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World's Fair Offers

Just About Everything

SPOKANE -- Pan for gold, see the Royal Shakespeare Company, dine in an authentic Russian restaurant, camp out with Indians or visit a ghost town.

Take part in an environmental symposia series. Ride the mailboat up the roaring Snake River. Fish for a world's record Kamloops trout. Or take in a performance of "Aida."

You can do it all -- and plenty more -- at the Expo '74 World's Fair between May 4 and Nov. 3. This is the only world's fair that will be held in North America in this decade.

Small as world's fairs go, Expo '74 from another point of view will be quite literally as big as all outdoors. Spokane's location in the heart of the Pacific Northwest's scenic Inland Empire provides a window on nature difficult to match anywhere in the world.

The city is located within a day's drive of 12 national parks, including spectacular Yellowstone, Glacier and Mount Rainier. Within the same radius are 15 national forests, dozens of state parks and hundreds of private camping grounds and resorts. Some

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76 lakes are found within 50 miles of the city, and they abound with game fish.

Easy side trips for visitors can include a tour of the Coeur d'Alene Mining District, largest silver producing area in the United States, sailboat or houseboat excursions on the lakes or a view of Grand Coulee Dam's spectacular spillway, twice as high as Niagara Falls.

In Spokane itself, a visit to the newly opened Northwest Indian Center is almost mandatory, and a pocket full of change is all you need to speculate on the Spokane Stock Exchange, one of two penny-nickel-dime exchanges left in the U.S.

At least 11 nations are participating in Expo '74, including Australia, Korea, Japan, the Republic of China, the Philippines, Iran, the Soviet Union, West Germany and Mexico. Canada is sending not only a national exhibit, but also one from British Columbia and one from Alberta. The Canadian exhibit covers a whole island in the spectacular river rapids near Spokane Falls.

But the fair will hardly be all business. Expo '74 is bringing a galaxy of entertainment to Spokane. The list of international stars covers the entire spectrum of taste, from rock to classical to country and western music, opera and ballet to the circus, comedy to serious drama.

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The fair will also offer a continually changing assortment of free entertainment featuring local singing groups, high school bands, square and folk dance troupes -- including several from foreign countries -- folk singers and special entertainment groups from all over the U.S. and Canada.

In the American Indian exhibits, local tribes will demonstrate crafts they have practiced for centuries: kayak building, longhouse construction, totem pole carving, salmon smoking and other skills by which they have always lived.

Nearby, the Smithsonian Institution's Folklife Festival will exhibit the pioneer skills of log rolling, gold panning, folk dancing and folk singing. Basque sheep herders from Idaho will shear sheep and show how their highly trained sheep dogs work a herd.

The Doukhobors, a highly insulated ethnic Russian community which has preserved its identity amidst the changes of the modern world, will also have a part in the Smithsonian's Festival.

Each of the foreign nations participating in the fair will present examples of their cultural heritage in both permanent and changing exhibits.

Specific information on entertainment names and dates may be obtained by writing the Expo '74 Entertainment Division, P.O. Box 1974, Spokane, 99210. Information on accommodations in and near Spokane may be obtained from Expo Hospitality Services, P.O. Box 1974, and general information is available at the same address.