

Central Montenegro

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Best Places to Eat

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Best Places to Sleep

- Apartments Athos (p104)
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Why Go?

Ogle the splendid cap of northern mountains and impeccable drape of glittering coastline by all means, but to truly get to know Montenegro, a visit to the country's core is a must.

Its beating heart is Mt Lovćen, a 1749m-high symbol of national identity and the very black mountain that gives Crna Gora its name. To the south, Lake Skadar is the country's lungs, a clean, green oasis of lily-strewn waterways and rare bird havens. Swoop north to Ostrog to discover the very soul of the nation in a gravity-defying cliff-face monastery that literally brings pilgrims to their knees. And you'll find character galore in Montenegro's two capitals; the modern-day seat of Podgorica is home to hip bars and a happening arts scene, while the royal city of Cetinje proudly preserves its gallant past in a collection of richly endowed museums and galleries.

When to Go

- May is late spring and the perfect time to visit the capital, before the sizzling summer.
- August offers Great weather for exploring Lake Skadar;
 Danilovgrad hosts the River Zeta Festival.
- September is not as scorching but still warm enough, and a great time to drive the panoramic Circuit Around Korita.



Central Montenegro Highlights

Njegoš Mausoleum (p92) Marvelling at the majesty of both the mountains and the monument at the top.

2 National Museum of Montenegro (p93) Delving into history, art and culture in the former royal capital Cetinie.

3 Lipa Cave (p95) Diving even deeper into the past on a tour of one of the country's largest caves.

Ostrog
Monastery (p107)
Gazing in wonder at
the improbable cliffface construction of
this holy site.

5 Lake Skadar (p97) Cruising the sparkling waters to the island monasteries and bird sanctuaries.

6 Rijeka Crnojevića (p97) Feasting on the sublime seafood and serene setting.

Nova Varoš (p105) Soaking up the nocturnal buzz of Podgorica's party precinct.