



Montenegro

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Best Places to Eat

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Best Places to Stay

- ➔ Hotel Hippocampus (p276)
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Why Go?

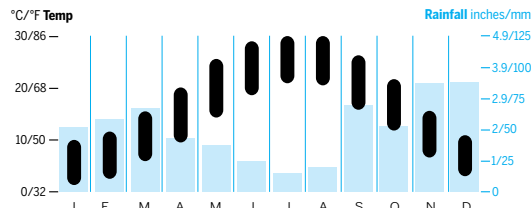
If all the world's a stage, then Montenegro struts upon it, continuously playing out the most dramatic act. There's not an iota of the insipid to be found here; from its backdrop of majestic mountains and captivating coastline to its passionate populace and lively, living history, this is a country with charisma.

Most visitors make a beeline to Montenegro's spectacular seaside, where mountains jut sharply from crystal-clear waters, ancient walled towns cling to the rocks and cosmopolitan jetsetters mingle with traditional fisherfolk. But there's more to Montenegro than sun and sand; its native name – Crna Gora (Црна Гора) – means 'Black Mountain', and it's in the rugged highlands that the country's profound and adventurous soul reveals itself.

Smaller than the state of Connecticut and roughly two-thirds the size of Wales, miniscule Montenegro proves once and for all that good things do indeed come in small packages.

When to Go

Podgorica



Jun Enjoy balmy weather without the peak season prices and crowds.

Sep Warm water but fewer bods to share it with; shoulder season prices.

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



Montenegro Highlights

1 Kotor (p274) Randomly roaming the atmospheric streets until you're at least a little lost.

2 Lovćen National Park (p277) Driving the vertiginous route from Kotor to the Njegoš Mausoleum.

3 Perast (p276) Admiring the baroque palaces and churches.

4 Ostrog Monastery (p278) Seeking out the spiritual at this impressive cliff-clinging monastery.

5 Tara Canyon (p279) Floating through paradise,

rafting between the plunging walls of this canyon.

6 Cetinje (p278) Diving into Montenegro's history, art and culture in the old royal capital.

7 Budva (p272) Watching the beautiful people over the rim of a coffee cup in the cobbled Old Town lanes.