

VÉLEZ - MÁLAGA

UNIQUE PROVINCIAL TOURIST FEAST

The Passion Play in Cajiz

Friday and Saturday of Holy Week

El Paso de Cajiz is one of the live representations of Christ's Passion that visitors can see in the Axarquía on Good Friday and Saturday.

The play starts at 11:30 a.m. in Cajiz's football ground. There are 230 actors and includes 36 scenes from the Old and New Testaments. It lasts approximately 3 hours.

Live Crib in Almayate

End of December

Entire families, businesses, groups and associations get together to put on stage the Birth of Jesus. There are no professional actors. The play consists of 12 scenes, from the Annunciation to the Flight to Egypt.



OTHER FEASTS OF INTEREST TO TOURISTS

Carnival

February

These are days filled with bands, fancy dress competitions, and above all enjoyment. The official competition for bands and carnival groups is held in Teatro Del Carmen.

There is a parade with a huge number of people wearing fancy dress from the district of El Pilar to Plaza de las Carmelitas, where prizes are handed out to the best.

Holy Week: Feast

End of March or beginning of April

Holy Week in Velez is enjoyed not just by the inhabitants of Velez-Málaga but by the rest of the Axarquía, with many coming from other areas as it is rightly considered one of the best in Andalusia. The religious tradition of the city, as seen with the construction of numerous convents and churches since the end of the XV Century,

led naturally to the establishment of rites which are manifested during Holy Week.

Brotherhoods which were founded early on compete in splendor with more recent ones during these days when the city lives exclusively for its processions. It would be useless to pick out one brotherhood in particular; every one of them, with their magnificent decorations and their followers, contribute to make the Holy Week in Velez-Málaga a memorable occasion.

A total of 25 religious floats belonging to 18 brotherhoods process through the streets during this magnificent Holy Week.

Pilgrimage of the Sacred Heart of Jesus

1 May

It begins at 8 a.m. with a mass following which the pilgrimage sets off to the area of Taramillas. At around 1 p.m. there is a floral offering to the Virgin of Carmen in the church of San Andres in Torre del Mar.



About 20 teams of oxen and cows participate.

Day of the Cross

3 May

The Feast of the Cross takes place in springtime, from the 27 April to the 3 May. It commemorates the capture of the city by King Ferdinand "The Catholic". An open air dance is organized in the place known as Cruz del Cordero or Cross of the Lamb.

Ballix Souk

From the 1 to the 3 May

Ballix Souk is held in the district of La Villa in Vélez-Málaga. It is an Andalus craft market which occupies the area from Plaza de la Constitución to La Fortaleza and it attracts over 50 craftsmen from the Axarquía who exhibit their hand-made products in their stalls and workshops. During the day there are musical performances, food tasting, Andalus dancing, tournaments and games for children, and a competition for period costumes.

Pilgrimage of the Virgin of los Remedios

Mid-May

The pilgrimage of the Virgin of los Remedios is held in Finca de La Pola, and is characterized by its good atmosphere. It begins with a mass in the shrine of El Cerro and continues in the olive grove in Camino de Torrox, where the pilgrims gather with their carts.

This is a day for sharing food and drink; there is also an animal taming competition.

Pilgrimage in the Waters of Caleta de Vélez

23 and 24 May

It is the only pilgrimage at sea in the district, in honor of the Virgin of Carmen, patron saint of fishermen.

It begins on the Saturday with a floral offering and the arrival of carts on the Beach of Las Palmeras, next to the port. During Sunday, there is a procession through the main streets of the town up to the church. Many people gather on the beach from midday to enjoy the

barbecued sardines on the seashore next to the statue of the patron saint. There is music and dancing. Finally, the festivities end at about 9 p.m.

Midsummer Night

24 June

Midsummer Night's Eve is celebrated with competitions. An open air dance and other performances are held around this time, when people carry out the ritual of washing their face with sea water or dunking themselves in nine waves as is traditional.

Caleta de Vélez Fair

From 3 to 5 July

This is an event which includes sport, entertainment, music and art competitions. It ends on the Sunday with barbecued sardines and paella in the fair ground.





Veladilla del Carmen

16 July

As is the tradition in fishing villages, the statue of the Virgin is accompanied by decorated boats and fireworks displays. This huge maritime procession is Velez-Málaga's summer fair.

The Brotherhood of Fishermen, in Caleta de Velez, is responsible for the procession of the patron saint. The mass takes place at 10 a.m. and the procession starts at 9 p.m. from the village's tiny church. Around 40 men in bare feet, wearing blue trousers, white shirt and a red sash, carry the statue of the Virgin.

In Torre del Mar the procession of the Virgin of Carmen takes place from the district of Las Melosas and Las Protegidas. It starts at 8 in the evening and when it reaches the Fuente de Piedra on the promenade in Torre, the statue is embarked to continue its journey in Mediterranean waters, watched by the faithful.

San Miguel Royal Fair

End of September

The main attraction of the festivities is the daytime fair in the town centre. There are about fifty pavilions which guarantee a good atmosphere in the fair. It takes place in Plaza de las Carmelitas, Calles Canalejas and Calle Reñidero and Paseo de Andalucía.

During these days there are performances by folk groups and choirs, a festival of regional dance, a day dedicated to children with music, games and workshops, sports competitions, food tasting; everything one would expect from a great fair.

Los Remedios

November

The religious aspect of this feast is the taking of the statue of the patron saint, the Virgin of Remedios, to its shrine in El Cerro, once the celebrations in its honor in the parish church of San Juan Bautista are over. Later, there is a procession and the statue is carried through

the town accompanied by the municipal band. Before entering its shrine, where it remains until next year, the statue is turned to face the town to bid farewell to the faithful amid a fireworks display. ■

FEASTS & FESTIVALS

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