

EUROPE · BEACHES · MOUNTAINS · HIKING · HISTORY · ROAD TRIPS · ADVENTURE



Montenegro

Montenegro squeezes fjord-like bays, Venetian-era towns, deep canyons and high limestone massifs into an area smaller than Northern Ireland. The Bay of Kotor and its walled towns steal the show on the coast, while Durmitor National Park, Lake Skadar and the cliff-face Ostrog Monastery reward a loop inland. Visit Kotor early or late to dodge cruise-ship crowds.

 Before you go, read the UK government's travel advice for Montenegro and entry requirements (visas, passport validity). Last updated by FCDO 13 August 2026.

 CAPITAL Podgorica	 CURRENCY Euro (EUR) £1 ≈ €1.19	 LANGUAGE Serbian, Montenegrin Bosnian, Albanian	 BEST TIME May–Jun, Sep
 DAILY BUDGET £45–£210 ££ Moderate	 PLUGS Type C, F 230V · adapter needed	 FLIGHT FROM LONDON 2h 50m direct ~£80–£300 return	 TIME ZONE UTC+1 standard time

Montenegro's 290-odd kilometres of coast run from the Bay of Kotor, a sunken river canyon walled by mountains, past the beaches of the Budva Riviera to Ulcinj near the Albanian border. Behind the coast the land rears up abruptly: the old royal capital of Cetinje and Lovćen National Park sit just above Kotor, Lake Skadar spreads across the south, and the north holds Durmitor's peaks, the Tara River Canyon and Biogradska Gora's primeval forest. Most visitors base themselves on the bay, then loop inland by car for a few nights — the country is small enough to cross in half a day.

July and August bring heat, packed beaches and peak prices on the coast, while late spring and September offer pleasant weather and quieter old towns. Prices are generally lower than in neighbouring Croatia, especially inland, where family-run guesthouses serve generous home cooking. The mountains surprise people: snow lingers on Durmitor's high ground into June, and within an hour of leaving Kotor you can be above 1,000 metres on Lovćen. It suits road-trippers, hikers, rafters and anyone wanting Adriatic towns without Dubrovnik's crowds — though Kotor itself can feel overrun when several cruise ships dock at once.

Top 5 highlights

- 1

HISTORY

Kotor Old Town and the Bay of Kotor

Kotor's UNESCO-listed walled town of marble-paved lanes, Romanesque churches and cats sits at the head of the bay. Climb the walls to St John's Fortress at dawn, then take a boat to Perast and the islet church of Our Lady of the Rocks.
- 2

NATURE

Durmitor National Park

Glacial lakes, limestone peaks topping 2,500 metres and the Tara River Canyon, among Europe's deepest, define this park. Stroll round Black Lake from Žabljak, hike Bobotov Kuk in summer or raft the Tara in the warmer months.

3

SACRED SITE

Ostrog Monastery

Whitewashed and built into a sheer cliff high above the Bjelopavlići plain, this 17th-century Orthodox monastery is Montenegro's most visited pilgrimage site. Dress modestly; many pilgrims walk the final stretch up from the lower monastery.

4

WILDLIFE

Lake Skadar National Park

The Balkans' largest lake, shared with Albania, is fringed by reeds, water lilies and island monasteries. Take a boat from Virpazar to look for Dalmatian pelicans and herons, then taste local Vranac wine in nearby villages.

5

HISTORY

Lovćen and the Njegoš Mausoleum

Drive the 25 hairpins of the old road above Kotor to Lovćen National Park, where the mausoleum of poet-prince Petar II Petrović-Njegoš crowns Jezerski Vrh with views over much of the country. Stop in Njeguši for smoked ham.

Biggest cities

LARGEST CITY

Podgorica

≈ 173,000 people

The modern capital, largely rebuilt after Second World War bombing, is pleasant rather than compelling; use it for its airport, riverside cafés and easy access to Lake Skadar and Ostrog.

2ND LARGEST CITY

Nikšić

≈ 54,000 people

Montenegro's second city, home of Nikšičko beer, is an unpretentious inland town with a hilltop fortress and lakes nearby; a handy stop between Ostrog Monastery and Durmitor.

3RD LARGEST CITY

Budva

≈ 20,000 people

The Riviera's party hub has a compact walled old town and a string of beaches, with Sveti Stefan's island village just south; it is heavily developed and packed in July and August.

Populations are for the towns themselves (2023 census). Counted by whole municipality, Bar would edge out Budva for third place.

When to go to Montenegro

Best time: **May–Jun, Sep.**

Jan

Feb

Mar

Apr

May

Jun

Jul

Aug

Sep

Oct

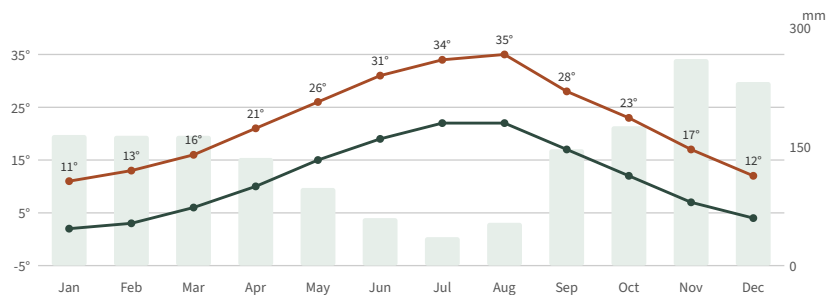
Nov

Dec

■ Best ■ Good ■ Mixed ■ Poor

Average climate in Podgorica

— High °C — Low °C ■ Rain (mm)



Festivals & events

Feb	Mimosa Festival Herceg Novi greets the yellow mimosa blossom with weeks of parades, brass bands, fish feasts and carnival processions, mostly in February.
Jul	Fašinada Every 22 July at dusk, a procession of decorated boats from Perast carries stones out to Our Lady of the Rocks, continuing the centuries-old tradition that built the islet.
Aug	Boka Night Kotor's summer carnival night, usually in August, when illuminated and decorated boats parade across the bay below the old town, followed by fireworks.

How much does Montenegro cost?

SHOESTRING £45 per person / day ≈ €53.57 hostels, street food, buses	MID-RANGE £95 per person / day ≈ €113 3-star hotels, restaurants, some taxis	COMFORTABLE £210 per person / day ≈ €250 4-star+, guided trips, private transfers
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Estimates per person per day, excluding flights. Prices vary by season and city.

Food to try

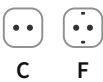
Njeguški pršut and cheese Air-dried, lightly smoked ham and firm cheese from the village of Njeguši on Lovćen's slopes, served on a board with olives and red Vranac wine.	Kačamak Mountain comfort food of cornmeal and potato beaten with cheese and kajmak, a clotted cream, until rich and stretchy; ideal after a Durmitor hike.	Crni rižot Black risotto coloured with cuttlefish or squid ink, a staple on restaurant menus around the Bay of Kotor and along the coast.
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Getting around

Buses are frequent along the coast, linking Herceg Novi, Kotor, Budva, Bar and Ulcinj, and run inland to Podgorica, Nikšić and Žabljak. A scenic railway runs from Bar via Podgorica and Kolašin to Belgrade. To reach mountains and monasteries at your own pace, hire a car — roads are narrow and twisting — and use the Kamenari–Lepetane car ferry to cut across the Bay of Kotor.

Practical information

PLUGS & VOLTAGE



230V — bring a UK-to-C/F adapter

DIALLING CODE

+382

EMERGENCY NUMBERS

Telephone: **112**

Source: FCDO “Getting help”

TIME ZONE

UTC+1 (standard time)

TAP WATER

Generally safe to drink

DRIVING

On the right

TIPPING

Tipping isn't obligatory, but rounding up or leaving around 10% in restaurants is normal for good service; round up taxi fares too.

ETIQUETTE

Cover shoulders and knees in monasteries and keep swimwear for the beach. Coffee is a slow, social ritual, so don't rush hosts, and tread carefully around Serbian–Montenegrin identity politics.

MAIN AIRPORTS

Podgorica Airport (TGD), Podgorica; Tivat Airport (TIV), Tivat; Dubrovnik Airport (DBV), Dubrovnik — across the border

Visas & entry for Montenegro

Shown for a British passport.

No visa needed

You can visit Montenegro without a visa for up to 90 days in any 180-day period. This applies if you travel: as a tourist; to visit family or friends; to attend business meetings, cultural or sports events; for short-term studies or training.

If you are travelling to Montenegro without a visa, make sure your whole visit is within the 90-day limit. Visits to Montenegro within the previous 180 days before you travel count towards your 90 days.

From the UK government's FCDO entry requirements for British passport holders — read the full page for passport validity, permits and exceptions.

Health & vaccinations



See a travel health nurse, GP or travel clinic **6–8 weeks before you go**. Make sure routine UK vaccinations (such as MMR and diphtheria-tetanus-polio) are up to date.

RECOMMENDED FOR MOST TRAVELLERS

Tetanus

SOMETIMES ADVISED — DEPENDS ON YOUR TRIP, ACTIVITIES AND HEALTH

Rabies

Typhoid

YELLOW FEVER CERTIFICATE

No yellow fever certificate is required to enter.

MALARIA

No malaria risk

Source: TravelHealthPro (National Travel Health Network and Centre), checked 21 October 2026. This is a summary, not medical advice.

Public holidays in Montenegro

The next 12 months. Banks, offices and some sights may close, and transport and hotels get busy around these dates.

Fri 13 Nov 2026

Njegos Day

Fri 1 Jan 2027

New Year's Day

Sat 2 Jan 2027	New Year's Day
Sat 1 May 2027	Labour Day
Sun 2 May 2027	Labour Day
Mon 3 May 2027	Labour Day (observed)
Fri 21 May 2027	Independence Day
Sat 22 May 2027	Independence Day
Tue 13 Jul 2027	Statehood Day
Wed 14 Jul 2027	Statehood Day

National holidays only. Dates based on lunar calendars can move by a day or two depending on official announcements.

Useful phrases in Montenegrin

ENGLISH	MONTENEGRIN	SAY IT
Hello	Zdravo	ZDRAH-voh
Thank you	Hvala	HVAH-lah
Please	Molim	MOH-leem
Excuse me	Izvinite	eez-VEE-nee-teh
How much is this?	Koliko ovo košta?	KOH-lee-koh OH-voh KOSH-tah

Know before you go

- Check the Port of Kotor's published cruise schedule and see the old town early or late; midday on multi-ship days is the most crowded time.
- Drive mountain roads slowly: the Kotor serpentine and the Tara Canyon routes are narrow, often unlit and shared with coaches, so allow far longer than the distance suggests.
- Some guesthouses and rural restaurants accept only cash, so carry euros; ATMs are plentiful on the coast but sparser in the mountains.

Visa, health and safety rules change. Before you book or travel, check the FCDO travel advice (gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice) and TravelHealthPro (travelhealthpro.org.uk). Costs are estimates. © 2026 Pick My Trip.