

CETINJE

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Italy - Albania - Montenegro

OPEN TOURISM



CETINJE



ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AND TIPS:

- 1.** If you are visiting Cetinje just for couple of hours, or with your family, it is worth mentioning that you have the possibility to have a quick overview of the town with our electric train that is active during summer days. You may find it on the main square, in front of King Nikola's palace. The mini ride usually lasts around 30 min and costs 2 euros per person where you see the main attractions situated in the centre of the town. The bigger tour lasts around 45 min and costs 3 euros per person. Students and kids have 50% discount.
- 2.** Also, the new addition to our little town are electric bikes. You may rent them on of the info points of the local Tourist organization. The price is... If you prefer manual bikes, then you can get them at an affordable price of...
- 3.** Taxi services are quite cheap in Cetinje, no starting price for local rides, and every km costs 0,50 euro. For rides to Budva, Podgorica or airports prices are fixed.
- 4.** When it comes to prices of foods and drinks in Cetinje, you will get a good quality product for a small price. For example, „Turkish“ coffee, as we like to call it, or espresso coffee costs already from 0.60 euro per cup, soft drinks and alcoholic drinks are available from 1.20 euro depending on location. Tips for food and local specialties you may find in the gastronomy section of this brochure.
- 5.** **Police tel. number: 122; Emergency tel number: 124; European number for emergency calls: 112; Fire brigade: 123; Help on the road: 19807; Podgorica Airport +382 020 444 244; Tivat Airport: +382 032 671 337**
- 6.** From Cetinje Bust Station, you can buy tickets to Podgorica or Budva for around 3 euros (depending on the bus provider). Ticket for every next town, according to the pricing list, is +0.50 euro. With local bus lines you may also connect to airports. For additional info you may visit the main bus station (Address: Street of Grahovska), or call: +382 041 241 744. Working hours 06:00h-22:00h.
- 7.** Cetinje is situated in CET - Central European Time zone (UTC +1h). Daylight saving time lasts from end of March until end of October.
- 8.** Info points for tourists you may find on the main square in front of King Nikola's Palace or at the parking lot behind the Church of Cipur.



OPEN TOURISM

OPEN TOURISM aims to develop and implement a cross-border public-private cooperation strategy to promote and enhance local heritage and favor economic and social development. An innovative strategy will be implemented, based on a new concept of tourism (focusing on a deeper relation visitor-local community); a cross-border governance and marketing model; and a more structured and modern tourist offer. In particular we will develop a shared model to design and manage policies to jointly boost the attractiveness; realize a set of new products (a common brand, thematic itineraries, promotional kit, a Platform, an APP, a contest for visitors); create an extended system of tourist information points with local tourist and economic operators.

The cross-border cooperation is fundamental in order to develop a more inclusive and broader network; maximize efforts in finding solutions to common problems; pool resources, expertise and ideas to create synergies and support one each other; develop more comprehensive and effective strategies, products and services; gain from economies of scale. The project will benefit the partnership, public and private stakeholders involved, local tourist and economic operators, visitors, but also local communities as a whole and all territories that will decide to replicate this experience.

Important changes that are expected: the empowerment of public and private actors involved; the spread of a new idea of tourism based on the relation tourist-territory; the delivery of a qualified, differentiated and non-seasonal tourist offer.

For more information regarding the project and its goals please visit our website:

www.opentourism.italy-albany-montenegro.eu

THE BIGGEST LITTLE TOWN

TASTES AND FLAVORS OF CETINJE AND OLD MONTENEGRO

MOUNTAIN LOVCEN AND LAKE SKADAR OUR HERITAGE YOUR INSPIRATION

CETINJE THE BIGGEST LITTLE TOWN



Cetinje, Open Museum

Welcome to Cetinje, a town that holds status as the Old Royal Capital of Montenegro.

Cetinje was founded at the end of the 15th century, in the barren plateau embraced by the rocky hills as a natural response of our small country to the attacks of the big medieval empires. Under the mountain Lovćen, where the soil is poor, and winters are harsh and snowy Montenegrins, surrounded by the enemies, built a town that would promptly become the center of their state, where they were in the poverty-stricken position, but at least they could live freely. Cetinje is the heart of our state, as well as the spiritual and cultural center. As an unknown foreigner once said – “Cetinje is formed in a secluded place, far away from enemies’ hands, but still close enough to the ones with good heart and good intentions.”



Cetinje developed architecturally as well as its urban population in proportion to the development of Montenegrin statehood, after the proclamation of Principality of Montenegro and the recognition of independence (1878 at the Berlin Congress), and finally during the Kingdom of Montenegro (from 1910 during the reign of King Nikola I Petrović) when it developed the most. In the period of the Kingdom of Montenegro the first hotel was built in the city center, as well as hospital, foreign embassies, and a new court.

Today, Cetinje is a town-museum and witness of many great and tragic events of our past. The whole town with its monuments is like a big theatrical scenery that will captivate you with its own drama, carved by our tradition, humor and mentality. It has less than 14,000 inhabitants and is just 30 min away from the capital of Montenegro, 30 min away from famous seaside resort Budva and 45 min. away, via the old serpentine road, from Boka Bay.

The municipality area spreads within two national parks – Skadarsko jezero (Lake Skadar) and mountain Lovćen are easily accessible and provide immense natural and cultural diversity.

When you first visit Cetinje, you cannot miss the view towards the cap shaped mountain emerging above the city. Dividing Cetinje from Kotor Bay, mountain Lovćen was always a graceful natural barrier between two regions. It remains the place of amazing stories and legends along with cultural and natural sights. If you climb the 461 steps on the Jezerski vrh (Lake peak - 1657 m) you will not only have the opportunity to visit the mausoleum where our greatest poet and ruler, Petar II Petrović Njegoš was buried, but you will also be able to enjoy the views that spread from the west border of Montenegro with beautiful Boka Bay, all the way to the east border where you can take look at the national park Skadarsko jezero and small part of the Capital Podgorica.

Skadarsko jezero is known as the biggest lake on Balkan peninsula. It is a wildlife hotspot, swamp of international significance (on the Ramsar list) and one of the largest bird reserves in Europe. This lake is home to 270 species of birds, among other pelicans (which became the lake's symbol) seagulls, herons, and



others. More than 60% of the lake belongs to Montenegro, and the remaining part to Albania. The lake is full of islands and peninsulas, rich with culture and history, like for example Žabljak Crnojevića, a former capital of Zeta State (former name for Montenegro).

INTERESTING FACTS:

River Cetinja: Cetinje got its name by the river Cetinja that flowed through Cetinje valley which supplied the citizens with fresh water and ran the stone mill. Unfortunately, the river left its surface flow in one of its many subterranean channels at the end of XVII century, making life in the high hills even harder for the locals.

Rain in Cetinje – It is interesting to note that even though it is the rainiest town in Europe, and the town with the highest average rainfall in the former Yugoslavia, the town itself has no surface watercourses. Even though it has a lot of rain Cetinje has more than 215 sunny days.

Oktoih prvoglasnik – is the first Cyrillic printed book of the South Slavs. The printing of this first Montenegrin incunabula (a liturgical book) began in the winter of 1493 and ended on January 4, 1494, on the territory of Cetinje. It was printed on the first printing press in the Balkans, which unfortunately, few years later was melted down to make bullets for the war with the Ottoman Empire.

Priests and the state leaders – First 4 leaders of the famous dynasty Petrović were Archbishops that ruled the church and the state. Their capital residence was at Cetinje Monastery. Priests practiced asceticism and they could not have kids, so the gifted cousin or nephew would be selected as heir to the throne.

Saint Peter of Cetinje – Was a historical figure and ruler of Montenegro from 1784 to 1830. He introduced the first laws in Montenegro, built monasteries for the purpose of educating people and preserving their tradition, and made peace among the clans that were brawling between each other. Ruling the state from Cetinje Monastery in a prudent way but with firm character, he was remembered as a bishop with the cross in one and sword in the other hand. Today he is known as Saint Peter of Cetinje and is celebrated in Orthodox calendar on October 31st.

His body remains are kept in the casket inside the church of Cetinje Monastery.



Philosopher and poet – Petar II Petrović Njegoš was a ruler and a bishop, but he was also known as the most famous writer and philosopher amongst South Slavs. He died at the age of 38 of TBC. Still he managed to write inestimable books and poems. His preeminent book "The Mountain Wreath" is translated to 80 languages.

Eight years of Kingdom – Montenegro was a Kingdom for 8 years and Cetinje was its capital. Prince Nikola I Petrović became king on his 50th anniversary of ruling the state, and Montenegro was internationally recognized as a kingdom. Unfortunately, WWI and sequential tragic events accelerated the end of the Petrović dynasty and Kingdom of Montenegro.

Father in law of Europe: Prince, and later King Nikola I Petrović married 5 of his daughters to the Lords and Princes of Europe. That gave him the nickname 'Father in law of Europe'.

City of arts – As a cradle of history and culture in Montenegro, Cetinje is the home of three art faculties of the University of Montenegro. Faculties of music, fine arts and drama are positioned in the historical part of the town, which gives a unique glint.



Founded 1482

Settlements 94

Situated in carst field around 7km2

Area total 910km2

Population - 13.991 Town, 16.757 in total teritory / 2011

Demographics 90.5% Montenegrins, 9.5% other entities

Coordinates -

42.38°N 18.92°E

Elevation 671m / average

Time zone GMT +1(CET)

Area tel code +382 41

Climate CFB, mild continental, warm and dry summers, cold and humid winters, rainy spring and autumn

LITTLE BY SIZE, CETINJE STILL ENGRAVES "HISTORY". WALK THROUGH THE CENTURIES

Cetinje looks like one big theatre hall, filled with interesting monuments that are hiding amusing stories of the Montenegrin rebellions from the hills. We hope that you will be inspired by the heritage and the beauty of our Old Royal Capital.

1. **Recommended start of the walk would be** from the Monument dedicated to Ivan Crnojević, the founder of Cetinje. It was built in 1982 for the Cetinje's 500th birthday.

2. 3. **Continue down the street to Church on Ćipur and Cetinje Monastery**, which are two most important religious buildings in Cetinje. Spend some time visiting the Church and Monastery and see the tombs of Ivan Crnojević, King Nikola and Queen Milena, and honor Petar I Petrović Njegoš whose body remains are exposed in the coffin inside the Monastery. Visit the Monastery treasury and see two Christian relics that are kept inside the Monastery — **The right hand of Saint John the Baptist and Particle of the Holy Cross**.

4. 5. 6. **Visit the Mill of Ivan Crnojević from the 15th century** built on the river bank of subterranean river Cetinja, and the **Open theatre scene**, before you start walking up on the **Orlov krš (Eagle's stone hill)**, place where the founder of dynasty Petrović, Bishop Danilo, was buried. From there you will have a great view on the historical part of the town and its surroundings.

7. **Njegoš's residence Biljarda** is beside the Cetinje Monastery and the Church on Ćipur. Explore Biljarda (Billiard hall) and walk the steps of the great ruler, bishop, philosopher, and writer Petar II Petrović Njegoš. Visit his office and library, and hear about his achievements through his brilliant, but short life.

8. **King Nikola's palace is your next museum to explore.** The museum was founded in 1926, within the residence of the last Montenegrin ruler Nikola I Petrović Njegoš and his family. Hear stories about the great Prince and King, the way he ruled the state, and see the exhibition of flags, weapons, and medals that are collected and carefully preserved. The museum has one of the best-preserved collections of antique furniture and paintings in Montenegro.

9. Take a look at elements of our tradition and heritage in the **Ethnographic Museum that is positioned across King Nikola's palace**. Learn about the lifestyle, old tools, and uniforms of Montenegrins from different regions in the exhibition that holds around 4400 pieces of exhibits. The museum is placed in the former Embassy of Kingdom of Serbia.

10. Continue your adventure through history by visiting the **National museum** who is located in the building of the old parliament **Vladin dom**. Hear about

Montenegro through the different periods, and see the pieces of art of the most famous Montenegrin artists, as well as, the most famous icon of the Knights of the Order of Malta called "Our Lady of Filermo" – mother of God, and hear its story how it came in Montenegro.

11. 12. Pass next to the **Atelier Dado**, former studio of our famous painter Miodrag Dado Đurić, now the gallery of modern arts. Next to the Atelier you can see the residential building **of the former Bulgarian Embassy**.

13. 14. 15. **As you walk down Njegoševa street** pay attention to the simple buildings of former **Belgium and German Embassies**, and admire the beautiful exterior of the **British Embassy** that might surprise you with beautiful melodies coming from inside, as today it is a home of Music Academy.

16. **At the end of the same promenade you will reach the Blue palace or the Blue Court.** The Blue Court was built in 1895. It was the residence of the heir to the throne Prince Danilo who lived here until 1916. Today it is the residence of the President of Montenegro.

17. **The former Russian Embassy**, positioned nearby, should be your next point of interest. It is one of the buildings from the beginning of the 20th century. The building was designed by Italian architect Corradini and it represents a rare piece of architecture.

18. 19. 20. **Take a look at a simple former Turkish Embassy and follow the street to the City Hall and Royal theatre "Žetski dom"** the oldest theatre in Montenegro founded in 1884.

21. **In the same street you can find Vlaška church**, the oldest church in Cetinje. The most intriguing fact is that the fence around the Church, made in 1897, was constructed by using 1554 rifle barrels collected from the Ottoman soldiers on the battlefields of the 19th century.

22. In front of Vlaška church you can see the monument **Lovćenska vila**, one of the unique pieces of artwork, work of Risto Stijović, raised in 1939 in the loving memory of Montenegrin people – volunteers of WWI who tragically lost their lives at sea, coming from America to help their homeland.

23. 24. Proceed next to the building **of the former French Embassy that is a unique piece of architecture in Montenegro** from the 19th century, as well as the **Money Museum**, which is situated in the building of the first Montenegrin bank, few meters up the promenade, just across the Ministry of Culture.

25. 26. Out of the historical center, in a five minute walk, you can find two monumental buildings that were constructed to serve as embassies – monumental **Austro Hungarian Embassy** with a Roman catholic cathedral built in the Neo romantic style, and the **beautiful Italian Embassy** in which the **National library of Montenegro "Đurđe Crnojević"** is located today.

**VISIT AS
A GUEST,
EXPERIENCE
LIKE A
LOCAL!**

Bus station



Police station



Hospital



Parking



Embassy



Gas station



Museum



Theatar



Government office



Memorial park





**GASTRONOMY OF
CETINJE - DELIGHT
FOR YOUR SENSES**

Tastes and flavors of Cetinje and Old Montenegro

Let us share with you the joy of exploring the gastronomic side of Cetinje region, as on this small territory we have a diverse and authentic menu. From the highest peaks, over the hills, all along the lake shore you will find new liqueurs or food that will be a delight for your senses. That is why you need to travel through Montenegro if you want to truly experience its gastro offer. Such rich cuisine bonds you easily with the locals and you can learn a great deal about Montenegrin customs and make new friendships without even knowing the language. Interesting bits of history and geography are decorations of traditional Montenegrin meals, served by local hosts while you enjoy gastro gems from our authentic menu.



People altered their life to the natural environment. Livestock farming and agriculture represented main daytime jobs for people of Lovćen area, whereas the lakeside locals were known for fishing and viticulture. The production, small and undemanding, remained the same for a long period. The whole region has the altitude difference from the highest peak (Štirovník 1750m of altitude) to almost zero altitude on the lakeside, so do not be surprised to find so many distinctions in vegetation and food. People consumed simple but healthy foods which was a combination of various fish, vegetables, and grapes – trademarks of the lakeside region. Every farm was built carefully, edged with dry-stone walls. The houses were constructed on the hill sides, often crafted with one wall in the rock, as the locals wanted to exploit as much land as possible for farming. The soil was not agriculturally optimal, but the fields and meadows were good for cattle breeding. Both zones are rewarded with diverse landscapes and climate, which makes a suitable terrain for cultivating different sorts of herbs, berries, and grapes. All this makes this region ideal for beekeeping, so the tradition of honey harvesting is long and presented through different products. Wine production is larger and even more famous, so some grape varieties and wine that we get are unique by color and taste. Going from hill to hill you will find different flora covers that give flavor to the cuisine of this area and provide a very special taste.



Cheese from Njeguši - Lovćen region - In Montenegro, the tradition of cheese production is very old and varies slightly from region to region. Only the dry cheese from Njeguši village is made differently and uniquely. This village, specific for its position above the Boka bay, is an intersection of sea and mountain air and is an ideal place for drying the food. Cheese is one of its most famous products and it holds the longest and richest tradition. It is kept for 3 months in a shady, cold, and dry place before serving. Special taste and aroma derive from the wooden pot where the cheese is kept. Along with Njeguši prosciutto this cheese represents the most famous gastronomic symbol of the region and one of the most famous in the whole country.

Njegusi Prosciutto – Lovćen region - This local specialty, served with Njeguši cheese, represents the symbol of ultimate Montenegrin hospitality. Previously mentioned natural environment that is excellent for livestock farming and mix of Mediterranean and mountain air make the Njeguši zone great for drying of prosciutto. Drying, smoking, and maturing of meat is done in an old and traditional way. The dry rooms, where the meat is kept and dried, have wide walls made of local stone. Meat is dried during the night, and the beech tree is used to smoke the meat on the low heat during the day. As you visit Njeguši village, on every corner you will see the locals offering you to purchase small packs or even the whole prosciutto prepared at their households.

Njegusi Steak - restaurant specialty - This local specialty is created by filling a pork or veal schnitzel with Njegusi Prosciutto and cheese. This delicious main course and a must-try steak can be found on the menu of most national restaurants in Montenegro.

Raštan (black cabbage) - restaurant specialty - Is an authentic meal made of vegetables, from the cabbage family, that is part of this region for years. This resistant vegetable sort is a great food choice for the winter months even nowadays. The delicious and healthy meal is cooked with smoked meat and potatoes. It can be found seasonally in the restaurants of national cuisine.

Kastradina - restaurant specialty (Dried mutton) - is a local specialty, served with cabbage or kale, with strong aromas, so they can match the recognizable taste of the meat. This meal is served in most of the restaurants of national cuisine.

Ispod Sača (Under the bell) - restaurant specialty - This specialty is famous throughout Montenegro. It is altogether cooked and baked lamb or veal meat, sometimes goat meat too. When cooked in this manner, the meat is so soft that it melts in your mouth. In "sač", around the meat, we put potatoes which emerge as one-of-a-kind delicacies. This is one of the dishes that was made for special occasions, when people of Old Montenegro would gather around the fireplace and eat together.

Krap iz Skadarskog jezera (Skadar lake Carp) - This endemic sort of the carp from Skadarsko jezero can be consumed in various ways: smoked, fried in oil, or marinated. The most delicious one, though, is cooked in the pan – so called 'Krap u Tavu' with vegetables and fruits (like quince and dried plums). This type of carp can be found only in Skadarsko jezero.

Jegulja iz Skadarskog jezera (Skadar lake eel) - Another precious and tasty sort of the fish from the lake is eel. Eel can be prepared on barbecue, zeal or Sač (under the bell). You can often find it in combination with rice, which gives the eel

a softer and better taste. It can be found in the local fish restaurants.

Ukljeva iz Skadarskog jezera (Skadar lake Bleak) - Bleak is an endemic sort of fish that lives in the wild habitat of Skadarsko jezero. It looks like a sweet water sardine. For centuries it was the most valued catch among local fishermen. It is of high quality and characteristic taste. You may find it in the local restaurants or in the rural households prepared as smoked or deep fried.

Honey - Beekeeping tradition of this region is long, simple, and cherished with love and dedication. The whole region, especially the mountain zone, is known for its flora, herbs, and berries, which makes it ideal for beekeeping. Honey holds an exclusive place on the local table. Many households will share their story with you and offer their products like honey, propolis, honey wine, mead, and different liqueurs. Let us not forget to mention honey gastro-fair named 'Days of Linden and honey.' Every 12th of July for the past 20 years, beekeepers from this region gather at the local square in Cetinje, offering their own honey and other products like propolis, liqueurs, etc.

Grapes – Skadarsko jezero region - The Skadarsko jezero region is blessed with mild climate, plenty of sun, and dense vegetation. It is the place with ideal conditions for growth and development of authentic grape varieties. All of this led to a long-established tradition of viticulture and winemaking. Typical old Montenegrin vineyard is small, as locals were spatially limited due to the rocky terrain. Nevertheless, thanks to the great number of sunny days and water quantity, every branch is full of large grapes. Between red and white grape varieties, reds are dominant with more than two halves of all grapevines in Montenegro.

Wine - Wine production is typical for south and continental Montenegro and it has a long tradition in the Cetinje region. These wineries, settled down in the region of Skadarsko jezero, are well known for their excellency in wine quality, especially red wine. That is something that our locals are very proud of. The most famous brand of the red wine in Montenegro is Vranac, made of the grape variety of the same name. It has a distinctive dark red color and that is the reason why it is classified as a black wine. It has a strong and intensive taste. Another famous local red wine sort known for centuries is Kratošija. It originates from the same family as American Zinfandel.

Rakija brandy - Is the most famous brandy not only in Montenegro, but also in the whole Balkan region. It can be prepared from different sorts of fruits and even herbs. Still the most famous one is made of grape, plum, apple and quince. National drink of Montenegro is grape rakija and it is offered and served in most Montenegrin houses. It is believed that it helps with strengthening the immune system (if you have one or two per day) and is traditionally served as a welcome drink during a common meal or some important family gathering or celebration.

Medovača - Mead - This brandy is made by mixing honey, propolis and rakija brandy. In old times it was known as the drink of the Gods. This beverage is known for its golden-yellow color with a fresh scent and taste of honey. It has a healing effect, and it is recommended to be consumed chilled.

Honey wine – Medovina - This lovely drink is one of the oldest and healthiest. It has a tender and sweet taste with 5 to 15% of alcohol in it. It is also known as a champagne made of honey. Annual production is small, so it is rare to find it in bars, but local households and wineries do have it, although in limited quantity.

MAIN POINTS OF INTERES

1. Gastronomic presentation of Cetinje offers great and appetizing options, with numerous restaurants and pastry shops. Most of them are in a short walking distance from the main city attractions. Restaurants offer a combination of traditional and modern cuisine. Local famous dry cheese and prosciutto are the best cold appetizers that you can try, whereas beef and fish soups are perfect choices if you want to warm yourself up. Some restaurants provide specialties from Skadarsko jezero such as carp, eel or bleak. Among modern gastro delights you will find pasta, pizzas, barbeque and other. Local red wine pairs with strong and meaty food and the white one with fish.

2. If you decide to explore the high hills of the region take a ride in the direction of National park Lovćen. After 12 km you will reach one of the most known spots - the **Ivanova Korita** plateau. It is located in the middle of the National park and known for its simple and authentic architecture and flawless nature. You can also enjoy memorable traditional cuisine at one of the local restaurants embraced by the natural ambience. Some of the restaurants lean on tradition when preparing meals in, perhaps, ancient, and more demanding ways but all in order to get a memorable taste.

2.1. When in Cetinje visiting the famous **Mausoleum** is something you must visit. After you climb the 461 stairs to reach the monument, dedicated to our famous leader and poet Petar II Petrović Njegoš, you can take a break at the restaurant below the staircases. Combining local and international cuisine, followed by stunning views on the plateau and the rest of the National park, this restaurant is an amazing location to quench your thirst and enjoy the food.

3. Follow the road around the peak **Štirovnik** and savor the moment in one of the most beautiful viewpoints of **Boka bay** known for its unexampled beauty. There you will find viewpoints, with the locals, offering prosciutto and cheese, drinks, and liqueurs so you can refresh while you enjoy great sights.

4. Next stop is the most famous local village - **Njeguši**, known as the residence of Petrović dynasty, a family that ruled our country for more than 200 years, but also the homeland of great tradition in preparing the best dry cow cheese and unique prosciutto. Njeguši prosciutto and cheese are one of the most famous gastronomic symbols of our country. Njeguši taverns are waiting for you to taste these traditional delights of Montenegro. It is recommendable to combine them with grape or honey rakija, or in case you prefer sweeter liqueur go with the honey wine to wake up all your senses.

4.1. Continue a few kilometers up the hill and on the left side, just before the tunnel, you will see the tavern with the beautiful garden. It is the house of the oldest bar in Montenegro - '**Kod Pera na Bukovicu**' built in 1881, still owned by the same family that founded the bar.

5. When you leave Njeguši and Lovćen territory you will arrive to the zone of villages, well known for beekeeping and honey harvesting. As you drive down the hill you will see the beehives or the signs that point in direction of one of these sweet spots. A few hosts of village **Bajice**, positioned on the same road, just before entering the Cetinje, are part of a larger organization. Their main aim is to host the guests, show the farm, offer to try their own products, and tell you stories about this unique occupation. As you cross Cetinje, follow the direction to **Rijeka Crnojevića**.

6. Going down the hill in direction of **Skadarsko jezero** you will face the change in temperature, vegetation, and altitude of about 600m. This region is blessed with huge quantity of fresh water, mild continental climate, and plenty of sun.

6.1 As you drive down the hill, towards the lake, follow one of the winery signs that will take you to the local **wineries**. You will have a chance to see their vineyards and cellars. Savor famous Montenegrin red (black) wine that has a dark red color, or white and rose wines, and taste some of the local delights like prosciutto, cheese, honey, priganice (dough fritters), and others.

7. Enjoy in **Rijeka Crnojevića**, famous historical village. Once a big trading center, it enchants visitors with its old village atmosphere, stone bridge and full-flavored fish specialties. On the main promenade of Rijeka Crnojevića you can have a lunch while exploring interesting dining options. Local fish restaurants are known for the quality and long tradition. Local bleak, carp, and eel, prepared in different ways, are the most famous fish specialties of the region.

8. Take a boat ride with one of the locals as the day on the lake would be incomplete without it. Let the boat take you to the villages **Dodoši and Karuč**, where houses and temporary fishing facilities are standing tight to each other. Rijeka Crnojevića is a crossroad zone that will provide you with a few directions to explore, find more great sights, rural areas etc.

9. As you go uphill in the direction of villages Dujeva and Poseljani, you will see locals that work hard to maintain their households and small vineyards even though they are isolated in the hills.

10. Another direction takes you to the unique and famous panorama of Pavlova Strana viewpoint before you arrive at villages Rvaši and Prevlaka, known for traditional stone houses and the typical grape yards. Local wineries will give you a cordial welcome, show you their vineyard, their cellar and offer you to taste their own red, white or rose wine, their herb or fruit liqueurs and offer you some typical daily snacks. **Karuč and Dodoši**, villages mentioned in the boat ride (8) can be reached by this road easily.



PERAST

Gradišće
Orlovača

Dobrota

KOTOR

TIVAT

NJEGUŠI

Mauzolej

CETINJE

Lipaka pošina

Čunji Lukas

RIJEKA
CRNOJEVIĆA

Četvrti

Motornji

PODOBICA

Pavlova strana

Orlovi

Karuč

Duchva

**VISIT AS A GUEST,
EXPERIENCE LIKE A
LOCAL!**



MOUNTAIN LOVCEN AND LAKE SKADAR

OUR HERITAGE YOUR INSPIRATION

Intact nature of Cetinje region

This cozy little town situated between two national parks, on a high ground, in the shade and far from the crowd and traffic, is the real haven for outdoor activities. Clear air and gentle breeze represent ideal conditions for walking, biking, or car ride via old caravan roads through remote villages with fascinating panoramic views, and authentic architectural style.



Under the mountain Lovcen, where the soil is poor, and winters are harsh and The municipality area, as mentioned before, spreads within two national parks – **Skadarsko jezero (Skadar lake) and Mountain Lovćen** that are easily accessible and provide immense natural and cultural diversity.

Lovćen national park is the cultural heart of Cetinje region. History, culture, and tradition of this mountain is deeply connected with our people and part of many songs, poems, and books. It is, also, depicted in every tourist magazine or website, simply indispensable for every visitor coming here. On the mountain's second highest peak – Jezerski vrh (Lake peak 1657m altitude), you can find the entombment of the ruler, bishop, and the greatest poet and philosopher of Montenegro – Petar II Petrović Njegoš. A visitor needs to climb 461 stairs to visit this monumental mausoleum with impressive architecture and sculptures, designed by Ivan Meštrović, in order to experience the great 360 degrees view of Montenegro.

A compelling combination of Mediterranean and continental climate types enriched Lovćen with biodiversity. There are 1158 distinctive species of plants that make almost half of the total number of the flora in the whole country. National park retains around 200 different sorts of birds and some rare mammals.

Worth mentioning, about NP Lovćen, is the fact that it can offer you great winter

experiences, like skiing, which is a great option if you want to visit Cetinje during winter. There are several options of accommodation in NP Lovćen.

In NP Lovćen there is also the possibility to rent ATV vehicles and safari jeeps. There is always an option to organize camping on Ivanova korita where you can rest or organize a grill.

If you enjoy paragliding, then you can choose between two perfect solutions. The first one would be above Boka Bay, and the other would be above Budva's Rivier. A thrilling experience, full of adrenalin and amazing bird eye perspective above stunning beaches and the old town of Budva or old town of Kotor and Boka Bay. If you are for a less thrilling option then you can try a zip line, with the similar perspectives above Boka Bay and Riviera of Budva.



The second **national park** of Cetinje region, **Skadarsko jezero**, is the biggest lake in southern Europe. The Montenegrin side of the lake, in the plain, near capital of Podgorica was always a historical crossroad, especially between the medieval west and east. Lake Skadar has held the status of National park since 1983. It is a wildlife hotspot, swamp of international significance and one of

the largest bird reserves in Europe. This lake is home to 270 species of birds, among other pelicans (which became the lake's symbol) seagulls, herons, and others.

Look for the birds and you will find fish. Skadarsko jezero is abundant in fish, with more than 50 different species, especially carp, bleak and eel. The lake area is also culturally affluent with more than 20 old monasteries, many churches, fortresses, villages, traditional stone houses and stone ruins that tell the story of Montenegrin history from the 11th century. There are many little villages known for fishing, viticulture, honey, traditional homemade food, famous varieties of red wine and hearty hospitality. The lake is known for its warm and calm waters, rich flora and fauna and stunning panoramic views.

EXPLORE THE BEAUTY OF OUR NATIONAL PARK

OUR NATURAL GEMS YOUR ADVENTURE

It is amazing how both national parks cover such a small area and are almost territorially connected, still as you pass from one park to the other you will discover two totally different worlds and landscapes. You experience the complete change in vegetation, temperature, and altitude.

Cetinje area offers the experience which is the dream of many adventurers. In one day, you can explore and walk over the highest mountain hills, hike the trails, enjoy the sights, and then in the same day refresh in clean and cool water of the sunny region.

For those who really want to explore the nature of this extraordinary region, there are plenty of outdoor options, such as hiking, kayaking, cycling, zip lines, cave exploration etc. Do not forget the must-try food and drink degustation sessions because Cetinje region is also famous for great cuisine.

In this itinerary we will do our best to encircle outdoor activities for both national parks and the territory of Cetinje. After reading this article, you will acknowledge how Cetinje is like an oasis between the mountain peaks and lowlands by the big lake. Start a morning hike with a nice distant view, recharge with a traditional snack in old remote hamlets, reach the lake for swimming or enjoying a boat trip, while having a late lunch somewhere in the hidden fishing villages.

Recommended itinerary:

Start your adventure in the direction of Lovćen slopes that stand high above the town. If you follow the main boulevard, outside the old city center, turn left in the street where you will see the former Italian Embassy. After 12 kilometers of beautiful drive, through woods and shade, gently ascending on a narrow and curve road you are reaching the main plateau called Ivanova korita (near water springs) – a starting place for many activities. The slopes of the National park ridge are rocky, with many deep valleys, pits, and gorges, which introduce a sensational landscape.

1. Ivanova korita plateau is known for its simple and authentic architecture and flawless nature. Located in the middle of the National park, this zone is one of the favorite nature escape places of Montenegrins. Enjoy nature with your family, do some activities or visit restaurants built in the natural ambience. This valley offers plenty of choice, so everybody can choose activities according to their preferences.

1.1. First of all, we suggest the **Visitors centre**, where you can find maps and souvenirs, and enjoy exhibitions dedicated to Lovćen's flora, fauna, and cultural heritage.

1.2 First activity option is an outdoor **Adventure park** located nearby. Each visitor of the park gets the equipment (belt, helmet, gloves) and a trained team will provide the instructions for all the games. Also, you can arrange paintball, quad safari or cycling.

1.3 Ivanova korita plateau is the starting point for beautiful walks and hikes. If you want to have an easy **hike** with the gentle ascend the best option is the Circle panoramic tour through the park forest. This 3-hour walk starts uphill from the hotel nearby and lengths 9 to 10 km. You will enjoy untouched beech forest and great views towards the coastal riviera. In the end you will pass through lovely hamlet Dolovi where you can see the remains of the old architecture. Hamlet Dolovi can be easily reached by car, quad or bike and it is an easy and interesting option for this type of activity. The starting position is the same as for the hike, just follow the asphalt road for a few km until you reach the village.

1.4 Another **hiking trail** starts just 100m before you reach the first hotel that is on your way. There is a sign on the right, showing the trail that will bring you to the second highest peak – Jezerski vrh 1657m. The trail is of medium difficulty with a 3-hour walk and 5 km of length. You will come below the Mausoleum, **the burial place of Petar II Petrović Njegoš**, where you can honor the greatest poet and philosopher of the South Slaves. This is one of the most important cultural monuments of Montenegro, and for sure the most impressive. You will need to climb 461 stairs, but it is worthy as there is a majestic statue of the poet, and you will find an amazing 360-degree view of Montenegro. Surrounded by a sea of hills you will soon perceive the reason behind the origin of the name Montenegro – country of black hills. You will need to use the same direction downhill to come to Ivanova korita plateau.

1.5. Reaching the Mausoleum **by car or bike** is easy, just follow the main road and you will be below the Mausoleum in just a few kilometers. This is a more suitable and easier option, especially if you are time-limited, still you will need to climb 461 stairs to come to the monument and enjoy the panorama. Whatever you decide, remember this – you cannot count that you visited Lovćen if you did not visit the Mausoleum.

2. As you go down from the **Mausoleum** zone, follow the road around the peak Štirivnik, the highest peak of **Mountain Lovćen**, and savor the moment in one of the most beautiful viewpoints of **Boka Bay**. Stopping on a few locations you can make a postcard worthy photo of Boka Bay known as the Bride of Adriatic Sea. It received this nickname because of its unexampled beauty. Some panorama spots will give you the chance to try local snacks, drinks, and liqueurs so you can refresh while you enjoy great sights.

3. Very soon, you will leave the National park zone and come to the crossroad

called **Krstac**, that connects Lovćen with Boka bay. The road that can take you down to the seaside is the fabulous 25 zig – zag road carved in the mountain. Even though this is not your direction for this itinerary, you can still stop to enjoy some unique sights of the bay and the road that was constructed more than a 100 years ago.

3.1. On the beginning of the road which leads towards the bay, there is a possibility to do a 400m long **zip line**. The zip line that clings above the Škurda stream canyon, gives out a unique view towards the coast.

4. Another great hiking option starts in this zone - hike to the **Pestingrad** hill. Starting location is just a few hundred meters from Krstac crossroad in the direction of Njeguši village, and in front of ethno resort. **Pestingrad** is a stunning climb with the best views towards Boka bay and Kotor. This 1000 m peak rises vertically above the coast, and it gives the bird perspective towards Montenegro's finest landscape. Rusty goat trail leads towards the rocky and demanding peak – please note that the climb might be technically difficult, at some point there is a rope and a wire as a security. But the price is ultimate!

5. Next stop is **Njeguši** village known as home of Petrović dynasty, a family that ruled our country for more than 200 years. Known for the best prosciutto and cheese in Montenegro, taverns in Njeguši are waiting for you to taste traditional delights of Montenegro. If you like to try good liqueurs go for the grape brandy, or sweet honey wine.

5.1. Continue a few km up the hill and on the left side, just before the tunnel, you will see the simple tavern with the beautiful garden. It is the house of the oldest bar in Montenegro – **'Kod Pera na Bukovicu'** built in 1881, still owned by the same family that founded the bar. The interior is like a museum with photos of the region. Try local delights and visit the traditional dry room where they smoke their prosciutto.

5.2. The Ring of Lovćen Biking Tour Cetinje – Ivanova korita – Njeguši – Cetinje

„Without new experiences, something inside of us sleeps. The sleeper must awaken“, said Frank Herbert, American SF writer. Maybe you will remember him while knitting on two wheels the unique ring around Mt. Lovćen, the benign giant in the heart of Old Montenegro, that grew up into the symbol of Montenegrin statehood and national pride.

Whether you stop to refresh yourself with cold water from Ivanova korita, or you ascend towards Međuvršje, flat area between peak Jezerski vrh – (that adorns itself with mausoleum where Peter II Petrović Njegoš is buried) – and peak Štirovnik, or from Kuk (Hip) where you can admire the amazing landscape of Boka Bay. You will feed your lungs with fresh mountain air, and your eye and ear with stunning beautiful nature.

Home made products and specialties of the region, famous smoked ham and cheese of Njeguši, and mead, will restore your energy.

Trail length: 46,5 km; Lowest point: 650 altitude; Highest point: 1.410 altitude; Overall ascent: 1.030 m; Trail difficulty: intermediate
When you leave **Njeguši and Lovćen** territory you will be only 10 km away from Cetinje and 25 km from **Skadarsko jezero** national park zone that is your next point of interest. As you pass through **Cetinje** take the main motorway in the direction to **Podgorica**.

6. First stop off the main motorway will be shortly as you leave Cetinje. It is an attraction of national reputation – **Lipa cave**; one of the country's largest caves and the only one opened for visitors. Walking tour takes you deep underground for the unique experience. Taking a narrow local road, you will reach the next point of interest after only 5 km.

6.1 Near the Lipa cave there is a **local rural farm**, with the homemade products, liqueurs, honey, wine, and with the option to set up the tent and enjoy camping.

Soon you will be in the heart of the **National park – Skadarsko jezero** and an authentic and unique reservoir of nature. As you go down the hill in the direction of Skadarsko jezero you will face the change in the temperature, vegetation, and altitude of about 600m. This region is blessed with a huge quantity of fresh water and mild continental climate with plenty of sun. Notably, dense vegetation is something totally opposite to the rocky and rugged region of Cetinje and mountain Lovćen. You will enter the most picturesque zone of the Skadarsko jezero national park. This is the zone of the old villages, fishing, wine, and honey. There are two ways to reach the lake zone.

First option is to take the ride back with the main motorway and follow the direction to **Rijeka Crnojevića** and after 20 km you will be there. **Another option is hiking**. If you prefer to hike it takes 3 hours and 10km walk. You can start the walk near the Lipa cave, with the trail that will take you towards the lake. Gently descending through karstic terrain to the lakeside, the old caravan road leads to Rijeka Crnojevića. The hike should be avoided in summer, mostly because of snakes and dense vegetation.

7. Your main point of visit will be the fishing village **Rijeka Crnojevića**. Famous historical, but also natural region with good wine and fish specialties, this place was a refuge for the medieval rulers. Once a big trading center, it will enchant visitors with architecture of the old bridge, rural houses, and old boats.

Once you reach the zone of **Skadarsko jezero and Rijeka Crnojevića**, you can explore plenty of activities there. The good thing is that all activities can start from the main town bridge and nice fish restaurants nearby.

8. First walking option starts from the settlement **Promenade** and follows the gravel road towards the **Obod** cave entrance. This cave, unlike Lipa cave, is difficult to reach and uneasy to enter. However, the walk, that is only a few km long, is nice because you follow the river upstream all the way to its source – directly in the cave. It should be avoided during summer due to high humidity, and hot weather.

9. The same spot is a starting point of another **walking** option, still you will need to come across the main local 'crossroad' bridge, and the curvy road will take you up towards Obod hill with the Church of St Nicola's from the 15th century and remains of **Obod Printing** office, location of the great cultural value and place where the first book of South Slavs was printed (1494). You can also drive to the location.

10. Take the boat ride with one of the locals as the day on the lake would be incomplete without it. Enjoy the narrowest but the most attractive zone of the Lake. This unique nature reserve will leave you speechless and you will enjoy its water lilies and clean water surrounded by the hills and dense forest.

10.1. 10.2. We suggest you pass by the old fishing villages **Dodoši** and **Karuč** with the authentic architecture where the houses and temporary fishing facilities are standing tight to each other. Stop to take a walk over the village and have a drink in one of the improvised bars.

10.3. Once you reach the previous points by boat, continue all the way to **Žabljak Crnojevića** – medieval fortress and country capital in the mid XV century. Take a walk on this abandoned hill fort that is forgotten and undiscovered amongst the visitors, and you will find it intriguing while the all-around view allows you to see almost the entire lake surface.

11. Another great option on the water would be the kayaking experience. Try **kayaking for a few hours** starting from the same old bridge. Paddle through the narrow river, surrounded by the barren hills, towards the open waters. Generally, water is calm and safe and kayaking equipment is licensed and safe to use.

12. In the same location, on the main promenade of Rijeka Crnojevića you will find great lunch and dining options with the lake **fish specialties**. Local restaurants are known for the quality and long tradition.

Rijeka Crnojevića is a crossroad zone from where you can explore few directions, find more great sights, rural areas, and villages.

13. Take a short ride via the old road to Virpazar where you will see some other boat marinas, and a beautiful viewpoint towards the lake called – **Dujeva**.

14. As you go more uphill you will reach the authentic village **Poseljani**, known for its stone dry walls, houses, and wine.

15. Another direction takes you to the unique and famous panorama of **Pavlova Strana** (viewpoint). This viewpoint was one of the main inspirations of Montenegrin famous painter Miodrag Dado Đurić that rose to prominence in the 20th century.

16. Next stop in the same direction are villages Rvaši and **Prevlaka**, known for traditional stone houses and the typical grape yards. Local wineries will give you a cordial welcome, show you their vineyard, their cellar and offer you to taste their own red, white or rose wine, their herb or fruit liqueurs and offer you some typical daily snacks. **Karuč and Dodoši**, villages mentioned in the **boat ride (11)** can be reached by this road easily.

Three marketplaces Biking Tour

Cetinje – Rijeka Crnojevića – Virpazar

How enjoyable can it be, the tour on which you will come to know the calming region of Rijeka Crnojevića, former winter place of Montenegrin rulers from the dynasty of Petrović Njegoš, and Virpazar, the gift of Skadarsko jezero (the biggest freshwater lake on the Balkan). See it for yourself. Binding the contrasts, hills and lowlands, raw stone and the mesmerizing water, you will get the chance to enjoy the feeling of rich and turbulent history of the region, which, for centuries, was considered as the tame and fruitful, the stage of trading intersection of Zeta and the seaside with the Old Montenegro.

You will refresh your spirit with the harmony of nature and the human labor preserved in a unique rural architecture, and your body with the unusual taste of smoked carp and trout, freshly caught from Skadarsko jezero. You can, also, taste the local wine from Crmnica and surrounding area, made out from the tart and strong sort of grape type called „Vranac“.

Trail length: 39,3 km; Lowest point: 10m altitude; Highest point: 700m altitude; Overall ascent: 490m; Trail difficulty: easy.

Visit as a guest, explore like a local!





**VISIT AS A GUEST,
EXPLORE LIKE A LOCAL!**

