

## Osijek and Tvrđja

Osijek's Tvrđja complex was built in the 18th century with impressive defensive walls and town gates, Romanic nucleus and rectangular main square, so the Osijek is the most important military, economic, administrative and cultural center of Slavonia.

Tvrđja belongs to most important old Croatian town nucleuses and it has the greatest harmony of Baroque military buildings preserved until today.

Standing out is the main guard building from 1730, with arcades and a square tower for guard patrols. Elongated one-story barracks are known under names like Neutor, Donati, Zeichenamt, Jugend Kaserne.

Preserved in Tvrđja are beautiful aristocratic and citizen buildings, Baroque circular pillar of the Holy Trinity (1729-1730), fountain, Museum of Slavonia building, old gymnasium, church of St. Michael with valuable inventory and accessories (kept here is the chalice with enamel medallions with images from the life of St. Francis Xavier, with a stamp from Vienna from 1764).

Franciscan monastery was founded in 1699, and it was the place of the first faculty in Slavonia in 1735 (philosophy and theology studies). In the same year the first printing house in Slavonia was established here.

Osijek's Upper Town is a historical treasure trove: old sacral, cultural and historical monuments, Capuchin monastery, Neo-Gothic church of Sts. Peter and Paul, St. Anna chapel, classicist palace of the Virovitica County, theatre building, chambers of commerce...

Located in the Lower Town is a series of late Baroque citizen houses, series of Secessionist and late Baroque buildings in the New Town, and in Retfala the valuable Pejacevic family castle (18th century), and the church of Ascension of the Holy Cross with the Mausoleum of Count Pejacevics.

Temporal administration (1735 - 1737) with a beautiful portal and two Baroque pools made of reddish Baranja stone in front of the building from year 1761 is one of the most magnificent buildings in Slavonia.

One of the oldest buildings in Osijek is the municipality and town seat building (1700 - 1702). Valuable portraits of Slavonian large estate owners from the 18th century can be found in the Gallery of Fine Arts.





## Wine Road and Wine-growing Districts

*In the fertile plains where wine grape is cultivated for thousands of years, and it is known that this has been going on since the Roman times, the Wine Road exists and persists; row of wine-makers and wine-merchants compete whose drop of wine is more noble, healthy and potent. It can be felt that vine is given great significance, and it gets especially festive on the St. Vincent's Day in second half of January...*



## Baranja Wine-growing District

In the north of Croatian part of Baranja, which is a distinctly lowland area "Banska Kosa" Hill is located, which is ideal for growing of wine grapes. Name "Baranja" itself is probably connected to these good conditions, because in Hungarian boranya means wine mother. These ideal conditions for wine grape cultivation and production of excellent wines have also been recognized by the Romans who, more than 2,000 years ago, have named the Banska Kosa Hill "Mons aureus", or golden hill..

Baranja hill is one of top-quality Croatian wine-growing districts. The climatic conditions with annual rainfall average of 686 cubic mm, are favorable for cultivation of wine grape, while the annual temperature sum in the vegetation period is 3,479 degrees Celsius, and autumn is warmer than spring.



## Kopacki rit

The world-famous natural wetlands KOPACKI RIT, the largest natural fish nursery, is a great place for leisure and recreation for fishermen and hunters. This is the habitat of many thousands of game animals such as roe deer, large red deer, wild boar and feathered game.

Kopacki Rit stands as an easily accessible bird watching paradise with 270 bird species recorded where anyone can witness the beauty and richness of the nature preserved at its best by taking a guided boat tour on the Kopacevo Lake.





Kopacki Rit is a natural wetlands reserve that has emerged on the confluence of river Drava into Danube with a flood area of approximately 17,000 hectares. It was proclaimed a protected area in 1967 and a nature reserve in 1976. Reason for that is the fact that it is the home of around 40 species of freshwater fish (carp, pike, sheat-fish, pike-perch, bream, tench, sturgeon, prussian carp) and one of the largest natural fish nurseries in Central Europe.

Around 267 species of marsh birds live here, among which especially valued are: white tailed sea eagle, black stork, egret, tern, night teron, various wild duck species, wild geese, white swan.

The immense reeds, marshes and ponds of Kopacki Rit offer the ideal habitat for Baranja red deer, roe, wild boar, wild cat. Small game is represented by: hare, fox, badger, pheasant and pine marten.



## **Djakovo Studfarm**

It is the oldest institution for breeding and selection in the Republic of Croatia. Djakovo Studfarm today holds exceptionally valuable genetic material, which, combined with successful selection repairs the population of Lippizaner horse breed. Such valuable breeding material is also a cultural asset for Croatia, with which we show the world that our ancestors managed to preserve and improve the state of horse-breeding through many years of work on breeding of horses.





## The Djakovo Embroideries

*Djakovo is the host and organizer of the Slavonia and Baranja folklore festival "Djakovo Embroideries", which is held every year (since 1967) at beginning of July. Name of the festival fits the event perfectly: around seventy folklore groups with around 4,000 performers participate in the festival, with each group having a different folk costume, and each costume a different embroidery. Thousands of embroideries!*



Parade with all of the participants passes through town streets like a moving exhibit of colors and lines, as if a rainbow had descended on the town.

Djakovo Embroideries is also a review of horses bred by rural households, which are united into horse breeding associations. The way in which this is shown to thousands of spectators couldn't be more beautiful: marriage carts! These are rustic horse-drawn carts, decorated with flowers, embroidered pillows, towels and bed sheets, as it was customary for weddings long time ago.



The sport program takes place at the racetrack. Hurdles jumping, two-horse and four-horse carriage rides are the chance to present the horses in all their beauty.

During the ten unforgettable days of Djakovo Embroideries, the town becomes too small for numerous guests.

