

The best MARCO POLO Insider Tips

Our top 15 Insider Tips

INSIDER TIP Nudism in the Bojana Delta

The country's longest nudist beach is located on a beautiful river island → p. 63

INSIDER TIP Feel at home

Branka and Dragan Vuksanović lived abroad for many years and now welcome guests from around the world with typical Montenegrin hospitality to their lovely holiday apartments → p. 59

INSIDER TIP Angelic voices in the fjord

Klape are male a capella choirs that sing slow ballads. The best of them perform at a festival held in Perast in August → p. 103

INSIDER TIP A dream in white

The Rivijera, one of the most beautiful hotels in Montenegro, is located on the picturesque Bay of Petrovac → p. 59

INSIDER TIP Hands-on geography

The relief map in Cetinje gives a bird's-eye view of Montenegro's mountains (photo above) → p. 101

INSIDER TIP Relaxed wine tasting

You can taste top quality wines at the Sjekloča VINO estate at your leisure → p. 74

INSIDER TIP Ruins with a view

Montenegro's rulers once resided in Žabljak on Lake Skadar. Today, there is a splendid view far across the landscape from the ruins of the castle → p. 75

INSIDER TIP Window on nature

See the great diversity of the highland flora in the botanical gardens in Kolašin → p. 101

INSIDER TIP Carnival in Kotor

Young and old jesters take over the city twice a year – in February and in August (photo right) → pp. 102, 103

INSIDER TIP Dine in a rustic atmosphere

The oldest restaurant in Virpazar, the Pelikan, serves fresh fish from Lake Skadar and the Adriatic – prepared in a traditional kitchen and smoked over their own open hearth → p. 75

INSIDER TIP Aroma therapy

Breathe in, browse around and taste – every morning beguiling fragrances waft over Bar when the farmers' market displays the wealth of Mediterranean nature → p. 51

INSIDER TIP Grilled meat from the Balkans

Čevapčići and *ražnjići* might be difficult to pronounce but the tasty grilled specialities are sold almost everywhere as fast food. However, if they come from Leskovac, a town in southern Serbia, they are a real culinary highlight. You can sample them in the Leskovачki Čevap on the promenade in Petrovac → p. 58

INSIDER TIP A touch of Saint Tropez

Memories of southern France: the village of Rose consists of the few stone houses with the sea right on the doorstep. The picturesque village has become a hub for artists and film stars from Belgrade who like to spend their holidays here in the shade of the olive trees → p. 40

INSIDER TIP Fresh air and good food

After visiting the famous Ostrog Monastery, the Koliba Bogetići Motel is the perfect place to indulge in some more worldly pleasures out in the fresh air → p. 79

INSIDER TIP Stones of remembrance

The Jewish cemetery in Kotor is a silent witness to the exodus of Spanish Jews in the Middle Ages who found their new home in this city. A pebble placed on the mediæval graves honours the deceased → p. 40



BEST OF ...

GREAT PLACES FOR FREE

Discover new places and save money

● **Window shopping with the rich and beautiful**

Partiti oči (to get teary eyes) is how the Montenegrins describe window shopping. The loveliest place for this is in *Porto Montenegro* where the best – and most expensive – boutiques offer an insight into the world of the rich and beautiful. It costs nothing to look ... → p. 45

● **A clan in the museum**

The poet Marko Miljanov immortalised the militant Kuči clan in his historical work. You will be able to immerse yourself in the life of the writer and the history of the clan in the *Miljanov Museum* in Medunda. Entrance is free → p. 75

● **Scenic road instead of a tunnel**

You will save yourself some distance but will have to pay 2.50 euros if you drive through the Sozina Tunnel from Lake Skadar to the Montenegrin coast. The alternative route is via the winding road from *Virpazar* on the Adriatic near *Petrovac*; it is free and offers panoramic vistas → p. 50

● **Montenegro's up-and-coming artists**

This is the place to discover new talent! The *Gallery in Herceg Novi*, one of the oldest in the country, exhibits work by young Montenegrin artists. You don't have to pay to have a look at them → p. 35

● **A free bench at the beach**

A sun lounger on the beach in *Petrovac* costs 10 euros; a place on one of the lovely old benches on the promenade is gratis. You will still have the sand and sea right in front of you and trees to provide shade (photo) → p. 58

● **Collect herbs**

Mint, thyme, rocket and nettles – all of the fragrant herbs of Montenegro are on sale at the country's markets. But it is much more fun to pick them yourself! So head off to the hinterland of Lake Skadar and get away from the main roads! The herbs grow wild near *Donji Brčeli* and *Gornji Ceklin* and many other places → p. 95

●●● Dots in guidebook refer to 'Best of ...' tips

ONLY IN MONTENEGRO

Unique experiences

● **Christmas Eve in January**

According to the Julian calendar, *Christmas Eve* falls on 24 December, but the Gregorian calendar has it on 6 January. The churches are packed on that day and the old rites are celebrated in clouds of incense. The *badnjak*, an oak branch that is supposed to bring luck and happiness, takes the place of a Christmas tree (photo) → p. 102

● **Monument on the summit**

The Montenegrins revere their national heroes with great fervour and they have placed a colossal monument to the greatest on one of the highest mountains in the country. The poet Prince Njegoš has found his final resting place in the *mausoleum*, with spectacular views, on the *Jezerki vrh* summit on Mount Lovćen → p. 92

● **Trees full of obituary notices**

Obituaries are pinned to trees in Montenegro. The white sheets of paper in their blue frames transform death into a surreal work of art. They can be found wherever people congregate such as on the *Trg Bećir Bega Osmanagića* square in the Stara Varoš district in Podgorica → p. 71

● **Our daily bread**

No meal is complete without it: white bread is the staple food of the Montenegrins. The loaves that are subsidised by the state are known as *narodni hleb* (people's bread) and are rather bland. However, the bread the famers' wives in the north bake is pure bliss! Enjoy it yourself at the *Razvršje Camping Site* where the owner's mother bakes her own → p. 81

● **Chequered history and testimonies in stone**

The fate of the small country has repeatedly been determined by European powers. These cultural influences are immediately apparent in the impressive architecture of *Kotor's old town* → p. 41

● **Try your luck?**

Casinos are a special branch of tourism in Montenegro. All self respecting hotels have one and the best guests are the Italians who jet across the Adriatic at the weekend and leave their money in the country – much to the delight of the locals. Would you like to do what they do and see if you are any better? One place where you can try your luck is in the hotel *Maestral* in *Pržno* → p. 56



FOR FREE

ONLY IN

THE PERFECT ROUTE

Experience the many facets of Montenegro on a round trip with brief detours to tranquil islands and mountain lakes

ALONG THE ADRIATIC COAST

The tour begins with a stroll through **1 Herceg Novi** → p. 34, the town of mimosa blossoms and promenades. The route from here runs along the coast through small villages until you catch the ferry from Kamenari across to Lepetane. The country's latest highlight awaits you in **2 Tivat** → p. 45 where enormous luxury yachts float in the water of the Porto Montenegro Marina. From there you can test your driving skills on the winding mountain road and be rewarded with a magnificent view of **3 Budva** → p. 52 (photo left) bathed in sunlight behind the mountain. Take a leisurely walk through the old part of town with its Venetian houses and then go to one of the nearby beaches for a dip in the sea. You should plan a stopover to at least get a photo of the gem of the Adriatic, the former fishing village on the island of Sveti Stefan. The 12km/7.5mi long beach in **4 Ulcinj** → p. 61 is not only a fine place for swimming; you can also surf or go horseback riding here.

AROUND LAKE SKADAR

Head to the north via Mount Rumija. A boat from Murići will take you across to make a brief visit to the Orthodox nuns on the island of **5 Beška** → p. 73. After a few meditative moments in the cloister, it's back to the mainland where you will have to exchange four wheels for two: the road to **6 Virpazar** → p. 74 is part of the cycle route around Lake Skadar. When you reach your destination, you will be able to get back your strength with smoked carp or bleak in the Pelikan Restaurant. Another trip by boat brings you to **7 Rijeka Crnojevića** → p. 70. You will glide through the water lilies on the eponymous river as it winds its way picturesquely through the landscape offering endless opportunities for taking lovely photographs.

THE ONLY WAY IS UP

Back on the road, you set off for **8 Tuzi** → p. 28 to go shopping at the largest market in Montenegro. The Morača Canyon starts behind Podgorica, the emerald-green river glitters far down below. Enjoy the peace and tranquillity of the Orthodox **9 Morača Monastery** → p. 89 (photo right) before heading off from **10 Kolašin** → p. 87 to go skiing in the mountains. You can also be active in the Biogradska gora National Park: hiking or exploring nature on horseback

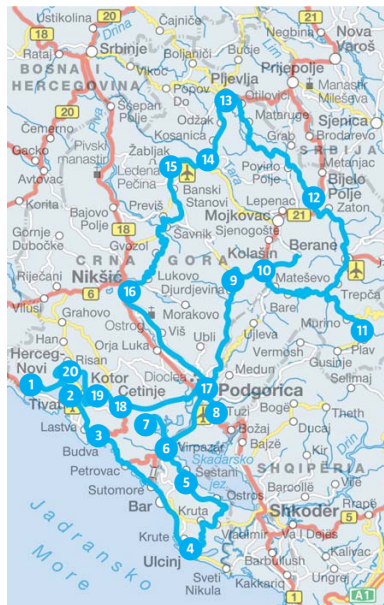
or in a Jeep at an altitude of more than 2000m/6560ft.

RIVER COURSES

11 Plav → p. 89, with its beautiful lake, lies at the foot of the Prokletije Mountains. Only the very brave will attempt a swim—the water is ice-cold. Travel along the Lim River with its gorges to **12 Bijelo Polje** → p. 85, whose churches bear witness to the fact that it was once an important religious centre. Another house of worship awaits you in **13 Pljevlja** → p. 82: the impressive Hussein Pasha Mosque. You reach the second untamed river in Montenegro near Đurđevića Tara. There is a spectacular view down into **14 Tara River Canyon** → p. 83 from a 150m/492ft bridge. From Žabljak you will soon reach the **15 Durmitor National Park** → p. 81, where can spend the night in comfortable huts near the Crno jezero mountain lake.

THE NEW & OLD CAPITAL

A 50-minute train ride takes you from **16 Nikšić** → p. 76 to **17 Podgorica** → p. 70. Shortly before you reach the capital, the oak forests make way for vineyards. The architecture also shows the transition to warmer climates: the houses in the north are squat and made of wood. In the south, you will see typical Mediterranean stone houses. Continue your drive on the road to the old capital **18 Cetinje** → p. 65, where many museums document Montenegro's past. Try the famous smoked ham in Njeguši and then climb the highest peak in the Lovćen Mountains. After you leave the mountains and head towards **19 Kotor** → p. 40, the old road has some wonderful views of the southernmost fjord in Europe. You will be able to admire the palaces built by famous captains in **20 Perast** → p. 44 and then contemplate the good old seafaring days of the city over a meal of grilled scampi. The route then takes you along the Bay of Kotor back to Herceg Novi.



950km/590mi. Travel time: 23 hours
Recommended duration: 5 days
A detailed map of the route can be found on the back cover, in the road atlas and on the pull-out map