



Northern Mountains

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Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Sočica (p125)
- ➔ Lupo D'argento (p119)
- ➔ Vodenica (p114)
- ➔ Savardak (p113)
- ➔ Krojet (p123)

Best Places to Sleep

- ➔ Eko-Oaza Suza Evrope (p118)
- ➔ Hikers Den (p118)
- ➔ Bianca Resort & Spa (p113)
- ➔ Etno Selo Šljeme (p119)
- ➔ Zvono (p125)

Why Go?

The mountainous north is the beefy brawn to the coast's polished pulchritude. Peaking at 2534m, this is the roof of Montenegro, where profound massifs, otherworldly vistas and a picturesque smattering of old-school villages offer a literal and metaphorical breath of fresh air.

The region's main drawcards are its three national parks. Durmitor is a dizzying combination of soaring peaks and the plunging depths of the Tara River Canyon, making for spectacular skiing in winter and rip-roaring rafting in summer. The remote treks and trails of Prokletije's Accursed Mountains are more heaven than hell for serious alpinists, while the less hard-core can catch their breath in Biogradska Gora's gentle lakes and timeless forests.

There's not much in the way of infrastructure outside of Kolašin and Žabljak, but don't let that stop you. Hire a car, steady your nerves, and let the twisty, turny, white-knuckle roads take you where they will.

When to Go

- ➔ In January and February, spend your days skiing and your nights feasting in front of an open fire.
- ➔ July and August have the best hiking weather, with average Durmitor temperatures in the low 20s.
- ➔ Watch the forest explode in colour in September and October as autumn hits Biogradska Gora.

Climate

It shouldn't surprise anyone that this mountainous region is cooler than the rest of the country. Average high temperatures range from just above freezing in January to the low 20s in August.

Getting There & Away

The highway between Podgorica and Belgrade cuts through Mojkovac and Bijelo Polje and is served by buses. A major road connects Nikšić to Durmitor; this road leads south to Risan on the Bay of Kotor. You can travel to Kolašin, Mojkovac and Bijelo Polje by train from Serbia in the north or Podgorica and Bar in the south. There are also road connections with Bosnia, Serbia and Kosovo.



Northern Mountains Highlights

1 Tara Canyon (p116) Rafting between the kilometre-plus canyon walls in Durmitor National Park.

2 Prokletije National Park (p125) Tackling the trails and treks of the Accursed Mountains.

3 Biogradska Gora National Park (p114) Searching for wood nymphs in the primordial forest.

4 Morača Monastery (p112) Time-warping to the 13th century as you step through the gates.

5 Rožaje (p121) People-watching as the evening

promenade descends on the main street.

6 Gusinje (p123) Soaking up the peaceful Eastern vibe between the mosques and mountains.

7 Piva Canyon (p123) Taking a white-knuckle ride between the sheer cliffs and green depths.