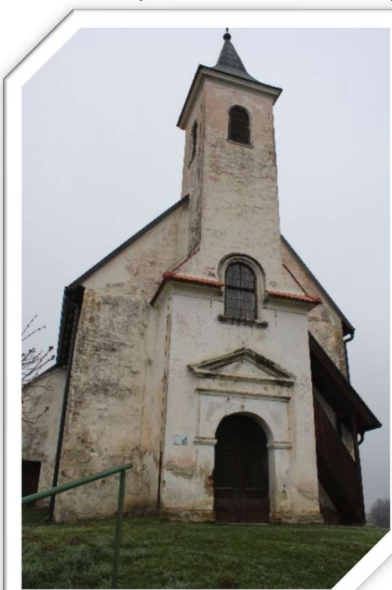


My Time in Zabok!

Alex Rea – International Volunteer 2019-20

During the year that I spent in Zabok I volunteered for a youth organisation called Mreža udruga Zagor. Everybody was incredibly friendly and happy to help with anything that we needed. We all drank a lot of coffee and my ideas were listened to. I was really able to work on things that I was passionate about and learned some fantastic skills on the way for producing video. During my time volunteering I was able to produce numerous videos and after being given a brief of what was required, I had creative freedom to create, produce and edit the video the way that I wanted to. I was Volunteering for Zagor also gave me a lot more confidence in my ability to speak to large groups of people on a stage and present information to people, at first this was really daunting because I cannot speak Croatian and I worried that the people who could speak English as a second language may not understand me, but my friends and colleagues helped me to better understand ways to speak that is accessible to different people. I also had help to learn some new phrases to help me get around easier too.



My mentor was also very keen to show us his way of life, because of this I was able to visit historical building, go hiking, which is something I had never done before, and go to local music events. This was really great and made me cherish my experience in Croatia even more. My mentor also took the time to introduce me to his friends and they were all very kind and welcoming towards me.

I was also able to travel around Croatia to get a taste of what it is like across the country, and during the summer I visited Split. I also spent some time traveling to nearby countries such as Slovenia and Serbia which I don't think I would have had a chance to do if it had not been for my time volunteering with Zagor and the help I received from the people around me to use the

transport in a new country.

I will never forget the great time I had in Croatia and cannot wait to be able to go back to say hello to all of the great people that I met when I was there.

Zabok will also hold a special place in my heart!

