY

THREE KINGS DAY: JANUARY 5TH AND 6TH

In Spain, the festival known as 'Reyes' or Three Kings' Day is a public holiday celebrated on January 5th and 6th. It honours the Three Wise Men who visited Jesus with gifts. The celebration includes a parade, gift-giving on the 6th, and a family meal featuring a traditional Roscon cake with hidden figurines for children.



APRIL

SEVILLE FAIR: TWO WEEKS AFTER EASTER

The April Fair in Seville, originating as a cattle fair in 1847, is now a week-long festival featuring music, food, dancing, and a joyful atmosphere. The event includes over a thousand tents where locals gather to celebrate, some by invitation and others open to the public (16). Additionally, an amusement park with discounted rides is part of the fair.



MAY

THE GIRONA FLOWER FESTIVAL: OVER 9 DAYS AROUND THE MIDDLE OF MAY

"Temps de Flors" is an annual event in Girona where historic sites are decorated with beautiful floral displays by local artists. The festival transforms the city with vibrant blooms, from cathedrals to alleyways, showcasing the talents of florists and designers. The event offers cultural activities like concerts, exhibitions and workshops for visitors to learn about flowers and engage in hands-on experiences.

FEBRUARY

LA CANDELARIA: FEBRUARY 2ND

The Fiesta de la Candelaria is celebrated in various Spanish towns to honour Jesus' presentation at the Jerusalem temple. Celebrations vary across Spain, including mock bullfights in Madrid, processions in Malaga, horseback parades in Toledo, and bonfire celebrations with chorizo in Ourense.



MARCH

LAS FALLAS: MARCH THE 1ST TO THE 19TH

Las Fallas festival in Valencia originated from carpenters burning old materials before St. Joseph's day in which, over time, they would embellish with old materials to reflect local personalities. This eventually evolved into the larger figures we now recognize as 'Ninots', predominantly made out of papier-mâché, cardboard, wood, or plaster, in which many are now made to be satirical caricatures of Spanish and international figures. The festival features daily firecracker shows from the 1st to the 19th of March, with the main events happening between the 15th and 19th of March including the giant Ninots displays, traditional pastries, fireworks, firecrackers and music. The celebration culminates with burning all Ninots except one chosen by vote to be preserved in the regional museum.



JUNE

HOGUERAS IN ALICANTE: JUNE 20TH TO THE 24TH

In Alicante, the Hogueras festival in June is similar to Las Fallas festival in Valencia and involves burning over 200 papier-mâché statues on San Juan day to welcome to beginning of the summer solstice. Firework displays are held daily from June 20th to 24th. La Palmera firework show at Santa Bárbara castle on June 24 features over 1,000 rockets forming a palm tree. The festivities include bands, dancing, and beach celebrations with music and food and are held along the whole Costa Blanca region.

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JULY

EL DIA DE SANTIAGO APOSTOL: JULY 25TH

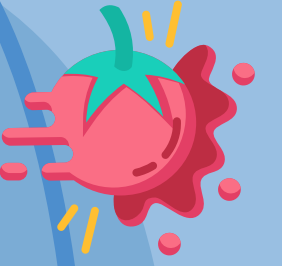
The yearly celebration, the feast of Saint James, honors the life and death of Saint James, whose remains are thought to have been discovered in Galicia. This discovery led to the establishment of the Cathedral of Santiago de Compostela and the Camino de Santiago pilgrimage route. The Feast of Saint James in Santiago de Compostela draws pilgrims from around the globe, featuring vibrant processions, music, dance, and the impressive swinging of the Botafumeiro censer during the mass.



AUGUST

LA TOMATINA: THE LAST WEDNESDAY OF AUGUST

The "Tomatina" is a yearly tomato-throwing festival held in Buñol, which traces its roots back to a children's tomato fight in 1945. This lively event invites participants to launch water on to each other from balconies before tossing tomatoes at one another, creating a fun and joyful atmosphere.



SEPTEMBER

NATIONAL DAY OF CATALONIA: SEPTEMBER 11TH

The National Day of Catalonia, or La Diada, is celebrated on September 11 to honor the defense of Barcelona in 1714 during the War of the Spanish Succession and the loss of Catalan institutions. The date also pays tribute to the martyrs and heroes who sacrificed their lives in the defence of the city. This day includes floral tributes, concerts, cultural festivities, parades, and traditional performances, with the main event at Parc de la Ciutadella featuring musical performances hosted by the Government of Catalonia.



OCTOBER

NATIONAL DAY OF SPAIN: OCTOBER 12TH

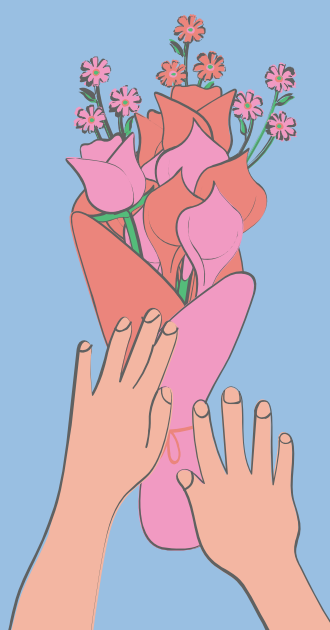
October 12th is a public holiday in Spain, commemorating Christopher Columbus's arrival in the Americas in 1492. This day is recognized as Hispanic Day or National Day. The celebration in Spain features a military parade held in Madrid's Plaza de Colón, attended by the Royal Family, government officials, and regional Presidents. Additionally, the Spanish Armed Forces showcase impressive aerobatic performances.



NOVEMBER

DIA DE TODOS LOS SANTOS: NOVEMBER 1ST

In Spain, a significant national public holiday involves people returning to their hometowns to honor loved ones by placing flowers on their graves. The day includes multiple Mass services at cemeteries and traditional treats like 'buñuelos de viento' and 'huesos de Santo' symbolizing the tradition of leaving food at gravesides to include departed family members in festivities.



DECEMBER

DIA DE LOS SANTOS INOCENTES: DECEMBER 28TH

The Day of the Holy Innocents is one of Spain's beloved Christmas traditions and takes place on December 28, whereby people engage in practical jokes and purchase prank items at markets, such as in Madrid's Plaza Mayor. The celebration has its roots in a Biblical event featuring King Herod, but it has transformed into a lively day filled with media coverage of fictional tales.

