

PANORAMIC ROADS

The different 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 much of the fabulous Adriatic coast and take you to the wild and romantic mountains in the north of the country.

The Sea and Heights road is breathtakingly beautiful. It is a perfect panoramic road that exhibits the incredible contrasts in the Montenegrin landscapes and will show you where the country of Montenegro got its name from. You will experience the sea, the mountains, and the famous Lake Skadar, which conceals many hidden gems that have not been completely discovered yet. Throughout the entire route, you will be able to enjoy the views of the two most important water expanses in Montenegro – the Adriatic Sea and Lake Skadar.

Get your cameras ready and embark on this adventure!

MONTENEGRO
Wild Beauty
www.montenegro.travel



WELCOME



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

Herceg Novi: www.hercegnovi.travel
Kotor: www.tokotor.me
Tivat: www.tivat.travel
Budva: www.budva.com
Bar: www.bar.travel
Ulcinj: www.ulcinj.travel
Podgorica: www.podgorica.travel
Cetinje: www.cetinje.travel
Nikšić: www.niksic.travel

NATIONAL PARKS OF MONTENEGRO
www.nparkovi.me

NATIONAL MUSEUM OF MONTENEGRO
www.mnmuseum.org

KEY

- 3 The Sea and Heights
- 3a Alternate directions
- 1 The Crown of Montenegro
- 4 The Circuit around Korita
- 3 3a Beginning and end of road
- Protected zones
- State border
- ✠ Sacral structures
- ⚡ Monument, lighthouse
- 🗨 Viewpoint

STARTING POINT COORDINATES
N 42°27.41280', E 18°29.55399'



PRACTICAL INSTRUCTIONS

The Sea and Heights panoramic road is completely paved. A substantial part of the road is narrow and winding, so be sure to drive slowly and carefully. You might have to reverse your car when meeting a vehicle from the opposite direction in order to let it pass. This particularly applies to the part of the main road (3) – between Virpazar and the village of Vladimir – and to alternate routes 3b and 3d.

The highest point of this road is at an altitude of 1550 metres above sea level, beneath the mausoleum on Lovćen. The best time to drive this road is between May and October. In the remaining months you should check the weather conditions in advance for possible snowfall. During the period of heavy rainfall, there might be rockfall and damages to the road, which means you have to drive extra carefully. The parts of the road around Lake Skadar and alternate routes 3b and 3d are not suitable for large camper vans (longer than 7 metres and wider than 2.3 metres), and the drivers of smaller camper vans ought to be experienced in driving on narrow, winding roads. Particular attention must also be paid when driving on the old road between Kotor and Njeguši.

The panoramic road The Sea and Heights is signposted in both directions. The official starting point is in Herceg Novi and the road ends in Bar. However, you may create your own route by combining some alternate routes and other panoramic roads. The road sign number for the main route is the number 3, whereas alternative routes have added letters - a, b, c or d.

This panoramic road is 283 km long – 453 km with all alternate roads included. This means that you should allow at least two days if you plan to drive the entire road.

Along the road there are plenty of gas stations and facilities that offer accommodation, as well as restaurants and cafes. During the peak season it is advisable to book accommodation in advance.

TRAFFIC RULES

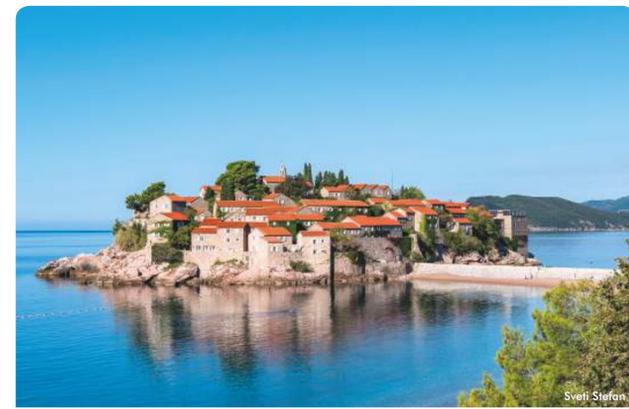
Vehicle headlights must be turned on even during daytime, and all vehicles must be equipped with the following: reflecting safety vests, first aid kit, and, depending on the weather, winter equipment. The allowed blood alcohol content is 0.03 percent. The top speed is 50km/h in settlements, and 80 km/h outside of settlements unless otherwise regulated by traffic signs.

PLEASE NOTE

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.



INFO



Sveti Stefan



Perast



Lake Skadar



Krnice



Rijeka Crnojevica



Risan



Old Bar



Tivat



Murići - Lake Skadar

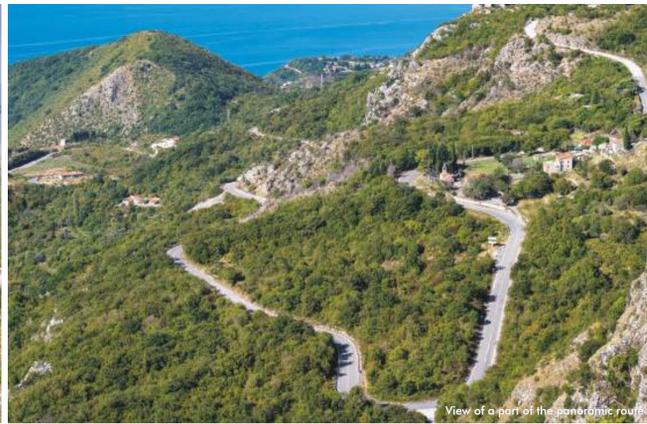
PANORAMIC ROADS

free map



SEA AND HEIGHTS





BAY OF KOTOR

The road starts in Herceg Novi – the first town on the coast of the Bay of Kotor, the southernmost fjord in Europe. This bay is best enjoyed from the sea because it allows you to see how the steep mountains descend directly into the sea, leaving just enough room for towns and villages. This stunning landscape exhibits fantastic natural beauty, while the old settlements of the Bay of Kotor are rich in culture and history. The Bay of Kotor is one of the most beautiful bays around the world, and most of the bay's territory is listed as UNESCO World Heritage.

Herceg Novi

Herceg Novi was founded in 1382. The fortifications from Ottoman, Venetian, Spanish and Austrian rules are a testament to these old times. Two nearby small towns are also part of Herceg Novi today – Igalo, which is the centre of the Montenegro health tourism due to the medicinal, radioactive mud from Blatna Beach – and Bijela, which has been famous for shipbuilding since the 14th century. Herceg Novi is also renowned for its traditional Mimosa Festival, which has been celebrated in honour of the mimosa flower each February since 1969. The popular majorettes are a trademark of this festival.

Morinj

Morinj, situated in the deepest part of the fjord, is a small village with a long history and tradition. The village was once home to famous sailors who travelled the world and spent their money to build wonderful stone houses, which today are still a testament to the golden age of Morinj. The reason why Morinj was and is special is the abundance of sources of drinking water nearby. This is why Morinj was famous for its mills – which were used for the milling of wheat and olives. Once there were 20 mills in this small place, now there are only two left. One of these two mills was turned into the famous Čatovića Milini restaurant.

Risan - the town of archaeology

Risan is the oldest town in the Bay of Kotor and had been the capital of the Bay for a long time. The town was first mentioned in historical sources in the 3rd century BC, and is famous for the residence of the Illyrian queen Teuta on Gradina Hill. Her fort is still there and she has been an inspiration for many legends. People say that Teuta was incredibly beautiful, brave and wise, and that she was a true pirate queen and the scourge of the neighbouring seas. That is why she infuriated the Romans who defeated her in Risan, where, according to the legend, she committed suicide. The place where she jumped into the sea is now the location of the hotel bearing her name. She had her own mint in Risan, which is below sea level today.

After the Illyrians Risan was conquered by the Romans. Even during Roman times, Risan was an economically strong port and trading point with more than 10,000 residents. It was a typical coastal town of the time, with palaces, town walls and fortifications. In late 6th or early 7th century however, there was a strong earthquake that completely destroyed the town and most of its buildings disappeared under water. This makes the Roman mosaics from the 2nd century, which survived the earthquake and can still be visited in the town, even more important. The mosaics were in the Roman Villa Urbana, which was destroyed, but the mosaics are very well preserved. The most important one is the mosaic of the god of sleep, Hypnos, the only preserved mosaic of this god.

Perast

Perast is a true gem of the Bay of Kotor. This town was founded by the Illyrians at the same time as Risan, but, unlike Risan, Perast fell under the influence of Venice in the middle of the 15th century, whereas Risan was occupied by the Ottoman Empire. This town is a true gem of baroque architecture, with many palaces and fourteen churches within a very small area. The nineteen palaces testify to the golden age of Perast in the 17th and 18th centuries, and are proof of the long naval tradition of this town, which was home to the first naval school.

Just off the coast from Perast there are two islets – the natural one of Saint George, and the artificial one, Our Lady of the Rocks. The artificial islet was created after Perast sailors discovered an icon of the Virgin Mary on a rock near the islet of Saint George. They interpreted this as a sign that an island should be created on that rock and that a church should be built there. This is exactly what they did. Efforts to preserve the islet are still going on today. On 22 July, the locals board decorated boats and take rocks to the islet which they drop around the island to solidify its surface. This event is locally known as the Fascinada.

Kotor - the town of history and carnival

Kotor is a town which ranks high on the international tourism map. Over the past several years it has become a must-stop for cruise ships. Sailing into this unique bay and the arrival at Kotor is described by many naval captains as the most beautiful experience and the biggest challenge of their careers.

What is the secret of Kotor? The secret is hidden in the many historical and cultural layers of the town which are more than 2000 years old. There are three town gates that lead to this labyrinth of streets. The main gate provides access to the sea. Suffice it to say that this is where the Cathedral of Saint Tryphon is located, which is older than Notre Dame, and the Church of Saint Luke, both from the 12th century. For a long time the Church of Saint Luke had two altars, for both Orthodox and Catholic believers. There are few town centres around the world where one can find six different Romanesque churches. Unlike other naval towns, Kotor is equally buzzing with life in the summer and in winter months. The town walls surrounding it, together with the fortifications, have been protecting this important town for centuries. The Old Town of Kotor is on the UNESCO World Heritage List since the town has one of the best preserved medieval urban sights. Kotor is also famous for its many festivals, the most famous of which are the Boka Night and the Kotor Carnival (held in winter and in summer).

Prčanj

As you drive along the road from Kotor through the Bay, there is another interesting location you will come across – the small town of Prčanj. This was the home of the most famous naval captain from Montenegro, Ivo Vizin, the first Slav to sail around the world in his sailboat, Splendido. This voyage was one of the most remarkable sailing endeavours at the time. The

house in which he was born is located in Prčanj, and it is believed that he started his voyage from there.

Lepetane - Kamenari

Not far from Prčanj you will find the town of Lepetane, located at the narrowest part of the Bay, facing Kamenari, a town across the bay. These two towns are connected by a ferry, and if you would like to shorten your trip along the Bay of Kotor, this is the place to do it. The ferry ride is attractive in itself, particularly if it coincides with the arrival of enormous cruise ships sailing in through the Verige Strait.

Tivat

Tivat, the sunniest town in the Bay of Kotor, used to be an elite resort for noble families, then a shipyard, military port and arsenal, and in the past decade it has again become an elite location because of the luxurious marina of Porto Montenegro. There are lavish yachts from around the world to be seen here, as well as luxurious hotels and an environment completely different to that in the nearby towns. However, Tivat also has its own old sites and remarkable natural localities that you should visit. One example is the summerhouse that belonged to the noble family of Buća, constructed more than a half a millennium ago, which today houses a museum and a gallery. There are three islets in Tivat which are worth visiting, and the Luštica peninsula, which is famous for its olive growing, peaceful fishing villages, and luxurious resorts, making the peninsula a highly recommended detour. Immediately after the turn to Luštica, you will find the Tivat salt pans, which are special flora and fauna reserves. The salt pans belong to the Emerald network within the Bern Convention and are an Important Bird Area (IBA).

OLD MONTENEGRO

The trip around the bay is finished here, and the road now leads from Tivat – again through Kotor – to the mountains and therefore to the so-called Old Montenegro. But do not worry – you are not really saying goodbye to the Bay here. Now you will have the opportunity to enjoy new, wider landscapes, which are equally memorable. The ride along the serpentine up the slopes of Lovćen is attractive in itself, just make sure to drive carefully.

Old road to Njeguši

This is the road that the locals from the mountain villages once travelled on to take their products to the market. It was the only connection between the hinterland of Montenegro and the sea. The young engineer Josip Slade-Šilović was given the assignment to build it by the Prince of Montenegro. Legend has it that Josip was secretly in love with Princess Milena, and therefore in a part of the road designed bends which clearly resemble the letter M when seen from above. In any case, this is one of the oldest roads in Montenegro, leading into the historic heart of Montenegro, Njeguši, Prčanj. This was the birthplace of the Petrović dynasty that ruled over Montenegro for centuries. In Njeguši you will find numerous relics that indicate how old this settlement at the foot of Mount Lovćen is. Be sure to try the smoked ham of Njeguši, the

cheese, the famous grape rakija as well as the local honey.

Cetinje

On the way to Cetinje you will travel along the edge of Lovćen National Park, which is well known for its natural and cultural-historical characteristics. It is located where two different climate zones – the Mediterranean and continental one – meet. The result of which was the development of a rich flora and fauna with many endemic species. The cultural heritage is characterised by historical monuments, churches, traditional architecture and old roads. The Jezerski Peak (1657 m.a.s.l.) is home to the mausoleum of the Montenegro ruler and poet Petar II Petrović Njegoš, and it is the most popular tourist attraction in the park. The view is splendid and begs to be enjoyed. For Montenegrins this is one of those holy places which are revered and admired, a site of special importance, just like Cetinje, the old capital of Montenegro, which is the next stop on your journey.

You will practically pass through the entire town, and make sure to see the court of King Nikola, the Biljarda, the Zetski Dom building, and the Cetinje Monastery. Visit the tourist organisation and ask for recommendations. There are many things to enjoy in Cetinje. This is a town full of history, and as such is of great importance for Montenegro.

After Cetinje, there are two ways to go – you can either start the adventure around Lake Skadar immediately, by visiting Rijeka Crnojevića (route 3b), or you can decide to go down the main road (route 3) towards the open sea. Both of these alternative routes meet in Virpazar, a fishing town on Lake Skadar.

BUDVA RIVIERA

One of the main roads connecting the Montenegro hinterland with the sea leads from Cetinje to Budva. After a short drive you will see the Adriatic Sea. There are several viewpoints in this area, so be sure to stop by and have a look. The road passes directly above Budva, the favourite spot of the young and the centre of nightlife at the seaside. Budva is one of the oldest towns along the Adriatic Sea. With its Venetian-style architecture and town walls the Old Town of Budva is the main attraction here.

If you continue driving along the seaside you will soon come across Sveti Stefan, a place you will surely recognise since this town-island is a trademark of Montenegrin tourism. The local fort was founded in the 15th century by the Paštrovići tribe to defend themselves from pirates and the Ottomans, and in the 20th century the town was turned into a hotel. Today, this is the most exclusive spot on our coast, a well-known destination for the richest and most famous people around the world.

Near Sveti Stefan you will find Miločer, a beautiful French-style park with a palace built by the Karadorjević Serbian royal dynasty. After Sveti Stefan you will come across Petrovac, where we recommend to stop and have a rest. The promenade along the seaside leads to the Castello fortress, and offers a beautiful view of the two islets near Petrovac and the whole Petrovac riviera.

The Petrovac road

This road is an old section of the Adriatic Highway, which used to be the main connection between the southern Adriatic area and the rest of Montenegro, but after a tunnel was constructed at Sozine, it has been somewhat forgotten. To

day, unburdened with traffic and full of beautiful viewpoints, it is ideal for a panoramic sightseeing tour of this part of the Adriatic Sea.

LAKE SKADAR

Virpazar

The road will take you directly to the biggest lake in the Balkans and the town of Virpazar, which has always been the meeting point for all roads leading inland from the sea. During the peak season it can get very crowded here, but do not let that discourage you and be sure to stop by and try the famous Lake Skadar carp and bleak, olives, and the famous wine from the region of Crmnica, as well as grape rakija. Virpazar used to be an important medieval trading post and the site of one of the first post offices in Montenegro. It is also known for the “Days of Wine and Bleak” festival held in December, when it is possible to enjoy autochthonous wines and specialties made from this fish, which lives only in Lake Skadar. The interesting fishing village of Vranjina is nearby, and the National Park Visitors Centre is also there.

Lake Skadar National Park is an important bird area with IBA (Important Bird Area) status, and is also on the Ramsar list of wetlands of international importance. This is a habitat of many bird species, the most important being the Dalmatian pelican (*Pelecanus crispus*). This large bird with a 3-metre wingspan has fascinated numerous ornithologists who come here each year to observe the pelican. Due to the curly feathers at the back of its neck, this bird is known locally as the curly (kudrivi) pelican. This is an endangered species and the main attraction of Lake Skadar. The lake is the habitat of many species of fish, 15 of which are endemic. The most important cultural values of the national park, and the most easily recognisable, are the monasteries from the 14th and 15th centuries, from the rule of the Balšić and Crnojević dynasties, and the fortifications from the times of Ottoman domination. This is also the starting point for the tour of the lake in tourist boats, which you can use to visit Rijeka Crnojevića.

Rijeka Crnojevića (Route 3b)

As we have already mentioned, route 3b from Cetinje or Virpazar leads to Rijeka Crnojevića. If you followed the main road (route 3), it is now the right time to make a detour. You will enjoy the view and we guarantee you will not regret it. Rijeka Crnojevića is a small town of great historic importance for Montenegro. It is here that in the late 15th century, after the Ottomans conquered Zabljak Crnojevića (the former capital of Montenegro, and the seat of the Crnojević family, another town on the coast of Lake Skadar), the new capital of Montenegro was founded by Ivan Crnojević. The spring of the local river (Rijeka) is near Obod Cave. The river is famous for being sailable already on its first kilometre, and that is why the town of Rijeka Crnojevića was the trading centre and the most important place on Lake Skadar. This is the town where the first book in Cyrillic script was printed, where the first pharmacy and weapons shop opened, and where mother-of-pearls were made from fish scales in the early 20th century. Visit this place, try the characteristic lakeshore cuisine, see Ivan's Bridge, rent a kayak or a boat and explore fishing villages from the water. If you happen to come upon the fishing village of Karuč by land or water, be sure to pay it a visit!

On the coast of Lake Skadar

Once you pass through Virpazar, you will enter a totally different world – the world of dormant fishing villages along the coast of Lake Skadar. The road is narrow, so be careful, but everything else is a treat! You will drive from one settlement to the other, some alive, some abandoned. Yet, all are filled with examples of old local architecture,

with typical stone houses and huts by the shore. In the village of Godinje there is the old summerhouse of the Balšić family from the 14th century, and there are people who still reside in this village and provide hospitality services, offering excellent domestic wine which is their pride and joy. You will also come across many vineyards. The further you go the better the view of the lake will get. You can explore the nearby villages, take a rest and try the specialties of the local taverns. Another attraction of Lake Skadar are its islets, fifty of them, with numerous forts and sacral buildings dating back to the period when the medieval Montenegro Balšić dynasty ruled. The border between Montenegro and Albania is the Stevgaš Pass, which offers both, a view of the entire Skadar Lake, and of the Adriatic Sea. This is truly a unique sight, and be sure to use the opportunity to stop and take pictures. Along this entire road, there are viewpoints and resting points constructed in the traditional dry-stone technique, typical for the architecture of this region.

ULCINJ AND BAR RIVIERA

Ulcinj

The winding road leads from Stevgaš to Ulcinj. During the entire trip you will be seeing the fertile plain in the hinterland of Ulcinj and the Adriatic Sea. Once you descend into the village of Vladimir be sure to visit Šasko Lake, which is an important seasonal habitat for migrating birds. This part of the coast is also home to the ruins of the old medieval town of Svač (Šas). Ulcinj is another old town on the Montenegrin coast, rich in oriental and western cultural heritage. It was given the status of a town in the 14th century, when it was ruled by the Montenegro Balšić dynasty, which founded the capital here in the Old Town and built the monumental Balšić Tower. There are many interesting legends that say that at one time Ulcinj was a pirate stronghold. Ulcinj is also famous for the longest sand beach “Velika Plaza” on the Adriatic Coast, which is around 13 km long. If you are interested in birds and birdwatching then the Ulcinj saltworks is certainly the place to go. Millions of birds use these salt ponds each year for feeding, nesting and resting when migrating. The saltworks do not only attract birds, but are a magnet for nature lovers as well. The salt ponds are situated close to the road and are really an excellent opportunity for a worthwhile detour.

Bar

Bar is the main port city on our coast and our biggest coastal city. When driving through Bar make sure to use this opportunity to visit Old Bar (Stari Bar), an open-air museum with the remains of more than 240 different structures. The residents of Bar are particularly proud of the old Bar olive tree, which is more than 2000 years old. The tree survived two fires, was damaged, but still stands proud and bears fruit. It is protected as a natural monument and attracts many visitors every year.

Rumiija and Crmnica (route 3d)

The old road from Bar will take you back to Lake Skadar, this time over Mount Rumiija, and through a different part of Crmnica. This region is famous for its wine, because this is where the famous Montenegro Vranac originated. Vranac is an autochthonous variety that the Crmnica wine is made of, with a protected destination of origin. The villages of Crmnica are all very colourful; the houses are made of stone and are usually built on the edges of villages in order to leave more arable land in the centre. Winegrowing started to thrive when Prince Nikola planted vines himself on his property in Virpazar, and issued a special order stating that each soldier should plant 200 vines and that families who planted 2000 vines would not have to pay any taxes for 10 years.



Cetinje Monastery



Lovćen



Chestnut forest, Lake Skadar



Njeguši



Bay of Kotor