



Visit Smiljan - the birthplace of Nikola Tesla

A small village in the Lika-Senj County is known as the birthplace of one of the greatest inventors of all time, Nikola Tesla. All the well-known and lesser-known facts about his childhood, his private life, his scientific work, and his inventions can be found in the Nikola Tesla Memorial Center. This interesting tourist gem is located in the heart of Smiljan, the scientist's birthplace, which is now a big part of a new tourist package, designed by the Regional Development Agency of the Lika-Senj County - LIRA, within the Excover cross-border project. The memorial center was opened in 2006, on the 150th anniversary of Nikola Tesla's birth. It is divided into two parts, modern and historical. The historical part is closely related to his life, so there is the church of Saints Peter and Paul because his father was an Orthodox priest and his family lived next to the church. Every part of the center has a story, so there is a statue that welcomes

visitors, for which the sculptor Mile Blažević used a material called duralumin, which is used for making airplanes and helicopters, because of Tesla's visions of flying and his many experiments as a child. Inside the birth house, there is a detailed biography of Tesla, while on the second floor there are replicas of his four inventions, and it's all interactive so that visitors can turn on the inventions by themselves, while children can participate and learn on-site. After the birth house, visitors can visit Tesla's experimental station, a replica of his laboratory at Colorado Springs, where they can use two neon lamps through which they can get a sense of the electromagnetic field and the wireless transmission of electricity. Besides LIRA and its new tourist package - The Route of Nikola Tesla, the Croatian partners in the Excover project are the Regional Development Agency of the Karlovac County, the

Primorje-Gorski Kotar County, and the University of Zadar, while on the Italian side there are the University of Udine, the University of Bologna, DELTA 2000, the Municipality of Campobasso, the Municipality of Predappio, the Sasso Simone and Simoncello Natural Park, the Mountain Community of Carnia, the Municipality of Rive d'Arcano, and GAL Montefeltro Sviluppato. ❖

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