

<b>Name 1</b>	IDRIJCA WATER BARRIER
<b>Name 2</b>	IDRIJCA WATER BARRIER
<b>ID number</b>	002.90.Idrija
<b>Manager / Administrator</b>	Idrija Mercury Heritage Management Center, Bazoviška 2, SI-5280 Idrija
<b>Ownership</b>	Public
<b>Owner</b>	Republic of Slovenia
<b>Local / Original ID Number</b>	EŠD 189
<b>Type of Object</b>	Mine, Transport - other transport, Built heritage - other

## DESCRIPTION

### Short description

The Idrijca “klavže” is a high, built water barrier. It is built on a carefully selected location. The barrier is mounted in the riverside rocks and tightly embedded in the watercourse riverbed of the Idrijca River. It is built of carved stone and has two outlet channels, which are hemispherical on the top. It is protected by a roof , which is covered with shingles. According to the dimensions and the capacities, it is the mightiest water barrier in Idrija.

<b>Measures</b>	It is built at an altitude of 732 m. At the crown, it is 41.4 m long, its average width is 10.8 m (on the base 18 m), and its height 15 m. The waterfall fell through it 4 m into the depth. The sewer: width 3.8 m, height 5.6 m, the wall in between is 3.2 m wide.
<b>Materials</b>	Stone, mortar, shingle.
<b>Dating</b>	1772
<b>Author / Producer</b>	Idrija Mercury Mine; the Idrija Water Barrier was designed by Jožef Mrak.

**Picture  
attachments**

**Original use**

Due to the absence of suitable forest roads and means of transport, the most suitable method of transporting the wood into the valley was to flood the wood down the natural water paths. The Mine needed large amounts of wood, therefore the Idrijca water barrier was built. Its capacity was up to 10000 m<sup>3</sup> of wood. The method of construction and the principle of operation with the floodwave from the artificial lake behind the barrier were unique. The accumulated water (capture up to 249,000 m<sup>3</sup>), after opening the massive wooden door, flooded the wood through two flow channels all the way to Idrija. There, at the confluence of the Nikova River and Idrijca River, the special rake mechanism (412.6 m long) stopped it. The complex mechanism of levers was closed with a bull yoke. The water barrier was abandoned after the floods and the demolition of the special rake mechanism in 1926, due to the economic non-profitability.

**Present use**

The Idrijca Water Barrier is being preserved, secured and presented as an important mining heritage of Idrija with exceptional universal values. Due to aesthetic construction, exceptional dimensions, age and operating principle, the water barriers are one of the most important preserved buildings of the Idrija Mercury Mine. It represents a unique culturally-historic and technical monument of European significance. Due to its monumentality, the water barrier was named the Slovenian Pyramid. It is located in the protected area of the Zgornja Idrijca Regional Park and is easily accessible to visitors. In the second half of the 1980s, the company Soške elektrarne Nova Gorica built a dam for the needs of a small hydroelectric power plant. The Slovenian Chamber of Engineers grants the Jožef Mrak Award for the innovativeness in the area of facilities' construction, named after the water barrier architect.

**Original location**

2355 Vojsko, lot no. 492/3, 605/9, building no. 266.

**Present location** No changes.

## STATE OF CONSERVATION

**History of conservation:** The renovation took place in 1980s and was finished in 1992. The works were aimed at stabilising the water barrier (rebuilding the deformed walls, filling the gaps between the joints, stabilising the foundations) and the roof structure and the roof were replaced. Since 2008, it has been a monument of national importance.

**Present state** good

**Necessary activities:** Performing regular maintenance services by the programme, including status control and preservation, security and presentation of the heritage.

## DOCUMENTATION

**Addresses / collections / links etc. where further in-depth information is accessible:**

- The Cultural Heritage Register of the Republic of Slovenia;
- Zelenc, Anton, Matej Zupančič, Darjo Durjava, Žiga Jeriha. Vojsko - Idrijske klavže, EŠD 189: Conservation plan: folder 01, folder 03, folder 04. Ljubljana, The Institute for the Protection of Cultural Heritage of Slovenia, The Restoration Centre, 2010;
- Ordinance on the proclamation of the technical heritage in the Idrija and its surroundings for cultural monuments of national importance. Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia no. 66/01, 55/02, 16/08;
- Cultural Heritage Protection Act – ZVKD-1. Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia no. 16/08, 20/09;
- Brate, Tadej. Idrijske klavže. Kulturni in naravni spomeniki Slovenije, Zbirka vodnikov, 136. Maribor, 1985;
- Jontes, Lieselotte. Idrijske vodne pregrade – klavže. Idrijski razgledi, 47, 2, 2002;

- Leskovec, Ivana. Sledi življenja in časa, Idrijski razgledi, 48, 2, 2003, p. 19–35;
- Žiberna, M. Idrijske klavže – zgodba o plavljenju lesa. Svet & ljudje 14, 3, 2010.

**Submitted** Mestni muzej Idrija

**Submitted by** Miha Kosmač

**Date Submitted** 2. 3. 2018

**Date Edited** Never

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