

GALICIA AT THE SPANISH PAVILION

29th of August to 4th of September 2005

From the 29th of August until the 4th of September, the Spanish Pavilion will celebrate the Galicia week. On the 30th of August, Galicia will be celebrating its official day. For this special occasion the Spanish Pavilion is honoured to receive the Official Delegation from this region headed by the Councillor of Culture and Sport, Ánxela Bugallo Rodriguez.

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.

Galicia is known in Spain as the "land of the 1000 rivers". Those rivers cross the region from the mountainous inland to the coast, where they form the "Rias". The coast itself offers great contrasts, from the smooth beaches of As Mariñas to the dangerous cliffs of Costa de la Muerte, the "coast of death".

At the area of Rias Altas you will find magnificent beaches, impressive towns and beautiful fishing villages. Rías Baixas are known for their natural preserves and spas and the inland shows green landscapes and romantic villages.

The first cultures which left their tracks in Galicia were Celtic, while Romans left as a legacy the walls of Lugo, the bridge of Ourense, and the Tower of Hercules (A Coruña). Middle Ages were marked by the discovery of the tomb of the Apostle Santiago (Saint James). Thousands of pilgrims made their way to the cathedral of the newly founded town Santiago de Compostela, and the world-famous Way of Santiago (also known as Way of Saint James or Camino Jacobeo), which is flanked with numerous churches, monasteries and chapels of high historical-artistic value, was formed.

Galicia's folklore clearly shows its Celtic and Gaelic origins, and the most traditional musical instrument is the Gaita (bagpipe). Regional gastronomy is of great reputation for its excellent fish, Empanada Gallega and the Ribeiro wine.

All through out the week, the Spanish Pavilion will be showing a video at the Plaza where visitors may enjoy the beautifulness of this rich land.

MAP OF GALICIA



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