

ARAGON WEEK AT THE SPANISH PAVILION

4th to 10th July 2005

From the 4th until the 10th of July, the Spanish Pavilion will celebrate the Aragon region week. On the 11th of July, Aragon will be celebrating its official day.

Spain is divided into seventeen autonomous regions, each of them with its own government. During EXPO Aichi 2005 the Spanish Pavilion will have the participation of its regional governments and autonomous cities to show Spain's natural diversity and cultural pluralism. Each Spanish autonomic region will have the use of the Pavilion for an entire week in order to display its cultural roots as well as the most outstanding features of its land and peoples, through dance, musicians, theater, exhibitions, and an audiovisual projection in the Plaza.

Spain's regions will use this opportunity to show typical products and objects of their cuisine, customs, and craft traditions. The flag of each region will fly alongside the Spanish, Japanese and European flags over the main gate for a week. During its featured week, each region will have a special day.

Placed in the North-East of Spain, Aragon is called to play a decisive role between the south European regions. With 136 km of border with France, it is the central door to Europe from Spain and Portugal. With a surface of more than 47.500 Km², Aragon is larger than any other European countries such as Denmark, Holland or Switzerland. The strategic location of Aragon turns this region into a natural link between two of the most important development geographic zones of Europe: The Atlantic Ocean zone and the Mediterranean one.

Known especially for having in its territory most of the Clump Pirenaico, with five Ski resorts and the National Park of Ordesa and Monte Perdido, winter and the adventure sports, nature tourism can be practiced also in the Universal Mounts and in the Gúdar-Javalambre mountain chain, placed in the spurs of the Iberian System. Zaragoza, the region's capital, is located next to the Ebro river and is one of the great monumental cities of Spain.

All throughout the week, Aragon will organize different activities which include Calanda drums and dancing performances. Also, visitors will be able to try the natural mineral water from this region which will be distributed to the public as a symbol of the natural wealth of Aragon.

Easter is the best time to visit Calanda in Aragon to enjoy the famous celebrations of its Holy Week, with the noisy excitement of its drums. After the "rompida" (the moment when all the drummers begin to play) the continuous drumbeat and the mixing of various rhythms and beats becomes a sort of constant buzzing in the brain, that inevitably accompanies any other sensation you enjoy in this Fiesta.

For twenty four hours and without pauses or orchestrated compositions, bands of drummers dwell through the streets of Calanda. When one band meets another band, they start duelling, until all drummers find themselves in agreement with a certain rhythm. After their encounter and mutual jamming, the bands move on and prepare themselves for the next battle. The founder of surrealist cinema, Luis Buñuel, was born in Calanda and Bunuel always spent Holy Week in Calanda. Whether he was in New York, Paris or Rome, he would catch a plane and go to Calanda for three days, and participate in the Holy Week processions, which included drums.



The music performances will be held by Miguel Ángel Berna and his company which mix flamenco dance with traditional Spanish folk music. Reinventing Spanish dance, he creates a whole new form through his fresh and intelligent interpretations of the traditions.

Finally, an engraving from one of the most important Spanish painters, Goya, will be exhibited at the Spanish Pavilion's Plaza. This engraving called "The Sleep of Reason produces monsters" is a self-portrait of the artist, surrounded by demonic-looking animals.



Francisco de Goya was born in Aragon in 1746 and is one of the major figures of European art. Goya painted all aspects of Spanish life – portraits, including those of the royal family, religious works, scenes of war and of everyday life. The engrave that will be exhibited at the Spanish Pavilion was painted in 1799.

**ACTIVITIES PROGRAM FOR THE ARAGON WEEK AT
THE SPANISH PAVILION**

Monday 4th to Thursday 7th of July

12:00 – 13:00 Handing out of Aragón Water

17:00 – 18:00 Handing out of Aragón Water

Friday 8th to Sunday 10th July

11:30 – 12:00 Calanda drums performance

12:00 – 13:00 Handing out of Aragón Water

13:00 – 13:15 Dancing Performance

17:00 – 18:00 Handing out of Aragón Water

18:00 – 18:30 Calanda drums performance

MAP OF ARAGON



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