



Steph's Quick Budget Fact Sheet

Montenegro – Durmitor National Park & surroundings

Quick Facts

- ✓ **Capital:** Podgorica
- ✓ **Language:** Montenegrin
- ✓ **Population:** ± 3600 (Žabljak)
- ✓ **Sq km:** ± 445 (Žabljak)
- ✓ **Currency:** Euro (€)
- ✓ **Country code:** +382
- ✓ **Visa:** Info can be found [here](#) (not Schengen)
- ✓ **Emergency phone:** 112 (general), 124 (ambulance), 123 (fire), 122 (police)
- ✓ **Vaccinations:** Covid-19



History Recap Over 1 Drink

15-18th century: Ottoman Empire (*substantial autonomy*). 1798: Montenegro independent principality. 1878: Independence recognised under international treaties. 1914-'18: WWI. Becomes part of Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes. '29: Renamed Kingdom of Yugoslavia. '39-'45: WWII. Together with Serbia, Slovenia, Macedonia, Croatia and Bosnia, becomes one of republics in new Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia under Tito. '80: Tito dies. '91: Djukanovic prime minister. Montenegro supports union with Serbia (*while Slovenia, Macedonia, Croatia and Bosnia break away*). '92: Joins Serbia in Federal Republic of Yugoslavia → Rising nationalist and independence aspirations bring bloody conflict with Croats and Bosnian Muslims (Bosnian War). '99: Exchanges dinar for German mark. 2002: Euro. Sign EU-mediated accord to set up new state, to be called Serbia and Montenegro (*instead of Yugoslavia*). '03: Vujanovic president. '04: Applies for WTO. '05: Montenegro suggests 2 independent republics → rejected by Serbia. '06: Declares independence. Member of UN. NATO: Partnership for Peace pre-membership programme. '07: IMF & World Bank. New constitution. '08: Recognizes Kosovo. Applies for EU. '09: Visa-free travel within EU's Schengen zone. '17: Joins NATO, upsetting Russia, its traditional ally.

Travel Seasons

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Spring												
Summer												
Autumn												
Winter												
Budget												

Altitude: 2523m (Bobotov Kuk). Climate: Humid continental climate (Cfa).

Bucket List For Free

☺ **Nature:** Hiking through Durmitor NP (*main trails: Bobotov Kuk Trail – Prutaš Peak Trail – Lake Trail – Red Rock Trail – Čurevac Loop Trail – Ice Cave Trail*), the Durmitor Ring car loop. Check out the Tara Bridge and Stecci. Long-distance trail: [Via Dinarica](#).

☺ **Other free outdoor sports (with own gear):** Mountain Biking, Climbing.

☺ **Recommended Day Trips:** Pluzine (*incl. Piva Canyon and Pivskoe Reservoir*), Pljevlja.

Worth The Extra \$€¥

👍 The National Park has an [entry price](#), which however isn't always charged.

👍 **Outdoor Sports:** Rafting in the Tara River, Skiing (*Savin Kuk Ski Resort*), Ziplining, Parasailing, Canyoning.

Budget Bites

- ⌘ **Supermarkets:** Idea, Voli, Aroma.
- ⌘ **Local food:** Cevapi (*grilled minced meat in pita bread*), Buzara (*seafood*), Ispod Saca (*roast*), Black Risotto, Kacamak (*potato dish*), Sopska Salata (*salad with cheese*), Burek (*fried stuffed bread*), Brav u Mlijijeku (*lamb in milk*), Prsut (*prosciutto*), Palacinke (*sweet and savoury pancakes*), Njegus Stek (*steak*), Sarma (*cabbage rolls*), Priganice (*fried dough balls*), Rakija (*alcoholic drink*), Ajvar (*veggie sauce*).
- ⌘ **Go veg:** Going veg is rather complicated in Montenegro, with very few options. Pizza is usually your best bet. Check the veg-friendly restaurants of Žabljak [here](#). **Local veg dishes:** Prebranac (*bean stew*), Ajvar. **Tip:** ask for “*posna grana*” food, which is orthodox meat- and dairy-free fasting food (*might contain fish: doublecheck*).

Mama Said

- ⌘ European cities are generally safe, and so is Montenegro, but use your common sense like everywhere. Don't walk alone in remote areas after sunset, don't take valuables along and follow your instinct when entering certain neighborhoods further away from the centre.
- ⌘ Download the GPS hiking route beforehand due to limited cell phone coverage. Bring a powerbank, a hiking kit as described in blog story, more food you think you need and clothing for all weather scenarios. Inform someone about your hiking route and intended return time.
- ⌘ Tap water is drinkable. When hiking, bring at least 2 litres, preferably more, especially in summer.
- ⌘ The Montenegrin language is very similar to Croatian, Serbian and Bulgarian. You can use Google Translate to Croatian and locals will understand. English is not widely spoken.

Next?

- ➔ **In Montenegro:** Podgorica, Herceg Novi, Kotor Bay, Kolašin, Biogradska Gora NP, Bijelo Polje.
- ➔ **International destinations close by:** Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, Kosovo.

Sleep Cheap

- ❖ Hostels and alternative accommodation are relatively cheap in Montenegro. I found the best deals on Booking.com, which is generally cheaper than Air BnB listings here. Most municipalities charge a city tax. The base for Durmitor NP is Žabljak.
- ❖ Go [Couchsurfing](#) or [house-sitting](#)! Also check [WorkAway](#).

Free-Riding?

- Hiking is the main draw of Durmitor National Park. The towns mentioned in the article all have rather compact city centres, with everything at **walking** distance.
- **Cycling** is an interesting and scenic way to get around in this area. However, keep in mind that traffic can be hectic and local traffic users aren't used to paying attention to cyclists.
- There are **buses** from the bigger cities to Žabljak, including from Podgorica and Kotor. The smaller mountain towns can only be reached by car (*or hitchhiking*). To reach the main hikes and drive the Durmitor Ring (*a must!*), a rental car is also recommended. Google Maps for public transport and other common public transport apps don't work in Montenegro and online information is often faulty. Verify the latest updates at the bus station.
- There are no **train** connections in this area.
- There is no Uber here. **Taxis** can be hailed down on the street or called for. As tourist scams are common, always insist on turning on the meter.
- **Airport:** Podgorica Airport (TGD).
- **Hitchhiking** is relatively safe in Montenegro, but it's not very common. Take into account that English is not widely spoken, so chit-chat might be complicated.