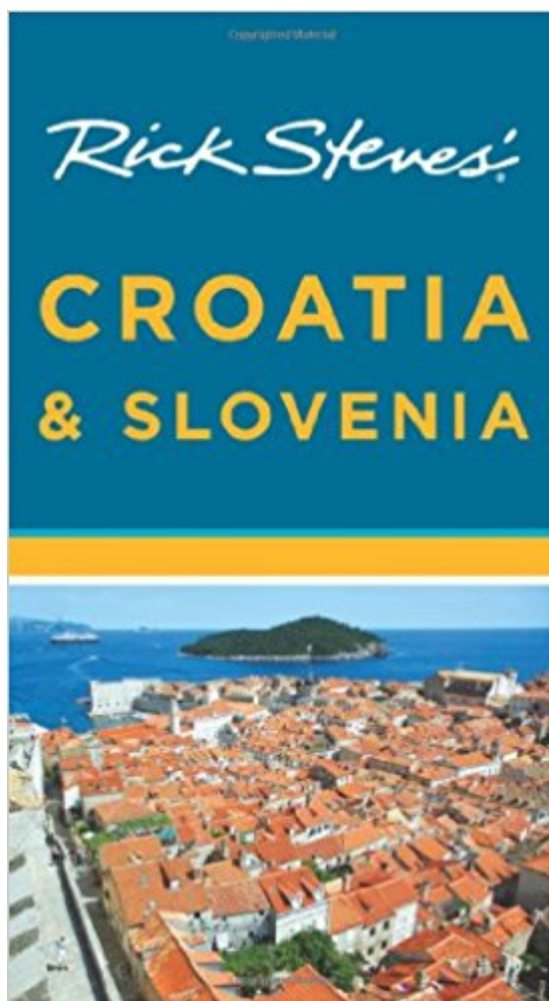


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# Rick Steves' Croatia And Slovenia



## Synopsis

You can count on Rick Steves to tell you what you really need to know when traveling to Croatia and Slovenia. With this guide, you'll explore charming towns and undiscovered natural wonders. Stroll atop the walls that encircle romantic Dubrovnik, wander through the Roman ruins in the heart of bustling Split, and set sail to the islands of Korcula and Hvar on the glimmering Adriatic. Feel the spray from the waterfalls at Plitvice Lakes National Park. Drive mountain passes in Slovenia's idyllic Julian Alps. And take side-trips to Montenegro's dramatic Bay of Kotor and the Turkish-flavored city of Mostar in Bosnia-Herzegovina. Rick's candid, humorous advice will guide you to good-value hotels and restaurants. He'll help you plan where to go and what to see, depending on the length of your trip. You'll get up-to-date recommendations on what's worth your time and money. More than just reviews and directions, a Rick Steves guidebook is a tour guide in your pocket.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Rick Steves has spent 100 days every year since 1973 exploring Europe. Rick produces a public television series (Rick Steves' Europe), a public radio show (Travel with Rick Steves), and an app and podcast (Rick Steves Audio Europe); writes a bestselling series of guidebooks and a nationally syndicated newspaper column; organizes guided tours that take thousands of travelers to Europe annually; and offers an information-packed website (ricksteves.com). With the help of his hardworking staff of 80 at Europe Through the Back Door<sup>®</sup> in Edmonds, Washington, just north

of Seattle; Rick's mission is to make European travel fun, affordable, and culturally broadening for Americans. Cameron Hewitt writes and edits guidebooks for Rick Steves' Europe. He first visited Budapest on a lark in 1999; and now he can't stay away. From Budapest's colorful and quirky history, to its grandiose architecture, to its mouthwatering food, to its uniquely enjoyable thermal baths, Cameron can't get enough of this enthralling, enigmatic, exhilarating city. When he's not on the road, Cameron lives in Seattle with his wife, Shawna.

My husband and I have quickly learned that while traveling through Europe, Rick Steves' guides are by far the best. Yes, he only covers cities/regions that he feels are worth visiting, but I don't mind having a guidebook writer with an opinion for once. His book series is much more even than, say, Lonely Planet, where some cities' guidebooks are excellent and others are terrible. We got a lot out of this book on Croatia/Slovenia, especially since we knew very little about the region. We visited some places we probably wouldn't have known about otherwise, like Plitvice Lakes and Lake Bled. I always like that he has detailed info on how to reach a place with the use of public transportation only - very rare for any guidebook, period. He also tells you how to avoid the crowds. We tend to agree with Rick on what is worth seeing, but there are always a few duds - this book is no exception. And sometimes I completely disagree with him - he won't include a region or city that I think is a great place to spend time. Another thing I like with his books is that he tells you how much time he suggests spending somewhere. If I followed every one of his suggestions, we'd probably spend each night in a different city, so it's kind of ridiculous - but at the very least, it tells us how much time we need to see the worthwhile sights. Again, I just really enjoy reading a guidebook by an author with an opinion, even if I disagree with it. So many guidebooks cover every teeny tiny little place without telling if it's worth bothering to go there! A section of this book that I thought was exceptional was the history and background of the former Yugoslavia. I had little to no knowledge of what had happened in this region less than 20 years before since I was only about 8 when everything went down. Not to mention that the "he said, she said" nature of the conflict makes learning about it even more confusing. This guidebook did an excellent job of breaking the war down into chronological and country-specific events - without being (overtly) biased, which is so hard to do when discussing this region! Honestly, I'd recommend this book to someone who wanted an overview of the Yugoslav War, even if they weren't planning to visit.

We looked for restaurant reviews and there was only a few, and they were mostly inside the "Olde Town" walls -- so we hopped the #6 bus & found two excellent ones: : "Otto Taverna" and "Amphora

Mediterranean grill", both reasonably-priced and with excellent fare. . . Hop the #6 Bus!, for once you've walked the fortress wall; looked into the many nautically-themed shops featuring striped jerseys & poked into the lovely old churches -- if sans car -- casual dining becomes more important. Oh, please look for a tiny barber shop on a narrow street behind your recommended "Gaffe Pub" (with decent burger & plain but tasty chicken curry & cold local beer). The shop is perhaps an 8 x 10' room crammed with approximately 12 bird cages (occupied); one polite cockatoo perched next to where I sat watching my husband say "bye bye" to most of his hair ("Hey, it'll grow back ...in 4 or 5 months" he assured me) plus a gazillion faded snapshots of regulars over the years, including the barber as his waistline expanded (cuttlefish risotto?) & his hair & mustache morphed from shiny black to white.

Any time we travel to Europe, I always buy the appropriate Rick Steves book. This book has been a great resource in planning our upcoming trip to Croatia. There is a lot of excellent information in the usual format of his other books. When we travel to Europe, we don't leave home without a Rick Steves guide book, and this one will be used throughout our trip.

The book was very clear and concise. Very practical tips for first time travellers to Croatia. Is aimed at all types of travellers on different budgets. Would definitely recommend reading before planning itinerary and booking accommodation. Maps and photos are great.

Rick Steve's Croatia and Slovenia was a very helpful guide for our recent trip. It was very good in Zagreb, Plitvice Lakes National park, Split, Dubrovnik, the island of Hvar, and especially good for the one day trip to Montenegro. It also includes a very helpful section on the recent history of this region, the brake up of Yugoslavia, and the resultant wars and battles of 20 years ago. This helps the traveler understand how the Balkan countries got their current borders, and also the bullet holes that are still present in some of the houses that we saw on the trip. The one glaring omission in this book was Zadar, a picturesque city on the coast that should be seen because of the Sea Organ, the solarpanel lights, and the old church and Roman columns. Rick Steves left it out.

Rick Steves guide to Croatia edged out the Lonely Planet guide in our evaluation of a pile of guidebooks for our summer visit. In the pre-trip analysis, Steves won out in content, cost, weight and size. It gave us some very practical advice (e.g., about electronics) not easily found elsewhere, and covered a wider range of family lodging and activities. Its major shortcoming was its geographic

coverage. The Makarska Riviera and other coastal vacation areas were not covered at all, and the few maps were not worth the space they occupied. For detailed local information and maps, Lonely Planet was the better choice. Yet, Steves book is an admirable start for a relatively new destination.

Although I've enjoyed all the R. Steves' material, I was especially happy to use this book. I know nothing about Croatia OR Slovenia. I haven't been to either place, and unfortunately, my trip is on the shorter side. Hence I need to make use of every possible moment. I also need to know the best places to see. I used this book to figure out which cities to stay in and for how long. When you're first approaching a new country, it's overwhelming to try to figure all this out. Steves' book helps me wade through all the details to streamline my trip and make it manageable.

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