

ASTURIAS WEEK AT THE SPANISH PAVILION

18th to 24th July 2005

During next week, from the 18th until the 24th of July, the Spanish Pavilion will celebrate the Asturias week. On the 21st of July, the autonomous region will be celebrating their official day. For this special occasion, the Spanish Pavilion is honoured to receive the Official Delegation headed by the President of Asturias, Vicente Álvarez Areces.

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.

Asturias, with Oviedo as its capital, is limited by high mountain ranges, Cordillera Cantabrica, where visitors may find some outstanding natural preserves such as Picos de Europa and the national parks of Covadonga and Somiedo. Asturias is well known for its green landscapes, and just at a few kilometers from high mountain peaks there is the Cantabric coast with great beaches and colorful villages.

Major attractions are the Way of Santiago with its numberless monuments and the Ruta de la Plata, "silver route", which both lead through Asturias.

Asturias too is the home of ancient rites and beliefs, and this region's popular customs are among the most interesting of Spain. Crafts and gastronomy are of high reputation, and visitors may try excellent sea-food along the coast and, in the mountains, typical dishes such as Fabada, made of a special sort of beans, blood sausage and various cheese specialities, together with a glass of cider.

During th Asturias week at the Spanish Pavilion, visitors may enjoy the traditional dancing and music performances of this region as well as a demonstration of the use of the loom to make cloth, goldpanning and exhibitions of traditional Asturian customs. Also, there will be a special "Asturias Menu" served at the "Tapas Bar".

ACTIVITIES PROGRAM FOR THE ASTURIAS WEEK AT THE SPANISH PAVILION

Monday 18th to Wednesday 20th of JULY – Friday 22nd and Saturday
23rd of July at the Plaza

- 10:30 – 11:30** Ethnographic Asturias
- 11:30 – 12:00** Traditional musical instruments
- 12:00 – 13:00** Goldpanning
- 16:00 – 17:00** Ethnographic Asturias
- 17:00 – 18:00** Traditional musical instruments
- 18:00 – 19:00** Goldpanning

Thursday 21st of July (Asturias Day)

- 11:30 – 12:00** Traditional musical instruments
- 12:00 – 13:00** Goldpanning
- 16:00 – 17:00** Ethnographic Asturias
- 17:00 – 18:00** Traditional musical instruments
- 18:00 – 19:00** Goldpanning



ETHNOGRAPHIC ASTURIAS

Asturias ethnography will be represented at the Spanish Pavilion at EXPO Aichi 2005 through out many different activities which will represent a fascinating journey to the past of this autonomous region. There will be an exhibition of original traditional customs from the 18th and 19th century where visitors can appreciate the materials used to make them as well as a demonstration of the complete process to obtain wool, the main raw material used for the clothes during those centuries. And finally, there will be the demonstration of the use of a loom, instrument used to make cloth.



TRADITIONAL MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS

All throughout the week, there will be Asturians traditional dancing and music performances. Also, visitors may learn the way of making the "Riqui-raque", a traditional childrens toy made out of walnut tree as well as the making of "Pandeiros", a square shape percussion instrument played in many of the traditional Asturian dances.



GOLDPANNING

Asturias rivers are famous not only for the beauty of its environment, but also for containing gold. During the Roman Empire is when this region started to be known for the richness of the gold in its rivers. Nowadays, there are still traces of old Roman mines used to obtain this mineral. Around this gold culture there is a common practice in Asturias called the "Goldpanning" where people try to search for gold in the traditional way it used to be done centuries ago but only as a recreational activity.



MAP OF ASTURIAS



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