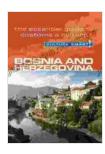
# Discover the Enchanting Mosaic of Bosnia and Herzegovina: A Culture Smart Guide

Nestled in the heart of the Balkans, Bosnia and Herzegovina is a cultural melting pot that has witnessed centuries of historical influences. From the ancient Illyrians and Romans to the Ottomans and Austro-Hungarians, Bosnia and Herzegovina has absorbed a rich tapestry of traditions, beliefs, and customs.

#### The People of Bosnia and Herzegovina

Bosnia and Herzegovina is a multiethnic country, with Bosniaks (Bosnian Muslims), Serbs, and Croats forming the largest ethnic groups. Each group has its own distinct history, language, and culture.



#### Bosnia & Herzegovina - Culture Smart!: The Essential Guide to Customs & Culture by Elizabeth Hammond

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Bosniaks are the descendants of the Slavic population that converted to Islam during Ottoman rule. They are the largest ethnic group in Bosnia and Herzegovina, accounting for about 50% of the population.

Serbs are the descendants of the Slavic population that converted to Orthodox Christianity. They are the second largest ethnic group in Bosnia and Herzegovina, accounting for about 30% of the population.

Croats are the descendants of the Slavic population that converted to Catholicism. They are the third largest ethnic group in Bosnia and Herzegovina, accounting for about 15% of the population.

#### **Bosnian Culture**

Bosnian culture is a blend of Balkan, Slavic, Ottoman, and Austro-Hungarian influences. It is a vibrant and diverse culture, with a rich tradition of music, dance, food, and art.

Bosnian music is characterized by its use of traditional instruments such as the gusle (a one-stringed fiddle),the saz (a plucked string instrument),and the tarabuka (a drum). Bosnian dance is also very popular, with folk dances such as the kolo and the sevdah being particularly well-known.

Bosnian food is hearty and flavorful, with dishes such as cevapi (grilled meat skewers), burek (a flaky pastry filled with meat or cheese), and dolma (stuffed grape leaves) being popular. Bosnian coffee is also a must-try, and is prepared in a special copper pot called a džezva.

Bosnian art is also very rich and diverse, with a strong tradition of painting, sculpture, and metalworking. Bosnian artists have produced some of the most famous works of art in the Balkans, including the Sarajevo Haggadah

(a medieval illuminated manuscript) and the Old Bridge of Mostar (a UNESCO World Heritage Site).

#### Herzegovinian Culture

Herzegovinian culture is a blend of Balkan, Slavic, and Mediterranean influences. It is a more rural and traditional culture than Bosnian culture, with a strong emphasis on family and community.

Herzegovinian music is characterized by its use of traditional instruments such as the accordion, the guitar, and the violin. Herzegovinian dance is also very popular, with folk dances such as the lindo and the čačak being particularly well-known.

Herzegovinian food is hearty and flavorful, with dishes such as sarma (stuffed cabbage rolls),pašticada (a beef stew),and palenta (a cornmeal porridge) being popular. Herzegovinian wine is also very good, and is produced in the region of Mostar.

Herzegovinian art is also very rich and diverse, with a strong tradition of woodcarving, pottery, and weaving. Herzegovinian artists have produced some of the most famous works of art in the Balkans, including the Hutovo Blato (a UNESCO World Heritage Site) and the Blagaj Tekke (a Sufi monastery).

#### **Cultural Diversity in Bosnia and Herzegovina**

Bosnia and Herzegovina is a country of great cultural diversity. The different ethnic groups that make up the country have their own distinct languages, cultures, and traditions. This diversity is reflected in the country's music, dance, food, art, and architecture.

Despite the country's cultural diversity, there is also a strong sense of unity among Bosnians and Herzegovinians. They are proud of their country and its culture, and they are eager to share it with visitors.

#### Cultural Heritage of Bosnia and Herzegovina

Bosnia and Herzegovina has a rich cultural heritage that dates back centuries. The country is home to some of the most important historical and cultural sites in the Balkans, including the Old Bridge of Mostar, the Sarajevo Haggadah, and the Hutovo Blato.

The country's cultural heritage is also reflected in its museums, libraries, and archives. These institutions house a vast collection of artifacts, documents, and works of art that tell the story of Bosnia and Herzegovina's past.

The cultural heritage of Bosnia and Herzegovina is a valuable asset for the country. It is a source of pride for Bosnians and Herzegovinians, and it attracts visitors from all over the world.

Bosnia and Herzegovina is a country of great cultural diversity and richness. Its people, traditions, and art reflect the country's unique history and geography. Bosnia and Herzegovina is a country that is well worth exploring, and it is sure to leave a lasting impression on visitors.

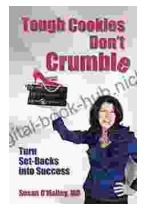


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