



Wild Montenegro - Hiking Tour 5 – “Montenegro Discovery Tour”

Montenegro’s scenic Adriatic coast & country’s hidden wonders, Lake Skadar, Lovcen and Durmitor National Parks



- Holiday type - ***Guided walking***
- Duration - ***9 nights/10 days***
- Locations - **Podgorica, Cetinje, Budva, Boka Bay, Kotor, Bar, Skadar Lake, Biogradska Gora NP, Durmitor NP**
- Group size - ***min 4 – max 16 persons***
- Difficulty grade - ***Easy***
- Availability – ***May – November***

CHECK DATES **BOOK NOW** **From: 1,599 €**

Bank transfer

Hipotekarna banka AD Podgorica

IBAN - ME25520042000000735466

SWIFT - ABANSI2

- Please note that the payment must be made in Euros (€) and any charges are to be paid by the client.



Tour Departures:

Every **Sunday** from 01.05.2021 to 06.11.2021. In total **28** departures in this period.

Departure dates:

- **May:** 1st/ 8th/ 15th/ 22nd/ 29th
- **June:** 5th/ 12th/ 19th/ 26th
- **July:** 3rd/ 10th/ 17th/ 24th/ 31st
- **August:** 7th/ 14th/ 21th/ 28th
- **September:** 4th/ 11th/ 18th/ 25th
- **October:** 2nd/ 9th/ 16th/ 23rd/ 30th
- **November:** 6th

Overview

Our **“Montenegro Discovery Tour”** features the **highlights of North and South Montenegro**, including the **beautiful Biogradska Gora** - one of the last three primaeval rainforests in Europe, **Durmitor National Park** - a UNESCO World Heritage site, **Lovcen National Park**, **Skadar Lake National Park**, and the fjord-like **Kotor Bay**, considered one of the most breathtaking coastal areas in Europe.

Our walks in nature are combined with **must-see visits to Kotor**, a UNESCO listed Natural and Culturo-Historical city, **small baroque town Perast**, **Montenegrin metropolis of tourism Budva**, **Old town of Bar**, **Old Capital of Montenegro - Cetinje**.

Climb to the **Lovcen mountain summit and visit Mausoleum of Petar II Petrović Njegos** are included, as well as a boat trip to **“Our Lady of the Rocks” isle church**, so you can fully experience the spirit of the area and explore the sacred secrets of Montenegro.

The diverse flora and fauna of **Biogradska Gora National Park** is an amazing treasure of nature. Biogradska Gora is one of the oldest protected areas in the world. Only 6 years after Yellowstone was declared the first national park in America, Prince Nikola put Biogradska Gora under state protection in 1878. Due to its immense natural wealth and its preservation, Biogradska Gora National park was proclaimed a UNESCO Natural Heritage Site.

Durmitor National Park is the largest National Park in Montenegro and it is a UNESCO World Heritage site. The Park is characterized by diversified ecosystems and numerous endemic species, as well as the highest peaks of the Dinaric mountains, **Tara River Canyon**, which was proclaimed world ecological reserve, 18 glacial lakes known as “the mountain eyes” of which



the **Black Lake** is the most famous one and represents a sort of the symbol of the Park and its beauty.

Lake Skadar National Park, the largest lake of Balkans and one of the biggest bird reserves in Europe. Our task is to introduce you to the wild beauty of Lake Skadar. The best way to explore the lake is to rent a boat and take a ride at the lake. While cruising you can enjoy the untouched nature of Lake Skadar, inhabited by many fish and bird species, also recognized as the last breeding ground of the endangered Dalmatian Pelican.

Trip Highlights:

- ***Exceptional walking and cultural discovery in Montenegro***
- ***Cetinje, the Old Royal Capital of Montenegro & Lovcen National Park***
- ***Montenegrin metropolis of tourism Budva***
- ***Kotor Bay, small baroque town Perast & “Our Lady of Rocks” church***
- ***Bar and old town of Bar***
- ***Skadar Lake National Park***
- ***Biogradska Gora National Park & Durmitor National Park and its glacial lakes***

Day 1

Arrival to Podgorica

Pick you up right from airport Podgorica (TGD) and drive directly to your 3* hotel in Podgorica. After refreshment in the hotel, you will enjoy **getting to know the capital of Montenegro and its rich cultural heritage, archaeological sites** like Doclea or the Old town, Clock tower, Ribnica fortress. We will arrange a **welcome dinner in a local restaurant with traditional Montenegrin cuisine**. Overnight.

Day 2

Cetinje, the Old Royal Capital of Montenegro, Lovcen National Park and Budva

After breakfast at the hotel, we will go to **Cetinje**, the lovely old town which was the Capital of Montenegro from the 15th century until 1918. This city is known as **‘Museum Town of Montenegro’**. This is the best place to learn all about the turbulent Montenegrin history and get familiar with its culture.



Transfer to **Lovcen National Park**, to Jezerski Vrh summit (1.657m), where is situated the **Mausoleum of Bishop Petar II Petrovic-Njegos** – the ruler, poet and philosopher. The mausoleum is officially the highest mausoleum in the world. When we arrive at the top, we will be amazed by the view of the Bay of Kotor, Skadar Lake, high mountains in the northern part of Montenegro, even Albania. Organized traditional Montenegrin lunch in Cetinje.

After lunch, we will visit **Budva**, a **Montenegrin metropolis of tourism** famous for its long beaches, beautiful Old Town and many festivals and cultural events that attract a large number of tourists every year. You will have a tour through the **Old Town of Budva**, where you will have the opportunity to admire stone buildings from the Venetian era, small squares and narrow streets, as well as to enjoy amazing sea views. Overnight in Budva.

Day 3

Boka Kotorska Bay, Kotor (a UNESCO Culturo-Historical city), small baroque town Perast

Transfer from Budva to a coastal town **Kotor, a UNESCO World Heritage site**. Here you will see a unique natural fjord on the Mediterranean coast. The architecture is distinctly Venetian and it's one of the best-preserved medieval old towns on the Adriatic coast. After exploring the magic of **The Old Town** we will climb up to the top of St. John's hill; follow the stairs by the old ramparts. On top of the hill, there is **San Giovanni castle** which dominates the bay, the fortification system and the town, from where you will admire the beautiful Boka Bay.

Transfer from Kotor to the nearby small town of **Perast**. If you've already seen a postcard of Montenegro, it has likely been from Perast. Firstly we will visit St. Nikola church and admire a stunning view from the top, and then we will take a boat trip to the artificial island "**Our Lady of Rocks**" church and its museum. Passing through the architectural pearls in the chain of the Bay of Kotor, Muo, Prcanj and Stoliv we head up to **Tivat**, where is situated **Porto Montenegro**, an exclusive marina and yachting paradise in the Mediterranean. Transfer and overnight in Budva.



Day 4

Sveti Stefan, Petrovac and Old town of Bar

From Budva, we will continue to **Praskvica Monastery**, just off the highway in the hills, slightly north of Sveti Stefan. This humble 600-year-old monastery, named after the peach-scented water of a brook that flows nearby, rests among an ancient olive grove. After the visit to the monastery Praskvica, we are climbing to the village Celobrdo. From that place, you can enjoy the stunning view on **Sveti Stefan**, the most photographed place on the Montenegrin coast, as well as numerous beaches of Budva's Riviera.

Then we will go to **Petrovac**, a beach resort on the Adriatic coast. We will climb up the steps of the small Venetian fortress for photogenic views of the beach and the dramatic diagonal stratification of the limestone cliffs melting into the turquoise water below.

At the southern edge of Montenegro lies the picturesque city of **Bar**. Hidden under the mountain Rumija, it surprises us every second with its historical heritage, variety of cultures, nations, cuisines, customs and idyllic quiet villages. Bar also treasures an Old Olive Tree that is more than 2000 years old. **The Old Town of Bar**, also known as a Montenegrin Pompeii, is the largest urban agglomeration among the ruins in Montenegro. It is one of those magical places where modern meets the shadow of ancient, like Roman aqueducts, old Turkish baths, and orthodox and catholic churches. Overnight in Bar.

Day 5

Virpazar and Skadar Lake National Park

From Bar, we will go to **Virpazar**, the little fishermen's town, situated on the bank of Skadar Lake. The town is tiny and very picturesque with lots of flower boxes and restaurants with outdoor tables. Virpazar has three bridges with a medieval fortress Besac above it, which we will visit.

Lake Skadar is a national park, the largest lake of Balkans and one of the biggest bird reserves in Europe. We will rent a boat and take a ride at the lake. While cruising you can enjoy the untouched nature of Lake Skadar, inhabited by many fish and bird species, also recognized



as the last breeding ground of the endangered Dalmatian Pelican. After cruising, **we will organise wine tasting in the small-scale traditional production winery** situated in the heart of the most famous Montenegrin wine region. Transfer and overnight in Podgorica.

Day 6

Jeep safari through Kuci Mountains

Departure from Podgorica in the morning to **Korita Kucka**. On the 13th kilometre of the road, there is the **old town of Medun**, built as an ancient fortress, with a rich history and well-preserved architecture. We take a break at Kucka Korita and then briefly stop at the viewpoint **Grlo sokolovo ("hawk's throat")** located on the very Montenegrin-Albanian border. Then we continue off-road to the next point of our safari tour – **Lake Rikavac** located 15 km away from Korita. Driving our 4WD vehicles across crude limestone areas, surrounded by more than 2000 m high peaks, we pass by the ruined old katuns of Kuci, summer cattle settlements. Then we descend to Rikavac Lake riding down the serpentines. We take a long break here, **enjoy the magic of a mountain lake and have a picnic**. After a break, we continue our ascent to **Carine Pass**, where is **a church dedicated to Saint Elijah**. Built at 1800 meters above sea level, it is a place of prayer at the highest altitude in Europe. We make a photo stop near the church and enjoy the landscape, completely different than the one in Kuci, with green pastures, forests and **sharp peaks of Komovi** above us. We pass through Opananica village; continue to Mateševo and Kolašin where we will overnight.

Day 7

National park Biogradska Gora – Hiking Zekova glava summit (2117 m) with descending to Pesica Lake

Mountain Bjelasica with its specific shapes, rolling hills and smooth pastures is predestined for sustainable mountain tourism both in summer and in winter. This pastoral mountain invites nature lovers for an easy hike with breath-taking views. This hike begins at Bjelasica ski centre Jezerine (1450 m). Walking through the forest, we will arrive at the Vranjak village. After a brief stop, we will hike up to the **summit of Zekova Glava** and



enjoy a prolonged rest at a nearby glacial lake called **Pesica Lake**. At the lake, we will have a chance to enjoy in spectacular nature and take beautiful pictures.

On the way back to the hotel, we will stop to have **traditional dinner in a restaurant in Kolasin**. Overnight in Kolasin.

Walking for the day: 5-6 hours, 6 km ↑600m ↓600m

Day 8

Biogradska forest & Biogradsko Lake, Tara Bridge and Durmitor National Park

From Kolasin we will take a serpentine road through the **Biogradska forest** all the way to the **Biogradsko Lake**. Biogradsko Lake is situated in the heart of the National Park and is surrounded by thick forest, which makes it unique and leaves a lifetime impression on all those who had a chance to visit it.

Our next stop is one of the most visited attractions in Montenegro – **Tara Bridge**. At the time it was built, this bridge that stands 172 meters above the Tara River, was the biggest vehicular concrete arch bridge in Europe. Going further towards villages Njegovudja and Zminica, amazed by the spectacular nature, we arrive at the **Zminicko Lake**. Without a doubt, you will find this mountain lake surrounded by thick forest perfect. After admiring Zminicko, we continue towards **Riblje (Fish) Lake and Vrazije (Devil's) Lake**. Beside the road are situated **mysterious carved stone tomb monuments (stećci)** – dating from between the 12th and 16th centuries (added to Unesco's World Heritage list in 2016). Arrival to Zabljak. Overnight.

Day 9

National park Durmitor – Black & Snakes lakes tour, Sedlo Pass

Black Lake is the premium tourist attraction of the Durmitor area. It is the largest and the best known of 18 glacial lakes on the mountain. A hike around Black Lake, that we will take, a 3.6 km long walking path is a must for each visitor. Its position is wonderful: the rounded mass of Mount 'Bear', as its guardian behind it. Following a picturesque trail along Mill Creek, we continue our



hike to **Snakes Lake**, which is hidden deep in the spruce forests at an altitude of 1.520 m. It is a calm and peaceful place, perfect forest.

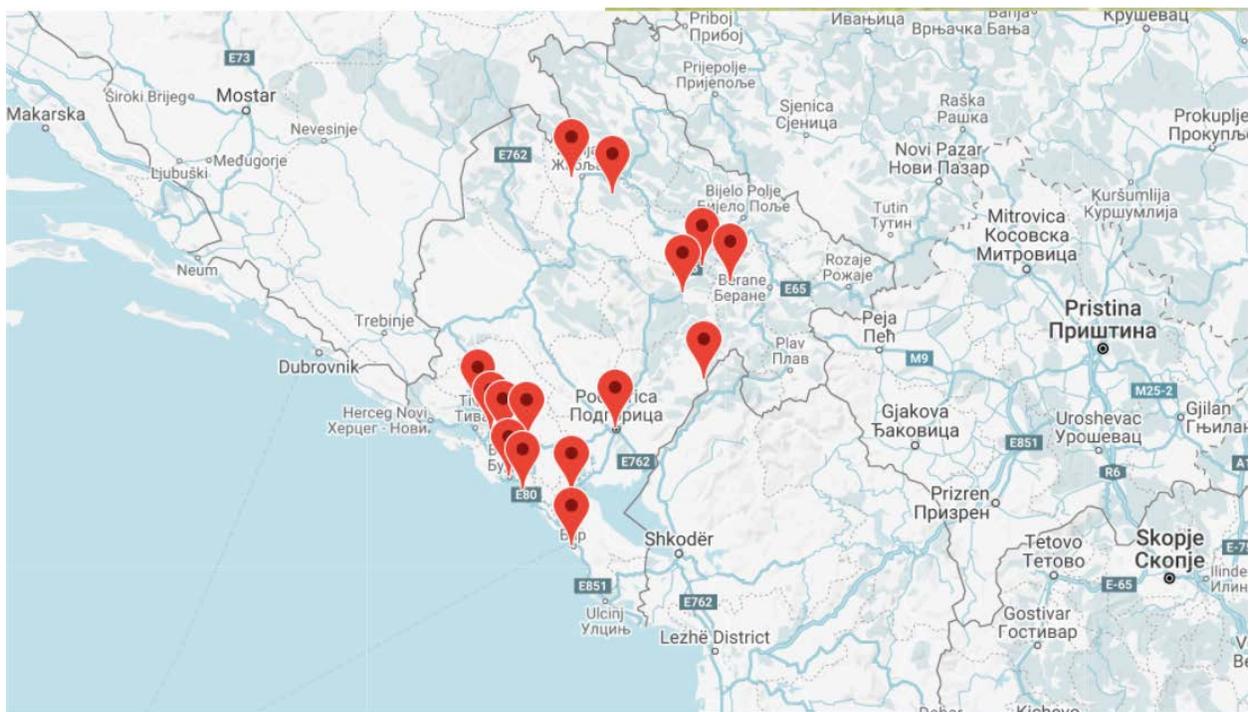
After Snakes Lake, we continue the journey through surrounding pine forests to visit **Sedlo Pass** where we will enjoy excellent views of Durmitor peaks. Transfer back to Zabljak, where we organise **farewell dinner**. Overnight in Zabljak.

Walking for the day: 3-4 hours, 7 km ↑200m ↓200m

Day 10

Departure

After breakfast, **transfer to airport Podgorica (TGD)**. **End of the tour**. Thanks for the opportunity to serve you and we look forward to seeing you soon!



INCLUDED:

- 9 nights/10 days
- All accommodations



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- All breakfasts, welcome & farewell dinner
 - Packed lunches during 2 hikes and jeep safari, traditional Montenegrin lunch on the 2nd day and traditional Montenegrin dinner on the 7th day
 - All transfers – minivan and driver from and back to the airport, as well as local transfers, in accordance with the program
 - English-speaking licensed tour guide
 - Boat trip to the artificial island “Our Lady of Rocks”
 - Boat ride on the Skadar Lake
 - Jeep safari
 - Museum tickets
 - Parks entrance fees
 - Local tourist tax

NOT INCLUDED:

- International flights tickets
- Travel insurance
- Lunches and dinners outside of the program
- Your own trekking/hiking gear
- Personal expenses such as phone calls, alcoholic beverages, souvenirs, tips, etc.
- Optional gratuities to your guide(s)
- Any items not explicitly mentioned in the program

ADDITIONAL INFO

Accommodation

You will mostly stay in 3* hotels or in private lodgings (apartments & guesthouses) that are especially appealing. We have selected small family-run hotels and cosy guesthouses whenever possible for their intimate atmospheres, as well as for their ability to share with you the history and culture of their specific Montenegrin region. Generally, rooms in Montenegro are double or triple rooms (we will assign you a roommate of the same gender, if possible). If you request single accommodations, you will be **required to pay the single supplement fee**. Please be advised there are a limited number of single accommodations available, and single accommodations may not be available for the village stay.

Meals

Breakfast is included. When no restaurant location is available on hiking route, packed lunches will be pre-ordered. Dinner is available either in the restaurant in your hotel or restaurants and taverns in the village near your accommodation. Vegetarian, vegan, and gluten-



free meals are available upon request. **Lunches and dinners outside of the program are not included in the arrangement.**

Transfers

All transfers from and back to the airport, as well as local transfers, in accordance with the programme are included. Luggage transfer also is included, and your bags will be transferred by private transfer to your next accommodation. **Baggage limit 25 kg per person.**

Documents & credits cards

- **Valid Visa*, passport and ID card**
- **Money, and/or credit card (currency in Montenegro is the Euro – €)**
- **Travel health insurance certificate**
- *Holders of travel documents containing a valid Schengen visa, a valid visa of the United States of America, United Kingdom and Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland, or a permission to stay in these countries, may enter and stay, or pass through the territory of Montenegro up to 30 days, and not longer than the expiry of visa, if the period of validity of the visa is less than 30 days (more info on- <https://mvp.gov.me/en/sections/consular-affairs/visa-regimes-for-foreign-citizens/>).
- We recommend taking sufficient cash for your daily requirements. Banks and ATMs are available, and credit/debit card payments are widely accepted in towns but might be limited at some of the villages we visit.

Medication

If you require any medication, please take adequate supplies for the duration of your holiday. It's advisable to carry your medication in your hand luggage instead of packing it in your suitcase (backpack).

Climate

Montenegro's coastline has a Mediterranean climate with hot dry summers and mild winters, whereas the more mountainous inland areas have a sub-alpine climate with warm summers and cold winters with snowfall. There is a chance of sporadic rain in spring and autumn in the coastal areas, though generally, this is in the form of short showers. In the mountains, rainfall tends to be more frequent including around the Bay of Kotor. Average temperatures from May



to October are generally in the mid 20's(in °C) but can reach into the 30's(in °C) in July and August.

Luggage

Bring one main piece of luggage and a 20-30 litre day backpack is recommended. You will need to carry what you need for the day which may include a rain jacket, fleece, t-shirts, camera, sun-cream, water and picnic lunch.

What to pack?

This **gear list** has **been created to help you in choosing your equipment for the trip**. Try to bring only what is necessary, this will help you and the field staff.

- Backpack (20–30 l) with raincover
- Hiking shoes (mid-cut models)
- Hiking Socks (Synthetic or Wool)
- Hiking Pants (Convertible, Quick-Dry, Lightweight)
- Long Sleeve Shirts (Synthetic, Lightweight)
- Jacket (Hooded, Lightweight, Waterproof, Breathable)
- Fleece/Wool Jacket or Sweater
- T-Shirts (Synthetic)
- Hat or cap – Sun protection is important!
- Small backpack pharmacy
- Casual Clothing and Shoes for Travel and Town Wear
- Camera and Accessories
- Mobile phone and charger
- Sunglasses, sunscreen/sunblock and lip balm
- Toiletries