

Montenegro ЦРНА ГОРА

HIGHLIGHTS

- **Kotor** Gaze down on the broody Wagnerian fjord from the castle ruins of the old walled town (p780)
- **Beaches** Laze, slurp through ice creams and build sandcastles on Budva's beach (p779)
- **Durmitor National Park** Ski, hike, climb or raft the rapids (p781)

FAST FACTS

- **Area** 13,812 sq km (half the size of Belgium)
- **ATMs** Widespread
- **Budget** €50 per day
- **Capital** Podgorica
- **Country code** ☎ 381, international access code ☎ 99
- **Famous for** world's newest country
- **Head of State** Milo Djukanovic
- **Language** Serbian
- **Money** euro (€); A\$1 = €0.60, C\$1 = €0.71, ¥100 = €0.70, NZ\$1 = €0.49, UK£1 = €1.47, US\$1 = €0.77
- **Phrases** *zdravo* (hello), *do viđenja* (good-bye), *hvala* (thanks)
- **Population** 716,000
- **Time** GMT/UTC + 1
- **Visas** Citizens of European countries, Britain, Australia, New Zealand, Canada and the USA don't need visas for stays of less than 90 days.



TRAVEL HINTS

Feed on burek, pizza and *ævapčiči* (spiced kebabs). Stay in private rooms on the coast.

ROAMING MONTENEGRO

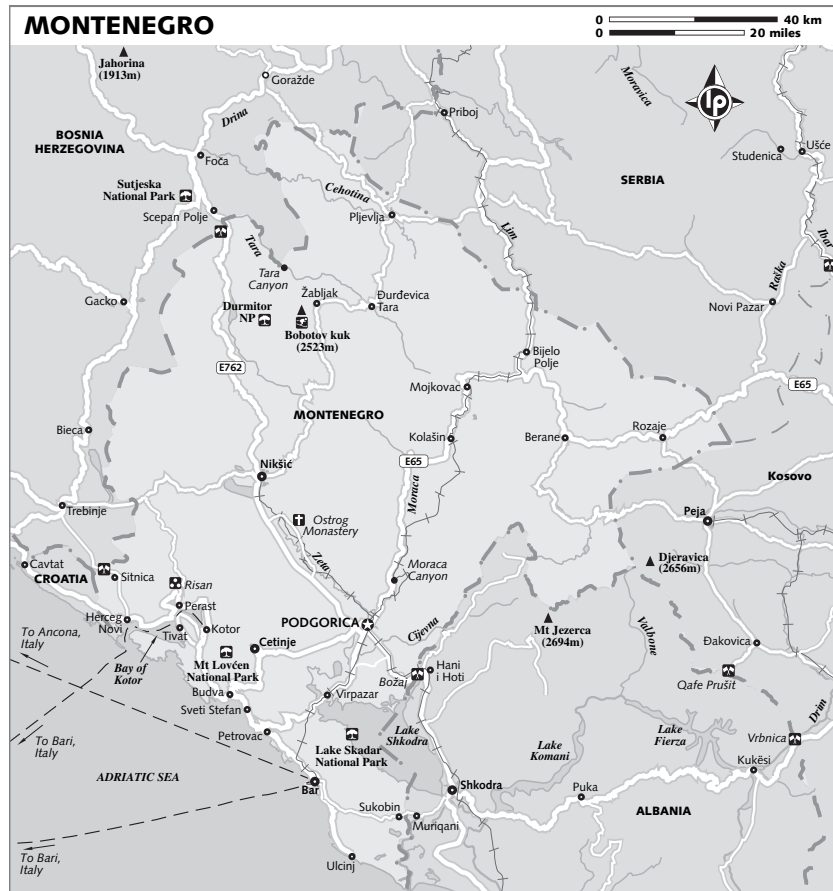
Bum along the coast to Kotor, explore Cetinje, move to Durmitor and scream your lungs out on a rafting trip.

You're going to hear a lot about the world's newest country, Montenegro. No longer will visitors think they'll disappear into the void if they journey southeast of Dubrovnik. Croatia's sapphire-blue Adriatic Sea does continue along Montenegro's coast, but here it's backed by a craggy mountain range leaving just enough room for a ribbon of coastal towns on a sweep of sandy beaches and small coves running down to the Albanian border.

Historic walled towns like Ulcinj, Stari Bar, Budva and Kotor are there for exploring, and anywhere along the coast you can find private rooms in a laze-away seaside town.

For the energetic, Durmitor National Park's bulging mountains and giddy-deep canyons provide the best in on-the-edge skiing and river-rafting thrills.

Montenegro is a very popular holiday spot, so the best times to visit are May, June and September.



HISTORY

Montenegro's history is one of dogged independence, often against greater forces that have ultimately crashed in failure against its rocky fortress interior. For five hundred years Montenegro was the only country to retain its independence against the Turkish tide that flooded southeast Europe. While the size of its territory waxed and waned, it was always centred on the central mountain vastness of Cetinje.

Only twice has the country not been master of its own affairs: first for 200 years from 1166 when it was occupied by the Serbian kingdom of Raska; and then in 1916 when the Austrians invaded. On the back of that event Montenegro's ally Serbia took the opportunity to occupy Montenegro and then annex it in 1922.

As a reward for its stalwart support of the partisans during WWII, Tito gave Montenegro republic status in the postwar Yugoslavia federation. From then on Montenegro was a loyal member of all the Yugoslavia entities, culminating in the loose union of Serbia and Montenegro that came to an end with the pro-independence vote in May 2006. Montenegro is now fully independent for the first time since 1916.

THE CULTURE

Montenegro's 2003 census revealed a population of 673,000, split into Montenegrins (43%), Serbs (32%), Bosnians (8%), Albanians (5%) and others (12%). There are large Slavic Muslim and Albanian minorities, mostly

MONTENEGRO GOES IT ALONE

In May 2006 the union of Serbia and Montenegro came to a peaceful end when Montenegrins voted for independence. Eighty-eight years as part of Yugoslavia, in its various forms, came to an end. So now comes a period of divvying up joint assets and applying to join the EU.

The results of the referendum came as we were putting the finishing flourishes to a chapter headed Serbia and Montenegro. We've split and revised the information wherever possible but these are still early stages in nation-building and a number of joint organisations are still in, well, joint hands. For that reason we point you to various sections in the Serbia chapter.

around Ulcinj. Montenegrins and Serbs have always seen eye to eye and both countries are expected to maintain close ties. Some Montenegrins are remarkably tall, making them ideal basketball players.

Religion and ethnicity broadly go together, with Montenegrins and Serbs following Christian orthodoxy and Albanians, Islam.

ENVIRONMENT

The country is characterised by a narrow coastal strip backed by a high alpine hinterland and an interior karst plain. Bobotov kuk (2523m) in the Durmitor Range is the highest mountain.

Wild animals, including deer, lynx, wolf and brown bear, inhabit the mountains, while Lake Skadar is the biggest bird sanctuary in Europe and one of the pelican's last remaining habitats. Durmitor, Mt Lovćen and Lake Skadar are the major national parks, and Kotor and Durmitor are Unesco-recognised sites.

Sewage pollution of coastal waters, air pollution from Podgorica's aluminium plant and rubbish dumping in the countryside are environmental issues the country has to face.

TRANSPORT

GETTING THERE & AWAY

Air

The only airlines currently serving Montenegro are **Adria** (code JP; ☎ 081-241 154; www.adriaairways.com), **Austrian Airlines** (code OS; ☎ 081-606 170; www.aa.com) and **JAT** (code JU; ☎ 081-664 740; www.jat.com), but this

may change with independence. The national carrier **Montenegro Airlines** (code YM; ☎ 081-664 411; www.montenegro-airlines.cg.yu) is only a regional operator. European discount airlines have yet to fly to Montenegro. Currently Dubrovnik and Split (Croatia) are their nearest airports.

Bus

There's a well-developed bus service (p779) along the coast to Dubrovnik and Split (Croatia). From Herceg Novi a comfortable Centrotrans coach travels daily to Mostar (€9, 4½ hours, 8am) and on to Sarajevo (€17, seven hours) in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Other services leave at 6.45am, 7.30pm, 9pm and 10pm. Twice-daily minibuses ply from Ulcinj to Shkodër (Albania). Every bus station will have services to Belgrade in Serbia.

Car & Motorcycle

You'll need an International Driving Permit and a Green Card for your vehicle.

Sea

Ferries go from Bar and Kotor to Italy (p778).

Train

Montenegro's only international rail connection is to Belgrade (Serbia) from Sutomore on the coast via Bar and from Podgorica. For onward connections see p976

GETTING AROUND

The bus service is extensive and reliable and covers all of Montenegro. The usual fare between towns is about €2.

The major European car-hire companies have a presence in Podgorica, but **Meridian Rent a Car** (☎ 081-234 944; 069-316 66) in Podgorica, Budva and Bar, is a good, cheap option. Make sure the tyres are good and all lights and indicators work. Cars are required to carry a first-aid kit, an emergency stop warning triangle, spare tyre and spare bulbs; the police can fine you for not having these.

EMERGENCY NUMBERS

- Ambulance ☎ 94
- Fire ☎ 93
- Motor vehicle assistance ☎ 987, road conditions ☎ 9800
- Police ☎ 92

COASTAL MONTENEGRO

While only 293km long, the Montenegrin coast packs in some of the finest coastline the Adriatic has to offer. From the Albanian border, endless sandy beaches, interspersed by small coves with bobbing fishing boats, lead all the way up to a dramatic finale of the Kotor fjord by the Croatian border.

BAR БАP

☎ 085 / pop 45,000

Backed by a precipitous coastal range, the modern city of Bar is Montenegro's major port and transport hub for the coast. Far more interesting, however, is the thousand-year-old Stari Bar (Old Bar).

Orientation & Information

The ferry terminal in Bar is 300m from the town centre; the **bus station** (☎ 346 141) and adjacent **train station** (☎ 312 210) are about 2km southeast of the centre.

Crnogorska Komercijalna Bank (Obala Kralja Nikole bb, opposite ferry terminal) All-cards ATM.

Tourist Information Center (☎ 311 633; tobar@cg.yu; Obala 13 Jula bb; ☎ 8am-8pm Jul & Aug, 8am-4pm Sep-Jun) Helpful tourist office with plenty of good information.

Sights

The impressive **Stari Bar** (admission €1; ☎ 9am-5pm Apr-Oct), dates back over a thousand years and stands on a bluff off the Ulcinj road. A steep cobbled hill takes you to a fortified entrance from where a short dark passage pops you out into what seems to be a huge garden of vine-clad walls, abandoned streets, and some 240 ruins overgrown with grass and wild flowers.

HEAD COUNT

According to Bozidar Jezenik's *Wild Europe*, the Montenegrins decapitated their dead or wounded enemies and kept the heads as a sign of their valour. In a society that did not have hereditary rank it was a means of establishing one's social prestige, so the more heads the better. The custom persisted into the mid-19th century so today's travellers can rest assured that they'll keep theirs.

Sleeping & Eating

Putnik Gold (☎ 311 605; putnikgold@cg.yu; Obala 13 Jula bb; s/d from €10/20, breakfast/full board €3/10, apt without meals from €40; ☎ 8am-8pm Mon-Sat Jun-Sep, 9am-5pm Mon-Sat Oct-May) books accommodation along the coast.

Pulena Pizza Pub (☎ 312 816; Vladimira Rolovića bb; dishes €2.50-6) A busy eating and drinking set-up with pizza and pasta dishes, and beer or soft drinks to wash them down. Beware, the small pizzas are large.

GMG Supermarket (☎ 312 619; Vladimira Rolovića bb; ☎ 6am-11pm) Sells all you need for a feed-yourself holiday.

Getting There & Away

Barska Plovidba (☎ 312 336; mlinesagency@cg.yu; ferry terminal; ☎ 8am-10pm sailing days, 8am-8pm other days) books Montenegro Lines services, which sail to Bari (10pm Tuesday, Thursday and Sunday) and Ancona (4pm Wednesday and Friday July to mid-September). For schedule and prices check www.montenegrolines.net.

Mecur (☎ 313 617; merco@cg.yu; Obala 13 Jula bb; ☎ 9am-3pm Mon-Sat Oct-May, 9am-8pm Mon-Sat Jun-Sep) books Azzurra Lines, which run from Kotor to Bari on Monday from June to September. For schedule and prices check www.azzurraline.com.

ULCINJ УЛЦИЊ

☎ 085 / pop 26,500

The town heads a series of fine beaches from Mala Plaža (Small Beach) below the old town to Velika Plaža (Great Beach), a famous 12km beach stretching east towards Albania. In July and August Ulcinj bulges with tens of thousands of holidaymakers. Ulcinj gained notoriety as a North African pirate base and slave market between 1571 and 1878, and the Turks ruled here for over 300 years.

Orientation & Information

The bus station is on the edge of town, off the Bar-Ada road. Turn right onto 26 Novembar at the first major junction, and Mala Plaža and Stari Grad are 3km beyond. Velika Plaža begins about 5km southeast of the town.

SHPK Art Tours (☎ 401 437, 0609 031 525; 26 Novembar bb; per hr €0.50; ☎ 9am-midnight) Internet and travel agency.

Sleeping & Eating

There are two camping grounds: **Tom** (Ada road; ☎ May-Sep) and **Neptun** (☎ 412 888; Ada road;

READING UP

Montenegro: The Divided Land by Thomas Fleming is an in-depth history. *Wild Europe* by Bozidar Jezenik is a great read and full of quirky nuggets of information.

The fictional work *Montenegro* by Starling Lawrence is a turn of the 20th-century political potboiler about a British spy lurking around Montenegro.

☎ May-Sep), plus a holiday camp **HTP Velika Plaža** (☎ 413 131; www.velikaplaza.cg.yu; Ada road; r/apt half board from €19/25; ☎ May-Sep), about 1km east of Milena and adjacent to Velika Plaža.

Real Estate Tourist Agency (☎ 421 609; www.real-estate-travel.com; 26 Novembar bb; r €7-20, B&B from €19, 2-/3-/4-bed apt €20/30/40; ☎ 8am-9pm) Arranges accommodation in private rooms, plus apartments that usually come with cooking facilities.

Kafana Bazaar (☎ 421 639; 26 Novembar bb; mains €5-8) An upstairs restaurant that's an ideal place to escape summer crowds and guzzle a plate of fried *lignje na žaru* (calamari), the restaurant's speciality.

Bella Vista (☎ 402 088; 26 Novembar bb; dishes €4-8) Suitable for an early breakfast or late-night drink and snack if you're in private, bed-only accommodation.

Getting There & Away

Minibuses (☎ 462 690) to Shkodër (Albania; €4, one hour, 6am and 1pm) depart from outside the post office on 26 Novembar.

A service on Monday, Wednesday and Saturday links Montenegro with Dubrovnik and Split (Croatia; €28). Services depart from Ulcinj (5am), Budva (6.20am), Kotor (7.10am), Herceg Novi (8.10am) and Dubrovnik (9.20am) arriving at Split at 1.50pm. The return service leaves at 4pm.

Many minibuses and buses ply the road to Ada (and Velika Plaža) from the market place or post office.

BUDVA БУДВА

☎ 086 / pop 16,000

Budva is Montenegro's top beach resort. Fine beaches follow the coastline all the way to Sveti Stefan, with high barren coastal mountains forming a magnificent backdrop.

Budva's big attraction is its old walled town, Stari Grad. Levelled by earthquakes in 1979,

it's been completely rebuilt as a tourist attraction that's so picturesque it seems almost contrived.

In June the town hosts a pop-oriented **music festival**, plus a **summer festival** in July and August with music, theatre and visual arts.

Orientation & Information

The bus station is about 1km from Stari Grad. Mediteranska road leads into Budva, ending at the harbour and Stari Grad.

Crnogorska Komercijalna Bank (☎ 451 075; Mediteranska 7; ☎ 8am-8pm Mon-Sat) All-cards ATM; cashes travellers cheques.

Tourist information office (☎ 402 814;

☎ 11.30am-6.30pm Mon-Fri, 1.30-6.30pm Sat Oct-Apr, 9am-9pm May-Sep) Inside Stari Grad.

Sleeping

Camping options are **Autocamp Avala** (☎ 451 205; Boreti; ☎ Jun-Sep) and **Budva Autocamp** (Jadranski put bb); contact JAMB (see below) for details.

Hippo Hostel (☎ 452 206; www.hippo.com; Proleterska IV 37; dm/r €14/32; ☎) A new hostel that opened in Budva after our visit. Let us know what you think.

JAMB travel (☎ 452 992; www.jamb-travel.com; Mediteranska 23; r €4.50-15, 2-/5-person apt €19/80; ☎ 8am-3pm Mon-Fri Nov-May, 8am-8pm Jun-Oct) Books accommodation and organises day tours around Montenegro.

Eating & Drinking

The Old Town has plenty of cafés, restaurants and bars to entice visitors edging through the narrow streets. A good, cheap eatery is the bus station **buffet** (Ivana Milutinovića; meals €2-3; ☎ 7am-9pm).

Restaurant Jadran (☎ 451 028; Slovenska Obala 10; dishes €5-10; ☎ 8am-late) Probably Budva's best restaurant, where you can eat like lords with lobster at €60 per kg or snack with a *ševapčići* for €2.

Old Fisherman's Pub (☎ 069-553 347; Slovenska Obala bb; dishes €3-6) A large drinking place plus patio on the edge of the harbour. Snacks and English breakfasts are available.

Chest O'Sheas (☎ 069-579 468; Stari Grad; ☎ 6pm-late) Near the tourist office. A shoebox of a bar with Guinness on tap.

Getting There & Away

The **bus station** (☎ 456 000; Ivana Milutinovića) has frequent services to the coastal towns and inland to Podgorica. Fares range from €2 to €3.

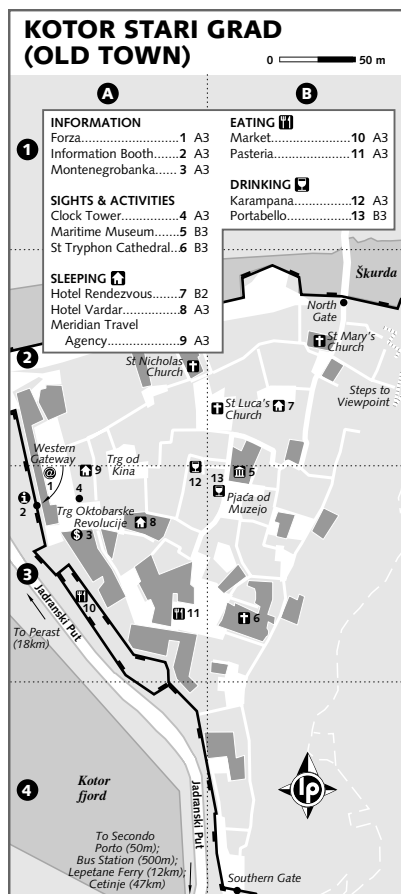
KOTOR KOTOP

☎ 082 / pop 22,500

Aristocratic grace and trendy street culture live amicably side by side in old Kotor. Small cobbled laneways meander past old churches and aristocratic mansions before suddenly bursting into little piazzas of pavement cafés, boutique shops, groovy bars and fashionable hairdressers.

For some reason there appears to be more hairdressers per head in Kotor than anywhere else in the world!

The hillside above, which is ringed with old fortifications, is part of the loop of mountains that form southern Europe's deepest fjord and provides Montenegro's most dramatic setting.



Orientation

The western flank of the funnel-shaped Stari Grad lies against Kotor fjord. An 18th-century gateway off Jadranski Put, which runs along the waterside, leads into the old pedestrian-only town. The bus station is 1km away on the Budva road.

Information

Forza (☎ 304 352; Stari Grad; per hr €2) Two internet terminals in a library-styled bar.

Information booth (☎ 325 950; Western Gateway; ☎ 9am-3pm Mon-Sat Oct-Apr, 9am-9pm Mon-Sat May-Sep) Tourist and private accommodation information; maps and brochures.

Montenegrobanka (☎ 323 946; Trg Octobarske Revolucije) All-cards ATM; cashes travellers cheques.

Sights

Significant within the 4km of walls are six 12th- and 13th-century **Romanesque churches**, **St Tryphon Cathedral** (1166) and a 6th-century **clock tower**.

The **Maritime Museum** (☎ 304 720; Stari Grad; admission €1.50; ☎ 8am-2pm Mon-Fri, 9am-noon Sat & Sun) traces Kotor's significant maritime history from when the city had its own navy.

The energetic can slog up to the old fortifications on the mountainside above Kotor to scan the huge fjord in which Kotor hides.

Sleeping

The information booth (above) outside the western gateway to the Old Town provides listings of private accommodation.

Meridian Travel Agency (☎ 323 448; travel@cg.yu; Stari Grad; r €10-20, apt €30-40; ☎ 9am-2pm & 6-7pm Mon-Fri, 9am-2pm Sat) This ever-helpful agency, in a lane behind the clock tower, books private and hotel accommodation.

Hotel Rendezvous (☎ 322 447; Trg od Mlijeka; s/d from €20/28) Kotor's cheapie has smallish rooms that are well used but kept clean. Downstairs is a small friendly bar that hums at night.

Hotel Vardar (☎ 325 084; Stari Grad; s/d from €25/41) Within easy luggage-lugging distance of the town entrance. Most of the Vardar's rooms are smallish but the best party-sized ones are in the front overlooking the clock-tower square.

Eating & Drinking

Market (☎ 7am-2pm) Kotor's produce market is located just outside the city walls. Big juicy hamburgers can be bought for €1, plus

there's a huge variety of fruit, bread and different types of cheeses.

Pasteria (☎ 322 269; Pjaca Sveti Tripuna; dishes €3-10) An elegant eatery with one of the best reputations in the Old Town. Choose pizza, pasta or snacks from the multilingual menu. Late risers can breakfast until 2pm.

Placid by day, Kotor's cafés and bars mutate into heavy dance joints at night. Try the **Portobello** (☎ 068-407 200; Pjaca od Muzejo; ☎ 8am-11am Oct-Apr, 8am-1am May-Sep) and, around the corner, the **Karampana** (☎ 051 451; ☎ 8am-11pm Oct-Apr, 8am-1am May-Sep).

Secondo Porto (☎ 334 342; cnr Budva road & Njegoša; admission €2-10; ☎ 11pm-early) is the 'second port' for Kotor's revellers who mass onto the disco's three floors after the Old Town's bars close.

Getting There & Away

The **bus station** (☎ 325 809) has frequent services to the coastal towns and inland to Podgorica. Fares range from €2 to €5.

CENTRAL MONTENEGRO

Podgorica, the nation's capital, has little to offer travellers, who usually pass through on their way to the mountains and national parks.

CETINJE ЦЕТИЊЕ

☎ 086 / pop 19,000

Nestled in a green upland vale and encircled by grey, craggy mountains, Cetinje is an unusual mix of village and capital, cottage and mansion. Princes once ruled from here; regal mansions are now museums and Cetinje Monastery remains the town's spiritual home.

The imposing former parliament building is now the **National Museum of Montenegro** (☎ 230 555; Novice Cerovića; admission €5; ☎ 9am-5pm Mon-Fri Dec-Apr, 9am-5pm May-Nov) housing art and history sections. The art gallery celebrates 19th- and 20th-century Montenegrin and regional art. The prime exhibit is the mysterious 5th-century *Icon of Phillarinos*, *Madonna and child*. The history section explores tiny Montenegro's tumultuous history from the year dot to communist times. The entrance ticket also covers Cetinje's other museums.

The **Bijarda Hall** (Billiard Hall; ☎ 231 050; ☎ 9am-5pm Apr-Oct, 9am-3pm Mon-Fri Nov-Mar) was the 1832

residence of prince-bishop Njegoš and is now a museum dedicated to him. The hall housed the nation's first billiard table (hence the name) and possesses a fascinating scale relief map of Montenegro created by the Austrians in 1917.

The **State Museum** (☎ 230 555; King Nikola Sq; ☎ 9am-5pm Apr-Oct, 9am-5pm Mon-Fri Nov-Mar) was the residence (1871) of Nicola Petrović I, the last king of Montenegro. Although looted during WWII, the museum has sufficient furnishings, stern portraits and period weapons to give a picture of times gone by.

The new **Ethnographic Museum** (King Nikola Sq; ☎ 9am-3pm Nov-Apr, 9am-5pm May-Oct) has displays of traditional Montenegrin clothing. Any reports of yeti in the mountains of Montenegro might be due to the black, hooded, long-haired, full-length capes that shepherds wear, and there's an example here.

Cetinje Monastery (☎ 231 021; ☎ 8am-7pm May-Oct) boasts a portion of the true Cross, but its proudest possession is the mummified right hand of St John the Baptist, set in a bejewelled casket with a little glass window. Its **museum** contains a collection of portraits, vestments, ancient and hand-written medieval musical texts.

Frequent bus services from Kotor and Budva make Cetinje an easy day trip.

Further afield is some astounding scenery. Five kilometres off the Podgorica road is a stunning panoramic view from Pavlova Strana of a double-back bend in Lake Skadar and further on is the old four-arched bridge at Rijeka Crnojevića.

DURMITOR NATIONAL PARK

☎ 089 / pop 4900

Magnificent scenery ratchets up to film-set quality in this national park of dramatic mountain landscapes. Some 18 lakes, including the largest, **Crno Jezero** (Black Lake), dot the Durmitor Range and provide a wealth of walking tours. Lording over all the other mountains is the rounded mass of **Meded** (2287m) flanked by other peaks, including **Bobotov Kuk** (2523m).

The 1.3km-deep **Tara Canyon** splits the earth deeply for about 80km and is best viewed from Curevac.

Orientation & Information

The taxi stand and bus stop are in the centre of the nearby town of Žabljak; adjacent is Hotel

Žabljak with Ski Centar Durmitor. The bus station is at the southern end of town.

The snow season runs from December to March; the summer season is generally May to September.

Visa cardholders can withdraw cash at the **Hotel Jezera** (Njegoševa bb) where there's also internet access at €1 for 30 minutes. Durmitor also has a useful website (www.durmitorcg.com).

Durmitor National Park office (☎ 360 228; ☞ 7am-2pm Mon-Fri) Provides park maps and runs rafting, horse-riding and walking tours.

Ski Centar Durmitor (☎ 361 579; www.durmitorcg.com/ski_centar.php; ☞ 8am-6pm Mon-Sat) Ski lessons, passes and equipment rental.

Sights & Activities

Winter or summer the park is adrenaline-junkie heaven. Winter activities include skiing, snowboarding and sledding.

In summer rafters scream through the deep Tara Gorge or take to horses, mountain bikes, paragliders, or go mountaineering and hiking. The national park office or Sveti Đorđije (see below for more information) can point you in the right direction.

Sleeping & Eating

Autocamp Ivan-do and Autocamp Mlinski Potok are camping sites, without facilities, uphill from the national park office.

Sveti Đorđije (☎ /fax 61 367; tasaint@cg.yu; Njegoševa bb; s/d €10/16, 2-/3-/4-person apt €26/30/39, breakfast/half board €3/9; ☞ 8am-8pm) This agency (English spoken) has its finger on Žabljak's private accommodation pulse. It's also a fount of information and organises activities.

Durmitor (☎ 069-637 316; Božidara Žugića bb; dishes €4-8; ☞ 7am-11pm) Superb home cooking in what is just a small wooden hut seating 20 bodies – should be warm in winter.

National Restaurant (☎ 261 337; Božidara Žugića 8; dishes €4.50-8) A pearl of a place! A small, but not crowded, happy restaurant offering the best food around – broths and hot appetisers with slugs of domestic brandy to defeat the winter chill or grilled trout and salad in summer. It also has pleasant rooms (singles/doubles €24/48) upstairs if you want some quiet accommodation

Getting There & Away

Buses go to Podgorica (€6, 3½ hours, 8am, 8.30am and 12.45pm), but check with the **bus station** (☎ 61 318) for the current schedule.

MONTENEGRO DIRECTORY

ACCOMMODATION

Private accommodation is most affordable, often with rooms as good as hotels and certainly more personable; look for the *sobe*, *zimmer* or 'rooms' signs all along the coast. There are summer camping grounds along the coast.

ACTIVITIES

Žabljak, in the Durmitor National Park, is the main activity centre for snow bunnies, hikers and rafters (see left). Montenegro's other activity is doing nothing on a beach, under a warm sun.

BUSINESS HOURS

Usual opening hours in Montenegro:

Banks ☞ 8am-6pm Mon-Fri, 8am-noon Sat

Bars ☞ 9pm-3am

Government offices ☞ 9am-5pm Mon-Fri

Restaurants ☞ 8am-11pm or midnight

Shops ☞ 8am-5pm or later Mon-Fri, to 2pm Sat; on the coast shops open till late every day in summer

DANGERS & ANNOYANCES

The nonsmoking laws are generally disregarded; smokers strike up anywhere and certainly without consideration for nonsmokers.

EMBASSIES & CONSULATES

Embassies & Consulates in Montenegro

The following (except Croatia) are represented in Podgorica. For other embassies, contact their offices in Belgrade, which may still handle representation for Montenegro.

Bulgaria (☎ 655 009; 10 Vukitze Mitrovitch)

Croatia (☎ 082-323 127; Šuranj 248, Kotor)

France (☎ 665 148; Hercegovacka 10)

Germany (☎ 201 070; Hercegovacka 10)

Hungary (☎ 602 880; Kralje Nikole 104)

Romania (☎ 618 040; 40 Vukice Mitrovic)

UK (☎ 205 461; Trg Vektra, zgrada Cijevna Komerac 11/3)

USA (☎ 225 417; Kruševac bb)

Montenegrin Embassies & Consulates Abroad

At the time of writing Montenegro still had to establish embassies or consulates in other countries. Your own government's Depart-

ment of Foreign Affairs or the Serbian embassy in your country (p983) may be able to help.

FOOD & DRINK

Montenegrin food is a mix of continental (with an emphasis on grilled meats) and Mediterranean, with its traditional garlic and olive oil base. Fish from Lake Skadar or the sea is plentiful. A continental speciality is *kajmak* (a salted cream turned to cheese) with Žabljak's offering the best variety in the country. Montenegrins have a thing about Italian food, and pizza and pasta can be found everywhere. Salads, *gibanica* (cheese pie), *zeljanica* (cheese and spinach pie) or *pasulj prebranac* (a cooked dish of spicy beans) are fallback fare for vegetarians.

The local beer, Nikšičko *pivo* (try saying that after a few), is a good thirst quencher. Many people distil their own *rakija* (brandy) out of plums and other fruit, and Montenegrin red wine (especially *venac*) is a rich drop.

Coffee is usually served Turkish style: 'black as hell, strong as death and sweet as love'. If you want anything other than herbal teas you should ask for Indian tea.

HOLIDAYS

Orthodox churches celebrate Easter between one and five weeks later than other churches.

New Year 1 and 2 January

Orthodox Christmas 7 January

International Labour Days 1 and 2 May

Statehood Day 13 July

INTERNET RESOURCES

Montenegro Beauty (www.montenegrobeauty.com)

Montenegrin Government (www.gom.cg.yu)

Montenegro Tourist Organisation (www.visit-montenegro.cg.yu)

LANGUAGE

Montenegrins speak Serbian, – and many people know some English and German. Both the Latin and Cyrillic script are used. See the language section (p3) for useful phrases and the Cyrillic alphabet.

MONEY

Montenegro uses the euro. ATMs accepting Visa, MasterCard and their variants are widespread in major towns. MasterCard, Visa and Diners Club are widely accepted by businesses. **Western Union** (www.westernunion.com) transfers can be made at most banks and major post offices. Most banks cash hard currency travellers cheques and again the euro is preferable.

POST

Parcels should be taken unsealed to a main post office for inspection. Allow time to complete the transaction. You can receive poste restante mail in all towns for a small charge.

TELEPHONE

Phone cards don't give enough time for an international call, so use the telephone centre at post offices.

VISAS

Citizens of European countries, Britain, Australia, New Zealand, Canada and USA don't need visas for stays of less than 90 days. The website of the **Ministry of Foreign Affairs** (www.mfa.gov.yu) has details.

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