



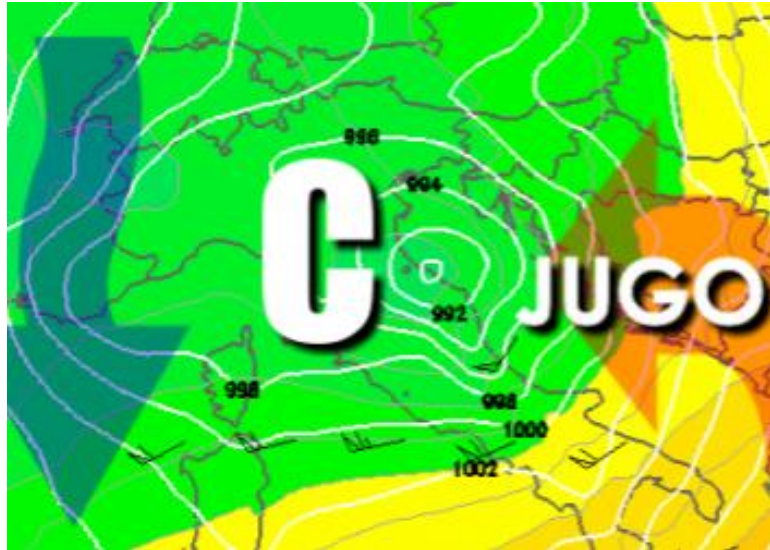
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**SCIENCE IN SEASONS AND SEASONAL  
TREASURES IN EUROPE**

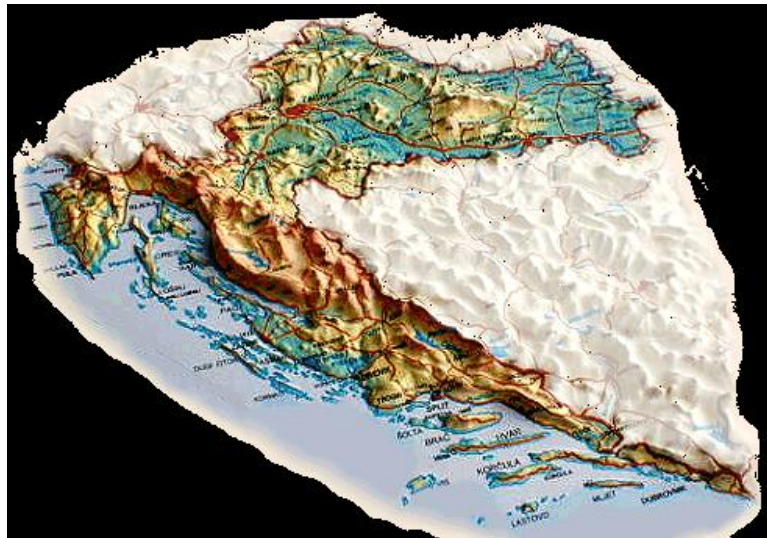


# WINTER IN CROATIA

OŠ Vrgorac

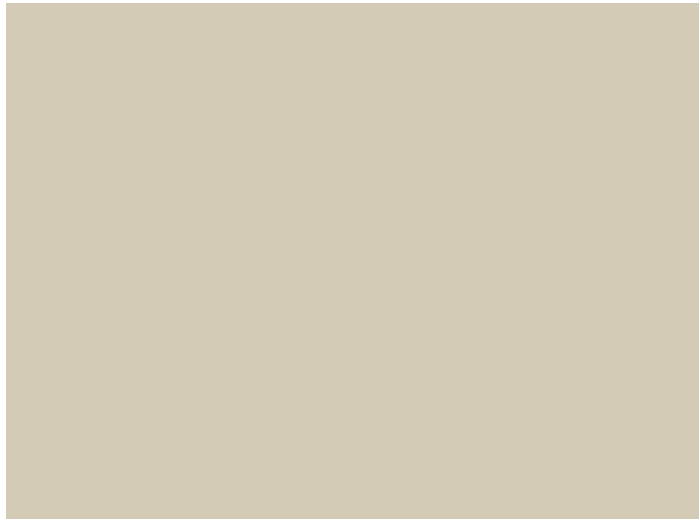


- Winter in the Continental regions of Croatia is mainly characterized by cold and snow. The Adriatic regions are considerably warmer during winter time and snow, though occasionally occurring, is quite rare.
- However, the “**Bura**”, a dry and cold gale-force coastal wind blowing from the northeast is quite frequent as well as another type of coastal wind, the “**Yugo**”, bringing warmer and moister air from the southeast with it.

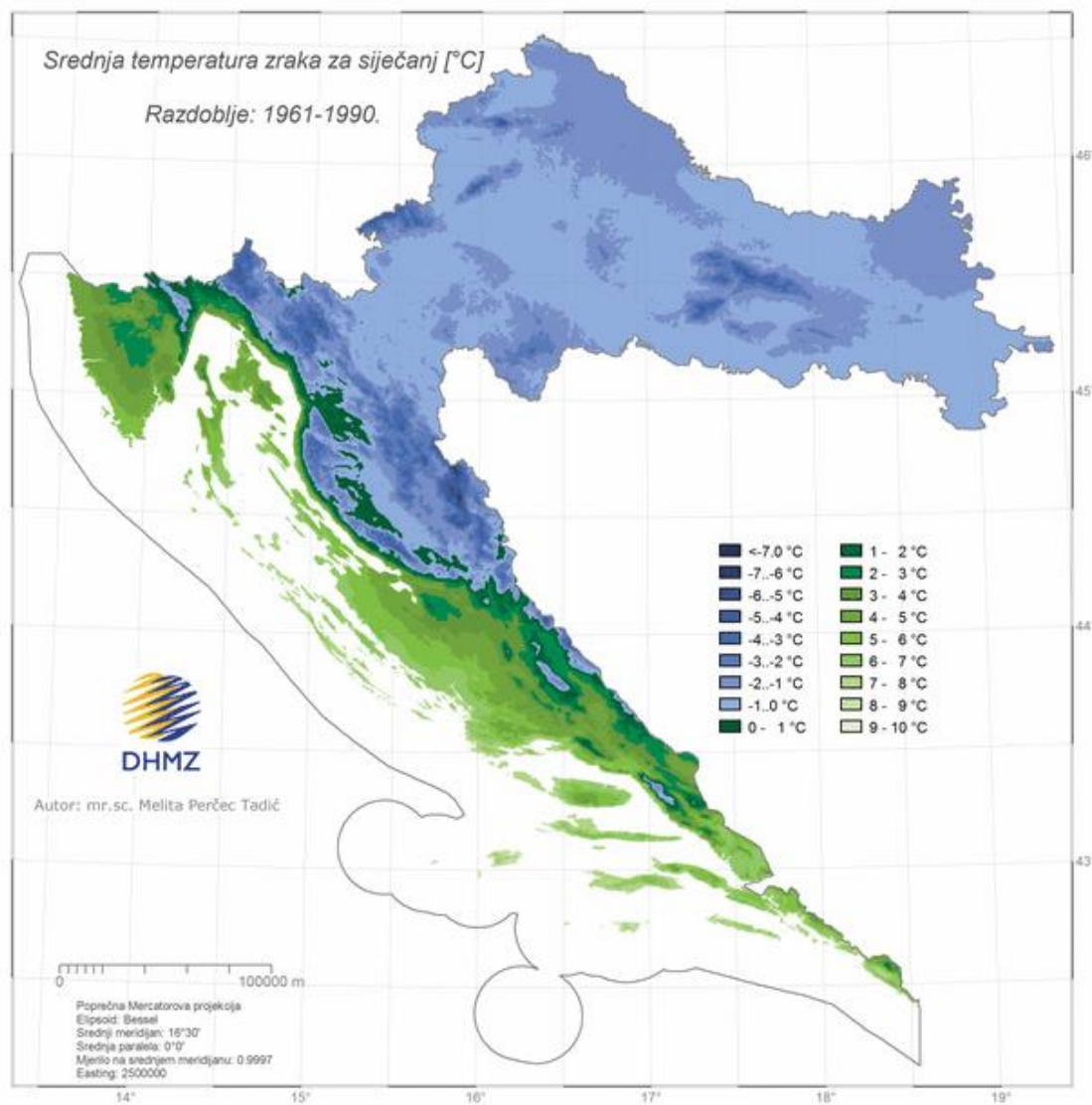


- Generally speaking, winter in Croatia is the coldest time of the year with the highest snow rate, but it is not unusual for snow not to appear at all. Occasionally snowy days are more frequent during spring or autumn than during winter. As far as temperatures are concerned, winter in general is the coldest time of the year in our country, because, so far, no other period has ever been colder than the period around December and February.
- There are three geomorphological parts of Croatia: the Croatian lowlands, the Croatian plains and the Adriatic Sea mainland coastal area of Croatia.

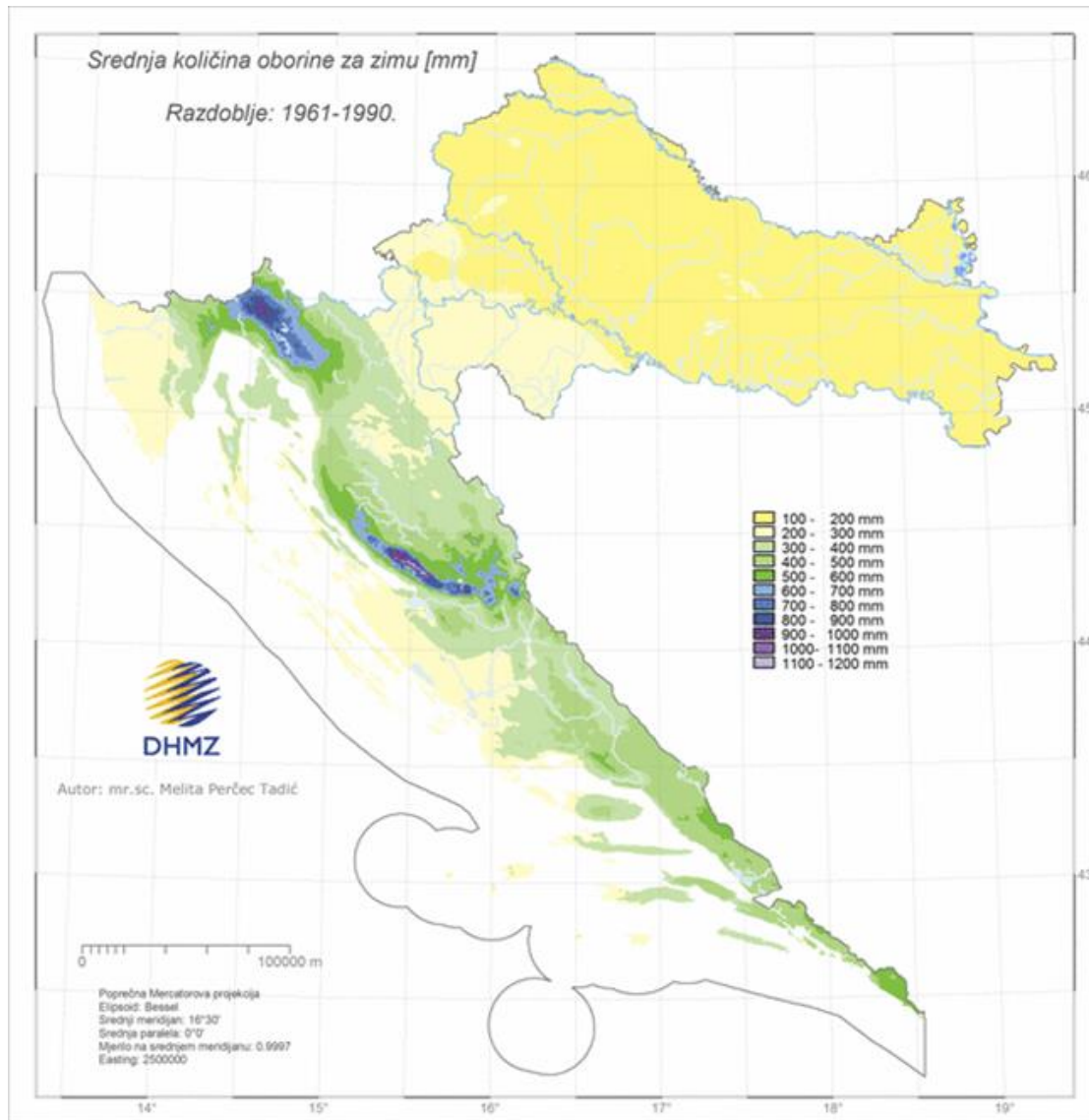




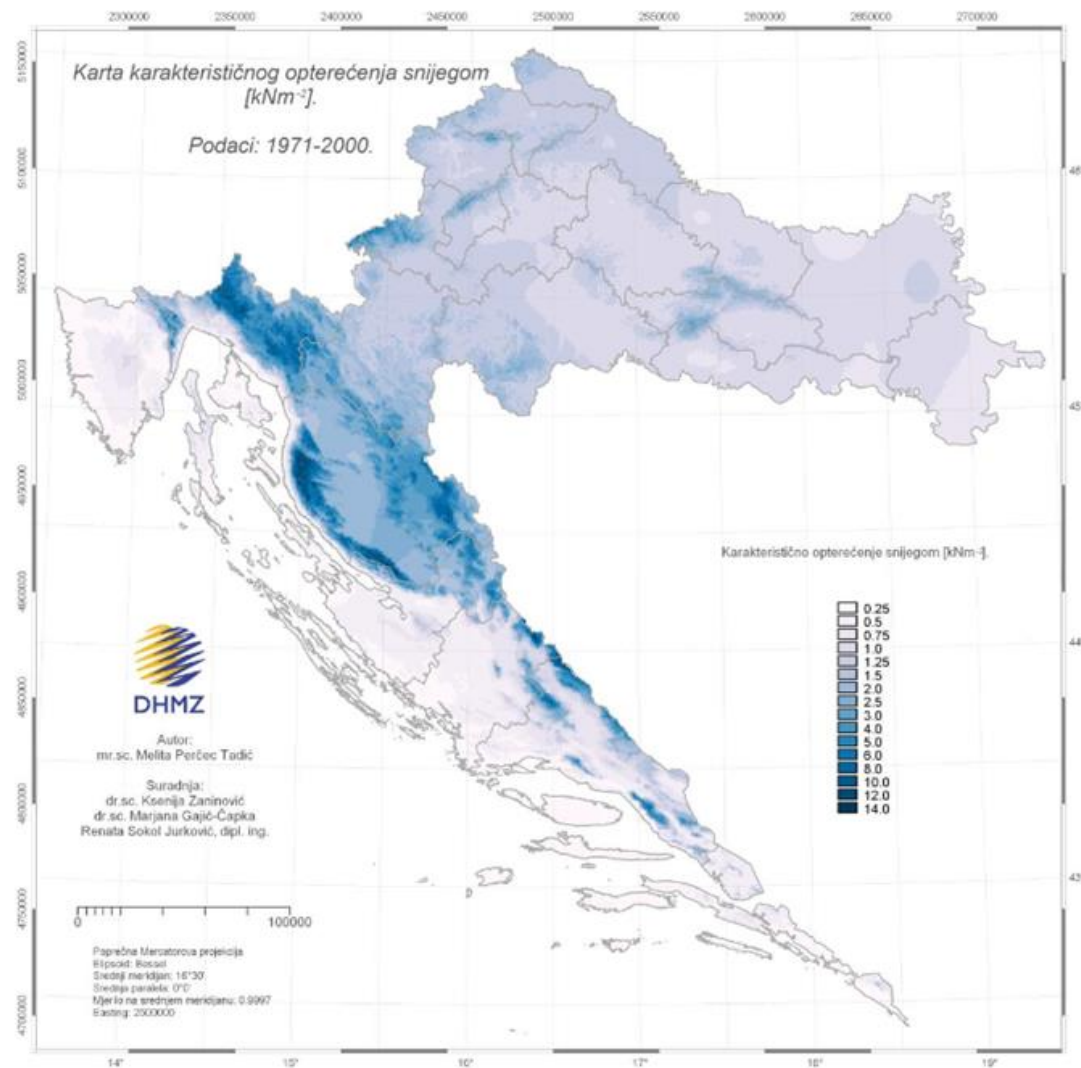
- Most parts of lowland Croatia have moderate warm climate with warm summers and the average temperature for January ranging between  $-2^{\circ}\text{C}$  and  $0^{\circ}\text{C}$ . The Croatian plains also have a moderate warm climate with warm and chilly summers, with some elements of continental climate, exhibiting an average temperature for January below  $0^{\circ}\text{C}$ . The Adriatic Sea mainland coastal area of Croatia has Mediterranean climate, is moderately warm with hot summers and average temperature for January ranging above  $0^{\circ}\text{C}$ .



- The coldest winter month in Croatia is **January**. The warmest are the farthest Dalmatian islands off the Croatian mainland (Vis 9-10°C), the coastal area of the northern Adriatic with around 5°C (Split 7°C), while the average temperature of the capital Zagreb for January is around 0°C. The Croatian plains, especially high above sea level, show even lower average temperatures for January (Gospić -2°C, Delnice -3°). The coldest spots in the Croatian plains are to be found in the valleys – an example is the village Zalesina with as much as 35 days with morning temperature below -10°C (“icy days”).

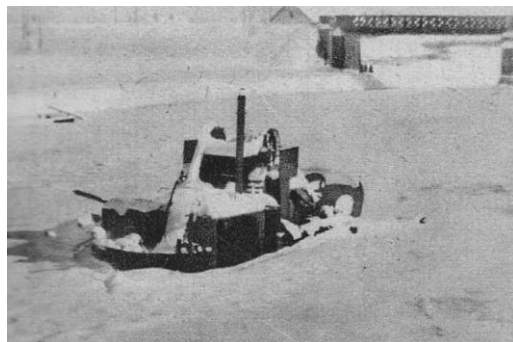


- **Precipitation** during winter is not equally distributed, depending on the terrain and the distance from the sea. Those parts of Croatia farthest east have the lowest precipitation rates while higher positioned terrains show higher precipitation rates. Apart from rain and snow there can also be frost when the temperatures are extremely low.



- **Snow** is more frequent and abundant in the continental parts of the country. Snow in the lowlands of continental Croatia persists for 30 – 50 days, not in a row, but put together from several snowy periods during one winter. The thickness of the snow cover during winter time in the lowlands ranges between 20 and 30 cm. In the Croatian plains on lower sea levels (Gorski Kotar; Lika) the number of days with snow cover ranges between 60 and 100 and those parts on higher levels show even higher rates. The top average height of snow during winter time is 70-90 cm and the absolute maximum height during a longer period of time in larger parts of the Gorski Kotar region was 150-170 cm. At 1000m the snow cover can reach up to 270 cm. In the Adriatic Sea mainland coastal area snow covers are rare and persist for less than 5 days a year in average, which does not mean that snow falls every year. The place with the highest snow rate in the coastal area is Senj.





- Periods of extreme cold and snow hit Croatia periodically every 10-15 years. 2012 was the last year something like this happened and our town Vrgorac experienced extreme cold with heavy snow.
- One of the most extreme winters recorded in Croatia was in February 1929.
- The first day of the year 1929 snow started falling and did not stop so for several days in a row. The wind piled up snow drifts up to 6 meters and the “ordinary” thickness of the snow cover was 285 cm.



- The cities and towns were snow-bound and the whole country was completely paralyzed. The schools were closed, people went out only to get food and firewood and in some parts of the country the snow cover was as high as 8 meters as recorded along the railway between Vrhovine and Zrmanja.
- In Zagreb the tram and telephone lines broke down due to cold, the river Sava was frozen and all across the city public ovens were installed heating on coconts to provide passers by and homeless people with some heat.



*Okolo javne peći na Jelačićevu trgu*



- The daily temperature dropped to -15 degrees and in mid-January to -18. On the fourth of February 1929 the temperature in Gospić dropped to as low as -36 degrees and the day before -35,5°C were measured in Čakovec. These were the lowest temperatures ever measured in Croatia.
- In Crikvenica, widely known for being warm, -14°C were measured, in Rijeka -14,6°C, in Senj, known for the frequent occurrence of "Bura" -18,3°C and in Pazin on February 16th of the same year as much as -19,1°C were recorded.

- Some villages were snow-bound to that extent that it was impossible to set them apart from the surrounding landscape. Many people left their houses through the windows because due to the huge amount of snow they were unable to open the doors. They had to dig tunnels through the snow in order to get to their neighbours or their cattle.
- Many households were left without food and firewood. In the basements the potatoes froze and became rotten and useless in spring so many people from the Lika region were left without food. Almost all the rivers and lakes were frozen. Packs of hungry wolves started coming down to the inhabited regions, killing the cattle or the dogs on the farms.







VRGORAC 2012.











- In the winter, next to snow it rains a lot.
- So river Matica often gets flood.

# Traditional occupations and customs during winter

- the manufacture of various objects from wood and brushwood
- hunting and fishing





- activities connected to the preparation and conservation of meat – the smoking and drying of meat
- winter prunnings of fruit trees are being carried out





As far as agriculture is concerned in this time of year potatoes are being prepared for planting.



- winter activities carried out mostly by women were knitting, crocheting and weaving





# WINTER CUISINE







- In winter the most delicious treat are homemade donuts with jam.



# SOCIAL EVENTS

Advent



- Masquerades, carnivals





# Carnival in Vrgorac





THANK YOU FOR  
YOUR ATTENTION!