



# MOVIES



C R O A T I A

## CROATIA THROUGH FILM

Movies are a great way to prepare for your trip and to get a sense of Croatian culture. You'll notice how Croatians have a rare ability to make comedies about the tragedies of their recent past. We've also sneaked into our recommendations a Hollywood romcom so that you can get a pre-trip look at some of the country's stunning scenery.

### **HOW THE WAR STARTED ON MY ISLAND (1996)**

**DIRECTOR: VINKO BREŠAN**

M\*A\*S\*H irreverence meets Eastern European irony in this black comedy about the 1990s breakup of Yugoslavia. It was a huge hit in Croatia while international critics praised how it builds both tension and laughter. Life on a small Adriatic island changes suddenly when Croatia declares independence and war looms.

### **MAMMA MIA! HERE WE GO AGAIN (2018)**

**DIRECTOR: OLIVER (OL) PARKER**

Okay, this "weirdly irresistible" musical romcom starring Amanda Seyfried, Meryl Streep, Cher, and lots of ABBA songs is actually set in the Greek Islands. But it was filmed in Croatia, so feast your eyes on the country's beauty as you sing along. A sequel to the 2008 smash *Mamma Mia!* film.

### **THE BORDER POST (2006)**

**DIRECTOR: RAJKO GRLIĆ**

Filmmakers from around the former Yugoslavia came together to make this comedy-drama about the last years of the country's Communist regime. A Yugoslav army commander, desperate to keep his wife from finding out about his extramarital activities and venereal disease, fabricates a story about an imminent attack on the country. *Variety* called it a "solid piece of classic filmmaking" that pokes gentle fun, but finishes likes "a stomach-churning punch."

### **THE CONSTITUTION (2016)**

**DIRECTOR: RAJKO GRLIĆ**

Described as a love story about hate, four very different people living in the same Zagreb apartment building slowly overcome their wariness of each other. This drama won a number of international film festival awards including best picture at Montreal's prestigious Grand Prix des Amériques.

### **TITO AND ME (1992)**

**DIRECTOR: GORAN MARKOVIĆ**

Set in 1954 Belgrade, this comedy about the cult of personality surrounding Yugoslavia's dictator Josip Tito also reveals a lot about Croatia under communism. *Los Angeles Times* thought this tale of a ten-year-old boy who has Tito as his imaginary buddy was the "surprise hit of the season" and "an engaging and amusing farce."