

# AZPEITIA'S FESTIVALS



We are three teenagers from Azpeitia, and we are writing about different festivals of our town. We took this topic because we thought it was the best way to describe it. In our opinion, it is a cheerful town since we celebrate a lot of festivals through the year. We are going to write about different festivals, such as "San Sebastian", "San Juan", The carnivals and "San Inazio". Despite we celebrate more festivals than we are going to explain.

## SAN SEBASTIAN

This festival takes part on the 19<sup>th</sup> of January. The cause of this celebration is that once upon a time a French army come and burnt the old part of the city of San Sebastian, and to celebrate that victory , they played drums around the city.



Since 1957, we imitate that army wearing similar clothes and playing drums with different songs, around the streets, on the 19<sup>th</sup> of January. Moreover, next day, young people play drums wearing the same clothes as the adults. The "kantiñera", "abanderada" and " zuzendaria" are the most important figures of every team, so all people wants to be one of them.



The "kantiñera" s go in front of the group accompanying it. In every group there are two of them , each in opponent sides.

However, The "abanderada" goes in front of the group and the "kantiñera"s. When this festival is finishing, all the "abanderada"s go to the city council to play the last song, so in our opinion the most important one of the three girls is the "abanderada".



The "zuzendari" is the person who directs the group. He says how they must play the drums.

## SAN INAZIO

We celebrate this festival from 30<sup>th</sup> of July to the 2<sup>nd</sup> of August. It is celebrated in homage to the saint Inazio. Years ago, all the inhabitants used to go to the church but now, only grown up people go. In other words, this festival's religion meaning is losing. Music is so important in this festival. In the afternoons always are bullfights and games in the "txosnak" for teenagers.

Shield of S.Inazio



On the 30<sup>th</sup>, the mayor fires the "txupinazo" to start the festival. Then there is always the town lunch, so everybody goes to lunch on this day to the square. The menu is always the same, people come from Zaragoza to make a giant paella. When teenagers finish eating, they go to the games and they have a good time. But in San Inazio, you can find things to do for everybody and ages. For example, there are always a lot of roundabouts for children to have a great time.

## SAN JUAN

This festival takes part on the 24<sup>th</sup> of June. It is very different comparing with the others. They say that this day is the longest and the night the shortest one, because sun grows dark later than regularly. According to the old legends, that night is very special, because bad things that happened through the year can disappear if you write in a paper and throw into the fire.

On the 24<sup>th</sup> night, they make a giant fire in the square and different groups act there. For example, a group of dancers dance around the fire and some musician play different songs to make the atmosphere better.



Some children throw their school books into the fire, because in that date, school is finished and summer holidays begin.

## THE CARNIVALS

As far as we are concerned, this festival is one of the most special in Azpeitia. It hasn't got an exact day to celebrate as others have got, it depends on Easter Holidays. It starts 40 days before Easter Holidays. It's held during 3 days: Sunday, Monday and Tuesday.



On Sunday, we celebrate the Elegant Day. This day is very particular because it looks like the 19<sup>th</sup> century, this is because people are dressed up like in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Girls wear a gown

however, boys a suit with a white or a red flower. The colour depends on being in love or not. If you are in love you wear a red flower, but if you aren't, you wear a white flower. What is more, this flowers are to give to the girl you love, but as we said before, and if you aren't in love you can give to anybody. Each group of friends have lunch together and after they have got the opportunity to play with the bull and enjoy the party.



On Monday, all the inhabitants disguise. For a day, they become in another person and they leave their shame at home. In the afternoon, bull and music are the main attractions.

Tuesday, is the last day of carnivals, so "sokamuturra" and music, give the end of this magnificent festivals.

To sum up, in our opinion Azpeitia has got brilliant festivals since we don't get bored and we spend a wonderful time. As you can see in the text, we love to enjoy ourselves. Because of that, we would like to organise these festivals and receive an award honouring our job. To finish, we would like to say that we invite you to come and enjoy, because we are sure of that you will have a really good time!

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