



FREE GUIDE · MONTENEGRO

# Montenegro in 5 Days

*The family itinerary, the real costs, and what to skip.*

## INSIDE THIS GUIDE

- Bay of Kotor + Sveti Stefan
- Durmitor mountains + Tara Canyon
- Lake Skadar + Lovcen pass
- Budva + the south coast
- 5-day family itinerary

# What's inside

---

- 01  Why Montenegro

---

  - 02  When to go

---

  - 03  Getting there

---

  - 04  The 5-day itinerary

---

  - 05  Real family-of-4 cost

---

  - 06  Where to stay

---

  - 07  Three things nobody mentions
- 

*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](mailto:hello@driftvistas.com).*



# Why Montenegro



*Photo: edorm · Pexels*

**MONTENEGRO IS SMALLER THAN WALES. IT HAS A COAST THAT RIVAL'S CROATIA'S, MOUNTAINS THAT RIVAL the Alps', and one of the deepest canyons in the world, all in a country you can drive across in four hours.**

For a family of four, this matters. The country is small enough that you can do mountains and coast in one trip without it feeling like a forced march. Driving days are short. The towns have walking-distance everything. Prices are about half what Croatia charges.

This guide assumes a family of 4, mid-tier 4-star hotels, and a rental car. If you only want the coast, skip Days 4 and 5. If you want only the mountains, skip Days 2 and 3.



## When to go



*Photo: Ajdin Coric · Pexels*

MONTHS	WHAT YOU GET	WHAT YOU DON'T
<b>Mid-May to early June</b>	Warm enough to swim, half the crowds, alpine roads open	Mountain lakes still cold
<b>September</b>	Peak weather, sea still warm, prices drop 20 to 30 percent	Some restaurants close late September
<b>July to August</b>	Hottest, most lively coast	Crowds, ferry queues, Kotor cruise-ship days
<b>November to March</b>	Empty, cheap, dramatic mountains	Many coastal restaurants shut, mountain roads icy

**Best window:** mid-May to mid-June, or all of September.

## Getting there



*Photo: Neon Joi · Pexels*

- **Fly into Tivat (TIV)** for the coast - 10 minutes from Kotor.
- **Fly into Podgorica (TGD)** for the mountains - closer to Durmitor.
- **Fly into Dubrovnik (DBV)** for the cheapest deals - 2 hours' drive to Kotor across the Montenegro border. Confirm rental car company allows it.

**Rental car:** essential. Manual transmission is the default in Europe; automatic costs more and books out fast in summer. Get full insurance.

## ☰ The 5-day itinerary



Photo: Natalia Goryaeva · Pexels

### Day 1: Arrive, walk Kotor at dusk

Land at Tivat. Drive to your Kotor hotel (~30 min). Walk the old town when the cruise ships are gone (after 18:00). Dinner at a *konoba* on the bay road. ### Day 2: Bay of Kotor full day

- 09:00 boat tour from Kotor to **Our Lady of the Rocks**. Two hours, ~€25 per adult, half for kids.
- Lunch in **Perast**, the village across the bay. Quieter, prettier.
- 16:00 climb **St John's Fortress** (1,350 steps). Heat drops by then.
- Dinner back in Kotor.

### Day 3: Sveti Stefan, Budva, the coast

- Drive south along the coast (1 hr).
- Stop at the **Sveti Stefan viewpoint** above the islet. Free, signposted.
- Continue 20 min to **Budva** old town. Mogren Beach is a 5-min walk from the gate.
- Drive back to Kotor for the night, or push on to Žabljak if heading inland tomorrow.

## Day 4: Drive to Durmitor

- Long driving day: Kotor → Durmitor National Park, 4 to 5 hours.
- Take the route via **Đurđevića Tara Bridge** - 150 m above the Tara River. Stop and walk it.
- Check into a mountain lodge in **Žabljak** (€55 to €80 family room).
- Evening: walk to **Black Lake (Crno Jezero)**, 15 min from town.

## Day 5: Tara Canyon + drive back

- Morning: zipline across the canyon (€15) or raft a section (€70 to €90 per adult, kids 8+).
- Or, gentler: walk the Black Lake loop and drive the panoramic park road.
- Afternoon: drive back to airport. Allow 5 to 6 hours including stops.

05

## Real family-of-4 cost



*Photo: Atlantic Ambience · Pexels*

A family of 4, five nights, shoulder season, rental car, 4-star mid-tier:

CATEGORY	COST (€)
Accommodation (5 nights, family rooms)	450 to 700
Rental car (5 days + full insurance)	180 to 250
Fuel + tolls	70 to 100
Food (3 meals/day for 4)	350 to 500
Activities (boat, fortress, canyon, rafting)	180 to 280
<b>Family total</b>	<b>€1,230 to €1,830</b> (≈ \$1,300 to \$2,000)

Peak July/August: add 30%. Off-season November to March: subtract 30 to 40%.

06

## Where to stay



*Photo: Jan van der Wolf · Pexels*

LOCATION	RECOMMENDED	PRICE/NIGHT (SHOULDER)
Kotor (old town)	Casa del Mare Mediterraneo, or direct-booked old-town apartments	€90 to €130 family room
Budva / coast	Apartmani Lazaret (near Mogren Beach)	€70 to €110
Žabljak / Durmitor	Hotel Soa	€55 to €80

07

## Three things nobody mentions



Photo: Muhammed Fatih Beki · Pexels

- 1. Cell signal is patchy inland.** Download offline Google Maps for Durmitor *before* you leave the coast.
- 2. Cash matters.** Small *konobas*, the zipline, and rural fuel stops are cash-only. Pull €200 to €300 before driving inland.
- 3. The food leans heavy.** Cured meat, cheese, grilled fish. Vegetarians: ask for *kačamak* (cornmeal with cheese) or *cicvara*. They exist; they're just not on the English menu.

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# The 10-Day Montenegro Plan

Everything in this guide, plus the second five days nobody covers. Lake Skadar, Ostrog, Lovćen pass - the parts that turn a coast trip into a country trip.

- ✓ 30+ vetted accommodations across 6 base towns
- ✓ Restaurant shortlist with what to order at each
- ✓ Driving alternatives table with toll calculations
- ✓ "Travelling with kids" section + per-day kid notes
- ✓ Budget spreadsheet template + off-season comparison

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