

Archaeo-Ethno Park in Ravna

The Archaeo-Ethno Park is located in Ravna, 8 km north of Knjaževac in the yard of the old village school. The oldest houses in the village were built at the beginning of the twentieth century, and the school building was made in 1906. The vicinity of the ancient fortification *Timacum Minus* led to the formation of an Archaeo-Ethno Park as a kind of an open air museum. It was opened in the late 80s of the XX century and since then has attracted the attention of numerous visitors, expert teams, domestic and foreign tourists.

The formation of the park is associated with the beginning of systematic archaeological excavations on the *Timacum Minus* site. Within the Archaeo Park there is an archeological research station with a laboratory for conservation and research work, an exhibition of items and accommodations for expert teams. The main idea is to present through the archeological exhibition in the school building and the Lapidarium the significant archaeological findings from the *Timacum Minus* site and to present the history of archaeological research of this site.

The Ethno Park consists of the house from Gornja Kamenica in whose cellar the Museum of Wines from the Knjaževac region with a winery was formed, a house from Berčinovac, a barn from Beli Potok and a cauldron for brandy with a pipe of cherry tree from Pričevac. It has been created with an idea to present the ambience of a patriarchal village community of the Timok region in the XIX century with residential and commercial buildings.



This method of exhibiting enabled to present typical traditional architecture in the region of Knjaževac and achieve direct contact of a visitor with the items exhibited in a specific environment. The visitors have the opportunity to get familiar with the traditional way of life, the culture of housing and traditional architectural objects of this region. In the last ten years the Archaeo-Ethno Park received another object made on the model of the house of the “Gazdić”

family from the village of Radičevac on Stara Planina Mountain in which there is a small conference hall and for tasting traditional cuisine, brandy and wine of the Knjaževac region and an information tourist center with a souvenir shop.



Within the Park a workshop for manufacturing traditional pottery with replicas of ancient and traditional pottery kilns. In the space of the old school a conservation laboratory has been made and equipped.

The Archaeo-Ethno Park, in addition to various educational and creative programs and organizing workshops offers accommodation and possibility of organizing various conferences, cultural-tourist and educational programs and scientific and research camps.

For the purpose of improving the interpretation and presentation of *Timacum Minus* archaeological site, increasing availability of the contents of the Homeland Museum in Knjaževac and its dependance the Archaeo-Ethno Park in Ravna, as well as the promotion of cultural and tourist offer of the Knjaževac region, with the support of the German Federal Government through Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH, through the Regional Program for Promotion of Cross-Border Tourism of Middle and Lower Danube, through the Danube Competence center (DCC), the interpretation boards have been installed and also information totems. In cooperation with ARhiMedia Group of the Faculty of Electronic Engineering in Niš an electronic guide has been developed for smart devices which can be downloaded by using this link

<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=org.arhimedia.emg.knjazevac&hl=en&gl=US>.

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