

{besps}fanoi{/besps}

Strange and flamboyant jewels, wigs, red noses. Afloat parade, dancers, kodonofroi (people wearing bells), momogeroi. Satirical songs and teasing. Carnival in Kozani.

The roots of the local take us back to the Ragotsaria of 1650, when people in disguise went around the town during the twelve days of carnival celebrations, sang and collected money.

Today, the carnival starts with singing and dancing on tsiknopempti (Thursday before Lent). During the last week, people in disguise or not intoxicated with the atmosphere of joy and fun, and dance in the rhythm of the local dance 'enteka' (eleven).

However, the culmination of the carnival events comes on Carnival day, which starts with the float parade that allows the humour and caustic satirical mood of the locals to spread out. In the evening of the same day, the 'fanoi' (great bonfires) are lit in every neighbourhood.

The all-night feast goes on around the fire, with taunting and traditional Carnival songs. Together with the local dishes and the traditional 'kichia' (small cheese-pies) of Kozani, people are also offered the local red wine.