





GUIDE

Tomelloso Carnival

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Carnival

Immerse yourself in the explosion of color and joy of the Tomelloso Carnival.

The Tomelloso Carnival is undoubtedly one of the most eagerly awaited and vibrant festivals of the year, a true display of imagination and color filling the streets of this town in La Mancha. More than merely a celebration, it is a tradition deeply rooted in the lives of its inhabitants, an occasion for community unity where joy and festive spirit take center stage. The Tomelloso City Council meticulously organizes the event to ensure that each edition is a resounding success.

A Journey Through Time and Tradition

The history of Carnival dates back to ancient pagan celebrations, such as the Roman Saturnalia and Lupercalia, which marked the end of winter and the arrival of spring. With the spread of Christianity, these festivities became a prelude to Lent, a period of penance and reflection, offering a last moment of rejoicing before fasting and abstinence. Although Carnival was banned in Spain during the Franco regime, it regained its splendor with the arrival of democracy. In Tomelloso, Carnival has managed to maintain and enhance a "Tomelloso flavor" which identifies it and makes it special, reflecting the sentiment, humor, and desire for fun of its local groups and clubs.

The Heart of the Festival: The Carnival Palace

A key location for the celebrations is the Carnival Palace, a large marquee set up in the Paco Gálvez Municipal Football Stadium (Don Antonio Huertas Avenue). Admission to this space is free and numerous activities and events take place there throughout the week.

Highlights of the Tomelloso Carnival

The Tomelloso Carnival lasts for several days, offering a diverse program for all ages:

Carnival Friday: The festivities usually begin with a parade and a brass band competition. These musical groups fill the streets with artistry and joy, culminating in performances and an awards ceremony at the Carnival Palace. The night continues with DJ sessions to keep the party going.

Saturday: Grand National Parade: One of the most eagerly awaited events is the National Parade of Floats and Groups. Groups from all over Castilla-La Mancha and neighboring autonomous communities' parade along the main avenues, showcasing their impressive costumes, choreography and elaborate artistic floats. Different categories and prizes are established to recognize the creativity and effort of the participants. The day ends with the awards ceremony at the Carnival Palace and dancing with orchestras.

Sunday: The School Parade and the Spontaneous Mask. Sunday morning is reserved for the Carnival School Parade, an activity declared of Regional Tourist Interest. Almost two thousand children, parents and teachers participate, filling the streets with originality and vitality. In the afternoon, the fun centers on the Local Spontaneous Mask Contest, where participants, wearing their most ingenious costumes, parade and compete for prizes in various categories (individual, couple and group), with originality and charm being valued.

Monday: Pride of the Local Clubs. Monday afternoon is dedicated to the Grand Parade of Local Clubs. Associations, clubs, and dance troupes from Tomelloso parade with great enthusiasm, showcasing the work and dedication they put into their participation. The night comes alive with a Carnival Dance at the Tomelloso Casino, often featuring the participation of iconic clubs.

Tuesday: Show Night. The Carnival Palace is the venue for shows and performances, combining humor, dance and music, with free admission until full capacity is reached.

Ash Wednesday: The Burial of the Sardine and the Popular Barbecue. Carnival culminates with the Burial of the Sardine. Participants, dressed up for the occasion, parade with sardines they have made themselves, which are burned at the end of the parade in a symbolic act of farewell to the festival. After the burning, a traditional Popular Barbecue is held, where attendees can enjoy sardines, bread, and zurra (a traditional drink) for a symbolic price, marking the beginning of Lent.

Carnival for the Youngest: Play and Creativity Areas

The Tomelloso City Council, through the Department of Children's Affairs, organizes "Carnival Spaces", an initiative for children to enjoy fun and educational activities during their school holidays. These spaces offer workshops on mask decoration and costume creation, traditional games, music, mini-discos, mask parades and contests. This initiative also seeks to facilitate family reconciliation by offering a safe and enriching space during the school break.

Clubs and Groups: The Soul of the Tomelloso Carnival

The success and splendor of the Tomelloso Carnival are largely due to the work, dedication, and commitment of its local clubs and groups. Their participation enhances the festival and is a living reflection of Tomelloso's identity.

Harúspices Cultural Association: With nearly 40 years of history, it is a cultural benchmark both within and outside the region. Established in 1986, it has won numerous awards at the provincial, regional, and national levels, including several Golden Harlequin awards at the National Piñata Sunday Parade in Ciudad Real. Its commitment goes beyond the carnival: it participates in festive parades and processions, and also stage plays and musicals.

Los Amigos Club: Together with Harúspices, for years it contributed greatly to the splendor of the Tomelloso Carnival. After a hiatus, they returned with a vengeance with nearly a hundred members. Their goal is clear: to participate and enjoy themselves without focusing on competition, with fun and camaraderie as their banner. They also parade in Tomelloso and nearby towns.

Los "Canuthi" Club: A carnival club with a presence at the local festival, known for adding atmosphere, participation, and a desire to have fun. Its contribution reinforces the collective spirit of Carnival and the open and festive character of Tomelloso.

Estudio de Danza Lidia Gorrachategui. This academy transforms the Monday Carnival parade into a stage, where hundreds of students stand out for their great technical precision and themed performances. By combining creative costumes with diverse dance styles, they have established themselves as a group that brings elegance and visual dynamism to the celebration.

Don't miss the vibrant and colorful Carnival of Tomelloso!

The Carnival of Tomelloso is an invitation to creativity, joy and togetherness. We encourage you to enjoy an unforgettable experience, where imagination and festive spirit take over every corner of the city.

For more information, please contact the Tomelloso City Council:
·Telephone: 926 52 88 00
·Website: http://www.tomelloso.es/
·Email: info@visitatomelloso.com

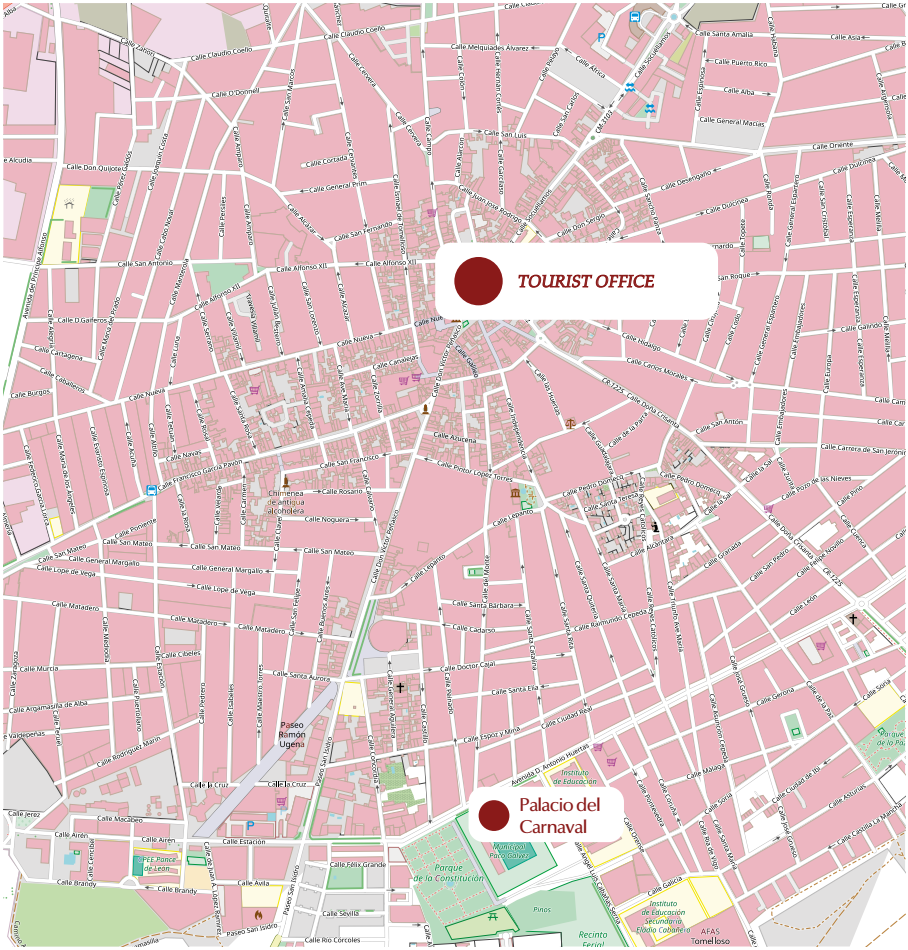




Carnival Palace: marquee set up at the Paco Gálvez Municipal Stadium (Antonio Huertas Avenue). Free admission.
Las Moreras Promenade and Bullring: starting point for street mask parades and the Burial of the Sardine. Tomelloso Casino: venue for dances and evening gatherings.

Recommendations

Arrive early for parades and competitions to get a good spot. Wear a costume or mask: participation is welcome at all events.
Bring a coat for the evenings, although many activities are held in enclosed marquees. Respect the timetable, rules and the free and family-friendly spirit of the Tomelloso carnival.



Municipal Tourist Office

Tuesday to Friday: 9:30 a.m.–2:00 p.m. and 4:30 p.m.–7:30 p.m.
Saturdays: 10:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m. and 4:30 p.m.–8:00 p.m.
Sundays: 10:00 a.m.–2:30 p.m.
Public holidays: 11:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m./Mondays: closed

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