



## THE BEST OF MONTENEGRO TOUR

For guests who would like to learn about Montenegro's tradition, culture, history and spectacular landscapes this tour is a must! Montenegro is a country with a rich history and beautiful nature. On the territory of Montenegro there is five National Parks and two UNESCO protected areas. During our guided roundtrips through Montenegro you can discover the wild beauty and the highlights of this unique country.

# MONTENEGRO TOUR

*Hotels of your choice*

*Luxurious coach*

*Attractive Excursions*

*National restaurants*

*Experienced guides*

***Welcome!***



## PROGRAM

### Day 1:

Arrival at the airport (Dubrovnik, Tivat or Podgorica).

In the case of that the arrival at Dubrovnik airport program is as follows:

### **Dubrovnik / Herceg Novi / Budva / Becici**

Escort guests to Dubrovnik airport. Transfer by bus to Montenegro with the assistance of a licensed tour guide. Visiting Herceg-Novi. Herceg Novi is a tourist center situated in the northern part of the Boka Bay. Town is nestled on a hill behind the medieval walls. It has been founded by the Bosnian king Tvrtko I in 1382 under the name of St. Stephen. Leisure time by appointment for individual programs. (Shopping, coffee breaks ...). Departure for Budva.

Upon arrival in Budva we going on a tour of Old Town. The old town of Budva is typical Mediterranean town situated on an island connected to the mainland by a strip of sand that over time turned into peninsula. It is surrounded by ramparts dating back to the fifteenth century. It's narrow, cobbled streets, squares and churches will show you the Mediterranean in its best. Budva is also famous for its theatrical festival lasting two months, July and August. This festival draws a wide range of artists from all over the world. Lunch. After lunch going to Becici 5 km away. Accommodation in hotel, dinner, overnight.

**BUDVA - BECICI**





**Day 2:**

**MINI MONTENEGRO TOUR - Becici / Cetinje / Lovcen / Njegusi / Becici**

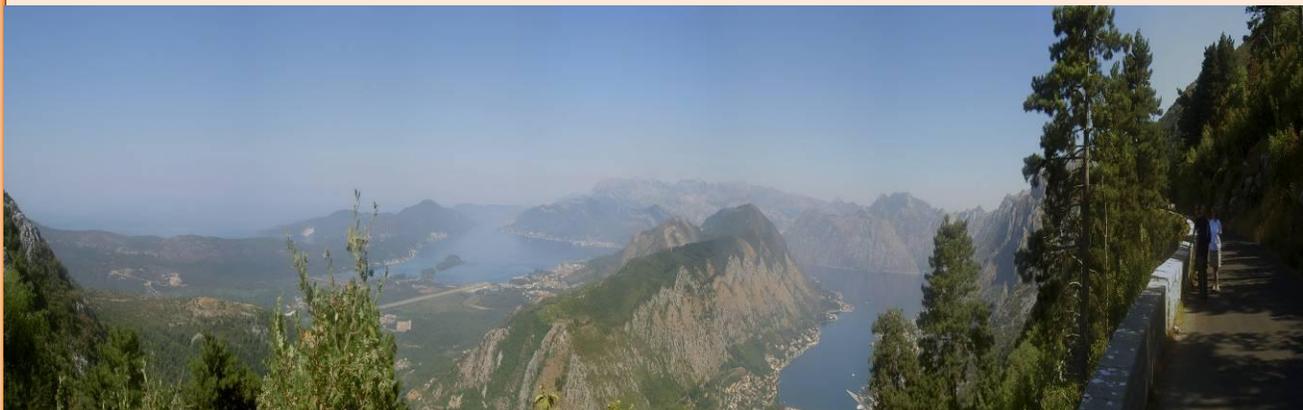
Breakfast. After breakfast departure to Cetinje. Cetinje is cultural center of Montenegro. It is situated at the foot of Mt. Lovcen, 30km away from the coast. It was founded in the XV century by Ivan Crnojevic, the ruler of Zeta of that period. It is not at all an easy task to decide which of numerous monuments we should introduce you with. The choice had to be made and, hence, we have decided to visit the King Nicola's Palace and Monastery of Cetinje.

King Nicola's Palace - Initially, when it was founded in 1926, it was a National Museum and later, it became State Museum of Montenegro. It possesses tens of thousands of objects organized in archeological, ethnographic and art collections, as well as in collections of medals, weapons, plaques, stamps, coat of arms, flags and photos.

Monastery of Cetinje - The Monastery of Cetinje has been the seat of Montenegrin metropolitans for the last 500 years. It is the pious endowment of Ivan Crnojevic, the ruler of Zeta of that time. In 1484 he founded the old monastery which had been destroyed by Turks in 1692. Metropolitan Danilo Petrovic restored the monastery at the beginning of the XVIII century. The new monastery was built on the location of Ivan Crnojevic's Palace. On that occasion, the inscription of monastery's trustee and coat-of-arms of Crnojevic dynasty were taken from the palace and put on the new monastery. In the monastery church of Nativity of Mother of God, beside the holy remains of St. Peter of Cetinje, are kept the most sacred objects of Christianity: The hand of St. John the Baptist and the particle of the Holy Cross.

From Cetinje, the road leads us through the picturesque village Njegusi, where are situated the native houses of Peter Petrovic II and King Nicolas I. We make a pause in this village and in authentic ambience organize tasting of local specialties: homemade smoked ham and cheese.

After lunch at the agreed time of departure to the Becici through famous Kotor serpentines from where it offers a magnificent view of the entire Bay of Kotor Bay. Arrival at hotel, dinner and overnight.



# LAC DE SKADAR



## Day 3:

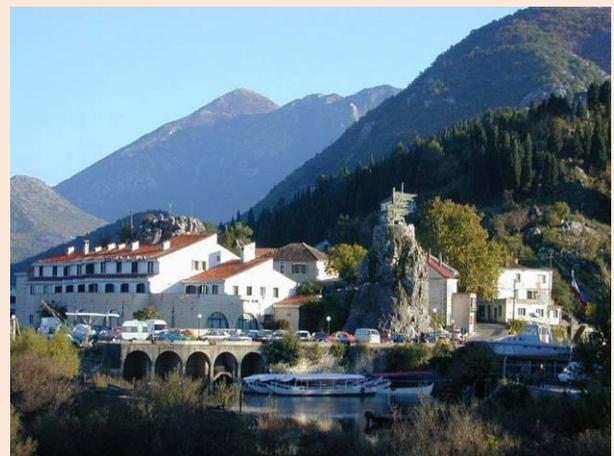
### SKADAR LAKE - Becici / Bar / Lake of Skadar / Becici

Breakfast. After breakfast departure to the Bar with a short photo break at Sveti Stefan.

Arrive at Bar Bar sightseeing, visiting the old olive tree and a tour of the Old Bar. Continuation of the journey to the National Park Skadar Lake.

Skadar Lake is the biggest lake in the Balkans. It is situated in Zeta-Shkoder Valley, on the border between Montenegro and Albania. Its surface, 6m above sea level, can vary between 370 km<sup>2</sup> and 530 km<sup>2</sup>, of which 2/3 is in Montenegro. The lake is a crypto depression, filled by the Moraca River and drained into the Adriatic by the 41km long Bojana River, which forms the international border on the lower half of its length. It is the natural reserves of rare bird species such as herons, ducks, storks, cormorants, and it is home for some of the last pelicans in Europe! In 1996, by Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, it was included in the Ramsar list of wetlands of international importance. Skadar Lake waters belong to the second category, which means that throughout the year it is changed for 2-4 times. Its maximum depth is 44m. It is the habitat of 270 bird species and 42 fish species. The Lake is most beautiful at the beginning of June, when lotus flowers cover its surface. A scenic boat cruise on the Lake discovers numerous coves, islets and medieval monasteries, a landscape where the centuries blended with the Lake. Lake's sides are marshlands, covered by wide reed belt, and the surface of the lake is covered by exuberant marshland vegetation. In the shallows there are horses, pensive fishermen... On Skadar Lake territory there are as many as 9 medieval monasteries, the oldest one dating back from the XIV century. Skadar Lake islets are isles of monasteries and birds, a harmonious combination of history and nature.

Arrive in the picturesque small town Virpazar where is organized a lunch in a local tavern and where after lunch the guest goes on a cruise on the lake by boat. Back to Becici at the agreed time. Arrive at hotel, dinner, overnight.





## Day 4:

### **CANYON MORACA RIVER - Becici / Moraca Monastery / Biogradska Gora / Kolasin**

Breakfast. After breakfast departure to the northern part of Montenegro with the passage through the canyon of the river Moraca and visit the Moraca Monastery.

Moraca Monastery is one of the most important medieval monuments of Montenegro. It is located above the right bank of Moraca River on the natural plateau. It was founded in 1252 by Stephen, son of king Vukan and grandson of Nemanja, as stated at the inscription above the west portal. The monastery complex includes cathedral dedicated to the Ascension of Mother of God, and small church dedicated to St. Nicolas. Beside the interesting architecture, of special importance are its paintings. Only a small part of the original XIII century painting is preserved. Among those a special place belongs to the 11 compositions which represent life of the Saint Prophet Ilija. The rest of the monastery painting was destroyed in the first half of the XVI century when Turks conquered it and took its leaded roof of. According to the written records, the monastery was burned in 1505 and was abandoned until 1565 or 1570 when it was renovated. The monastery was being decorated till the end of XVII century. On the monastery iconostasis is placed the extraordinary cross from XVI century, made of walnut-wood, created for 11 years! The appearance monastery has today dates from the 1935 when it has been restored.

Continuing the trip to the National Park Biogradska Gora. Biogradska gora National Park was established in 1952. Situated in the northeastern part of Montenegro, between the Tara and Lim rivers in the central part of the Bjelasica mountain massif, it occupies an area of 5,650 hectares. Encircled by mountain peaks, crossed by streams and valleys, decorated with beautiful lakes, adorned with century-old trees and peaceful meadows, this park represents a magnificent display of nature's wealth. The beautiful Biogradsko lake is situated in the heart of the primeval forest, the biggest and the best known in the range of the glacial lakes within the National Park. Lunch in national restaurant. After lunch at the agreed time departure to Kolasin - Hotel "Lipka" or Hotel "Bianca". Kolasin is situated in the northern part of Montenegro, in the Tara River valley at the altitude of 980m. The town was founded by Turks in the XVII century under the name of Brskovo. Kolasin is a winter sport center and in its surroundings there are lots of beautiful ski terrains. Accommodation in the hotel, dinner, overnight.





## Day 5:

### **CANYON OF THE TARA RIVER Kolasin / Zabljak / National Park of Durmitor / Kolasin**

Breakfast. After breakfast, go to Zabljak through the canyon of the Tara River and near the bridge on Tara Djurdjevic where is planned photo break. One of the Montenegrin marvels is the famous Djurdjevica Bridge crossing the Tara River. It was built between 1937 and 1940. When its construction was over, it was the biggest vehicular concrete arch bridge in Europe. The bridge is 365m long, and has five arches, the biggest having span of 116m. The distance between the roadbed and the river is 150m. Continuation of the journey towards Zabljak is considered to be the center National Park of Durmitor, which it belongs Tara River Canyon and Bridge of Djurdjevica Tara. The next pearl on the thread is the Black Lake. It is situated on the Mountain Durmitor on the altitude of 1416m. By its origin, it is glacial lake. It lies at the foot of peak Medjed and its superficies is 0,515 km<sup>2</sup>. It comprises two smaller lakes, the Big and the Small Lake. These two lakes are connected by narrow stream. The Big Lake's superficies is 0,338 km<sup>2</sup> and its maximal depth is 24,5m. The Small Lake's superficies is 0,177 km<sup>2</sup> and his maximal depth is 49,1m.

The Black Lake is the most attractive tourist site of Durmitor region. It is the biggest of 18 glacial lakes situated on Durmitor. A walking path 3.5km long encircles the Lake.

Lunch in national restaurant. Free time. The return ride back to Kolasin. Dinner, Overnight.



# OSTROG MONASTERY



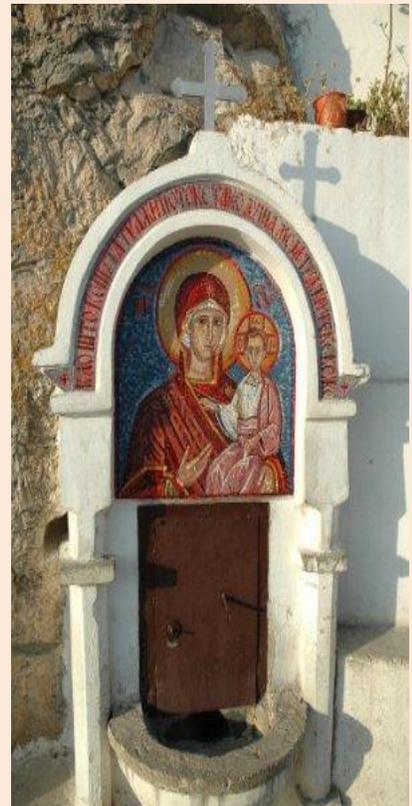
## Day 6:

### OSTROG MONASTERY - Kolasin / Monastery of Ostrog / Becici

Breakfast. After breakfast, go through the canyon of Moraca river toward the Ostrog Monastery.

Monastery Ostrog is a place where miracles do happen! It is here where sick persons find both their spiritual and physical remedy. People of all religions from all over the world come here. It is the most visited sanctuary in Montenegro and the third one in the Christian world, after the Christ's Tomb and the Holy Mount. Plastered onto the dark rockface of the slope of a Mt. Ostrog, monastery leaves a great impression on everyone looking at its direction. The monastery is situated in the Bjelopavlici Valley, above the Zeta River. From a place called Bogetici to the Lower monastery complex, leads a winding road, few kilometers long. The most impressive part of the complex is the, so called, Upper monastery reached by serpentine road. It was founded in the middle of the XVII century by the metropolitan bishop Vasilije Jovanovic, later known as St. Basil of Ostrog.

After visiting the Monastery to go to lunch. The scheduled time of departure in the direction of Becici and accommodation in the hotel. Dinner. Overnight.



# BAY OF KOTOR



## Day 7:

### BAY OF KOTOR - Kotor / Perast / Risan / Tivat / Becici

Breakfast. After breakfast departure to the Bay of Kotor. Boka Bay is the southernmost fiord of Europe. To the eye of a visitor, it looks like the mountains broke apart and let the sea in. They rise above the narrow coast and protect it from the sever mountain climate. That is why Boka is the oasis of Mediterranean vegetation: agaves, palm trees, mimosas, oleanders, kiwi, pomegranates, aromatic herbs... The Bay is naturally divided into four smaller bays: Bay of Herceg Novi, Bay of Risan, Bay of Kotor and Bay of Tivat. Like pearls, picturesque towns, treasures of history, art and beauty are threaded on its coast.

Arrival in Kotor, a city tour. Kotor is a town that has best preserved its medieval appearance among the Mediterranean towns. Between 1420 and 1797 Kotor was under the Venetians. The influence of Venetia is evident in the architecture of a town and its tradition as well. Fascinating and enchanting town center, encircled by centuries old walls long nearly 4.5km and still well preserved, is characterized by narrow, cobbled streets, buildings made of white stone and magnificent squares which became meeting spots for young people. Kotor has many cultural monuments and the most distinctive ones are: The St. Tryphon's Cathedral, St. Luca's church, St. Maria's church, St. Nicholas's church, the Napoleon's theatre, Maritime museum, Square of arms with the tower-clock etc. The Cathedral of St. Tryphon has a Treasury of immense value. In its interior there are frescos from the 14th century, stone ornament above the main alter in which life of St. Tryphon is depicted, as well as a relief of saints in gold and silver. Lunch in a local tavern.

Departure for Perast. Perast is a town stranded on a precipitous cliff on the coast of the Boka Bay. It is a miraculous town that has beaded and placed its houses as if they were audience in an antique amphitheatre whose stage is made of crystal, and its parapets are high walls. Perast is a medieval town that in the XVII and XVIII century was a powerful port. Today, Perast is a town-museum. Several of its edifices are considered the most beautiful baroque buildings of the Eastern Adriatic Coast. The most famous ones among these are the Bujovic and Zmajevic palaces dating from the XVII century. Numerous villas, earlier homes of the captains of the ocean shipping, churches and other monuments are very well preserved. There are two museums in Perast. The main one is situated in the Bujovic Palace and it possesses, among other exponents, a fine collection of portraits. The second museum is situated on the location of the Naval School. It possesses a collection of documents and objects related to the nautical history of the region. In front of Perast, looking as anchored ships, are situated two gorgeous islands: The St. George and the Lady of the Rocks. Back to Becici at the agreed time. Arrive at hotel, dinner, overnight.





**VISIT US AGAIN!**

**Day 8:**

**BECICI / Dubrovnik, Tivat or Podgorica airport**

Breakfast. Transfer to Dubrovnik, Tivat or Podgorica airport. End of program.

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