



Steph's Quick Budget Fact Sheet

Montenegro - Podgorica

Quick Facts

- ✓ **Capital:** Podgorica
- ✓ **Language:** Montenegrin
- ✓ **Population:** ± 186,000
- ✓ **Sq km:** ± 108
- ✓ **Currency:** Euro (€)
- ✓ **Country code:** +382 (20)
- ✓ **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: 40m. Climate: Humid subtropical climate (Cfa).

Bucket List For Free

- ☺ **Sights:** Clock Tower, Millennium Bridge, Ribnica Bridge, Old Turkish Town (*Stara Varoš*), Skaline Fortress, Sastavci, Hram Hristovog Vaskrsenja, Vladimir Vysotsky Monument, Dajbabe Monastery, Medun / Dukla Ruins.
- ☺ **Museum:** Centre of Contemporary Art.
- ☺ **Nature:** Ljubovic Hill, Cijevna River Canyon, Niagara Falls, Skadar Lake National Park, Moraca River.

Worth The Extra \$€¥

- 👉 **Wine tasting:** [Plantaže](#) & wine route towards Skadar Lake.

Festivals

- ⚙ Podgorica Film Festival: Apr.
- ⚙ Podgorica's Cultural Summer: summer season.
- ⚙ Festival of International Alternative Theatres: Sep.

Budget Bites

- ⌘ **Supermarkets:** Idea, Aroma, Voli, Naš Diskont (*big*), Franca.
- ⌘ **Markets:** Mall of Montenegro (*inside*).
- ⌘ **Local food:** Cevapi (*grilled minced meat in pita bread*), Buzara (*seafood*), Ispod Saca (*roast*), Black Rissotto, 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, not to say almost impossible. However, Podgorica is a happy exception. Find all veg-friendly restaurants in Podgorica [here](#). Paradise Food is fully vegan. 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 like Podgorica 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 neighbourhoods further away from the centre.
- ☠ Boycott zoos like Konjicki Klub, where animals are held in captivity.
- ☠ 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), Petrovac, Sutomore, Stari Bar, Budva, Lovcen NP, Biogradska Gora NP.
- ➔ **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](#).

Nights Best Spent

- ◆ **Nightlife areas:** Rimski Trg, off Bulevar Svetog Petra Cetinjskog (*near the orthodox temple*): new part of town. City center.
- ◆ **Theatre:** Montenegrin National Theatre, City Theatre.

Free-Riding?

- Podgorica has a rather compact city center and most can be considered **walkable** if you're reasonably fit.
- Podgorica has some **bicycle** lanes and biking can be a pleasurable way to get around.
- There are city **buses**, but they're not frequent and Google Maps and other common public transport apps don't work and online information on routes are absent. Unofficial vans can have destinations displayed in the front and can generally be hailed down at certain locations where they can be pulled over. The local bus terminal is located at 1 Trg Golootočkih Žrtava. Tickets bought online have an extra printing fee at the station.
- The **train** station is next to the bus station at 7 Trg Golootočkih Žrtava. Podgorica is a stop at the famous Niksic-Bar line. Trains are cheaper than buses and rather modern and quick, be it less frequent.
- 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:** 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.

The Earth Becomes My Throne

