


Āraiši Museum Park



*is a cultural historical monument situated
in the Cēsis region, Vidzeme, Latvia*



The Archaeological Museum Park consists of 9th-11th century Latgalian fortified dwelling places, medieval castle ruins, and Meitu Island with the reconstructed Stone and Bronze Age dwelling houses, covering an area of 12 ha on the shores of Āraiši Lake.

- ➡ *Āraiši Archaeological Museum Park stands out among other similar museums in Europe with its unique archaeological findings, the placement of the reconstructed objects on the original site, and the well-preserved cultural historical landscape in Vidzeme.*

It consists of reconstructed buildings from the Stone and Bronze Ages, ancient Latgalians settlements from the 9th-11th centuries, as well as castle ruins from the Livonian period. Āraiši Lake Castle is presently the most extensively studied site of this kind in the whole of north - east Europe.



More than 20 small wooden houses on an island in the Āraiši Lake can be visited, as well as a number of other cultural historical monuments, including a Dutch style windmill.



The Dutch style windmill was built from a wall of boulders, covered with mortar; its diameter at the foundation is 11 m and 6 m at the top. The building is 12 metres high. The windmill was used up until the beginning of World War I.

➤ *The windmill was restored in the 1980s. Visitors can inspect the restored machinery of the windmill and observe the production of grain. Various events are held in the territory of the museum.*





Look at the jewellery and tools from the 9 - 11th century!



- *In three wooden houses there are clay stoves made, which historically were the central object in the house because they provided warmth, light and opportunity to make meals.*



In two of the houses there are objects and tools which characterise the main crafts for everyday life.

- *Getting iron was the first and the most important thing. It was the basic material for everyday tools and weapons, so blacksmiths were very necessary.*



The second important occupation was beekeeping. Honey was used instead of sugar. Wax was used to make candles and ropes. Both, honey and wax were quite important export goods in medieval period in the Baltic countries.

- *Next to the tool exhibitions the visitors can also see the collection of different herbs which could (and still can be) gathered in the meadows around the lake and which were used in medicine.*







➤ Today there are 14 reconstructed buildings of the first period of the construction of the fortified settlement.

It is possible to experience a **virtual tour** of Araisī lake settlement through several panoramic (360) pictures:

<http://virtuallatvia.lv/Tours/Araisi/virtualtour.html>





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