

You've booked your trip...Now what?

Books and Videos on Croatia

Books

***How We Survived Communism & Even Laughed* by Slavenka Drakulic:** A haunting, yet beautifully written true account of women's struggles under the Marxist regime, this book is famed as one of the greatest contributions to women's studies. Drakulic also wrote various other books, including *Café Europa: Life After Communism* and *S: A Novel about the Balkans* – both of which are equally as excellent.

***A Traveller's History of Croatia* by Benjamin Curtis:** This is by far one of the best historical books about Croatia and provides a holistic overview of Croatia's troubling past, shaped by a combination of Mediterranean, Central European, and Balkan cultures.

***Croatia Through History* by Branka Magas:** Another excellent history read, this book brings readers through Croatia during the early Middle Ages and on to the present day. The book explores the various cultures and influences brought forth by immigrants and neighboring countries that have molded Croatia throughout the past centuries.

***Travels into Dalmatia* by Abbe Alberto Fortis:** Originally published in 1778, author Abbe Alberto Fortis compiles letters he wrote to John Strange, the Bishop of Londonderry, and other clergy, about the cultures and natural history observations he made while traveling through Dalmatia. A truly unique read!

***A Taste of Croatia* by Karen Evenden:** Prep your taste buds for your journey to Croatia with this exciting recipe book, filled with some of Croatia's most delectable, traditional recipes. The book also features gorgeous photographs of the land and food, as well as food facts and anecdotes.

***Croatia: Aspects of Art, Architecture and Cultural Heritage* by John Julius Norwich:** A must-read for art enthusiasts, this book examines the various artistic influences brought to Croatia across the centuries. The book dives into the Roman, Italian, and Gothic influences that visitors can witness today through stunning architecture and art-clad museums.

***Central Europe: Enemies, Neighbors, Friends* by Lonnie Johnson:** One of the best historical overviews of Croatia, Slovenia, and their neighboring countries, this book examines the various religions, customs, political interests, and ideologies that have shaped the history of Central Europe.

***Yugoslavia: Death of a Nation* by Laura Silber and Allan Little:** This book provides a thorough look into the fall of the former Yugoslavia and the war that demolished it's name.

***Safe Area Gorazde* by Joe Sacco:** This powerful graphic novel describes the author's real-life experience, living in a mostly Muslim town in Bosnia-Herzegovina while it was surrounded by Serb forces during the wars of the 1990s.

Movies

***No Man's Land*:** To grasp the wars that shook this region in the early 1990s, there's no better film than the Slovene-produced *No Man's Land*, which won the 2002 Oscar for Best Foreign Film.

Death of Yugoslavia: The BBC produced a remarkable six-hour documentary series called The Death of Yugoslavia, featuring actual interviews with all of the key players.

Srebrenica: A Cry From the Grace: BBC also produced this harrowing documentary about the infamous Bosnian massacre.

In the Land of Blood and Honey: Angelina Jolie wrote and directed (but did not appear in) this 2011 wrenching, film, which is a love story set against the grotesque backdrop of the war in Bosnia.

The Battle of Neretva: On a lighter note, a classic from Tito-era Yugoslavia, The Battle of Neretva (1969), imported Hollywood talent in the form of Yul Brenner and Orson Welles to tell the story of a pivotal and inspiring battle in the fight against the Nazis.

Border Post: A more recent Croatian film worth watching is Border Post (Karaula, 2006), about various Yugoslav soldiers working together just before the war broke out.

* Other local movies include Armin (2007), How the War Started on My Island (1996), Underground (1995), and Tito and Me (1992).

** Fans of HBO's Game of Thrones may recognize locations in Dubrovnik and other Croatian coastal towns, where much of the series is filmed!