

Festive by tradition

Sitges is modernly traditional.
You just need to come to one of our festes
(traditional festivals).



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From festival to festival. It is a tradition.

In Sitges, things are always happening. And many of them happen every year, because they are festivals that have become a tradition and enjoy the wholehearted — and therefore essential — support of the town's residents. The result is that whenever you come, you will find something to celebrate with us. And almost everything is on the street and outdoors, which is where we mix best and have the best time. That is how we are, as you already know (or will discover).

Our Carnaval cannot be explained...

[VISIT THE SITGES CARNAVAL WEBSITE](#)

📅 February — 📍 Various locations

We can try, but it's very difficult, because the Carnaval de Sitges (Sitges Carnival) is so... we can't find the right adjective ;) We can tell you that the Carnaval de Sitges is one of the oldest carnivals in Europe and is classified and distinguished as a Fiesta de Interés Turístico Nacional (Festival of National Tourist Interest). And we can also share some illustrative figures: nearly 50 floats, 2,500 people in costume and over 300,000 spectators. Are you getting the picture?



You can't miss the rúas on Tuesday and Sunday.

If there are two events that define the Carnaval de Sitges (Sitges Carnival), they are, logically, the two rúas (parades) (yes, of course, in Sitges we parade twice, on top of the fact that the children have their own parade). The names also provide clues: Rúa de la Disbauxa (Debauchery Parade) on Carnival Sunday, and Rúa de l'Extermini (Extermination Parade) on Tuesday.



The Carnaval Infantil de Sitges (Sitges Children's Carnival), another unmissable event.

The two adult rúas, held on Sunday afternoon and Tuesday night, have their children's version beforehand, at midday. The children who take part are the up-and-coming generation that ensures the continuity of this tangible and intangible heritage of joy that is the Carnaval de Sitges (Sitges Carnival).

3. RALLY INTERNACIONAL DE COTXES D'ÈPOCA BARCELONA-SITGES (BARCELONA-SITGES INTERNATIONAL VINTAGE CAR RALLY)

FESTIVALS AND TRADITIONS

A rally for the ages

[VISIT THE RALLY BARCELONA SITGES WEBSITE](#)

📅 February-March — ✉ foment@fomentdellitges.cat — ☎ (+34) 938 949 357



The Rally Internacional de Cotxes d'Època Barcelona-Sitges (Barcelona-Sitges International Vintage Car Rally) is the **oldest vintage car rally in Southern Europe**, both for the number of years it has been held (since 1959) and for the vehicles that take part (registered between 1928 and 1938). It is a historic and festive event held annually since 1959 and was declared a Fiesta de Interés Turístico Nacional (Festival of National Tourist Interest) in 1980. The event brings together classic cars and motorcycles, most of them belonging to private collections.

When the streets are turned into flower carpets

[VISIT THE SITGES CORPUS WEBSITE](#)

📅 June — 📍 Various locations



Flowers and tradition. That is the essence of the Corpus de Sitges (Sitges Corpus Christi), which also marks the start of summer in the town and does so like almost everything else here: with joy shared between residents and visitors. If you are in Sitges, let yourself go.

The first documentary reference to the celebration of the Corpus de Sitges (Sitges Corpus Christi) is dated 1358. And as far back as the 19th century, residents were invited to decorate their balconies with flowers and adorn their façades with greenery. Then the streets were carpeted. And, truly, it is a unique spectacle in Catalonia and the Mediterranean. If you have the chance to come to Sitges in June and it coincides with Corpus Christi, you will see that this festival is special.

5. FESTA MAJOR DE SANT BARTOMEU (SAINT BARTHOLOMEW TOWN FESTIVAL)

FESTIVALS AND TRADITIONS

The festival of festivals...

[VISIT THE FESTA MAJOR WEBSITE](#)

📅 23rd and 24th August — 📍 Various venues



If the title alone tells you that Sitges's Festa Major, held at the end of August in honour of the town's patron saint, Sant Bartomeu, is the festival of all festivals in Sitges... well, imagine the goings-on here. The **Festa Major de Sant Bartomeu** (Saint Bartholomew Town Festival), dedicated to this saint, the patron saint of the town, is the big festival of Sitges. And when we say big, we mean biiiiiig! The Festa

Major de Sitges (Sitges Town Festival) is also an event with medieval roots and a contemporary dynamic, enriched with traditions etched into the collective memory. It combines religious and folk events, music, dances, fireworks, pyrotechnics... with a strong sense of community, since participants and spectators celebrate it all together.

THE CASTELL DE FOCS (GRAND FIREWORK FINALE) ON THE BEACH... AN AB-SO-LUTE MUST

If you happen to be in Sitges on the night of the 23rd August, please do not miss the town festival's fireworks display. On that day, at eleven o'clock at night — the date and time never change — the sky of Sitges is drawn with blinking colours and thunders with joy. Really, you cannot miss it. To enjoy the show, you can watch from the Passeig Marítim (promenade), go to the seafront, or head to viewpoints such as La Llevantina. Another option is to gain some height and watch from hotel terraces or even go out on a boat. Take note! Right after the fireworks, if you go over to the steps of La Punta, you will see all the dances coming down — a unique moment!

6. FESTA MAJOR DE SANTA TECLA (SANTA TECLA TOWN FESTIVAL)

FESTIVALS AND TRADITIONS

The ‘little’ town festival?

[VISIT THE FESTA MAJOR WEBSITE](#)



22nd and 23rd September —



Various venues



The Festa Major Petita de Sitges (Sitges Little Town Festival) is anything but little, as children are the main stars of this festival in honour of Santa Tecla, which was declared a Festa Patrimonial d’Interès Nacional (Heritage Festival of National Interest) in 2016 by the Generalitat de Catalunya (Government of Catalonia). This distinction recognises its high cultural, traditional and symbolic value, particularly highlighting the prominent role of children in passing on the local festive heritage. The Festa Major de Santa Tecla (Santa Tecla Town Festival) has an unmissable event: the Matinal Infantil (Children’s Morning Procession), a festival dedicated to the youngest ones but where very big things happen and are paraded: the children go out with their own gegants (giants), capgrossos (big-heads) and bèsties de foc (fire beasts), which they make themselves with their families and friends.

Autumn, wine and Sitges: an unbeatable pairing

[VISIT THE FOMENT WEBSITE](#)

📅 October — 📍 Various venues



Every autumn, Sitges dresses up to celebrate one of its most emblematic and long-awaited events: the Festa de la Verema i Mostra de Vins (Grape Harvest Festival and Wine Show), a perfect combination of culture and gastronomy with winemaking roots. With over 60 years of history, the Festa de la Verema (Grape Harvest Festival) pays tribute to Sitges' winemaking past, particularly linked to Malvasia wine, a local variety and a symbol of Sitges' identity. Watch out for events as deeply tied to local identity and as immersive for Sitgetans as the Concurs de Trepitjadors de Raïm (Grape Treading Contest) or the weighing of the Hereu and the Pubilla (traditionally elected representatives of local youth) in wine bottles, both held in collaboration with Familia Torres.

8. FESTA DE LA MARE DE DÉU DEL CARME (FESTIVAL OF OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL)

FESTIVALS AND TRADITIONS

The sea as a religion

[VISIT THE WEBSITE](#)

📅 16th July — ✉ confraria_sitges@yahoo.es — 📍 Port de Sitges - Aiguadolç, Sitges



Every 16th July in Sitges, the boats go out in procession with the image of the Verge del Carme (Our Lady of Mount Carmel), the patron saint of sailors. It is one of the most popular traditions in Sitges. And it is a procession that can be seen... and heard, because when the boats pass in the afternoon in front of the **Església de Sant Bartomeu** (Church of Saint Bartholomew) and the **Ermita del Vinyet** (Hermitage of Vinyet), flowers are thrown into the water and shots with a historical flavour are fired into the air, the so-called ‘**morters**’ (small mortars).

HABANERAS (TRADITIONAL SEA SHANTIES) CONCERT AT NIGHT

The Festa de la Mare de Déu del Carme (Festival of Our Lady of Mount Carmel), organised by the Confraria de Pescadors de Sitges (Sitges Fishermen’s Guild) and the Centre d’Interpretació de la Malvasia de Sitges (CIM) (Sitges Malvasia Interpretation Centre), sets the course in the afternoon, with the boats leaving Port de Sitges-Aiguadolç heading west, where, near the cemetery, a floral offering is made as a symbol of devotion to the Virgin and to ask for protection for everyone who works at sea. The boats then return to Port de Sitges-Aiguadolç, where the festivities continue with the sung tradition of habaneras accompanied by rom cremat (burnt rum) — to which, of course (this is Sitges), you are all invited.

9. FESTA DE LA MARE DE DÉU DEL VINYET (FESTIVAL OF OUR LADY OF VINYET)

FESTIVALS AND TRADITIONS

Sitges' emotional heritage

[VISIT THE VINYET SANCTUARY WEBSITE](#)

📅 5th August — 📍 Santuari de la Verge del Vinyet

The 5th August marks the Festa de la Mare de Déu del Vinyet (Festival of Our Lady of Vinyet), whose sanctuary, declared Architectural Heritage, becomes a meeting point to venerate Sitges's most beloved Virgin. Masses in her honour, a small market and fireworks are part of the schedule for this day. You shouldn't miss it if you are in Sitges, as it is an emotional heritage shared by locals.



THE VINYET SANCTUARY, AN ABSOLUTE MUST-VISIT

Our Lady of Vinyet was the one to whom the Sitgetans who went to America to try to make their fortune — known as ‘indianos’ or ‘americanos’ — entrusted themselves. That is why, if you visit the sanctuary, you will see hanging the ex-votos (offerings) that they made to her upon their return in the form of a model of their boat. The iconic bell tower of this whitewashed hermitage was built in 1801. And the current image of Our Lady of Vinyet is the work of Pere Jou, who reconstructed it in 1939. Jou was also the main sculptor of the Palau Maricel, where capitals, doors and windows bear his signature. Inside the sanctuary, the polychrome wooden altarpieces also stand out, preceding the altar where the Virgin is elevated, supported by vine branches and wearing a shawl that changes colour depending on the time of year and the celebration — purple during Semana Santa (Holy Week), white for weddings, for example.

You can stumble upon it... or come especially for it

With your permission, we would like to share some experiences that have festivals and traditions as their starting point and that we believe are, if not essential, then very (very) highly recommended. Personal and personalised experiences, experiences that awaken the senses and emotions, which are unique and can only be understood if you are in Sitges. Some depend on you and others you can come across or participate in depending on the time of year you visit. Let's see what you think ;)



CURSA DE LLITS DISFRESSATS (FANCY DRESS BED RACE)

Beds that come to life

[VISIT THE CASINO PRADO WEBSITE](#)



Carnaval de Sitges



Casino Prado Suburens

One of the most fun and colourful experiences (which is saying something) of the Carnaval de Sitges is the Cursa de Llits Disfressats (Fancy Dress Bed Race). The name doesn't deceive... it involves beds that grow wheels, leave their rooms and join the carnival along with their owners, family or friends on a route that starts at the emblematic Casino Prado and ends at the seafront promenade. A race where the prize... is seeing it! Up to 35 dressed-up beds participate in this peculiar carnival race. And according to the rules, between 5 and 15 people can gather on top of or next to them.

BAIXADA DE LES ESCALES DE LES DANSES POPULARS (DESCENT OF THE STAIRS BY FOLK DANCERS)

An unmissable moment

[VISIT THE FESTA MAJOR WEBSITE](#)

 23rd August, Vigília

 La Fragata beach, Sitges



The Festa Major de Sitges, dedicated to the town's patron saint, Sant Bartomeu, is a unique experience shared by locals and visitors alike every year, following the spectacular Sitges firework display. If you thought the firework display was the highlight, wait until you see this procession of fire, music and dance...

[WANT TO SEE A BIT OF THIS EXPERIENCE?](#)



MATINAL INFANTIL DE SANTA TECLA (SANTA TECLA CHILDREN'S MORNING PROCESSION)

A magical morning

[VISIT THE FESTA MAJOR WEBSITE](#)

 23rd September / 6.30 am to 9 am

 Various locations

The Diada de Santa Tecla (Saint Tecla's Day) is a date marked in red on the Sitges calendar. It is the day of our patron saint, we are in the middle of the Festa Major (town festival), and we start the day with emotions running high: the little ones take centre stage from the early hours, parading in 'colles' (groups) with Sitges' very own bestiary (giants, fire beasts — the dragon and the eagle — and 'capgrossos' or big-heads) to the rhythm of the choreographies of popular dances such as 'Gitanes', 'Cintes' and 'Bastons'.

The Matinal de Santa Tecla (Santa Tecla Morning Procession) ends its route at La Fragata beach, a spectacular moment where the final dances are performed and a communal lunch is shared.

L'OU COM BALLA (THE DANCING EGG)

An impossible dance?

[VISIT THE CORPUS WEBSITE](#)

 For Corpus Christi (June)

 Palau de Maricel

An egg on a jet of water that does not fall to the ground. Instead, it dances, propelled by the water, in a setting as magical as the fountain at the entrance to the Palau de Maricel. Warning: it's hypnotic... we say it just in case the morning slips away before you even realise it...



CONCURS DE TREPITJADORS DE RAÏM (GRAPE TREADING CONTEST)

Footsteps that leave... wine!

[VISIT THE FOMENT WEBSITE](#)

 October —  Plaça de la Fragata

The Festa de la Verema (Grape Harvest Festival) of Sitges, held in collaboration with Familia Torres, is another unmissable event on our calendar. And if we had to choose a specific experience within this festival, we would choose the Concurs de Trepitjadors de Raïm (Grape Treading Contest), which takes place at the foot of the steps leading up to the Parròquia de Sant Bartomeu i Santa Tecla (Parish Church of Saint Bartholomew and Saint Tecla).

Since the first edition was held in 1979, it has become a benchmark event, in which different teams compete in speed, style and skill to press the grapes placed in open barrels with their feet.

CARMELLES (TRADITIONAL EASTER SONGS)

A legacy that continues out loud

[VISIT THE CASINO PRADO WEBSITE](#)

[VISIT THE CARMELLES
SITGETANES WEBSITE](#)

[VISIT THE EL RETIRO WEBSITE](#)



 Holy Saturday and Easter Monday —  Various locations

The ‘carmelles’ are traditional popular songs in Catalonia that are usually performed during Setmana Santa (Holy Week). In Sitges, this tradition is especially alive and well, with three different groups of ‘caramellaires’ (singers) bringing rhythm and melody to the streets of Sitges on Holy Saturday and Easter Monday. If you are here during those days, your ears will guide you... you might come across them in any bar or in front of a house.

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