

Mammoth Skeleton in Viminacium Archaeological Park

Dejan Savić¹, Slobodan B. Marković², Miomir Korać³, Miroslav D. Vujičić²,
Djordjije A. Vasiljević², Ivana Blešić²

¹ Municipality of Požarevac Tourist Organisation, Serbia

² Department of Geography, Tourism and Hotel Management, Faculty of Science, University of Novi Sad, Trg Dositeja Obradovića 3, 21000 Novi Sad, Serbia

³ Institute of Archaeology, Serbian Academy of Sciences and Arts, Belgrade, Serbia

Viminacium is a Roman archaeological site of the same city and military camp, located near the old settlement Kostolac, 12 km away from Požarevac. The configuration of the terrain clearly outlines the contours of legionary camp and settlement, which were developed on its western side. Approximate dimensions of the camp amounted to 442 x 385 m, and camp settlements around 850 x 600 m. During its history, Viminacium became the largest town of Upper Moesia and military was one of the major points of the province.

A special attraction of the archaeological park Viminacium is a prehistoric site visit, where was discovered an entire mammoth skeleton. The skeleton was found at 270 meters east of the Imperial Mausoleum, at a depth of 27 meters, in the sediments of the Morava paleodelte, across which lie loess layers. Mammoth is the individual specie *Mammuthus throgontieri* from the Middle Pleistocene.

Mammoth and the area around it is a unique site on which history of the Earth can be interpreted, from Pontian (Upper Miocene) soft brown coal layers till roman period. Combined with archaeological site Viminacium, this object of geoheritage is a unique open book of geology, archeology and history on our soil.

Keywords: Viminacium, archaeological park, *Mammuthus throgontieri*, Serbia

Corresponding authors: slobodan.markovic@dgt.uns.ac.rs and misko@mi.sanu.ac.rs