

## SAINT FRANCIS BORJA -3rd Oct

Contributed by I.T

### FAIR AND FESTIVALS IN HONOUR OF SAINT FRANCIS BORJA

Around 3rd October in Gandia

&ldquo;A Sant Francesc, pren el reclam i ves,...&rdquo;

During the week around October 3rd, Gandia celebrates its festival in honour of its patron saint, the Fair and Festivals of Saint Francis of Borja, a nobleman and jesuit from this city who was canonised in 1617 by Pope Clemence X. The festival's origin is based on King James II's granting the town the privilege of holding a livestock fair. It has become one of the most important festivals in the south of the province of Valencia. Of special interest are the shooting exhibitions in the Beniopa ravine and the figure of the Man with the stick, the announcer of the festival. This figure was created in the XIX century and was originally sarcastic and mocking towards the local establishment. It is made up of 30 members of the 4 institutes in the city who, dressed in French army uniforms, free the students in the schools from their studies and announces the start of the festivals. Due to its popularity in the region, the festival is also celebrated in Oliva, Xeresa and Ador.

[more info about Francis de Borja](#)