



# Central Montenegro

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## Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Stari Most (p95)
- ➔ Lupo di Mare (p103)
- ➔ Kole (p94)
- ➔ Konoba Badanj (p96)
- ➔ Ibon (p105)

## Best Places to Stay

- ➔ Villa Miela (p96)
- ➔ Hotel Podgorica (p101)
- ➔ Aria (p101)
- ➔ City Hotel (p102)
- ➔ Hotel Marshal (p105)

## Why Go?

You can't really say you've been to Montenegro if you haven't visited the region that has always been its physical, spiritual and political heartland. A distinct Montenegrin (as opposed to Serbian) identity formed here from the crucible of resistance to Ottoman hegemony represented by Lovćen, the black mountain.

To reach central Montenegro from the coast you'll first have to skirt two wonderful national parks that provide every excuse for a back-to-nature diversion. Behind the parks are the two capitals: the ancient current one (Podgorica, founded by the Romans) and the newer former one (Cetinje, the royal city). Together they offer the chance to get better acquainted with Montenegrin art and history in their richly endowed galleries and museums.

Continue into the hinterland and you'll reach Ostrog Monastery. In a country with so many religious sites, none comes close to Ostrog in sheer impressiveness.

## When to Go

- ➔ May is late spring and the perfect time to visit the capital before the sizzling summer begins. August has great weather for exploring Lake Skadar, while Danilovgrad hosts the River Zeta Festival.
- ➔ September is not as scorching in the central plains but still warm enough in the national parks.



## Central Montenegro Highlights

- 1** Marvelling at the majesty of both the mountains and the monument at the **Njegoš Mausoleum** (p90)
- 2** Diving into history, art and culture at the **National Museum of Montenegro** (p91) and on Cetinje's streets
- 3** Gazing in wonder at the improbable cliff-face construction of **Ostrog Monastery** (p104)
- 4** Cruising the sparkling waters to the island monasteries and bird sanctuaries of **Lake Skadar** (p96)
- 5** Feasting on the sublime seafood and serene setting of **Rijeka Crnojevića** (p95)
- 6** Soaking up the nocturnal buzz of Podgorica's **Nova Varoš** (p103) party precinct
- 7** Braving the snakes and spiders within the usually deserted medieval ruins of **Žabljak Crnojevića** (p99)