

Travel Planning & Small Group Tours

Specializing in Navarra, La Rioja, País Vasco and the Fiesta de San Fermín and the encierro, the running of the bulls in Pamplona since 1992.

Iberian Traveler

Join us in Pamplona-Iruña for the

Fiesta de San Fermín & the Feria del Toro

Tel: 206-778-0127 Fax: 866-797-3747 www.iberiantraveler.com

Thursday, May 15, 2008

Features:

Festival Programs
Accommodations
The Peñas
Plaza de Toro
Restaurant Guide



The blessing of the pañuelicos during the opening ceremony in the town hall square

Sanfermín 2008 – Celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Festival of the Bull



Peña Seattle de Sanfermines - Celebrating 36 years of the fiesta

Festival Programs

We have arranged a series of special programs to enhance your experience of the fiesta. The special excursions and lunches, which begin on the 7th of July, are limited to a maximum 35 participants per day.

The chupinazo/txupinazo – the opening ceremony at noon on 6 July

We only have a few balcony places remaining for the opening ceremony for the Fiesta de San Fermín 2008. The cost of balcony reservations for the “chupinazo” this year is €325/person. You can add our special celebration lunch in the Nuevo Casino, a private club above the Café Iruña in the Plaza del Castillo for an additional €75/person.

Balconies for the encierro, the “running of the bulls”

Sorry, but there are no balconies remaining for the mornings of the 7th (the 1st encierro), 8th, or 9th. A limited number of places are available on the 10th for the VIP balcony program, and both programs are available on the 11th, 12th, 13th and 14th.

Special Excursions and Lunches - €160 + 16% IVA/person

7 July - Tour of the Casco Viejo, the Old City, and the Procession of San Fermín.

8 & 11 July – Bodega tour – Bodega Otazu on the Señorío de Otazu noble estate.

9 & 12 July - Tour of the Casco Viejo, the Old City.

10 & 13 July – Finca La Tejería – Visit to a small bull raising ranch south of Pamplona.

Pobre de mí Program - €85 + 16% IVA/person

14 July – The private balcony for the closing ceremony at midnight overlooks the town hall square in the Plaza Consistorial where thousands of Pamploneses converge to say good-bye to another fiesta and begin the countdown to Sanfermín 2009.

Additional Services:

We can arrange a private transfer from the airports in Hondarribia, Barcelona, Biarritz, Bilbao, Madrid, and Pamplona to your hotel – Please contact us regarding price and availability.

Bullfight Tickets

We offer tendido and andanada sombra seats (lower and upper level shade seats) during the fiesta. Please contact us regarding price and availability.

Private Guides during the fiesta

4 hours - €360 + 7% IVA for up to 4 people

8 hours - €540 + 7% IVA for up to 4 people

Note: Guides services are not available on the 6th, 7th, or 14th.

Accommodations - Basic, Standard Packages & Deluxe upgrades

Basic and Standard hotel packages are still available beginning on 8 July at our main hotels, but rooms are limited on the 11th and 12th with the Basic Hotel Package.

The Peñas and the bullfights

The bullfights are the best example of the spirit of revelry that dominates the city of Pamplona during the fiesta. The spectacle occurs not only in the arena, but also in the stands, where the Peñas (San Fermín clubs) are the absolute stars of the show. They were created in the early 20th century (Peña La Única) and now have almost 5,000 members. Each Peña has its own shirt, logo, song, clubhouse, charanga (brass band) and banner. You will find them everywhere, making a great deal of noise, and they are an essential part of the Fiesta de San Fermín. The Peñas occupy the “tendidos de sol”, the sun seats in sections 5 & 6. If you find yourself in this section with the Peñas, make sure you have a towel, hat and raincoat.

Two of the more interesting times of the day come when the Peñas enter and leave the bullring in procession, brass bands playing (loudly) and banners waving. They wind their way through the Plaza del Castillo and down C/ Estafeta on their way to and from their clubhouses, most of which are located in the casco viejo, the Old City, on C/ de Jarauta.

Plaza de Toros

The bullring in Pamplona, with a capacity of 19,529, is second only to Madrid's Monumental de Las Ventas, and the 3rd largest in the world; Mexico City's being the largest. The Bullring had a capacity of 14,000 when it first opened on 7 July 1922, when Pamplona had only a population of 30,000. The current population is closer to 200,000 and growing. La Meca (Santa Casa de Misericordia de Pamplona), a charity organization founded in 1706, has organized the festivities held in the Bullring since 1922 and is responsible for organizing the Feria del Toro, the festival of the bull. All of the profits directly fund its social work, caring for Pamplona's seniors. This year marks the 50th anniversary of MECA's involvement in the bullring.



Dressing for the fiesta

The official dress during the fiesta for everything is the traditional festival costume of white and red: white shirt and pants, red pañuelico (bandana) and sash. The “official costume” can be purchased in Pamplona at any of a number of clothing stores you'll find around the city, or you can bring your own pair of white pants (chinos, jeans, etc.) and a white short-sleeve shirt (polo). Please note that clothing stores, as well as most other stores and shops, will be closed from late morning until late afternoon on the 6th, all day on the 7th (also an official banking holiday in Pamplona) and on Sunday. Retail stores, except those selling festival related items, will be closed in the afternoons for lunch, only a few reopening after 4 pm. Getting your laundry done during the fiesta can be a bit of a problem, so remember to bring enough clean clothes to get you through the first couple of days. You can always wear darker slacks and colored shirts (red) as long as you remember to wear your pañuelico, but those who dress in festival custom feel more apart of the festival. The pañuelico goes on a noon on the 6th with the firing of the rockets and isn't removed until midnight of the 14th, during the “Probe de mi”. Don't forget to bring a pair of comfortable shoes. You will be doing a lot of walking around the city both day and night. The historic quarter of the city isn't that large in and of itself, but the fiesta is spread out over a much wider area, with music venues and other special events being held in different parks, some up to a half hours walk or further from the Plaza del Castillo, the heart of the old quarter.

A Restaurant Guide to Pamplona

	Telephone	Email/Web
Gastronomic Dining (reservations required)		
Alhambra, Bergamín, 7	34 948 245 007	alhambra@hreuropa.com
Don Pablo, Navas de Tolosa, 19	34 948 240 280	Info@restaurantedonpablo.com
Enekorri, Tudela, 14	34 948 230 798	Info@enekorri.com
Europa, Espoz y Mina, 11	34 948 221 800	Europa@hreuropa.com
El Embrujo, C/ Padre Calatayud 16	34 948 233 401	info@elembrujo.net
Josetxo, Plaza Príncipe de Viana, 1	34 948 222 097	info@restaurantejosetxo.com
Rodero, Emilo Arrieta, 3	34 948 228 035	info@restauranterodero.com
Traditional Navarran Cuisine (reservations required during the fiesta)		
Otano, San Nicolás, 5	34 948 225 095	www.casaotano.com
Casa Manolo, Garcia Castañón, 12	34 948 225 102	www.restaurantecasamanolo.com
Casa Amparo, C/ Esquiroz, 22	34 948 261 162	
Hartza, Juan de Labrit, 19	34 948 224 568	
Asador Olaverri, C/ Santa Marta, 4	34 948 235 063	www.asadorolaverri.com
Asador Gaztelu, Paseo Federico Soto, 3	34 948 120 999	www.asadorgaztelu.com
San Fermín, C/ San Nicolás, 44-46	34 948 222 191	
Pintxos Bars / Cafés		
Café Bar Gaucho, C/Espoz y Mina, 4	34 948 225 073	www.cafebargaucho.com
Baserri, C/ San Nicolás, 32	34 948 222 021	www.restaurantebaserri.com
Café Roch, C/ Comedias, 6	34 948 222 390	
Casa Luis, Padre Calatayud, 11	34 948 233 675	
Mesón el Caballo Blanco, Redín s/n,	34 948 211 504	

Hours for dining in Spain

Most people traveling to Spain for the first time will find that they will have to make some minor, if not major, adjustments in their normal eating habits. This is basically true in both the north and south, especially during the summer months when the days are long.

Desayuno – Breakfast is typically the lightest meal of the day, something simple after a late night dinner the night before. You should be able to find some sort of packaged pastry and espresso at any bar or restaurant open in the early morning hours, but during Sanfermín breakfast is not served until around 8:30, after the encierro. Remember, during Sanfermines, it's always **“bulls before breakfast”**. Be sure to try churros (fried crullers) and hot chocolate in the morning. This is quite popular in Pamplona as well as Madrid. The most popular place for this typical Spanish breakfast is the bar at the Hotel Maisonnave in the old city.

There is also the traditional mid-morning break, called the **“Almuerzo”** generally served between 10:30 and noon, when you can have your first tapas (pintxos in the Basque country) of the day, including a tortilla de patata (a potato omelets) with pan (fresh bread).

Comida – Lunch, which is generally considered the main meal of the day, begins after 1:00, but is usually closer to 2:00 for most people. This holds true during the fiesta and is often starts even later on the weekends. This is also a major social hour in which you visit with family and friends. Note: butter is seldom served after the morning hours unless requested.

Cena - Dinner in the north typically begins at around 9:30 and is usually the lighter meal of the day unless you missed lunch. Dinner in Pamplona is often still being served well after mid-night during the fiesta.