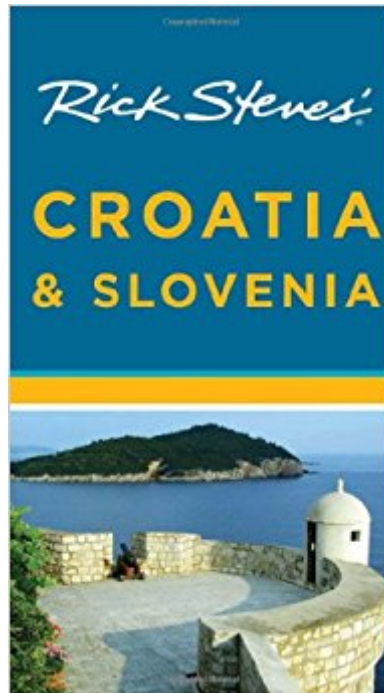




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Rick Steves' Croatia And Slovenia (Rick Steves' Croatia & Slovenia)



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.

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Customer Reviews

We followed Rick's Book for 23 days late April-May and had a wonderful time. Truly like having an expert personal guide riding in the back seat. The good advise on how to rent a car without cross border charges paid for the book. We used a local company HM-Rent a car.HR .Good price and brought the cars to our hotel and picked them up there.Rick offers informed judgments on the important sights. Perfect for a first visit. He does not try to offer a comprehensive, detailed single Country guide and criticizing him for that is unfair. He saves months of research by giving excellent

advice on the "must sees". There is no accounting for some people's taste (or right wing politics) and no one could bat a thousand but Rick is the best by far at what he does. We are experienced World Travelers and have come to trust and appreciate Rick's advice. Five stars for sure! Six days driving around Slovenia was barely enough. Vintgar Gorge is a walk not to be missed. The self-drive over Vrscic Pass, the Soca front, Kobarid and the Karst, were all memorable. We saw both caves.

Skocjan's "Hall of the Mountain King" impressed me but my wife much preferred the easier walk, train ride and the beauty of Postojna. The "best tip" was the Hudincevec Farm. We never would have found it ourselves. Friendly family, bright room, excellent ample food, good house wine and a perfect base for two days to visit the caves, Lipica and Piran. The train from Ljubljana to Zagreb, was the way to go. One day at Plitvice is plenty. On advice from a Croatian friend we skipped Istria and went to Zadar instead. Rick should consider adding it. Island walled City with Roman past. The only worthwhile tip we got from Lonely Planet was that the world's only sea organ there would be memorable and it was. The best meal we had on the trip was also there at Kornat, on the harbor. We found Hvar over priced and "touristy". A few hours would be enough. Korcula was great. Took a tour of the Island, which was well worth it. Rick's tip to use Korkyra Tours for the transfer to Dubrovnik did not "pan out". We booked an 8AM departure but found out on arrival that was changed to 6:30AM. Apparently the other three people had an early flight and did not want to wait for the 9AM ferry so they changed the schedule, which we did not appreciate. We did not want to get up in the dark and Korkyra had no help to offer except a 1,200 Kunas taxi. We found Petar Belic 091 569 3270 Badij2@net.hr a taxi driver who took us for 900. Still a lot of money, but worth it for door-to-door service at a reasonable hour. The travel agency on the corner across from the market was much more help. The "side trips" Rick recommended "made" our trip. Mostar and the stay in the Historic Bay's house was a great travel experience. The film about the bridge was a good tip.

Mostar and the Bay of Kotor were Highlights of our trip. The art in the Lady of the Rocks church was special, the one Euro tour a bargain and the guide refused a tip. Two cruise ships were in and Kotor Town was a mess, no parking and hordes of clueless people creating traffic jams, so we did a "crawl by", and drove on. A break, because gave us enough time to enjoy Cetinje, which we thought necessary to get a sense of the Country. Nice University town with shady side walk cafes. We enjoyed the National Museum and the portraits of the King's daughters. Sarajevo was beyond the scope of Rick's book but we included it. The pedestrian street is a time trip from 13th Century Turkey through WWI Vienna. The old City had real Bosnian BBQ food and Copper smiths and we learned about the years the City was under a siege that cost 10,000 lives. We recommend adding a one-night swing from Mostar to Sarajevo and back to the coast to your trip for a better

understanding of Bosnia. The last three days we stayed in Cavtat, which was a perfect base to enjoy Dubrovnik with a short (expensive) taxi trip to fly home. The 45-minute boat trip from Cavtat, is the only way to approach the city. We stayed at the Iberostar with a balcony view over the bay, very pleasant and relaxing way to end the trip. The dinner buffet was excellent. We read a number of books about the Balkans, but Rick's was the one we carried with us and relied on throughout our trip. The sections on Montenegro and Bosnia-Herzegovina were perfect for an introduction to those countries and a real "bonus".

Our trip to Eastern Europe (Hungary, Slovenia and Croatia) was too ambitious. Having been spoiled on northern European and Japanese trains, Rick misses the point completely. The distances between cities became a problem, despite careful planning. FIRST CLASS RAIL is the same as SECOND CLASS RAIL for all intent and purposes and the train schedules are absolutely horrible and slow. As a result, if one is not to rent a car (which is expensive and can be difficult when you get to cities like Split - eg parking), then the recommendation should be to use DISCOUNT air travel, such as Wizz Air or GermanWings. That is, fly from Budapest and spend the night in Germany and then fly down to Ljubljana on super fares. The long trip across Hungary was not memorable - no food, no air conditioning, dirty train, and little scenery until you got to the beautiful country of Slovenia (when it was getting dark, of course). Then we made the fatal error of traveling from Rijeka to Pula - almost 4 hours by train that stopped at every country road crossing! The real problem with the book is the bus travel within Croatia. Rick does not give you the logistics and realistic or pragmatic information. You will find it almost impossible to buy a bus ticket on the Internet (unless you know the language and can figure which bus line will do the journey). Bus companies don't accept credit cards. You buy the ticket at the station (hoping for space) and must wait two or three hours. Sitting around Dubrovnik's bus station away from the beaches and old town was not enjoyable. The buses are usually NOT express, meaning that they will take the winding, coastal highway. They stop frequently to pick up and discharge passengers. The 115 km trip between Dubrovnik and Split was easily five hours. At one point, we had 70 km signpost but we didn't take the toll road. So, the next signpost said 118 Km! The accommodations and restaurants are good advice. The attractions are competently described. Steve spends a lot of time talking about the ferry service but he needs to get more serious with the buses.

Once again Rick Steve's manages to convey extremely useful information in an easy to read and easy to follow guide. Whether you are visiting as a Cruise passenger, or traveling on your own Rick

covers it all. From modes of Transportation available to get to your location, to self guided walking tours, Rick supplies it. Best is he offers you those must see highlights, must see places for those on short travel time frames, to where to off the beaten path, where you will see the non tourist locale. There are also easy to read maps of the larger cities and locations that will allow you to follow your own path. From where to eat and what to eat, to what each location offers, this is a great reference tool and a must if you are going to be stopping there.

I actually went to Croatia back in 2008, but I don't think I ever left a review for the travel guide. I'm researching books now for another trip and am having a really difficult time finding a good one. If you're looking for an easy planning tool and want detailed advice on itinerary, Rick Steves is the way to go. We followed his suggestions almost to a tee and had the most magnificent trip! I will say it was extremely fast paced for two weeks but Croatia is now one of my favorite vacations, in a large part thanks to Rick. I would highly recommend this guide.

Recently visited the Balkans and chose this book after looking at several others in the local library. Well written, good recommendations on sights to see along with good historical descriptions. Coverage of places to stay were not that useful, maybe out of date; however in May, it was not difficult to find suitable accommodations. We did not reserve ahead. Lots of good hotels in Opatia as a base to tour Istria. He also provides a bit of coverage of Bosnia-Herzegovina and Montenegro.

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