



The origin of the Dénia Fallas.

In 1927 two locals from Les Roques were the instigators of what we know today as the Dénia Fallas. Together with some of their neighbours, they made a fabric figure which they then filled with seaweed brought from the shore, and named it "Tío Pep" (Uncle Joe). On Saint Joseph's Day they paraded this figure through the whole town and finally set a light to it on top of a mountain of old furniture and other household rubbish that would burn easily.

Twenty years later, in 1947, two locals from Calle Olivera built a falla once more. At the same time, a group of

"Pepes" belonging to the falla called "Peña del Tío Pep" then constructed another falla in the Plaza del Mercado. As a result of this, a meeting was called that same year attended by residents of the various local districts, which gave rise to the constitution of the Junta Central Fallera de Dénia (Central Fallera Committee of Dénia), and to the birth of the Fallera districts known as Centro, Marítimo, Oeste and Roques. Nowadays Dénia still has the falla belonging to the Junta Local Fallera (Local Fallera Committee), as well as 11 other separate fallero districts.

The Fallas in *Dénia*

history
tradition
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The origin of the Fallas.



The fallas began as a festival celebrated by the local artisans in honour of Saint Joseph. In the Valencian Community this festival dates back to the second half of the 18th century, when it was just a simple festivity held as part of the proceedings involved in the general Saint Joseph's day celebrations on the 19th March.

At daybreak on the 18th March there appeared in some of the streets small stages made of straw on which one or two doll-like figures (ninots) were displayed, depicting in a satirical way some local event, misconduct, or town personality. During the course of the day the children and adolescents collected up as much combustible material as they could find and constructed small rubbish heaps which they called fallas. These were all set alight at dusk on the eve of Saint Joseph's Day when a large crowd of

the local people gathered around the bonfire to watch them burn.

The special characteristic of these satirical fallas is that they are intended to portray a criticism of social policy. They choose a particular topic and give it either a satirical or humorous twist. These tableaux represent scenes alluding to personalities, events or political actions which the falleros (members of the falla groups) consider worthy of criticism or to be made fun of.



Experience the fallas in Dénia.



The important days of the Fallas celebration start with the “plantà”, or the construction of the fallas, on the 15th March, after which the party mood gets more and more intense culminating on Saint Joseph’s night (San José) on the 19th March when the “cremà” (the burning) brings the fiesta to a close.

In Dénia, during the days of the falla celebrations, you can have fun looking at the figures and thinking about the images and the social comment represented in them, as well as joining in with the fiesta mood filling the whole town. In the early morning “les despertaes” (rockets) announce the start of the day’s activities and the “mascletaes” (firework explosions) at 2.30 pm fill the town with noise and smoke and are considered to play a major part in the celebrations. One of the main events, which really is a ‘must see’ for the visitor, is the offering of flowers to “La Mare de Deu dels Desemparats” (the Virgin of the Unprotected) when the falleros and falleras (men and women of the Fallas) dress up in their traditional costumes and walk in procession

to leave flowers on the gown of the Virgin. The fiesta closes with the main event: “La Cremà”, and when the fallas are all burnt and all that remains are the ashes, everyone looks forward to working again on the preparations for next year’s celebrations. In Dénia the fallas don’t all burn at the same time; this means that both the tourist and the resident can watch the “cremà” of various different fallas. In fact, all you have to do is to follow the crowds on foot from one falla to the next! There is an art to “La Cremà”: it’s at its best when the burning takes place slowly, and the flames consume the falla little by little until the wooden skeleton becomes visible, and finally disappears.



- Fallas in Dénia
- 01- Falla Centro
 - 02- Falla Les Roques
 - 03- Falla Baix la Mar
 - 04- Falla Oeste
 - 05- Falla Port-rotés
 - 06- Falla Saladar
 - 07- Falla Diana
 - 08- Falla París-Pedrerà
 - 09- Falla Darrere del Castell
 - 10- Falla Campaments
 - 11- Falla Camp Roig
 - 12- Falla Junta Local Fallera