

## Janja By: Aida Junuzovic

Do you want to go to the greatest village in the world? Well, Janja, Bosnia is that village. Janja is a small village in Republika Srpska, Bosnia and Herzegovina. Janja is in north eastern Bosnia. It is located on the important road between Bijeljina and Zvornik, Janja is in Podrinje. Podrinje are all of the cities and villages that run along the river Drina, and that's why Janja is popular!

Janja is popular for its rivers, Drina and Little Janja. Another reason Janja is popular is because it is the biggest village in former Yugoslavia and Bosnia and Herzegovina. Also, Janja is unique in many ways.

Janja is the only Bosniak area in municipality. Most of the people in Janja are Bosniaks. (Bosniaks are people who are Bosnian Muslims) but most Bosniaks were removed from Janja during the Bosnian War. (1992-1995) Today, about 10,000 people live in Janja. Also, most people in Janja have jobs as farmers since there is a lot of good farmland in Janja. Also, most people don't have cars Janja. Most people just walk or ride their bikes to get somewhere. FUN FACT- The name "Janja" came from the river that runs through Janja, Little Janja. FUN FACT 2- Janja has a soccer team called FK Podrinje Janja. The team plays on the division 2 league.

There is no exact date when Janja was founded, but 1878 through 1961, Janja was a municipality center, and in 1991, the census showed that Janja had 10,458 people.

1992 through 1995 were dark years for Janja, and all of Bosnia. There was a war going on between the Serbians and all of Yugoslavia, especially Bosnia.

"It was nice, quiet, and peaceful before the war. Kids played on the streets and there were a lot of animals. There are a lot of animals today too. I loved living there. It was horrible

*when the war was going on. People were killed every day. There was this big concentration camp in Janja. My dad was there for 3 months. I was really scared." My mom says. The Serbians also destroyed 2 mosques during the war. Although, Janja rebuilt those 2 mosques after the war, the Atik and Dzedid mosques, and Bosnia won the war! Also, every year on August 8<sup>th</sup>, Janja celebrates their independence on Drina, so there are some happy times.*

*Janja is a great place and I love going there. It's the BEST place in the world in my opinion.*

*Resources:*

[www.wikipedia.com/Janja](http://www.wikipedia.com/Janja)

*My Mother*

*Picture resources:*

[www.wikipedia.com/Janja](http://www.wikipedia.com/Janja)

[www.bistrobih.ba/galerija/albums/userpics/Drina-Janja.JPG](http://www.bistrobih.ba/galerija/albums/userpics/Drina-Janja.JPG)



This is Little Janja (the river) and Dzedid mosque in the background.



This is Drina. I swam there when I was there on vacation.