

Ancient crafts and culture open air workshops

XV Yatvingian Archeological Festival „Szwajcaria 2019”

We are back after a 7-year break!

Thanks to the EU funding the entry is free.

Szwajcaria, “Cmentarzysko Jaćwingów” reserve, northern outskirts
Suwałki, Studzieniczne 10, GPS coordinates: N 54°9’4.4”, E 22°57’50.4

24 May 2019 (Friday): 10.00 – 18.00

25 May 2019 (Saturday): 11.00 – 18.00

Since 1999, in co-operation with Pera Sudinai Yatvingian Brotherhood, “Pajauta” Lithuanian Experimental Archeology Club and Suwałki National Forests, Suwałki District Museum has been organizing archeological and historical festivals in a beautiful setting of Białorogi range in Szwajcaria near Suwałki, next to the “Cmentarzysko Jaćwingów” reserve. Each of those annual events has been different as the programme and performers changed. What has always remained constant, however, was the special ambience and the experience of learning through fun.

Throughout the festival we are presenting various interesting aspects of experimental archeology. What this scientific discipline concerns is mostly recreating and demonstrating ancient crafts as well as everyday life and combat techniques etc. in both prehistoric and early historic periods. Visitors of the festival can actively participate in most presentations, testing their skills under expert supervision. They can also acquire unique souvenirs.

Traditionally we create prehistoric and historical happenings that showcase various distinct episodes from the old times. Warrior Tournament of Skomand’s Treasure with valuable prizes takes place there as well. All of our presenters are distinguished experts, often prominent scientist.

Ongoing interactive experimental archeology workshops, historical and ethnographic reenactments during the festival:

- flint knapping, flint and stone toolmaking
- prehistoric and early historic cuisine
- pottery, clay vessels and ornaments
- ancient amber working
- wood processing, ancient carpentry
- drumming
- birch bark products
- wood tar production
- bast and bark plaiting
- ancient weaving and garment production
- fabric dyeing
- ancient leathermaking
- metallurgy and metal casting
- blacksmithing
- goldsmithing
- glass beads making
- ancient games
- thrown melee weapons, archery, spear throw

- warrior weaponry, clothing and equipment in Early Middle Ages
- cyclical guided tours to the barrow cemetery from the beginning of the modern era in Szwajcaria (after gathering a group of visitors)

Detailed programme:

Friday, 24 May 2019:

- 10.00 – opening of the festival, permanent presentations
- 11.00 – official welcoming of the guests, presentation of the performers
- 13.00 – story of *Buying back the body of Saint Adalbert from the Prussians*, happening
- 16.30 – opening of the wood tar kiln, tar maker's story
- 18.00 – closing of the first day of the festival

Saturday, 25 May 2019:

- 11.00 – opening of the second day of the festival, permanent presentations
- 11.30 – presentation of the performers
- 12.00 – 14.00 – Warrior Tournament of Skomand's Treasure
- 14.00 – awarding the winners of the tournament, story of the trophies
- 15.30 – opening of the pottery kiln, hardening the vessels
- 17.00 – tasting of the spit roast pig
- 18.00 – closing of the festival

We warmly invite you to take part in our festival and wish you all a great time!

Directions and transport:

“Cmentarzysko Jaćwingów” reserve in Szwajcaria is located 7 km north of the Suwałki city centre (E-8 road by car, city bus, bike, foot). There are parking spaces near the festival site. Buses should retreat to the parking in Suwałki or Jasionowo. We urge you to take necessary precautions as it is a busy international road!

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