

History of Tourism in Croatia

Croatian transcript:

Aleksandar: Kada je počeo turizam da se širi u Hrvatskoj?

Zoran: Pa turizam, meni su pričali neki stariji Nijemci koje sam upoznao u Poreču, Istra je bila prva nekakva destinacija jer je najbliža granici sa Italijom, tako da... Tamo su, dakle Nijemci u Istri, ja mislim, pa onda Nijemci u Dalmaciji, pa negdje krajem pedesetih da su neke značajnije grupe dolazile, šezdesetih je to već bilo masovno, znači deseci, stotine hiljada turista iz Njemačke, Austrije, Italije su dolazili, ovaj, i svih ostalih zemalja.

Nudizam je bio, recimo, velika stvar. Bilo je desetak-dvadeset kampova duž obale. Kako je u Italiji, tamo crkva njima komplicirala stvari, u Italiji rijetko gdje je nudizam bio odobren, a Talijana ima dosta nudista, ovi sjevernjaci, Norvežani i Holanđani, [njih] je bilo puno, Nijemaca koji su baš dolazili zbog toga što su kod nas bile nudističke plaže, nudistički kampovi. Bio je, znači to je neka skraćenica, FKK, što je neka njemačka skraćenica, „Frei Kultur“ šta ja znam... „Körper“ nešto, „slobodna kultura tijela“, ovako nešto. FKK. Kod Vrsara... Ima kamp kod Vrsara, još uvijek je tamo, prije je bio veći jer i taj nudizam više možda i nije toliko fora koliko je nekad bio... Bilo je 30,000, kapacitet je imao 30,000 ljudi. Znači, to je bilo najveće nudističko naselje na svijetu, [ono] je bilo kod Vrsara, možete to izguglat. To je kompleks neki bio bungalova, pa kampova, pa nekakav otok za mlade, znači 30,000 golih ljudi, to je, ovaj, kako bih rekao, to je, ni sad se baš ne viđa.

Aleksandar: Nešto kao Burning Man, onako, je li?

Zoran: Pa mislim da tamo nema toliko, dakle, nema toliki kapacitet...

Aleksandar: Mislim da je sad na 65,000... Ove godine.

Zoran: Jel' je, toliki? Morat ćemo otić.

Aleksandar: I uporedit sa Vrsarom.

Zoran: I uporedit sa Vrsarom. Da, turizam, a onda imali smo taj zimski turizam, planinski, lovački; lovci su uvijek dolazili, znači. Talijanski lovci su dolazili lovit ovdje velike životinje, ptičice koje oni vole ubijati, jer od njih rade neke paštete, ne znam šta rade... Onda ribolov, imamo spektakularnih tih rijeka i kanjona, tako da...

Aleksandar: Možeš slobodno spomenut koje. Ili ako imaš neku preporuku za ljude?

Zoran: Pa ne znam, mislim, ima Gacka, to je nešto kao sad WWF iliti World Wildlife Fund je tu imao neki projekt zaštite pritoka te cijele doline Gacke, to je u Lici u centralnoj Hrvatskoj; Plitvička jezera nisu odrednica baš za ribolov jer je nacionalni park, ali je predivno jedno mjesto, tamo blizu je rođen Nikola Tesla, to je neki Teslin kraj.

Tako da... Šta ja znam, sad se sve više razvija taj gastronomski turizam, znači „slow food“, „organic food“, to je sve više cijenjeno i nekako...

Aleksandar: Sve što je za nas uvijek bilo normalno, je li.

Zoran: Veća je zarada. To je za nas bilo normalno, a sad je dobilo nekakvo ime, ovaj.

English translation:

Aleksandar: When did tourism start to spread in Croatia?

Zoran: Well, when it comes to tourism, I was told by a group of older Germans I've met in Poreč that Istra was the first destination because of its proximity to Italy, so Germans first started coming to Istra and then Dalmatia in the late fifties in larger numbers. By the sixties, they were already visiting en masse; tens and hundreds of thousands of tourists came from Germany, Austria, Italy and all other countries.

Nudism was a big deal, for example. There were ten to twenty camps along the coast. For example, in Italy the [Catholic] Church complicated matters for people, so places where nudism was allowed were rare, and there are many Italian nudists. Many northerners such as Norwegians and Dutch came, as well as Germans who would visit us solely because we had nudist beaches and nudist camps. There was this acronym, FKK, which is a German acronym for *Frei Kultur* something or other... *Körper*¹, it translates to "Free Body Culture", something like that. That was FKK. There's this camp near Vrsar, it's still there but it used to be bigger since nudism itself is no longer as popular as it used to be... The capacity was 30,000 people, and it was the largest nudist camp in the world - you can probably Google it. The complex included bungalows, camping space, an island for youth; so, 30,000 naked people is, how should I say this, a rare sight even today.

Aleksandar: It's something like Burning Man in terms of size or?

Zoran: I don't think that there are that many people at Burning Man in terms of capacity.

Aleksandar: I think it's around 65,000 this year.

Zoran: Oh really? We should go.

¹ *Freikörperkultur* or FKK is a German movement which promotes a naturalistic approach to sports and nature, where the emphasis is on enjoying the nature and nudity without any direct relationship with sexuality.

Aleksandar: So that we can compare it to Vrsar.

Zoran: So that we can compare it to Vrsar. [laughter] In any case, we also had winter tourist destinations, mountain tourism and hunting. Foreign hunters came often. Italian hunters came for big game hunting and birds which they like to hunt because there are certain types of pates that they make out of those birds, etc... Fishing is popular as well, since we have spectacular rivers and canyons, so...

Aleksandar: You could mention a few sites if you'd like. Or recommend a destination.

Zoran: I don't know, I mean, there's [the] Gacka [river] - WWF or World Wildlife Fund recently started a project of preservation of its tributaries and the whole Gacka valley. Gacka is in Lika in Central Croatia.

Plitvička jezera aren't really a fishing destination because it's a national park, but it's a beautiful spot. Nikola Tesla was born nearby, so he grew up in the area. The gastronomic tourism is becoming more developed, slow food and organic food are becoming more appreciated, so...

Aleksandar: This is something that was ordinary to us.

Zoran: There's money to be made in that. It is something that was natural to us, but now there's a name for it, yes.

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