

NETWORK OF SWIFT FESTIVALS

Seven local initiatives linking urban biodiversity, environmental education and sustainable tourism.



Overview

This poster summarises a growing Iberian network of swift festivals. Together, these events turn nesting colonies into opportunities for conservation, public engagement and place-based tourism. They show how swifts can become ambassadors for both biodiversity and local identity.

At a glance

FESTIVALS	AUTONOMOUS COMMUNITIES	UNESCO CITIES	TOTAL EDITIONS
7	4	2	21
The network combines municipal action, expert knowledge and public participation.			

Geographic network

Shared pillars

- Highlighting the value of colonies in historic buildings, in both urban and rural settings, with a view to their conservation
- Environmental education for residents and visitors
- Cultural programming: music, art, environmental workshops, exhibitions, nature photography
- Guided birdwatching routes and tourism products rooted in local heritage
- Collaboration between councils, associations, specialists and volunteers



Festival profiles

Alange Swift Festival

Badajoz Province • Extremadura

WHEN	Annual weekend in May; 9th edition on 22–24 May
LED BY	Alange City Council with local technicians, specialists and volunteers.
FOCUS	A flagship model mixing science, outreach, birdwatching routes, workshops, exhibitions and enobirding.
IMPACT	Positions Alange as a birdwatching destination: 230+ bird species and four of the five Iberian swift species.

Ávila Swift Festival

Ávila • Castile y León

WHEN	Welcome event in May; main festival 5–7 June
LED BY	Ávila City Council (Tourism Department) and Silvática S.L.
FOCUS	Public talks, children’s workshops, storytelling, guided walks, illustration and nature photography.
IMPACT	Four editions have strengthened awareness among residents and decision-makers about coexistence with urban wildlife.

Segovia Swift Festival

Segovia • Castile y León

WHEN	Around World Swift Day (7 June); now a three-day festival
LED BY	Segovia City Council (Tourism Department) and AUNATUR Association
FOCUS	Children’s activities, expert round tables, talks, a closing concert and guided bird walks.
IMPACT	Built around one of Europe’s major Common Swift colonies and reinforced by the 6th International Swift Conference in 2022. 800+ attendees in 2 editions

Vencejo Fest Arévalo & Madrigal de las Altas Torres

Ávila Province • Castile y León

WHEN	Early June in Arévalo; July in Madrigal
LED BY	García Ornitólogos
FOCUS	Talks, sound-walks, workshops, contests, information table and dusk observations in historic settings.
IMPACT	Community-rooted project centred on the local “Arrecangel”, active for five editions in Arévalo and later expanded to Madrigal.

Gijón Swift Festival

Gijón • Principality of Asturias

WHEN	Second weekend of June
LED BY	Colectivo Ornitológico Carbayera Tragamon, with City Council support.
FOCUS	Inspired by one of the largest Pallid Swift colonies in northern Spain.
IMPACT	First edition in 2025 attracted 500+ registered participants and triggered nest-box installation in schools.

Jerez de la Frontera Swift Festival

Cádiz Province • Andalusia

WHEN	7 June 2025 (World Swift Day)
LED BY	Proyecto Vencejo and the Alcázar of Jerez, with City Council collaboration.
FOCUS	Expert talks, guided observation around a 200+ bird colony, workshops, photography exhibition and interpretive panel.
IMPACT	500+ attendees in its first edition, showing strong public appetite for urban biodiversity outreach.

Swift Festival in Covarrubias

Burgos Province • Castile y León

WHEN	Mid-July since 2023
LED BY	Covarrubias Town Council (Environment Department) and AUNATUR.
FOCUS	One-day event with talks, a family music activity and a guided walk along the town wall.
IMPACT	More than 100 participants across two editions — remarkable for a small medieval village.

WHY THIS NETWORK MATTERS

- Shared conservation message: Swifts symbolise harmony with nature in towns and cities. They form part of urban biodiversity and have a beneficial effect on people’s health.
- Strong mix of science, outreach, music, art, family activities and tourism.
- Festivals help municipalities link heritage, public awareness and better building practices.
- The network includes cities designated as UNESCO World Heritage Sites, medieval villages and rural destinations.

MORE INFO IN:
swiftfesteurope.com

