

Earlier today the Consell de Formentera unveiled the activities bill for the 2020-2021 Christmas holidays, a programme replete with options for young and old, including family-friendly entertainment, exhibitions, concerts and online activities all tailored to conjure the Yuletide spirit. Events have been adapted to accommodate Covid-19 safety measures.

Consell de Formentera president Alejandra Ferrer seized the opportunity to wish islanders a happy holiday season and share her special Christmas wish “that we take good care of ourselves and each other so we can uncover our smiles in 2021”, and called on islanders to enjoy the holidays and the special activities “without forgetting to heed safety measures”.

The holiday season gets going Thursday 3 December with the opening of the 2021 Christmas Market (*Mercat Nadalenc*). The marketplace will once again go up in Sant Francesc’s central plaza, Plaça de la Constitució, a location choice that aims, according to deputy premiere and commerce councillor Ana Juan, to “remind local shoppers to patronise hometown businesses as they set out in search of Christmas presents”. Juan pointed out that the six-stall market, set to open 3 December to 5 January, would feature five shacks dedicated to craftwares and a sixth for NGOs, but warned shoppers that Covid-19 restrictions prevent the sale of food and drinks.

“The Consell and its partner organisations put their heads together and came up with a holiday programme to share the magic of Christmas with young and old”, said culture and holidays councillor Susana Labrador, who told attendees to expect a full regime of safety measures in place. “Islanders’ collaboration and understanding will be key to enjoying this atypical holiday season”, said the councillor, adding that the programme was subject to the vicissitudes of the current epidemiological situation.

Kids’ activities

On Sunday 13 December, local youngsters will delight in the musical puppet-show ***Tina, la bruixa fina*** .

Tina is a clever young witch keen to learn the secrets of her trade, an endeavour in which she will seek help from the older and wiser witch Tomassot.

Tina, la bruixa fina

starts at 6.00pm on Sunday 13 December. Advance reservations are required and may be

booked until 10.00am, 11 December, at reserves@conselldeformentera.cat .

Kids will have special films lined up this holiday season, starting with ***Trolls 2: Gira mundial*** on Saturday and Sunday, 26-27 December. Details about another special screening the following week have not yet been announced.

Casal de Joves
On Friday 11 December, the local youth drop-in centre has put together a workshop where participants can make handcrafted Christmas decorations. The event takes place at 6.00pm in the Casal de Joves. At 5.30pm on Saturday 2 January, the centre will host their by now classic xocolatada.

Evenings of music
Since no Christmas is complete without music, Saturday 12 December will come with a performance by hometown band La 22 in the festival tent of the Sa Senieta car park. The show starts at 8.00pm and tickets must be booked in advance by emailing reserves@conselldeformentera.cat .

The tunes keep coming with the Consell de Formentera and Associació Formentera Musical's Mostra de músics, two evenings of mood-setting mini-concerts by local acts like **Pez Sonora+PerSonal, Emi Bueno, Yakari & Marie Connery quartet i Dj Gioele + DJ Clint Zero** (from 6.00pm on Friday the 18th) and
Bloco Colubraria, Erik Doornweerd i Óscar & Co, Sur and Foc i Fum
(from 2.00pm on Sunday the 20th).

Holiday fun
On Saturday 19 December in the Sa Senieta festival tent, the Three Kings Association throw their eleventh birthday bash with children's entertainment courtesy of Circo de Cachirulo, music by Joan Murenu i una colla de gent bona and El Nadal d'Imaràntia. Tickets to the events can be booked by sending a Whatsapp to 609.344.635.

At 7.00pm on Sunday the 20th, the Formentera cinema/Sala de Cultura will be the scene of

Musicaldansa's stage production of *Ana de las tejas verdes*, another Three Kings-hosted event requiring reservations via Whatsapp (609.344.635).

Father Christmas
This 2020 Saint Nick will still make his yearly stop on the island, but this time the visit will be virtual, so each and every child who wants to can get in on the Christmas magic. Showsibiza.com's performance was filmed entirely on Formentera and will be available from 6.00pm on 21 December on the island's YouTube channel.

Traditional activities
On Saturday 26 December, the Three Kings Association breath new life into an old traditional celebration, la Mitjana Festa de Nadal. Hosted in the Sa Senieta festival tent, the event includes Mass service and music from Pep "Botifarra" Gimeno, Dos pal sac and Aires Formenterencs.

Cap d'Any
On New Year's Eve, the Consell will take to Spotify to share its AFM-curated holiday playlist, *Ca p d'Any a Formentera*
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Three Kings of the East
The Consell and Three Kings are working hard to host the Three Kings of the East on a special Covid-safe visit. More information will be given in the days ahead.

Cultural programming
9 December is the start of the classic group Christmas exhibit. Amid the coronavirus crisis, a group of illustrators, designers and musicians, some living on the island, others with deep ties to it, put their heads together on a common creation: a thank-you video from the Formentera hospital to residents, businesses and government agencies that had offered pandemic-era help to the care facility.

The 30-piece exhibit includes work from ten creators and can be seen at the Sala d'Exposicions "Ajuntament Vell" from Monday to Saturday, 11.00am–2.00pm and 6.00pm–8.00pm, until 5 January 2021.

Shop window decoration contest
Every year the Eivissa-Formentera Chamber of Commerce and Consell de Formentera cultivate Christmas cheer in local shops with their shop window decoration contest. The contest turns 14 in 2020.

Additional support
The Consell wishes to thank the Three Kings, Institut d'Estudis Baleàrics, AFM and Sons Formentera for making the 2020 Christmas programme possible with their support.

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