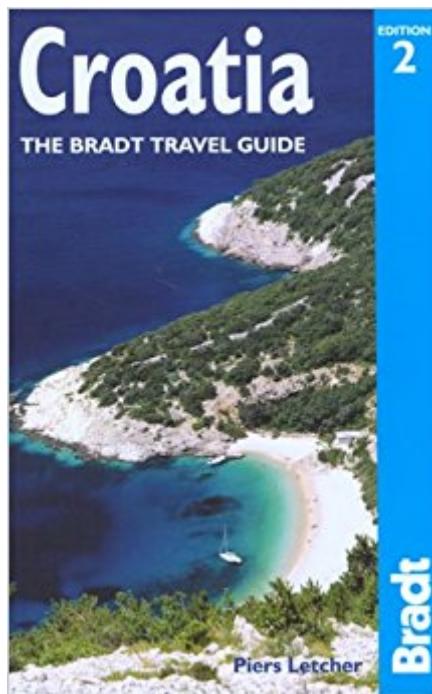


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# Croatia, 2nd: The Bradt Travel Guide



## Synopsis

The Bradt guide to this popular and tranquil alternative to mainstream Mediterranean Europe focuses on Croatia's natural and cultural attractions.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"Highly recommended travel guide to Croatia, and currently the most up-to-date one! Certainly a must for all those visiting the country this year. Very detailed guide provides information for all types of travellers, from holidaymakers to backpackers, families to lone travellers." Visit Croatia: [www.visit-croatia.co.uk](http://www.visit-croatia.co.uk) "Informative and entertaining." John Crowley, The Daily Telegraph "Croatia is erudite, iconic and informative." Belfast News Letter Group --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Croatia's peaceful beauty belies its turbulent past. Standing at the crossroads of Europe, it offers an extraordinary heritage, dramatic mountains, 1,185 islands, and the best climate on the Adriatic. Seek out the attractions of Zagreb, Split and Dubrovnik - Byron's "Pearl of the Adriatic

Bradt Guides almost always set the standard for their respective countries. There's a good reason for that. The publisher guarantees that each book is written by an author who not only has the requisite skill, but also has intense reverence for the culture and history for the place for which they write. This book is a perfect example of the theory at work. This guide is not only entirely comprehensive, it is written with wit and insight into the county and its people that make it a

delightful read. Bradt Guides are almost always like that. Croatia is a bit like Austria in that it contains a disproportionate number of tourist destinations for its modest population. Ancient and modern history, and geography make it so. Whether it's the Dalmatian coast or the inland villages of Istria, the bustle of Zagreb or the serenity of Plitvice Lakes National Park, this book has you covered. The narrative descriptions of each place are quite thorough, and the listings are a selective sample of the best options. Some people prefer travel guides loaded with glossy color content, and if that describes you, you may not like this book. Bradt Guides have always been more about the substance of the written material more than the visual material, and this book is no exception. Maps are also very simple with no detail to speak of. Unlike Rick Steves' Guide, which are written explicitly for American travelers, the Bradt Guide is written essentially for Europeans, which gives it an entirely different perspective than other guides. The Bradt Guide support a sort of aimless, "let's see what's around this corner" type of travel experience that is more spontaneous and authentic. I've used both Bradt and Rick Steves, and my preference is entirely dependent on the kind of experience I want. Both books are superb. If you have even a slight interest in the history and environs of Croatia, a quick browse through this book will convince you that a trip is in order. Good travel guides create that impression.

I had vacationed in Croatia twice before I bought this guide for a third visit in 2014. I was mostly interested in four locations: Zagreb, the Starigrad Paklenica national park, Zadar and the Plitvice lakes. I did not have much time for the lakes, but found Letcher's Zagreb, Paklenica, and Zadar sections un-clichéd and genuinely helpful. I took at least one of his Zagreb routes: the directions were mostly clear and to the point and the recommended sights worth seeing. Letcher's description of the St. George statue near the Stone Gate - which turned out quite accurate - gives an idea of his style: "...a fine statue of St George and the (curiously catfish-faced) Dragon, with St George looking remarkably contrite." The book also includes a sensibly detailed introduction to mountain walking paths in the Paklenica park, one of the author's (and now my own) favorite places in Croatia, "offering everything from a gentle stroll to a seriously strenuous trek, and pitches for rock climbers of every level." I must admit I found some of the "easy" paths more strenuous than gentle but I put it down to my lack of trekking experience.

Then this guide book is for you. If you're already planning a trip or just wanted to get a lay of the land, Pier Letcher will give you Croatia on a platter. This guidebook is laid out quite well and the writing is personal and...hilarious. It's obvious Mr. Letcher loved being there and, based on the small

and intimate places he went to, the Croatians he met were quite taken by him. There is a lot of information presented, including history, art, bus schedules, state office hours, etc. The trick with this book, as compared to the Lonely Planet and Rough Guide series (both of which I bought and used as well) is in how Mr. Letcher writes about all of this information. His unique viewpoint brings you into the museum, the hotel, the bar, the bus station. Even if you are not going to Croatia, reading this book will give you a great idea of what the country's about. We used this book and the other 2 guidebooks mentioned on our recent trip. This book was read cover to cover and then referred to continually during our trip. The other 2 books, while useful, were mainly used as cross-references, just to get a 2nd and 3rd opinion of certain places. In most cases, no opinion, save Mr. Letcher's, was needed. When we left Croatia, some relatives had asked if we could leave our dog-eared copy behind. With tears in my eyes and a burek in my mouth, I had to say, "No, please get your own!"

Have just returned from 2 weeks in Croatia and we cannot recommend the country, or this book, highly enough. We purchased 3 titles in all, and while each had its merits this guide was by far the most insightful into the history, culture, and sights of the country. We drove, mostly, but ditched the car in both Zagreb and Dubrovnik on the advice of this book and thought that was one of the best pieces suggestions.

Like nearly all Bradt guides, excellent resource. One of two I used over there.

excellent info for the price and seems to be sufficiently updated

I've read just about all of the Croatian guide books and have traveled there extensively. This one is entertainingly written and provides a detailed and somewhat off-beat view that's perfect for the independent traveler.

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