

International Year of Astronomy in France, highlights and heritage

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Abstract

It may be time, in the middle of the International Year of Astronomy, to present some highlights amongst the numerous projects that have been successfully developed in France and to mention plans to continue some outstanding actions after the end of this year. Special efforts developed towards disabled people, animations in schools and universities, main exhibitions in museums, unique regional events, international collaborations and the 100 hours of astronomy cornerstone will be summarized. Also, some impacts on the media will be pointed out.

Since observing is a key to the discovery of the wonders of the Universe, professional and amateur astronomers have worked together to organize huge Sun, Moon and star parties, during the 100 hours of astronomy in April and for the anniversary of the first Moonwalk in July. Other star parties are anticipated to take place, especially in late October, during the Galilean nights where emphasis will be given to the observation of the Galilean satellites. Such events offer, far away from large cities, as well as in the middle of them, the possibility of day and night observations with solarscopes, radio-telescopes and small telescopes, together with numerous activities related to astronomy.

References

See e.g. www.astronomy2009.fr and
www.porteauxetoiles.fr