

PANORAMIC ROADS

The panoramic roads of Montenegro will take you through a magnificent nature, incredibly diverse landscapes and the rich cultural heritage of this remarkably compelling country. The four suggested routes will reveal landscapes ranging from the fabulous Adriatic coast to the wild and romantic mountains in the north of the country.

The "Crown of Montenegro" is the longest of our panoramic roads; it is more than 800 km long and will take you through the north and east regions of Montenegro, to protected natural zones and locations protected by UNESCO. The remarkable and fabulous mountain landscapes, authentic rural areas, high-quality homemade products and the traditional hospitality of the local population are the main characteristics of this mountain route.

MONTENEGRO
Wild Beauty

www.montenegro.travel



MONTENEGRO
PANORAMIC ROADS
free map



THE CROWN OF MONTENEGRO
Panoramic Roads

View of a part of the panoramic route

WELCOME



Panoramic Roads

IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

Customer Care Centre: 0 8000 1300
Ambulance: 112
Police: 122
Roadside assistance - AMSCG: 19807
Mountain Rescue Service of Montenegro
+382 (0) 40 256 084

USEFUL INFORMATION

NATIONAL TOURISM ORGANISATION
www.montenegro.travel

LOCAL TOURISM ORGANISATIONS

Podgorica: www.podgorica.travel
Danilovgrad: www.danilovgrad.travel
Plužine: www.parkpiva.com
Zabljak: www.zabljak.com
Šavnik: www.tosavnik.me
Kolašin: www.kolasin.me
Mojkovac: www.mojkovac.travel
Pljevlja: www.plojevlja.me
Bijelo Polje: www.tobijelopolje.me
Petnjica: topejtnjica@gmail.com
Rožaje: www.turistickaorganizacijarozaje.me
Berane: www.toberano.me
Andrijevica: www.toandrijevicame.me
Plav: www.toplav.me
Gusinje: turizam@opstinagusinje.me

NATIONAL PARKS OF MONTENEGRO
www.nparkovi.me

PIVA NATURE PARK
www.parkpiva.com

NATIONAL MUSEUM OF MONTENEGRO
www.mnmuseum.org

MUSEUM OF POLIMLJE
www.polimskimuzijme

PRACTICAL ADVICE

The "Crown of Montenegro" panoramic road is completely paved. A substantial part of the road is narrow and winding, so be sure to drive slowly and carefully. In some parts, the road tends to be narrow, meaning it could be difficult to pass by the vehicles coming from the opposite direction. In such situations you might have to back up until there is enough room for the other vehicle to pass. This particularly applies to the part of the main road (1) passing through the Piva Nature Park and the Durmitor National Park.

The highest point of this road is at an altitude of 1911 metres, at the Sedlo pass (NP Durmitor). The best time to do the drive is between May and October. During the other months you should check the weather conditions in advance because the road crosses high mountains where snowfall is possible at any time, not only in winter. During the winter months the road over Durmitor is closed for traffic due to snow cover. The same applies for the roads over the passes of Trešnjevik (Komovi) and Turjak.

Also, after heavy rainfalls there may be rockfall and damage to the road in some sections, which means you have to pay special attention and adjust your speed to the conditions on the road. The parts of the road leading from Šćepan Polje to Zabljak across Durmitor are not suitable for large RVs and campervans (longer than 7 metres and wider than 2.3 metres), whereas the drivers of small camper vans ought to have some experience in driving on narrow mountain roads. Particular attention must be paid when driving on the following roads: Plužine - Šćepan Polje, Pišće - Zabljak, Andrijevica - Kolašin and Petnjica - Rožaje.

The "Crown of Montenegro" panoramic road is signposted in both directions. The road starts and ends in Podgorica, and is 800 km long. However, you may choose to create your own route by combining alternate directions and our other panoramic roads. The road sign for the main route is the number 1, whereas alternate directions have added letters: a, b, c, d, e, f or g.

Along the road, there are plenty of gas stations, except for the section between Plužine and Zabljak, since this is a protected zone. There are also many facilities that offer accommodation and restaurants along the route, but during the peak season it would be advisable to book your accommodation in advance.

Since this is a mountain region and since there might be sudden occurrences of bad weather, it is advisable to always keep warm clothes as well as sufficient supplies of emergency water and food in your car, regardless of the time of year.

TRAFFIC REGULATIONS

Vehicle lights must be turned on even during daytime. Equipment that all vehicles must have includes: vest with light reflectors, first aid kit, and, depending on the weather, winter equipment. The allowed blood alcohol content is 0.3 percent. The top speed is 50km/h in settlements, and 80 km/h outside of settlements unless otherwise signposted. The panoramic roads of Montenegro use the existing infrastructure. National traffic regulations apply. The Ministry of Sustainable Development and Tourism shall not be held accountable for potential construction works and detours or any emergencies in the routes.



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Čehotina river meanders

Welcome to the "Crown of Montenegro" panoramic road. We hope you will enjoy exploring the majestic mountains the title of this route refers to. This is the longest of our panoramic roads, and it offers various alternatives, therefore you can adapt your trip according to your own time and interests. It is up to us to help you make the right choice, and it is up to you to have a good time!

If you decide to drive the whole route, you will cross the territories of three national parks, two nature parks, and one UNESCO protected area. The landscapes you will come across will constantly change, allowing you to see the various facets of the Montenegrin nature. High mountains are the main features of this area. The high altitude and harsh winters forced people to settle in river valleys, of which there are many in this area. Roads were built here along the pathways created by rivers, and therefore this panoramic road is conceptually divided according to the valleys it passes through.

So let's start now!

THE ZETA VALLEY

The trip starts in Podgorica. You will begin by driving on the main road to Danilovgrad, after which you will turn onto the old road and get acquainted with the Zeta River, since this road leads through the valley of the Zeta, one of the rare fertile valleys in Montenegro, known as the Bjelopavlići plain. This is the historical home of one of the seven hill tribes of Montenegro - the Bjelopavlići.

Apart from the Zeta Valley and the famous Bjelopavlići region, this part of Montenegro is famous for the Ostrog Monastery. You will surely spot it high up on the mountain to your right, carved into the Ostroška Gređa rock. This road will not take you directly to the monastery, but if you have the time, make sure you pay it a visit, since Ostrog is among the most visited monasteries in the Balkans.

The road then leads through Nikšić, the second most populated city in Montenegro, and the largest one in terms of municipality area. When passing through the centre, you will see why this city is considered to be the best designed city in Montenegro, as it has a clearly developed street plan. The urban design of Nikšić is an example of good practice, and is studied in architecture schools. The road then leads from Nikšić to Vučje, the popular winter resort of Nikšić, and then to Krnovo - a plateau at an altitude of 1500 metres, famous for strong winds and its harsh winter climate. There used to be many shepherds' huts here in the summertime, with numerous herds and their herds, but, unfortunately, today their numbers are dwindling.

PIVA

After Krnovo, you will continue towards Plužine and to the first protected zone on your route - Piva Nature Park. The Piva River flows through Plužine. In 1975 the first dam on the Piva was built and an artificial lake was formed, which meant that the entire old settlement of Plužine was submerged, so the new town was built right next to the dam. The artificial lake is 42 km long, and you will be driving along its shore on the way to Šćepan Polje. Pay close attention to the Piva Monastery from the 16th century. It had to be relocated because of the creation of the lake and hundreds of architects, engineers and archaeologists took part in the relocation. They used the most modern mechanisation at the time to move stone after stone to the new location, two km away. This was one of the most complicated construction projects in former Yugoslavia.

In Plužine you will be able to shorten your trip and take a shortcut to Durmitor. This road leads to the village of Pišće, and it is marked on the map (1G). Between Plužine and the village of Šćepan Polje, located at the border with Bosnia and Herzegovina, the road passes just above Piva Lake, following the Piva River after you have crossed the largest hydro power plant in Montenegro.

This part of the road is carved in the cliffs of this attractive canyon and requires great caution. This whole section has many beautiful viewpoints. Be

sure to make occasional stops since in Šćepan Polje you will "say goodbye" to Piva Lake, and you will move on to the Pivska Planina plateau and the Durmitor Mountain Range.

DURMITOR

Near the village of Trsa, where we recommend to take a break, you will be turning onto the "Durmitor Ring" panoramic road. One half of the "Durmitor Ring" road overlaps with the "Crown of Montenegro" panoramic road. This was designed on purpose, in order to give you the opportunity to enter this area protected by UNESCO and Durmitor National Park. Here you will certainly wish to make several stops to take pictures or just to enjoy the scenery.

There are 48 peaks with altitudes above 2000 metres here, the highest one being Bobotov Kuk, which is 2523 m high. The route will take you across the glorious Sedlo mountain pass, the second highest viewpoint of this area. The fee for the entrance to the national park can be paid here.

The Sedlo mountain pass is also the border between the municipalities of Plužine and Zabljak. Once you cross it, you will find yourself in the territory of Zabljak Municipality. The town of Zabljak is located at an altitude of 1465 m, which makes it the highest settlement in the Balkans. This is also the tourism centre of the north. It is attractive in summer and in winter, since it is home to a famous ski resorts in Montenegro. There are many hotels here, as well as restaurants and private accommodation e.g. in countryside households, so you will easily find a provider for any service you might need. For additional information about this section, please take also a look at the "Durmitor Ring" Panorama Route brochure.

After a break in Zabljak, the road will take you through the village of Njegovdva, towards the territory of Šavnik Municipality. Here you can see two glacial lakes: Riblje and Vražje and nearby there are medieval necropolises with many stećci tombstones from the 14th and 15th centuries, which are protected by UNESCO. Near the following section you will see a few more glacial lakes. The village of Pošćenje "hides" a waterfall and a unique canyon rightfully called Nevidio (lit. the unseen), since the Komarnica river abruptly disappears in a hole carved in the rocks, a magnificent work of nature, and becomes invisible, disappearing underground.

Nevidio, famous for its beauty, is a true gem for adventurers. If you are interested in exploring the canyon, you can try canyoning here. You have to go with a guide and the adequate equipment, which you can get from a local tour operator. After Pošćenje you will continue towards Šavnik, the place considered to be the centre of the famous Montenegrin tribe of Drobničaci. The town was founded after many tradesmen and craftsmen moved here because the Drobničaci tribe requested their services. The members of the tribe, who were herdsmen and warriors, demanded the construction of shops and craft workshops for blacksmiths and gunsmiths. The town is located at the meeting point of three rivers - the Bukovica, Bijela, and Šavnik, which is rare even for Montenegro, a country rich in rivers.

If you happen to be in Šavnik at the time of equinox, you will witness an interesting natural phenomenon: the sun rises and sets two times during the day. In the morning, the sun rises behind the Kravica hill, and sets around 2 pm behind Gradac hill. Two hours later, the sun reappears in the Bukovica river canyon, before finally setting behind mount Vojnik.

In the next part of the route, there is a turn towards the Podmalinski Monastery from the 13th century and we recommend you to pay it a visit. The next stop is Boan, an old settlement with a big hotel, post office, school and shop, which is largely abandoned today. It seems as if time stopped here fifty years ago.

The road from Boan leads down towards Mioska, and during the entire section you can enjoy a beautiful view of the high mountains. Before the mountain pass you will see Durmitor and its sur-



Komovi Mountain

roundings, and afterwards you will see the Morača mountains. There is not a lot of traffic on this road, therefore you will be able to enjoy the sights while driving.

POTARJE

At Mioska you will turn onto the main road connecting Podgorica and Kolašin. You will follow this road all the way to Mojkovac, then you will cross the Crkvina pass, which is the natural dividing line between the central and northern parts of Montenegro. Here it is often possible to witness the impact of two different climate conditions. South of the pass, towards Podgorica, the spring always arrives at least one month earlier than north of the pass, in the direction of Kolašin.

So, once again you are surrounded by high mountains. Kolašin, just like Zabljak, is a tourism-oriented town active in summer and in winter. Here you will find many hotels, restaurants and tourist agencies. This area is famous for layered cheese, which is made only here, and which is used in the famous kolašinski kačamak dish, which we recommend you to try and enjoy its unique flavour.

After Kolašin, you will follow the Tara river. Half-way towards Mojkovac, you will see a turn towards Biogradska Gora National Park and towards Biogradsko Lake, which is the gem of this park. We definitely recommend visiting this place, so take a break and allow some time for a walk around the lake.

The Tara is different from other rivers in Montenegro. Almost the entire course of the Tara is protected by UNESCO, and you will soon see why this is the case. In Mojkovac, the old mining town where a mint was once located (which is how Mojkovac got its name - roughly translates it means my minted coin), you will turn onto the road towards Zabljak and Pljevlja, and you will enter an area dominated by the Tara river.

You are now entering the deepest canyon in Europe, and the second deepest one in the world, behind the Grand Canyon in Colorado (USA). This section between Mojkovac and Đurđevića Tara is for several reasons one of the most attractive locations in Montenegro. Here you will find the Dobričević Monastery, which we warmly recommend visiting, and then you will enter the Crna Podla reserve, which is part of Durmitor National Park. The reserve is famous for being the habitat of the virgin forest of black pine, with tree up to 45 m high and 400 years of age on average.

Be careful on the road, since there is rockfall, and in summer there can be a lot of traffic. The road is winding and the landscape might distract you. You will soon arrive at the Đurđevića Tara bridge. This is a mandatory stop for all tourists, as after having admired the natural wonders of Durmitor, your breath here will be taken away by a man-made creation. Pay particular attention to the bridge constructed at an altitude of 172 metres above the Tara. Its biggest arch is 116 metres long, and when it was completed in 1940, it was the largest in the world.

The other record held by this bridge is the biggest scaffolding ever made, which was used during the bridge's construction, the price of which amounted to 40% of the bridge's entire cost. Only two years after it was constructed, during World War II, the engineer who designed it was in charge of its demolition in order to prevent the advance of enemy forces.

If there is any location with remarkable natural beauty which could be perfectly complemented by human actions, then this is surely it. Be sure to take a walk on the bridge. Only at the middle of the bridge will you understand what a remarkable feat it was to construct a bridge at this very place. Adventure lovers will find a zip line, possibly the biggest one in Europe. Not far from here there is a camp for rafting on the Tara which is an incredibly thrilling experience.

PLJEVLJA AND VRANEŠ VALLEY

There are two roads you can follow after Đurđevića Tara, one of which would take you back to Zabljak, but since you have already been there, you can now follow the other road, across the bridge and towards Pljevlja. Pljevlja is the northernmost municipality in Montenegro, and is important for many reasons. This is the energy and industrial centre of the country.

This is a famous mining area in which mines existed even in ancient times when the area was populated by the Illyrians. Romans came here in the first century, and in the village of Komini near Pljevlja the remains of a major Roman town, Municipium S, were discovered. The town had a population of 40,000, which proves that Pljevlja was a historically relevant place, an important town along the trade and caravan routes.

There is an important monument from the Ottoman times here: the Hussein Pasha Mosque from the 16th century, with a 42-metre high minaret, the tallest one in the Balkans. The Quran kept in the mosque is one of the finest examples of calligraphy of the time. We recommend you spend some time in Pljevlja and explore the town. Try some of the local specialties. Be sure to taste the famous Pljevlja cheese.

The road will then take you from Pljevlja to Bijelo Polje, along the rivers Čehotina and Ljubovica. This is an old road which has recently been reconstructed. There is no heavy traffic, and the landscapes are gentle and beautiful, with a genuinely pastoral feeling. You will pass through Vraneš valley, which is famous for its beauty, its people, and the villages of Pavino Polje and Tomaševo, which you will pass through during your trip.

In Pavino Polje you will hear the story of Pava and Ahmet, which is still remembered in Montenegro. Pava was the only daughter of the Orthodox prince of Vraneš who married a Muslim - Ahmet-Pasha Hasanbegović. The requirement for the marriage was for both of them to keep their religion, and that their sons to become Muslims and their daughters Orthodox Christians. This agreement was kept. Pava's sons took her to the church every Sunday so that she could attend Orthodox ceremonies, and they waited for her in front of the church. Pava later died at childbirth and her husband Ahmet, as a sign of his love and remembrance, gave Pava's name to all of the lands she brought as dowry. Today this area is known as Pavino Polje, which means Pava's field. When he was dying, he asked to be buried next to Pava. Even today you can see their graves, with a cross engraved on Pava's grave and a crescent on Ahmet's. In a country which is composed of different ethnic and religious groups such as Montenegrins, which has historically been the site of many wars in the Balkans, a story such as this one about Pava and Ahmet is a treasure to be preserved and admired, since it speaks volumes about love and tolerance.

After leaving the Vraneš valley, you will turn onto the main road. We recommend taking a short detour and visit Bijelo Polje, the biggest town in this part of the country. Be sure to visit the Church of Saint Peter from the 12th century which used to be the cultural and educational centre of the entire area. This is the church in which the Miroslav Gospel was created, one of the most important movable monuments of world cultural heritage on the UNESCO Memory of the World List, as the oldest Cyrillic manuscript in the Old Slavonic language.

After Bijelo Polje, you will follow the Lim river which you will leave to visit the municipalities of Petnjica and Rožaje, but you will later return to it and follow it to its source at Plav Lake.

BIHOR I ROŽAJE

The Municipality of Petnjica is one of the youngest municipalities in Montenegro, but the existing archaeological findings testify that this area was



Durmitor Mountain

populated as far back as the Bronze Age. We recommend visiting the Torine locality in the Radmanska gorge, where a 5000-year old figurine of a woman was found, which is kept in the Museum of Polimlje in Berane. Be sure to also visit the old mosque in the centre of Petnjica, which has a unique architectural style. It is considered to be one of the biggest mosques in the Balkans since it can host up to 1200 believers. This is the only three-floor mosque in Montenegro, with wooden, hand-engraved pillars. This mosque is several centuries old.

Continue along the old road towards Rožaje, the easternmost municipality of Montenegro. This old road is very beautiful, there is not much traffic, and you will be at a fairly high altitude, so you will have a splendid view of the surrounding landscape. Once you turn onto the main road, the town of Rožaje will be very close and we recommend you pay it a visit (road 1B). Rožaje was once known as Trgoviste (lit. trading place). It got its name from the trading tradition that has been preserved until today because of the town's geographical location, since Rožaje is located on the border with Serbia and Kosovo.

While there you should visit the Ganič Tower, which shows what the houses of affluent locals looked like during the Ottoman times. The tower today houses the Rožaje Town Museum, which is testimony of the culture, customs and manner of life of the people from this area. Be sure to take the opportunity to taste dishes such as burek or čevapi, as it is claimed they are the best in Montenegro.

POLIMLJE

After a short break in Rožaje, you will continue along the main road to Berane, which is the second biggest town in this part of Montenegro, after Bijelo Polje. While in Berane, make sure to visit the Đurđevi Stupovi Monastery, which recently celebrated eight centuries of existence.

On Jaskovac hill, not far from the centre of the town, there is a beautiful and unusual monument from World War II, tucked inside the coniferous forest, hidden, but open to visitors. The Jaskovac monument was constructed in 1972, and is surrounded by 40 granite slabs on which the history of the Polimlje region is written with more than 10,000 letters. The monument was constructed on Jaskovac because this is the location where patriots were executed during World War II. It was built in the shape of a bullet, symbolising the fight against fascism. In case you decide to spend the night in Berane, be sure to visit the main street, which was designed by Rizvan Beg, an architect schooled in Paris, who designed a broad street modelled after the streets he saw there. You will be surprised by how wide the street is compared to other towns you visited in the north.

You will also be surprised by the evening crowds of people taking a walk in the street. This is quite expected since this is the centre of the corso or the town promenade, a mandatory part of every town in Montenegro since the old times.

You will continue following the Lim river and move closer to Andrijevica, which is the centre of another famous tribe in Montenegro, the Vasojevići. The Lim valley is very fertile all the way to Plav, and it is no wonder that this is where all the towns in this area are concentrated.

This area is famous for the fruit grown here, so do not miss the opportunity to taste homemade juices, jams and plum rakija, which is prepared in a traditional way in almost all village households. In Andrijevica you will surely notice the Knjaževac memorial park, where a monument from World War II is located, as well as a church. The park itself is a botanical garden of sorts, where you can even find a sequoia tree.

PROKLETJE

Continue following the Lim river and enjoy the view of the mountains on both sides of the road until you come close to Plav, where the valley will open up and you will finally see the mountain chain known as Prokletije in front of you. These mountains are incredibly attractive, particularly for adventure lovers, and therefore the area is home to Prokletije National Park, which aims to

preserve the natural values of these mountains.

As soon as you enter Plav, you will see Plav Lake, which is the symbol of this town. The lake can easily be reached by car and you could have a rest from your trip by relaxing on the shore.

Should you decide to visit the lake during summer, be sure to rent a boat to explore the lake. If you like fishing, you should know that this lake is a specially designated area for fly fishing, so get a permit at the local club and give it a go; they will explain all the rules to you. During your stay in Plav, be sure to visit Redžepagić Tower, another rare structure of this type which has been preserved and is open for visitors. It hosts the Town Museum, and the building is under protection of the law as a cultural treasure.

The road will then take you around Plav Lake to the next town, which only recently has become a separate municipality, Gusinje. There are several remarkable natural attractions that you must visit in Gusinje: Grlje waterfall, Ali-Pasha springs, and Grebaje valley. Stop at the Prokletije National Park Visitor Centre, where you will find more information about other interesting locations you can visit if you have time to spare. If not, follow the road along the other side of the lake back to Plav and on to Andrijevica.

KOMOVI

You will be travelling along the old road from Andrijevica to Kolašin, across the Trešnjevik mountain pass. This road was once the main connection between this region and Podgorica, and is now frequented only by the locals and tourists. Be careful as the road is narrow and winding, but be patient, because as soon as you climb to a high enough altitude, you will be able to enjoy the splendid view which is the reason that this route is part of the panoramic roads.

You will be entering Komovi, another famous Montenegrin mountain range, which has recently been proclaimed a nature park. At the mountain pass, it is advisable to make a short detour and head for Komovi mountain, because in just a few kilometres, the road takes you to the very foot of the mountain. This is an excellent place for a break. The view of Komovi will continue during the rest of your trip, when you start moving towards Kolašin.

The villages you will come across were once vibrant and active, since they were next to the main road. But after the traffic to Podgorica was redirected when the new road was built, the villages in this area were isolated and almost frozen in the moment when even the buses stopped passing through. The villages still exude a remarkable beauty, particularly Bare Kraljske, which the road will also take you through.

THE MORAČA CANYON

After a while you will return to Kolašin, the town that the "Crown of Montenegro" panoramic road already took you through earlier. This time, however you arrive in Kolašin from a completely different direction. After Kolašin, your trip continues on the main road to Podgorica. When the new highway is finished, there will no longer be much traffic on this road, so driving through here will be a real pleasure, since the scenery is ever so remarkable.

Firstly, there are the Morača mountains, then the Morača Monastery, one of the most important cultural and historic monuments in Montenegro, located right next to the road. Finally, there is the famous Morača canyon, which is particularly interesting for tourists who wonder how it was even possible to build a road in such a narrow canyon. The Mrtvica Canyon is not visible from the road, but it is not far away. If you would like to take a break after a long drive, this is the place to go.

Having travelled through almost all of Montenegro, you will now return to Podgorica.

We hope you enjoyed the road and that you will come back again soon.



Traditional rural accommodation



Trnavačko Lake



Kapetanovo Lake



Morača Canyon



Durmitor Mountain