

LA TOMATINA

The tomato fight has been a strong tradition in Bunol since 1944 or 1945. The massive food fight has around 20,000 people expected to attend every year. It is held on the last Wednesday of August. Thousands upon thousands of people make their way from all corners of the world to fight in this 'World's Biggest Food Fight' where more than one hundred metric tons of over-ripe tomatoes are thrown in the streets. Everyone says the story goes that, during a street parade back in 1945, a street fight broke out when one angry local started to throw vegetables at everyone from a nearby market stall. A group of young people fought back, and a huge food fight broke out. The next year, the same people picked a fight on purpose and brought their own supply of tomatoes. The fight only lasts for one hour, but during that time around 150,000 over-ripe tomatoes are splattered.



The majority of participants wear white, presumably because of the heat, or to see exactly how much of a mess the tomatoes make of their clothes. But you'll see plenty of people wear swimming goggles or snorkelling gear to keep the purée out of their eyes and nose. Tomatoes are apparently a natural disinfectant, meaning that after La Tomatina your skin will be very clean. The town is also left surprisingly clean, with firefighters hosing down the streets after the battle. The festival has been recreated all over the world, with versions of the event popping up everywhere from Colombia to China. One attempt at holding a similar tomato fight in India, was highly controversial because of the 'wastage of tomatoes' and the event was soon banned. La Tomatina Festival is not just a short tomato fight. The week leading up to the main event is filled with parades, fireworks and paella cooking contests on the streets of the town.

