

SANTA TECLA 2019

14TH TO 24TH SEPTEMBER

TRADITIONAL EVENTS

This schedule for Santa Tecla endeavours to present this great festival to all the visitors and tourists of the city.

The schedule does **NOT** contain information on all the events taking place in the Santa Tecla Festival, only the most TRADITIONAL ones.

Friday, 13th September

19.30h, Plaça de la Font, from the City Hall's balcony: **The Welcome Call**. Dating back to the Middle Ages, Tarragona has been able to document the existence of the *Cobla de Ministrers* of the Municipal Council. It is one of the oldest musical traditions in Europe. The *Ministrers* perform the "toc de crida" from City Hall's balcony to announce the beginning of Santa Tecla Festival. Afterwards, at the same place: **The Eleven Mortars and the First "Tronada"**. The "tronada" (loud firecrackers) is the most revered show of daytime pyrotechnics. The first "tronada" of which there is proof in Tarragona dates back to 1550. Since 1990, setting off *Eleven Mortars*, one for each day of the festival, is the first act marking the beginning of the festival. This event takes place in the emblematic City Hall Square.

Saturday, 14th September

12.00h, Plaça de l'Església, Torreforta. **Parade celebrating the 10th Anniversary of Colla de Diables Foc i Gresca**.

Itinerary: Plaça de l'Església, Prades, Riu Fluvià and Centre Cívic Torreforta.

Bus 6 and 54: <http://emtanemambtu.cat/>

18.30h, **Fire parade celebrating the 5th Anniversary of Tarragona's Griu** (griffon). Itinerary: plaça de la Font, baixada Misericòrdia, Major, plaça Santiago Rusiñol, Merceria, Pare Iglesias, Coques, Arc de Sant Llorenç and plaça de la Pagesia.

19.30h, from Rambla Nova, **37th Living Folklore Performance. "Rugits de festa"**. The *lleó* (lion) of Tarragona, one of the most representative pieces of Tarragona's bestiary, ends its anniversary inviting his "beast siblings" from other towns. The performances are part of a "*cercavila*" or parade which runs from different places in the old town to carrer Major and ends at plaça Santiago Rusiñol, where the main exhibition takes place.

21.00h, Carrer Riu Glorieta, Torreforta. *Diables* get together to celebrate the 10th Anniversary of *Colla de Diables Foc i Gresca*.

Itinerary: Riu Glorieta, Bràfim, Tortosa, Plaça de l'Església de Torreforta, Prades, Amposta, Sant Benilde and Riu Fluvià.

Bus 6 and 54: <http://emtanemambtu.cat/>

22.00h, from Pla de la Seu. **Descent of the "Cucafera"** (tarasque). This element of the traditional bestiary descends the stairs of the cathedral. Itinerary: Pla de la Seu, plaça Santiago Rusiñol, Major, Baixada Misericòrdia, Portalet, Sant Agustí, Rambla Nova, Unió, Apodaca and plaça dels Carros.

Sunday, 15th September

10.30h, Portal del Roser. **The musicians "Entradeta" (little entry)**. Musical parade featuring children. Itinerary: portal del Roser, plaça del Pallol, Cavallers, Major and plaça Santiago Rusiñol.

12.00h, plaça de la Font. **Day of Human Towers, the First Sunday of Festivities**. To the sound of the traditional "gralla" (a traditional Catalan instrument similar to the flageolet) and the kettledrum, the "colles" (teams) Xiquets de Tarragona, Jove Xiquets de Tarragona, Vella dels Xiquets de Valls and Castellans de Vilafranca del Penedès enter into one of the most emblematic squares to do their human

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tower demonstrations. From the late 18th century, Santa Tecla Festival has joined together the best local "colles" and they have achieved constructions of up to nine stories in height. The performance includes three rounds and a fourth round of pillars.

18.00h, plaça de la Font. **73rd "Sardanes"** (traditional Catalan dance) **competition**.

Monday, 16th September

18.00h, plaça Santiago Rusiñol. **Get older and give your dummy to "Víbria"** (wyvern, a folk fire beast). Babies give their dummy to "Víbria" as a symbol that they are already old enough not to use it.

Tuesday, 17th September

18.30h, plaça dels Sedassos. **"Ball de Gralles" performed by children**. Concert of different groups of "gralla" (a traditional Catalan double reed wind instrument).

19.30h, Plaça de la PAGESIA, **Santa Tecla Concert** with "Banda Simfònica Unió Musical de Tarragona"

Wednesday, 18th September

18.30h, From Pla de la Seu. **"La Baixadeta de l'Aligueta, la Mulasseta, el Lleonet, els Gegants Moros Petits, els Negritos petits & la Cucafereta"** (Descent of the Child Eagle, the Child Mule, the Child Lion, the Child Moorish Giants, the Child Black Giants and the Child Tarasque). These elements of the traditional bestiary in its child version will get down the stairs of the cathedral.

Itinerary: Pla de la Seu, Cathedral steps, plaça Santiago Rusiñol, Merceria, Plaça del Forum, Sant Anna, Plaça del Rei, Pilats, Baixada Peixateria, Cos del Bou and plaça de la Font.

20.00h, Plaça Santiago Rusiñol. **Sebastiana del Castillo Spoken Dance**.

20.30h, Plaça de la Font. **Nova Moixiganga de Reus Performance**.

22.00h, Plaça de la Font. **Festival Dance with Esbart de Santa Tecla (traditional dancing)**

Thursday, 19th September

17.30h, Plaça Santiago Rusiñol. **Verses and Proclamations of the Spoken Dances** (danced by kids): 17.30pm, **"Ball de Serrallonga Petit"** (Serrallonga Dance danced by kids). Serrallonga was a 17th century Catalan outlaw. The dance represents its gang. / 17.50pm, **"Ball de Pastorets Petit"** (Shepherds' Dance danced by kids).

17.45h, Plaça Mitja Lluna. **Verses and Proclamations of the Spoken Dances** (danced by kids): *Ball de Cossis Petit and Ball de Gitanes Petit*.

18.30h, starting at plaça de la Font. **Little Santa Tecla Parade**. In imitation of the adults, children – the future Santa Tecla Festival – take the streets to celebrate their own version of the festivities called "Santa Tecla Petita". Shaping the Little Popular Entourage are a series of dances, the bestiary, "entremesos" or short interludes, spoken dances, and human towers. The young ones perform these on a reduced scale.

Itinerary: plaça de la Font, Baixada Misericòrdia, Major, plaça Santiago Rusiñol, Merceria, Plaça Fòrum, Santa Anna, Plaça del Rei, Pilats, Pescateria, Còs del Bou and plaça de la Font.

20.00h, plaça de la Font. **Round of Presentations of Little Santa Tecla**. Presentation of dances from different groups participating in the Little Popular Entourage.

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20.00h, Plaça Santiago Rusiñol. **Verses and Proclamations of the Spoken Dances** (danced by kids):
20.00h "**Ball de Sant Miquel i Diables Petit**" (Dance of Saint Michael and Devils danced by kids) /
20.15h, "**Ball de Serrallonga Petit**" (Serrallonga Dance performed by kids). Serrallonga was a 17th
century Catalan outlaw. The dance represents its gang. / 20.35h, "**Ball de Pastorets Petit**" (Shepherds'
Dance performed by kids).

20.45h, Plaça de la Font, "**Ball de Gitanes Petit**". (Maypole Dance danced by kids).

Friday, 20th September

19.30h, From Balcó del Mediterrani to plaça Corsini. **The Little "correfoc"**. Folk Parade with fire and
firecrackers where the child "diables" (devils) are the main characters. In addition to the group of
Tarragona there are other elements and groups invited from other towns.

22.30h, Cathedral. **The Altarpiece of Santa Tecla**. The Altarpiece of Santa Tecla, has been represented
by the "Esbart Santa Tecla" since 1991. This exhibition without text is based on the legend of the patron
saint that was so perfectly sculpted by Pere Johan in the 15th century for the main altar of our church.

Saturday, 21st September

12.00h, Rambla Nova, Balcó del Mediterrani. Popular dances.

12.00h, Street Orchestras' Parade, four different itineraries which finish in Plaça Santiago Rusiñol

Itinerary no. 1: Plaça de la Font, Cós del Bou, Baixada Pescateria, La Nau, Major and Plaça Santiago
Rusiñol.

Itinerary no. 2: Portal del Roser, Cavallers, Plaça del Rei, Natzaret, Cuirateries, Major and Plaça Santiago
Rusiñol.

Itinerary no. 3: Plaça de la Pagesia, Arc de Sant Llorenç, Coques, Patriarca, Plaça del Fòrum, Merceria
and Plaça Santiago Rusiñol.

Itinerary no. 4: Plaça Verdaguer, Sant Agustí, Portalet, Baixada Misericòrdia, Major and Plaça Santiago
Rusiñol.

17.30h, plaça del Rei. **Coffee, liqueur and cigar for a "duro"** (old Spanish 5 "pesetas" coin). Coffee
concert by "Versión Privada" band, to get into a festive rhythm. The best remedy against siesta (nap).
Coffee, Chartreuse and Torres cognac mixed with the cigar smoke. Each person can buy a maximum of
two tickets. Tickets sold from 15.30h.

19.00h, plaça de la Font. **The Street Cry or "el Toc de Pregó"**. Two Municipal Council trumpet players
blow the three twangs which represent the town call to salute the flag of the city. A spectacular shower
of firecrackers is set off to show also their greetings.

While the trumpets are playing the Street Cry at the City Hall, the cathedral bells start to chime what is
known as the "**repic general**". The bells of the cathedral are the only instruments that have always
announced the beginning of festivities starting as far back as 1321, when the Saint's relic arrived to the
city.

After the Street Cry and the chiming of the cathedral bells, the **Festival's Second "Tronada" (loud
firecrackers)** is set into action. The pyrotechnic company that fires it is the winner of the International
Fireworks Competition held the first week of July.

19.30h, starting at plaça de la Font. **The Rise of the Giants**. A parade that joins together all the giants
and "nanos" (big heads) of the city centre.

Itinerary: plaça de la Font, Portalet, Rambla Vella, Comte de Rius, Rambla Nova, Sant Agustí, Portalet
and plaça de la Font.

20.45h, plaça de la Font. **The First Dance of the Giants** to the rhythm of the paso doble or Spanish
double-step dance "Amparito Roca" performed by musical bands.

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00.00h, from Pla de la Seu. **“La Baixada de l’Aliga” (Eagle’s descent)**. On the night of the 21st of September, starting at Pla de la Seu, the Eagle, the Old Giants, the Lion and the Big Mule get down the steps of the cathedral and take the streets carried not by the regular holders but rather by a multitude of party goers who seize the opportunity which provides the short parade route. It starts from Pla de la Seu, then goes to plaça del Rei and ends at the door of the City Hall. At the end, all the characters of the entourage take part in a dance, and this constitutes the Descent of the Entourage and Bands.

01.30h, starting at plaça del Rei. **“La Segona Baixada” (second descent)**. The second part of the route goes down Pilats, baixada Pescateria, and arrives at plaça de la Font.

02.30h, plaça de la Font. **Arrival of the parade**

Sunday 22nd September

12.00h, Cathedral bell tower. **The Sounding of the "Toc de Prima" and the Chiming of the Bells.**

12.00h, Portal del Roser. **The Entrance of the Musicians.** On the 22nd of September at noon, traditional musicians become the main attraction. The Vigil of Santa Tecla brings together Tarragona musicians with those that are from outside the city. At plaça Santiago Rusiñol, each of the musical bands plays a tune.

Itinerary: plaça del Pallol, Cavallers, Major and plaça Santiago Rusiñol.

17.45h, Rambla Nova, Unió, Méndez Núñez, in front of the ice cream shop Gelateria Italiana Gabriel Olivier. **Verses from popular dances:** 17.45h, "Ball de Serrallonga" Serrallonga was a 17th century Catalan outlaw. The band represents its gang / 18.15h "Ball de Pastorets" (Sheperds’ Dance) / 18.35h, "Ball de Gitanes" (Gypsies Maypole Dance)

19.00h, starting at plaça de la Font. **The Santa Tecla Parade.** This is the display of the whole Traditional Entourage. Characters of all shapes and sizes crowd the “Part Alta” (old town) and the “Eixample” (city centre). Some of the characters include: beasts, devils, horse riders, giants, big heads, dancers, etc.

Itinerary: plaça de la Font, Baixada Misericòrdia, Major, plaça Santiago Rusiñol, Merceria, plaça del Fòrum, Santa Anna, plaça del Rei, Pilats, Baixada Pescateria, Esperidió, Cós del Bou, plaça de Font, Portalet, Rambla Vella, Comte de Rius, Rambla Nova, Sant Agustí, Portalet and plaça de la Font.

21.20h, plaça del Rei. **Verses and Proclamations of the Spoken Dances:** 21.45h, "Sant Miquel i Diables" (Saint Michael and Devils Dance) / 22.10h, "Gitanes" (Gypsies Maypole Dance)/ 22.25h, "Ball de Serrallonga" (Serrallonga was a 17th century Catalan outlaw. The band represents its gang)/ 22.35h, "Ball de Pastorets" (Sheperds’ Dance)

21.30h, plaça de la Font. **The First Round of Presentations of the Traditional Entourage.** After their march through the streets, the Popular Retinue shows off in front of the City Hall. The fire groups, the beasts and the giants all dance one by one while the rest perform their allegorical pieces.

21.45h, plaça dels Sedassos. **Verses and Proclamations of the Spoken Dances:** 21.45h, "Ball de Serrallonga" (Serrallonga was a 17th century Catalan outlaw. The band represents its gang) / 22.15h, "Ball de Pastorets" (Sheperds’ Dance)/ 22.35h, "Ball de Gitanes" (Gypsies Maypole Dance)

22.15h, plaça Santiago Rusiñol. **Complete Performance by the Moixiganga.** The Moixiganga performs a complete representation of the Passion of Jesus Christ accompanied by the music of *Grallers So Nat*.

MONDAY 23rd. DAY OF SANTA TECLA

07.00h, from plaça de la Font. **“Matinades”.** The “gralles” (a traditional Catalan instrument similar to the flageolet) players perform the "toc de matinades" or morning song at the break of dawn to point the

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start of the festival. On 23rd of September, the oboe and drum players join up with guest musicians to perform the "toc de matinades".

09.15h, from plaça de la Font. **"L'Anada a l'ofici" (Going to Service)**. During this event, the entire Traditional Entourage takes the streets for the second time.

Itinerary: plaça de la Font, baixada Misericòrdia, Major, plaça Santiago Rusiñol, Merceria, Pare Iglésias, and Pla de la Seu.

10.00h, Cathedral. **The Service**. It all begins with a procession to move the relic from the chapel to the main altar. During the ceremony, the patron's relic will be offered to its loyal followers in recognition of their adoration. At the end of the service, the Friends of the Cathedral Choir and Orchestra will sing a popular song.

10.45h, from Pla de la Seu. **Return from the Service**. Before the service is over, the Entourage starts its return from the service marching once again down carrer Major and gathering at plaça de la Font.

11.00h, plaça de la Font. **Round of Presentations of the Traditional Entourage**. The gathering in front of the City Hall after returning from the service starts the round of presentations. This noontime performance is one of the most ceremonious of all Santa Tecla.

The presentations close with versus from the "Ball de Sant Miquel i Diables" which then give way to the human tower event.

13.00h, plaça de la Font. **Human towers**. The city hall square is one of the most popular squares in the country for performing human towers. Formerly, the tradition of the Day of Human Towers would take place in plaça Santiago Rusiñol. Four local teams will perform: "Xiquets de Tarragona", "Jove Xiquets Tarragona", "Xiquets del Serrallo" and "Castellers de Sant Pere i Sant Pau". They will enter from the far end of the square and in order of seniority.

The exhibition will close with the traditional pillar being constructed as high as the Town Hall balcony. The topmost child will then climb up the pillar and into the balcony. Afterwards, vermouth is served accompanied by the sound of the «gralles» and drum players.

18.15h, from plaça de la Font. **Beginning of the Procession**, the clap of fire sticks, drums and the boom of the "tronades" (firecrackers) of the Traditional Entourage and the human tower teams announce the arrival of the flag of the Autonomous Region of Catalonia at the City Council.

Itinerary: plaça de la Font, Baixada Misericòrdia, Major, plaça Santiago Rusiñol, Merceria and Pare Iglésias.

19.00h, from Pla de la Seu. **Procession of Santa Tecla's arm** (relic). One of the biggest processions of the country. The Popular Retinue carries the patron's arm relic throughout the heart of the city.

Itinerary: Pla de la Seu, Pare Iglésias, Merceria, plaça Santiago Rusiñol, Major, Baixada Misericòrdia, Cós del Bou, Baixada Pescateria, Pilats, plaça del Rei, Santa Anna, plaça del Fòrum, Nou del Patriarca and Pla de la Seu.

20.30h, Rambla Nova. **"Sardanes"** (Catalan dance) **exhibition**.

21.00h, approximately, Pla de la Seu. **The Arrival of Santa Tecla's arm** (relic). The Traditional Entourage awaits the arrival of the relic in front of the cathedral where they perform a dance together. Dancing groups, the bestiary, short interludes and allegorical representations celebrate its arrival. Human towers are constructed showing off their height and skill. The bells mark the procession's slow advancement and fireworks are set off.

Immediately after at Pla de la Seu. **Return of the Procession** and the Descent of the Entourage.

Afterwards at plaça de la Font, **Last Round of Presentations of the Popular Entourage**. Just like in the Vigil, the eleven groups including the "Ball de Bastons" and the "Moixiganga" simultaneously perform their exhibitions.

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22.00h, plaça Dames i Vells. **Last presentation of «Ball de Serrallonga».** Serrallonga was a 17th century Catalan outlaw. The dance represents its gang.

22.30h, from Miracle beach and visible from the same beach, passeig Marítim (Seaside Walkway), Moll (Pier), port esportiu (marina), Balcó del Mediterrani, passeig de les Palmeres, baixada del Toro, vial Bryant, passeig de Sant Antoni and Via Augusta. **Magnificent Fireworks display of Santa Tecla.**

00.00h, plaça dels Sedassos. **“Ball de gralles”** (a traditional Catalan instrument similar to the flageolet).

TUESDAY, 24th LA MERCÈ”

08.00h, from plaça de la Font. **“Les matinades”** music of “gralla”, (a traditional Catalan instrument similar to the flageolet) announce the human tower day of the Mercè festival.

13.00h, plaça Santiago Rusiñol. **Human towers.** Noon on the day of "la Mercè" is known for the long awaited **"Baixada dels Pilars" or Descent of the Pillars.** In this performance each team builds two towers, one pillar and a walking pillar. In order of seniority, the walking pillars walk down the twenty steps of the Cathedral and then start their way down Major street with all hopes of making it to the City Council.

17.30h, plaça dels Sedassos. **“Gralles”** (traditional Catalan instrument similar to the flageolet) **concert.**

19.30h, Rambla Nova. **“Sardanes”** (Catalan dance) **exhibition.**

22.00h, from plaça General Prim. **“Correfoc”** (dancing with sparklers and firecrackers). Devils and different types of fire beasts fill the streets of the city.

Itinerary: Plaça General Prim, Unió, Rambla Nova up and down until they reach the statue of Heroes of 1811, Cañellas and Plaça Corsini. Immediately after, at plaça Corsini, **The Grand Wheel of Fireworks Finale**, with very loud firecrackers. From the statue to the Heroes of 1811, **Loud Firecrackers Finale** with the earth quaking finale accompanied by the exciting “Visca Santa Tecla” (“Long life to Santa Tecla”) and by the fireworks right at “Balcó del Mediterrani” (Mediterranean Balcony).