

LIVE MUSIC  
*in Spain*



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Front Cover: Benicàssim International Festival (FIB)  
 Photo: FIB  
 Back cover: LEV Festival, Gijón  
 Photo: LEV Festival

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Photo: Destination Madrid

# INTRODUCTION

▲ MAD COOL FESTIVAL  
MADRID

Visit our country and **enjoy music** like never before. There are about a **thousand music festivals** each year, including some of the best in Europe. You'll be surprised by the **great variety of events** on the Spanish musical scene, their size, incredible venues and excellent programmes.

There are some huge events with the best artists on the Spanish and international pop-rock scene, as well as *boutique* festivals with all modern comforts, sessions of electronic music until dawn, ground breaking sounds, world music, *reggae*... Whatever you have on your *playlist*, here you'll find an event to suit your tastes.

Between concerts you can spend your time discovering the delights of the **incredible cultural attractions** in cit-

ies like Barcelona, Madrid, Málaga and along the Mediterranean coast which becomes a Mecca for the international music scene in spring and summer. Our wonderful climate and the geographical location are ideal for you to enjoy the best bands, as well as the sunshine, the beach and a little active tourism.

Enjoy fantastic experiences full of music and culture in incredible surroundings.

Idyllic beaches with the stage right by the sea, cities full of history and extraordinary natural surroundings are just some of the advantages of the venues for our festivals.

Spain is the perfect destination for really feeling and enjoying music.



# 10 ESSENTIAL FESTIVALS

▲ SÓNAR  
BARCELONA

## SÓNAR BARCELONA

At the start summer the city of Barcelona becomes the capital of the latest electronic music with **Sónar**, the **International Festival of Advanced Music and Multimedia Art**.

With over 25 years' experience, this pioneering cultural event has a unique format and content, making it a top-

flight international benchmark with its blend of music, creativity and technology. Each year it attracts over 100,000 people from all over the world, with a carefully selected programme combining artistic, avant-garde and experimentation with the latest trends in electronic dance music.

The activities are divided into two large, complementary sections which are held in the two enclosures which make up the Fira de Barcelona: **Sónar de Día**, daytime concerts and *showcases* in **Fira Montjuic** next to the iconic Plaza de España, and the great nighttime *shows* which make up **Sónar de Noche**, in **Fira Gran Via de L'Hospitalet**, with appearances by the greatest names on the international music panorama. Both venues are interconnected by public transport and are easily accessible from Barcelona Airport. Supplementary venues feature the **Barcelona Auditorium**, in El Ensanche, the **Barcelona Contemporary Culture Centre (CCCB)** and the amazing open air stage at the **Teatre Grec**.

Apart from incredible live sets by *DJs*, you can also experience the latest in multimedia art at this global event and meeting point for different creative disciplines and communities from all over the world. This is the focal point for **Sónar+D**, an international congress on digital transformation in the creative industries, attended by both fans and professionals looking to discover emerging talent.

While you're here, it's so easy to take advantage of everything that Barcelona has to offer, the location of Sónar de Día near the city centre makes everything so accessible. The capital of Catalonia is the epitome of a modernist city. Here you can see the foremost architectural treasures designed by Antoni Gaudí, like the **Sagrada Família** and **Güell Park**. There are also Roman remains and medieval neighbourhoods like the



▲ GOTHIC QUARTER  
BARCELONA

famous **Gothic Quarter** where you can stroll around and just feel the history. You'll discover a city that's open to the world: a venue for international events and a driver of new trends, something that can be seen from the multitude of venues dedicated to alternative culture. A simple walk along the **Ramblas** is enough to observe the cosmopolitan spirit of this city that attracts travellers from cultures around the world.

① **Where: Barcelona**

**When: June/July (3 days)**

**Style: electronic and experimental music**

**For further information and ticket sales go to: [www.sonar.es](http://www.sonar.es)**

## PRIMAVERA SOUND BARCELONA

An event attended every year by about 200,000 people, featuring the latest top-quality attractions, always with a certain risk attached to the discovery of new bands destined to become leading players in the international music scene.

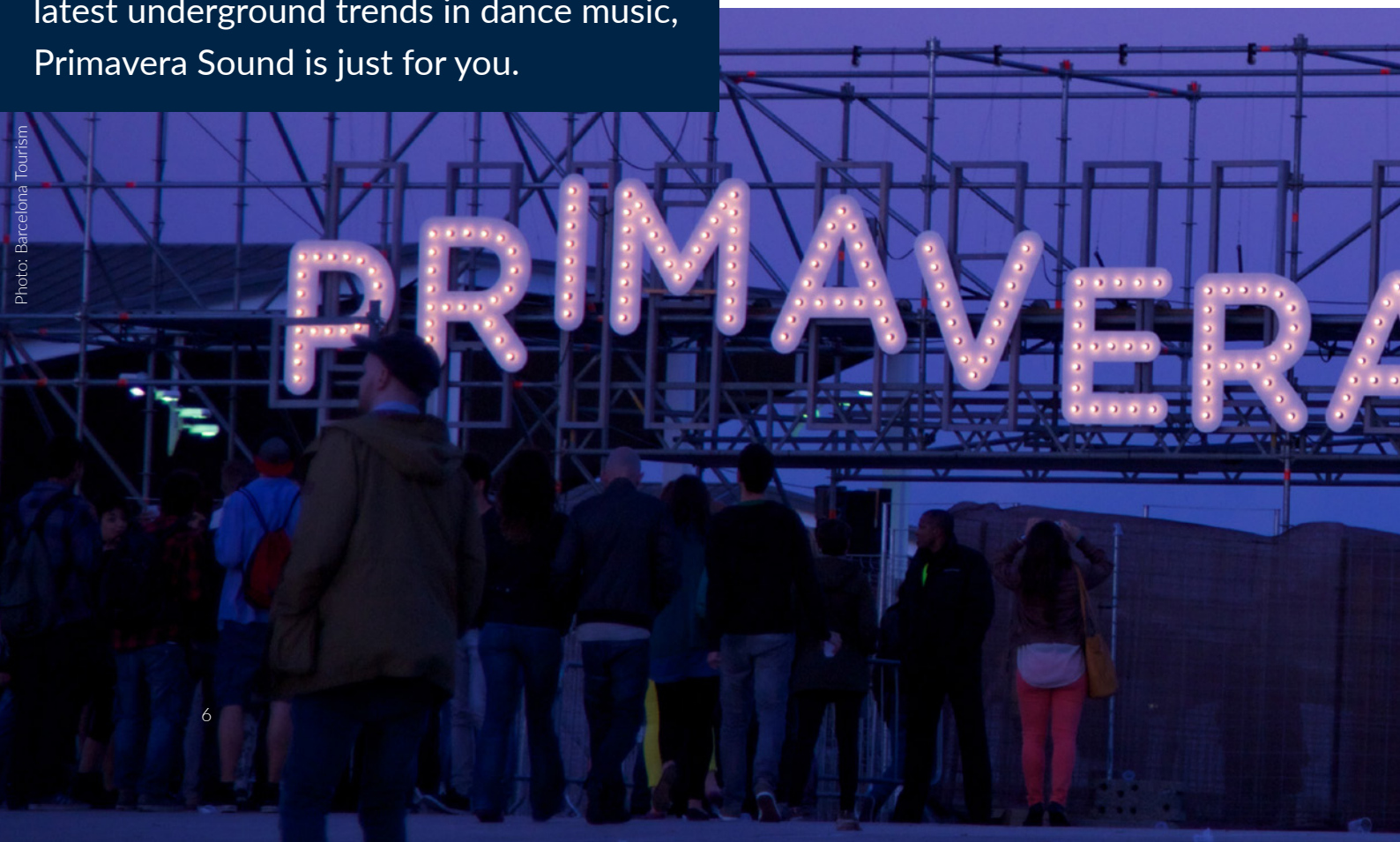
It usually takes place in May and has been an event not to be missed on the European scenario since it started out in 2001. Pixies, Arcade Fire, Kendrick Lamar, Lou Reed and the Pet Shop Boys are just a few of the amazing groups to have appeared here.

The **Parc del Fòrum** is a huge complex featuring both outdoor and indoor spac-

es where the stages are located, and with a full range of services you won't be wanting for anything. It is located on the outskirts of Barcelona in the district of **San Adrián de Besós** on the waterfront facing the Mediterranean, with great access from the city centre via a bus service to and from the **Plaza de Catalunya** as well as the Metro and a bike rental service.

Are you into electronic music? With **Primavera Bits** the *DJ* sessions take you right down to the beach, with the stages on the seafront. Here you can not only dance to your heart's content, you can

If you're into pop, rock, hip hop and the latest underground trends in dance music, Primavera Sound is just for you.



take a dip to cool off or enjoy a really good *paella*. Three exclusive stages and 18 hours of uninterrupted music each day so the fun never stops.

**Primavera Pro** takes place right alongside this event in Barcelona and is an international meeting point for music industry professionals which has now become an international benchmark for independent music. The programme includes conferences, workshops, *showcases* and meetings which take place during the day and go to make up the **Day Pro Conference**, and the exclusive **Night Pro** Area within the Parc del F6rum, where up-and-coming groups from the participating countries are presented.

In addition to the outdoor concerts, in the autumn there is the **Primavera Club** which takes place in a number of venues in Barcelona and gives you the chance to get to know some of the artists which will be appearing in Primavera Sound in the future.

It's absolutely impossible to take part in the whole programme, so you really ought to check on timetables to make sure you don't miss your favourite performances. Or you could just take it as it comes, a great way to enjoy this vast showcase of musical surprises.

① **Where:** *Barcelona*

**When:** *end of May and beginning of June*

**Style:** *pop-rock, electronic and dance*

**For further information and ticket**

**sales go to:** [www.primaverasound.es](http://www.primaverasound.es)



PRIMAVERA SOUND FESTIVAL  
BARCELONA



Photo: Destination Madrid

▲ MAD COOL FESTIVAL  
MADRID

## MAD COOL MADRID

A new arrival with a huge presence, with the first editions presenting the great legends of rock and the best of today's *indie*. Neil Young, The Who, Wilco, Foals and the Foo Fighters have all appeared in the programme.

It takes place in July and hasn't stopped growing since the first edition in 2016, when it became Europe's breakthrough festival. The move to a new venue with green spaces in **Valdebebas**, a district to the north of Madrid, will give you

a good idea of how it intends to keep growing and become bigger, stronger and better each year.

The Espacio Mad Cool covers some 100,000 square metres and was designed to hold 80,000 people. There are seven big stages, a comprehensive catering area and a full range of services. Take a ride on the gigantic big wheel, the event's icon, and enjoy incredible panoramic views of the Madrid skyline.





There are three days of uninterrupted music, with parallel activities that also play a leading role. The main ones are **Mad Cool Gallery** and the **Art Market**, meeting points where you can discover the artistic creations of a number of different artists. Photography, painting and digital art exhibitions blend perfectly with the cosmopolitan, modern atmosphere of the event.

Public transport, with the metro and city buses, are the best way of travelling to and from the venue, as well as getting around the city. Whilst you're in the city, you should explore some of

the neighbourhoods with centuries of history, like **Madrid de los Austrias**, and pop into alternative bars and shops in **Malasaña** and **Chueca**.

There are endless cultural attractions in Madrid. Theatres, live music venues, museums and all kinds of entertainment await you. Don't miss out on this chance to enjoy the best music and everything the city has to offer.

① *Where: Madrid*

*When: mid-July*

*Style: rock, indie, electronic...*

*For further information and ticket*

*sales go to: [www.madcoolfestival.es](http://www.madcoolfestival.es)*



## BENICÀSSIM INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL (FIB)

If you aren't an *FIB fan* yet, you soon will be: a line-up full of great stars each year makes the FIB a truly international event. If to the music we then add exhibitions, competitions, loads of fun, sandy beaches, brilliant sunshine... What you get is an irresistible cocktail.

Boredom is forbidden. With this in mind, every summer thousands of music lovers from all over the world flood the streets of Benicàssim in the heart of the **Costa del Azahar** in Castellón (Valencia Region). You have several days to discover new talent and watch established stars entertaining their fans in the different areas and marquees which make up the enclosure.



Photo: FIB

▲ BENICÀSSIM INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL (FIB)

You can enjoy a number of parallel activities including competitions, dance shows, theatre, contemporary art exhibitions and the screening of short films. This creative climate can be found throughout the town, which gets fully involved in this event whose following grows from year to year, and where good feeling, tolerance and a desire to have fun reign above all.

This unique atmosphere is especially apparent in the festival's camping areas where those attending can rest and recover, even if only for a couple of

hours. There you'll also find a market where you can find CDs, clothes, accessories, hairdressing, tattoos, body piercing and restaurants.

There's so much you can do with four days of concerts and eight days camping. Whilst you're there you should explore the delights of the surrounding area. Apart from cooling off on one of the five urban beaches, a great idea is to explore the **Vía Verde del Mar**, a Green Trail along a disused railway line which you can take on foot or by bike.

The itinerary from **Playa de Voramar** to **Playa de la Concha** runs parallel to the coast and there are several rest areas with benches and access to look-out points with majestic views of the Mediterranean and on a clear day you can see the **Columbretes Islands**.

There is a great variety of rice dishes, seafood and fresh fish for you to try in one of the beach bars and restaurants overlooking the sea on the promenade in Benicàssim.

① **Where:** *Benicàssim, Castellón*

**When:** *mid-July*

**Style:** *pop, rock, indie, electronic...*

**For further information and ticket**

**sales go to:** *[www.fiberfib.com](http://www.fiberfib.com)*

▼ BENICÀSSIM INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL (FIB)





And you really must try a good **paella**, the culinary flagship of Spain's east coast.

▲ BENICÀSSIM

▼ PAELLA



## BBK LIVE BILBAO

Bilbao means green mountains, *pintxos* (traditional aperitifs) in the old town, the estuary, the Guggenheim Museum... and BBK Live, one of Spain's most important music festivals which has been running since 2016. A varied selection of the greatest bands and artists have appeared here, including Guns 'n' Roses, The Police, R.E.M., Coldplay, Green Day, Red Hot Chili Peppers and The Cure.

▼ BBK LIVE  
BILBAO





GUGGENHEIM MUSEUM  
BILBAO

Apart from the incredible line-up each year, one of the best features is the venue itself, **Kobetamendi**. The location is ideal, on one of the hills surrounding the city and in a small forest, called **Basoa** in the Basque language, you'll find the area dedicated to *DJs*. Then there are three big stages and a marquee where you'll get the best pop, rock and electronic music on the planet.

Apart from the fantastic concerts, from Kobetamendi you'll get incredible panoramic views of the city of Bilbao. If you decide to stay at the *camp site* up on **Mount Arraiz** the views are even better. For your stay you have numerous options, from a classical tent to a cabin for two or four people, a Berber tent for eight and a *glamping* area.

The event gets better every year, with more services and activities and more comfortable facilities for both the au-

Impossible to be bored: you have karaoke, giant table football, a mini-stage to set up your own band, all kinds of attractions... Come and see for yourself!

dience and the artists, always with sustainability in mind.

Parallel to the festival programme there are morning activities like **Bereziak**, a contest which takes place in several venues in the city, including on a boat in the estuary. The Guggenheim Esplanade and the giant sculpture of Puppy are also witnesses to great performances.

As if the attractions of BBK weren't already enough, we ought to mention those of a lively and intriguing city like Bilbao. The Guggenheim Museum, a giant titanium structure beside the estuary and designed by Frank Gehry, is the standard-bearer for Modernism in a city with endless possibilities. Take a stroll through the old town or the Ensanche and enjoy a few delicious **pintxos** (traditional aperitifs), try one of the exquisite restaurants or take a dip on the nearby beaches of Plentzia and Gorliz.

📍 **Where: Bilbao (Vizcaya)**

**When: mid-July**

**Style: pop, rock, indie, electronic...**

**For further information and ticket sales go to: [www.bilbaobbklive.com](http://www.bilbaobbklive.com)**



LIVE MUSIC IN SPAIN

## SONORAMA RIBERA ARANDA DE DUERO

If you're looking for something a bit different from the macro-events and in surprising surroundings, here is where you'll find the best on the Spanish pop-rock scene.

This event was founded over 20 years ago by a group of young people from Aranda de Duero (Burgos) and has become one of the festivals on the music calendar not to be missed, winning the prize for best musical festival in Spain in 2012.

Over five days in August, the historical town centre of Aranda rocks to the rhythm of the free concerts held in the **Plaza del Trigo**. There you can

enjoy performances by the top artists and surprise guests in the line-up, all in the company of thousands of fans, with water hoses to cool everybody off when it gets too hot.

Another stage is set up on the esplanade of the **Exhibition Centre**, for performances with a larger audience, always including a big international band and raising the standard every year that goes by.

▲ SONORAMA  
ARANDA DE DUERO





MEDIEVAL BRIDGE  
ARANDA DE DUERO

Recent editions have seen the addition of new sections, like Latin-American music which takes place in the **La Isla Park**, and 60s music in the **Plaza Arco Pajarito**.

Apart from the music, there's also a great atmosphere in the *camping* area, as well as a number of parallel activities: competitions for short films and demo discs, conferences, young talent contest and Sonorama Baby, with a programme specially designed for children.

Another factor which makes this festival really special is the possibility of trying the excellent wines from the region and gastronomy to make your mouth water. While you're here to enjoy the music, you can also take the **Ribera de Duero Wine Route**, visit medieval subterranean wine cellars dug out under the historical old town and try typical



Photo: ACEVIN

▲ UNDERGROUND WINE-CELLARS  
ARANDA DE DUERO

local products like *morcilla* (a type of black pudding), roast lamb and pork chops from suckling pigs.

📍 **Where:** Aranda de Duero, Burgos

**When:** August

**Style:** pop-rock

**For further information and ticket sales go to:**

[www.sonorama-aranda.com](http://www.sonorama-aranda.com)

## ARENAL SOUND BURRIANA

Get your tent, swimming costume and sun cream ready for a great weekend during the first week in August. A great time and good vibes are guaranteed in Arenal Sound, one of the most indulgent festivals you'll find in mainland Spain.



There is an attractive line-up of great names in pop, electronic, hip hop and fusion in a fantastic beach side atmosphere with the famous pool parties: Sessions alternate between *DJs*, *bloggers* and *youtubers*, so you can have a really great time while cooling off in the pool.


Every year, the **Playa del Arenal** in Burriana is the place to be for thousands of "*Sounders*". The main stage right opposite the Mediterranean is just the place to enjoy the sensation of dancing on the sand under the moonlight and even watching the sunrise, because the music doesn't stop until 7 am.

Steve Aoki, Placebo and Two Door Cinema Club are just some of the artists who have performed at this great fes-

tival on the beach at Playa del Arenal. Each year the line-up includes top international stars and the best Spanish *indie* bands, as well as **Clandestine Sound**, a really great concert full of surprises.

The organisation sets up two camp sites: One in Arenal, on the seafront and next to the concert venue and another in Malvarrosa, about a 20-minute walk away. Both offer glamping services, with tents all ready and their own security provided. Both camp sites have lots of shade, different entertainment areas and that special Arenal Sound friendly, fun atmosphere.

If you're not into *camping* and prefer the comfort of an apartment, the Arenal Sound organisation has opened a section on its website.



Whilst you're here you should take a walk along the **Burriana seafront promenade** and explore the **Clot de la Mare de Déu**, a lush natural area alongside the Mijares River very near where it flows into the Mediterranean. The town's other great attraction is the marina and the water sports and activities available. A great bonus for a fantastic, unforgettable week.

① *Where: Burriana, Castellón*  
*When: first weekend in August*  
*Style: pop-rock, indie and fusion*  
*For further information and ticket sales go to: [www.arenasound.com](http://www.arenasound.com)*

## L.E.V. FESTIVAL GIJÓN

If you're looking for the latest trends in electronic and avant-garde sounds and how they relate to the visual arts then the L.E.V. shouldn't be missed. The L.E.V. or Visual Electronic Laboratory Festival has been held in Gijón (Asturias) for over ten years now.

The programme includes concerts, *performances* and experiences with a strong emotional content. The synergy between sound and vision makes for live shows which, rather than concentrating on aesthetic and musical values, provide the audience with an incredible, unique experience.

Here you won't find huge crowds and long queues, you'll be able to enjoy the intimate atmosphere of the alter-

native realities provided by each artist, with amazing light effects, audiovisual poems and the latest digital art techniques.

The activities at the L.E.V. take place in different venues within the **Laboral City of Culture** complex, like the Theatre, the Church and the LABoral Art Centre. These are the largest cultural facilities in Gijón, in what was formerly known as the Universidad Laboral.



▲ L.E.V. FESTIVAL  
GIJÓN

Other parts of the city are also used as special venues, like the **Botanical Gardens** and several museums, creating a circuit providing unique experiences with the presentation of interesting, avant-garde international audiovisual art.

Whilst you're here in Gijón you can enjoy its maritime flavour and explore its monumental heritage and modern town-planning surrounding the **Playa de San Lorenzo** on the shores of the Cantabrian sea. Take a walk from the beach to the Cimadevilla neighbourhood until you reach the Cerro de Santa Catalina park. There you'll find the huge **Elogio del Horizonte** sculpture, by Eduardo Chillida. Stand under it and you'll feel the waves and the howling wind. You could take a break and visit a traditional cider bar where you should try some **fabada**, a delicious, traditional, Asturian white bean casserole.



📍 **Where: Gijón (Asturias)**

**When: April/May**

**Style: electronic and experimental music**

**For further information and ticket sales**

**go to: [www.levfestival.com](http://www.levfestival.com)**

## RESURRECTION FEST VIVEIRO



▲ PLAYA DE COVAS - OS CASTELOS  
VIVEIRO, LUGO

Four days, four stages and 100 bands playing hard rock, hardcore, punk, and heavy metal in all its versions. This is the Resurrection Fest in a nutshell and which takes place in mid-July in amazing natural surroundings in the fishing village of **Viveiro** (Lugo).

Iron Maiden, Motörhead, Rammstein and Kiss have all appeared there. This great little festival, started over a decade ago by a few teenagers determined to bring their favourite band, Sick Of It All from New York, to Viveiro, gets bigger every year until it has become one of Europe's favourite festivals.

This quiet little village, nestling within the beautiful region of **A Marina**, suddenly swarms with fans from all over the world here to rock to great guitar *riffs* and see their favourite bands in action.

One of the great attractions of "Resu" as the festival is popularly referred to, are the lively camp sites. The ResuCamp is right next to the **Celeiro football ground**, where the concerts take place, and very near the beach with the same name. Meanwhile, the BeachCamp on the **Playa de Area** beach, is a different type of accommodation, with spec-



tacular views, superb location and all the comforts you need for an unforgettable stay.

A new feature for the latest editions has been **ResuKids**, a camp site designed for kids from 3 to 12 to enjoy activities together with their parents, like listening to music, visiting exhibitions and travelling. It's only 1 km from the concert area and the facilities include a tennis and football court, a gym, a large garden area and a cafeteria.

The Resurrection Fest is so much more than a good line-up and first-class ser-

vices. It's also a chance to visit the **old town** of Viveiro, enjoy some delicious typical cuisine from Galicia, go hiking in the surrounding hills, relax on the sandy beach before going to a concert, enjoy the sea breeze from the Cantabrian and the night views over the river and its estuary. You really should give this irresistible cocktail a try.

📍 **Where: Viveiro (Lugo)**

**When: mid-July**

**Style: Hardcore/punk and metal**

**For further information and ticket sales go to: [www.resurrectionfest.es](http://www.resurrectionfest.es)**



## CRUÏLLA BARCELONA

Fancy seeing your favourite bands but without the crowds? Would you rather have variety than quantity? These are the key attractions for Cruïlla, which takes place over a weekend in July in the **Parc del Fòrum** in Barcelona. An event not to be labelled, for listening to music without prejudice and where the audience play a leading role.

Here you'll be able to enjoy over 40 performances by top-flight international and Spanish bands. Variety is the key factor: you could start the day listening to a fusion band, then a funk, hip hop combo as the sun sets, and then dance the night away to the beat of electronic music.

Another of Cruïlla's strong points are the extra-musical activities, with circus and theatre groups to liven things up with performances, parades and all kinds of shows.

It's a down-tempo festival, with a limited capacity so you can enjoy yourself both day and night without crowds and no pushing and with long shows allowing the artists to deliver their very best *performances*. This means that people of all ages are made to feel comfortable and families are well catered for. To attract parents and children, entry is free for those who are 15 or under, providing they come with a parent or legal guardian.





Cruïlla is a unique opportunity to enjoy fantastic music in the best company, in pleasant surroundings next to the sea and with a great atmosphere. You'll also find a variety of gastronomic delights from all around the world, chill out areas where you can rest between concerts and a signature market.

📍 *Where: Barcelona*  
*When: July*  
*Style: pop, rock, hip hop, electronic...*  
*For further information and ticket sales go to:*  
[www.cruillabarcelona.com](http://www.cruillabarcelona.com)



## OTHER FESTIVALS

What would you think about taking a boat to a festival whose line-up you wouldn't know until the last minute? Or rocking to incredible bands on a platform floating on a reservoir surrounded by mountains? In Spain there are really unusual festivals, with so many types of music to suit all tastes. Here are just a few of the music festivals in our country which you shouldn't miss.

## DCODE MADRID

Every September, DCODE closes the festival season with a day full of action. It is known as "the last summer festival" with 18 hours of non-stop music in the **Southwest Area Sports Complex (Cantarranas)** of the Ciudad Universitaria, very near the centre of Madrid and well connected by public transport.

You get a real chance to explore the city's attractions while enjoying the latest sounds on the Spanish and international pop-rock scene. Great stars like Beck, Franz Ferdinand, The Killers and Sigur Rós have appeared here. The BDcoder competition is great for discovering the latest new talent, with the participation of young artists and bands who will give us so much to talk about in the future.

Take care with the timetable as there are about 20 bands on three stages for you to dance, sing and jump around to your heart's content.

📍 **Where: Madrid**

**When: September**

**Style: indie, pop and rock**

**For further information and ticket sales go to: [www.dcodefest.com](http://www.dcodefest.com)**

## LOW FESTIVAL BENIDORM

How about a festival with all modern comforts and affordable prices? What do you think about seeing your favourite artists and enjoying green areas where you can rest, an Olympic-size swimming pool (exclusively for VIP ticket holders) and concerts right by the sea? This is what you get at the Low Festival on the last weekend in July when the tourist resort of Benidorm (Alicante) becomes a never-ending party.

It all happens at the **Guillermo Amor Sports Centre**, a venue with huge lawns and separate areas for each stage. The organisers take pride in both the quality of the pop, rock and electronic artists as well as spectator comfort. That's why there is limited entry, so you can enjoy yourself without large crowds and the usual queues.

Low is committed to the environment, and is one of the festivals most involved with sustainability and cleaning up the premises.

📍 **Where: Benidorm, Alicante**

**When: last weekend in July**

**Style: pop, rock, electronic**

**For further information and ticket sales go to: [www.lowfestival.es](http://www.lowfestival.es)**

## ROTOTOM SUNSPASH BENICÀSSIM

Rototom is the biggest event in the world dedicated to reggae, dancehall and dub, attracting about 250,000 people. That, and the organisers' efforts to create a different experience every year make this one of our country's most important music festivals.

In mid-August, the **Festival Enclosure** is taken over by sounds from Jamaica, black and world music. But there's so much more to Rototom: it aims to promote those values which are an essential part of the reggae philosophy, like peace, equality, human rights and social justice.

The programme includes workshops, activities, gastronomy, a handicraft market and cultural debates which all take place in a number of different areas which include a children's play area, another for circus performances and one for live artistic creation.

The Benicàssim coastline enjoys a warm climate with lots of sunshine, and is ideal for a few days rest while you enjoy the event and dance along during the free activities. And it isn't the only attraction in the surrounding area, where you'll find the Desert de les Palmes Nature Reserve, where you can really switch off and enjoy incredible views of the Mediterranean.

① **Where:** Benicàssim, Castellón  
**When:** mid-August  
**Style:** reggae  
**For further information  
and ticket sales go to:**  
[www.rototomsun splash.com](http://www.rototomsun splash.com)

## FESTIVAL DE LES ARTS VALENCIA

Talking of surprising surroundings, the Festival de les Arts in Valencia is as good as it gets. The avant-garde architectural complex of the **City of Arts and Sciences** makes an ideal framework for this festival which is born out of the connection between music and other artistic disciplines like design, illustrating and gastronomy.

On the first weekend in June, the three stages provide over 24 hours of indie music with the best bands on the Spanish and International scene. The programme also includes the stalls in the Foodies Merkat, emerging designers and brands in the **Les Arts Market**, illustrators performing live and a fantastic fireworks display every night.

Apart from enjoying the music and the cultural entertainment programme in the City of Arts and Sciences, with extraordinary buildings like the Palau de les Arts and the Hemisfèric, you can stroll through the nearby **Turia Gardens** or take a walk as far as the historical town centre of Valencia and explore this monumental city. Urban beaches, fashionable neighbourhoods like Russafa and Manises as well as a lively cultural agenda await you there.

① **Where:** Valencia  
**When:** first weekend in June  
**Style:** alternative music,  
pop and rock  
**For further information  
and ticket sales go to:**  
[www.festivaldelesarts.com](http://www.festivaldelesarts.com)



## GRANADA SOUND GRANADA

Together with DCODE in Madrid, Granada Sound puts the finishing touch to the summer festival season. And what a finish! With two days of fantastic music with top Spanish pop-rock bands and a couple of international stars which every year attract a bigger crowd to the specially prepared enclosure in the **Paseo Cortijo del Conde** on the outskirts of the city. The shuttle buses arranged by the organisers guarantee an ongoing connection with the city centre.

To really experience Granada Sound in its broadest context, you should also book for the previous week to enjoy the **City of Rock** initiative, when Granada simply lives and breathes music. In numerous bars and taverns you can accompany your drinks and **tapas** with live shows, *showcases* and performances by up-and-coming bands.

You could also spend these days exploring incredible places like the **Alhambra**, a citadel, fortress and place of residence for Nasrid sultans and declared a World Heritage Site by the UNESCO. Take a stroll through the **gardens of the Generalife** while you listen to the water bubbling in fountains and pools, admire the extraordinary décor in the different patios and rooms and marvel at the sublime beauty.

Or you could visit the **Albaicín** neighbourhood, stroll through the narrow streets and enjoy the amazing views from the lookout points and the **cármenes** (typical multi-level Granada dwellings surrounded by gardens).

① **Where: Granada**

**When: September**

**Style: Spanish indie and international big names**

**For further information and ticket**

**sales go to: [www.granadasound.com](http://www.granadasound.com)**





▲ ANDALUSIA CONTEMPORARY ART CENTRE (CAAC)  
SEVILLE

## INTERESTELAR SEVILLE

A lively and fun city like Seville deserves a festival to match and Interestelar fits the bill. Its personality is laid down by the venue where it takes place: the **Andalusia Contemporary Art Centre (CAAC) - La Cartuja Monastery**, on the banks of the Guadalquivir River. A venue full of artistic and cultural history in whose gardens you can enjoy the latest trends in *indie* alongside Spanish pop-rock legends.

It is usually held over a weekend in mid-May, when in the CAAC they set up a VIP area, a *photocall*, a structure called **El Observatorio** where you can look out over the surrounding area from high up, numerous tables and food stalls, as well as large marquees

to protect you from the rain or the sun. Everything you need to enjoy a unique experience (at affordable prices, with inexpensive tickets and passes).

As it is near the centre of Seville, you can also experience the city's special spirit, the classical flavours trying lots of *tapas* in the historical old town and visiting amazing iconic places like the Plaza de España, the María Luisa Park, the Casa Pilatos and the Alcázar.

① **Where:** *Seville*

**When:** *mid-May*

**Style:** *pop-rock*

**For further information and ticket sales go to:**

[www.interestelarsevilla.com](http://www.interestelarsevilla.com)





▲ PLAZA MAYOR  
VILLARROBLEDO, ALBACETE

## FESTIVAL VIÑA ROCK

### VILLARROBLEDO

Every spring, Villarrobledo (Albacete) is turned into Spain's capital of rock, reggae, ska, rumba, rap and punk. It has become a tradition for thousands of youngsters to go to the **Viña Rock Native Art Festival** (its full name), one of the oldest on the Spanish scene. A ritual which involves taking your tent, waterproofs, and good footwear so can enjoy the "pogo" (a collective dance where you jump up and down and crash into each other to the rhythm of the music) as well as just wanting to have endless fun.

It lasts three days (four if you count the presentation night), with over 100 bands on six stages with 12 hours of uninterrupted music each day. The camp site and glamping area are located

in the **park on the Avenida del Oeste** and the concerts are held in the nearby Festival Enclosure.

You can enjoy the concerts and visit the town as well. You can try the fantastic local cheeses and wines in the bars in the **Plaza Mayor**, as well as taking a stroll through the broad streets full of stately and historical buildings. Or you can enjoy natural surroundings like **La Pasadilla**, where you can visit a traditional watermill, several traditional water cisterns and wells.

📍 **Where:** Villarrobledo, Albacete

**When:** April

**Style:** rock, punk, hip hop and reggae

**For further information and ticket sales go to:** [www.vina-rock.com](http://www.vina-rock.com)



▲ PLAZA MAYOR  
MADRID

## A SUMMER STORY ARGANDA DEL REY MADRID

Are you into dancing until dawn? Are you a fan of EDM, dance and electronic music? Then in A Summer Story you've found just what you were looking for. The motto is "Every summer is a different story", so come and see what's in store for you with some of the world's best DJs. Are you going to miss it?

Apart from the amazing line-up, you have **Arganda del Rey City of Rock**, just 20 minutes from Madrid, which is a guaranteed success. This venue is ideal for this type of event, they have put on shows of a Rock in Rio standard here, and for a weekend in June it becomes an enormous dance floor.

There are food trucks, bars and a rest area. There are also water spray systems and fountains throughout the enclosure to help when the weather



▲ PLAYA DE ESTEPONA  
MÁLAGA

gets really hot like it often does at this time of year.

You can stay at the *camp site* or you can look for accommodation in Madrid, as there are shuttle buses to and from the city all day long. A great chance to visit Madrid and explore all its attractions.

① **Where:** *Arganda del Rey, Madrid*

**When:** *June*

**Style:** *EDM, techno, trance...*

**For further information and ticket**

**sales go to:** [www.asummerstory.com](http://www.asummerstory.com)

## LOS ÁLAMOS BEACH FESTIVAL ESTEPONA

Watching the sun go down over the sea next to the main stage at the Los Álamos Beach Festival is an unforgettable experience. After only three editions, this is already a musical event not to be missed by fans of electronic music and urban sounds. *EDM, trap, reggaeton, trance...* You'll find all the latest trends here.

Apart from the music, there is a spectacular array of resources during the concerts, an innovative set up with mapping techniques, fire, fountains and acrobats, making it quite a show.

Come to the fair enclosure in Estepona and forget about stress and routine for five days in August, right near the beach and with everything you need. You'll find the official camp site in **Playa del Cristo**, next to the town's marina, a perfect opportunity for exploring the **Costa del Sol** and enjoying all kinds of water sports.

📍 *Where: Estepona, Málaga*

*When: April*

*Style: electronic and urban sounds*

*For further information and ticket sales go to:*

[www.losalamosbeach.com](http://www.losalamosbeach.com)

## SINSAL FESTIVAL ISLA DE SAN SIMÓN

If you're looking for something really different and away from the crowds, you should try a festival on an unspoiled island where you don't know who is going to be in the line-up. This is the Sinsal Festival, one of the most unique festivals in Europe.

It takes place at the end of July on the Island of **San Simón** (Redondela), a spectacular location in the Vigo Estuary (Pontevedra). It all happens over three consecutive days and the audience can only get there by taking one of the boats chartered by the organisation and sailing from Vigo and Meirande (the cost of the ferry is included in the price of



Photo: danny howe on Unsplash

the ticket). The surroundings are magic, and even though the line-up is kept secret until the last minute, there is always a wide variety of top artists playing anything from jazz to world music, rock and electronic.

You can also try Galicia's excellent cuisine, the favourites being seafood and fish, and you can enjoy some of the parallel activities organised during Sinsal: chats and forums, ideas for technological projects, videoclip and DJ workshops, canoeing, popular games for kids... An unforgettable experience.

📍 *Where: Isla de San Simón (Pontevedra)*

*When: end of July*

*Style: different styles (secret line-up)*

*For further information and ticket sales go to: [www.festival.sins.al](http://www.festival.sins.al)*

## PIRINEOS SUR LANUZA

The heart of the Huesca Pyrenees is full of colour and great sounds for the second fortnight in July. In the town of **Lanuzá**, just a few kilometres from the district of **Sallent de Gállego**, you'll find the **Pirineos Sur International Culture Festival**, with monographic editions dedicated to creators from different countries, regions and musical movements.

This iconic festival takes place on a stage floating on a **reservoir**, facing an open air auditorium and surrounded by the beautiful Pyrenean countryside. This venue has enjoyed performances by some of the world's greatest artists, like Tito Puente, Paco de Lucía, Alpha Blondy and Gilberto Gil.

During the festival you can enjoy all sorts of attractions like dancing, circus, parades and a craft market, as well as concerts in the evening and performances especially aimed at families.

For lovers of nature, in the **Valle de Tena** where Pirineos Sur takes place, you can enjoy so many alternative activities. Hiking along sign-posted routes, all kinds of adventure activities or just enjoying the incredible landscape from the numerous lookout points.

📍 **Where: Lanuzá, Huesca**

**When: second fortnight in July**

**Style: world music**

**For further information and ticket sales go to: [www.pirineos-sur.es](http://www.pirineos-sur.es)**



## WHERE TO SLEEP?

Each festival usually suggests a number of options for accommodation depending on your tastes and your budget. The festival venues usually include areas for camping, glamping (luxury camping) and areas for **motor homes** which are usually in natural surroundings.

They can usually be booked separately or as part of an entry ticket option. If you're more of a city person, you can always book a **hotel** or an **apartment** in the town or city nearest to the event.

For further information and to plan your getaway as well as possible, go the official websites for each musical festival and the tourism websites for the areas where they are held.



# HOW TO GET THERE

## PLANE

Travel securely and comfortably. Spain has over **30 international airports** which make it easy to connect with the main cities in Europe. The airports offering guaranteed internal and international connections are Adolfo Suárez Madrid-Barajas, El Prat (Barcelona), Málaga-Costa del Sol, Seville, Bilbao and Valencia.



## TRAIN

The **Spanish National Railway Network (RENFE)** also links all the country's main cities and regions. The unquestionable stars of the system are the **AVE high-speed trains** which serve 25 tourist destinations, with Madrid as their main hub. You can travel from Madrid to Valencia in only 95 minutes, or from Madrid to Barcelona or Seville in two and a half hours.

## ROAD

Spain has one of the **best networks of motorways** and dual carriageways in Europe. There are really good connections between most cities in Spain which means that it is easy to **combine different destinations**.

# HOW TO GET AROUND IN THE CITIES

The most important cities in this guide all have excellent public transport facilities: metro or trams, suburban railways connecting with the nearby districts, city buses and taxis, not forgetting extensive bike lanes and municipal bike hire.

Many festivals provide shuttle buses and frequent bus services connecting the camping areas with the nearest town centre. They usually have a long timetable and are either free of charge or very affordable.

If you prefer the comfort of travelling to a music festival by car, always remember that the main **car hire companies** operate throughout the country.





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