



**“Each country’s customs are different, just as each meadows’ grass is different.” -
Mongolian Proverb**

LOCAL FESTIVITIES

Burgos has a long history and some special dates to celebrate events that had happened in the city or special occasions, as the Burgaleses and Burgalesas (the city demonym) are do not lose an opportunity to have a good time with their fellow citizens and foreigners. Some of the most iconic days in Burgos’ cultural calendar are listed below.

Bear in mind that if you come to Burgos in some of these days, the city’s shops, restaurants, public transports, and other services will be closed or their schedule will vary.

SAMPEDROS

Welcome to Burgos’ Big weeks!

Last week of June and first week of July

Sampedros is the colloquial name given to the city’s main festivity. It occurs on the 29th of June and usually the weeks surrounding that day. June 29 in the Spanish calendar is Saint Peter and Saint Paul’s Day (Burgos’ patron saints) and therefore all the city is dressed up for the occasion and activities addressed to people of all ages are programmed; as concerts, fireworks, and parades.

During these days the “Gigantillos” (which can be seen dancing in the picture) parade through the city and dance Castilian dances dressed in traditional apparel. They represent the city Mayor and

the First Lady and are accompanied by the "Gigantones" which represent couples from different ethnicities as well as Burgos' best-known figure "El Cid" and his wife Doña Jimena and the Catholic King and Queen.

The city hall organizes different activities, concerts, and events. While Burgos neighbors gather in clubs or "peñas" and parade daily during these days.

EL CURPILLOS

One of our favourites parties!

It is held on the first friday after the "Corpus Christi"

El Curpilllos Day is a festivity celebrated the Friday after the "Corpus Christi", though it has a religious component its history goes back to the 13th Century, in which King Alfonso VIII won the Navas de Tolosa Battle.

On the Curpilllos Day, there is a parade from Las Huelgas Monastery and some civil, religious and military acts are performed, but the best-known part is the party that then is organized in the Parral Park in which the different city clubs serve traditional roasted food as well as paella and other "pintxos".

THE CIDIANOS' WEEKEND

Through touristic, gastronomic, and cultural activities every year the city recreates the medieval era. More than 100 different activities are held. All of them surrounding the life and myth of the city best-known figure "Rodrigo Diaz de Vivar, El Cid Campeador.

But... Who was El Cid?

Rodrigo Díaz de Vivar (c. 1043 – 10 July 1099) was a Castilian knight and warlord in medieval Spain. The Moors called him El Cid, which meant the Lord, and the Christians, El Campeador, which means "the Champion" in modern Spanish, but is literally translated as "the Master of the Battlefield" in Old Spanish.

He was born in Vivar del Cid, a village near the city of Burgos. Díaz de Vivar became well known for his service in the armies of both Christian and Muslim rulers, his exile, and his temporary conquest of Valencia, which became independent for a brief period in the Reconquista.

After his death, El Cid became Spain's celebrated national hero and the protagonist of the most significant medieval Spanish epic poem, El Cantar de Mio Cid.

To this day, El Cid remains a Spanish popular folk-hero and national icon, with his life and deeds remembered in plays, films (one of the most famous was an old Hollywood movie starring Charlton Heston and Sofia Loren), folktales, songs, and video games.

One of his best-known deeds (though probably fake) is the one that narrates that time that he won a battle when he was already dead! It is said that his enemies withdrew just after seeing him on his horse approaching. Even though it was just his corpse!

THE HOLLY WEEK AND CARNIVAL IN BURGOS

Holy Week:

During this week the different religious brotherhoods in the city prepare parades. The majority of these brotherhoods have their origin back in the Medieval Times and represent some ancient guilds.

However new ones have also joined them commemorating Jesus Christ's life, death, and legacy.

Forty days before the start of the Holy Week, the Carnival takes place with events during a weekend, a Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday.

Carnival:

During these days people dress up in costumes and party in the city center. There are special events for children and street music.

On Wednesday the "Burial of the Sardine" takes place in La Flora square, in which a big fish statue made of cardboard is burned every year as a closure for the partying.

THE WHITE NIGHT

The last Saturday in May, Burgos celebrates a relatively new festival. For one night only the museums, stores, and other places at the city are open until late at night!

Besides, the most iconic buildings in the city light up and are full-colored for the night and many different artistic and cultural options are available. Most of them for free!

Usually the same weekend as the White Night, the full city gets covered in flowers to celebrate the spring!

This is an event prepared by the city hall in association with FLOJABUR, the association of florists and garden centers. Each year they create magic with flowers focused on different topics as can be dances or literature.

OTHER FAIRS AND FESTIVITIES

Christmas Season:

During Christmas' season, Burgos Main Square and Santa María Square host a Christmas market in which traditional Castilian products and international ones can be found, all of them hand-made

Other interesting dates are :

The 31st of December when Saint Silvester's race takes place. This race goes across the city and people dress up and run it, skate through it, or just complete it walking.

January, 5, the afternoon before the Three Wise Men Day a parade goes through the city presenting Your Majesties, Melchor, Gaspar, and Baltasar!

Enclave de Calle:

This festival has been occurring for the past 20 years. For a couple of days in September the city host spectacles. It invites the city neighbors and visitors to wander around the city and be surprised by amazing street theatre and circus productions.

Titirimundi International festival:

During the month of May, the International Festival of Puppet Theatre is held in Burgos. Different performers from around the world with different puppetry techniques do shows around the city centre. Most of the shows are free and family friendly.

** As this section was designed since the first moment from the website, the images, video and other ornaments as well as the references that have been used can be seen directly from the web page! <https://oneasiaburgos.wixsite.com/enjoyburgos/local-festivities>