

# BENAMOCARRA

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## UNIQUE PROVINCIAL TOURIST FEAST

### **Music Day and Candlemas Day**

#### **Second Saturday in September**

This Feast has been declared of Provincial Interest to Tourists and has been awarded the Andalusia Progress Prize in the Cultural division. This feast is held in honor of the famous local composer Eduardo Ocón. Thanks to the occasion, visitors can go to the museum in the house where the composer was born; there are also numerous other places to visit in this town which is situated approximately 10 kilometers from Vélez - Málaga.

In September, the streets and halls in the town are the setting of all types of musical events: bands, classical orchestras and soloists, pop and jazz, folk groups, student music groups, ethnic drum groups. The day ends with a series of performances by contemporary musicians and the presentation of prizes to dignitaries who have worked for the town.

Visitors can go to the mediaeval market, the Arab teahouses and the different craft stalls.

The result of the international painting award 'Villa de Benamocarra' which attracts numerous artists is announced on this day.

## OTHER FEASTS OF INTEREST TO TOURISTS

### **Holy Week**

#### **End of March or beginning of April**

Holy Week starts with a mass on Palm Sunday where the olive branches that are handed out to those present are blessed. When it is over, there is a live representation of the 'Pollinica'.

### **Easter Sunday Pilgrimage (La Pava)**

#### **Easter Sunday. End of March or beginning of April**

The inhabitants of Benamocarra make use of Easter Sunday to leave behind the recollection of Holy Week and to out to the countryside to enjoy typical food on



the day with the family. There are also other events such as horse, bike and bicycle races.

Various associations set up bars where people can enjoy paella, kebabs, drinks, etc.

#### Fair of Saint Isidro

##### Weekend nearest to 15 May

This is a deep-rooted feast in the town. At midday, in plaza del Calvario, people can enjoy paella with a drink while the town's choirs and dance groups entertain those present with local folk music and dances.

The procession in honor of Saint Isidro takes place at around 9 p.m., along with a fireworks display. At around 10 p.m., the San Isidro open air dance takes place in plaza de la Constitución. There are numerous musical performances.

#### Pilgrimage of Saint Isidro

##### Last weekend in May

This is a pilgrimage in honor of Saint Isidro the Laborer. After the mass, the statue of the saint is accompanied from the shrine to the place where the celebration takes place, a place with pavilions where there are performances by typical local, dancers and groups of 'verdiales'.

The celebration takes place over two days. At night, people keep the statue of the saint company and continue the feast until the next day, with a continuation of the pilgrimage.

#### Corpus Christi

##### End of May or beginning of June

This is a local feast known as the Day Of the Lord, which starts with mass after which there is a procession. The faithful and the children who have done their First communion form part of the procession as it winds its way through the streets of the town; onlookers shower

the procession with flowers as it visits the altars that people have erected in different places in the town.

It is worth highlighting the decorations in the streets as well as the balconies from which people hang items of traditional trousseaus such as sheets, bedspreads, etc.

### **Fair of Christ of Health**

#### **Third weekend in October**

It begins on the Friday with the peeling of bells and a firework display. Activities start with children's games and a race. In the evening, the Official Pavilion is opened with musical performances.

On Saturday there are sports competitions, an exhibition of pedigree pigeons and horse races. There is also a party for young people in plaza de la Constitución and dance groups perform in plaza del Calvario. In the evening those present can enjoy the fireworks display.

At the end, on Sunday there is a mass in honor of Christ of Health, and a procession of the statue accompanied by the Municipal Band of Benamocarra.

The daytime fair takes place in calle Andalucía.

At the end, a magnificent fireworks display marks the end of the festivities. ■

# FEASTS & FESTIVALS

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UNIQUE PROVINCIAL  
TOURIST FEAST

FEASTS OF INTEREST  
TO TOURISTS



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