



A MONTENEGRO CULTURE GUIDE

MONTENEGRO

My trip

A personal journey through the Bay of Kotor, the Adriatic coast and the southern coast

MONTENEGRO.COM

Wild beauty on Europe's last untamed coast



INSPIRE

Wild Beauty

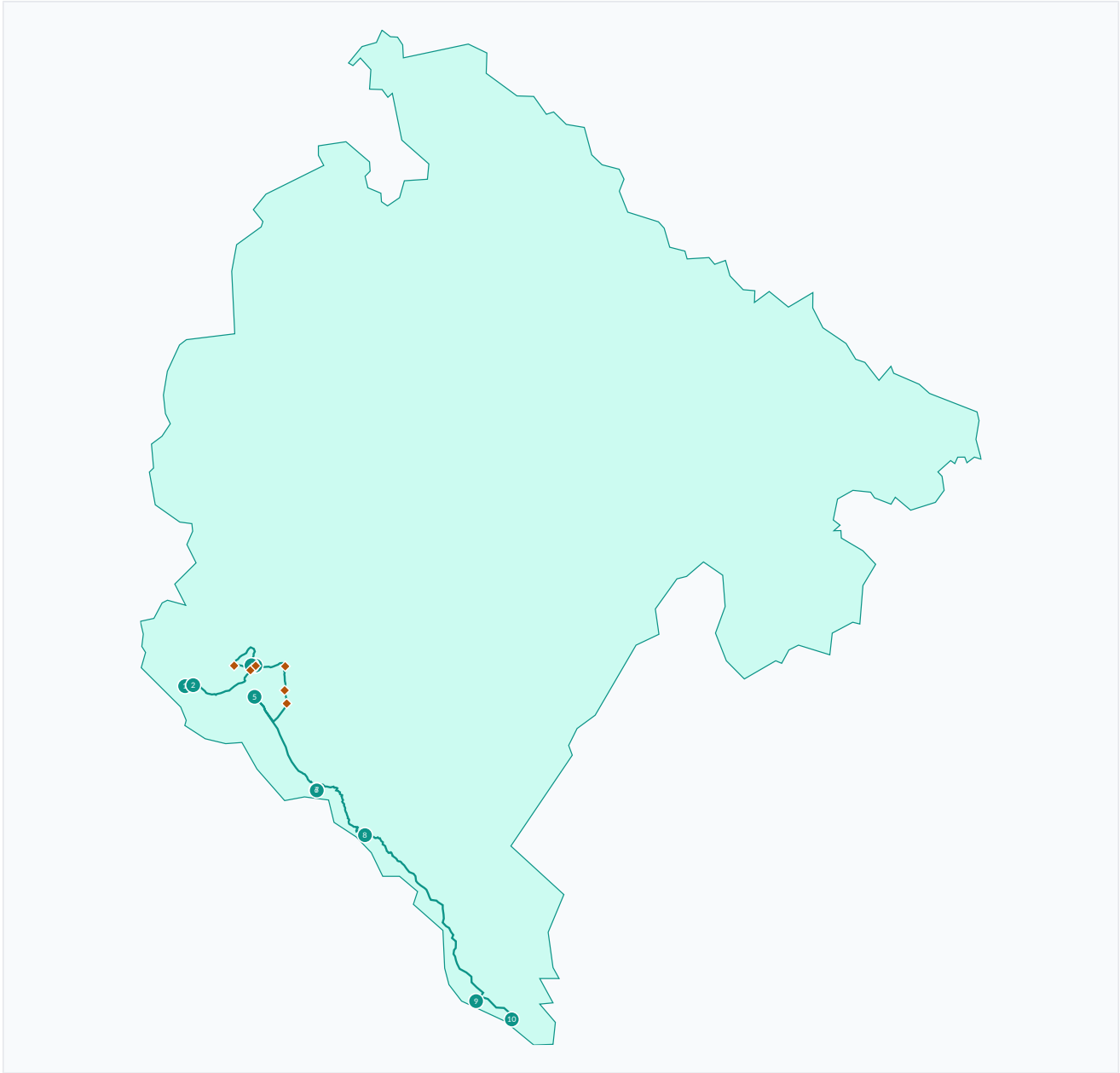
Montenegro is smaller than Wales, yet it behaves like a whole continent folded into a few hours of driving. In a single morning you can swim in the warm, glassy Adriatic beneath the walls of a Venetian town, then climb through olive terraces and stone villages into a world of black pine, glacial lakes and limestone peaks that hold snow into June. The country was named for that darkness — Crna Gora, the "Black Mountain" — for the shadow the forested Dinaric wall casts over the sea. Its very name is a landscape.

This is a place of two souls held in one small body. The coast is Mediterranean and mercantile, softened by centuries of Venice, its calendar shaped by fishing boats, olive harvests and the slow evening promenade. Behind it rise the highlands: a proud, clannish, Orthodox interior that never fully bowed to any empire and that gave Montenegro its warrior reputation and, in 1878, its hard-won independence. To travel here is to move constantly between these two worlds — the salt and the stone, the espresso terrace and the mountain hearth — and to discover how deeply they belong to each other.

Above all, Montenegro rewards the traveller who slows down. The landscapes are dramatic, but the real texture of the country is human: the neighbour who insists you take the last fig, the café where a single coffee buys an afternoon, the grandmother who will not let you leave without a glass of homemade rakija. Come for the scenery. You will remember the welcome.

“In one morning you can swim beneath a Venetian bell tower and stand in an alpine forest that holds snow into summer.”

Your Itinerary



● Numbered stop ◆ Recommended restaurant

10
STOPS

159.3 km
DISTANCE

3
REGIONS

1	Forte Mare	the Bay of Kotor
2	Savina Monastery	the Bay of Kotor
3	Perast Old Town	the Bay of Kotor
4	Our Lady of the Rocks	the Bay of Kotor

5	Porto Montenegro	the Bay of Kotor
6	Budva Old Town	the Adriatic coast
7	Citadela	the Adriatic coast
8	Lučice Beach	the Adriatic coast
9	Ulcinj Old Town	the southern coast
10	Velika Plaža	the southern coast

Driving Directions

Open your whole itinerary in Google Maps for turn-by-turn driving directions. Scan the code below with your phone camera, or type in the short link, and the route — every stop, in order — loads ready to navigate.



SCAN TO NAVIGATE

Point your phone camera at the QR code to open the full driving route in Google Maps.

LEG BY LEG

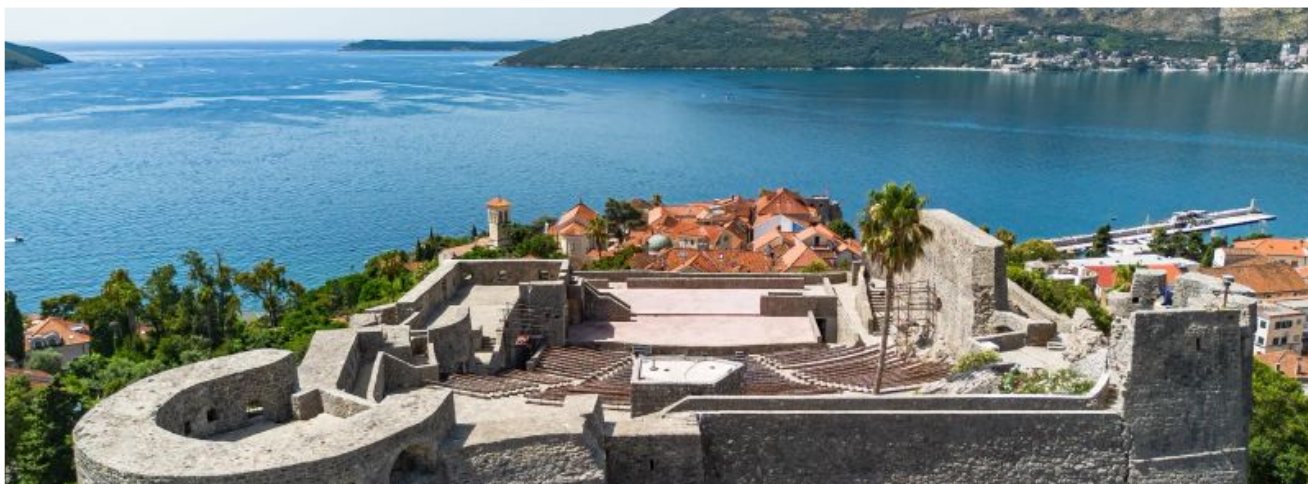
From Forte Mare to Savina Monastery	2.1 km
From Savina Monastery to Perast Old Town	27.3 km
From Perast Old Town to Our Lady of the Rocks	0.6 km
From Our Lady of the Rocks to Porto Montenegro	25.3 km
From Porto Montenegro to Budva Old Town	23.3 km
From Budva Old Town to Citadela	0.1 km
From Citadela to Lučice Beach	20.1 km
From Lučice Beach to Ulcinj Old Town	48.5 km
From Ulcinj Old Town to Velika Plaža	10.9 km

DISCOVER

Your Journey

THE BAY OF KOTOR

1 Forte Mare



Sea fortress guarding Herceg Novi since the 14th century, with open-air summer cinema on its ramparts.

Dress modestly if you step inside, and keep your voice low.

2 Savina Monastery



Serene Orthodox monastery set in Mediterranean gardens above the bay.

Dress modestly if you step inside, and keep your voice low.

3

Perast Old Town



A baroque single-street town of sea captains' palaces facing two island churches.

Lose the map for an hour; the back lanes are where the real life happens.

4

Our Lady of the Rocks



Man-made islet church built on centuries of sunken ships and votive stones.

Dress modestly if you step inside, and keep your voice low.

5

Porto Montenegro



Superyacht marina in Tivat with waterfront restaurants and designer shopping.

Lose the map for an hour; the back lanes are where the real life happens.

THE ADRIATIC COAST

6

Budva Old Town



Venetian walled town on a rocky peninsula, 2,500 years in the making.

Lose the map for an hour; the back lanes are where the real life happens.

7

Citadela



Budva's sea fortress with a library, museum and rooftop coast views.

Dress modestly if you step inside, and keep your voice low.

8

Luice Beach



Sheltered horseshoe cove just over the headland from Petrovac.

Come early: the light and the water are at their best before the crowds.

THE SOUTHERN COAST

9

Ulcinj Old Town



Clifftop citadel with 2,500 years of Illyrian, Venetian and Ottoman layers.

Lose the map for an hour; the back lanes are where the real life happens.

10

Velika Plaža



Twelve kilometres of fine grey sand and steady wind — kitesurfing heaven.

Come early: the light and the water are at their best before the crowds.

Where to Eat

A handful of our favourite tables around the Bay of Kotor — historic mills, waterfront konobas and terraces where the seafood is as good as the view. They are marked as ochre diamonds on your itinerary map.

◆ Čatovića Mlini

Morinj, Bay of Kotor

A 200-year-old family watermill turned garden restaurant, where trout ponds and spring-fed streams thread between the tables and the kitchen leans on wild Adriatic seafood.

[Find it on Google Maps](#) — Morinj, Bay of Kotor

◆ Verige 65

Kostanjica, near Perast

Poised on the Verige narrows at the bay's tightest point, this glass-fronted terrace serves refined seafood with a postcard view straight across to Perast and Our Lady of the Rocks.

[Find it on Google Maps](#) — Kostanjica, near Perast

◆ Restaurant Conte

Perast

A waterfront institution beneath Perast's baroque campaniles, famed for whole grilled fish, buzara and a stone terrace that reaches almost to the water's edge.

[Find it on Google Maps](#) — Perast

◆ Stari Mlini

Ljuta, Dobrota

Set around an 18th-century mill where the wild Ljuta river meets the sea, a lush garden of ponds and old stone that has served polished Boka seafood for nearly fifty years.

[Find it on Google Maps](#) — Ljuta, Dobrota

◆ Konoba Portun

Dobrota, Kotor

A warm, family-run stone konoba a short walk from Kotor's walls, plating up grilled fish, seafood risotto and homemade pasta on a terrace right above the water.

[Find it on Google Maps](#) — Dobrota, Kotor

◆ Galion

Kotor

Kotor's classic fine-dining address, a glass pavilion on the marina with the old town and fjord walls framed behind an ambitious fish menu and a deep wine list.

[Find it on Google Maps](#) — Kotor



LAND & PEOPLE

A Land of Two Souls

For most of its history Montenegro was a frontier — the place where empires ran out of road. The coast fell for four centuries under Venice, which left behind walled towns, campaniles, loggias and a Catholic, sea-facing, Italian-inflected culture that still flavours the Bay of Kotor. Inland, beyond the wall of mountains, lay a very different country: a proud Orthodox society organised around clans (plemena) and brotherhoods, ruled from Cetinje by prince-bishops of the Petrović-Njegoš dynasty, who wore both the crown and the mitre. Between the two pressed the Ottoman Empire, and the long resistance to it forged the Montenegrin self-image of the hardy mountain warrior who would rather die free than live subject.

That defiance paid off. Montenegro won formal recognition of its independence at the Congress of Berlin in 1878, one of the few Balkan lands never fully absorbed by Constantinople. The nineteenth-century poet-prince Petar II Petrović Njegoš — philosopher, ruler and author of the epic *The Mountain Wreath* — remains the towering national figure, his mausoleum crowning Mount Lovćen above the sea. In 2006 Montenegrins voted narrowly to leave the union with Serbia and restore full statehood.

Today the country is a genuine mosaic. An Orthodox Christian majority lives alongside Catholic communities on the coast and Bosniak and Albanian Muslim communities in the towns and the south. Identity here is layered and much debated — but hospitality crosses every line.

“The place where empires ran out of road — and a mountain people would rather die free than live subject.”

DID YOU KNOW

- Njegoš, the 19th-century prince-bishop, ruled as both head of state and Orthodox metropolitan — sword and crozier in one hand.
- Montenegro's independence was recognised internationally in 1878, decades before most of its neighbours.
- The 2006 referendum restored statehood by just over the 55% threshold required — a knife-edge vote.
- Cetinje, the tiny old royal capital, still holds Montenegro's historic embassies, now museums.



VALUES & ATTITUDES

The Art of Slow

There is a word you will hear within your first hour here: polako. It means "slowly," "easy," "no rush" — and it is less an instruction than a whole philosophy of living. Montenegrins prize ležernost, an unhurried ease, the art of not being in a hurry to be anywhere. A coffee is never just a coffee; it is a reason to sit, and the sitting may last two hours. Waiters will not bring your bill until you ask three times, because to hurry a guest away would be rude. Time, on this coast, is something you spend on people, not on tasks.

The great daily ritual of this ethos is the korzo — the evening promenade. As the heat softens, whole towns drift out onto the seafront and the main street: grandparents, teenagers, couples, children weaving between them, everyone dressed a notch better than the day requires. People walk slowly, stop constantly, kiss cheeks, catch up, and walk on. Nothing is bought and nothing is decided. The point is simply to see and be seen, to belong to the town for an evening.

For a visitor, the temptation is to treat Montenegro as a checklist of sights. Resist it. The country gives its best to those who linger — who take the second coffee, join the promenade, and let an afternoon dissolve. Polako.

“A coffee is never just a coffee. It is a reason to sit — and the sitting may last two hours.”

GOOD TO KNOW

- “Polako” — slowly, easy — is both a word and a national temperament.
- The korzo, the evening stroll, turns the whole town into one long, moving conversation.
- Your bill won’t arrive until you ask (“Molim vas, račun”). Linger is a compliment, not a nuisance.



MAKING FRIENDS

Coffee, Rakija & the Ritual of Welcome

To understand Montenegro, understand its hospitality — gostoprinstvo — which is treated less as good manners than as a point of honour. A guest, the old code holds, is a gift; to feed and shelter a stranger reflects on the whole household. Arrive at a Montenegrin home and you will be sat down, fed, and offered drink before you have taken off your coat. Never arrive empty-handed — coffee, a box of sweets, a bottle, or flowers for the host — and expect your protests to be overruled. "Just one more" is not a question.

The welcome usually begins with domaća kafa — "domestic," Turkish-style coffee, ground fine and simmered in a small copper pot called a džezva, served unfiltered in tiny cups with a square of Turkish delight or a spoon of slatko (fruit preserve) and a glass of water. You sip it slowly; the grounds settle at the bottom. Alongside, or after, comes rakija, the fierce homemade fruit brandy that is the true national drink: loza from grapes, the herbal krana, or honeyed medovina. A host who offers his own rakija is offering his pride.

Glasses are raised with "Živjeli!" — "to life" — eyes meeting eyes. Refusing outright can wound; better to accept a small pour, toast warmly, and sip. This is how friendships begin here.

"A guest is a gift. You will be fed and poured a drink before you have taken off your coat."

DID YOU KNOW

- Domaća kafa is simmered in a copper džezva and served with the grounds still in — let them settle, don't stir.
- Rakija is homemade and personal: loza (grape), krana (herbal), medovina (honey). The host's own batch is a matter of pride.
- Toast with "Živjeli!" and meet the other person's eyes — looking away is thought unlucky and a little cold.
- Never arrive empty-handed, and expect every refusal of food or drink to be cheerfully ignored.



AT THE TABLE

At the Table

Montenegrin food, like the country, has two hearts. On the coast the table is Mediterranean and marine: whole Adriatic fish grilled with nothing but oil and lemon; buzara, mussels or shrimp simmered in white wine, garlic and parsley; crni rižot, the dramatic black risotto stained with cuttlefish ink; fresh mussels raised in the clean water of the Bay of Kotor; and the peppery green olive oil of the ancient groves around Ulcinj, where one gnarled tree is said to be over two thousand years old.

Cross the mountains and the food turns hearty and pastoral. The village of Njeguši, high on Lovćen, gives its name to Montenegro's most famous delicacies: njeguški pršut, prosciutto air-dried in the mountain wind and lightly smoked, and njeguški sir, a firm mature cheese. Highland tables pile up kačamak and cicvara — rib-sticking cornmeal-and-cheese dishes — alongside lamb and veal cooked ispod sača, "under the bell," a metal dome buried in embers that renders the meat meltingly tender. Breakfast might be priganice, little fried dough puffs with honey and cheese.

Meals are unhurried and shared, anchored by good bread and local wine — the deep red Vranac and the crisp white Krstač, both native grapes. Eat where the locals eat: a konoba, the rustic tavern that is the soul of Montenegrin dining.

"Two hearts on one plate: the salt of the Adriatic and the smoke of the mountain hearth."

TASTE THIS

- Coast: buzara (shellfish in wine & garlic), crni rižot (squid-ink black risotto), grilled Adriatic fish, Ulcinj olive oil.
- Mountains: njeguški pršut & cheese, kačamak and cicvara, lamb ispod sača ("under the bell").
- Drink native: Vranac (bold red) and Krstač (crisp white); finish with a rakija.
- A konoba is the family-run tavern where the real cooking happens — always choose it over a tourist terrace.



FAITH & STONE

Faith & Stone

Faith in Montenegro is written into the landscape itself. The most astonishing expression of it is Ostrog Monastery, carved straight into a sheer cliff face nearly 900 metres up, its whitewashed chapels glowing against the grey rock. Built in the seventeenth century around the relics of Saint Basil of Ostrog, it draws pilgrims of every faith — Orthodox, Catholic and Muslim alike — who climb, some barefoot, to pray for healing. It is one of the most visited Christian sites in the Balkans, and to stand on its terrace at dawn is to understand something essential about this country.

The spiritual heart of the nation lies at Cetinje, whose monastery guards revered relics and the old episcopal seat of the Petrović prince-bishops. Along the coast, faith took gentler, seafaring forms: the Catholic churches of the Venetian towns, and above all Our Lady of the Rocks off Perast, an island built by fishermen over centuries by sinking stones and old ships on the spot where an icon of the Virgin was found. Its sailors' votive offerings fill the walls.

Montenegro's sacred map is plural. Beside the Orthodox monasteries and coastal Catholic churches stand the elegant mosques of Ulcinj, Podgorica and the eastern towns — minarets and bell towers sharing the same southern sky.

“A monastery hangs from a cliff 900 metres up, and pilgrims of every faith climb to it — some barefoot.”

DID YOU KNOW

- Ostrog Monastery is built into a vertical cliff and welcomes Orthodox, Catholic and Muslim pilgrims alike.
- Our Lady of the Rocks near Perast is an artificial island, raised over centuries by sinking stones and scuttled ships.
- Cetinje Monastery holds relics said to include the right hand of St John the Baptist.
- Dress modestly to enter any monastery, church or mosque — covered shoulders and knees, and remove hats in Orthodox churches.



THE LIVING CALENDAR

Festivals & the Living Calendar

Montenegrins mark the turning year with a calendar of festivals that mix devotion, spectacle and sheer excuse for a party. Winter belongs to Kotor, whose famous Carnival fills the Venetian old town with masked parades, satirical floats and music in the tradition of the Adriatic. As the frost lifts, Herceg Novi bursts into yellow for the Mimosa Festival, a weeks-long celebration of the town's early-blooming mimosa trees, with processions, seafood and song. Summer nights on the bay peak with Bokeljska noć — Boka Night — when Perast and Kotor set decorated, illuminated boats adrift on the water beneath a fireworks-lit sky, a tradition centuries old.

The warm months bring a wave of open-air music: Sea Dance on the beaches near Budva and Lake Fest at Šćepan Polje draw crowds from across Europe, while smaller towns like Petrovac fill their squares with concerts and food. Autumn returns the calendar to the land, with olive-picking celebrations along the southern coast around Bar and Ulcinj, where the ancient groves are harvested much as they have been for millennia.

Woven through all of it are the family feasts — above all the slava, the day each Orthodox household honours its own patron saint, welcoming a stream of guests to a laden table. To be invited is a real honour.

“On Boka Night, illuminated boats drift across the bay beneath fireworks — a tradition centuries old.”

MARK THE DATE

- Kotor Carnival (winter): masked parades and satire in the Venetian old town.
- Mimosa Festival, Herceg Novi (late winter/early spring): the town turns yellow with early blossom.
- Bokeljska noć / Boka Night (August): illuminated boats and fireworks over Perast and Kotor.
- Slava — a family's patron-saint day — is the most personal feast of all; an invitation is an honour.



SENSE OF PLACE

Sea, Mountain & the Places Between

For so small a country, Montenegro packs in a remarkable range of worlds. The Bay of Kotor (Boka) is its signature: a serpentine, fjord-like inlet ringed by mountains that plunge straight to the water, its shores strung with Venetian jewel-towns — Kotor, Perast, Risan — where campaniles and palazzi mirror in the calm sea. South of the bay, the Budva Riviera trades quiet for glamour: sandy beaches, a walled old town, buzzing nightlife, and the storybook islet of Sveti Stefan. Further south still lies Ulcinj, the country's Ottoman-Albanian gateway, with its long sandy Velika Plaža, the wild river-island of Ada Bojana, and a distinctly southern, minaret-punctuated skyline.

Turn inland and the register changes completely. The north is high, wild and thrilling: Durmitor National Park, with its glacial lakes and pale limestone peaks, and the Tara Canyon — the deepest river gorge in Europe — where rafts thread white water beneath 1,000-metre walls. Between coast and peaks sits gentle Lake Skadar, the Balkans' largest lake, a birdwatcher's paradise of pelicans and lily pads fringed by tiny wine-making villages.

And beyond, on the Albanian border, rise the Prokletije — the "Accursed Mountains" — Montenegro's remotest, most dramatic alpine wilderness, still barely touched by tourism.

"A fjord-like bay, Europe's deepest canyon and the Accursed Mountains — all within a two-hour drive."

THE REGIONS

- Boka (Bay of Kotor): fjord-like inlet, Venetian towns of Kotor, Perast and Risan.
- Budva Riviera: beaches, walled old town, nightlife, and Sveti Stefan.
- The North: Durmitor peaks and lakes; the Tara Canyon, deepest in Europe, for rafting.
- Lake Skadar for birds and wine villages; the Prokletije for remote high-alpine wilderness.

Practicalities

Money & Tipping

Montenegro is not in the European Union but uses the euro (€), which it adopted unilaterally — so no currency exchange is needed if you arrive from the eurozone. It remains a largely cash economy, especially away from the big hotels and coastal resorts. Cards are widely accepted in Budva, Kotor and Podgorica, but konobas, village shops, taxis, markets and family guesthouses in the interior often prefer or require cash. Carry small notes; changing a €50 for a €2 coffee can be a genuine problem. ATMs are common on the coast and in towns but sparse in the mountains, so withdraw before heading north.

Tipping is appreciated but modest and never obligatory. In restaurants, rounding up or leaving around 10% for good service is the norm; many locals simply round the bill to the nearest convenient figure. For a coffee or a quick drink, leaving the small change is plenty. Round up for taxis, and a euro or two per bag is a kind gesture for hotel porters. A little discreetly-given cash to a guide or driver who has gone out of their way is always warmly received.

GOOD TO KNOW

- Currency: the euro (€) — no exchange needed from the eurozone.
- Cash is king inland; cards reliable mainly on the coast and in cities.
- Restaurants: round up or ~10% for good service. Coffee: leave the change.
- Draw cash before heading into the mountains — ATMs thin out fast.

Getting Around & Driving

A car unlocks Montenegro — but its roads demand respect. Distances look tiny on the map and take far longer than you expect, because the country is nearly all mountain. Expect narrow, winding serpentine, blind bends, and the occasional herd of goats. The legendary Kotor–Lovćen road climbs the bay wall in a ladder of 25 hairpin switchbacks, offering one of Europe's great views and testing every gear you own; the drive to Durmitor and along the Tara is spectacular but slow. Drive defensively, use your horn on blind mountain corners, let faster local drivers pass, and never attempt the high passes in bad weather or after dark if you can avoid it.

A useful shortcut on the coast is the Kamenari–Lepetane car ferry across the mouth of the Bay of Kotor, which saves the long drive around the bay and runs frequently day and night. Fuel stations are plentiful on main routes but scarce in remote areas — fill up before long mountain stretches. In the old towns of Kotor, Budva and Herceg Novi, cars are banned inside the walls and parking outside fills early in summer; arrive in the morning or use edge-of-town car parks and walk in.

ON THE ROAD

- Journeys take longer than the map suggests — mountains, not motorways.
- The Kotor–Lovćen road has 25 hairpin bends and a jaw-dropping view; go slow.
- The Kamenari–Lepetane ferry cuts across the bay and runs day and night.
- Old towns are car-free; park outside and walk. Fill the tank before remote stretches.

Safety & Health

Montenegro is a very safe country for travellers. Violent crime against visitors is rare, and the biggest everyday risks are pickpocketing in the busiest coastal crowds and the roads themselves. Normal precautions are enough: watch your belongings in packed summer promenades, lock the car, and drive carefully. Solo travellers, including women, generally report feeling comfortable, and locals are quick to help a stranger.

The real health hazards are the sun and the terrain. Adriatic summers are fierce: use high-factor sunscreen, wear a hat, seek shade in the midday hours and drink far more water than you think you need, especially when hiking or on the beach. Tap water is generally safe to drink in towns and cities, though many people prefer bottled; in remote areas, ask locally. Pharmacies (apoteka) are well stocked, easy to find in towns, and pharmacists often speak some English and can advise on minor ailments. Bring any prescription medicines you rely on. For the mountains, pack proper footwear, a layer for sudden weather changes, and tell someone your route — mobile coverage thins out in the high country.

STAY WELL

- Very low crime; the main risks are summer pickpockets and mountain roads.
- Sun is the real danger — hat, high-SPF sunscreen, midday shade, lots of water.
- Tap water is generally safe in towns; pharmacies (apoteka) are easy to find.
- Emergency number: 112. Mobile signal drops in the high mountains.

When to Go

Montenegro has a real off-season and a real crush, and the sweet spots lie in between. Late spring (May and June) and early autumn (September and October) are the finest times to visit: the sea is warm enough to swim, the coast is lively but not overwhelmed, wildflowers or vineyards colour the hills, and hiking in the mountains is at its glorious best. Prices and crowds are gentler, and the light is beautiful.

July and August bring the full Mediterranean summer — hot, sunny and reliably dry, with the warmest sea and the biggest festivals, but also packed beaches, booked-out rooms, higher prices and busy roads along the coast. If you come then, start early, embrace the long evenings, and consider basing yourself slightly away from the main resorts. Winter flips the country: the coast grows quiet and many seasonal places close, but the north comes alive as a snow destination — the Durmitor area around Žabljak and Kolašin offer skiing, snowshoeing and cosy mountain lodges from roughly December to March. Spring in the highlands can hold snow and swollen rivers well into May.

BEST TIMING

- Sweet spots: May–June and September–October — warm sea, fewer crowds.
- July–August: hottest, liveliest, busiest and priciest on the coast.
- Winter: coast quiet; Durmitor/Kolašin open for skiing (roughly Dec–Mar).
- High mountains can hold snow and high rivers into late spring.

Etiquette — Do's & Don'ts

Montenegrins are warm, direct and proud, and a little cultural awareness goes a long way. When visiting monasteries, churches or mosques, dress modestly — cover shoulders and knees, remove hats in Orthodox churches and shoes before entering a mosque, and keep your voice low; some monasteries provide wraps at the door. When invited to a home, bring a small gift, and follow your host's lead on removing your shoes at the threshold, as many families do. Accept the coffee and the rakija even if only to sip; refusing hospitality outright can cause quiet offence, while a warm toast wins hearts.

Greet people properly — a handshake, eye contact, a friendly "Dobar dan" — before getting down to business; jumping straight to transactions feels cold. Be relaxed about time: things run on the unhurried side, and impatience reads as rudeness. On sensitive topics — national identity, the 2006 split with Serbia, religion, the wars of the 1990s — listen more than you opine; feelings run deep and views differ sharply even between neighbours. And always ask before photographing people, and especially before photographing inside monasteries or during religious services, where cameras are often not welcome.

DO / DON'T

- DO dress modestly at religious sites; remove hats in churches, shoes in mosques and many homes.
- DO greet with a handshake and "Dobar dan" before business, and accept offered coffee or rakija.
- DON'T rush people or hold forth on identity, religion or the 1990s — listen instead.
- DON'T photograph people or monastery interiors without asking first.

What to Pack

Montenegro packs several climates into one small country, so pack for range rather than for a single forecast. In high summer the coast is hot and glaring while mountain nights up in Durmitor or Žabljak turn genuinely cold — a fleece in July is not madness. In spring and autumn the weather swings by the hour, so layers and a waterproof shell earn their place in every bag. Whatever the season, plan for both the salt and the stone: a swimsuit and a warm layer often belong in the same day-pack.

ESSENTIALS

- Passport / ID and a printed or offline copy of your travel insurance
- Some euros in cash — many konobas, markets and rural spots are cash-only
- EU / “Type C or F” plug adapter (230V, 50Hz)
- Power bank and charging cables
- High-SPF sunscreen and good sunglasses
- Reusable water bottle

FOR THE COAST

- Swimwear (pack two — one is always drying)
- Quick-dry travel towel
- Water shoes for pebbly beaches and rocky entries
- Light linen or cotton clothes and a beach cover-up
- A sun hat

FOR THE MOUNTAINS & HIKING

- Layers, plus a fleece or light down — mountain nights are cold even in summer
- Waterproof / windproof shell
- Broken-in hiking boots or sturdy trail shoes
- Warm hat and gloves in shoulder season
- Insect repellent for lakeshores and forest trails

FOR CULTURAL SITES

- Clothing that covers shoulders and knees for monasteries and mosques
- A light scarf or shawl (doubles as a shoulder cover)
- Slip-on shoes — easy to remove for mosques and many homes

HANDY EXTRAS

- Basic medicine kit and any prescriptions (pharmacies are “apoteka”)
- Offline maps and an eSIM or local SIM
- A few words of Montenegrin — even “Dobar dan” is warmly received
- A small daypack for towns and trails
- A dry bag for boat trips and kayaking

Staying Safe & Healthy

Montenegro is a genuinely safe, easy-going place to travel. Violent crime is very rare, and solo travellers — women included — generally report feeling comfortable and looked after. The real hazards here are natural rather than human: the strong sun, the sea, sudden mountain weather and the serpentine roads. A little common sense goes a long way.

- Violent crime is very rare and petty theft uncommon, but keep an eye on bags and phones in crowded coastal promenades and busy summer beaches.
- Mountain weather changes fast in Durmitor and the Prokletije — check the forecast, carry a warm layer and waterproof, and tell someone your route before you set off.
- The summer sun and sea are stronger than they look: use high-SPF sunscreen, watch for currents, and swim near populated, supervised beaches.
- Roads are narrow and winding; the Kotor–Lovćen hairpins and northern passes demand slow, careful driving — avoid driving at night in the mountains.
- Wildfire risk is real in the dry summer months — never light open fires and take care with cigarettes in forest and scrub.
- Tap water is safe to drink in cities and towns; carry bottled water in remote areas and on long hikes.
- Pharmacies (apoteka) are widespread and well stocked. The EU EHIC card is not valid here, so arrange comprehensive travel insurance before you come.

STAY SAFE

- Emergency number: 112 (also 122 police, 124 ambulance, 123 fire).
- Very low crime; the main risks are sun, sea, weather and roads.
- EHIC not valid — get travel insurance with medical cover.
- Tell someone your route before heading into the high mountains.

Before You Go

A quick, practical briefing before you travel. Entry rules and visa requirements change, so always confirm the current situation with your embassy or the official Montenegro Ministry of Foreign Affairs before you book — the notes below are a general guide, not legal advice.

Entry & Visa	Nationals of the EU/EEA, UK, US, Canada, Australia and New Zealand can normally visit visa-free for up to 90 days; your passport should be valid for the duration of your stay. If you are not in a hotel (which registers you automatically), you must register with the local police within 24 hours of arrival. Longer stays or work require a permit — always verify current rules with your embassy or Montenegro's MFA before travel.
Currency	Montenegro uses the euro (€). Cards are widely accepted in towns and hotels, but carry cash for konobas, markets, taxis and rural areas.
Plugs & Power	Sockets are European Type C and F, running at 230V / 50Hz — bring an adapter if you are coming from outside continental Europe.
Connectivity	Local SIMs and eSIMs are cheap and easy to buy; 4G is good on the coast and in towns, but coverage thins out in the high mountains.
Emergency	The general emergency number is 112. You can also dial 122 for police, 124 for an ambulance and 123 for the fire service.
Driving	Drive on the right; an International Driving Permit and Green Card insurance are recommended. Dipped headlights are required at all times and the drink-drive limit is strict.
Health	No vaccinations are required for travel. Tap water is safe in cities, and pharmacies ("apoteka") are common and helpful for minor ailments.
Time & Language	Montenegro is on Central European Time (CET). Montenegrin is the official language, written in both Latin and Cyrillic scripts, and English is widely spoken in tourism.

A Few Words of Montenegrin

Read the pronunciation as written, stressing the CAPITALISED syllable; “j” sounds like the y in “yes”. A word of the local language, however halting, is always met with warmth.

GREETINGS

Zdravo	Hi / Hello (informal)	<i>ŽDRAH-vo</i>
Dobar dan	Good day (all-purpose)	<i>DOH-bar dahn</i>
Dobro jutro	Good morning	<i>DOH-bro YOO-tro</i>
Dobro veče	Good evening	<i>DOH-bro VEH-che</i>
Doviđenja	Goodbye	<i>doh-vee-ŹEH-nya</i>
Kako ste?	How are you? (polite)	<i>KAH-ko steh</i>

COURTESY

Molim	Please / You're welcome	<i>MOH-leem</i>
Hvala	Thank you	<i>HVAH-lah</i>
Hvala lijepo	Thank you very much	<i>HVAH-lah lee-YEH-po</i>
Izvinite	Excuse me / Sorry	<i>eez-VEE-nee-teh</i>
Da / Ne	Yes / No	<i>dah / neh</i>
Ne razumijem	I don't understand	<i>neh rah-ŽOO-mee-yem</i>

AT THE TABLE

Živjeli!	Cheers! (to life)	<i>ŽHEEV-yeh-lee</i>
Jelovnik, molim	The menu, please	<i>YEH-lov-neek MOH-leem</i>
Račun, molim	The bill, please	<i>RAH-choon MOH-leem</i>
Domaća kafa	Turkish/"domestic" coffee	<i>DOH-mah-cha KAH-fah</i>
Jedna rakija	One rakija (brandy)	<i>YED-nah RAH-kee-ya</i>
Bilo je ukusno	It was delicious	<i>BEE-lo yeh OO-koos-no</i>

GETTING AROUND

Gdje je...?	Where is...?	<i>g-dyeh yeh</i>
Koliko košta?	How much is it?	<i>KOH-lee-ko KOSH-tah</i>
Lijevo / Desno	Left / Right	<i>lee-YEH-vo / DES-no</i>
Pravo	Straight ahead	<i>PRAH-vo</i>
Plaža	Beach	<i>PLAH-zhah</i>
Stari grad	Old town	<i>STAH-ree grahd</i>

EMERGENCIES

Upomoć!	Help!	<i>OO-poh-moch</i>
Treba mi ljekar	I need a doctor	<i>TREH-bah mee LYEH-kar</i>
Apoteka	Pharmacy	<i>ah-po-TEH-kah</i>
Policija	Police	<i>po-LEE-tsee-ya</i>
Zovite hitnu	Call an ambulance	<i>ZOH-vee-teh HEET'-noo</i>
Izgubio sam se	I'm lost	<i>eez-GOO-bee-o sahm seh</i>

Make it yours

This guide is only the beginning. On montenegro.com you can refine your itinerary, discover more towns, trails and hidden coves, and book stays directly with local hosts — from stone village houses in the highlands to sea-view apartments in the old Venetian ports.

Every property is run by people who live here and love to share it. Plan your route, choose where to wake up, and let Montenegro do the rest. Živjeli — we will see you on the coast.

MONTENEGRO.COM

Wild beauty on Europe's last untamed coast