

# YOUR GUIDE TO HOGUERAS DE SAN JUAN (BONFIRES OF SAINT JOHN) IN ALICANTE

THE FULL LOWDOWN ON ALICANTE'S BIGGEST FESTIVAL



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**ALICANTE**  
*Olé*

# HOGUERAS DE SAN JUAN

**Hogueras de San Juan (Bonfires of Saint John)** in Alicante is an epic, fiery, and totally unforgettable experience. It's the city's biggest festival.

If you're in Alicante in late June, you cannot miss it.

## 🔥 What Is Hogueras de San Juan?

It's a massive fire festival held every year from June 20–24, celebrating the summer solstice and the arrival of San Juan (Saint John's Day) on June 24.

- Giant, artistic sculptures (called hogueras or ninots)
- Fireworks and parades
- Street parties and music
- The grand finale: burning the sculptures in a wild bonfire night

It's like a mix of art, fire, music, satire, and all-out partying.



## 🎨 **1. Plantà (June 20)**

- Giant sculptures are installed all over the city across 80+ neighborhoods!
- Many sculptures are hilarious, political, surreal
- The best times to walk around the city and view the sculptures are early in the mornings and during the night to avoid the hottest time of day.

## 🎆 **2. Parades & Mascletàs (June 20–24)**

- Loud, rhythmic daytime fireworks (mascletàs) take place every afternoon at 2pm in Plaza de los Luceros
- Traditional parades in costume, marching bands, floats across the city



## 2025 Dates & Highlights

 June 20–24, 2025

### 3. Nightlife & Street Parties

- Each neighborhood has a “barraca” — an outdoor bar/party tent with live music and DJs
- Each evening people flood the streets to eat, drink, dance until the early hours

### 4. Noche de San Juan (June 24, midnight) – The Cremà

- The burning of the hogueras all over the city begins at midnight with the biggest bonfire in Plaza del Ayuntamiento
- Firefighters hose down the crowds (tradition!)

### 5. Firework Competition (June 25–29)

- Every night on Postiguat Beach, fireworks light up the sky at midnight





The **Hogueras de San Juan** origins lie in the ancient custom of burning unwanted objects at the summer solstice. The festivities begin with the “Pregon” (proclamation) and the “Planta,” when the creative and satirical “hogueras” are placed across the city. These ephemeral monuments are at the heart of the festival, accompanied by parades, street performances, and the traditional “Cabalgata del Ninot” (Ninot Parade).



The most anticipated moment arrives on June 24th, the Festival of San Juan, when the purifying fire engulfs the “hogueras,” creating a breathtaking spectacle of flames, light, and emotion. The Hogueras also features one of Spain’s most prominent bullfighting fairs.



## The Hogueras: Art Ephemeral Monuments

The **Hogueras (Bonfires)** are impressive works of art that combine sculpture and painting and can reach up to 12 meters in height.

Each monument, built with materials such as wood and cork, represents a social critique through satirical scenes formed by the famous ninots. These creations, classified into various categories according to their budget, are judged for their creativity by a jury before being consumed by fire during the crema.

On June 24th, at midnight, after days of admiration, they are consumed by flames in the magical “Nit de la Crema”, closing the festivities with a spectacular purifying fire and the traditional “Banya”.



## Gunpowder and Mascletas

The “**mascletas**”. Every day at 2:00 PM in the Plaza de los Luceros, the air erupts with a symphony of firecrackers, captivating thousands of spectators with a soundscape that is not only heard but felt.





The “**Belleas del Foc**” (Beauties of Fire) and their Court of Honor embody the spirit of the festival through their exquisite Valencian costumes.

These include voluminous skirts, elaborate jewelry, and traditional hairstyles that highlight their central role in the festivities.

Costumes of Foguerer and Foguerera: The representatives of each “hoguera” (bonfire group) wear traditional regional attire. Men wear fitted pants called “zaragüelles,” paired with a shirt, sash, and an embroidered vest. Women wear wide, flowing skirts known as “faldas de fallera,” along with a blouse, shawl, or cape, and traditional hair accessories.



The traditional clothing during the Hogueras de San Juan showcases Alicante’s rich cultural heritage and deep-rooted traditions, serving as a symbol of pride and identity for its people.



## Hogueras Commissions and Barraca Entrances

The commissions are the soul of the Hogueras, transforming neighborhoods into festive stages. During the celebration, they erect the monumental “hogueras” and create spaces for neighbors and visitors to gather, share, and enjoy.

The “barracas” are distinguished by their unique facades, which are true works of art blending creativity and tradition. Decorated with motifs referencing Alicante’s customs, gastronomy, and history, these entrances symbolize the identity of each “barraca” and its commission.







## Nanos, Gegants and Les Danses: The Dance of the Festival


Since the 15th century, the “nanos i gegants” have been part of Alicante’s festivities. These giant figures parade through the streets, bringing joy and tradition to the Bonfires.

The traditional Valencian dance, known as “les danses,” adds a folkloric touch to the celebration. Performed in plazas and streets during the festivities, it connects the people of Alicante to their cultural roots, offering a colorful and joyful spectacle.



## Tips for Enjoying Hogueras

-  It's hot: Temps in June often hit 30°C+ — stay hydrated
-  Wear comfy shoes: You'll walk a lot
-  Bring earplugs if you're sensitive to noise (those mascletàs are no joke)
-  Camera-ready: The sculptures are wild — satire, pop culture, fantasy

 **Stay up late:** Alicante doesn't sleep this week. Embrace it or make sure you sleep during the day 'siesta' and get ready to party every night!

## Visiting Alicante just before or after Hogueras?

You can also visit the Museo de Hogueras (Hogueras Museum) year-round — it displays past sculptures, costumes, and the history of the festival. Make sure you visit if you want a sneak peek before or after the real thing.

After the main events, the celebrations continue with a fireworks contest at Coco Beach (near to Postiguët) from 25<sup>th</sup> - 29<sup>th</sup> June.

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