

**HOLIDAY PARADISE OR ALL THE WAY TO BIHAĆ**  
With a Camera along the Touristic Routes through Croatia



The pictures were taken on the following routes:

Route 1: Senj – Otočac – Vrhovine – Plitvička Jezera

Route 2: Rijeka – Ogulin – Josipdol – Plaški – Saborsko – Poljanak – Jezerce Korenica – Udbina

Route 3: Paklenica – Gračac – Knin – Krka – Drniš – Šibenik

Route 4: Zadar – Obrovac – Gračac – Drenovac – Radučki – Gospić

Route 5: Karlobag – Gospić – Prijeboj – Ličko Petrovo Selo – Izačić – Bihać



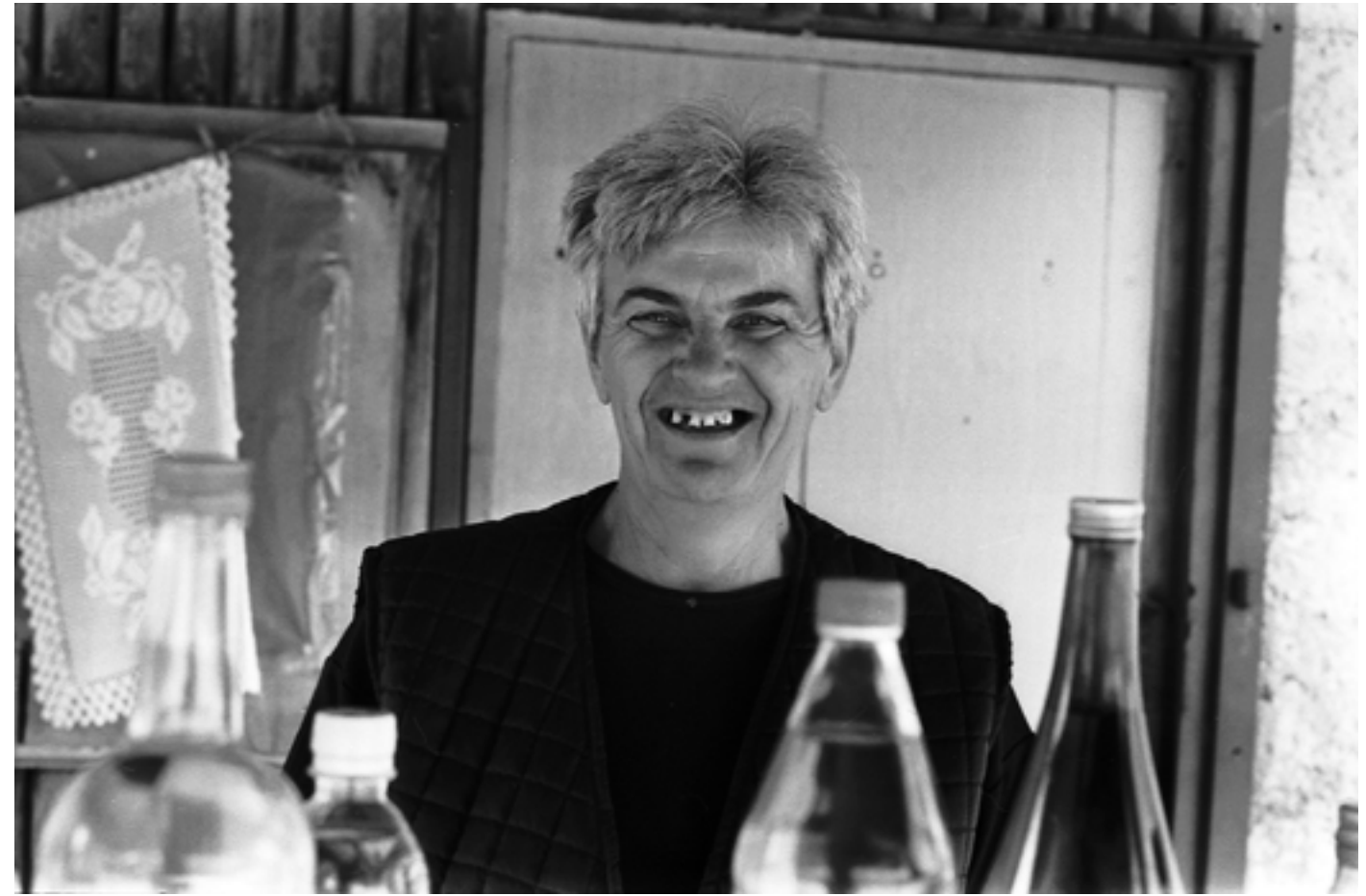


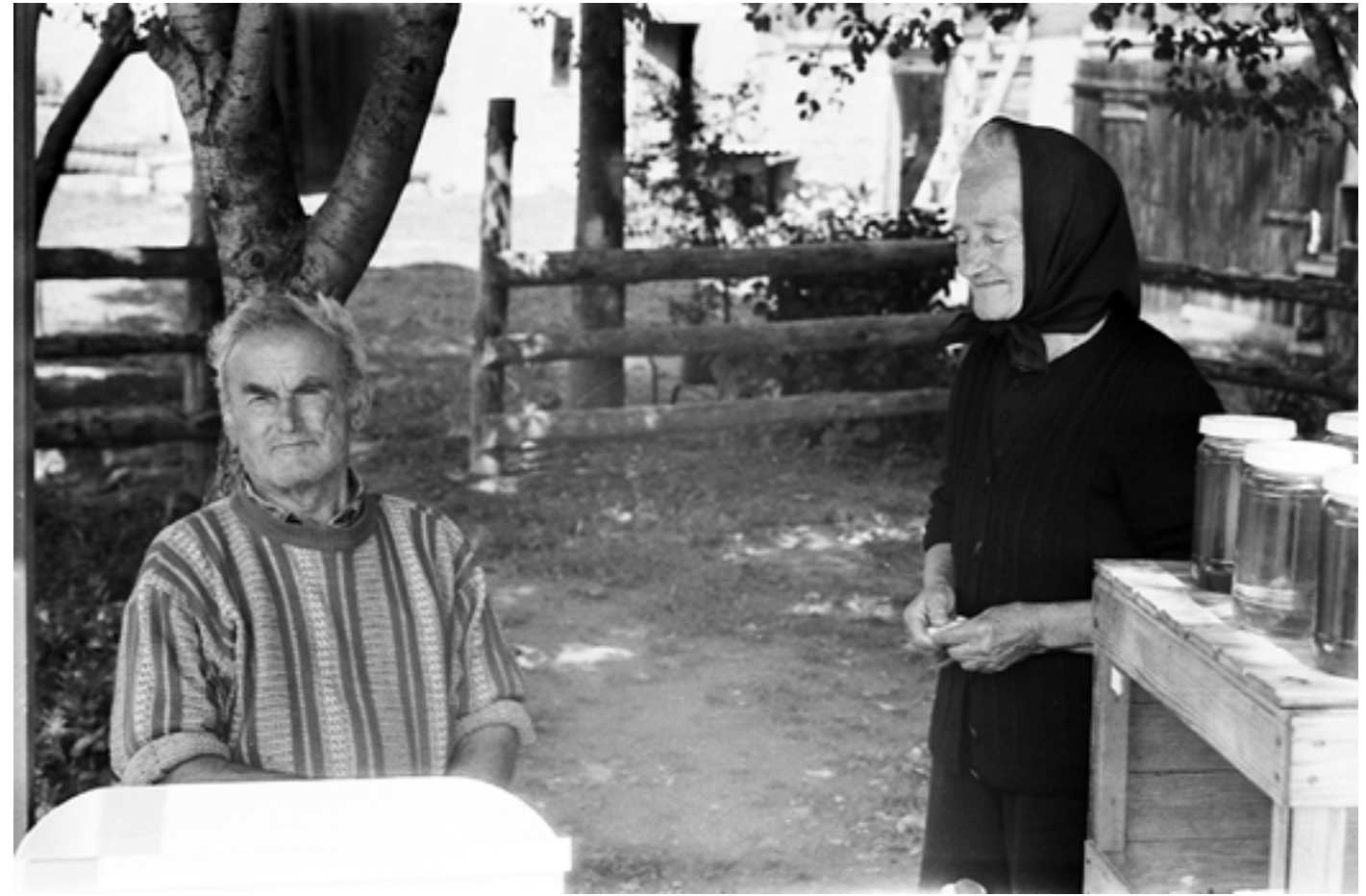
Senj  
Otočac  
Vrhovine  
Plitvička Jezera











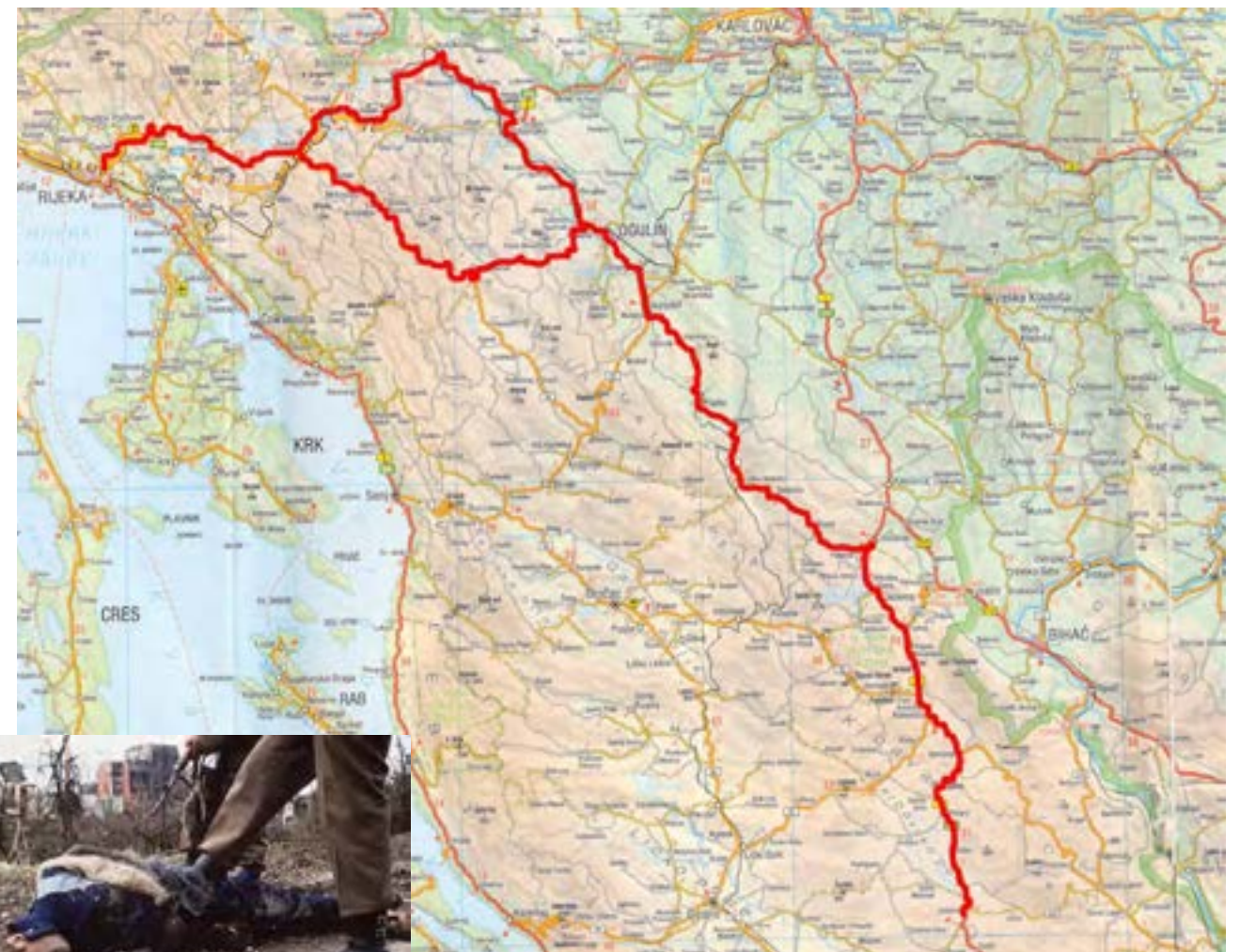








Rijeka  
Ogulin  
Josipdol  
Plaški  
Saborsko  
Poljanak  
Jezerce  
Korenica  
Plitvička Jezera  
Udbina

















Paklenica  
Gračac  
Knin  
Krka  
Drniš  
Šibenik













Zadar  
Obrovac  
Gračac  
Drenovac Radučki  
Gospić











Karlobag  
Gospić  
Prijeboj  
Ličko Petrovo Selo  
Izačić  
Bihać











## The Project

Croatia has become again a very popular destination for tourists from all over Europe in the last years.

Beach holidays on the Adriatic Coast as well as trips to the beauties of nature in the interior are part of the touristic program

The Adriatic: blue Water, a radiant sun, mixed barbecues with ćevapčići or fresh fish, local wine and beer from Karlovac. Lots of travel agencies offer accomadations for every taste, on the islands, on the mainland, in a hotel or a in private house. You may go on a boat excursion to the islands by or travel by bus and car to the waterfalls of Plitvice and Krka, which are among the most beautiful ones in Europe and where in former years both West- and East Germans shot Wild West feature movies: a tourist's paradise.

You won't notice there was a war going on ten years ago. It is maximum a four hours drive from the coast to the National Parks and when you don't look out of the window or simply sleep you won't be disturbed. But woe you open your eyes! You will be driven out of Paradise. In the parks the mines have been removed so far but outside it will take another ten years to demine the territories.

In these areas tourists avoid contact with people. As a man in Plaški put it: "Tourists? They never get off their cars here."

The avarage traveller just wants to get to his destination and forget about his daily life.

Ten Kilometers behind the shore you reach the pass and leave the mild mediteranean climat behind. Far away from the beaten tracks of tourism you immerge into the world of the plateau, a world of agriculture and shortage, marked by the civil war. The remnants of burned down farm houses next to the ruins of never finished constructions egde the roads. Old women dressed in black sit on the way side in front of their houses littered with bullet holes and sell honey, homemade cheese and slivovitz. Cities like Gospić, Gračac or what their names may be, look like ghost towns. Only Knin is slightly different, but what once was a town inhabited mostly by Serbians is since the Croatian counter attack in 1995 a "liberated" and "ethnically cleaned" Croatian place.

Shortly before arriving at Plitvice National Park you turn right towards Bihać in Bosnia and Herzegovina. It is not far: just 20 km. Mostar isn't far, as well: 60 km from the coast.

What strikes most is the existance of two parallel worlds that have nearly nothing to do with each other: The holiday paradise and the life of the people in the hinterland, apparently forgotten by the world. Nobody seems to bother that ten, fifteen years ago neighbours, living side by side slaughterd each other inmidst "civilised" Europe.

## The Realisation

Driving down the touristic itineraries colour snapshots of the houses and people are taken from the speeding car. It is just what you see passing through the country aiming at your destination: the beach or the National Parks.

In a second step I got out of the car and into contact with the people living in these "remote" areas and I took black and white photographs of them. Portaits that give theses people a face that is more than just a backdrop beyond the car's windows.

It was nearly always possible and people were very opened. Only in Plaški was I told not to take pictures: "There are already enough pictures of me in Den Haag!"

Joachim Seinfeld 2005/2010

