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DIRECTORY

Montenegro

Being positioned between the East and the West, Montenegro has inherited pagan, Illyrian, Hellenistic, Roman, Catholic, Eastern Orthodox and Islamic influences. Its territory has been inhabited for more than 180,000 years. Its historical remains date back to the archaeological findings in the Crvena Stijena cave, which was the first discovered habitat of prehistoric man on the territory of Montenegro. The influences and remains continue through the rich cultural heritage of the countries and the people who lived and created their lives here.

Towards the end of the 2nd century BC, Montenegro became part of the Roman Empire, and after its division into Eastern and the Western Empires, it became part of the Eastern Roman Empire, later named Byzantium. Towards the end of the 6th and the beginning of the 7th centuries, Slavic tribes started to inhabit the territory of Montenegro. They were the ancestors of the people living in Montenegro today. In the 9th century the Slavic tribes founded their own state, independent from Byzantium.

During the Middle Ages, not only was the independent state founded, but also a varied and significant cultural heritage: architectural monuments belonging to the great stylistic epochs (Pre-Romanesque, Romanesque, Gothic, Renaissance...), and literary-historical and religious works which followed the modern spirit of the times, and also a way of urban life corresponding to the European tradition. Towards the end of the 15th century, a printing house was started, the first among the South-Slavic countries. During the middle Ages, religious institutions of both the main Christian Churches were founded on the territory of Montenegro- the Catholic and the Eastern Orthodox, and both are active today. The best proof of the harmony of differences that has existed for centuries in Montenegro is the phenomenon of churches with two altars – one for the Orthodox Christians and the other for the Catholics. Such churches exist in many places where members of the different Christian faiths live.

Like the majority of the Balkan states, Montenegro was also in a tragic position – it lost its independence and it was conquered by the Ottoman Empire. The Ottoman Empire, which lasted for a long time, left Montenegro with another tradition – Islam, so there are many monuments of Islamic architecture and traces of diversified cultural creativity. Since the Ottoman period, Montenegro has

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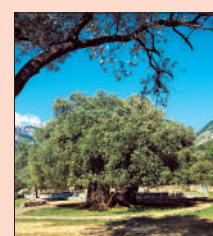
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HISTORY LINE

The oldest trace of art – Lipci



8th century BC



The contemporary of Christianity the Old town of Bar – an olive tree over 2000 years old

6th century BC

Year zero

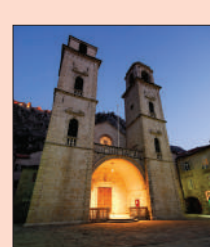
1st century

990. Prince Vladimir as the sovereign of Duklja



10th century

1166. The Romanesque art St Tryphon Cathedral



12th century

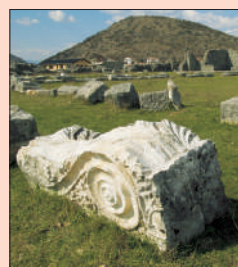
1183 - 1186. the district prefect of Rača Stefan Nemanja conquered Duklja

13th century



From the ancient times until today - The town of Budva

The remains of the Roman culture- Duklja



1089. The pope Clement III issued a bull which raised the bishopric of Duklja (Bar) to the rank of the archbishopric



The Byzantine cultural influence – a St Elias fresco from Morača Monastery

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become one of the most interesting places in the Balkans. Despite its small territory, which may be crossed in a two day walk, it contains many examples of the heritage of the Eastern and the Western Christian civilizations and the Islamic world. All these different worlds have managed to find harmony in Montenegro, and have not changed to this day. Even during the great battles in the Balkans in the 20th century, this Montenegrin harmony of different worlds was not disturbed.

Montenegro is not only unusual for its civilization; it is also unusual as a political phenomenon in modern European history. Although it is the smallest Balkan country, it was the first one to gain independence from the Ottoman Empire and the first one to found its independent state. This liberation happened at the beginning of the 18th century. One of its most important families became its dynasty at that time. It was the Petrović Njegoš family, which ruled over Montenegro for more than two centuries. No other dynasty in the Balkans lasted this long. The rulers from the Petrović Njegoš family established political relations with all the great World Powers – first with Russia (1711), then with Austria (1715) and with France towards the end of the 18th century.

Independent Montenegro became a principality in the middle of the 19th century. The Principality of Montenegro was recognized by all world powers at the time – Russia, Austria and France, and the Prince of Montenegro was received with the highest of honours by the Russian Tsar Nicholas I, the Austrian Emperor Franz Joseph and the French Emperor Napoleon III. The Principality of Montenegro was officially recognized by all great world powers at the Congress of Berlin in 1878. After becoming recognized worldwide, it established official diplomatic relations with many European countries and the USA. Its leader at the time was Prince Nikola Petrović Njegoš, who was the ruler of Montenegro from 1860 to 1910. He took the title of king in 1910 and Montenegro became a kingdom. King Nikola was a European in his ideas: he attended primary school in Trieste, and then he studied at Louis the Great Lyceum in Paris. He was called “the European father-in-law” because he was connected to the Savoy, the Romanov and the Battenberg dynasties through his daughters’ marriages.

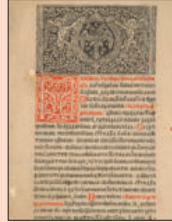
The Kingdom of Montenegro took part in the First World War on the side of Triple Entente, and the war took a great toll in human life and the country was largely devastated. After the First World War, Montenegro was no longer an independent country because it became part of the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes (Yugoslavia) which was founded in 1918. Its independence was re-established in 2006, when the majority of its citizens voted for independence in a referendum.

1252.
The Monastery of Our Lady’s Assumption in Morača (Morača Monastery)



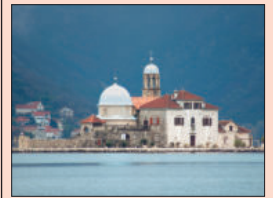
1484.
The Monastery of Cetinje was built

1494.
The Renaissance heritage
The first printed book appeared named “Oktoih, the first voice”



The Oriental heritage
The Husein pasha mosque

Baroque architecture and painting – Perast,
Our Lady of the Rocks



14th century

The capital from the middle Ages, the town of Ulcinj



15th century

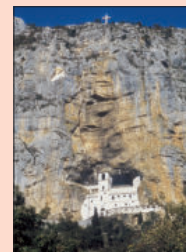
1493.
The printing house of Crnojević family started working



Sacral Christian tradition – Piva Monastery

16th century

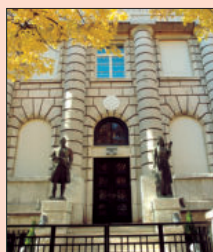
St Basil of Ostrog cult
Ostrog monastery



17th century



Herceg Novi
The intersection of civilizations



1482.
Cetinje became the capital of Montenegro

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THE BIRTH OF A NATION

The art from the period of the Naron Conventus, Prevalis and the first centuries of Duklja left trace at the following localities: Crvena Stijena near Petrović, Odmuť in Komarnica Canyon, Špilja above Perast, Beran Krš near Berane, the rocks of Bioća in Moraća Canyon, Mališina Cave and Medena Rock in Čehotina Canyon.

The written history of Montenegro began through contact with the Illyrians, who ruled over the beauty of the Adriatic coast from the 5th century B. C, and the Greeks. Through Hecataeus of Miletus (around the year 500 B. C.) and also through Pseudo-Scylax a little later, we have information about the Illyrian

tribes, and the powerful state of the Queen Teuta. Contemporary coins with the names of the client kings Apollonius, Dirahij and Balajos are strong testimonials to her power. Her power was crushed by the Romans when they established Illyricum, which was later divided into two provinces: Pannonia and Dalmatia.

The best place to view the great number of exhibits found on prehistoric sites and the Hellenic habitats is by visiting the museum collections in all of the coastal towns in Montenegro, but they can also be found in Cetinje, Podgorica, Berane, Pljevlja, and others.



The drawings on the rock at Lipci near Risan show deer and dogs, and also hunters. Judging by the style and the geometrical decorations, we can conclude that they originate from the 8th century B. C. It is assumed that the rock was a popular place – a sanctuary under the open sky.



Tumul in Vukovići Place, Zeta, Podgorica

1697.
Metropolitan Danilo, the founder of Petrović dynasty



17th century

1784.
Metropolitan Petar Petrović Njegoš came to power

18th century

1834.
The first primary school and the first printing house were founded in Cetinje

1845.
The Mausoleum on Lovćen was built



1851.
Petar II Petrović Njegoš died
Prince Danilo came to power

19th century

1878.
Montenegro was recognized internationally in The Congress of Berlin
Zetski dom, the principal and royal theatre was built



1711.
The establishing of political relations between Montenegro and Russia



1838.
Biljarda was built – the first royal residence

1847.
"The Mountain Wreath", written by Petar Petrović Njegoš was printed in Vienna



1852.
Montenegro was proclaimed principality

1860.
Prince Nikola came to power



1867.
King Nikola's Palace was built, which is a museum today

1886.
Montenegro signed the Concordat with the Vatican



Silver jewellery from the site of Gostilj, from the 3rd and the 4th century B. C. (Podgorica Museum)



Golden jewellery – earrings and rings with gems made of glass paste. The jewellery was probably made in Tarantine workshops, from the Hellenistic period, from the 1st to the 2nd century B.C. (Budva Museum)



An exhibit from a prehistoric site /Gruda Boljevića, Tološi (Podgorica Museum)

1910.
Montenegro was proclaimed kingdom



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1914.
Montenegro entered the First World War

1918.
Montenegro joined the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes (Yugoslavia)

In 2006.
On 21st May Montenegro reestablished independence by referendum, and its international legal subjectivity was confirmed by joining the United Nations



20th century

1905.
The first Montenegrin constitution was enacted



1910.
The House of the Government was built – an art and history museum today

The Blue Chapel - the last earthly dwelling of the Lady of Philermé



Pero Poček

21st century



Dado Đurić

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GOLDEN TRACES OF ROMAN CULTURE

The most significant findings belonging to Roman culture are those in Duklja (Doclea), an urban complex from the time of Roman domination, that is the 1st century A.D. It is located on the confluence of the rivers Zeta and Morača, and it was named after the Illyrian tribe Docleati. By the middle of the century it had become a municipium. After the division of the Roman Empire, this municipium became the capital of the newly founded province Prevalis. In the 4th and the 5th centuries it became a target for barbarians. At the beginning of the 5th century it was devastated by the Goths, and at the beginning of the 6th it was further damaged in an earthquake. It was finally destroyed by the Slavs.

The city had great public buildings: a triumphal arch, three temples (one for the Goddess Roma and the others for the Goddess Diana), a city bath – a *thermae*, a palace, two early Christian basilicas and a smaller pre-Romanesque church in the shape of a cross.

Valuable ceramic and glass pots, jewellery, weapons and money have been found in the necropolis. It is also assumed that the famous Cup from Podgorica was found in Duklja. Traces of Roman civilization are also found in Risan, the oldest settlement in the Boka Kotorska Bay. It is possible to experience the richness of the items from this period in the National Museum of Montenegro in Cetinje, in the Museum of the city of Podgorica, the collection of stone monuments in the Kotor Museum, in the Budva Museum, the Pljevlja Museum, and so on.

Komin (Pljevlja) diatreta is a goblet made of transparent colourless glass and a cobalt-blue web. The inscription on it is of the same colour: VIVAS PANELLINI BONA. It dates back to the 4th and the 5th century BC, and it comes from a famous workshop in Cologne. It is one of five diatretas in the world that are preserved to this day.



A cross-shaped fibula made of bronze, a silver heart-shaped pendant, a silver jointed fibula (1st – 2nd century), a silver ring with a red rock (2nd – 4th century), Komini



A golden pendant, Komini necropolis 1, 1st to 2nd century

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A beautiful example of a Roman sculpture from the 1st century is the realistically shaped head of the Emperor Domitian found in Kumbor. It bears the characteristics of sculpture of the Flavius type.



Amforiskos, Duklja, the middle of the 2nd century B.C.

The remains of Roman civilisation in Risan which is the oldest settlement in the Boka Kotorska. Apart from the God Hypnos, the mosaics on the floor are in geometrical patterns with stylised floral decoration.



Stećci

The remains of a culture and the evident beauty of the inscriptions made on stone blocks by the Bogomiles. Their inscriptions are concise descriptions of the special way of life they led.

In Montenegro, they are most often found in the western mountain area, on the slopes of Durmitor, Piva, Golija, that were the hiding places of the Bogomiles from their persecutors. The stećci were made in the period from the 12th to the 14th century.



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Duklja (Doclea) was the most significant and the largest urban center founded at the time of the dominance of the Romans in Montenegro. The town was founded during the first decade of the 1st century A.D. at the confluence of the rivers Zeta and Morača near Podgorica. It has been a part of World Archeology since the beginning of the 19th century.

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THE TREASURE OF BYZANTINE MYSTICISM



During the first centuries of Ottoman domination of Montenegro, two views of art existed at the same time – the western influence and its baroque area on the coast, and the Byzantine iconography and zoographical shaping in orthodox churches and monasteries, mostly in the hinterland. Frescoes, icons and wood engravings were the principal artistic outlets of those zoographers and artisans. The paintings on the older buildings which were damaged by time and vandals have been restored. The richly engraved altars exhibit the standard Byzantine iconography placed there by the painters. They started signing their work, as was the case in the coastal area.



Morača Monastery

It was built in 1252 in typical Byzantine style. The frescoes were painted at the same time and the cycle of St Elias on the right part of the altar was created. The most famous fresco from the cycle is "The Raven feeds the prophet Elias". In the rest of the scenes on the right part of the altar, the masters of Morača displayed their excellence, their sense for sophisticated use of color, the lightly emphasised movement, each figure's individuality in its shaping. Therefore it is rightly seen as one of the precursors of the Renaissance. The iconostasis in Morača is one of the most beautiful in Southeastern Europe.



St Peter's Church in Bijelo Polje

St Peter's Church in Bijelo Polje, from the 12th century, has been the centre of the diocese since 1254. A Gospel was written for its patron, the prince of Hum, Miroslav, and it is called Miroslav's Gospel.

This manuscript is thought to be one of the most beautiful Cyrillic manuscripts. It was written on a parchment with its initials and miniatures painted with vivid colours and gilding.



A facsimile of Miroslav's Gospel

Miroslav's Gospel

Miroslav's Gospel is a manuscript from the last quarter of the 12th century, most probably made in Saint Peter's Church in Bijelo Polje, for Miroslav, the Prince of Hum. The coloring, especially the use of gold, the size of the initial letters and the artistic treatment of human, zoomorphic and floral decoration have the distinctive features of contemporary Romanesque and Benedictine miniatures from Southern Italy. In the iconographic treatment of the saints, the influences of Byzantine art are visible. Besides this strong Romanesque influence, which can also be found in the architectural decoration of the reliefs, the miniatures and the painting of the frescoes, another important characteristic is the strong mark of autochthony, which later culminated in the small part of the altar dedicated to Saint Elijah in Morača monastery.

The legend of Vladimir and Kosara

The oldest and the most beautiful love story in Montenegrin history is related to Vladimir, the Prince of Duklja. During a war with the Bulgarian Emperor Samuel, he was imprisoned in the year 998 at the court in Prespa. The merciful Emperor's daughter Kosara went to see the slaves in the cellar of the court every day and she fell in love with the beautiful man from Duklja who received bread and water from her. The Emperor's daughter persuaded her father to allow her to marry the famous prisoner. Prince Vladimir, when back home, became very popular with the people and so Samuel's heir, Emperor

Vladislav decided to destroy him. He lured Vladimir to Prespa, sending him a wooden cross as a guarantee of his safety, and then he killed him. Because Vladimir's cult started to spread, Vladislav allowed Kosara to transport Vladimir's remains to Duklja. In the Prečista Krajinska monastery on the lake of Skadar, Vladimir was buried with the wooden cross. Here, Kosara spent her remaining days as a nun under the name of Teodora and was buried next to her husband. The cult of the first saint from Duklja quickly spread to the neighboring lands – Albania, Macedonia, Bulgaria, and beyond.



The cross of Saint Vladimir of Duklja



This cross has been kept for centuries as the greatest relic of the Androvići fraternity. Each year, on Holy Trinity Day, it is carried to the top of mount Rumija, where, according to legend, there was a church dedicated to the Madonna. After the church was destroyed, the cross was found in the remains. The procession which carries the cross respects the custom that each member of the procession should bring one stone with them, because they believe that the church will rebuild itself, once there are enough stones. Members of the procession include people from three faiths: Orthodox, Catholic and Muslim.



The Monastery at Cetinje

The monastery was first erected by the Crnojevići family in 1482 on Čipur (the space between the Billiard House and the Court) above the Cetinja River, whose water disappear into the abyss of Cetinje. The Ottomans destroyed it in 1692. It had elements of renaissance architecture, and one clue of what it looked like can be found on one engraving in Oktoih.

It was the historically the Metropolitan See of Zeta. Many stone jewels from the Temple of Ivanbeg were built into the walls and chambers of the second Monastery on the site, which was built by Prince Danilo from 1701 to 1704. Since then, it has become the home of Montenegrin spirituality, and many religious and artistic treasures.

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*Djuro Čajnićanin's cross,
made for the metropolitan
Rufim Boljević
- The Monastery in Cetinje*



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The Saint Peter of Cetinje monument in Podgorica

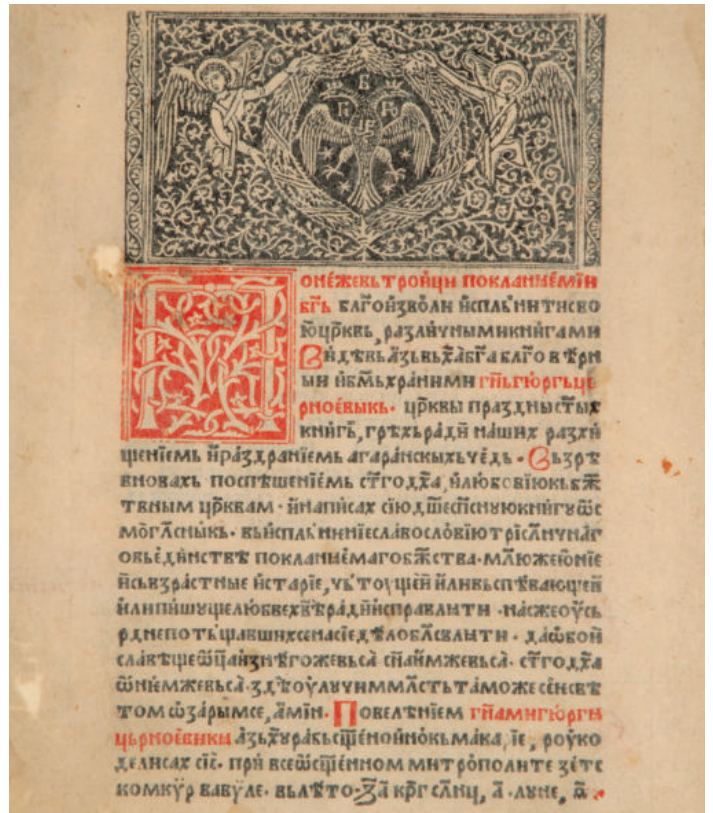
Saint Peter of Cetinje

Saint Peter of Cetinje, who became the Episcopo and the ruler of Montenegro at the end of the 18th century, was not canonized because of his martyrdom or religious zeal, miracle working or super-human achievements. He was, in fact, the most respected leader of his people and the creator of the modern state of Montenegro. He was the first in line in war and showed the meaning of courage and self-sacrifice. Therefore, his sainthood is of human origin, and that is why he is the most significant figure in the history of Montenegro and Montenegrins, to whom he dedicated his life. He reconciled the different tribes, and his victory over Napoleon's army in the Boka Kotorska Bay brought him glory as one of the most important European rulers of his time. He lived as a monk in the Monastery at Cetinje, where his remains can still be found today. They are exhibited to the public on July 12, each year. He created the first legal symbol called the "Stega", which had six points, and it was used by the noblemen to swear to live in peace with each other and protect the country. He is the most important representative of Montenegrin epistolary literature.

The Italian Queen, Elena of Montenegro, daughter of King Nikola, much loved by the Italian people, will probably be canonized. In this way, most probably, the Petrović dynasty will have, along with Saint Peter of Cetinje, the Blessed Elena of Savoy. This is a unique example in the European history of saints and ruling dynasties.

Oktoih, the first voice

Oktoih, the first voice, was the first printed book from the Printing House of Djuradj Crnojević, printed in January 1494. It is a work which represents the highest achievements of 15th century printing. It is decorated with renaissance initials and small flags. Out of a relatively large number of copies, 105 were preserved. The great number of surviving copies demonstrates the importance of the multiplication of religious books and their spread in conquered areas, where both national and religious consciousness was endangered.



Divoš's Gospel



Divoš's Gospel is a manuscript, made around 1350 on the orders of the Bosnian nobleman Divoš Tihoradić, in the Manojlo scriptorium. It was discovered in 1960 in Saint Nicholas Church in Podvrh near Bijelo Polje. The gospel is decorated with miniatures, initials and little flags which represent a symbiosis of imaginary floral and zoomorphic elements and human characters. This remarkably significant collection of motifs of medieval enlightened art is a combination of Byzantine ornaments and Romanesque imaginary beings. It is kept in the treasury of the Monastery in Cetinje with several other important manuscripts.

Piva Monastery

The initial location of the monastery was at the source of Piva River. It was moved to its current location thanks to thorough architectural and conservational work (1970-1982), when it was carefully taken apart and then rebuilt along with its paintings (in their original condition) on the new site.

The church was built at the end of the 16th century, and it had three naves. It was painted at the beginning of 17th century by the craft of the most significant Byzantine artists of this area (the priest Strahinja from Budimlje and Kozma the painter, who also painted the remarkable icons on the richly engraved altar partition).

The monastery has a treasury with many church religious items and liturgy books.



The cellar of the monastery where the cycles of Great holidays, Christ's sufferings and Christ's miracles are represented. Events from the life of Saint John the Baptist and other saints are also painted. The frescoes in the cellar were painted by Greek and local artists in 1605/6.



Interior of the Trinity monastery

The Trinity monastery in Pljevlja

Along with the numerous archaeological sites in Pljevlja and the surrounding area (Gotovuča, Kozina, Komine), the Trinity monastery is of great importance. It is located above the source of the Breznica River. The monastery was first mentioned in written form in 1537. Since the middle of the 19th century, there has been a school in the monastery. The cellar and the narthex of the monastery were painted by the priest Strahinja from Budimlje between 1592 and 1595. In the rich treasury of the monastery, a valuable collection of manuscripts and books are kept.



Saint Nicholas Church in Nikoljac

The Saint Nicholas Church in Nikoljac has preserved original frescoes and icons, and iconostasis (all from the 13th century). The door was made in the workshop of the famous family of painters, the Lazovići from Bijelo Polje. The church has a rich treasury with many relics and a library with manuscripts and books.

The Saint Nicholas Church in Podvrh served as a scriptorium, where, most probably, the Divoš Gospel manuscript was made. The iconostasis in the church was displayed as a part of the exhibition "Art in Yugoslavia since Prehistoric Times" in Sarajevo and Paris.



Iconostasis in the Saint Nicholas monastery in Nikoljac, Bijelo Polje



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Praskvica monastery

The Praskvica monastery was built in the mountains above Sveti Stefan and Miločer. It was named after a spring whose water tasted of peach (praskva). According to legend, it was founded in the 11th century. The frescoes inside the Trinity church were painted in 1680/81, by the painter Radul and his disciple, Dimitrije. The Saint Nicholas Church was originally built by Balša III in 1413/1414, but it has been completely altered by later additions.



A fresco from Praskvica monastery

Dobrilovina monastery

The Dobrilovina monastery was first mentioned in 1592. It is located near Mojkovac, on one of the last free wide spaces by the Tara river. As a symbol of literacy and resistance, it was constantly attacked by the forces of the Ottoman Empire. It was often damaged, but was always repaired.

Today, the frescoes representing the Apostles and the Saviour in the dome's calotte are partially preserved. There are plastic ornaments, vines and rosettes in shallow relief. The temple was restored in 1989, when new lodgings were built.





Interior of Savina monastery

Savina monastery

The Savina monastery is located east of Herceg Novi, in an exotic grove. It is a complex, which consists of two churches and the monastery's lodgings. The small Assumption of Mary Church was built in 1030, and rebuilt in the 14th century. It is important, among other things, because of the frescoes which represent the Great Holidays and Christ's life. They were painted by the famous Kotor painter Lovro Dobričević. They are characterized by a symbiosis of both Byzantine and Gothic stylistic expression. The large church is also dedicated to the Assumption of Mary, and it was built from 1777 to 1799. It was constructed by Nikola Foretić of Korčula. There has a baroque bell-tower which stands out above the church, with wreaths, openings, rosettas and a balustrade. In the rich treasury of the monastery, there are Russian icons, Italo-Cretan icons, treaties, framed gospels, a cross made of crystal and fitted in silver and a portrait of the young Peter the Great, brought from Russia in 1831.



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RELICS AND CULTS

Saint Basil the Miracle Worker – Ostrog monastery

Ostrog monastery is the most important center of religious pilgrimage in Montenegro – the sanctuary of Saint Basil of Ostrog. The monastery is a meeting place for members of three different faiths: Orthodox, Catholic and Muslim. It was erected by Saint Basil in 1666 beneath the Ostrog pillars. According to legend, Saint Basil's body was found seven years after his death, and had not decomposed at all. The coffin with his remains has ever since been kept in The Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church in the Upper monastery, which is tucked into a natural cave environment. The impressive image of the monastery in the steep cliffs is a memorable sight. The Lower monastery with the Trinity church, built in 1824, lodgings and a seminary, is also a sanctuary for pilgrims.



*Ostrog monastery, 17th century,
built in a cliff above the Zeta*

Three great Christian holy items

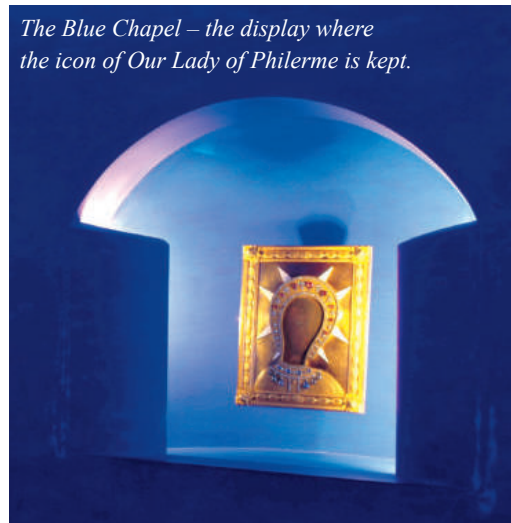
In Cetinje, three important relics are kept: the icon of the Our Lady of Philerme, the hand of Saint John the Baptist and a fragment of the Holy Cross.

The relics arrived in Montenegro after centuries of travel, from Jerusalem, where, according to legend, the icon had been painted by the Apostle Luke. It passed through Rhodes and Malta, where it belonged to the Chevaliers of Malta, who received it from the Turkish Sultan as a sign of gratitude. The icon then arrived in the Russian Empire as a gift to the Czar from the Grand Master of the Knights Hospitaller, at the end of the 18th century. During the October Revolution, the Russian Government transported it to the west, to Copenhagen and Berlin, and it was finally given as a present to the Karadjordjević family, where the icon, along with the hand of Saint John the Baptist and the fragment of the Holy Cross was kept at the court of the King Aleksandar Karadjordjević.

In 1941, when he was fleeing Yugoslavia, King Petar II, together with the patriarch Gavriilo Dožić, left it to the Ostrog monastery for safe-keeping.

Our Lady of Philerme is exhibited in a specially designed display in the National Gallery. The hand of Saint John the Baptist and the fragment of the Holy Cross are kept in the treasury of the monastery.

This is how, by God's will, the three relics came to Montenegro.



The Blue Chapel – the display where the icon of Our Lady of Philerme is kept.



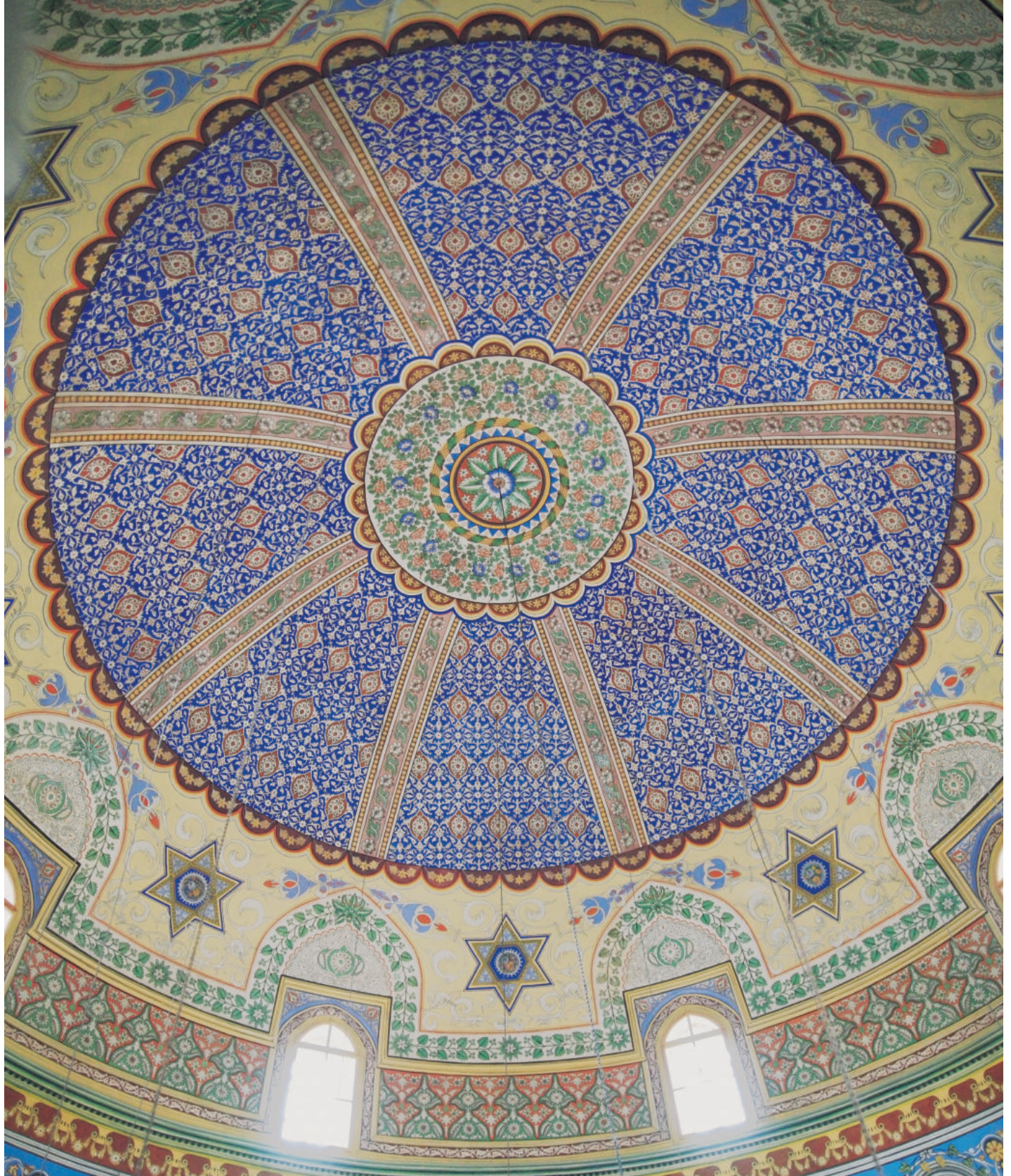
Fragment of the Holy Cross

MONTENEGRO

ORIENTAL HERITAGE

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After the Ottoman conquest, various oriental influences appeared, especially in the conquered areas (in towns which were founded or shaped at the time). In the towns, apart from the universal symbol – the mosque, many other sacral objects were built, as well as examples of secular architecture, such as: clock towers, public baths, bridges, forts, and so on. Among the rich collection remaining, these influences are most visible in the hand-written books, clothes and furniture.



Dome of Husein-pasha's Mosque in Pljevlja, painted with Persian and Arabic frescoes

Husein-pasha's Mosque

Husein-pasha's Mosque was erected by Husein-pasha Boljanić between 1573 and 1594. It is the most beautiful sacral monument of Islamic architecture in Montenegro with one of the tallest minarets in the country.

The interior of the mosque and the front are luxuriously painted with ornaments, floral motifs and quotations from the Qur'an. Inside the mosque, various old manuscripts and books in Arabic and Turkish are displayed. The most significant one is the hand-written Qur'an (16th century), whose Arabic scripture is decorated with gilt miniatures.



The Redžepagići tower in Plav

This tower is without doubt one of the most interesting examples of residential-defensive architecture in Montenegro. Most probably, it was erected in 1671. According to legend, it originates from the 15th century, and it was built by the descendant of Ali-beg Redžepagić to defend Plav from the attacks of the Albanian tribes. Originally, the first two floors had thick walls with observation posts and loop-holes. The third floor – the belvedere, made out of fir-wood, was constructed later.



Quran 16th century.



The clock tower in Podgorica

The clock tower from the 18th century, like a lighthouse from the past, displays the image of Podgorica from the period of Ottoman rule



THE COASTAL CITIES, TREASURES OF CIVILIZATION

Kotor

Kotor is mentioned in written sources as early as the third century BC, as a Greek colony. Livy, Pliny the Elder and Ptolemy all mentioned it as Acruvium. The name Kotor was derived from its later names such as: Decadaron, Decatera, Catarum, Catera and Cathara.

Today it is an integral urban entity, a city surrounded by walls, with examples of architecture and decoration belonging to every great Mediterranean stylistic period.

Apart from the numerous sacral monuments and examples of exterior decoration (even on family houses), there are various palaces, also containing characteristic elements of the great stylistic periods. There is no street in this Mediterranean city where you cannot come across at least one of the hundreds of jewels of Kotor.

The medieval architecture and the numerous cultural heritage monuments have made Kotor a part of the UNESCO World Heritage List.

Saint Luke's Church, 12th century



A window in Kotor – a detail from the gothic façade of the Drago palace, 15th century

Medieval town walls



MONTENEGRO



A detail from the ciborium from the Saint Tryphon Cathedral



The interior of Saint Tryphon Cathedral

Saint Tryphon Cathedral

The Saint Tryphon Cathedral was built in 1166, first as a Romanesque basilica with three naves, a dome in the middle and two bell-towers by the western façade. The look of the cathedral was altered in the reconstructions after various earthquakes in the 16th century, when the interior was given its renaissance-baroque form and lost its dome. After an earthquake (1667), it lost its Romanesque bell-towers, and after the reconstruction, the cathedral was given its baroque campaniles. After a long period of damage and later reconstruction, the cathedral today bears its original appearance. From the initial paintings (14th century), fragments have been preserved, in the apse and on the top of the arches between the naves. In its rich vault, there are valuable examples of furniture and artwork (easel painting, relics and votive objects and the work of Kotor's jewelers).

Remains of the frescoes in Saint Tryphon Cathedral



MONTENEGRO

Perast

Perast is a town facing the sea at the foot of Sv. Ilija hill. It is the oldest human settlement in the Boka Kotorska bay, confirmed by the various archeological findings from the Neolithic, Illyrian, Roman and early-Christian periods. According to legend, on July 22, 1452, two fishermen brothers found an icon of the Madonna on a rock (škrpjel) in the bay in front of Perast. Ever since that day, the inhabitants of Perast have increased the surface of the rock, by adding stones to it, and by sinking old sailing boats. In 1630, they erected the Our Lady of the Rocks (Gospa od Škrpjela) Church on the newly created island. The famous baroque painter, Tripo Kokolja painted the paintings in the church at the end of the 17th century. Inside the church, there is a collection of silver votive

tablets and votive embroidery made by a woman from Perast, Jacinta Mijović Kunić. She worked on the embroidery for more than twenty years, waiting for her loved one to return from the sea. Eventually, she became blind. Apart from silk, silver and gold threads, she also used her own hair in the making of the embroidery. In the 17th and 18th century, thanks to the efforts of Tripo Kokolja, the seafarer Marko Martinović taught a number of Russian Boyars the skills of seafaring. They were sent by Peter the Great, on the recommendation of the rulers of Venice. This was the golden age of construction in Perast, when the palaces of Zmajevići were built, also known as the Bishop's Palace in 1670, and the palaces of Balovići and Smekije. The Bujovići Palace, which

today holds the Perast City Museum, was built according to the design of the Venetian architect Giovanni Battista Fonte. Legend has it that he was executed after the successfully completed task, because he replied positively to Bujović's question as to whether he could construct a more beautiful building. Be-

cause of this, he was thrown from the balcony, so that this building would remain unsurpassed. Perast has all the characteristics of a typical Mediterranean urban setting: public buildings (Churches, chapels, palaces, archbishop's residence, town hall, court...) and the typical layout of a coastal settlement.



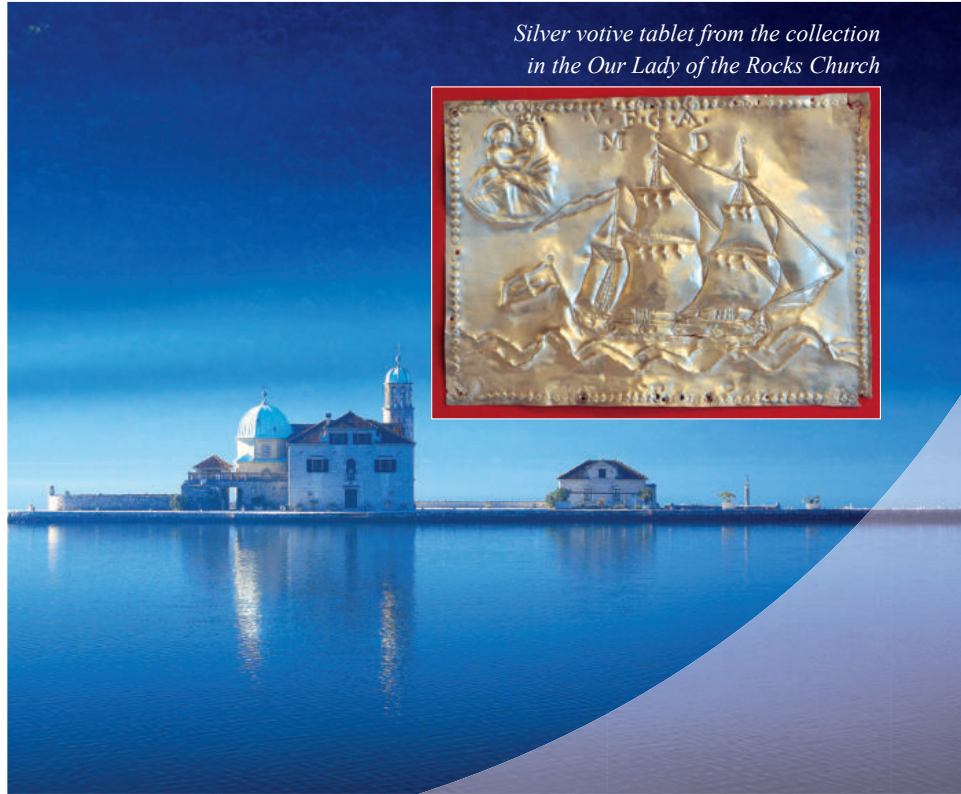


Our Lady of the Rocks Church

Our Lady of the Rocks is the patroness of sailors and fishermen. The church was built in 1630 on the artificial island made from the stones placed around the rock in the sea, where, according to legend, fishermen from Perast found an icon of Our Lady with the Child. The marble altar was made in 1796, by Antonio Capellano, a sculptor from Genoa. It has an icon of the Our Lady of the Rocks on it, the work of Lovro Dobričević, from the 15th century.

The walls and the ceiling are covered by canvas paintings by Tripo Kokolja, the great baroque painter.

The church also owns a vast collection of votive tablets, with engraved representations of ships protected by the Lady of the Rocks. In the church's treasury, there are also exhibits collected in the area of Perast and its surroundings. On the other small island, the natural one, there is a Benedictine monastery from the 12th century and the Perast cemetery.



Silver votive tablet from the collection in the Our Lady of the Rocks Church



Blessed Ozana of Kotor

Blessed Ozana of Kotor was a Montenegrin shepherdess who moved to Kotor and devoted her life to prayer, penitence and good deeds. She spent 44 years living in the same room. She was respected as a saint by the local people even when she was alive, and she was canonized in 1927. She

was a skillful embroiderer. All the money she earned serving the Kotor nobility of the 17th century, she gave to the poor. She is often considered as an apostle of Christian unity and as the founder of the ecumenical movement. Her remains are kept in the Blessed Ozana Church (Sveta Marija Kolegijata) in Kotor.



Interior of the church



Herceg Novi

Herceg Novi is a city with lush exotic vegetation – a botanical garden with palm trees and eucalyptuses, cypresses, agaves, magnolias and mimosa, brought to the place by the Herceg Novi captains and sailors from their long voyages. Today, it is a city of writers and artists.

According to historical sources, it is around six centuries old. In the centre of the old town are buildings from different epochs: the Clock Tower (1667), the Kanli Tower (1483), the Španjola Fortress (1538) and the Forte Mare Fortress (1687). Now, these are all summer stages for traditional film, music and theater festivals. The distinguishing feature of the old town are the stairways (skaline), which are often very long, difficult to climb and a valuable means of recreation and exercise.

Most of the churches in the

old city center belong to the cultural heritage of the second millennium and contain rich treasures.

The city museum is one of the richest institutions of its kind in Montenegro. In its botanical collection, there are over 100 species of Mediterranean and subtropical flowers, as well as different species of agaves, cactuses, aloe, and many others.

There is also an impressive archeological collection with objects from prehistoric times from the area of the city and its surroundings. In the ethnological collection, there are amphora, old boats and examples of folk art, and the tools used in

agriculture, cattle breeding, and olive growing, and there is also an exhibition of icons, mostly by old Kotor painters.

Saint Paraskeva Church in Mrkovi village used to have both a Catholic and an Orthodox altar. The inside of the church was painted in 1704, by Dimitrije Daskal, a painter from Boka Kotorska Bay. The parish church in the village of Podi, dating from the end of the 14th century, is one of the most beautiful monuments of religious architecture in the entire coastal region.

Mamula Island, with its fortress from the time of Austro-Hungarian rule, is also near Herceg Novi.

The Clock Tower in Herceg Novi, 17th century



Archangel Michael Church, 19th century



Kanli Tower, 15th century



The interior of Saint Anthony's Church, 19th century



MONTENEGRO



Nativity of the Virgin Mary Church - Gornja Lastva, Tivat, 18th century



Buća Lukovića tower – today the Tivat Cultural Center

Tivat

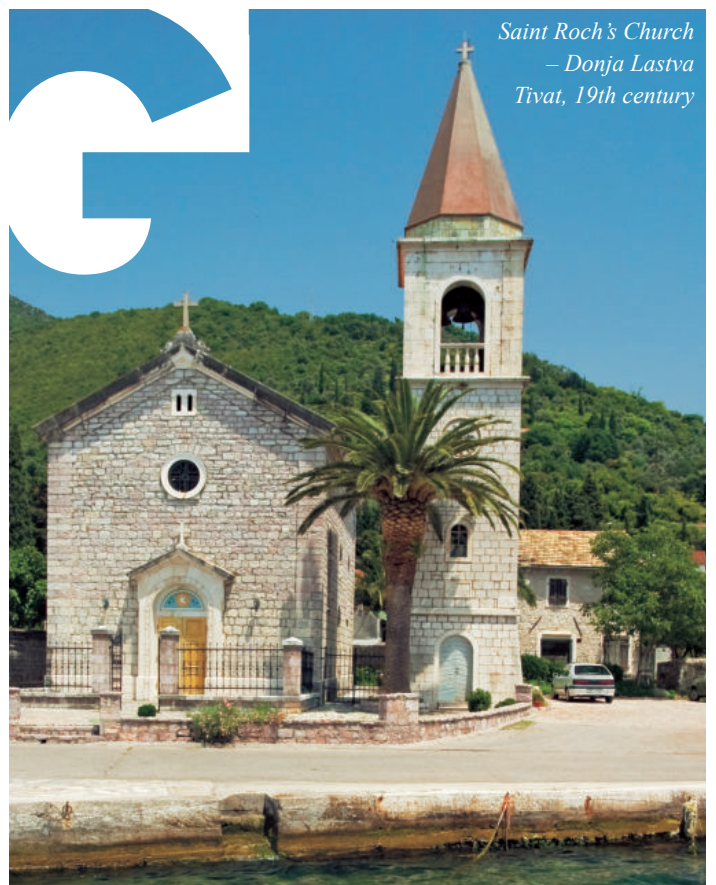
Although it is considered the youngest town in Boka Kotorska Bay, Tivat has a rich heritage from its archeological sites, most importantly Prevlaka, with the remains of the Benedictine monastery of Saint Michael.

In the medieval times, the nobility from the Boka Kotorska Bay used to have their summer residences in Tivat. One of the most beautiful buildings is the Buća Lukovića tower, which holds the city's cultural institutions today.

Today, Tivat is a place for recreational sailors, who are present in ever increasing numbers.



Saint Vitus Church – Gornja Lastva, Tivat, 18th century



Saint Roch's Church – Donja Lastva, Tivat, 19th century



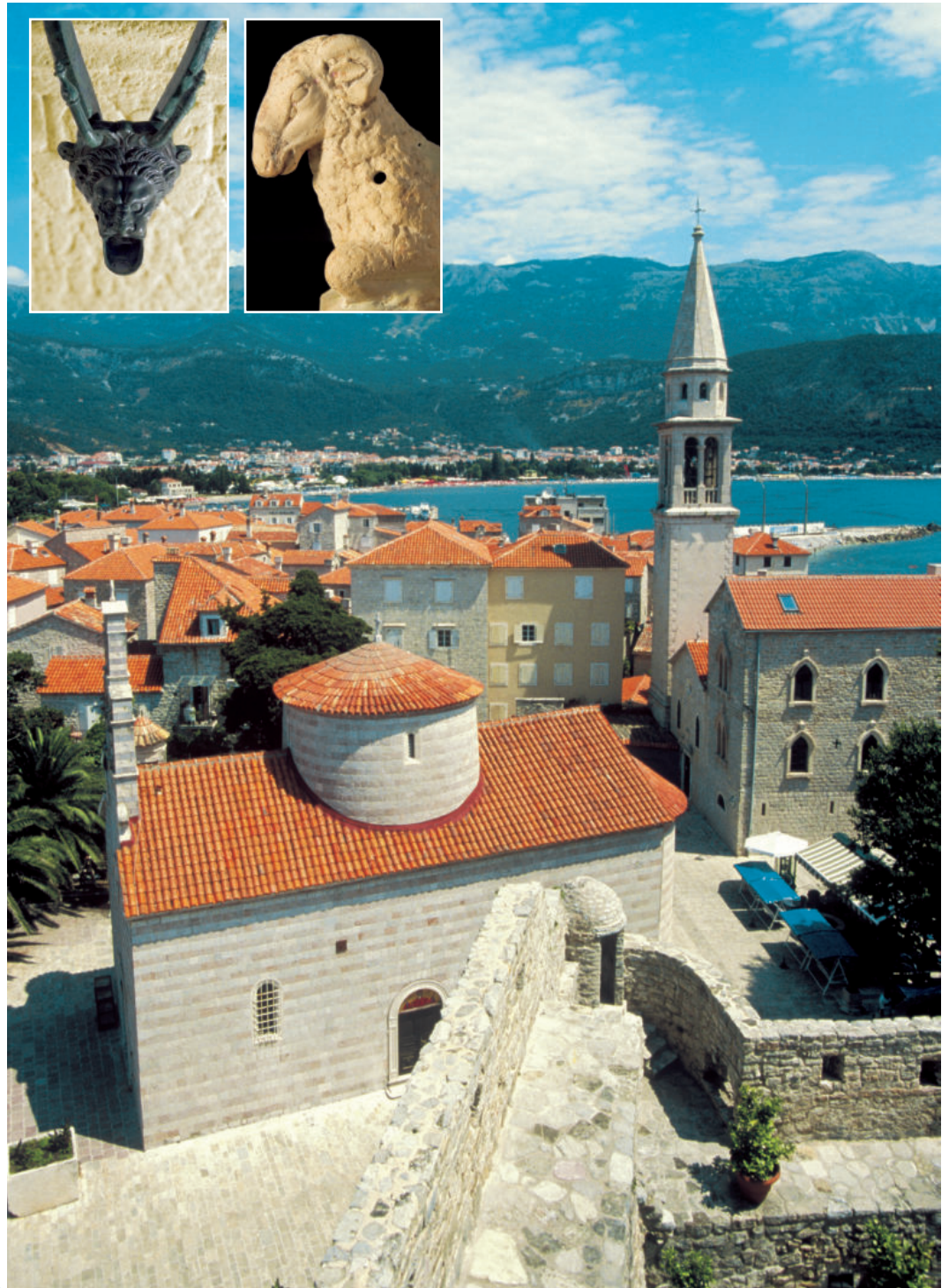
Saint John's Church (7th century) and Santa Maria Church (9th century)

Budva

Budva is one of the oldest cities in the coastal region of Montenegro. According to legend, it was founded by Cadmus, son of the Phoenician king, Agenor. After he was cast out from Thebes, he arrived in an ox-cart at the place on the coast where he founded Budva.

Judging by the archeological remains, the city was founded in the 6th century BC, and the current town walls were built in the 15th century. In the city center, a Roman, and a Greek necropolis have been discovered, rich with artifacts – gold and silver jewelry, various glass containers and ceramic vases. The lacrimaria from Budva are especially interesting. They are glass cups used to store tears, originating from the Roman period from the end of the 3rd century to the end of the 5th century.

The architecture and the spirit of a characteristic Mediterranean city – narrow streets, small squares and sacral monuments: Saint John's Church from the 7th century, the church of the Benedictine monastery Santa Maria in Punta, from the year 840, and The Holy Trinity Church, all make a single urban treasure and form the stage for many traditional cultural and artistic festivities – Budva, the City of Theatre.



Medieval town walls in Budva

MONTENEGRO

Ulcinj

Ulcinj was founded sometime between the 5th and 4th century BC. Various archeological findings confirm the presence of Greek architecture, such as the remains of the Cyclops' walls and a stone altar dedicated to the goddess Artemis.

The oldest citadel mentioned in Livy's writings was named Colchinium, and Constantine Porphyrogenitus mentioned it as Helcynio. The name Ulcinj was first found in Papal documents from the 9th century. In the second half of the 14th century, it became a part of the Kingdom of Zeta, and in 1396 it became the capital of the Balšić family, whose castle still dominates the old town and is an important part of the collection of authentic medieval architecture in Montenegro. At the end of the 17th century, the interpreter of Talmud, Sabataj Cevi lived in the city, after converting to Islam, under the name of Mehmed Efendi.

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From 1571 to 1576, the famous Spanish writer, Miguel de Cervantes Saavedra was incarcerated in the Cita di Dolcino. He named his heroine Dulcinea after Ulcinj. Even today, the market where slaves were sold is called Slaves' Square or Cervantes' Square. Pirates asked for the largest possible ransom to liberate Cervantes, thinking that he belonged to the nobility. After his family managed to collect enough money for the ransom, he left Ulcinj after five years. During the time of Turkish domination, Ulcinj became a shelter for pirates, and it stayed so, until its liberation and annexation to Montenegro in 1880.

The archeological and ethnological exhibits of the rich cultural heritage of the city can be seen in the City Museum, located in the Old Town.

In the consciousness of contemporary visitors, Ulcinj is regarded as the easternmost West, and as the westernmost East.

Old Town walls



Balšići Tower, Old Town, Ulcinj, 14th century



A view of Ulcinj from the Old Town



MONTENEGRO

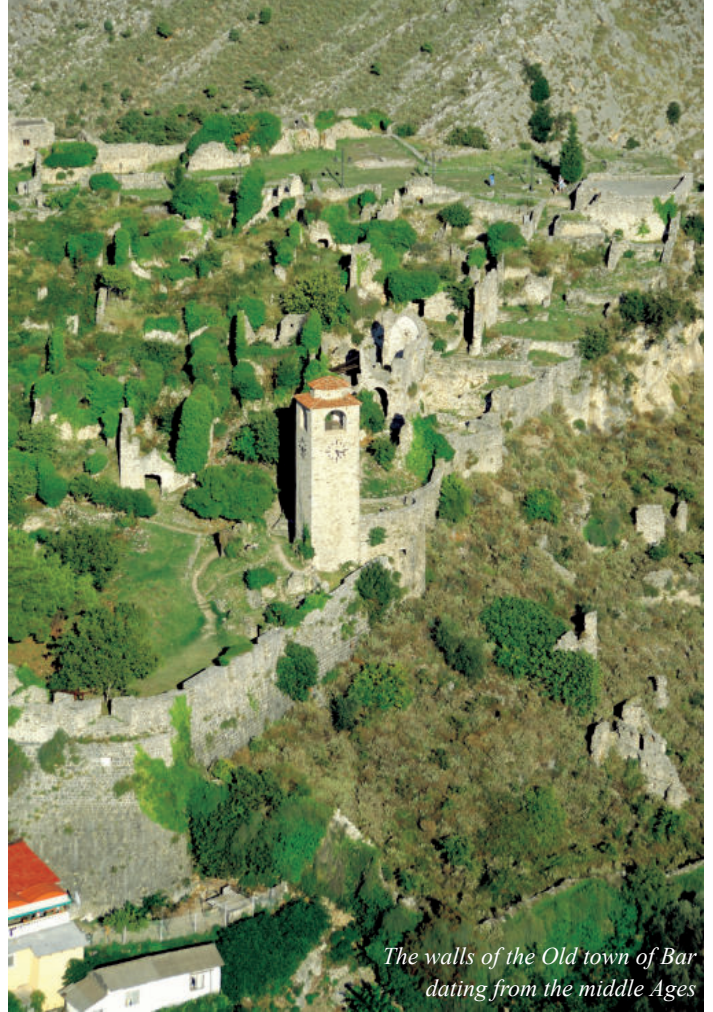
Bar

The oldest written document about Bar, under the name Anibaris, connects this town with the Greeks. During Roman rule it is mentioned under the name of Antibarum. According to some historians, the name Bar comes from the Avars and according to others it comes from Bari, the town in Italy. At the end of the 9th century the town was mentioned for the first time in Slavic documents under the name of Bar. Starting from 1042, the year of the victory of Duklja over the Byzantine army, near Bar, the town became one of the most important centers of Duklja and then later of Zeta. During king Bodin's rule, the bishopric of Bar became an archbishopric in 1089.

The Old town of Bar's turbulent history was reflected in its architecture – inside its walls there were 240 buildings, streets, squares, flights of stairs,

wells... Today it is a collection of the remnants and ruins of architectural monuments and stone sculptures of various styles. A significant part of the Old Town has been restored and today it is almost attached to the new town of Bar.

Bar is an important cultural center by tradition. Our first literary work and a work of historical importance, the Priest Dukljanin's Chronicle, in the 12th century was written here. The content of this chronicle is divided into several parts, and among them the last two bear special importance – The Legend about St Vladimir and The Duklja Chronicle of the 11th and the 12th centuries. In addition to its rich cultural and ethnographic heritage and its complex intertwining of cultures and religions, Bar is also developing today into a center of contemporary art and cultural events.



The walls of the Old town of Bar dating from the middle Ages



The entrance gate to The Old town of Bar

Bar trikonhos

The church (from the 6th century) which is in the center of Bar in the Topolica borough, contains fragments of pre-Romanesque decorative stone sculpture and a necropolis.



MONTENEGRO

The Old Olive which is as old as Christianity is a natural monument protected by law since 1963. It is over 2,000 years old and it is considered to be the oldest tree in Europe. The tree is 10 m in circumference. Legend says that families who had quarreled used to gather together around the olive tree and be reconciled there.

MONTENEGRO

The Balšića Monasteries on Skadar Lake

The Balšić Dynasty left sacral monuments on the islands Starčevo, Beška and Moračnik on Skadar lake, which were famous for their important scriptorium activities. The oldest monastery with a church dedicated to the resurrection of the Holy Mother was built on Starčevo between 1376 and 1378. According to legend, its construction was connected to the life of an old martyr Makarije after whom the island was initially given the name Starčeva Gorica (The Old Man's Forest), and only later Starčevo. The monastery church is a smallish one-nave building, and apart from it there are residences and ancillary facilities. It is surrounded by a high wall. In front of the church there is also the grave of a famous printer from Podgorica, Božidar Vuković.

The monastery on Beška has an older church devoted to St George and a younger one devoted to the Holy

Mother. It is assumed that the older one – a trikonhos with a central dome with a bell tower and a distaff – was built at the end of the 14th century. The smaller church was built by Jelena Balšić as her mausoleum in 1440. Beška Monastery was also known as an important centre of copying. The famous “Šestodnev starca Nikona Jerusalimca” was written in 1439/40 in its scriptorium, as well as the Gorica's Almanac in 1441/42. The monastery on Moračnik with a smallish trikonhos church devoted to the Holy Mother was mentioned for the first time in 1417. The church has a central dome, a narthex which was added later and an open portico. There is a residence, a dining room and a five-floor tower. The monastery is surrounded by a stone wall. Icons were painted in all of the churches, and Starčevo Monastery has returned to life after the reconstruction of its residence.

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Moračnik Monastery, 15th century



Beška Monastery, 15th century



Grmožur Fortress, 19th century



Žabljak Crnojevića, a fortified town from the 15th century

Žabljak Crnojevića

Žabljak Crnojevića is an important town-fortress dating from the Middle Ages. It was mentioned for the first time in the 10th century (during the rule of the Vojislavljević dynasty). It was the capital of the Crnojević dynasty. In 1478 it was occupied by the Turks and they ruled over it until the Congress of Berlin and the international recognition of Montenegro. The most important architectural monuments are Ivan Crnojević's Castle and St George's Church. Today the town is deserted. In the architectural remains there is a visible Venetian influence from the rule of the Crnojević family and also some oriental elements. Today Žabljak Crnojevića is a tourist attraction.



Lesendro

Lesendro is a fortress on a small island on Skadar Lake. It used to be a strategic location and therefore the reason for many clashes between the Turkish and Montenegrin armies. Today the island is connected to the mainland.

The view from Lesendro Fortress





CETINJE – THE OLD CAPITAL OF MONTENEGRO

Cetinje was the capital of Montenegro established by the construction by Ivan Crnojević of a Monastery and a Castle in 1482. He preserved these sanctuaries of Montenegrin state-building and spirituality in the hills of Cetinje. In the Church of the Holy Mother of Cetinje Monastery the holy remains of St Peter of Cetinje are kept. Apart from religious relics of the greatest significance- the right hand of John the Baptist and fragments of the Holy Cross, in the monastery treasury there are also handwritten books, incunabulum, crosses, panagias and priests' and bishops' vestments.

The Residences and embassies of the leading world powers from the end of the 19th and the beginning of the 20th centuries were later turned into cultural institutions, educational buildings and museums containing the most important relics and artifacts found in Montenegro. In addition to the numerous museums and the great collection of the cultural treasures of Montenegro, Cetinje is the only city in Europe that is included in the territory of two national parks – Lovćen and Skadar Lake.



Cetinje – Njegoš Street



The French Embassy (19th century)



The Court Church on Ćipur bears the coats of arms of Ivan Crnjević' and the last king of Montenegro, Nikola and his wife Queen Milena



MONTENEGRO

Cetinje, the city – museum

The collection of monuments and buildings or items in the national museums' treasures: the State Museum (King Nikola's Castle), Njegoš's Museum (Biljarda), The Museum of Ethnography (Serbian Embassy), The Museum of Montenegrin History (Government House), The Art Museum of Montenegro (the Government House), the Blue Castle, The Court Archive, the library. In this complex there is also the Relief of Montenegro, Dado Atelier and Njegoš birthplace in Njeguši.

The oldest buildings belonging to the rich architectural heritage of Cetinje are Vlaška Church, Crnojevića Monastery and Cetinje Monastery.

The remains of Crnojevića Monastery can be found on the so-called Ćipur, between the Monastery of Cetinje, Biljarda and King Nikola's Court. It was constructed by Ivan Crnojević in 1484 as the residence of the Zeta Metropolitan. Today, on one part of its remains there is the Court Church (Dvorska crkva) built by King Nikola. King Nikola and Queen Milena's remains were buried here after having been brought from San Remo to Cetinje in 1989.

The monument to Bishop Danilo Petrović on the orders of the Italian Queen Jelena, King Nikola's daughter, was built on Orlov Krš. This was once one of the fortifications of Ivan Crnojević.



*The State Museum
– Diplomatic Salon*



The Ethnographic Museum – Traditional attire



Lovćen

The Mausoleum of Petar II Petrović Njegoš on Lovćen was built and designed by the sculptor Ivan Meštrović in 1947 on Jezerski Peak (1657 m high). It is 37 m long, 15.5 m wide and 11m high. It is built of granite, with two caryatids of Montenegrin women in folk costumes, placed at the entrance. There is also a

monumental statue of Njegoš which is 3.74m tall inside. The remains of the great Montenegrin poet and sovereign are placed in a separately decorated crypt. The mausoleum complex is finished with a threshing floor (gumno) which has a view of the sea, Skadar Lake and the mountainous interior of Montenegro.

King Nikola with his family



The Royal family of Montenegro

Nikola, the Prince – King of Montenegro succeeded to the throne as a twenty-year-old. He had nine daughters and three sons with his wife, Princess – Queen Milena. For a while the king intended to build a monastery on the island of Grmožur on Skadar Lake for his daughters, the princesses of Montenegro. On the other hand their beauty, charm and education brought them to the attention of many courts, so in turn they all became leading ladies and important persons in European royal courts by marriage. This gave King Nikola the title of the European father-in-law.

First Princess Ljubica (also known as Zorka) married Petar Karađorđević the First, who later became king of Serbia (the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes). After her, two princesses went to the Russian court: Milica, who married the Grand Prince of Russia, Peter

Nikolayevich Romanov, and Anastasija – Stana, who married the Duke of Leuchtenberg, Đorđe Maksimilijanović Romanovski. After divorce, Anastasia married again to the Grand Duke of Russia Nicholas Nikolayevich Romanov. Jelena (Helena) became the Queen of Italy by marrying Victor Emmanuel the Third. Ana was married to Franz Joseph, the Prince of Battenberg. Princesses Ksenija and Vjera did not get married, Marija died as a fourteen-year-old pupil in Russia, and Princess Sofija died as a three-month –old baby. King Nikola’s son, Danilo the Second was married to the Duchess of Mecklenburg-Strelitz, Augusta Jutta, who was renamed Milica Jutta after converting to Orthodox Christianity. Petar was married to Violet Wegner (who was named Ljubica Wegner after converting to Orthodox Christianity) and Mirko married a Serbian noblewoman Natalija Konstantinović.



The queen of Italy, Elena of Savoy – daughter of king Nikola

MONTENEGRO



Pero Poček - "The threshing"

Contemporary art

King Nikola was one of the most prolific Montenegrin writers, but he held in special esteem the visual arts. During his reign, the Montenegrin court became a favorite place of many foreign artists, such as Jaroslav Čermak, Teodor Valerio, Ežen Ronža, Vlaho Bukovac, Celestin Medović, Paja Jovanović, Ivan Rendić and others who came there to create. The King financially supported Montenegrin young men while they studied at European art academies. The most important among them were the impressionists Pero Poček and Đoko Popović who helped incorporate Montenegrin painting into contemporary European artistic trends. The tradition of educating our young talent abroad continued after the country of Montenegro ceased to exist. They mostly went to Paris, and came back with a great reputation. Among them were Petar Lubarda, Milo Milunović, Risto Stijović. A similar thing happened after the Second World War when Montenegrin visual art became the leading cultural activity here with the artists like Dado, Vojo Stanić, Filo, and Dimitrije Popović.

The best collection of Montenegrin visual art can be found in The Museum of Montenegrin Art in Cetinje, in The Centre for Contemporary Art

in Podgorica, in the Modern Gallery in Budva, in the Gallery "Josip Bepo Benković" in Herceg Novi, among others. Among the institutions of special importance for the development of Montenegrin culture today, a special place belongs to The Royal Theatre, the Zeta Centre and The Central National Library in Cetinje, in the building formerly of the Legate of The Kingdom of Italy and the building that was the French Embassy.

The most important center of cultural development in the country today is Podgorica. The dynamic life of its visual arts is developed through The Center of Contemporary Art, based in the former residence of the Montenegrin Prince Mirko, in an exhibition hall belonging to the Association of Artists of Montenegro. Apart from this, many art collections belonging to the nonaligned countries and the Montenegrin art collection from the 20th century are kept at the Court in Cetinje.

The best reflection of the contemporary arts in Podgorica is The National Theatre of Montenegro (CNP) which was founded in 1953. Apart from current theatrical events, this modern building also offers a rich musical repertoire.



Details from a performance of "A dream about Saint Peter of Cetinje"



*Dado Đurić
- "The mischievous girls"*

MONTENEGRO

THE INTERTWINING OF VARIOUS CULTURES AND AN AUTHENTIC FOLK TRADITION

Architecture, the culture of everyday life, household furniture, folk costumes, jewelry, weapons, decorations...are part of the precious ethnographic heritage. This heritage is witness to the centuries long coexistence of various cultures on the territory of Montenegro.

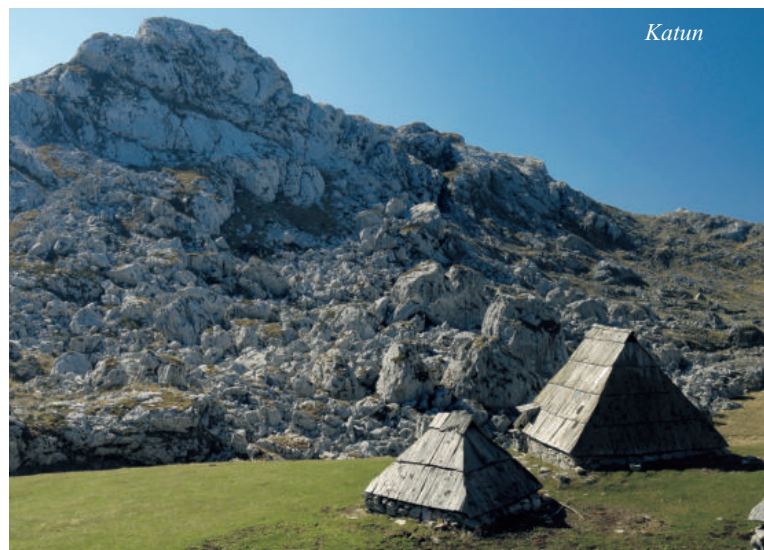
The interior of an old Montenegrin house



Distaff and wooden vessels



Olive mill



Katun

MONTENEGRO



The village of Godinje, Crnica, Bar

A threshing floor, called a *gumno* or *gumno*

A *Gumno* is a circular piece of land covered in rocks and surrounded by a low wall. It was used for agriculture during the season of working in the fields or during threshing, and outside the season it had a social role. That secondary, social significance of the *gumno* is in one part of Montenegro reflected in the function of the *agora*, a place for community meetings and sometimes of key events such as the taking of the oath by an army before a battle, social gatherings, funeral rituals, etc. Sometimes people went to the *gumno* to sing and dance in winter especially under the moonlight in the coastal area.



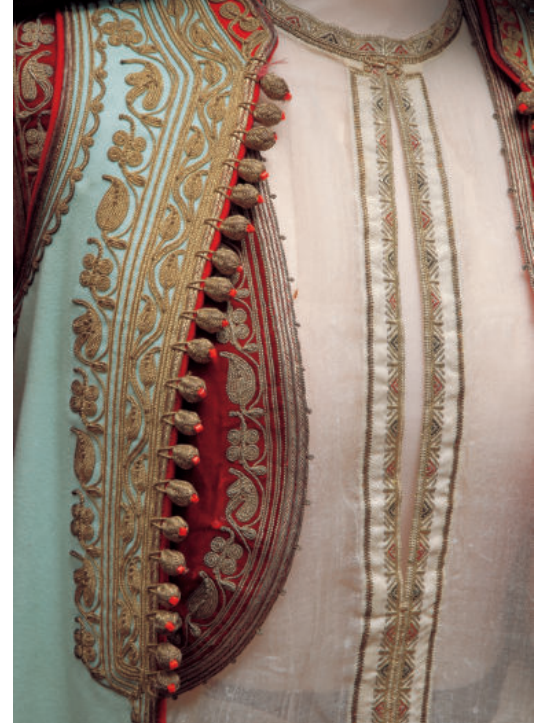
The architecture can mostly be divided into three zones, depending on the material used. The buildings made of stone, of the so-called marine type, were constructed on the coastal zone and in the hinterland. As for the continental part, the left bank of the Lim was dominated by log-cabins and the right side was dominated by various types of houses: log-houses, “*bonducara*”, and other stone buildings.

The best presentation of Montenegrin folk art can be found in The Museum of Ethnography of Montenegro, The State Museum on Cetinje and The Marine Museum in Kotor. There are also museums that have ethnographic collections with elements of the material and spiritual culture from this land.



MONTENEGRO

A special part of Montenegrin national expression are the ceremonial folk costumes of both men and women. They were home-made in workrooms and were made of textile with various decorations, mostly imported. They were always treated as valuable objects throughout a lifetime, just like the weapons which formed an important part of them. In this country always threatened by invasion, a country fortified for war, weapons were always a symbol of life and a symbol of freedom, and their beauty was often taken as a sign of dignity.



Part of the male and female festive

Montenegrin folk costumes

Montenegrin folk costumes are luxurious, elegant and rich in golden threads. They were made of imported materials and treated as family treasure. Men's costumes consisted of a white shirt, wide blue pants, blue long stockings, overshoes, opanak (Balkan moccasins made of leather),

a red džamadan with or without sleeves, light-green fur pullover (gunj) or a dark green dolman and a bright red richly decorated tassel. Over the fur pullover called a gunj, men used to wear a sleeveless jacket called a jelek with or without silver buttons. Around the waist they wore a leather

belt for carrying weapons and a long silk belt – trombolos. A cap with a black edge (deravija) and a red patch (tepelak) was decorated with the Montenegrin coat of arms with golden threads, the owner's initials or other symbols. Women's clothes consisted of a silk embroidered shirt, a

long silk skirt, a light-green corset, stockings and opanak. On their heads girls wore a cap with golden embroidery and women wore a multicolored or a black scarf. Around their waist they wore a silvered or a gilded belt – čemer, mostly made in the form of filigree.

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Old Montenegrin weapons

In the museum collections of Montenegro there are plenty of examples of weapons taken as war-booty from various battles against the Turks. The favorite weapons of Montenegrin soldiers were long rifles – džeferdari, guns – kubure and long knives – jatagani. Apart from those from the Ottoman Empire, these weapons were also made in workrooms on the Coast and in Herzegovina. Guns or small rifles, as they were sometimes called, were specially decorated mostly with silver filigree. Among the guns used, the most valuable were the so-called ledenice (icicles) which were made in Coastal workrooms. Members of the chivalry carried long knives – jatagani and sabers.



Silver buttons – part of the attire



Part of the personal Montenegrin weapons

MONTENEGRO

On the other side, an inevitable part of women's folk costumes were woven belts, *jakićari* and *čemer*i, forged or made using filigree techniques. They were made in goldsmiths' shops in Kotor and Skadar. There are a few other special types of folk costumes in Montenegro: the old costumes, Boka costumes (similar to the Montenegrin type), *šestanska* (the neighbourhood of Skadar Lake), the Muslim type and the Malisor type.



A chest



A dolman, a part of the Muslim female traditional attire



"Djupeleta" – Albanian female attire

A Muslim female hat



A female belt ("cemer")



MONTENEGRO

TRADITIONAL CELEBRATIONS, CARNIVALS, THEATRE UNDER THE OPEN SKY...



Bokeljska Noć (The Boka Night) is held every August on the coast of Kotor. People join in a procession and compete with each other in the beauty of their boats for the prize of Bokeljska Noć. The walk starts at Muo and ends with the announcement of the winner and fireworks above the town walls. The summer celebration lasts until dawn.

Carnivals are held during February, and they begin with fancy dress balls in all the bigger places on the Boka Kotorska Bay. The central part of the procession is the Carnival, a figure which is destroyed by being set on fire to atone for all the evils of the previous year.

The Celebrations of St Valentine are also religious in character, and

they are dedicated to this saint, the patron saint of Kotor and a saint whose relics are kept in the Cathedral. This celebration consists of church choirs, local town music, the Boka marine and folkdance groups.

Camellia days take place in March in Stoliv near Kotor in honor of this flower. Apart from Stoliv, other places near Kotor organize flower exhibitions, art exhibitions and theatrical performances.

Shooting a Rooster is connected to the repelling of a Turkish invasion of Perast in 1654. The competition of shooting a rooster on an anchored board placed around 300 meters away from the coast takes place every March 13.



MONTENEGRO



Fašinada

The Fašinada is a traditional celebration in Perast which is held every year on July 22 as a remembrance of the year 1452 and the day when The Icon of Our Lady was found on the sea rocks. Believers, especially older men, bring old stones in their boats and throw them into the sea to fortify the island which occupies a surface of three thousand square meters and where the Our Lady of the

Rocks Church is placed. According to custom, the boats are decorated with greenery and filled with rocks and they start from the east side of Perast, and following a centuries' old protocol: the priest, the mayor and the honorable citizens are in the first boat. The believers sing the old songs from Perast – the bugarštica. The Fašinada ends with the throwing of the stones into the sea.

Boka Marine Wheel Dance

Boka Marine, the organized marine brotherhood, is mentioned for the first time in documents from the 14th century, and its oldest Statute existing today is from the 15th century. With the help of these kinds of brotherhoods the cities in the Mediterranean protected the interests of their people and helped each other in feudal communes in the Middle Ages. The Boka Marine wheel dance is performed to this day; people wear traditional costumes with

old fashioned weapons. This dance has all the elements of Middle Ages symbolism. It was originally performed on February 3, the day of the patron saint of the town, St Valentine. Today, according to a new Boka Marine Statute, the day of celebration is the date of the announcement of the oldest existing Statute, June 26 1463. The dance consists of a number of figures which have all the characteristics of ancient symbolism and history. The first, the oldest and the

principal layer of the wheel dance is ritual and sacral. The second one is newer, secular and it was founded under the influence of the life of the sailors. Only men dance. The figures are connected to wedding dances and fertility rituals. Its ancient symbolism is the renewal of life, going down into the darkness and stepping out again into the light. The dance is performed on the square, in front of St Valentine's Cathedral.

The Rolling Stones' concert in 2007 at the Jaz beach - Budva



MONTENEGRO

MUSEUMS GUIDE

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■ NATIONAL MUSEUM OF MONTENEGRO

Address: Novice Cerovića 7
81250 Cetinje
Tel: +382 41 23 03 10
Open daily 09.00-17.00
Ticket price: €3 for adults, €1.5 for students

■ HISTORY MUSEUM OF MONTENEGRO

Address: Novice Cerovića 7
Vladin dom
81250 Cetinje
Tel: +382 41 23 03 10
Out of the season: open daily 09.00-16.00, closed on Sundays
During the summer season: open daily 09.00-17.00
Ticket price: €3 for adults, €1.5 for students



■ ART MUSEUM OF MONTENEGRO

Address: Novice Cerovića 7
Vladin dom
81250 Cetinje
Tel: +382 41 23 03 10
Out of the season: open daily 09.00-16.00, closed on Sundays
During the summer season: open daily 09.00-17.00
Ticket price: €4 for adults, €2 for students



■ ETHNOGRAPHIC MUSEUM OF MONTENEGRO

Address: Trg kralja Nikole, the building of the former Serbian Embassy
81250 Cetinje
Tel: +382 41 23 03 10
Out of the season: open daily 09.00-16.00, closed on Sundays
During the summer season: open daily 09.00-17.00
Ticket price: €2 for adults, €1 for students

■ RELIEF MAP OF MONTENEGRO

Address: Trg kralja Nikole
81250 Cetinje
Tel: +382 41 23 03 10
Ticket price: €1 for adults, €1 for students



■ NJEGOS' MUSEUM BILLIARD HALL (BIL-JARDA)

Address: Trg kralja Nikole
81250 Cetinje
Tel: +382 41 23 03 10
Out of the season: closed
During the summer season: daily 09.00-17.00
Ticket price: €3 for adults, €1.5 for students

■ NJEGOS' BIRTHPLACE IN NJEGUSI

Address: Njeguši bb
81250 Cetinje
Tel: +382 41 23 03 10
Out of the season: closed
During the summer season: daily 09.00-17.00



■ MUSEUM OF KING NIKOLA

Address: Trg kralja Nikole, Dvor Kralja Nikole I
81250 Cetinje
Tel: +382 41 23 03 10
Out of the season: open daily 09.00-16.00, closed on Sundays
During the summer season: daily 09.00-17.00
Ticket price: €5 for adults, €2.5 for students

■ CETINJE MONASTERY

Address: Riznica Cetinjskog manastira
81250 Cetinje
Tel: +382 41 23 1273
euo@mitropolija.me
www.mitropolija.me

■ NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM

Address: Trg vojvode Bećir bega Osmanagića 16
81000 Podgorica
Tel: +382 20 63 31 84
No permanent exhibition
Working hours: 09.00-17.00
Saturday and Sunday: 17.00-19.00
Free admission



■ CENTRE FOR CONTEMPORARY ART

Address: Dvor Petrovića, Kruševac bb
81000 Podgorica
Tel: +382 20 22 50 43
Working hours: 09.00-14.00
Saturday: 09.00-15.00

■ "CENTRE" GALLERY

Address: Njogoševa 2
81000 Podgorica
Tel: +382 20 66 54 09
Working hours: 09.00-14.00 and 17.00-21.00
Saturday: 10.00-14.00
Free admission

■ MUSEUM OF MARKO MILJANOV ON MEDUN

Address: Medun bb
81000 Podgorica
Tel: +382 20 24 25 43
Working hours: closed on Mondays
Daily 09.00-20.00
Ticket price: €5 for individuals, €1 for groups

■ MUSEUMS AND GALLERIES OF PODGORICA

Address: Marka Miljanova 4
81000 Podgorica
Tel: +382 20 24 26 05
Working hours: closed on Mondays

Daily 09.00-20.00
Saturday and Sunday: 09.00-14.00
Ticket price: €5 for individuals, €1 for groups



■ CULTURAL CENTRE, NIKŠIĆ

County Museum
Address: Trg Šaka Petrovića bb
81400 Nikšić
Tel: +382 69 38 66 73
Working hours: 09.00-13.00
Ticket price: €1 for individuals, €0.5 for students



■ CULTURAL CENTRE, DANILOVGRAD

County Museum
Address: Vaka Djurovića bb
81410 Danilovgrad
Tel: +382 20 81 20 32
Working hours: 08.00-16.00
Free admission



■ MARITIME MUSEUM

Address: Trg Bokeljske mornarice 391
85330 Kotor
Tel: +382 32 30 47 20
Working hours: 08.00-16.00
Saturday and Sunday: 09.00-13.00
Ticket price: €4 for adults, €1 for children, €1.5 for groups

MONTENEGRO



MUSEUMS OF THE TOWN OF PERAST

Address: Obala Marka Martiniovića bb
85336 Perast
Tel: +382 32 37 35 19
Working hours: 09.00-15.00
Ticket price: €2.5 for adults, €1.5 for children



LAPIDARIUM

Address: Stari grad 313
85330 Kotor
Tel: +382 69 34 36 70
Working hours: 09.00-15.00
Ticket price: €1.5 for individuals, €1 for groups

ST. TRYPHON'S CATHEDRAL

Address: Stari grad 336
85330 Kotor
Tel: +382 32 32 23 15
Working hours: 09.00-20.00
Ticket price: €2.5 for individuals, €2.1 for groups

OUR LADY OF THE ROCKS (GOSPA OD SKRPJELA)

Address: Ostrvo Gospa od Skrpjela
85336 Perast
Tel: +382 69 01 36 78
Working hours: 08.00-19.00 and on call
Ticket price: €1 for adults, €0.5 for students
Free admission for children under 7

ST. NICOLA'S CHURCH IN PERAST

Address: Trg Sv. Nikole
85336 Perast
Tel: +382 68 12 11 20
Working hours: 08.00-22.00
Ticket price: €1 for groups



SAVINA MONASTERY

Address: Manastirska 21
85340 Herceg Novi
Tel: +382 31 34 53 00
Working hours: every day
Free admission



COUNTY MUSEUM AND ART GALLERY

Josip Bepo Benković
Herceg Novi
Address: Museum
Mirka Komnenovića 9
85340 Herceg Novi
Tel: +382 67 24 75 57
Working hours: 09.00-20.00
Ticket price: €2 for adults, €1 for students
Free admission for children under 7
Address: Gallery
Marka Vojnovića 4
Tel: +382 67 24 75 57
Working hours: 09.00-21.00
Free admission

CULTURAL CENTRE, TIVAT

Museum collection and gallery
Address: Nikole Djurkovića 10
Tel: +382 32 67 45 90
Working hours:
Box Office 09.00-12.00 and two hours before the show
Library 08.00-19.00;
Gallery 08.00-20.00



MUSEUMS, GALLERIES AND LIBRARY OF BUDVA

Address: Petra I Petrovića 11
85310 Stari grad, Budva
Tel: +382 33 45 20 60
Working hours: 08.00-14.00 and 17.00-19.00, closed on Sundays
Ticket price: €2.5 for individuals, €1.5 group ticket

MODERN GALLERY

Address: Cara Dušana 15
85310 Stari grad, Budva
Tel: +382 33 40 38 40
Working hours: 08.00-14.00 and 17.00-21.00
Closed on Sundays
Free admission



CULTURAL CENTRE, BAR

Museum of King Nikola
Address: Šetalište Kralja Nikole
85000 Bar
Tel: +382 30 31 24 31
Working hours: 08.00-22.00
Ticket price: €1 for adults, €0.5 for children under 10

CULTURAL CENTRE, ULCINJ

County Museum
Address: Stari grad
85360 Ulcinj
Tel: +382 30 41 26 58
Working hours: 08.00-20.00
Ticket price: €2 per person

PIVA MONASTERY

Address: Plužine
81435 Plužine
Tel: +382 40 27 19 16
Open for visitors around the clock
Free admission

MONASTERY OF THE HOLY TRINITY

NEAR PLJEVLJA
Address: Manastirski park Vodic
Tel: +382 52 35 20 25
Open for visitors around the clock
Free admission

HUSEIN PASHA'S MOSQUE

Address: Kralja Petra I
84210 Pljevlja
Tel: +382 52 32 35 09
+382 69 08 64 49
Visits are organised upon request by phone
Free admission



CENTRE FOR CULTURAL ACTIVITIES

County Museum Bijelo Polje
Address: Radnička bb
Tel: +382 50 43 15 79
Working hours: 08.00-16.00
Ticket price: €1 for individuals, €0.5 for groups

POLIMLJE MUSEUM, BERANE

Address: Miloša Mališića 3
84300 Berane
Tel: +382 51 23 42 76
Working hours: 08.00-20.00
Free admission



COUNTY MUSEUM GANJICA KULA, ROŽAJE

Address: Trg IX crnogorske brigade bb
84310 Rožaje
Tel: +382 67 56 68 64
Working hours: 08.00-16.00
Free admission

MONTENEGRO

THE CALENDAR OF CULTURAL, GASTRONOMIC AND TRADITIONAL EVENTS

JANUARY

Entertainment, sports and cultural events in winter centers Žabljak, Kolašin, Nikšić –Vučje, Bijelo Polje, Cetinje

FEBRUARY



THE CELEBRATION OF MIMOSA

The celebration in honor of the first spring flower, mimosa, takes place in Herceg Novi, Igalo, Baošići, Đenovići and Kumbor. It includes; a fishing festival, masked balls, carnivals, literary evenings, exhibitions of paintings, flower exhibitions, mimosa picking, sports tournaments and visits to other towns.

MASKED BALLS AND CARNIVALS

There are carnivals in February in Kotor, Tivat and Herceg Novi for both children and adults. The traditional festivals of Boka cuisine, musical concerts, theatrical performances and the final processions with the burning of the “carnival”

„BOKELJSKA NIGHT“

The traditional yearly celebration of the “Boka Navy”. An entertaining night of dancing, playing music and other cultural activities.



MARCH

CAMELLIA DAYS in Boka

In honor of this flower a flower exhibition is held, a camellia ball with the choosing of the lady of camellia in Stoliv...

APRIL

HAPS (April Theatrical Festival in Herceg Novi)

April Theatrical Festival in Herceg Novi, a festival which was founded as a Festival of amateur theatre 11 years ago, and today it also includes professional theatre from countries in the region.

MAY

THE SPRING NIGHT UNDER MASKS – A carnival ON THE BUDVA RIVIERA

The state competition of majorettes and the grand Carnival start with the Abrum, an invitation to the masking and the carnival. The celebration ends with fireworks, a musical concert and celebrations on the streets of the Old Town of Budva. The international children’s festival takes place on the last day of the Carnival.



SHOOTING A ROOSTER

This is a traditional celebration of the liberation of Perast from the Turks in 1654 in both a festive and symbolic way. According to custom, a floating rooster is put at a distance from the coast as the symbol of the fight against the enemy – Turkey which attacked the town in that year. By tradition the first ones to shoot at the rooster are sailors from the Boka Navy. The one who shoots the rooster gets the winner’s sash and a little barrel of red wine to share with the others.

ŽUĆENICA FEST in Tivat A gastronomic festival in Tivat with Boka food. Dishes are prepared with the herb žućenica (wild lettuce). The central event is called „Pjat od žućenice“ (“A dish with žućenica”) which takes place in May when women from Tivat prepare the old and invent new recipes of dishes with žućenica. In the evening there is a celebration and a tasting of the dishes.

MONTENEGRO

JUNE

BOKA NAVY DAY in Kotor

Like the majority of organizations dating from the middle Ages, the Boka Navy has kept its tradition, legends and the memory of the days of glory and social gatherings. The legend says that sailors from Kotor were there on January 13 in the year 809 when the ship carrying Saint Valentine's relics anchored in the town and that they then danced for the first time their famous dance (The Saint Valentine's wheel dance)



THE FIFTH INTERNATIONAL FOLKLORE FESTIVAL in Budva

The Festival has around 400 participants. It starts with a procession by folklore troupes from around ten European countries. During the festival night, all the ensembles demonstrate their skills, the richness of their clothes and the folk dances from their countries.

THE CITY SUMMERS OF CULTURE in TIVAT, BAR, ULCINJ, PODGORICA, DANILOVGRAD, BERANE, NIKŠIĆ

Within these summer events many exhibitions are held, book promotions, theatrical performances, pop concerts and folklore festivals.



THE CONTEMPORARY MONTENEGRIN SCULPTURE EXHIBITION in Danilovgrad

The art colony in Danilovgrad, a settlement on the Bjelopavlička plain has for a number of years been the central gathering point of Montenegrin sculptors and the place to be for people who follow the latest trends in modern art.

JULY

SUNČANE SKALE in Herceg Novi

The International pop festival which takes place on the summer stage Kanli Tower. It lasts for three evenings: the first evening – The „PRINCE'S PRIZES“ (the awards for the best entries of the previous year), the second night - „THE NEW STARS“ (a competition of new and young singers) and the third night - „THE SUMMER SONG“ (a competition for famous singers and songwriters from this country and abroad)



THE INTERNATIONAL FASHION FESTIVAL in Kotor

A three-day-long fashion week with fashion shows by famous designers from around the world.

BUDVA GRAD TEATAR (BUDVA TOWN THEATRE)

The most important summer arts festival. Theatrical performances, concerts of classical music, ballet, choir evenings, book and poetry evenings, painting exhibitions – an international festivals that takes place in July and August.

DAYS OF MUSIC in Herceg Novi

The international festival of music, one of the oldest festivals in Montenegro, it has been taking place in Herceg Novi since 1983. At the beginning it was a classical music festival where young musicians presented their work from the whole of former Yugoslavia. The Festival has flourished in the last 4 years. The festival's director is BORIS KRALJEVIĆ, a famous pianist and teacher of music.



CHILDREN'S THEATER FESTIVAL in Kotor

A festival of children's puppet-shows and performances from home and abroad. It has been taking place for the last 15 years.

THE FIFTH INTERNATIONAL MUSIC AND ART FESTIVAL

– ARS ET MUSICA ANTIQUA in Kotor and Perast

A festival of classical music which is organized by the NGO Kotor art. It starts in the middle of July and lasts until the middle of August.

MONTENEGRO



JULY

THE FAŠINADA in Perast

A ritual procession of boats around the Our Lady of the Rocks Island near Perast, which symbolizes the island's origin. The local people carry stones in their boats and throw them around the island. In this procession, which takes place during sunset, only men take part.

MEDITERRANEAN THEATRE FESTIVAL "PURGATORIJE" in Tivat

A festival which promotes and fosters Mediterranean expression, the way of life and theatrical diversity. It displays the theatrical tradition of the „Mediterranean“ cultural heritage.

BARSKI LJETOPIŠ (THE CHRONICLE OF BAR)

A theatrical, poetry and visual arts festival. From 1988 during July and August a multimedia festival has been presented including the following: theatrical performances, visual arts exhibitions, book nights and concerts.

GUITAR ART SUMMER FESTIVAL U NIKŠIĆU

An international classical music event. The festival is designed as a competition in three categories, then there is a series of concerts and finally there are seminars in which famous guitarists teach young talent.



AUGUST

THE INTERNATIONAL SUMMER CARNIVAL in Kotor

A traditional event in Kotor taking place on the last weekend of July or at the beginning of August. The summer carnival is international in character and it is visited by over 30,000 people. After the procession the carnival moves to the Old Town and lasts until morning.

LASTOVSKJE FEŠTE – THE FESTIVAL OF ST ROCH in Tivat

Religious and traditional events of the Catholic community; the carrying of St Roch's statue through Donja Lastva. A Mass for the people of Lastovo and the entire Boka.

BOKELJSKA NOĆ in Kotor

Bokeljska noć in which decorated boats sail along the port of Kotor followed by reflectors, illumination and fireworks. A jury marks the imagination, the artistic value and the message of each boat's decoration. After announcing the winner the celebration continues on the town squares. This event comes from an old Venetian custom.

MOVIE FESTIVAL IN HERCEG NOVI

An international movie festival which has been taking place on the Summer stage of the Kanli Tower for 21 years. It was founded in 1987 as THE FESTIVAL OF FILM DIRECTION IN YUGOSLAVIA, at the beginning of the ninth decade of the last century it has had many transformations, mostly those of name, and during the last few years it has been taking place under a simple name THE HERCEG NOVI FILM FESTIVAL

GUITAR SUMMER FESTIVAL in Herceg Novi

The guitar summer festival in Herceg Novi has been taking place for the last three years and it is already considered to be well-organized and well-attended. This is a classical music festival by famous guitarists, but every year a new form of playing classical music is included, with guests such as Rambo Amadeus and Vlatko Stefanovski.

KOTOR ART - Don Branko's days of music in Kotor

A classical music festival which starts in the middle of July and lasts until the middle of August. It gathers together eminent musicians from all over the world and apart from a series of concerts in different locations in the Old Town there are also many educational programs.

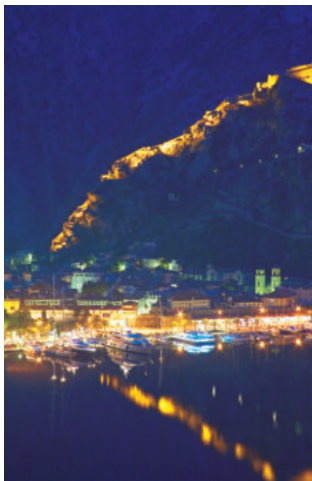
THE INTERNATIONAL SINGING-GROUP FESTIVAL in Perast

A traditional, folk singing-group festival that has been taking place for many years. The festival's program consists of two evenings.

FOLKLORE FESTIVAL in Cetinje

An international gathering of art troupes with a rich concert program.

THE INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL OF TAMBURITZA ORCHESTRAS in Bijelo Polje



MONTENEGRO



SEPTEMBER

FIAT – FESTIVAL OF INTERNATIONAL ALTERNATIVE THEATER in Podgorica

THE INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM OF SCULPTORS in Danilovgrad

For more than thirty years in the Art colony in Danilovgrad, many authors from home and abroad with of various poetical types and generations have been guests. The International character of this institution makes it a part of the European and world art colony family.

OCTOBER

DAY OF ŠIRUN in Budva

A traditional folk celebration with fish and wine on the first Saturday of October on the main plateau and little squares in the Old Town with the sounds of the music of Budva, featuring singing groups from Montenegro and the region.

CHESTNUT FESTIVAL in Stoliv

A Traditional gastronomic event in which women from Kotor and Stoliv present their skills in preparing desserts with chestnuts.



NOVEMBER

RIJEKA MARKET PLACE

An event which brings back the memory of the greatest Market place in the region during the Middle Ages – traditional dishes are presented



DECEMBER

MASLINIJADA (OLIVE FESTIVAL) in Bar

A festival dedicated to olives – in which olive oil and citrus fruits manufacturers gather together. The exhibition also contains folk costumes and a cultural program.

WINE AND BLEAK (UKLJEVA) FESTIVAL in Virpazar

Entertainment and traditional events are held in honor of Skadar Lake, its fish and the famous Crmnicko wine.

NEW YEAR CELEBRATIONS ON TOWN SQUARES

The traditional New year celebrations with concerts by famous stars and fireworks on town squares.

Locations: Herceg Novi, Kotor, Budva, Podgorica, Bar, Nikšić, Kolašin

MONTENEGRO



www.montenegro.travel
info@montenegro.travel