

## RAKOVICA MUNICIPALITY

*“Rakovica municipality borders with the National park Plitvice Lakes and has high ecology awareness standards. Regarding the geographical position (mountain region of Croatia with strong and cold winters) efficiency in energy use, especially in space heating, is the top of priority. The MODEL Project is recognized as a delightful opportunity to raise local energy standards and energy efficiency awareness (less financial commitment) through new levels of education and support as a pre-phase for EE project organisation and implementation. Of course, it could and will be a strong pylon to give us directions for future energy plans in the municipality and even in a broader sense.”*

Mr. Franjo Franjkovic, Mayor of Rakovica municipality

[www.rakovica.hr](http://www.rakovica.hr)



## Welcome to Rakovica !

**Welcome to Rakovica**, the continental destination rich in beautiful landscapes and speleological structures, which is situated in the southern part of Karlovac Region, on the half way from Zagreb to the Adriatic Sea.

As the city it has been known since the middle Ages. This area was later destroyed by Turkish conquest, but the great change for the better in Rakovica began when the Liberating War against Turkish occupation started. This happened at the end of the 17th century. When finally Turks were banished out of this area, new historical development of Rakovica, as a new founded city, began. That new city was frontier region with Turkish Bosnia, which meant it was a military commune, where citizens had a military obligation to serve on the frontier line. Inhabitants lived mostly of farming, cattle - breeding, retailing, traffic and military salaries. In its later history, Rakovica became popular for its so called “Rakovica’s Rebellion”, 1871, which was lead by Eugen Kvaternik whose final cause was autonomy and independence from Austro - Hungarian Empire rule. After the World War II, actually during the 60s of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, traffic and touristic affirmation of this area started by building the road. Such development, unfortunately, was ended by the Croatian War of Independence, when this area was occupied again and destroyed.

Tourism has been one of the basic movers of the economic and social development in this district. Small agricultural and rural economic forms have started to grow, same as the branches of cow, sheep and goat breeding. Famous and unforgettable boiled cheese and cheese known by the name “skripavac” have been produced here especially for tourists, as one of the original and native products. Gastronomic offer in the area of Rakovica district is very rich and qualitative.

Nursing tradition can be seen in the performance of the local cultural and artistic associations that try to promote and rebuild folklore values of Rakovica by transferring the songs, dances and other customs in the young generations.

The deep canyon of the small river Korana and all the ruins of the old town Dreznik, which was mentioned in the 11th century for the first time, describe how this place was being developed throughout the history. And the fortress in Dreznik was declared as the World's protected cultural site. A small part of Rakovica tradition can also be recognized in recently restored mill in small place called Korana. You can also witness and admire to the magnificent sight of water falling on the mill's wooden spoons that start the rock transforms the corn and other cereals into a golden cascade of flour.

Some beautiful religious monuments were built there, such as St. Antun church in Dreznik Grad and St. Jelena's church in Rakovica which were destroyed in the Croatian War of Independence, but are rebuilt now. St Jelena's church celebrates its patron protector's St Jelena, every year on 18th August, so on that day, the large fair is held in Rakovica, while the citizens of Dreznik Grad celebrate their patron saint, St Antun on 13<sup>th</sup> June.

Natural beauty of this area is also reflecting in over a hundred speleological structures. The most famous sites are "Baraceve caves" because they consist of 2 caves, Upper and Lower caves and which were accommodated for tourists over 117 years ago. In the Upper cave the valuable archeological and pale ontological founding are discovered. In this precisely cave, it is assumed that remaining of prehistoric man and his work can be found. We can also come across over dozens of other speleological structures; some are more than few kilometres long. So it doesn't surprise that it's known as the second longest speleological system in Croatia, for example "Panjkov ponor" and "Varicakova cave" which is over 11.5 kilometres long. Because of this enormous and numerous richness in beauty of speleological structures and the same creator - the river Korana, Rakovica rock area can be named the underground Plitvice lakes. Therefore, for the ones desirous of adventures, there is a possibility of an extra event of those underground Plitvice lakes throughout the speleo - diving.

Moreover, you can try your hand at different sport activities, such as sport climbing over "Gajeve caves". If you like horse riding, you will be welcomed on the farm "Jelov Klanac", where you are expected by friendly and mostly hospitable hosts and trained horses that will enable you to experience the hundred year old natural heritage on the hills and valleys of Rakovica region.

Beside all these attractions that you can find in Rakovica, it also has a crucial role as a northern gate in the National Park Plitvica Lakes, which is the world famous heritage where we are all faced by the following reality: springs and stems, rocks and wide space of water and large forestry complex's, beauty that leaves you speechless. This amazing beauty can be experienced during all seasons, starting in the early days of spring time, during summer, autumn and ending in winter which amazingly chains the waterfalls with its cold, harsh and snow rich hands. But don't be discouraged, you can replace walking with skiing or sledding.

There are also Rastoke in Slunj, water - milling settlement which has been created as the harmony between the man and the nature. The Rastoke Falls have been made possible by a wonderful play of nature which lets the azure - green water of the river Slunjčica run into the water of the river Korana over a series of barriers, thus creating a chain of waterfalls, rapids, pools and cascades. They last and live, grow and fall, end man found his peace there end still lives there.

So, welcome to Rakovica, continental touristic destination, where you will be amazed by the complex of natural beauty, richness in tourist facilities and above all, the kindness of the hosts.

