



Montenegro Црна Гора

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Why Go?

Imagine a place with sapphire beaches as spectacular as Croatia's, rugged peaks as dramatic as Switzerland's, canyons nearly as deep as Colorado's, *palazzi* as elegant as Venice's and towns as old as Greece's. Wrap it up in a Mediterranean climate and squish it into an area two-thirds the size of Wales and you start to get a picture of Montenegro.

More adventurous travellers can easily sidestep the peak-season hordes on the coast by heading to the rugged mountains of the north. This is, after all, a country where wolves and bears still lurk in forgotten corners.

Montenegro, Crna Gora, Black Mountain: the name itself conjures up romance and drama. There is plenty of both on offer as you explore this perfumed land, bathed in the scent of wild herbs, conifers and Mediterranean blossoms. Yes, it really is as magical as it sounds.

Best Places to Stay

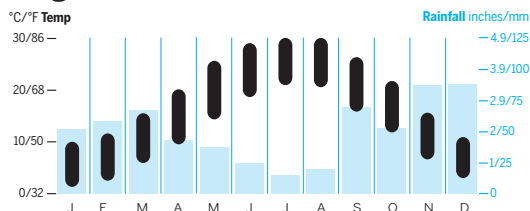
- » Palazzo Radomiri, Kotor (p864)
- » Vila Drago, Sv Stefan (p865)
- » Eko-Oaza Suza Evrope, Durmitor NP (p867)
- » Euro, Kotor (p864)

Best Free Things

- » Kotor's historic lanes (p863)
- » Views over Sveti Stefan (p865)
- » Velika Plaža, Ulcinj (p865)
- » Ostrog Monastery (p866)
- » Back road Kotor to Cetinje

When To Go

Podgorica



Jun Beat the peak-season rush but enjoy the balmy weather.

Sep Warm water still, but fewer bods to share it with.

Oct The leaves turn golden, making a rich backdrop to walks in the national parks.

Connections

Many travellers make the most of the proximity of Dubrovnik's Čilipi airport to Herceg Novi to tie in a visit to Croatia with a Montenegrin sojourn. At the other end of the coast, Ulcinj is the perfect primer for exploring Albania and is connected by bus to Shkodra. Likewise, Rožaje captures elements of Kosovar culture and is well connected to Peja. A train line and frequent bus connections make a trip to Montenegro's closest cousins in Serbia a breeze. Montenegro shares a longer border with Bosnia and Hercegovina (BiH) than any of its neighbours.

ITINERARIES

Three Days

Base yourself in Kotor and consider day trips to Sveti Stefan, Cetinje and Ostrog Monastery.

One Week

Base yourself in Kotor for two nights and then continue on to Budva. Check out Stari Bar en route to Ulcinj. The following day, double back to Sveti Stefan for your last night on the coast. Head on to Cetinje and Ostrog Monastery en route to Šćepan Polje, where you can stay the night at one of the rafting centres. Go rafting the following morning and then head to Žabljak for a day's hiking in Durmitor National Park.

Essential Food & Drink

- » **Njeguški pršut i sir** Smoke-dried ham and cheese from the heartland village of Njeguši.
- » **Ajvar** Spicy spread of fried red peppers and eggplant, seasoned with garlic, salt, vinegar and oil.
- » **Kajmak** Soft cheese made from the salted cream from boiled milk.
- » **Kaćamak** Porridge-like mix of cream, cheese, potato and buckwheat or cornflour.
- » **Riblja čorba** Fish soup; a staple of the coast.
- » **Crni rižoto** Black risotto, coloured with squid ink.
- » **Ligne na žaru** Grilled squid, sometimes stuffed (*punjene*) with cheese and smoke-dried ham.
- » **Jagnjetina ispod sača** Lamb cooked (often with potatoes) under a metal lid covered with hot coals.
- » **Rakija** Domestic brandy, made from nearly anything. The local favourite is grape-based *loza*.
- » **Vranac** Local red wine varietal.
- » **Krstač** Local white wine varietal.

AT A GLANCE

- » **Currency** euro (€)
- » **Language** Montenegrin (almost identical to Serbian, Croatian and Bosnian)
- » **Money** ATMs in all larger towns
- » **Visas** Not required for citizens of most European countries, Australia, New Zealand, Canada and the USA; usually for a stay of up to 90 days

Fast Facts

- » **Area** 13,812 sq km
- » **Capital** Podgorica
- » **Country code** ☎382
- » **Emergency** Police ☎122, ambulance ☎124

Exchange Rates

Australia	A\$1	€0.74
Canada	C\$1	€0.74
Japan	¥100	€0.87
New Zealand	NZ\$1	€0.56
UK	UK£1	€1.16
USA	US\$1	€0.72

Set Your Budget

- » **Budget accommodation** €10-15 per person
- » **Two-course evening meal** €8-20
- » **Museum entrance** €1-5
- » **Nikšičko beer** 330mL €1.50
- » **1L petrol** €1.15

Resources

- » See p868 for a list of useful websites.