

# LAS FALLAS

**Las Fallas, or the festival of fire,** is an event celebrated in **Valencia** every March. This event was held for the first time in the **16<sup>th</sup> century**. Residents wanted to honor their patron - **Saint Joseph** by burning sculptures and structures made of wooden waste. Over the years, the structures began to take human shapes which usually resembled famous people.



The ways of celebrating have changed over the years. Today **Las Fallas** is a huge **street festival** dominated by **colourful costumes**. The celebrations start around 8am. At this time the **brass bands** start marching. They are followed by the celebrating people. They are called **falleros** and **falleras**.



THE STREET PARADE

This year, the festival lasted from **March 15<sup>th</sup> to March 19<sup>th</sup>**. It featured colourful costumes, sculptures resembling people and there were plenty of fireworks. There was also a lot of fire. Almost **2 million people** attended in this event. They were not only city residents but also **tourists**.