



La Tomatina - the most exciting and characteristic event of the Buñol fiestas - takes place on the last Wednesday in August. Days beforehand, however, the town is already alive with music, festivity and fun. Rumours go that it all began in 1945 when some local teenagers, taking part in the traditional processions, decided to create their own niche within the parade. One of them grabbed some tomatoes from a market stall and threw them at the others, who retaliated immediately, giving rise to a spontaneous vegetable fight. Today the town square fills up with "tomatinos" – people eager to throw tomatoes, dance, play and end up completely covered in crimson tomato pulp. At 11am the Tomatina begins and participants paint the town red, snatching, crushing and hurling tomatoes at everyone in sight until everything and everybody is submerged in red. This unique tomato festival in Buñol attracts people from all over the world and its huge rapport has turned it into a Festival of International Tourist Interest, since 2002.

This information is not written with the intention of being anything other than general information that we hope will help you come more prepared for your holiday. The philosophy of Travel Talk is simple: to provide excellent value for money for budget conscious and adventurous travellers without compromising their experiences, and providing quality transportation, accommodation, sight-seeing and information services. We hope that our philosophy will exceed your expectations and the following information will help you enjoy a memorable journey in La Tomatina festival.

VISAS

If you are travelling from one of the following countries: Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Croatia, USA, Israel, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Republic of Korea or Singapore, you must present a valid passport, which will allow you to remain in Spain for a maximum period of 90 days.

If you come from another country, outside the EU, you should check your visa requirements and if necessary, apply for a visa from the Spanish Consulate in your place of residence. You will also require a valid passport and may be required to specify the reason for your application.

ESSENTIALS

Before you leave your country, we recommend you to make sure you have followings with you ;

- Passport
- Airline or transportation ticket
- Tour voucher
- Insurance policy
- Visas (if necessary)
- Label on your travel bag
- Pre-departure information
- Money (cash and/or travellers cheques)
- Credit card

WHAT TO WEAR ON FESTIVAL DAY

The best attire for the day of festival:

• An old t-shirt and shorts - make sure these are durable because it gets pretty crazy in there and preferably have a waist tie on your shorts to keep them from coming off.

- Speedos/Bathers – in case your shorts do come off or your shirt gets ripped

- Closed in shoes - an old pair of runners will do the job, not thongs/flip-flops!

- Goggles - a common tactic used by many to prevent the dreaded tomato juice in the eye. Prone to failure, but worth the try!

HEALTH AND SAFETY

It is recommended to all passengers travelling on Travel Talk tours to have personal insurance to cover all medical and repatriation costs. Please take your insurance policy with you. Bottled water is readily available throughout your tour and we recommend that you purchase this rather than drink the local tap water, as some experience upset stomachs.

It is often difficult to find the precise medication that is available in one's home country and for this reason we recommend that you carry all current medication with you. Toilet paper is not always provided so it is a good idea to carry spare roll/tissues in your bag. It should be placed in the basket beside the toilet, not flushed away, as you might block the pipes.

WEATHER

The most pleasant warm weather falls between May and mid-July when average temperatures are between 20-32 degrees Celsius (68°F-90°F).

Towards the end of July, and throughout August, it can get very hot, with temperatures sometimes reaching 40°C (100°F). Night-time temperatures remain around 18°C (64°F). September is a still nice, with temperatures around 25°C (77°F) and October is also pleasant with an average daytime temperature of 20°C (68°F).

HISTORY OF LA TOMATINA

The festival is in honour of the town's patron saints, St. Louis Bertrand (San Luis Bertràn) and the Mare de Déu dels Desemparats (Mother of God of the Defenseless), a title of the Virgin Mary. The tomato fight has been a strong tradition in Buñol since 1944 or 194. No one is completely certain how this event originated with possible theories including a volley of tomatoes from bystanders at a carnival parade, a practical joke on a bad musician, and the chaotic aftermath of an accidental lorry spillage. However, the most believed story is a local food fight amongst friends.

RULES OF LA TOMATINA

The following rules have been set down by the Buñol Town Council:

- It is illegal to bring any kind of bottles or other objects that could cause an accident
- You must not tear t-shirts
- Tomatoes must be crushed before throwing so that they don't hurt anybody
- You must be careful to avoid the Lorries which carry the tomatoes
- As soon as you hear the 2nd banger, you must stop throwing tomatoes

ELECTRICITY

All appliances require a double round pin type plug for 220 volts AC, 50- hertz.

DISTANCES

The following information will give you a better idea of the times travelled to help you plan your day:

- Valencia - Madrid :356 kms
- Valencia-Barcelona:351 k m s
- VLC Valencia Airport - Valencia City Center : 10 kms



GENERAL INFO FOR LA TOMATINA

What is La Tomatina?

The Tomatina is only one part of the week-long celebrations, with musical bands, fireworks, food, and over all fun. This is a war where there are no winners and the aim is to have fun.

Where is it?

La Tomatina takes place in Buñol, a small town 25 km (about 15,5 miles) west of Valencia and well connected by train and bus.

When does it take place?

On the last Wednesday of August, at the peak of tomato season, between 10 am and 1 pm. everybody enjoys and the streets turn into rivers of tomato juice.

Description

At around 10 am, the first event of the Tomatina begins. The first feat is for the crowd to figure out how to get people to climb up a greased pole with a ham at the top.

While this is happening, the group works up a frenzy singing and dancing while being showered from hoses. Once someone is able to release the ham from the pole, several trucks haul the bounty of tomatoes into the center of the town, Plaza del Pueblo. The tomatoes come from Extremadura, where they are less expensive and are used only for the festival as they taste too poor for general consumption. The signal for the beginning of the fight is firing of water cannons, and the chaos begins.

SELF TRANSPORTATION

Confortel Aqua 3 Hotel (3 star Hotel)

By Metro: You need to take Green line(5), and get off station called "Maritim Serreria". Then you need to walk 20 minutes to the hotel. But, the easiest way is take a taxi. It costs around 25 Euro from the airport to the hotel.

Hotel Valencia Center (4 star Hotel)

By Metro: You need to take Green line(5), and get off station called "Ayora". Then you need to walk one km, would take 20 minutes to the hotel. Taxi costs around 25 Euro from the airport to the hotel.

ACCOMMODATION

The accommodation selection on Travel Talk tours is a quality hotel with the main criteria in the selection process being: cleanliness, service, private bathroom facilities (if possible) and location (usually centrally located).

Solo travellers not wishing to pay a single supplement will be accommodated in a double, twin or triple room, depending on availability, with a passenger(s) of the same gender. We cannot guarantee the availability of double beds for couple travellers.

Casual Valencia de las Artes



TOUR LEADER

Your Tour Leader's role is to ensure that all aspects of the trip run smoothly. He/she will share their local knowledge, advise you on how to fill your free time and coordinate the day to day running of the tour – although occasionally your Tour Leader may need your understanding if things do not go according to plan.

ARRIVAL

Arrival hotel in Valencia

Hotel Olympia Universidades - Valencia

Address: Carrer del Dr. Vicent Zaragoza, 13, 46020 València

Phone: +34 963 69 21 29

Guide Meeting

Please note that your tour leader will meet and brief you about the next days at the information desk in the baggage hall.

SERVICES INCLUDED

- Transfers from Valencia to Bunol and Bunol to Valencia (air conditioned non-smoking coaches)
- Accommodation in 3 star or 4 star hotels
- Meals ; Breakfasts
- Services of experienced guides licenced by the Ministry of Tourism.
- Activities; Orientation walk in Valencia.

SERVICES NOT INCLUDED

- Any flights, insurance
- Meals not stated in the itinerary
- Drinks
- Tips, visa fees
- Entrance fees to the sights and museums
- Other services not stated in the "services included" section, optional activities and excursions.