



Steph's Quick Budget Fact Sheet

Montenegro - Kotor Bay, Lovcen NP & Cetinje

Quick Facts

- ✓ **Capital:** Podgorica
- ✓ **Language:** Montenegrin
- ✓ **Population:** ± 13,500 (Kotor)
- ✓ **Sq km:** ± 335
- ✓ **Currency:** Euro (€)
- ✓ **Country code:** +382 (32)
- ✓ **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: 1749m (Lovćen). Climate: Humid continental climate (Cfa).

Bucket List For Free

- ☺ **Kotor:** Old City, Castle via described back-route (*see blog story*), Harbour, Lovcen Viewing Point, Clock / Kampana Tower, [Vrmac Fortress](#), Churches, Palaces.
- ☺ **Cetinje:** Monastery of St. Peter, River Tsrnoyevicha (*meanders*), Court Church on Cipur, Djukanovic House, Pavlova Strana Viewpoint.
- ☺ **Lovcen NP:** Hikes through the Lovcen NP can be found [here](#). Kotor is the best base to start. Via the Mausoleum entry Price is €2, other side is free.

Worth The Extra \$€¥

- 👍 **Kotor:** [Boat Tour](#), Bike rental for lake trip, [Cats Museum](#), [Maritime Museum](#).
- 👍 **Cetinje:** [Museum of King Nikola](#), [National Museum](#), [Art Museum](#), [Njegos Museum Biljarda](#), [Ethnographic Museum](#), Miodrag Dado Djuric Art Gallery, [Lipa Cave](#), Wineries (*reached by car or cab*). Consider buying the Museum Pass (*see blog story*).
- 👍 **Lovcen NP:** Njegos Mausoleum and Observation Deck (€5 / 2.50 students).

Budget Bites

- ⌘ **Supermarkets:** Idea, Voli, Aroma, Franca.
- ⌘ **Markets:** Farmer's Market (*Kotor; just outside the city walls*), Bašiča Pazar (*Cetinje*).
- ⌘ **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. Find all veg-friendly restaurants in Kotor [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, 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.
- ☠ Parking is charged around the Kotor area. Wild-parking can cause high fines.
- ☠ Tap water is drinkable.
- ☠ 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:** Skadar Lake (Virpazar), Budva, Podgorica.
- ➔ **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.
- ❖ Go [Couchsurfing](#) or [house-sitting](#)! Also check [WorkAway](#).

Festivals

- ☼ International Folk Festival: Cetine, Jul.
- ☼ International Summer Festival: Kotor, Aug.
- ☼ International Music Clapper Meeting: Perast, Aug.

Free-Riding?

- Both Kotor and Cetinje have very small and compact city centres, with everything at **walking** distance. In Kotor Bay the different towns (*such as Perast*) are further than you think. Lovcen National Park is best explored by hiking.
- **Cycling** is an interesting and scenic way to get around in Kotor and Cetinje, but the roads are narrow and traffic can be hectic in high season. Keep in mind that Lovcen National Park contains many very steep mountains, so cycling can be tricky.
- There is a local city **bus** cheaply connecting Herceg Novi with Kotor Bay, called Blue Line (*incl. a ferry which is free for pedestrians*). However, they're not frequent and Google Maps and other common public transport apps don't work here. So you can either wait for a long term or verify the latest updates and times with a local. The local bus terminal in Kotor is located at Skaljari Kotor 85330 and the one in Cetinje at Grahovska 812550, and both are correctly listed on Google Maps. Mind that bus tickets bought online have an extra printing fee at the station. There is no public transport to Lovcen NP, you need your own vehicle or hike up from Kotor or Cetinje (*or book a tour/taxi*).
- There is no **train** line on this stretch.
- There is no Uber here. **Taxis** can be hailed down on the street. As tourist scams are common, always insist on turning on the meter.
- **Airport:** Tivat Airport (TIV).
- **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.