

PROTECTED AREAS

Mezyn National Natural Park (Ukraine) – the central valuable natural complexes and the archaeological objects of the Polissia Land

Nina Simonenko, Yurii Karpenko

Mezyn National Nature Park,

The Desnianske vil. of the Korop distr. of the Chernihiv reg., Ukraine,

mezinpark@gmail.com

Mezyn National Natural Park was created according to the Decree of the President of Ukraine, issued on February 10, 2006, and subordinated to the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Reassurance of Ukraine.

The main objectives of the NNP are the following: preservation of valuable natural complexes and objects of the Polissia Land, carrying out research scientific work in studying natural complexes and their changes in the conditions of recreational use, working out scientific recommendations for environmental protection and efficient use of natural resources; arrangement of proper conditions for organized tourism, excursions, relaxation and other kinds of recreational activities under the natural conditions; revival of local traditions of nature management, development of long-forgotten kinds of management, implementing of ecological and educational work.

Besides the unique natural complexes and objects there are about 50 archaeological monuments on the territory of the Park. Among them the famous Mezyn palaeolithic site, which existed almost 20 thousand years ago. In 1908 on its place there were discovered habitations of mammoth hunters, which had been built out of the animals' bones, covered with their skins. But the most precious finds are the works of the most ancient art — ornamented statuettes made of mammoth ivory, meander-line bracelets, a set of musical instruments made of animals' bones, painted by the primeval musicians. At present at the place of the site there is an' archaeological museum, headed by Vasyl Kurylenko, a local lore specialist, for more than 40 years.

About three dozens of historical and cultural monuments supplement the outstanding places of the National Natural Park. From a distance, from over the Desna River you may see the Rumiantsev-Zadunaiskyi Palace in the village of Vyshenky, built on the occasion of the empress Catherine II arrival to Ukraine in 1786.

In the village of Budyshche there is the grave of Iliya Borshchov (1833-1878), an outstanding Russian botanist

It seems that just here history went out for a walk and stopped, fascinated by the beauty of this reserved nook of the Desna Riverside. Everyone, who visits these places, may feel the ancient wind of the centuries passed since the times of palaeolith till the present days.