



# LA TOMATINA



La Tomatina (App. La Tomatina) - an annual celebration, held in the last week of August in the Spanish town of Bunol. Tens of thousands of participants come from different countries to participate in the battle, "weapon" in which the tomatoes are.

The festival lasts a week and includes musical performances, fairs, parades, dancing and fireworks. The night before the tomato fight is a contest on cooking paella. The population of Buñol is 9 thousand people, but during the festival there come 40 thousand tourists. During preparation for the festival shop owners close their shops with plastic shields, to protect them from the coming madness, during which used more than 1,000 tons of tomatoes.





The festival begins at 10 o'clock in the morning. Many trucks laden tomatoes entering the central square Plaza del Pueblo. Under the rules of the festival begins only after someone climb on a wooden post two storeys high, pre-lubricated with soap. Upstairs daredevil expects ham (jamon). The signal for the beginning of the battle is a shot of water cannons. During battles each member for itself. To avoid injury before throwing tomatoes must be crushed. Also, according to the rules can not bring objects that can cause serious damage, such as glass bottles.



The chaos lasted exactly one hour, after which the water cannons do a second volley, giving the signal for the end of the battle. After that, you can not throw tomatoes. After the battle, the walls of surrounding houses become red and tomato paste on the pavement comes to ankles. Participants are washed in the river, or from the hoses doused locals.

The festival is held in honor of the patron saint of the city of St. Louis Bertrand (San Luis Bertràn) and Our Lady of the protector (Mare de Déu dels Desemparats).



The tradition began in 1945. It is alleged that the first tomato fight occurred between friends, during a fight at the festival. During the period of Franco's celebration was banned as having no religious significance, but was revived in the 1970s.

Since 1980, the tomatoes for the holiday are supplied by the city authorities, and in 2002 the Central Bureau of Tourism awarded the festival in Bunol international status.