



Come, Enjoy, Pass It On

# BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

30 Unforgettable Days



*Amel Salihbašić*





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## About this Book:

This book is divided into 30 chapters, two of which are dedicated to the cities of Mostar and Sarajevo, while the remaining 28 focus on different regions across Bosnia and Herzegovina. At the beginning of the book you will find a map of the region and a brief introduction. This is followed by detailed descriptions and pictures of tourist attractions and activities of that region.

Each chapter offers visitors plentiful of suggestions on how to spend at least one day in a region when visiting all attractions or participating in all activities described in that chapter.

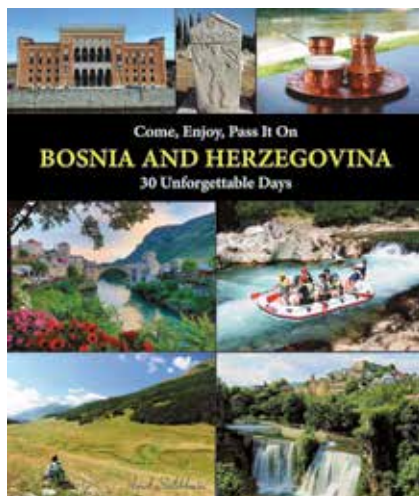
## About the Author:

Amel Salihbašić was born in Sarajevo. He studied Computer Engineering at the Universities of Technology in Sarajevo and Zagreb. Since completing his studies, he has been working in the fields of data processing, business intelligence, and data warehousing.

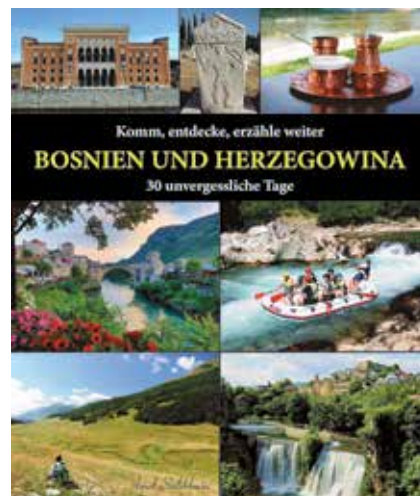
Amel's passion for photography was sparked by his many trips. Out of this passion the idea of making a travel guide was born. His first book '23 Unforgettable Days in Bosnia and Herzegovina' was published in 2011. The first edition of the book 'Come, Enjoy, Pass It On BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA' was published in Bosnian, German, English and Turkish in 2014. Already in 2015, the second edition of the book in Bosnian and German as well as the first edition in Italian followed. At the end of 2017, the edition in Czech language and the updated editions in Bosnian, English and German were published. So far, the book has been published in six languages.



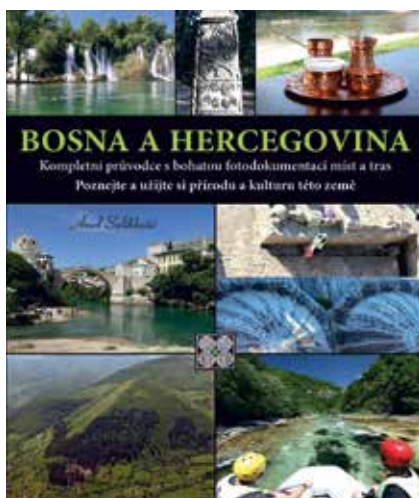
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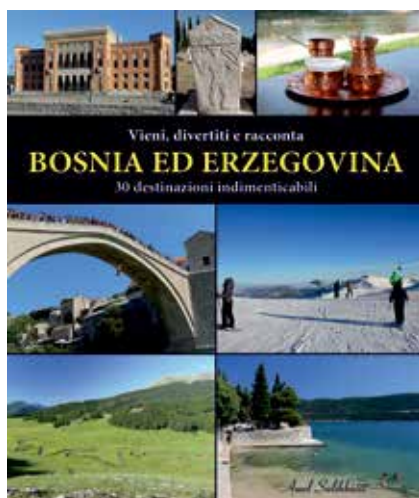
English



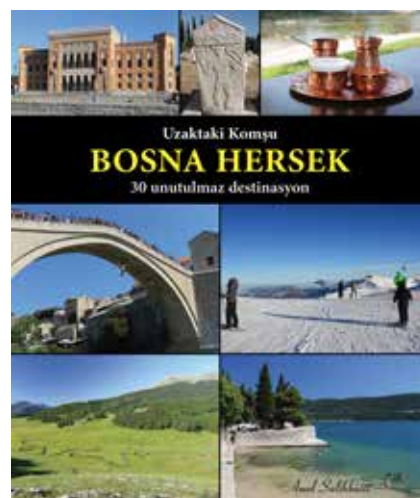
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Turkish

### **Fikret Pendek, The last skipper of wooden rafts on Tara and Drina - Foča**

Amel Salihbašić's book 'Come, Enjoy, Pass it On' is his life's work. It is a good way to explore his home country Bosnia and Herzegovina. This book helps particularly Bosnians, who love their country and are spread across the globe, to bring back beautiful memories. Every single one of them can experience their home region, no matter what part of Bosnia they originally come from. This book is the most magnificent collection of postcards of my homeland.

It was a great pleasure getting to know and working with Mr Salihbašić.

[www.splavarenje.ba](http://www.splavarenje.ba)

### **Kasim Džajić, Owner of the agency Neretva Rafting - Konjic**

This is one of the books where the author manages to evoke true emotions. Professional, attractive and stunning photographs, which are complemented by useful texts, convert the book into an excellent guideline for new adventures. I was already aware that Bosnia and Herzegovina is beautiful and unique, but Amel shows much more through his book and has raised my interest to discover more. No matter if you are looking for information about the natural beauty, tradition, culture, people or sights of Bosnia and Herzegovina, be assured that this book is a great way to get this information.

[www.neretvarafting.ba](http://www.neretvarafting.ba)

### **Tadžudin Muslibegović, National monument Muslibegović House - Mostar**

I was thinking that I knew all beauties of Bosnia and Herzegovina, but looking at Amel's pictures I realized I was wrong. This travel guide provides a great overview of all natural beauties of Bosnia and Herzegovina and its historical and cultural richness which makes this country so special and worth visiting. I sincerely believe that this extraordinary book will contribute to Bosnia and Herzegovina being more widely recognized as a desirable tourist destination.

[www.muslibegovichouse.com](http://www.muslibegovichouse.com)

### **Almira Grčić, Owner of the travel agency Almira - Mostar**

Each page of Mr. Salihbasic's book shows a new city, a new mountain, a new river, history, culture and people of our beautiful Bosnia and Herzegovina. When you come here and discover the diversity of the region you will be impressed and tell your friends about it just like the title of the book is saying, 'Come, Enjoy, Pass It On ...'.

[www.almira-travel.ba](http://www.almira-travel.ba)

### **Sanjin Bubalo, Owner of the agency Visit Konjic - Konjic**

In times when Bosnia and Herzegovina is getting more widely recognized as a world-class travel destination, I think that this travel guide is definitely adding value to that. This guide is well-organized and boasts high quality. It includes all cultural and natural treasures of Bosnia and Herzegovina presented by beautiful pictures and helpful texts. Such a book can definitely help attract new tourists.

[www.visitkonjic.com](http://www.visitkonjic.com)

### **Edin Pandur, Artists in copper - Mostar**

A country with so many beauties of nature, picturesque places, breathtaking landscapes, diverse cultures and good craftsmen deserves to be presented well, as has been done by the inspirational guide 'Come, Enjoy, Pass It On BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA'. This book is aimed at all those people who are looking for more than just a tour organized by a travel agency, which usually gives just a superficial impression of a place.

This travel guide does not only offer information about the Old Bridge of Mostar, Bašćaršija in Sarajevo or Međugorje, but also helps travelers find hidden treasures, discover different traditions, customs, cultures and landscapes, leaving every single one of them fascinated on their trip to the unknown. Be ready for an adventure called 'Bosnia and Herzegovina'. Come, enjoy and pass it on.

[www.artstudiopandur.com](http://www.artstudiopandur.com)

*Amel Salihbašić*

**Come, Enjoy, Pass It On**

**BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA**

**30 Unforgettable Days**

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**Neretva near  
Glavatičevo**



**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), sightseeing 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. The most adventurous ones can also try the Mini-Rafting on the Rakitnica River (2).



**Waterfall in the Neretva Canyon**



## Approaching the Canyon

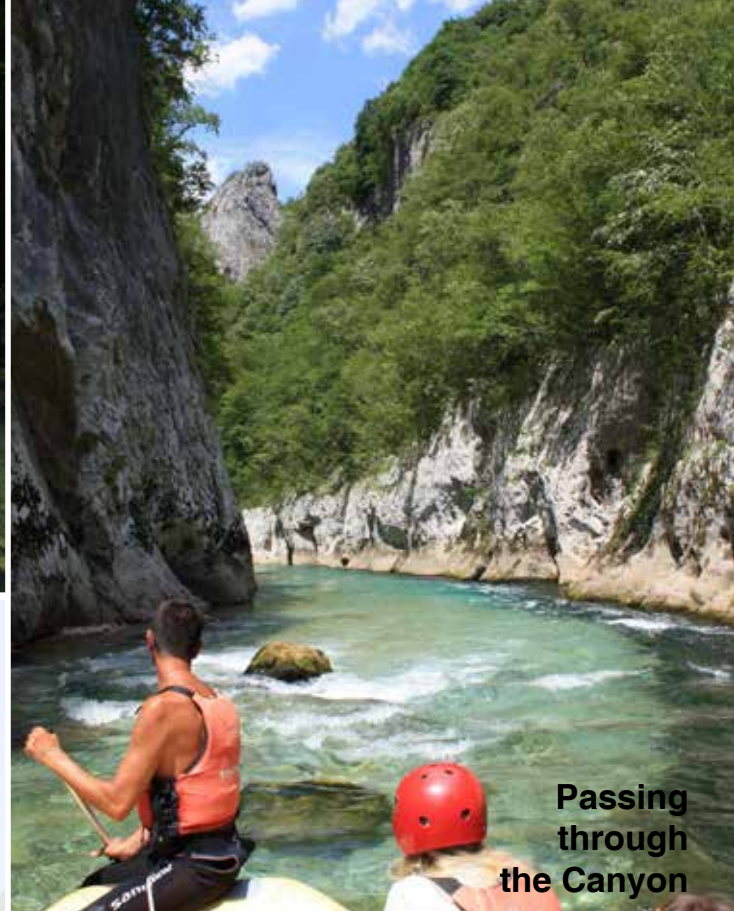


### Rafting the Neretva River (1)

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 Džajčići, 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.



Passing through the Canyon



Rafting the Neretva







**The mouth of the Rakitnica**



**Crayfish**



**Break for a barbecue and swimming**

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. The Rakitnica River is 26 km long and is the largest tributary in the upper Neretva's course. It runs between the mountains of Bjelašnica and Visočica. In its water it is possible to find crayfishes.

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.



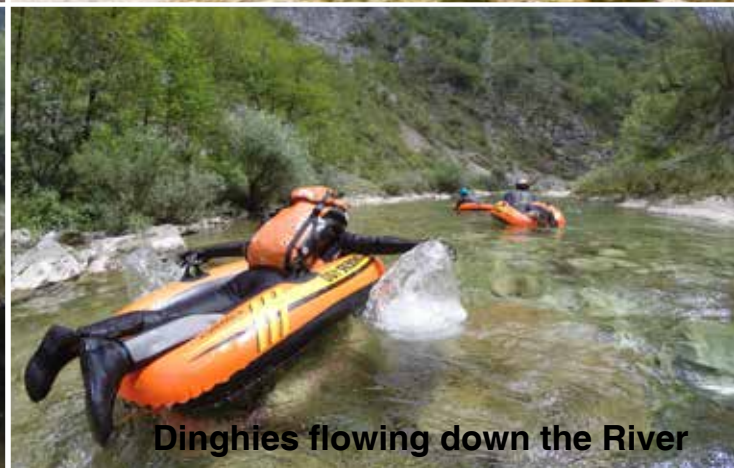
**Body rafting in the Neretva**



## On the way to the Rakitnica



**Rakitnica**



**Dinghies flowing down the River**

### Mini Rafting the Rakitnica River (2)

The Rakitnica runs through a largely inaccessible and one of Europe's largest canyons. 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.

Several rafting clubs from Konjic organize tours on small inflatable boats (dinghies) through this difficult passable canyon. The descent on the small boats starts under the village of Dubočac. The first and last third of the downhill are light, because in them the Rakitnica has a relatively quiet stream. In the middle part of the descent it is necessary to pass through the very narrow canyon. Sometimes it is necessary to climb over the surrounding rocks, in order to bypass the stronger streams. This adventure is only for people with good fitness.



**Through the narrow Rakitnica Canyon**





**View point**



**Boračko Lake**



### **Boračko Lake (3) and Glavatičevo Village (4)**

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 Kaurko cemetery (bs. Kaurko 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. Having lunch in a natural setting is offered by restaurant Biser Vrelo in Glavatičevo and Lađanica fish farm on the Lađanica River. 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.

**Kaurko Cemetery**







**Neretva**



**Rafting camp**



**Cross motorbike**



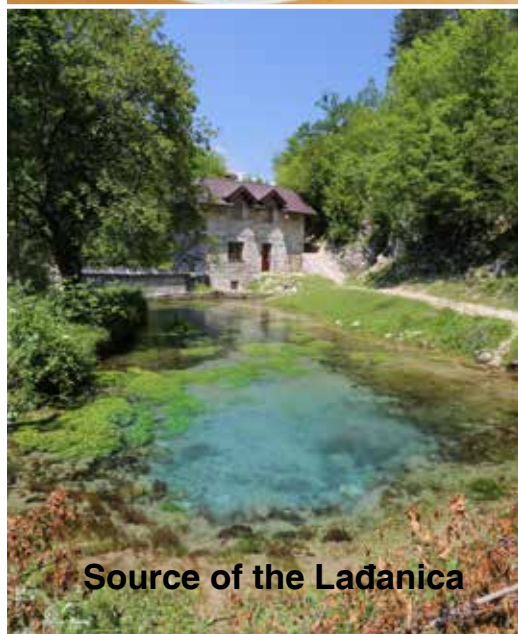
**Biskup Necropolis**



**Grilled trout**



**Around Glavatičevo**



**Source of the Lađanica**



**Lađanica - Fish Farm**



**Konjic**



**Local History Museum**



**Old Bridge**



**Around the Old Bridge**







**Woodcarving**



## Town of Konjic (5)

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**



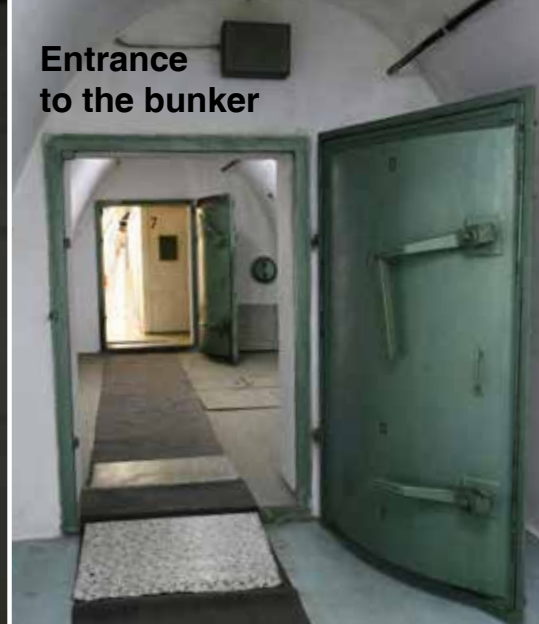




**Tito's Bunker**



**Entrance  
to the bunker**



### **Tito's Bunker (6)**

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.

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.



**Biennale Exhibition**





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This book is the result of a desire to depict the natural beauty and cultural diversity of Bosnia and Herzegovina in the best way possible. Most of the tourists stay in Bosnia and Herzegovina just for two or three days. This book features more than 150 of the country's popular tourist destinations and attractions, making it easy for visitors to spend up to 30 unforgettable and unique days there.

Bosnia and Herzegovina is a big unknown to most people. Those who have already been in this country know that Bosnia and Herzegovina has a lot to offer: clear and capricious rivers, which are perfect for rafting and fishing, vast mountain ranges that attract hikers and skiers, numerous caves, cities boasting many cultural and historical landmarks dating back to the Illyrians, Romans, Byzantines, Ottomans, Austro-Hungarians and diverse Slavic cultures, as well as a rich cultural and social life. If you are interested in any of these, you've found both the right book and the right destination for you!



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