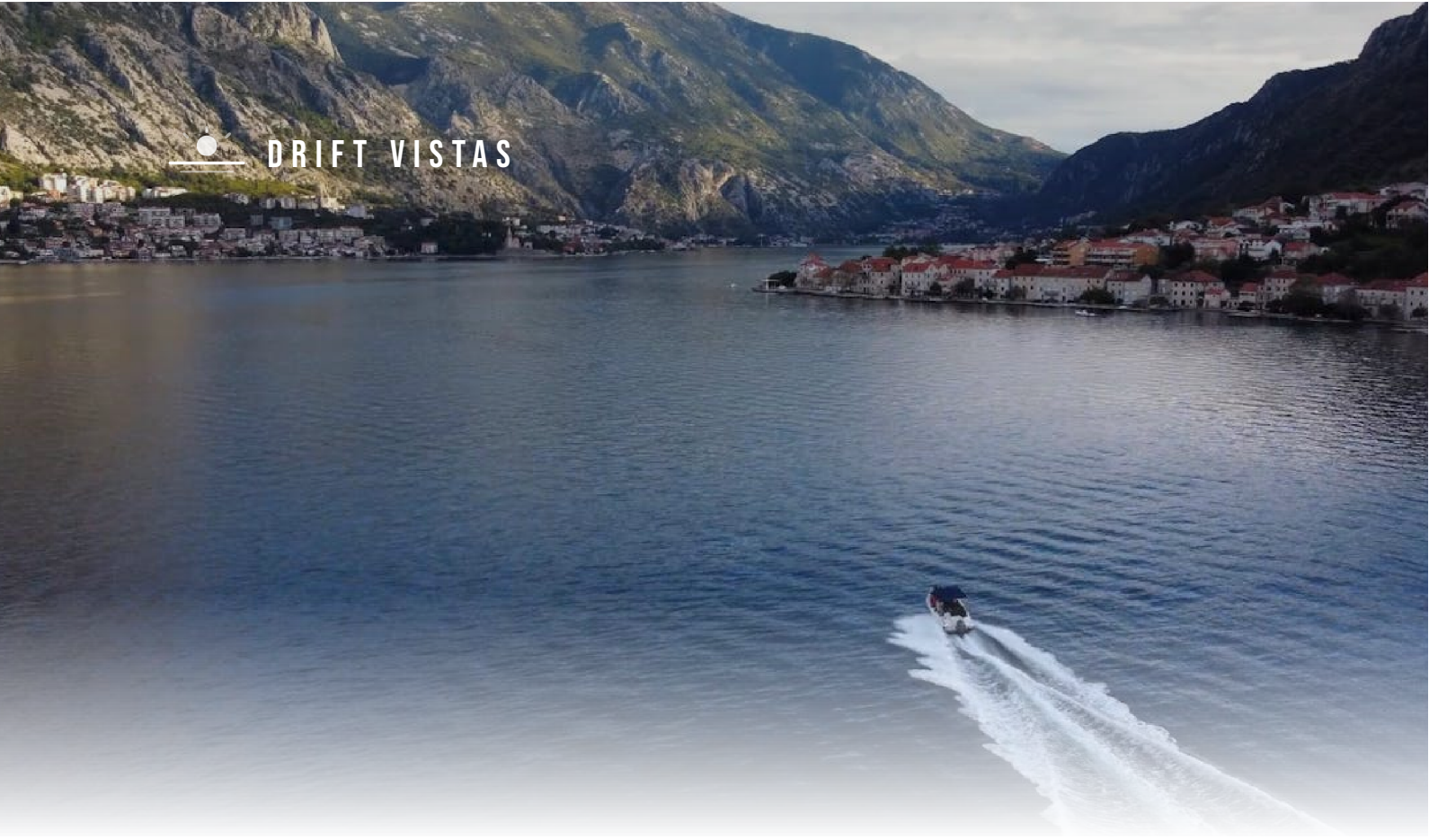


PREMIUM GUIDE · MONTENEGRO

Montenegro: The Full 10-Day Family Plan

Coast + mountains + the lake nobody mentions. With every restaurant, route, and number you need.

INSIDE THIS GUIDE

- Bay of Kotor + Sveti Stefan
- Durmitor mountains + Tara Canyon
- Lake Skadar + Lovcen pass
- Budva + the south coast
- 10-day full plan, 5-day + 7-day variants

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Trips for real life · For a family of 4

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20 pages

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*All numbers verified the month of publication. Prices are directional and shift with season · verify at the source before booking · updates quarterly · corrections welcome at **hello@driftvistas.com**.*

Montenegro: The Full 10-Day Plan

Coast + mountains + the lake nobody mentions. With every restaurant, route, and number you need.

A premium guide from Drift Vistas. Launch price: $7 on Gumroad (rises to $12 after the first 50 sales).

Last updated: May 2026 · prices are shoulder-season unless noted; we update quarterly.

01

What you get in this guide

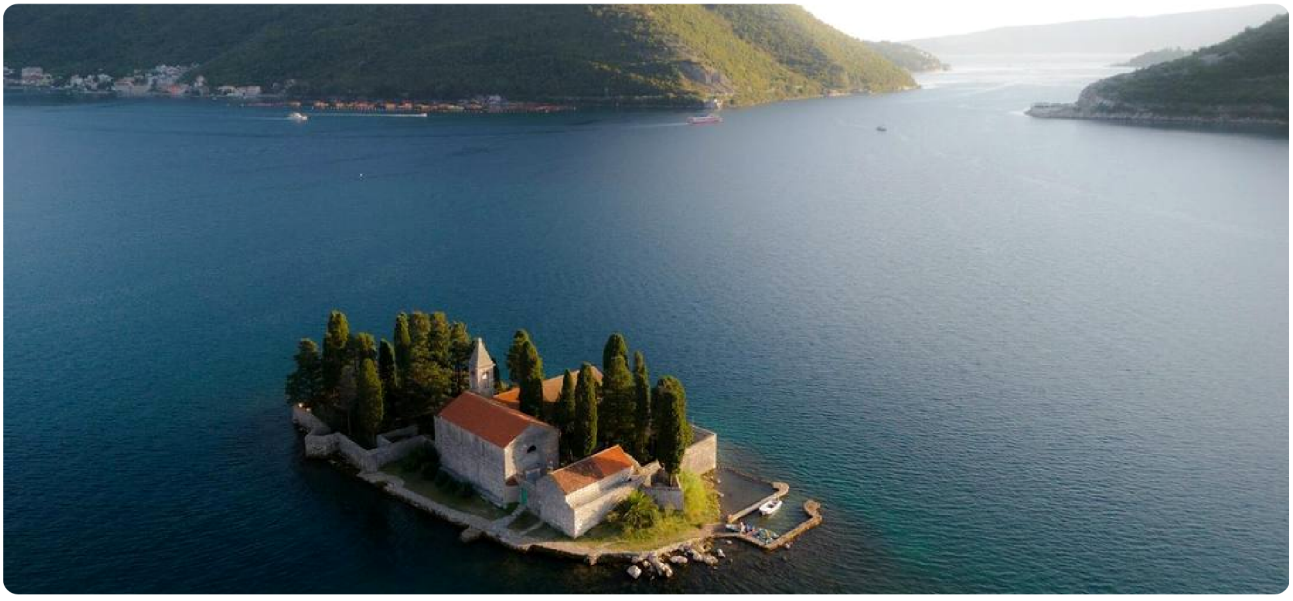


Photo: Ivan Glusica · Pexels

- **A 10-day, route-tested itinerary** combining the Adriatic coast, the Durmitor mountains, Tara Canyon, and Lake Skadar.
- **30+ vetted accommodation options** across 6 base towns - budget, mid-range, and splurge.
- **A restaurant shortlist** - the *konobas* worth eating at, with what to order at each.

- **Exact driving routes** with the alternative options (coast highway vs interior pass), distances, drive times, and fuel-stop notes.
- **A budget spreadsheet** template - drop in your numbers, get a per-person total.
- **Off-season vs peak comparison** - when to go for what you actually want.
- **Solo / couple / family** adaptations of the same itinerary.

If the free 5-day guide gave you the *what*, this one gives you the *how, where, when, and how much.*

02

Which trip length fits your week?



Photo: Drago Rapovac · Pexels

Most families take 5–10 days in Montenegro. Here's the same itinerary, three ways:

TRIP	DAYS COVERED	FAMILY-OF-4 ALL-IN (INCL. US FLIGHTS, MID-TIER 4-STAR)	BEST FOR
5-day coast	Days 1, 2, 4, 9, 10 (skip mountains)	$3,600 – $4,800	First-time-Balkans family; bay + Sveti Stefan + Lake Skadar
7-day coast + lake + one mountain day	Days 1–4, 7, 9, 10	$4,200 – $5,500	Sweet spot - adds Durmitor without rushing
10-day full plan	All 10 days as written	$5,200 – $7,000	Coast + mountains + Tara canyon + lake; the proper trip

> **The pick if you have a school break to fill: the 7-day version.** *It catches every family highlight (Kotor, Sveti Stefan, Black Lake, Lake Skadar) without the two long inland driving days that drag with kids.*

The 10-day itinerary



Photo: ROMAN ODINTSOV · Pexels

Day 1 – Arrive · Kotor old town

- Land Tivat or fly Dubrovnik + drive.
- Check in **Kotor old town** (bay-side, walking distance to gate).
- Evening walk in the old town after the cruise ships clear (typically 18:00).
- Dinner at **Konoba Scala Santa** (grilled fish, terraced view).

Day 2 – Bay of Kotor full day

- 09:00 boat tour to **Our Lady of the Rocks** + the Blue Cave (3 hr, ~€25 pp).
- Lunch in **Perast** at **Konoba Otok Bronza**.
- 17:00 climb **St John's Fortress** (1,350 steps, ~1.5 hr round trip).
- Sunset on the walls. Dinner back in town.

> **With kids:** *the boat tour is calm and kid-loved. The fortress climb has steep sections in the last third - kids under 6 need a carrier or a swap-out at the halfway-up Church of Our Lady of Remedy (still a great view, no extra steps).*

Day 3 - Lovćen + Cetinje

- 09:00 drive up the **Kotor serpentine road** (25 hairpins; pull off at "panorama point").
- **Lovćen National Park** - the Njegoš Mausoleum on the second-highest peak (461 stairs, view to Albania).
- Lunch in **Njeguši** village - try the smoked ham (*pršut*).
- Afternoon in **Cetinje** (Montenegro's old royal capital, monastery + history museum).
- Drive back to Kotor for the night.

Day 4 - Drive south · Sveti Stefan · Budva

- 10:00 drive south (~1 hr 15 min to Sveti Stefan).
- View **Sveti Stefan** from the public viewpoint (free); skip the resort entry.
- Lunch in **Petrovac** village (quieter than Budva).
- Afternoon: **Budva old town** + Mogren Beach swim.
- Night in Budva *or* push to **Bar** for a quieter base.

> **With kids:** *Mogren Beach is the family pick of the trip - calm water, soft pebbles, lifeguards in season, umbrellas €10–15/day. Budva old town is small enough to let kids run ahead safely. Petrovac has the best gelato at Slasticarna Olive - bribe currency for the drive back.*

Day 5 - South coast & Ostrog detour

- Morning swim in **Ada Bojana** (sand bar between two rivers, southern tip).
- Lunch on the river - fish-shack culture, paid by weight.

- Afternoon: drive inland to **Ostrog Monastery** (white-cliff monastery, free entry). ~2 hr drive.
- Overnight in **Nikšić** (cheap, central for the next day) or push to **Žabljak** (3 hr more, late arrival).

> **With kids:** *this is the longest driving day. Under-8s do better if you skip the Ostrog detour and drive Ada Bojana → Nikšić direct (1.5 hr less). Pack the picnic at lunch in Ada Bojana for snacks in the car later.*

Day 6 - Drive to Durmitor

- Drive **Nikšić** → **Žabljak** via **Đurđevića Tara Bridge** (~2.5 hr).
- Stop at the bridge (zipline available, ~€15 - book ahead).
- Check into a Žabljak mountain lodge.
- Afternoon: **Black Lake (Crno Jezero)** walk (free entry, ~€3 park fee).

Day 7 - Durmitor - full day

- Morning: **Bobotov Kuk** trail (the highest accessible peak; 6–8 hr return, fit hikers) *or* the gentler **Curevac viewpoint** trail (2 hr).
- Lunch in Žabljak.
- Afternoon: drive **Durmitor Ring** (a 23 km panoramic road through the park; allow 2 hr with stops).

> **With kids:** *Bobotov Kuk is too long for kids under 12. Do the* **Curevac viewpoint trail** *instead - 2 hours, mostly flat, same panoramic payoff. Kids over 10 can also do the* **Snake Lake loop** *(3 hours, gentle elevation, pine forest, swimming spot at the end). Mountain altitude 1,400m - bring layers; weather flips fast.*

Day 8 - Tara Canyon (rafting or zipline)

- Rafting: **Šćepan Polje** rafting base, 18 km section, ~3.5 hr, €70–90 pp.

- Or zipline + canyon viewpoint drive (€15 + half-day).
- Afternoon: drive back toward the coast - **Žabljak** → **Kolašin** → **Podgorica** (~3 hr).
- Overnight in **Podgorica** or **Virpazar** (Lake Skadar).

> **With kids:** *rafting outfitters require ages 8+ for the standard 18 km section; some require 12+. For under-8s, do the* **zipline** *instead (€15, parent supervision, safely strapped). A 60-second adrenaline shot they'll talk about for years.*

Day 9 - Lake Skadar

- Morning boat trip on **Lake Skadar** from Virpazar (~3 hr, ~€20 pp). Pelicans, monasteries on islets, vineyards.
- Lunch at a **lakeside konoba** - Crmnička wine, carp, eel.
- Afternoon: visit **Rijeka Crnojevića** - the famous horseshoe-bend river viewpoint.
- Drive back to Kotor or Tivat (~1.5 hr).

> **With kids:** *Lake Skadar is the wildlife day. The boat is calm (no rapids), pelican sightings are likely in spring and fall, and the islet monasteries are short photo stops kids tolerate. Bring binoculars. Many operators offer a 90-minute kid-friendly version for €15.*

Day 10 - Coast wind-down · fly out

- Last morning on the coast - coffee in **Tivat's marina** if flying TIV, or a final walk in Kotor.
- Drive to airport, 30–60 min depending on base.

04

Accommodation database



Photo: Luis Quintero · Pexels

Kotor / Bay of Kotor

PROPERTY	TYPE	PRICE/NIGHT	WHY
Old Town Apartments (booking direct)	Apt	€40–70	Inside the walls; ask for "Square of the Arms" side
Casa del Mare Mediterraneo	Boutique	€100–140	Bay-view; small pool
Forte Rose	Splurge	€220+	19th c. fort on the water

Budva / coast

PROPERTY	TYPE	PRICE/NIGHT	WHY
Astoria Hotel Boutique	Boutique	€80–130	Inside the old town walls
Apartmani Lazaret	Apt	€40–70	Near Mogren Beach
Iberostar Slavija	Hotel	€90–140	Half-board option is good for travellers who don't want to drive at night
Pansion Komatina (Petrovac)	Guesthouse	€35–55	Quieter alternative

Žabljak / Durmitor

PROPERTY	TYPE	PRICE/NIGHT	WHY
Hotel Soa	Mid	€55–80	Best mid-range in town
MCM Hotel	Mid	€45–70	5-min walk from Black Lake trailhead
Eko-Selo Šljeme	Splurge	€90–130	Cabin village in the mountains

Lake Skadar / Virpazar

PROPERTY	TYPE	PRICE/NIGHT	WHY
Vila Mostar	Guesthouse	€40–60	Walking distance to the bridge + boat dock
Pellegrino Boutique	Boutique	€70–100	Rooftop terrace over the lake

Bar / south coast (optional base)

PROPERTY	TYPE	PRICE/NIGHT	WHY
Hotel Princess Bar	Mid	€60–90	Beach access, easy parking
Old Olive Apartments	Apt	€35–55	Walking distance to the marina

05

The restaurant shortlist



Photo: Paolo Bici · Pexels

Kotor / Bay

- *Konoba Scala Santa* - grilled fish, bay terrace.
- *Konoba Otok Bronza* (Perast) - black risotto, calamari.
- *Cesarica* - meat-heavy local; the steak is the thing.
- *Galion* (Kotor) - splurge; sunset over the bay.

Budva

- *Konoba Stari Grad* - old-town fish.
- *Jadran kod Krsta* (Bečići) - locals' lunch spot, half tourist prices.

Durmitor / Žabljak

- *Restoran Durmitor* - *kačamak* (cornmeal with cheese) is the dish.
- *Pizzeria Veliki* - Žabljak's best pizza, surprisingly.

Lake Skadar

- *Konoba Stari Most* (Rijeka Crnojevića) - eel and Crmnička wine.
- *Restoran Pelikan* (Virpazar) - carp from the lake.

06

Driving routes & alternatives



Photo: Anastasia Prideina · Pexels

LEG	DEFAULT ROUTE	ALTERNATIVE	NOTES
Tivat → Kotor	Coast road	Tunnel	Tunnel saves 15 min in traffic
Kotor → Sveti Stefan	E65 coast	Tivat ferry shortcut	Ferry €5; saves the long Bay loop
Coast → Žabljak	Nikšić → Šavnik	Via Pljevlja	Pljevlja route is longer but has the Tara bridge views
Žabljak → Podgorica	Mojkovac → Kolašin	Šavnik shortcut	Kolašin route is wider/safer; shortcut is faster but narrow
Podgorica → Tivat	Sozina tunnel	Lovćen pass	Tunnel €3.50 - saves 40 min

Fuel: budget €0.13/km in a small car. A 10-day loop covers ~1,000 km. Plan ~€130 fuel.

Tolls: the Sozina tunnel is the only major toll (€3.50 each way).

Parking: Kotor old town is pedestrian-only - park at the bay-side public lot (€2/hr or €15 overnight).

07

Budget spreadsheet (template structure)



Photo: Leeloo The First · Pexels

Copy this into a Google Sheet, drop in your numbers:

CATEGORY	DAILY (€)	× 10 DAYS	NOTES
Accommodation (split between 2)	35–55	350–550	Mid-range
Food (per person)	25–40	250–400	1 sit-down + 1 casual + drinks
Rental car (split)	22–35	220–350	Includes full insurance
Fuel	13	130	Estimate based on ~100 km/day
Activities	15–30	150–300	Boats, fortress, rafting, etc.
Buffer	10	100	Always
Per person, mid-range	**120–183**	**1,200–1,830**	

Solo travellers: add ~30 % (no accommodation split). Couples splurging: 2× the daily. Families (2 + 2 kids): apartments cheaper than hotels, food per kid 50–70 % of adult.

08

Off-season vs peak



Photo: M.Emin BİLİR · Pexels

	MAY–EARLY JUNE	SEP	JUL–AUG	NOV–MAR
Crowds	Light	Light	Heavy	None
Coast accommodation price	60–70 % of peak	70–80 %	100 %	40–50 %
Sea temp	19–22 °C	23–25 °C	25–27 °C	13–17 °C
Mountain access	Higher trails snowy	Open	Open	Closed
Rental car availability	Easy	Easy	Book 6 weeks ahead	Easy

Best overall: mid-May to mid-June or all of September.

09

Solo / couple / family adaptations



Photo: Jenny Uhling · Pexels

Solo (10 days):

- Swap rental car for buses on the coast + a guided Durmitor day (€60–100). Saves money, loses some flexibility.
- Stay in hostels in Kotor and Žabljak (€15–25), guesthouses elsewhere.
- Budget target: €60–80/day.

Couples (10 days):

- The itinerary as written. Apartments in Kotor/Budva, boutique in Žabljak.
- Budget target: €120–180/day per person.

Families (10 days, 2 + 2 kids):

- Cut Day 5's long inland Ostrog detour - too long in a car.
- Add a beach day at **Lustica peninsula** instead.
- Stay in apartments with kitchens; eat one meal a day in.
- Skip the multi-hour Tara raft; do the short canyon zipline instead (€15, faster).
- Budget target: €90–130/day per person.

10

Bonus: Lake Skadar day-trip add-on



Photo: M.Emin BİLİR · Pexels

If you only have 7 days instead of 10, skip Days 3 (Lovćen) and 5 (Ada Bojana). Keep Lake Skadar as a half-day from Budva (1.5 hr drive each way, plus the boat). It's the bonus the free guide didn't mention and the most underrated single day in the country.

11

What to pack (specific to Montenegro)



Photo: Arijit Dey · Pexels

- Good walking shoes (Kotor stairs + Durmitor trails).
- Swimwear + quick-dry towel (you'll swim in the Adriatic *and* in mountain lakes).
- A light fleece even in July (Durmitor is 1,400 m).
- Cash - €100–200 for inland *konobas* and tolls.
- Universal adapter (Type C/F).
- An offline map app (Google Maps offline or maps.me) - signal patchy inland.

12

Resources & links

(Replace with your real driftvistas affiliate links.)

- **Rental car:** www.discovercars.com/montenegro?a_aid=driftvistas
- **Stays - Kotor:** Booking.com, Kotor

- **Bay boat tour:** GetYourGuide - Montenegro tours
- **Travel insurance:** SafetyWing
- **Free 5-day version:** driftvistas.com/guides/montenegro-5-day

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