

The Fiesta de San Fermín 2011

"The Sun Also Rises" once more above the streets of Pamplona!



*Running with the Victoriano bulls along Calle Estafeta, 12 July, 2010
The 10th fastest encierro - 2 minutes 17 seconds - no gorings!*

THE RUNNING OF THE BULLS, SANFERMÍN 2011

The **Feria del Toro** has been important part of Pamplona's world famous festival for more than 100 years. The 8-day festival of the bull, more commonly referred to as **el encierro**, or **"the running of the bulls"**, was a favorite of Ernest Hemingway and has been a major attraction for the tens of millions of visitors the city has received in the years since the release of *The Sun Also Rises* in 1926 and *Fiesta (UK)* in 1927.

MECA, Casa de Misericordia, the owners of the Plaza del Toro, and a charity, unique within Spain, has selected the bull ranches, *Granderías*, for this year's bull festival. This year's cartel include some of my favorite bull raising ranches:

Miura (Sevilla), **Victoriano** (Madrid), **Cebada Gago** (Cádiz), **Torrestrella** (Sevilla), **Dolores Aguirre Ybarra** (Sevilla), **Nuñez del Cuvillo** (Cádiz), **El Pilar** (Salamanca) and **Fuente Ymbro** (Cádiz).

The award for the best bulls of SF2010 was shared by the Fuente Ymbro & Victoriano ranches.

Hemingway's final appearance in Pamplona was in 1959. This year marks the 50th anniversary of his death on the eve of San Fermín two years later.

The Feria del Toro SF2011

Tickets for this year's Feria del Toro, the bullfights, are now available. We are accepting requests through the end of June for a limited number of tendido sombra (lower level shade) and andanada sombra (upper level shade) seats. Some sol y sombra and sol seats are also available.

A special message from Casa de Misericordia (MECA), the charity that operates the Plaza del Toros in Pamplona: 90% of all tickets have already been sold to the regular season ticket holders. The remaining 1,950 tickets will be available for sale each day at 6:30 pm at the ticket office of the bullring for the following day's bullfight. It is not possible to reserve any of these tickets in advance.



EL ENCIERRO, THE RUNNING OF THE BULLS - ADVICE FROM VETERAN RUNNERS

Access To The Route - If you want to participate in the running, you should enter the route before 07:00 through the gates in the Plaza Consistorial and stay within the barricades in that section of the route between the Town Hall Square and the Old Military hospital on Santo Domingo. Shortly after 7:00 the accesses will be closed and you are not allowed to leave until the encierro begins and the bulls are on their way.



The Most Dangerous Stretches - Callejón - Plaza de Toros (8 deaths) and the end of the Cuesta de Santo Domingo (3 deaths).

Clothing - Wear comfortable clothes and sneakers or running shoes. Do not carry any other items (backpacks, cameras, etc.) with you.

Ask Experts Runners For Advice - The running is neither a joke nor an opportunity for media coverage. The risks are enormous, and the mass attendance of runners makes it even more dangerous. It takes many years of practice to become a good runner.

Getting In And Out Of The Flow - Getting into the flow of runners is as important as getting out of the way. Get in gradually, as the other runners get out. Or get straight in, from a standing start.

Beware Of Falling - Bulls are not the only danger. Mainly, it's the number of runners. The chances of stumbling and falling are very high. In fact, most of the people who are injured during the run have fallen and been trampled by other runners. You have to look in front of you, behind you and on the ground. Once you are in the herd, it's safest to remain close to the bulls because there will be no runners in front of you. If you fall, stay down. Do not move until someone taps you on the shoulder. If you're near a bull and you fall, do not try to get up. If you curl up in a ball, the bull should ignore you and continue running. Getting up will cause the bull to attack you. This is the most common mistake made by runners.

Pay Attention To The Pastores & Obey The Rules!

The guys in the green shirts are there for your protection!

THE ROUTE OF THE ENCIERRO

Santo Domingo Street

This is one of the most dangerous stretches of the route, a steep, uphill slope of about 300 meters distance from the corrals at the bottom to the Plaza Consistorial at the top. The bulls tend to cluster close together as they race up the narrow street. It is also the only remaining section of the route with a sidewalk and curb. Some of the best runs can be seen here in the harrowing 30 seconds or less it takes for the lead bull to reach the square.

Ayuntamiento – Mercaderes

Considered by some to be one of the least dangerous stretches, this 120 meter long section has two turns that make it a bit more complicated, but the runners are relieved to find themselves with a little more room in run, if only for a few brief moments before they reach "la curva".

Calle Estafeta

The turn into Estafeta Street is a 90-degree turn to the right. The bulls slip and bump into the left hand wall of the street. Runners are advised to take the right turn on the right side of the street to avoid being pinned between the bulls and the fence or the wall.

Estafeta - Baja de Javier

A slight 2% uphill slope. The street is long and narrow. It is one of the most crowded stretches. Runners can only escape into the doorways of the buildings.

Bajada de Javier - Telefónica

The herd tends to slow down here. The group of bulls may split up, and some bulls may fall behind. This makes the stretch very dangerous.

Telefónica building

Less than 110 yards ending in a funnel shape, surrounded by a double wooden fence. The animals are now tired and run at a slower pace. The bulls tend to break up. An extremely dangerous place both expert runners and unskilled runners.

Callejón (blind alley)

Funnel shaped downhill slope leading to the bullring. Many runners falling here have made human heaps, with fatal consequences.

Plaza de Toros

The bulls run into the center of the ring most of the time before they are led to the corrals. But never turn your back on the bulls.

Watch the videos:

<http://www.encierrodesanfermin.tv/>

DRESSING FOR THE FIESTA

The official dress for all events during the fiesta is the traditional festival costume of **white and red**: white shirt and pants, red **pañuelico** (bandana) and red **faja** (sash). The "official costume", which is also worn by Pelota players in Navarra and the Basque country, can be purchased in Pamplona at any of the clothing stores around the city, including El Corte Inglés, Spain's leading department store. Or better still, to insure the proper size and fit, you can bring your own pair of white pants (chinos, jeans) and a short-sleeved white polo style shirt or jersey.

The traditional **pañuelico**, the red bandana, is donned at noon on the 6th with the firing of the rockets, the *chupinazo*, during the opening ceremony, not before, and is not taken off and put away until midnight of the 14th, during the *Pobre de mí*, the closing ceremony.

Peña Seattle de Sanfermines provides the **pañuelico** for our clients. Additional **pañuelicos** and the *fajas*, can be purchased from one of the many street vendors you'll find in and around the old quarter. Men, women and children wear the same red and white costume. Ladies can wear either all white or a mixture of red and white, red blouse, white skirt or pants (but not shorts), red bag and shoes. Dressing in San Fermín attire will allow you to integrate smoothly and completely into the spirit of the fiesta.

Hotel laundry service is limited on the 6th and 7th, so be sure to bring enough clothes to see you through the first two days.

Note that clothing stores, as well as most other shops in the city, will be closed from

mid morning until late afternoon on the 6th of July for the opening ceremony, all day on the 7th, an official banking holiday in Pamplona, and on Sunday.

El Corte Inglés will be open from 10:00 to 10:00 daily, Monday thru Saturday. Other retail stores, except those selling festival-related items, close for lunch, with only a few reopening in the afternoon, after 4:30.

It is also important that you bring a comfortable pair of walking shoes as you will be doing a great deal of walking around the city day and night. Although the historic quarter of the city isn't large, the fiesta is spread out over a much wider area, with music venues and special events being held in different parks and plazas, some up to a half-hour walk, or further, from the **Plaza del Castillo**, the heart of the old quarter and the center of the fiesta.

Pamplona always does an amazing job of keeping the streets and plazas clean, but you will inevitably encounter broken glass along your way, especially following the opening ceremony, the early morning hours of the 7th, and on Saturday and Sunday mornings, when the crowds are at their largest.

Wearing Sandals and "flip-flops" on these days is not recommended.



The traditional costume is worn by everyone, from the well dressed Texan to the youngest Pamplonica. The hat is optional.

DINING IN PAMPLONA DURING THE FIESTA

Most people traveling to Spain for the first time will need to make some minor adjustments to their normal eating habits. This holds true both for the north and south, especially during the summer months when the days are long and don't cool down until after 9:00 pm. Eating times come later in Spain than foreign guests are used to, especially in summer.

Desayuno – Breakfast is typically the lightest meal of the day, something simple after a late 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 Sanfermin breakfast is not served until around 8:30, after the encierro.

During Sanfermines it's always **"bulls before breakfast"**.

Be sure to try the traditional **churros** (fried crullers) and hot chocolate in the morning, quite popular in Pamplona as well as Madrid. The most lively spot for this typical Spanish breakfast is the bar in 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 española* (a potato omelet) with *pan* (fresh bread) or a *bocadillo* (a filled baguette).

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 one visits 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 or skipped lunch. Dinner in Pamplona is often still being served well past midnight during the fiesta. Most Pamplona restaurants will take a reservation for 9:00 pm, but not earlier. Most restaurants serve a special 4-course fiesta menu.

THE GASTRONOMY OF NAVARRA - WHERE TO DINE DURING THE FIESTA

THE GASTRONOMY OF NAVARRA

Pamplona is a city blessed with more than 300 cafés, bars and restaurants to choose from, offering some of the finest cuisine in the north, on a par with the Basque country and Catalunya. More than 80 local cafés, bars and restaurants participate in the annual pintxos competition, which celebrates the best of miniature haute cuisine. While most restaurants continue to offer their standard menu during the fiesta in addition to their special "Sanfermines Menu", the pintxos bars and cafés located in the Old City (Bar Gaucho, Baserri, Iru, Museo, Fitero, La Mandarra), by necessity, cannot offer their standard offerings of haute cuisine pintxos at the bar during the fiesta. The last night to sample their usual array of award winning pintxos will be the 5th, which is also the last night the famous and historic Café Iruña on the Plaza del Castillo serves pintxos at the bar.

Most restaurants in Pamplona are smaller, family-style, so reservations for lunch and dinner are essential, and without exception on the 6th and 7th and over the weekend of the 10th, 11th and 12th, the start of the Bastille holiday when the French Basques fill the city. It is extremely important not to break a reservation without first contacting the restaurant, otherwise the table will sit empty for the entire night. Most restaurants have only one seating at lunch or dinner and will not offer your table to someone else, as it is not unusual for Navarrans arrive late for lunch or dinner and are never in a hurry to finish a meal.

There are cafés and taverns where you can find a quicker meal, but most will be located outside of the old city in the 1st and 2nd Ensanche; the Iturrama, San Jan Donibane and Ermitagaña neighborhoods.

Some of our favorite award-winning bars in other neighborhoods include: **Casa Luis** (Padre Calatayud, 11), **Chelsey** (Iturrama, 20), handy to our AC Hotel headquarters, **Aralar** (Castillo de Maya, 25) , **Melbourne** (Olite, 36) and **Letyana** (Travesía Bayona 2). These will continue to offer an ample assortment of their more elaborate pintxos during the fiesta.

SOME OF OUR FAVORITE RESTAURANTS

Gastronomic Dining

El Embrujo, C/ Padre Calatayud, 16
www.elembujo.net

Alhambra, Bergamín, 7
www.restaurantelalhambra.es

Europa, Espoz y Mina, 11
www.hreuropa.com

Rodero, Emilo Arrieta, 3
www.restauranterodero.com

Enekorri, Tudela, 14
www.enekorri.com

Josetxo, Plaza Príncipe de Viana, 1
www.restaurantejosetxo.com

La Nuez, Taconera, 4
www.restaurantelanuez.com

El Portal de Descalzos, Descalzos, 56
www.portaldedescalzos.com

Traditional Navarran Cuisine

Otano, San Nicolás, 5
www.casaotano.com

Casa Manolo, García Castañón, 12
www.restaurantecasamanolo.com

Casa Amparo, C/ Esquiroz, 22
no web page

Asador Olaverri, C/ Santa Marta, 4
www.asadorolaverri.com

La Olla, Avenida Roncesvalles, 2
www.laolla.com

San Fermín, C/ San Nicolás, 44-46
www.restaurantesanfermin.com

Baserri, C/ San Nicolás, 31
www.restaurantebaserri.com

Fashion & Fusion

El Mercao, Tafalla, 7
www.elmercao.com

La Trastienda del Colmado, Iturralde Y Suit 24
www.elcolmado.es

Tapas & Pintxos

www.navarratapas.com

If you haven't already done so, you need to reserve a table for lunch or dinner, especially from the 6th through the 10th. Obtaining reservations at one of the cities more popular restaurants, once you arrive, will be nearly impossible during the opening days of the fiesta.

Main Festival Events

6 July - Opening Ceremony

The chupinazo takes place in the Town Hall Square at noon.



7 July - The 1st Encierro & Procession of San Fermín

The Holy Procession begins at 10:00



14 July - The final Encierro and the poble de mi

The candlelight ceremony begins at midnight in the Town Hall Square and Plaza del Castillo.

