

Chapter 1 : Spain Culture:Festivals in Spain

The Moros y Cristianos event is most popular in the Alicante region, but it is popular throughout much of the south of Spain (there is a number of events in Granada). See the above link for an extensive list of where Cristianos y Moros is celebrated in Spain.

Each region has its own traditional celebrations and you can find them throughout the whole year, as the Spanish calendar is packed with festivals of every kind. In this post we introduce you to the best and most interesting gastronomic festivals within Spain, so that you can enjoy the festivities just like a Spaniard. The Wine Battle in Haro The Wine Battle is a wine fight which takes place in the small Riojan town of Haro, in which people drench each other in wine and enjoy good food and music. The wine battle, or feast day of St Peter, can be traced back to the year 1581. Today the same traditions continue, with all the people in the town following the flag for mass, after which the Wine Battle begins. Drenching each other in wine using wine skins and spray pumps, the crowd frolic in the wine until it is time to move on to the Plaza, with music, food and bullfights. If you would like to take part, the Wine Battle happens every year at the end of June. You could also twin this with some visits to local riojan wineries with wine tastings in English, to really enjoy the local wine festivities to the maximum. Almost entirely surrounded by water, O Grove is a tiny peninsula that sticks out of the main landmass of Galicia, connected only by a small strip of land to the mainland. Dependent on its fishing trade, O Grove has always had a long history of seafood and this festival has taken place for over 50 years. The festival also has Best Crab and Mussel Dish competitions in addition to the seafood stalls, where you can browse and taste the local dishes, as well as traditional live music. The festival is held in October every year. This time it is the garden, and not the vineyard, that is the protagonist of this story. Taking place every year at the end of August, La Tomatina began in 1945 and as legend has it, started when a local dispute took place next to a vegetable stall. Now one of the most important festivals in Spain, it is one not to be missed. Olive festival in Marcos, Jaen During the first week of December, this local Jaen community pays homage to the olive fruit, a central pillar of the local economy. It is the beginning of the olive season that inspires this festival and brings it to life, including the extraction of olive oil from the olive. This fiesta would make a holiday in Rioja even more special. Spaces fill up fast though for this local festival, so book in advance. Over the years the event gathered more and more followers, and with not enough space in the private home where it was first held, it was moved to a public place and became a widely celebrated holiday. It is held on the first Sunday of the month of August, and is one of the most attended food events in Galicia, with around 25,000 people a day on some days. There are a series of official events, as well as wine shows, courses and a collective wine tasting. You can twin this festival with a stay in Galicia plus winery visits. The cheese festival of Trujillo In May of each year, the small town of Trujillo in Extremadura decorates its streets to make way for the annual famous cheese festival. Considered the world capital of garlic, this town is subsequently the perfect place for a garlic fair. The festival is in the last week of July and lasts for 4 days. The octopus is cooked in traditional copper pots and eaten with other traditional local dishes, often accompanied with wine from the famous wine region of Ribera del Duero. Ribeiro Wine Fair in Ribadavia, Lugo This wonderful wine and food festival is held in the first week of May and has a wealth of activities. With wine tasting, Ribeiro show-cooking, conferences, music and art events, all of the events are centred around wine.

“La Tomatina” - Valencia Tomato Fight Festival August. Bunol. Valencia. Every year around 30,00 people descend on the Spanish town of Bunol (in the Valencia region of Spain) to throw more than , pounds of tomatoes at each other as part of the La Tomatina festival.

Feb Updated Oct Spain, the country of fiestas and festivals! Every village, no matter how small, has their own, unique celebrations. But which ones are not to be missed this year? Are you ready to celebrate your holiday the Spanish way? This event, though it may sound strange, is one of the top events for everyone in Spain: Colourful and rhythmic carnival is the most extravagant party in all of Spain, but the celebrations in Tenerife and Cadiz take the crown. In Tenerife, the carnival capital of Europe, they dedicate the entire month of February to carnival celebrations. The island is filled with fun, colour, glitter and glamour, and the numerous contests, parades and parties offer plenty of entertainment. Imagine a carnival with an authentic Andalusian spirit Forget everything you have seen before, because in no other place of the world do they celebrate an event that is more fascinating than the Fallas , which has actually been declared an event of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity by UNESCO. They are often satirical and reference political or pop-culture events that happened throughout the year, but each and every one of them is impressive. Walking the Fallas route is one of the most interesting ways to discover the city. Every day at 2 pm, you can enjoy spectacular shows with music and fireworks, but the real highlight of the festival is the last night, when the statues are burnt during a light show. La Tomatina Ever felt like throwing a tomato to someone? This crazy tradition started 70 years ago, and now on every last Wednesday of August, thousands of people throw tomatoes at each other during the most fun event of the year. La Tomatina is actually part of a larger celebration; it marks the end of an entire week of parades, parties, fairs and street markets. It is so original and so fun that people visit Spain just to take part in it. The number of participants is limited to 20,, which seems a lot but tickets are sold out in a flash. Whoever gets there first wins the ham. Are you up for that challenge? Festival de los Patios in Cordoba May is the month of Cordoba and the Cordoba Patios Festival is the cherry on the cake for all those who choose to spend a few days in this city. The festival takes place every year at the beginning of May. During this time the owners of the most beautiful patios that are normally closed, open up their courtyards for the public to visit. The festival brings joy, music and a huge amount of tourists to Cordoba, who want to participate in this amazing colourful fair. The fair starts with the traditional lighting of the entrance to the fairgrounds at midnight, and for the following week, the city is filled with entertainment, colours, and the best of Andalusian art such as flamenco. The entire city is drenched in an authentic Spanish, festive atmosphere. When the night falls, you can go out and enjoy the spontaneous flamenco performances that pop up on every street corner. Joyous celebrations, flamenco performances, the best of Andalusian gastronomy and of course: During one week in May, this small town becomes a feast for the senses. The festivities start with the lighting of the grand entrance to the fair. There are parades with horses and markets with over stalls, each serving the most delicious tapas. Go for a stroll and enjoy one of many flamenco performances. Everyone dresses up for the occasion. But in the end, the most important thing is to go out and enjoy this cultural tradition to the fullest. The fair of Malaga is one the best events of the summer. Mid-August, the city centre will host the feria de dia fair during the day , the more traditional part with street markets, music and traditional dances. The feria de noche fair during the night takes place just outside the city, with attractions, food stalls and dance tents. The emblematic Gracia neighbourhood is transformed into a spectacular place, filled with art and colour. Its streets compete with each other to win first price for the best and most extravagant decoration, while offering visitors and passers-by a truly magnificent scenery. With every corner you turn you will be transported to a different world. Instagram And if the decoration on its own is not enough, at the Fiestas de Gracia you can also enjoy street acrobats, correfocs a fireworks spectacle , exhibitions, parades, street markets And at night the fun continues with the many concerts that are held at the squares of Gracia. Many people will jump over the fires and in the waves at midnight, believing it will bring them good luck. In some parts of Spain, like Galicia, food is also an important element, especially sardines

cooked in the ashes of the bonfires. In other places like Barcelona and Valencia, everyone will be looking for a vantage point to have a good view of the spectacular fireworks shows at midnight. Boloencierro in Mataelpino, Madrid Imagine running as fast as you can while trying to escape a giant ball of 3 metres in diameter with a weight of more than kg That is what happens every August in Mataelpino, a village in the Sierra de Guadarrama. The village decided to replace the traditional encierro running with bulls with this boloencierro, where the protagonist is a big, plastic ball. Even children can enjoy their own mini boloencierro, with smaller and lighter balls that are painted in bright colours to make them more visible. Are you ready to get an adrenaline rush? The Wine Battle of Haro On every 29th of June, early in the morning more than 10, people gather in the main square of Haro La Rioja for the coolest event of the town: The uniform for the battle is the typical clothes of La Rioja, white shirt and trousers with a red handkerchief tied around the neck. Fun is guaranteed at this messy, hilarious event! In the middle of August, Bilbao gets ready for its most important event of the year, the Aste Nagusis or Semana Grande. This festival lasts for 9 days, with concerts, fairs, theatre performances and plenty of other entertainment taking place all over the city. One of the highlights are the fireworks competitions that illuminate the sky every night. The closing ceremony takes centre stage instead, when la Marijaia the mascot of the Semana Grande floats downriver on a boat and is set on fire, only to return when the next edition takes place. Spain has festivals for all preferences, from solemn rituals to wacky celebrations!

Chapter 3 : 50 Most Popular World Festivals and Cultural Events

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Every year around 30,00 people descend on the Spanish town of Bunol in the Valencia region of Spain to throw more than , pounds of tomatoes at each other as part of the La Tomatina festival. San Sebastian, Basque Country. A march to the deafening sounds of drums, as groups of drummers parade through the city on the night of the first day of the year. Cuenca, Castilla y La Mancha. People of this village celebrate disguised as devils in this festival of prehistoric origin. The young boys of the town dressed as devils - wearing pants and jackets painted in bright designs, with large cowbells tied to their waists, and multicolored paper hats, which are replaced later on with cardboard bishop mitres - run through the streets, dance at the entrance and inside the church, pretend to wash the statue of San Blas, and march in procession with it to the uninterrupted sound of the cowbells. Fallas de San Jose March. This Fiesta dates from the Middle Ages, but it did not acquire the personality we know today until the middle of the last century. The festivities include a nighttime parade; a procession of the old towns of Valencia; the offerings of flowers to Nuestra Senora de los Desamparados Our Lady of the Forsaken , patroness of the city; and the famous "Nit del Foc" Night of the Fire , on which all the "fallas" grotesque and humorous scenes made up of cardboard figures are burned. Shortly after Holy Week, the Seville Fair opens, brimming over with joy and full of spectacularity. Morning, evening and night - the height being at midday during the long cavalcade of riders, and late at night when the spirit takes over the thousand throats of the "cantaores" flamenco singers and the legs and arms of the "bailaoras" dancers with their four sevillanas - the Real de la Feria blazes with multicolored tents, wreaths and paper lanterns outlined against the sky. Starting with the feast of the Holy Christ, in Valverde del Jucar Cuenca in January and ending with the "Moorish King" in Agost Alicante in December, almost one hundred and fifty celebrations of "Moors and Christians" take place over the length and breadth of the country. The majority are found in Alicante where the festivities become livelier and more numerous as the days pass. As early as the 17th century, groups of Moors and Christians drove through the town accompanied by noisy bands, after which a "battle" ensues, ending with the triumph of the followers of the Cross, who surround the Moors and defeat them. Everything goes on amidst the noise of fireworks and the ringing of bells. This centuries-old festival includes the pilgrimage of the conquering Virgin of the Linares Sanctuary across the countryside with horsemen and richly decorated coaches, a competition of Mary Crosses and a Patio, Iron Grille and Balcony Contest in which the patios, small side street and plazas so typical of the city are filled with flowers. Corpus Christi May Toledo, Castilla y La Mancha. The nun Juliana of Liege used to have a strange vision every time she began to pray, in which a full moon appeared with its center darkened by shadow. Finally, Jesus himself told her of the significance of the vision: Official recognition of the feast day was given in The new feast day arrived in Spain sometime during the 14th century. In the procession, the main feature is the Host, housed in magnificent masterpieces of silverwork. Hogueras de San Juan June 20 to June A series of ancient rituals which were followed on this, the shortest night of the year, when light triumphs over darkness, have been studied in minute detail in the work of Baroja. In these rituals, the essential features are the sun, fire and water. Fiestas de Haro Summer. Festivities are strung out through the summer, but the most famous Festival in the city is celebrated on the 29th June - the day of San Pedro. Dia de Santiago July Santiago de Compostela, Galicia. Celebration of the patron Saint of Spain. Fireworks, parades, televised mass. Romeria Vikinga August 3. An splendid simulation of the Viking invasion of the "Torres de Oeste," which are defended by the Christian natives. The feast is followed by folkloric dancing, in which everyone participates. The Town Hall organizes a whole week of activities: This festival usually starts the second Friday of August with spectacular fireworks. Then, the feria takes place in the centre of Malaga during the afternoon. People wear traditional Spanish costumes and dance "sevillanas" and "malagueñas" in the street; eat fish, cheese and ham and drink a delicious, sweet, red wine. The fair takes place during bullfighting season, so one can see a magnificent contest in the afternoon. Albacete, Castilla y La

Mancha. With more than years of tradition behind them, the Fiestas of Caudete are celebrated every year to honour its Virgin, La Virgen de Gracia. The main components are the fireworks, gunpowder, music, procession, and flower offering to the Virgin. Harvesting festivities of one of the most renown wine regions in Spain. The Rioja is the center of a very important wine culture.

Chapter 4 : Spanish Festivals and Events | Collection of the best events in Spain

Spain is one of the largest countries in all of Europe, occupying most of the Iberian Peninsula. Vacation-goers flock to Spain for the sunny beaches along the Mediterranean Sea to the south and.

Tell your friends Holidays, festivals and traditional celebrations abound in Spain. Images of bullfights, matadors and flamenco dancing come to mind, but this is just the tip of the iceberg. This event takes place each March in the Mediterranean city of Valencia. The celebration lasts for a week and includes nonstop fireworks and noisy fanfare. The sculpture voted "best effigy" is the only one spared from the flames and is put on display in the town center. The other hundreds of effigies blaze late into the night as teams of firefighters set up protective barriers and keep watch while the crowds continue their street parties. Holy Week in Seville features masked parades and enormous floats with Roman Catholic figures. This somber spectacle is followed up by La Feria de Abril, a much more jolly event. The fairgrounds swell with locals dressed in traditional garb and booths selling libations and food. Live music fills the night air, and a festive mood prevails. Fireworks signal the final night of the celebration, sending the crowds into frenzied flamenco dancing. The festivities occur annually in mid-July. The streets become treacherous, and the event is astounding to behold. Aside from this spectacle, the Fiesta de San Fermin includes parades, fireworks and bullfighting events. Tourists and locals gather on the last Wednesday of August each year to stage a tomato-chucking battle of epic proportions. As with most other Spanish holidays, street parties and parades are customary. Thousands of combatants take part in the final tomato war. The local government sponsors the event by sending in over 88, pounds of tomatoes to be used as ammunition. Communal shower stations are set up around town for cleanup after the fun comes to an end. Subscribe to our newsletter and stay up to date with the latest news and deals!

Chapter 5 : Holidays, Festivals, Celebrations & Traditions in Spain

Spain has festivals for all preferences, from solemn rituals to wacky celebrations! We've just included 13 of the very best events, but there are many more to be discovered. Where will you go first?

Known for its raucous festivals and ruby-red sangria, Spain has long been an immensely popular tourist destination. Spain, which occupies a large portion of the Iberian Peninsula, was once ruled by the Romans, and later by the Visigoths and Moors of North Africa. The Spanish would eventually colonize the Americas, reaping the riches of the New World. These historical shifts have left a lasting mark on Spain and its culture in modern times. Cultures still vary from region to region, but several prevailing traditions stand out as iconic elements of the country as a whole. Many Spaniards take care to balance their workloads with time to relax. Professionals and students often go back home from work or school around lunch time to spend a few hours resting and socializing with family before returning to work or studies. Originally started as a practical means of avoiding the blazing midday heat, la siesta has remained a popular tradition in Spain. However, people in big cities like Madrid and Barcelona have mostly moved on in favor of full work days. Still, la siesta remains prominent in smaller towns and cities throughout the country.

Dining Practices The Spanish tend to eat late. Lunch takes place around 2 or 3 in the afternoon, and dinner can come as late as 9 or 10 at night. Lunch ranks as the primary meal of the day, featuring multiple courses and a longer time frame. Spaniards are also known for skipping out on household dinners in favor of eating out at a tapas bar instead. Tapas consists of pieces of bread with toppings such as meats, olives and cheese.

Flamenco Flamenco music reigns as one of the more recognizable traits of Spanish culture. The staccato dancing style and soulful plucking of classical guitars over mournful vocals make for an enchanting spectacle. Gypsies in southern Spain introduced flamenco music to the rest of the country, and many towns and cities in southern Spain still feature rustic flamenco venues with top notch talent. Madrid and other big cities also boast an abundant variety of flamenco shows for tourists to experience.

Bullfights Bullfighting is inextricably linked to Spanish culture, no matter how many animal rights groups protest the sport as cruel and immoral. Developed out of the bloody gladiator traditions formerly practiced during the time of the Roman Empire, bullfighting gradually rose to national prominence. The image of a bold matador sweeping his cape past a charging bull is undoubtedly one of the most commonly associated elements of Spanish culture. As evidence of this, many of the biggest bullfighting rings in the world can be found in Spain, with major venues in cities like Madrid, Seville, Valencia and Pamplona.

Holidays and Festivals Spain has many famous festivals. Also of interest is Semana Santa, or Holy Week. The Andalusian city of Seville hosts a massive series of processions and special events during Holy Week, culminating with a city-wide celebration on Easter.

Chapter 6 : Spain & Its Culture | USA Today

La Rioja Wine Harvest Festival. Wine is one of Spain's biggest exports, and nowhere in the country is as famous for its wines as the region of La Rioja. The calendar of the science.com is grape harvest season in Spain, and every year the city of Logroño celebrates this by hosting the Wine Harvest Festival at the end of September.

Bring fact-checked results to the top of your browser search. Festivals and holidays Traditionally, most holidays in Spain have been religious in origin. The most important day of the Christmas period, and the day on which children receive presents, is the Day of the Three Kings, or Epiphany January 6. By contrast, nonreligious, civic holidays have been relatively insignificant. The Franco regime declared July 18, the day on which the Spanish Civil War began, a national holiday, but that was abandoned after the demise of the regime. Since the official national holiday has been Constitution Day December 6. One important holiday is both religious and civic. Every village and town has its own annual holiday fiesta, and these are probably the most important holidays in the daily lives of the Spanish people. These holidays are religious in origin, honouring the local patron saint or the Virgin Mary, but the religious component is often much less important than the dancing and bullfights that take place. The festival, called La Tomatina, began as a symbolic repudiation of harsh rule during the Franco era. Still, at no time has Spain ceased to be a culturally vital country, and the 20th century in particular proved a highly productive and creative one; indeed, its first few decades came to be called the Silver Age. The Spanish Civil War marked a break in the development of the arts. Many leading artists and intellectuals went into exile at the end of the war. Within Spain the Franco regime practiced a sweeping censorship that limited artistic expression. Nevertheless, many Spanish artists made major contributions throughout the 20th century. In the s Ibiza , a popular holiday destination in the Balearic Islands , emerged as a global capital of electronic music. The leading classical instrumentalists of the century were cellist Pablo Casals , pianist Alicia de Larrocha , and guitarist Narciso Yepes. These writers helped revitalize Spanish letters and opened the doors for Spanish cultural development in the 20th century. Executed by the Nationalists in the early days of the Spanish Civil War, he became a symbol of art perishing at the hands of fascism. The suppression of instinct by social convention and the repression of women are the major themes of his plays perhaps influenced by his own homosexuality , some of which continue to be produced and which inspired two films by Spanish director Carlos Saura in the s. Contemporary Spanish poetry often uses colloquial language and explores intimate and social themes. During the early 20th century many novelists experimented with form and technique and put less emphasis on plot and character. In the post-Civil War period a new generation of novelists, including Rosa Chacel , Miguel Delibes , and Carmen Laforet , avoided such experimentation and returned to a more traditional approach. The late 20th-century novel showed a variety of trends. One was the use of everyday language to tell realistic stories, often based on historical events. At the other extreme were highly intellectual novels by writers such as Juan Benet Goitia and his small group of followers. In addition, some novelists, such as Terenci Moix and, later in his career, Juan Goytisolo , were strongly drawn to non-Western cultures. For further discussion, see Spanish literature. Whereas medieval drama tended to be closely tied to the Roman Catholic Church , focusing on miracle and Passion plays and on religious themes, the pioneering 16th-century dramatist Juan del Encina helped revive classical theatrical forms. To further the irony, it was a French dramatist and stage director, Juan de Grimaldi, who helped revive the Spanish theatre in the s by both translating French plays into Spanish and commissioning new works by Spanish writers. These and other writers have produced a significant body of theatrical work in Spanish as well as in other national and regional languages, such as Catalan and Basque. Most modern playwrights are active as well in other literary genres and media, such as poetry and filmmaking. The most famous, Pablo Picasso , is considered by many to be the most influential European artist of the 20th century. Among sculptors, the best-known figure internationally was Eduardo Chillida.

Chapter 7 : All About Spain - Fiestas and Traditions

Every culture has its own traditions and customs regarding death, funerals, and burials. In Spain, one of the most notable national holidays is called All Saints' Day.

Politics of Spain Spain is a democratic parliamentary constitutional monarchy. The monarch is the head of state, and the president of the government is the head of government. There are multiple parties and free elections. Executive power is vested in the government. Central legislative power is vested in the two chambers of parliament. The judiciary is independent of the executive and the legislative powers. A strong sense of national identity exists in many autonomous communities. These communities—even those that least identify themselves as Spanish—have contributed greatly to many aspects of mainstream Spanish culture. Most notably, the Basque Country and Catalonia have widespread nationalist sentiment. Many Basque and Catalan nationalists demand statehood for their respective territories. Basque aspirations to statehood have been a cause of violence notably by ETA , although most Basque nationalists like virtually all Catalan nationalists currently seek to fulfill their aspirations peacefully. There are also several communities where there is a mild sense of national identity but a great sense of regional identity: Galicia , Andalusia , Asturias , Navarre linked to Basque culture , Aragon , Balearic Islands and Valencia the last two feeling attached to Catalan culture in different ways each have their own version of nationalism, but generally with a smaller percentage of nationalists than in the Basque Country and Catalonia. There are other communities which, despite a broad Spanish nationalist feeling, have strong regional identities: Cantabria , Rioja , and Extremadura. There are also the cases of Madrid , an administrative autonomous community between the two Castiles; the two north African autonomous cities of Ceuta and Melilla , and the autonomous community of Murcia. Castile was the core kingdom under which Spain eventually unified after centuries of evolution and incorporations. Spain has a long history of tension between centralism and nationalism. The current organisation of the state into autonomous communities similar to a federal organisation under the Spanish Constitution of is intended as a way to incorporate these communities into the state. While everyone[citation needed] in Spain can speak Spanish , other languages figure prominently in many areas: Spanish is official throughout the country; the rest of these have co-official status in their respective communities and all are major enough that there are numerous daily newspapers in these languages and, especially in Catalan, a significant book publishing industry. Many citizens in these territories consider their own language as their primary language and Spanish as secondary; these languages cover broad enough regions to have multiple distinct dialects. Spanish itself also has distinct dialects around the country, with the Andalusian dialect being closer to the Spanish of the Americas, which it heavily influenced.

Chapter 8 : 6 Ridiculously Awesome Food Festivals in Spain - An Insider's Spain Travel Blog & Spain Food

Bullfighting, the most controversial of Spanish traditions, is a mixed blessing for Spain. Many tourists are very curious to see it and view it as a fascinating insight into Spanish culture, but it is also a stain on the country's reputation for others.

Chapter 9 : The top festivals in Spain

Fiestas & Festivals in Spain Spanish fiestas symbolise the very essence of Spain and the Spanish people. They're colourful, vibrant, usually extremely noisy, often chaotic and always great fun.