



**REGIONE
PUGLIA**

OPEN TOURISM PLUS B2B Forum

Old Royal Capital Cetinje

Agency for Business
Development and Support

9th May 2023

Miloš Ivanišević, Project Manager



OPEN TOURISM CIRCUIT

Concept

Governance/Management

Tools

Concept

- improved quality of tourism information and welcome service
- increase and diversify tourist flows
- enhancing local cultural and natural heritage and the strategic role of local communities
- cross-border public-private network to develop new tourism promotion strategies and actions
- promote new tourism strategies based on the tourist-territory relationship and on the use of new technologies.





Governance/Management

- The model represents the public-private relations aimed at spreading and expanding the Open Tourism experience, facing problems in a shared way through solutions designed and implemented together



Tools

- Maps with Itineraries
 - Brochures
 - Mobile App
- Touristic Video

Maps with Itineraries

Culture Map



Cetinje Town - Museum

Welcome to Cetinje, 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 little country to the attacks of the big medieval empires. Under the mountain Lovćen, where the soil is poor, and winters are harsh and snowy, surrounded by the enemies, Montenegrins 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 was the core of our state, as well as the spiritual and cultural midpoint of the country.

As an unknown foreigner once said, Cetinje is formed in a secluded place, far away from enemies' hands, but still close enough to those with a good heart and good intentions. 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 drama, carved by our tradition, humor, and mentality. The municipality area spreads within two national parks – **Skadar Lake** and **Lovćen** that are easily accessible and provide immense natural and cultural diversity. 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. **Skadar Lake** is known as the biggest lake on the Balkan peninsula. 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.

Interesting facts: Priests and state leaders – First 4 leaders of the famous **Dynasty Petrović** were Archbishops that ruled the church and the state. Their capital residence was at the Cetinje Monastery that is still the main center of Montenegrin Orthodox church. 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 to educate people and preserve their tradition, and made peace among the clans that were brawling between each other. Ruling the state from the 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 he is celebrated in the 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 into 80 languages. He remains a curious case, in the act of how it is possible that a young man, who lived in the desolate area knows so much, and writes in such manner.

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

Father-in-law of Europe: Prince, and later King Nikola 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 the State University – department of Art. Department of fine arts, music, and drama are all positioned in the small historical part of the town, which gives a unique glint.



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OPEN TOURISM

CETINJE

Old Royal Capital
The biggest little town



OPEN TOURISM

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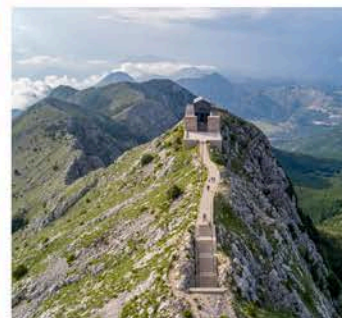
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Cross-border cooperation is fundamental to develop a more inclusive network; maximize efforts in finding solutions to common problems; pool resources, expertise, and ideas to create synergies and support one other; develop more comprehensive and effective 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.

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Culture Map

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 hill. We hope that you will be inspired by the heritage and the beauty of our Royal capital.

Take a walk through the history and see the most beautiful architecture of the Cetinje, which hides interesting stories of how the town was built, about its rough, challenging, and simple life, until the days of its rise when Cetinje became the Royal capital of Montenegro.

The itinerary defined on the map is only a few km long and most of the sites are within easy walking distance from each other. Every church is open to the public, and museums have their guides that will tell you the story of the monuments, their owners, and the purpose it has nowadays.

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 500th birthday

2. 3. Continue down the street to **Ćipur Church** and **Cetinje Monastery**, which are the 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 whose body remains are exposed in the coffin inside the Monastery. **Cetinje Monastery** will be right in front of you and after few steps, you can enter this famous orthodox sanctuary, bow to the remains of **Saint Peter of Cetinje**, and witness its treasures and two Cristian relics that are kept inside the Monastery – **The right hand of Saint John the Baptist and Particle of the Holy Cross**.

4. 5. 6. Your next step is the **Mill of Ivan Crnojević** from the 15th century built on the riverbank of subterranean river Cetinja, and **Open theatre scene**, before you start walking upon the **Eagle's Rock hill**, the place where the founder of dynasty Petrović, **Bishop Danilo** was buried, where you can have a great view from birds' perspective on the historical part of the town and its surroundings.

7. **Njegoš's residence** is your next step. By exploring the new residence of **Billiard Hall** and walking through the steps of the great ruler, priest, philosopher, and writer – Petar I Petrović Njegoš, in his library and office you will hear some great stories about his achievements through his brilliant but short life. Here you can look at the **Relief of Montenegro** on the southern side of the building, built during the age of Austro-Hungarian occupation 1916/17 in the proportions 1:10 000.

8. **King Nikola's Palace** is your next museum to explore. Museum was founded in 1926, within

the residence of the last Montenegrin ruler **Nikola I Petrović Njegoš**, and his family. Hear about the great Prince and King, the way he ruled the state, and see the exhibition of flags, weapons, medals that are collected and carefully preserved.

9. Look at elements of our tradition and heritage in the **Ethnographic Museum** positioned across King Nikola's palace, in the building of the **former Serbian Embassy**. Learn about the lifestyle, old tools, and uniforms of Montenegrins from different regions in the exhibition that holds around 4400 pieces of the exhibit.

10. Continue your adventure through history by visiting the **Art and History Museum** that is exhibited in the building of the **Old Parliament**. Hear about Montenegro through the different periods and see the pieces of art of the most famous Montenegrin artists.

11. 12. Take a stroll down the main street to **Atelier Dado**, former workshop of our famous painter **Dado Djurić**, now the museum of modern arts. Next to the Atelier, there is 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 **Former British Embassy** that might surprise you with beautiful melodies from the inside, as today it hosts the **Academy of Music of Montenegro**.

16. At the end of the same promenade you will reach the blue palace or the **Blue Court**. 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 represents the residence of the **President of Montenegro**.

17. **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 constructed following the architecture plan of Italian architect **Corradini** and it is a rare piece of architecture.

18. 19. 20. On the corner of the same street you can take a look at a simple former **Turkish embassy** and follow the street to the main **City Hall** and **Royal Theatre "Žetaki Dom"** founded in 1884 and it is the oldest theatre in Montenegro.

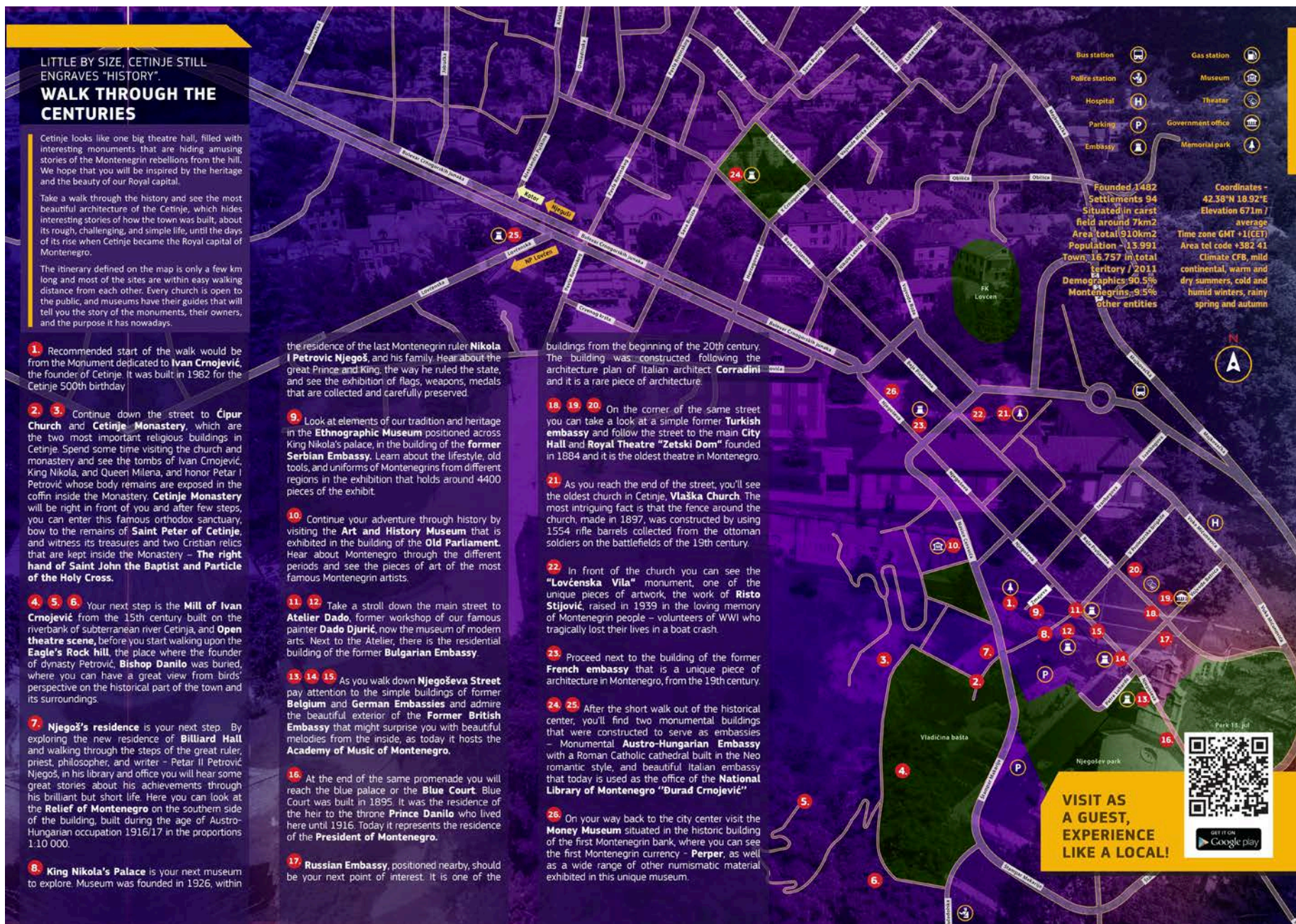
21. As you reach the end of the street, you'll see the oldest church in Cetinje, **Vlaška Church**. The most intriguing fact is that the fence around the church, made in 1897, was constructed by using 1554 rifle barrels collected from the ottoman soldiers on the battlefields of the 19th century.

22. In front of the church you can see the **"Lovčenska Vila"** monument, one of the unique pieces of artwork, the work of **Risto Stijević**, raised in 1939 in the loving memory of Montenegrin people – volunteers of WWI who tragically lost their lives in a boat crash.

23. Proceed next to the building of the former **French embassy** that is a unique piece of architecture in Montenegro, from the 19th century.

24. 25. After the short walk out of the historical center, you'll 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 beautiful Italian embassy that today is used as the office of the **National Library of Montenegro "Đurađ Crnojević"**

26. On your way back to the city center visit the **Money Museum** situated in the historic building of the first Montenegrin bank, where you can see the first Montenegrin currency – **Perper**, as well as a wide range of other numismatic material exhibited in this unique museum.



Nature Map

Intact nature of Cetinje region

Full travel guide for National parks Lovcen and Skadar lake

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 little country to the attacks of the big medieval empires. Under the mountain **Lovcen**, where the soil is poor, and winters are harsh and snowy, surrounded by the enemies, Montenegrins 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. Today, this little cozy town, situated between two national parks, on high ground, in the shade, and far

from the crowd and traffic, is the real heaven for outdoor activities. Clear air and gentle breeze represent ideal conditions for a walk, bike, or car ride via old caravan roads and through remote villages with fascinating panoramic views, and authentic architectural style.

The municipality area spreads within two national parks – **Skadar Lake** and **Lovcen** that are easily accessible and provide immense natural and cultural diversity. When you first visit the city, you cannot miss the view towards the cap-shaped mountain emerging above the city. That is **Mount Lovcen**, a symbol of not only **Cetinje** but of the entire Montenegro. Dividing Cetinje from **Kotor Bay**, mountain Lovcen was always a graceful natural barrier between two regions, rising with its highest peaks to the altitude of 1750 above the sea level. A compelling combination of Mediterranean and continental climate types enriched Lovcen with biodiversity. There are 1158 distinctive species of plants that make almost half of the total number of flora in the whole country. National Park retains around 200 different sorts of birds and some rare mammals.

Lovcen is the cultural heart of the Cetinje region, and the history, culture, and tradition of this mountain

are deeply connected with our people and included in many songs, poems, books, depicted in every tourist magazine or website, simply indispensable part for every visitor coming here. On the mountain's second highest peak – Lake peak (1657m), you can find the entombment of the ruler and 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 to relish the great 360 degrees view of Montenegro.

The second national park of the Cetinje region is the biggest lake in southern Europe – **Skadar Lake**. The Montenegrin side of the lake, in the plain near **Podgorica**, capital, was always a historical crossroad, especially between the medieval west and east. **Skadar Lake** 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. **Skadar Lake** 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, and stone ruins that tell us the story of Montenegrin history from 11 century up to today. There are many little villages known for fishing, viticulture, honey, famous varieties of red wine, stone houses, hearty hospitality, and meals. The lake is known for its warm and calm waters, rich flora and fauna, and stunning panoramic views.

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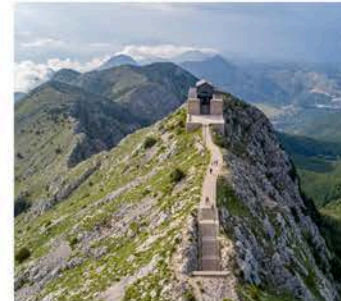
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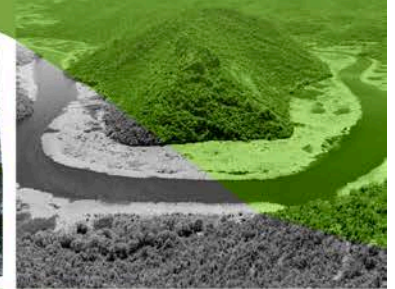
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CETINJE

Our heritage your inspiration
Mountain Lovcen
and Skadar Lake



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Nature Map

EXPLORE THE BEAUTY OF OUR NATIONAL PARKS OUR NATURAL GEMS YOUR ADVENTURE

For those who want to explore the nature of this extraordinary region, there are plenty of outdoor options, such as hiking, kayaking, cycling, zip lines, cave exploration et cetera. Do not forget about must-try food and drink degustation sessions because the 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 nearby 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 **National Park Lovćen** slopes that stand high above the town. Soon you'll enter a National Park zone, where you will enjoy beautiful sights and unique flora. The slopes of the national park ridge are rocky, with many deep valleys, pits, and gorges, which introduce a sensational landscape. After 12 km of gently ascending on a narrow and curvy road you will reach one of the favorite spots – **Ivanova Korita / Ivan Springs plateau**.

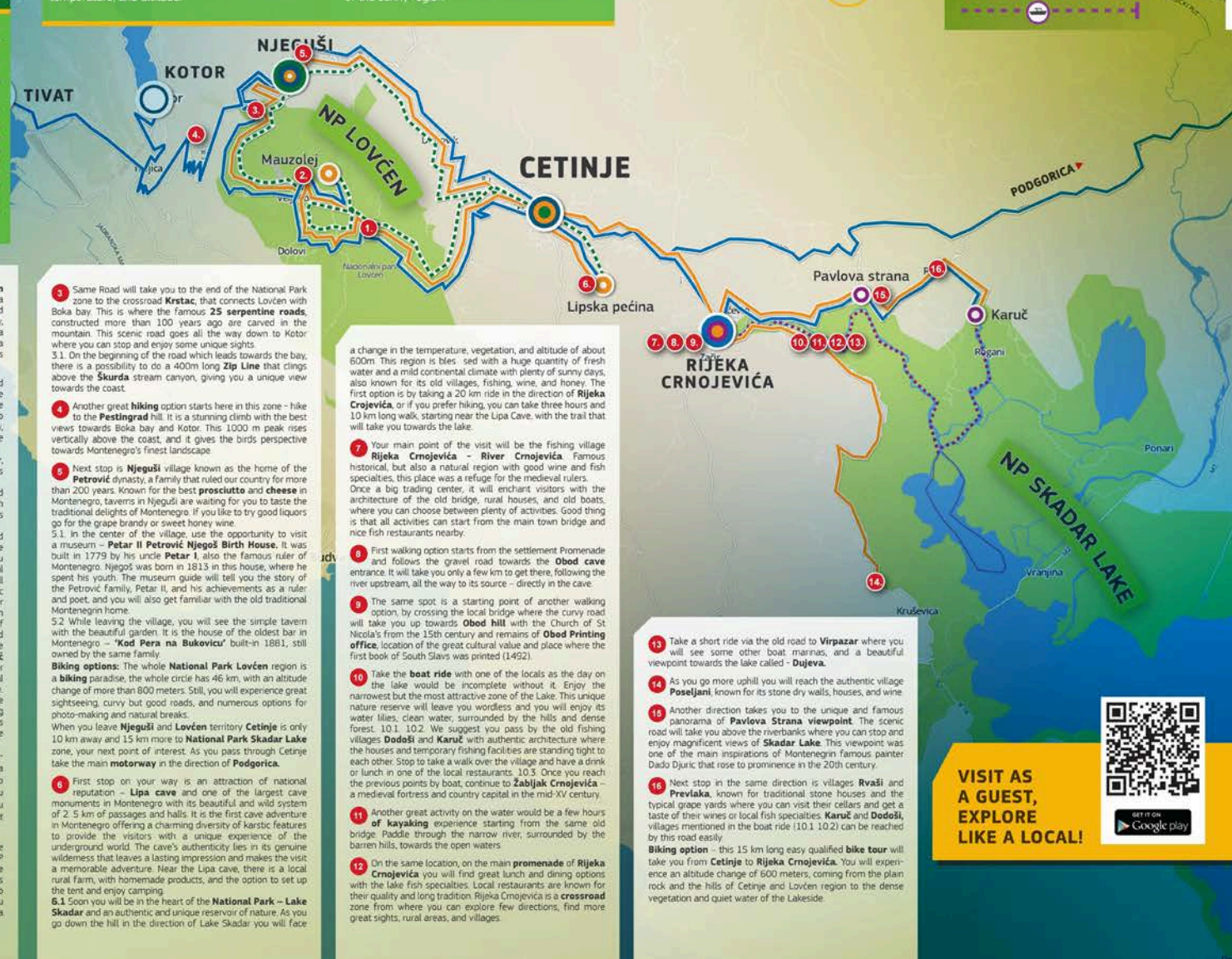
1 **Ivanova Korita** plateau is known for its simple and authentic architecture and flawless nature. Located in the middle of the National Park this zone is one of the favorite nature escape places of Montenegrins and the starting point to some beautiful walks and hikes. Enjoy nature with your family, do some activities or visit national restaurants built in the natural ambience, because the valley offers plenty of choices. 1.1 First of all, we suggest stopping at the **Visitors Center**, where you can find maps and souvenirs, and enjoy exhibitions dedicated to the Lovćen flora, fauna, and cultural heritage. 1.2 First active option is an outdoor **Adventure Park** located nearby, with their trained team who will provide you with equipment and instruction for all the games and other activities like paintball, quad safari, or cycling. 1.3 If you want to have an **easy hike** with the gentle ascent the best option is the **Circle panoramic tour** through the dark forest. This 3-hour and 9 to 10 km lent walk will take you through untouched beech forest, great views to the coastal riviera viewpoints. Through this magnificent walk, you will discover the beauty of lovely **Hamlet Dolovi** and its magic woods and see the remains of the old architecture. 1.4 Another hiking trail will take you to the main attraction of NP Lovćen and the second-highest peak-The lake peak 1657' the trail is of medium difficulty with a 3-hour walk and 5 km in length and its starts in front of the nearby hotel. You will come under the **Njegoš's Mausoleum**, the burial place of **Petar II Petrović Njegoš**, where you can honor the greatest poet and philosopher of the South Slavs. This is one of the most important cultural monuments of Montenegro and for sure the most impressive. It will take you to climb 461 stairs, but it is worth it 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 – a country of black hills.

NOTE Reaching the **Mausoleum by car or bike** is easy following the main road who will take you to Mausoleum in just a few kilometers, which is the most suitable and easier option to visit the monument and enjoy the panorama, especially if you are time-limited. Whatever you decide, remember this – you cannot count that you visited **NP Lovćen** if you did not visit **Mausoleum**.

2 As you go down from the **Mausoleum zone**, follow the road around the **Štirovnik peak**, the highest peak of NP Lovćen, where you can enjoy in magnificent panoramic drive with the most beautiful viewpoints of **Boka Bay**, also known as a bride of Adriatic because of its unexampled beauty. Photo stops are highly recommended on several locations where you can make a postcard-worthy photo of this beauty and have a chance to refresh and try local snacks, drinks, and liquors.

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 another you discover two different worlds and landscapes. You experience a complete change in vegetation, temperature, and altitude.

The 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, and enjoy the sights, and then on the same day refresh in the clean and cool water of the sunny region.



Gastronomy Map

CETINJE GASTRONOMY

Unique chance to fuel
all your senses

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This region's lifestyle and tradition are ruled by the highlands of the Lovćen region and habits of fishermen gathered around the small area of Lake Skadar, land rich in sun and vegetation and its waters abundant in fish. The population of these two zones led a life that was dictated by a never-ending fight for freedom. People's main principles were to protect their own families, tradition, and land. In such circumstances, isolated and surrounded by the opposing empires, people altered their life to a natural environment. Livestock farming and

agriculture represented the main daytime jobs for people of the 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 an altitude difference from the highest altitude 1750 to almost zero on the lakeside, so don't be surprised to find so many distinctions in vegetation and food. People consumed simple but healthy food 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 hillsides, 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 climates, which makes a suitable terrain for cultivating different sorts of herbs, berries, and grapes. All of 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.



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OPEN TOURISM

CETINJE

AUTHENTIC GASTRONOMY AND DROPS

Discover tastes and
aromas of Cetinje
and old Montenegro



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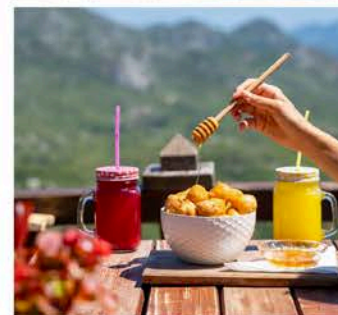
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Gastronomy Map

PERAST Discover tastes and aromas of Cetinje and old Montenegro

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

Cheese from Njeguši - Lovćen region Here 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 clew of the sea and mountain air and is an ideal place for drying the food. Cheese is its most famous product, 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 are derived 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.

Njeguši Prosciutto - Lovćen region This local specialty served with Njeguši cheese represents the symbol of ultimate Montenegrin hospitality. The previously mentioned natural environment that is excellent for livestock farming and a mix of Mediterranean and mountain air make the Njeguši zone great for drying prosciutto. Drying, smoking, and maturing 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.

Njeguši Steak - restaurant specialty This local specialty is created by filling pork or veal schnitzel with Njeguši 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 It is an authentic meal made of vegetables from the cabbage family that was 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 (Dried mutton) - Restaurant specialty 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.

GASTRONOMIC ROUTES

1. Gastronomic presentation of Cetinje town offers great and appetizing options, with numerous restaurants and pastry shops. Most of them are a short walking distance of 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 Skadar Lake specialties such as carp, eel, or bleak. Among modern gastronomy delights, you will find pasta, pizzas, barbecue, and others. 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 favorite spots - the **Ivanova Kozla** plateau, located in the middle of the National Park, 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 to get a memorable taste.

2.1. When in Cetinje visiting the famous **Mausoleum** is something you must do. After you climb 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 **Štirovnik** peak and savor the moment in one of the most beautiful viewpoints of Boka bay known for its unexplained beauty. There you will find viewpoints with the locals offering you to try prosciutto and cheese, drinks, and liqueurs so you can refresh while you enjoy great sights.

Skadar Lake Carp This endemic sort of carp from Skadar Lake 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.

Skadar Lake eel Another precious and tasty sort of fish from the lake is eel. The eel can be prepared on the barbecue, zeal, or under the bell. You can often find it in combination with rice, which gives eel softer and better taste. It can be found in the local fish restaurants as their delicacy.

Skadar Lake Bleak is an endemic sort of fish that lives in the wild habitat of Lake Skadar. It looks like a sweet water sardine. For centuries it was the most valued catch among local fishermen. It has 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 - The beekeeping tradition of this region is lengthy, 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 the honey gastronomy 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 offering their honey and other products like propolis, liqueurs, etc.

Grapes - Skadar Lake region, blessed with a mild climate, plenty of sunny days, dense vegetation, and proximity to water, is the place with ideal conditions for the 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 number of sunny hours and water quantity every branch are full of large grapes. Between red and white grape varieties, reds are dominant with more than two halves of all grapevines in Montenegro.

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 Skadar Lake, are well known for their excellence in wine quality, especially the red one. That is something that our locals are very proud of. The most famous brand of 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 **Kratosija**. 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. The 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 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.

4. Next stop is the most famous local village - **Njeguši**, known as the residence of the **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 km 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 Bukovici**' built in 1881, still owned by the same family that founded the bar.

5. When you leave **Njeguši** and **Lovćen** territory you will arrive in 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 the 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 products, and tell you stories about this unique occupation that one must love to maintain. As you cross Cetinje, follow the direction to **Rijeka Crnojevića**.

6. Going down the hill in the direction of **Skadar Lake** you will face a change in the temperature, vegetation, and altitude of about 600m. This region is blessed with a huge quantity of fresh water, mild continental climate with plenty of sunny days. 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, donuts, and others.

7. Enjoy in **Rijeka Crnojevića**, a 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 grab lunch while exploring interesting dining options. **Local fish restaurants** are known for their quality and long tradition. Local break, 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 right 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.

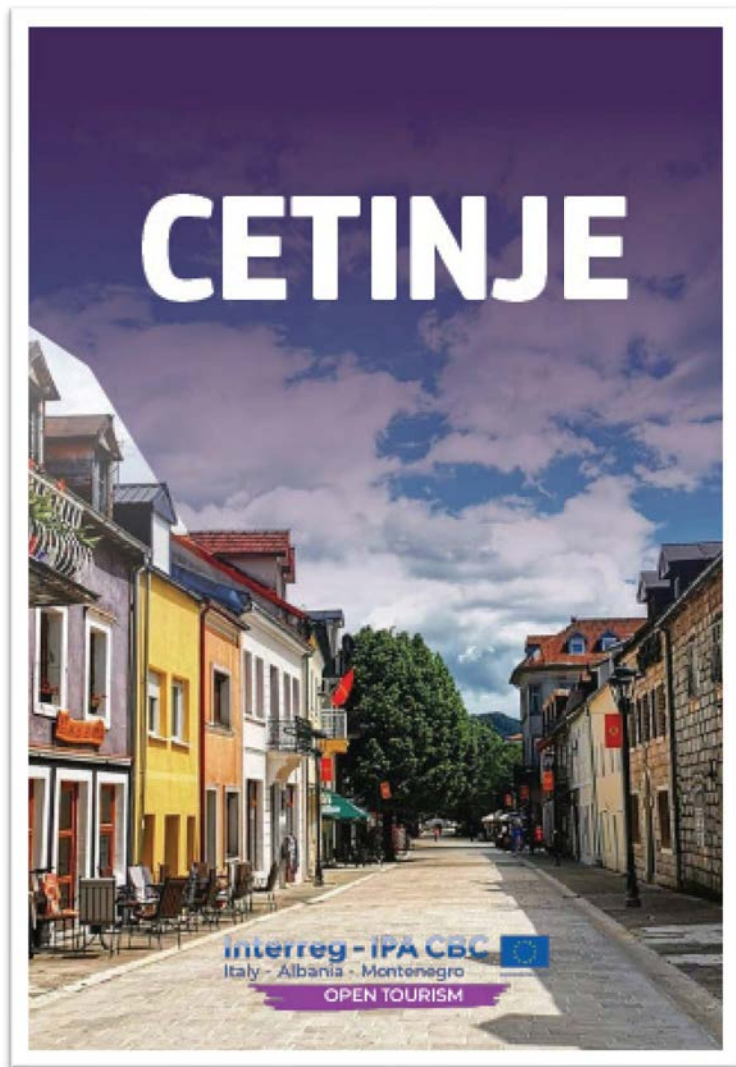
10. Another direction takes you to the unique and famous panorama of **Pavlova Strana Viewpoint** before you arrive at villages **Rvaši** and **Prevlaka**, known for traditional stone houses and the typical grape yards. Local wineries will give you cordial welcome, show you their vineyard, their cellar and get you to taste their 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.

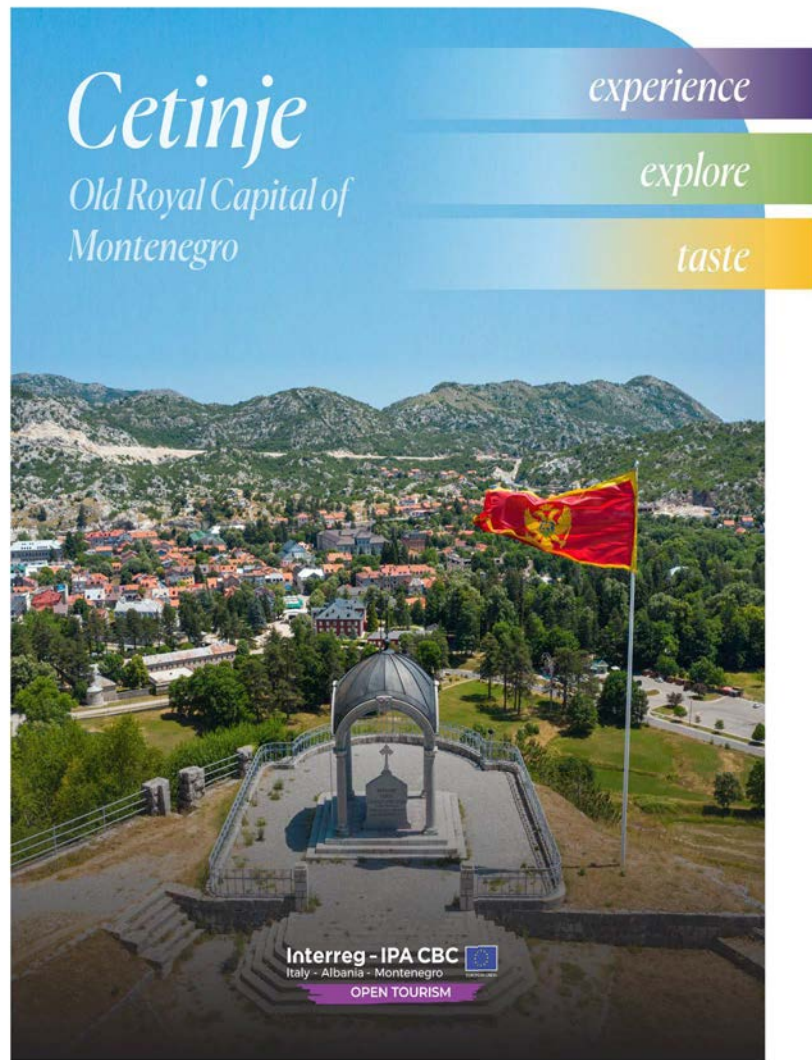


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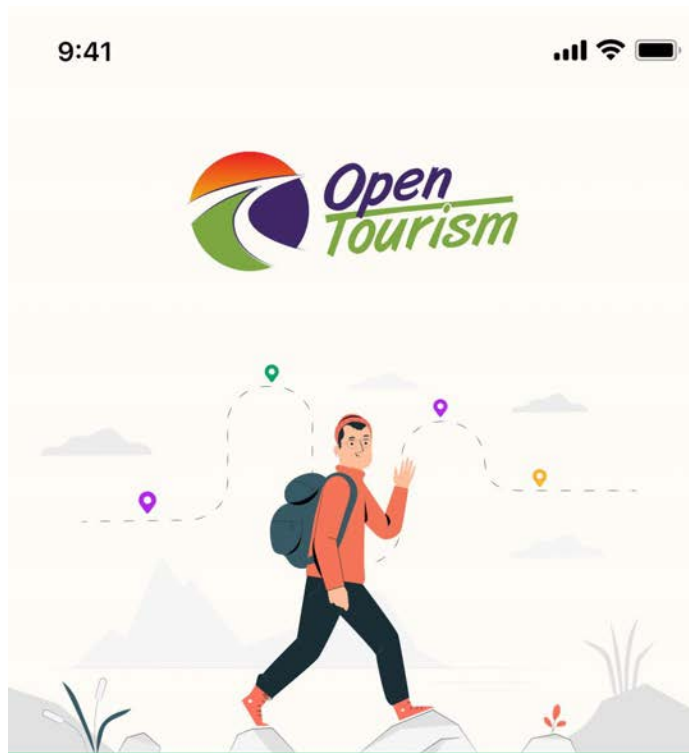


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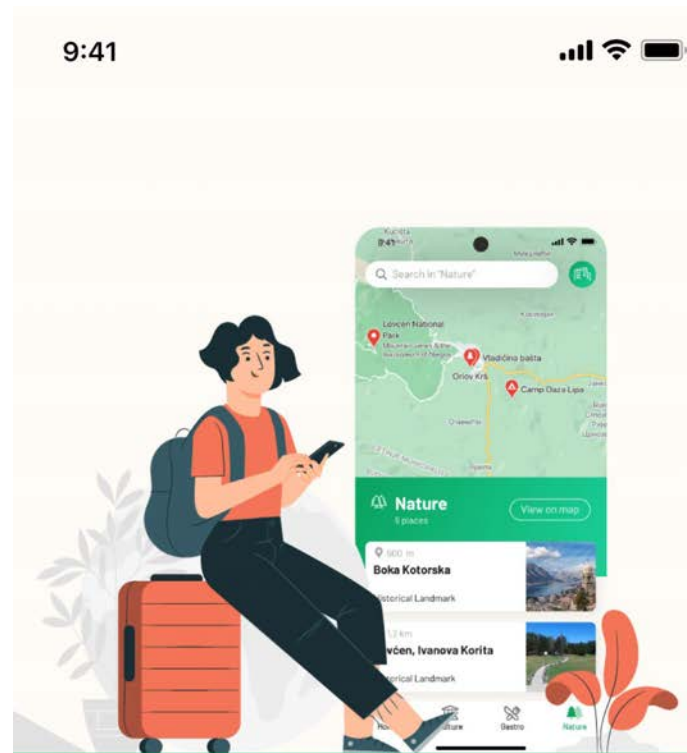
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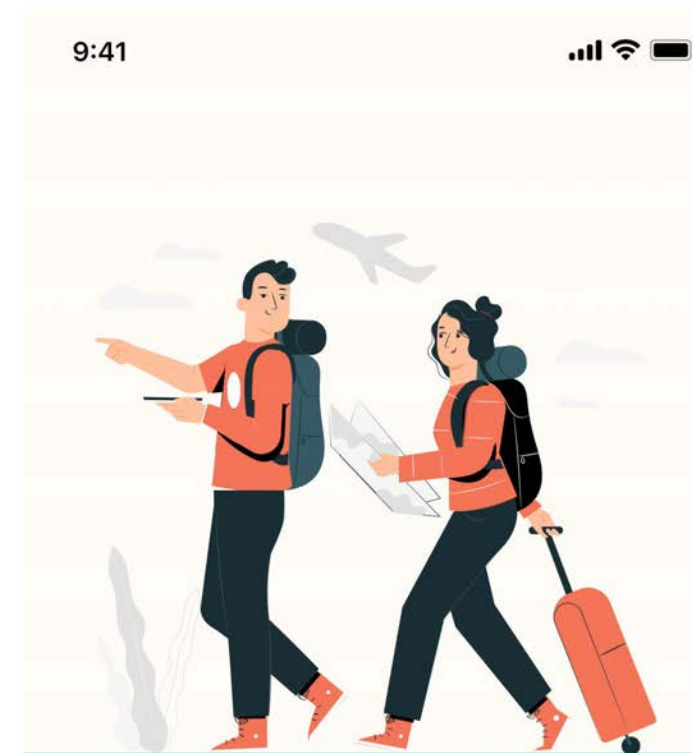
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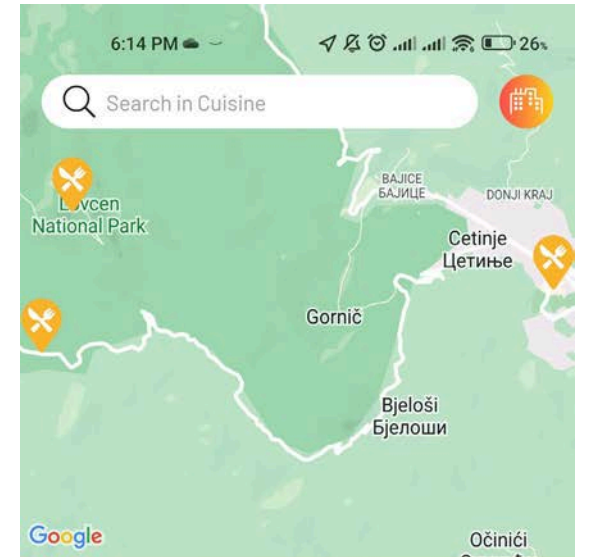
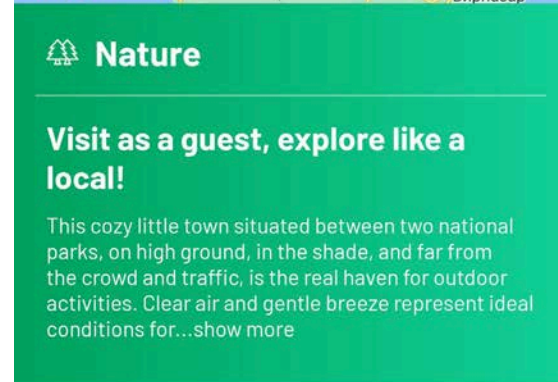
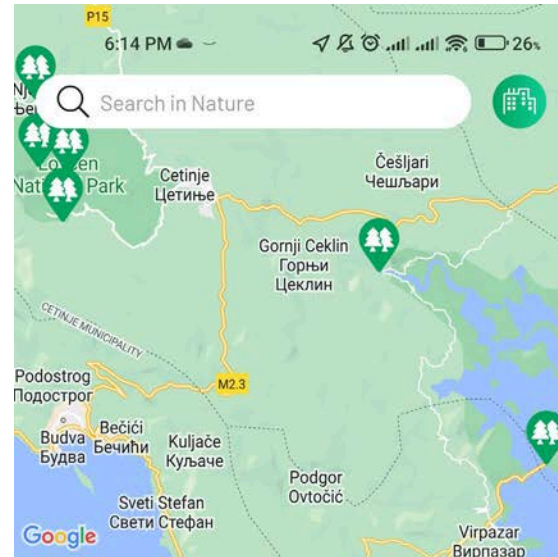
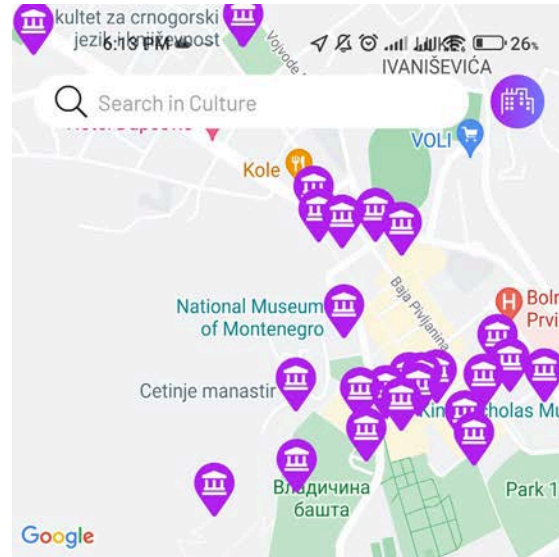


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