



Come, Enjoy, Pass It On

# BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

30 Unforgettable Destinations



*Amel Salihbašić*





**About this Book:**

This book is divided into 30 chapters, of which 2 are dedicated to the cities of Mostar and Sarajevo, while the remaining 28 focus on different destinations across Bosnia and Herzegovina. At the beginning of the book you'll find a map of the region and a brief introduction. Detailed descriptions and photos of individual attractions, sites, and activities by region follow.

This book doesn't provide hotel or restaurant recommendations, and public transport schedules are not included.

This book has been published in Bosnian, English, German, and Turkish.

**About the Author:**

Amel Salihbašić was born in Sarajevo in 1969. He studied computer technology at the Technical University. Since completing his studies, he's worked in the fields of data processing, business intelligence, and data warehousing. He became interested in photography as a result of his love of traveling. It was due to his fascination with Bosnia and Herzegovina's beauty and the desire to introduce others to this country that he decided to publish this book.

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*Amel Salihbašić*

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**30 Unforgettable Destinations**

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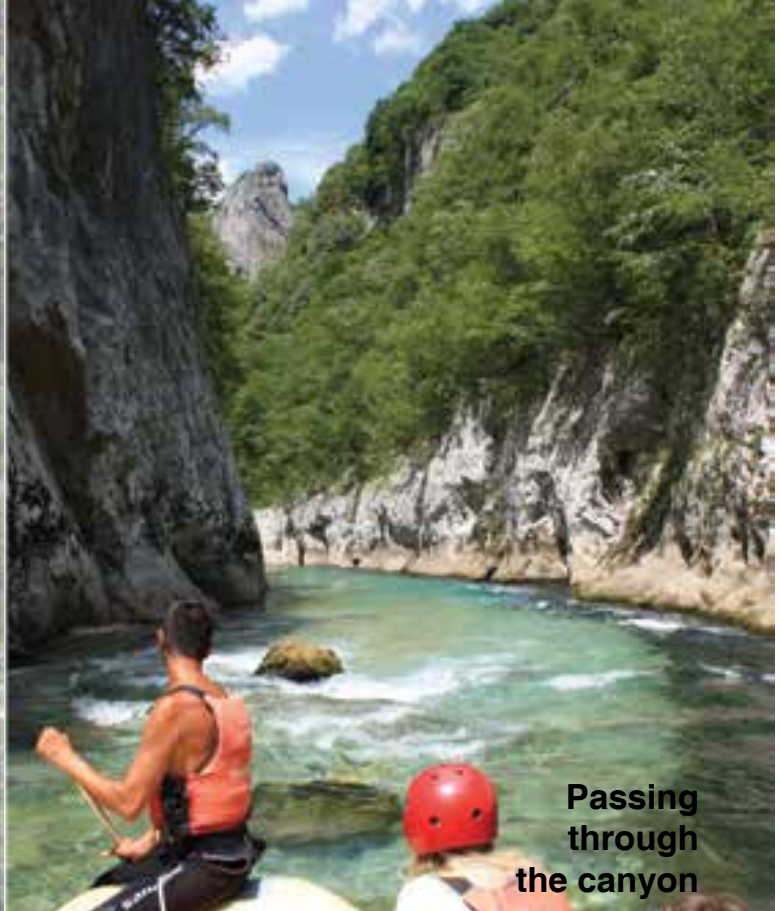
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Neretva near Glavatičevo



Passing through the canyon



Start of rafting

## 01. Neretva River - Upper Course

The upper Neretva River, from its source to the town of Konjic, offers numerous opportunities for an active or relaxing holiday. Fresh air, clear water, and the beautiful environment are the main attributes of this area. The most popular activity in the region is a relaxing day of rafting in the Neretva River Canyon (1), which includes a mandatory break at the mouth of the Rakitnica River, where it flows into the Neretva.

In addition to rafting, visitors can enjoy relaxing on Boračko Lake (2) or in the vicinity of the village of Glavatičevo (3), sight-seeing in the town of Konjic (4), a visit Tito's Bunker (5), which was formerly a secret fallout shelter, or go hiking on the nearby mountains of Prenj and Bjelašnica.







## Rafting the Neretva



### Rafting the Neretva River (1)

The Neretva River is approximately 225 km long. Originating at the foot of the Zelengora Mountains, it is the only river in BiH that flows into the Adriatic Sea. For the majority of its length, it runs through Herzegovina, with the final 22 km flowing through Croatia.

The route between Glavatičevo and Džajići, a distance of approximately 23 km, is used for rafting. Rafting the emerald green waters of this route takes about 5 hrs. Both adults and children can take part in rafting excursions. Over 10,000 visitors per year make rafting the Neretva River a very popular activity.

Anyone interested in rafting the Neretva should first make a reservation with one of the rafting clubs from Konjic. For rafting participants, the day usually begins with breakfast next to the river at one of the rafting club camps. After breakfast, rafters are transported to the location from which rafting begins, which is located between Boračko Lake and the village of Glavatičevo. If there's no need to hurry, the drivers usually take a short break at the lookout over Boračko Lake. Upon arrival at the starting point, all participants receive necessary rafting equipment: a neoprene wetsuit, a lifejacket, and a helmet. One experienced skipper is assigned to each raft in order to assure a safe descent down the beautiful, green Neretva.

While rafting, participants will enjoy the beautiful canyon of the Neretva River and the many waterfalls flowing from its sides. The first break is held at the mouth of the Rakitnica River, as it flows into the Neretva. The golden yellow color of the Rakitnica River is an incredible sight.

During the second half of the excursion, one additional break is held. If previous arrangements are made with the organizer, it's possible for participants to enjoy a barbecue on the banks of the Neretva. Participants should take advantage of the opportunity to go for an unforgettable swim in the river's waters, which, in the upper course of the Neretva, are safely drinkable.



### Neretva Canyon



Gull



## The mouth of the Rakitnica



**Rakitnica**



**Crayfish**

### **Rakitnica River**

The Rakitnica River is 26 km long. It is the largest tributary in the upper Neretva's course. Largely inaccessible, the river runs through one of Europe's largest canyons, which is located between the mountains of Bjelašnica and Visočica. The entrance to the canyon is 1,150 m.a.s.l. After a 21.5 km course through the canyon, the Rakitnica River flows into the Neretva River at 300 m.a.s.l.

If you're up for an adventure and in good physical condition, a number of rafting clubs from Konjic arrange mini-rafting excursions through the rugged canyon. For the brave, this promises to be an unforgettable experience.





**The second half of rafting**



**Neretva Canyon**



**Break for a barbecue and swimming**





View point



**Boračko Lake**



**Kaurško Cemetery**



### **Boračko Lake (2) and Glavatičevo Village (3)**

Boračko Lake is the most famous natural mountain lake in BiH. The lake is approximately 750x400 m wide and up to 14 m deep. The lake and its surroundings offer enjoyable opportunities for walking, swimming, boating, and biking. Water in the lake arrives from the Boračko Creek and several smaller tributaries, and drains into the Šištica River, which, after 3 km, flows into the Neretva creating a waterfall. On the way to the lake, in the village of Borci, is the Kaurško cemetery (bs. Kaurško groblje). This interesting necropolis contains 121 stećak tombstones. This is just one of 125 necropolises, with a total of over 5,000 stećak tombstones, which can be found in the vicinity of Konjic.

The village of Glavatičevo is located approximately 30 km from Konjic in the Neretva River valley, and is surrounded by mountains that offer ideal opportunities for hiking. Visitors can also find relaxing pebble beaches on the banks of the Neretva River in the vicinity of the village. There are also a number of rafting club camps near the village. The Lađanica fish farm offers lunch in a natural setting on the river of the same name. For those interested in visiting the fish farm, upon exiting Glavatičevo, before the bridge, turn right off the main road onto a dirt road. This road goes past the stećak tombstone necropolis in the village of Biskup. After driving 2.5 km, you'll arrive at the fish farm. Not far from the small fish farm, a pleasant walk can be enjoyed to mills still in use for grinding wheat and the source of the Lađanica River.





**Neretva**



**Rafting camp**



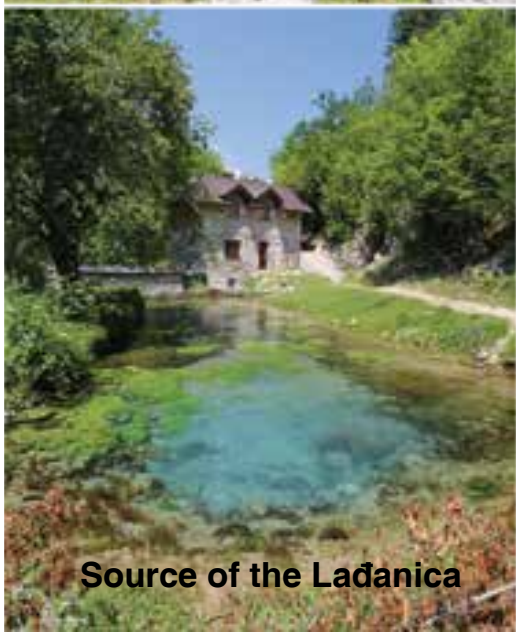
**Cross motorbike**



**Biskup Necropolis**



**Around Glavatičevo**



**Source of the Lađanica**



**Lađanica - Fish Farm**



**Konjic**



**Local History Museum**



**Old Bridge**



**Around the Old Bridge**







**Woodcarving**



### Town of Konjic (4)

Konjic is a market town in northern Herzegovina. The old stone bridge, which is the town's symbol, was built in 1682. Construction of the bridge is attributed to Haseći Ali-agi Kolaković, originally from Blagaj and a senior official in Istanbul. The six-arch bridge is 101.8 m long and 5.25 m wide. It was destroyed in 1945 during the retreat of the German army and reconstructed in 2009. Numerous shops and restaurants may be found on either side of the bridge. It is a real pleasure to drink a traditional Bosnian coffee in one of the restaurants located on the banks of the Neretva River.

Konjic is well known for its woodcarving, a tradition that has been passed down over generations for decades. The Nikšić ([www.rukotvorine.com](http://www.rukotvorine.com)) and Mulić ([www.drvoezbarstvo.com](http://www.drvoezbarstvo.com)) families are the most famous artisans still practicing this craft, and their works are an integral part of BiH's heritage. Both families have workshops and showrooms in the town where it's possible to view and purchase original objects and Bosnian-style pieces of furniture.

While in Konjic, it's worthwhile to visit the Local History Museum (bs. Zavičajni muzej) and its annex, the birth house of famous travel writer and caricaturist Zulfikar "Zuko" Džumhur (1920-1989). The museum is located next to the old bridge and its collection presents the traditional cultural practices and customs of the peoples who inhabited this part of Herzegovina. When walking through town, be sure to take a look at the old Repovac Mosque, the Orthodox Church, and the 16th c. Franciscan Monastery with its gallery and library.

In the very center of this city on the Neretva River, it's possible to go fly-fishing for a prize catch.



**Relaxing along the Neretva**



**Bosnian coffee**







Tito's Bunker



Entrance to the bunker



### Tito's Bunker (5)

This military facility called D-0, at the foot of Mount Zlatar, was built in complete secrecy over a 26-year period (1953-1979). The bunker is approximately 6,500 sq.m in size, and is located 280 m under ground. It consists of over 100 air-conditioned rooms in which 350 individuals could reside for 6 months. In the event of nuclear or other destructive warfare, the bunker was to function as a center for military operations and a shelter for President Tito, his family, and his closest associates. The bunker was designed to withstand a nuclear strike of up to 25 kilotons.

### Biennale Exhibition



Today, the bunker is used as the venue for the contemporary art Biennale ([www.bijenale.ba](http://www.bijenale.ba)). The first Biennale, held in 2011, brought together 44 artists from 18 countries. In the context of that event, 50 works of art were exhibited that now serve as the bunker's permanent collection. The second Biennale was held between April 26th and September 26th, 2013. There are plans to transform the bunker into a contemporary art museum.

Tito's bunker can currently only be visited on a group tour arranged by the tourism association of Konjic, or with the approval of the BiH Ministry of Defense.







**Jablaničko Lake**



## 02. Neretva River - Middle Course

The midstream of the Neretva, from Konjic to Mostar, is characterized by three artificial lakes (Jablaničko, Grabovica and Salakovac). This segment of the river is located between the high peaks of Mt. Prenj (2103 m) to the left, and Mt. Bitovnja (1700 m), Mt. Čvršnica (2226 m) and Mt. Čabulja (1786 m) to the right.

In this area, visitors can relax on the shores of Jablaničko Lake (1), explore the Ibar River Valley (2), visit the town of Jablanica (3), enjoy a stroll along the Drežnica (4) and Mostarska Bijela (5) Rivers, bike in the Blidinje Park (6), and hike up Mt. Čvršnica (7).

### Jablaničko Lake (1)

Jablaničko Lake (bs. Jablaničko jezero) is the largest artificial lake on the Neretva River. It was created in 1953 through the construction of a dam 5 km upstream from Jablanica. The approximately 20 km long lake extends upstream to Konjic and has an area of 13 km<sup>2</sup> and is 80 m deep.

During the summer, when the level of water is kept high, the lake attracts many swimmers, fishermen, and water sports enthusiasts. Beaches and motor campsites can be found along the lake's shores near the villages of Lisičići and Ostrožac. Water levels in the lake decrease to 30 m during the fall and winter, and the lake is then refilled in the spring.



**Lisičići Beach**



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All of the information presented in this book has been carefully researched and fact checked. However, developments occurring in Bosnia and Herzegovina may mean that some information provided is out of date. The author will be pleased to receive advice and information from readers. Please write to [info@come-enjoy-bosnia.com](mailto:info@come-enjoy-bosnia.com).

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This book is a result of the author's desire to present – in the best possible way and through photography – the nature and cultural diversity of Bosnia and Herzegovina. For many, this country represents an unknown, or it is known only for the war-time events of the 1990s.

Those who have already been to Bosnia and Herzegovina know that the country offers a great deal: from enjoying its clear and capricious rivers, which are perfect for rafting and fishing, its large mountains that attract hikers and skiers, and its numerous caves, to visiting the country's cities with their many cultural and historical landmarks left behind by the Illyrians, Romans, Byzantines, Ottomans, Austro-Hungarians, and multiple Slavic cultures. Bosnia and Herzegovina also boasts a rich cultural and social life. If any of these things interest you, then you've found both the right book and future destination!



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