LEARN SPANISH WITH ME EASILY

Chapter: festivales

1. Las Fallas

Las Fallas is Valencia's biggest festival. It's celebrated every March in honour of San José (Saint Joseph), the patron saint of Valencia, and also to mark the end of winter and the beginning of spring. Valencia is a fairly quiet city compared to Madrid and Barcelona, but not during Las Fallas. Expect a whole week of fun, frivolity and extensive late-night partying featuring a sizzling cacophony of colourful firecrackers, smoky bonfires, roaring rockets and massive effigies.

2. La Tomatina

Every August, the usually sleepy city of Buñol welcomes 20,000 people into its streets for one of the world's biggest food foods with, you guessed it, tomatoes. Truckloads of them! La Tomatina draws in locals, travellers and tourists from far and wide to pelt tomatoes at friends and strangers. Mad, (very) messy and memorable, La Tomatina is undoubtedly one of Spain's most unique festivals.



3. Fiesta de San Isidro

Fiesta de San Isidro is Madrid's largest festival to honour San Isidro Labrador, the patron saint of Madrid who was believed to be a miracle worker in the 12th century. Over the years, the festival has evolved into an all-encompassing celebration of Madrid's traditions and modern culture, from folk music and dancing to delicious street food. Locals embark on a pilgrimage to the Hermitage of San Isidro, people dance the chotis in traditional costumes, and friends and family gather at open-air street concerts to party long after the sun goes down.

4. Semana Grande

Semana Grande is one of the most significant cultural festivals in the Basque region in northern Spain. Held every August in Bilbao, this nineday festival celebrates the uniqueness of Basque culture from traditional music and food to giant puppet parades. There's also several friendly competitions including wood chopping, strength and firework contests. The end of the festival is marked by the burning of a giant statue of Marijana, the festival's mascot.



5. Feria de Abril

Fiera de Abril, or the April Fair of Seville, is a week-long fair in April featuring a dizzying display of everything Andalucía is famous for. It started in 1847 as a livestock fair, and has grown into one of the most anticipated events of the year. Expect lots of sherry, flamenco dancing and horse-drawn carriages carrying people dressed in traditional costumes. There are also lots of casetas, or tents, set up where locals eat, drink and get merry. Many are private and require an invite to enter, but there are a few public ones where travellers can join in the fun.