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An Exciting Experience in Pamplona with Bull Running by [Allen Marvin](#)

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Everyone in Pamplona knows what July entails; once the clock strikes 8 in the morning, there would be a deafening silence as huge crowds lining the designated streets await the firing of the rocket to release the bulls.

Within seconds, a rumbling sound can be heard increasingly louder as hundreds of bulls charge through Pamplona along its narrow medieval streets with several thousands of brave runners.

St. Fermin festival.

Pamplona may only have a small population of 250,000 but this figure swells up triple times during St. Fermin fiesta. Thousands of participants and observers would come from all over Spain, Europe and across the globe to witness the adrenalin gushing event at Pamplona.

Hotels would be fully packed with advanced bookings; sometimes as early as a year in advance to secure a room closest to the bull-run route or bull ring.

Saint Fermin festival is a very important religious festival that is held in honor of the local patron, Saint Fermin. The annual run happens on 6-14 July with bulls running out from their pens every morning but the first day where an official opening happens with a rock concert, champagne water fight and soccer match.

The good natured crowds loose themselves easily into the celebrations to ensure a great time as well as to garner up the courage for the upcoming bull runs.

Bull runs

From the second day of the festival, bulls would be released through designated cordoned routes along Pamplona's streets to the local bull ring just as in medieval times where herdsmen also did the same.

Bullfighting is considered a deeply entrenched Spanish tradition for decades. In the past, townsfolk helped the herdsmen drive their bulls to the bullrings for a bull fight which now has become an annual tradition. Ernest Hemingway, a famous author, put Pamplona on the map with his explicit mentions of this activity in his best-seller "The Sun Also Rises."

A bull run is dangerous but there are hundreds of participants, both local and foreign, who want to have that exhilarating experience. Participating runners would be given a few minutes' head start with a little distance between themselves and the bulls before the bulls are released. Some might give up at the sound of the stampede in the distance.

There is protective fencing for the observers along the route; ambulances, safety and medical crews as well as police are well positioned to assist in any emergency.

The air is electrified with screams and yells; a bull run may last only seconds but the memory would be etched in one's mind, heart and soul forever.

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[Allen Marvin](#) - About Author:

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