

2026 MOORS AND CHRISTIANS FESTIVITIES PROGRAM - ONIL

In honor of the Virgin of Health (Virgen de la Salud), Patron Saint of Onil

Onil, from April 22nd to May 3rd, 2026

Festivities declared of Regional Tourist Interest of the Comunitat Valenciana

PRE-FESTIVAL EVENTS

Saturday, April 18th: Christian Side Retreta

08:00 h: General bell ringing. Diana (early morning parade) with dolçaina i tabalet (traditional pipe and drum) performed by the Colla de Dolçainers i Tabaleters Rudimentària i Pandorga of Onil.

16:30 h: Unfurling of the tapestry featuring the image of the Virgin of Health from the Peña de la Sima (Onil mountainside), organized by the Manto de la Virgen Association.

22:30 h: General bell ringing. Retreta (informal lantern parade) by the Christian Side comparsas (festival groups): Cristianos, Vizcaínos, and Estudiantes.

24:00 h: Arrival at Plaza Mayor followed by a professional firework display sponsored by the Town Council and the Association of Comparsas.

Sunday, April 19th

19:00 h: Festival Music Concert at the Eusebio Sempere Cultural Center.

OFFICIAL FESTIVITY DAYS

Wednesday, April 22nd: Night of the Bonfires (Nit de les Fogueres)

00:00, 02:00, and 04:00 h: General bell ringing.

19:00 h: Anar a esperar al dolçainer (Gathering to welcome the traditional musician) at Plaza Mayor, followed by a musical parade through the town streets.

22:00 h: Lighting of the Bonfires throughout the town, followed by the musical parade of the Centro Instructivo Musical de Onil (C.I.M.O.).

Thursday, April 23rd: Feast Day of the Virgin of Health

08:00 h: General bell ringing and Diana with dolçaina i tabalet.

10:00 h: Civic-religious procession from St. James the Apostle Church to the Patron Saint's shrine to accompany the Virgin until her arrival at the Portal at 11:00 h.

11:00 h: Arrival of the Virgin at the Portal. Traditional blunderbuss volleys (arcabuceria) will be fired as the Moreneta de les Eres enters the church.

20:00 h: Traditional Floral Offering to the Patron Saint (from the local sports center to the church square).

April 24th to April 29th: Días de Entredances (Inter-dance Days)

April 24th, 17:00 h: Pelota Valenciana match (IV Moors vs. Christians Challenge 2026) at the historic Trinquet street.

April 25th, 19:00 h: Folk dancing at Plaza Mayor with the Grupo Folclórico de Onil and guest groups.

April 25th, 22:30 h: Retreta (informal parade) by the Moorish Side comparsas: Moros, Marruecos, and Moros Artistas.

April 27th, 19:00 h: Popular dances featuring the traditional Mucarasses (masked characters).

April 29th, 23:00 h: Nit de l'Olleta Parade (informal parade named after the traditional stew) featuring all comparsas.

THE BIG DAYS (DÍAS GRANDES)

Thursday, April 30th: Day of the Grand Entrance (L'Entrà)

12:00 h: Angelus prayer and official opening of the 2026 Festivities with regional and festival anthems, followed by a Mascletà (rhythmic firecracker display).

17:30 h: THE GRAND ENTRANCE PARADE (L'ENTRÀ). The Christian Side will lead the parade, followed by the Moorish Side.

Friday, May 1st: First Day of Thunder

12:00 h: Alardo (blunderbuss musketry display) from Plaza del Carmen to Plaza Mayor, followed by the Ballà de les Banderas (Traditional Flag Dance).

19:00 h: Estafeta (delivery of the message) and the Moorish Embassy (dramatic reenactment) at Plaza Mayor.

Saturday, May 2nd: Second Day of Thunder or Parade Day

12:00 h: Musketry display and the announcement of the 2027 Captains.

18:00 h: Grand Parade of the Comparsas (the Moorish Side leads the event).

Sunday, May 3rd: Final Day and Farewell to the Patron Saint

17:15 h: Estafeta and the Christian Embassy.

20:00 h: Farewell Procession of the Patron Saint and her return to the shrine, followed by a grand firework finale.

POST-FESTIVAL ACTS

May 4th: Mass for the deceased at the Shrine.

May 9th: Lowering and exhibition of the Virgin's tapestry.

Note: Schedules and events are subject to change; the organization is not responsible for last-minute modifications.