



Zasavica Nature Reserve
Near Belgrade, Serbia

- Ramsar Wetland
- Nature Park for visitors
- Keeper of indigenous species
- Preservation of traditions (curing pork, ect)
- Campground/RV Park



After we attended the conference of eco-tourism stakeholders we traveled southeast to visit wetland parks in Serbia, in the area of Belgrade. The nature park we visited is built around a Ramsar wetland is called Zasavica Nature Reserve. It is important to government officials in Serbia particularly because the park provides habitat to an indigenous species of pig. They have a successful breeding program and are considered to be housing DNA important to biodiversity efforts and the country's heritage. On the site they also

farm an indigenous species of donkey and have representatives of indigenous cattle, sheep, and goat. Despite a few interesting offerings, attendance to the park is low, and funds allocated to the park is also low. The scientist/record keeper is local man with a passion for nature and a love for the area, but without a formal education. Yet, he keeps the only reports on species' activities, and he maintains photos, drawings, and a notebook database of sorts. When we prompted our tour guide, a knowledgeable older gentleman who works/volunteers at the park, who this expert was training to take his place, he did not have an answer. Well, he simply said, this man has always lived here and has had a passion for this area since he was a boy – when he goes, his knowledge goes. I hope they find a better idea.

