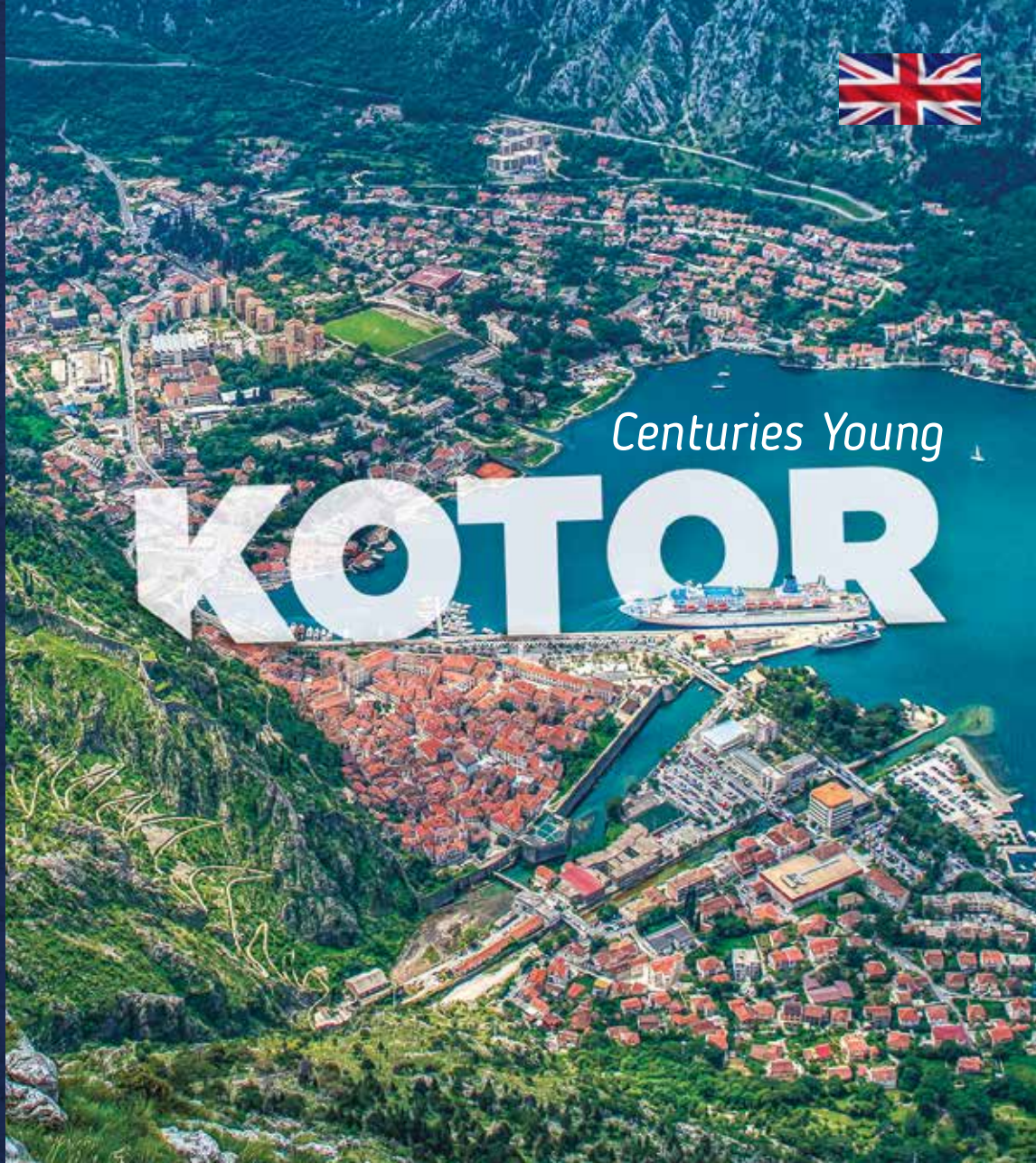




Centuries Young

KOTOR





WHY CHOOSE KOTOR

Traveling means more than simply changing cities to escape from everyday life and the stress it brings. It is a desire to immerse oneself in those places that we envision when our routines become monotonous and uninteresting. Once trapped in the modern world, it can be surprising to imagine what life was like centuries ago, before we became slaves to technology, media, consumerism, and corporate culture. It was a time when people truly valued virtues and both individuals and society faced challenges and achieved great things. The cultural monuments of medieval cities, with their buildings, streets, and squares, still hold secrets and tell stories of the past. If you long to return to a time when dignity was priceless, when the skills of master craftsmen were treasured, and when knowledge was passed down through generations, then Kotor is the perfect place for you. Every corner of this Mediterranean town holds memories of the people and events it has witnessed – warriors, nobles, captains, and artists. It was a place of creation and destruction, caught between the territories of powerful empires, but it retained its dignified uniqueness and essential qualities. Exploring the attractions of Kotor will transport you back several centuries, and the stories you will hear will make you reflect on bravery, piety, dignity, love, art, devotion, loyalty, nobility, and the challenges faced by men and women of that time. When you see how they lived, what they worked for, how they were educated, and what they fought against many centuries ago, you will appreciate the progress that has allowed us to live in the present with all the advancements that have shaped humanity, born out of the trials of the Middle Ages. Visiting Kotor will give you a sense of time travel, allowing you to experience the past in a modern way. Welcome to this city that is centuries young!



LOCATION

Kotor is a town situated in Montenegro, along the coast of the Adriatic Sea. Montenegro itself is located in Southeast Europe on the Balkan Peninsula. It is positioned east of Croatia, southeast of Bosnia and Herzegovina, southwest of Serbia, and west of Albania. It also shares an overseas border with Italy. Montenegro covers an area of 13,812 square kilometers, situated between latitudes 41° and 44° N, and longitudes 18° and 21° E. Kotor specifically lies in the southeastern part of the Bay of Kotor, nestled at the base of Mount Lovćen. The municipality of Kotor spans an area of 355 square kilometers. The city's coordinates are approximately latitude 42°25'59.99" N and longitude 18°37'59.99" E. The Adriatic Highway, a major road, passes through Kotor, connecting it with nearby towns. Additionally, Kotor is home to an international passenger port and is conveniently close to the Tivat International Airport.



GEOGRAPHY

The central part of Kotor is located at the base of Mount Lovćen, which has a stunning highest point reaching 1,749 meters. The mountain itself is renowned as one of the most beautiful national parks. The landscape in this area showcases a captivating contrast between mountain peaks and coastal regions, offering breathtaking views from the pedestrian paths.



To the east and northeast of the city's core, you'll find rocky sections of limestone walls dotted with crevices. Some parts of this area are covered in plants, surrounded by numerous caves and hills, and there's a steep drop from a height of 900 meters to the seashore. The imposing valley of the Škurda River cuts off massive limestone blocks with sparse vegetation. Despite its imposing appearance, the maximum flow rate of the Škurda River in recent decades has not exceeded 40 cubic meters per second.

The Škurda River springs from Lovćen, forming a riverbed with waterfalls and cascades, before flowing into Kotor Bay. The river's water exhibits a beautiful green hue, and the presence of waterfalls and vertical cliffs, along with diverse flora and fauna, create a captivating visual experience. This stands in contrast to the urban part of the city, which is situated near the river's bifurcation point.

On the opposite side of the Old Town lies Gurdić, which can be considered a river without a defined riverbed. During rainy days, water literally gushes out from the cave and mixes with seawater. However, during dry periods, this river retreats back into the cave, and its basin is filled with saltwater.



BAY OF KOTOR





AROUND THE BAY

Kotor is surrounded by small historical towns that hold cultural treasures and a rich history, harmoniously intertwined with beautiful landscapes. These places showcase the blend of untouched nature and centuries-old civilization.

Away from the city's hustle and bustle, you can enjoy the beaches, relax on sunny terraces, or indulge in local specialties by the sea. Depending on the distance and time available, you can reach these towns by boat, bus, car, bike, or even on foot.

One particularly enchanting place is Stoliv, a town divided into two parts. Gornji Stoliv is nestled amidst a chestnut forest at an altitude of 240 meters, while Donji Stoliv, located along the coast, features buildings from the 17th and 18th centuries. Notable landmarks in Donji Stoliv include the St. Elijah Church and the Church of St. Mary. It gained its maritime status in 1721.

On the eastern side of Vrmac hill, you'll find another maritime town called Prčanj. Its present appearance dates back to the 16th century, and it boasts several ancient cultural monuments such as the 9th-century Church of St. Thomas and the 13th-century Church of St. Ivan. The most impressive monument is the Renaissance-Baroque Our Lady's Temple, dedicated to the birth of the Virgin. The construction of this church began in 1789, coinciding with the town's economic growth spurred by maritime development. The "Tre sorelle" palace (Italian for "three sisters") is

a fascinating place that commemorates the legend of three sisters who were in love with the same sailor and waited for his return throughout their lives.

In close proximity to Kotor lies Muo, a former fishing village that now separates the town center from the former maritime towns. Unlike its neighboring towns, Muo's residents predominantly engaged in fishing, resulting in fewer imposing buildings compared to the surroundings. However, Muo has a significant tradition of fishermen's nights.

The largest settlement near Kotor is Dobrota, stretching along the coastline for 7 kilometers. The town was first mentioned as Dabrathum in 1260 in the local archives. Its maritime tradition dates back to the late 17th century, and it officially obtained its status as a maritime town in 1717, boasting the largest number of boats in the Kotor Bay. Noteworthy landmarks in Dobrota include the 12th-century Church of St. Elijah, the Church of St. Matthew with its baroque marble altars, and the Saint-Eustache Church dating from 1773. The latter features a large 19th-century bell tower and a baroque-style interior housing collections of artwork by renowned painters. Of particular interest is the impressive collection of Dobrota lace from the 17th and 18th centuries, comprising 52 exquisite pieces.



HISTORIC LANDMARKS

The rich history of Kotor is rooted in its cultural heritage, shaped by different eras and leaders throughout the centuries. Although often described as a city that is centuries young, Kotor's origins actually date back over two millennia. It experienced its greatest prosperity during the Middle Ages when it thrived as a maritime and trading hub. The oldest known settlement can be traced back to ancient times. The name "Dekatera" originated from the ancient Greek word "Katareo," meaning a rich source of warm water. However, the town was founded by the ancient Romans as Acrvium.

The city's core takes the shape of an irregular triangle, thanks to the city walls that lead up to St. John's Hill and its peak. The ramparts, built and reconstructed between the 9th and 19th centuries, have evolved in appearance over the course of a millennium. Some historical sources refer to the Upper City, which denotes the oldest part of the settlement atop St. John's Hill, while the Lower City refers to the present-day Kotor area.

Within the ramparts and bastions, you'll find numerous buildings, including intriguing palaces, each with its own story to tell. When you arrive in Kotor, you'll hear the tale of the Beskuća Palace and how its owner sought to change his last name, which meant "houseless," by purchasing 100 houses. A wonderful story unfolds with the Bizanti Palace, featuring an open inner courtyard at its center, which serves as the local assembly today. Its oldest



construction traces can be traced back to the Romanesque period, while archival sources mention documents from the 14th century. As you explore, you'll come across the Pima Palace on the adjacent square, considered the most beautiful of them all. It boasts spacious stone balconies and belonged to a family mentioned in the archives as early as the 14th century, with its last member residing there until the 18th century. Originally built in the Gothic style, the palace underwent reconstructions over the centuries, adding Renaissance details and resulting in its current Baroque appearance. Taking a leisurely stroll through Kotor, you'll encounter other palaces such as Drago, Vrakjen, Grgurina, Buća, and Lombardić. The knowledgeable guides will share not only the architectural significance of these buildings but also the cultural heritage that these families have left behind.





CITY GATES

The Old Town can be entered through three gates. The main gate faces the sea and leads to the city promenade, port, and harbor. Built in 1555, this gate features elaborate architectural decoration in the Renaissance-Baroque style, with a wide architrave. In the past, access to this entrance was only possible by boat since the boardwalk didn't exist at that time. The appearance of these doors has changed over time. In the past, they featured mythical griffins, the Venetian winged lion, and other ornaments, but unfortunately, they were destroyed in vandalistic attacks by dissatisfied individuals several times between 1897 and the end of World War II.

The north gate, constructed with the smallest stones, represents the Renaissance style and symbolizes the victory of Kotor against the Turkish Admiral Hayreddin Barbarossa in 1539.

It is smaller than the main gate and features a Renaissance tympanum with relief decoration instead of a flat architrave. Inside the vault of this entrance, there is a guardroom responsible for watching over the stone bridge that crossed the Škurda River from there. This gate was strategically important as it provided access to Budva and Cetinje.

The western gate, known as the Gurdić gate, was once highly significant as it allowed access to Budva and Cetinje. It consists of a high wall with two sturdy square pillars, typical of Venetian fortifications from the 13th century. This gate was fortified with three rows of openings, and it also had a movable bridge separated from the land portion, which could be lifted when needed.

CITY WALLS

The city walls, a masterpiece of fortification architecture, served as a protective barrier for Kotor throughout the centuries, defending it against invaders. Due to Kotor's strategic position, which held significance for various military forces with ambitions along the eastern coast of the Adriatic Sea, it was crucial to safeguard the city. The construction and expansion of the ramparts occurred from the 9th to the 19th century.

As you explore the areas surrounding the ramparts, you'll feel transported back to an

era of territorial conquest, where imposing fortifications stand guard over the city. The ramparts, along with the bastions, exemplify medieval architecture, forming a protective encirclement around the town. In addition to the defensive walls, you'll find a stone staircase leading to the St. Rocco fortification and the Church of Our Lady of Remedy.

The main section of the walls was built between the 13th and 14th centuries, during the period when Kotor was under Venetian rule. While the Republic of Venice reigned over Kotor, numerous battles erupted with the Ottoman Empire, whose territories were in close proximity to Kotor. Despite these conflicts, the city remained impregnable.

CATHEDRAL AND CHURCHES

The Cathedral of Saint Tryphon, located on the city square bearing the same name, has stood as a witness to numerous changes since its construction began in 1124 and was completed in 1166. The original building at this site was erected in 809 when a local nobleman named Andrea Saracenis acquired relics of the city's patron saint, Saint Tryphon, from Venetian merchants. This three-nave basilica is not only a symbol of the city but also reflects the various architectural styles that have been incorporated into its appearance during repairs and renovations over time.

The central aisle of the cathedral is twice as wide as the side aisles, with alternating columns adorned with Corinthian capitals separating these sections. On the western side, you'll find two bell towers that were reconstructed in the 17th century following an earthquake in 1667. Inside the cathedral, you'll discover numerous valuable items, with the most important ones being kept in the treasury. These treasures include a 14th-century ciborium, a sculpture of St. Vinko Fererski, a stone Pieta of Nordic origin, a relief of the Virgin with Christ, four stone altars from the 18th century, silver-plated artworks, and other masterpieces crafted by local medieval goldsmiths. Despite enduring damage from four powerful earthquakes throughout its long history, remnants of fresco paintings created by the renowned *Pictores Graeci* school of painters, well-known

throughout the Mediterranean, can still be found. These frescoes date back to the 13th and 14th centuries. Among the rarely preserved frescoes is one side of the ciborium from the original 9th-century church, adorned with pre-Romanesque ornaments and depictions of lions.

Among the oldest sacred buildings in Kotor is the Church of St. Luke, built in 1195. By the mid-17th century, this modest structure transformed from a Catholic church to being handed over to Orthodox Christians, although Catholics retained their altar until the mid-nineteenth century. The Church of St. Mary, also known as the Church of the Blessed Ozana, dates back to the Romanesque period. Constructed on the site of an ancient basilica, it was consecrated in 1221. The stone facade showcases alternating rows of red and white stones, and the church is designed as a single-nave structure with a central dome and a semicircular apse.

The largest Orthodox church in Kotor is the Church of St. Nicholas, built between 1902 and 1909 on the foundations of an older building damaged by fire in the 19th century. It houses numerous valuable items, many of which were donated by wealthy local families. Adjacent to the church is the Treasury of the Serbian Orthodox Church, featuring a rich collection of icons, handicrafts, and historical documents. As you explore, you'll also come across other buildings with captivating architectural styles, including the churches of St. Anne, St. Paul, St. Michael, St. Clare, as well as St. Joseph, Our Lady of Health, and St. John, situated on the hill surrounded by the ramparts.



MUST SEE PLACES



TOWN SQUARES

1. The Bell Tower, Montenegro, 1319
2. The Church of St. Nicholas, XVIII
3. The Church of St. Sava, 1864, XVIII

PROMENADE AVENUE

4. Canal by Duke Filipovi's fort
5. The third fort
6. Accordion fort
7. Roca fortress, 1316
8. St. Nicholas Church, XVIII
9. Kamenolom (Quarry) and Chapel, XIX-XXI c.
10. Water tower, XVI, XVIII
11. Kamenolom, XVI, XVIII
12. Aqueduct, XVIII, 1870
13. St. Francis process.
14. St. Stephen's square
15. St. Nicholas process.
16. St. Nicholas process.
17. St. Mark's process.
18. Petrol station
19. Petrović's square
20. St. Mark's square

CHURCHES AND MONASTERIES

21. St. Stephen's Cathedral, 1100
22. Our Lady of Rocks, XIV
23. Our Lady of the Snows and XVI - end of XIX c.
24. St. Nicholas Church, 1071
25. Church of St. John, 1211
26. St. Nicholas Church, XVI
27. St. Nicholas Church, XVI
28. St. Nicholas Church, XVI
29. St. Nicholas Church, XVI
30. St. Nicholas Church, XVI
31. St. Nicholas Church, XVI
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44. St. Nicholas Church, XVI
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47. St. Nicholas Church, XVI
48. St. Nicholas Church, XVI

PALACES

31. Duke Petar's Palace, XVI, XVIII
32. Duke Petar's Palace, XVI, XVIII
33. Duke Petar's Palace, XVI, XVIII
34. Duke Petar's Palace, XVI, XVIII
35. Duke Petar's Palace, XVI, XVIII
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46. Duke Petar's Palace, XVI, XVIII
47. Duke Petar's Palace, XVI, XVIII
48. Duke Petar's Palace, XVI, XVIII

PUBLIC BUILDINGS AND INSTITUTIONS

41. Town Clock, XVIII, 1901
42. Church of St. Nicholas, XVI, XVIII
43. Church of St. Nicholas, XVI, XVIII
44. Church of St. Nicholas, XVI, XVIII
45. Church of St. Nicholas, XVI, XVIII
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98. Church of St. Nicholas, XVI, XVIII
99. Church of St. Nicholas, XVI, XVIII
100. Church of St. Nicholas, XVI, XVIII



SQUARE OF ARMS

As you step into the old town, you'll arrive at the Square of Arms, where each building holds a story about its origins, role throughout the centuries, construction methods, architectural influences, and artistic styles of its time. Discovering Kotor's past begins with the realization that the largest open space within the city walls is named after arms, reflecting its history not only as a trading center but also as a naval port with storage facilities for weapons. Established in 1420, these storage facilities were designed to protect the city and serve as a gathering point for defenders. Today, the reconstructed Arsenal building stands as a testament to Kotor's resilience against numerous armies and pirates.

The construction of the City Clock Tower at the Square of Arms began in 1602, with its final appearance achieved during the reconstruction following the earthquake in 1667. Situated across the main city gate, the Clock Tower is one of Kotor's most recognizable landmarks. It consists of a ground floor, two upper floors, and an open gallery housing the clock mechanism. The building has two facades facing the main city square—the southern and western sides. At the base of the tower's southern side, you'll find the Pillar of Shame, also known as the Tower of Torture. This pillar features a stone pyramid and was historically where lawbreakers and violators faced public judgment.

MARITIME MUSEUM

The maritime history of Kotor holds great significance when exploring its past, and the best way to understand the navigation, travel, and maritime life of centuries gone by is to visit the Maritime Museum of Montenegro. Housed in one of Kotor's stunning Baroque palaces, the Grgurina Palace, located in the central part of the Old Town, the museum collection offers a glimpse into this fascinating era. The palace itself is a remarkable architectural masterpiece, adorned with stone balconies and a grand entrance that exudes a sense of solemnity. It was the legacy of the noble Grgurina family. Inside the palace, you'll find the authentic layout of the Venetian period, consisting of four rooms and a central lounge. The Maritime Museum collection originated from the fraternity of the same name, established around 1880. The original collection was expanded and first opened to the public in 1900, with subsequent additions in 1938. Today, it is displayed on the museum's first floor. As you enter the museum, the entrance hall showcases six bronze reliefs depicting significant events and notable figures from Kotor's history between the 16th and 19th centuries. Continuing to the first floor, you'll come across displays of old maps and city plans, offering insights into the geographical understanding of the time. The central exhibition hall houses artifacts and exhibits that depict the rich period between the 16th and 18th centuries when mariners from Kotor thrived in shipping and maritime trade. They played a crucial role in constructing navies in other countries, establishing new trade routes, and participating in the fight against pirates and the Turks in the Adriatic and Mediterranean Seas.

ARCHIVE

The Archives of Kotor house a valuable collection of court-notary documents, making it a true treasure trove of historical information. These documents span from the 14th to the 19th century and comprise a collection of 182 books containing old court-notary records dating back to 1326, with the oldest preserved notary document originating from 1309. In the city statute, known as Statuta Civitatis Cathari, Article 335 from the 1417 decision mentions the presence of three distinct archival repositories for storing important documents. These court-notary books provide detailed documentation of the property and legal proceedings concerning the citizens and institutions of medieval Kotor and its surrounding area. They serve as a crucial historical source, shedding light not only on administrative and judicial processes but also on economic opportunities, feudal relationships, trade, the social structure of the population, and family law of that time.

GRAMMAR SCHOOL

The Grammar School, established in the late 13th century, is one of the oldest educational institutions in this region and holds great significance as a prominent cultural monument. Throughout its five-century existence, it served as a primary and high school, offering a comprehensive education. During the period of Humanism and Renaissance, it evolved into a secondary school with a focus on grammar and humanities. Students here engaged in fascinating subjects such as rhetoric and poetics. Over time, the school transformed into the Lyceum, offering courses in philosophy and astronomy. The Grammar School played a vital role in preparing students for further studies, particularly at Italian universities, with the University of Padova being a popular choice. It served as a stepping stone for students seeking higher education, providing them with a solid foundation and knowledge to excel in their academic pursuits. The school's legacy stands as a testament to its significant contribution to the intellectual and educational development of the region. University of Padova.

RECREATION

No matter when you visit Kotor or its nearby areas, you'll have plenty of opportunities to engage in adventurous sports and activities, surrounded by a blend of mountainous and coastal air, along with the delightful scent of Mediterranean plants. Whether you prefer a beachside restaurant with delectable seafood, a lively cocktail party with great music, or the seclusion of a stone or sandy cove just for yourself, there are numerous places to choose from.

In addition to swimming and diving, there are plenty of water sports activities available, including rowing, sailing, canoeing, and water skiing. If you enjoy yoga or morning exercise, you can start your day by practicing on the beaches or small docks, soaking in the calmness of the sea. Taking long walks along mountain trails

and participating in hiking tours can provide memorable experiences and offer picturesque views to capture your adventurous spirit. For a unique and thrilling experience, you can even try a hiking route via ferrata, which involves climbing with the help of a steel cable fixed to the rock. This ensures safety by allowing climbers to secure themselves to the cable using a ferrata kit.

The best part is that you don't need any prior experience to enjoy these activities. So, if you're looking to try something new and create lasting memories, Kotor is the perfect destination to embark on your adventure.



ENTERTAINMENT AND SHOWS

The town is well-known for its rich tradition of hosting various cultural events. One of the most prominent events is the Carnival, which has been celebrated since the late 15th or early 16th century and takes place every February. During the summer, there is also a Carnival held in the evenings, featuring vibrant masked groups parading through different parts of the city. The festivities continue until the early hours of the morning, with celebrations in cafes and clubs.

Another significant traditional event is Boka Night, held on the first Saturday in the latter half of August. This event has a long-standing tradition of decorating boats, turning them into magnificent works of art. The celebration is accompanied by dazzling fireworks and music performances taking place on every square in the Old Town.

Kotor takes great pride in its music scene, with official programs featuring a wide range of genres. Throughout the summer, the city streets and squares come alive with the sounds of rock, blues, soul, funk, and jazz. The city transforms into a grand concert venue, providing unforgettable musical experiences. The only downside you might encounter is the difficulty in choosing which performance to attend, as there are so many fantastic options.



ARTS AND CULTURE

The music show “Ports of Art” takes place in various locations, including all the city squares and parks, during the months of July and August. Kotor is widely recognized as a significant cultural center in the region, particularly due to its rich intangible cultural heritage. The city has a long-standing tradition of music and theater, and in recent decades, it has become renowned for hosting some of the most prestigious art events in this part of the world.

A key event in Kotor’s cultural calendar is Kotor Art, which encompasses several program segments. One of the highlights is Don Branko’s Music Days, a gathering of world-renowned classical musicians, soloists, orchestras, and conductors. The event revolves around a powerful social and philosophical theme, aiming to promote socially engaged art. Many accomplished musicians, originally from Kotor, have achieved great success on international stages but always cherish the opportunity to return home and perform on open-air stages or concert halls.

The vibrant music scene in Kotor is closely connected to the Elementary and Secondary Music School “Vida Matjan,” where some of the world’s finest musicians took their first musical steps. The Kotor Brass Band, established in 1842, holds great significance as one of the region’s most notable city orchestras. Their repertoire includes traditional, carnival, classical, and pop-rock compositions specially adapted for orchestras.

Fine art programs also play an important role in the city’s cultural scene. While strolling through the streets and squares of Kotor, you will encounter both local and foreign painters who find inspiration in the city’s atmosphere. The city galleries showcase local collections of artworks, providing insights into the region’s artistic expression. Performances that combine music and fine arts are gaining popularity, particularly among alternative ensembles and socially engaged artists.

CUISINE

The gastronomic offerings in Kotor are known for a variety of local dishes and recipes influenced by Mediterranean flavors. Seafood plays a prominent role, with a wide range of fish and seafood prepared in various ways. Pasta, rice, and an assortment of vegetables feature prominently in main courses and salads, all enhanced with high-quality olive oil and a variety of spices. Kotor's culinary scene combines global trends with traditional recipes, preserving the best of the past.

The coastal lifestyle has shaped the fishing industry, while the fertile land surrounding Kotor enables the cultivation of vegetables and olive trees. Many spices are imported from overseas. Today, Kotor's restaurants offer a diverse selection of dishes, including fish, meat, and options for vegetarians and vegans.

At the City Marketplace, you'll experience the enticing aroma of freshly harvested fruits and vegetables from the surrounding rural farms. Locally produced olive oil, a precious Mediterranean staple, is readily available at the marketplace and used extensively in the city's restaurants. The marketplace also highlights locally grown produce such as eggplants, asparagus, arugula, and various greens. Figs, nuts,

tangerines, oranges, lemons, apples, plums, and a wide range of grape varieties are among the region's notable fruits. Many households engage in traditional honey production as well.





Certainly, one of the highlights of the authentic culinary offerings in Kotor is the dessert selection. In particular, the almond cake from Dobrota and the local flan cake capture a lot of attention. However, the star dessert of Kotor is the pastry known locally as “krepmita.” This delightful treat features a creamy yellow filling nestled between three layers of crust, creating a magical taste that has been passed down through generations with a traditional recipe. The krepmita is a must-try dessert that embodies the rich culinary heritage of Kotor.



TRANSPORTATION

Montenegro has two international airports: Tivat Airport (TIV) and Podgorica Airport (TGD). Tivat Airport is located about 7.7 kilometers away from Kotor, which is a 10-15 minute drive. Podgorica Airport, on the other hand, is approximately 86 kilometers away, which takes about 1 hour and 40 minutes by car. Both airports offer regular flights to various cities throughout the year, including Belgrade, Budapest, Vienna, Zurich, Ljubljana, Bari, Rome, Istanbul, Moscow, London, Berlin, Munich, Leipzig, and Frankfurt. During the spring and autumn seasons, there are also charter flights available to numerous other destinations. Detailed flight information can be found on the website www.montenegroairports.com.

Kotor is a popular cruise destination in the Mediterranean, thanks to its international passenger port. It receives 420-500 cruise ship arrivals each year and is included in the regular routes of leading cruise companies. The passenger port is conveniently located near the old town, separated only by the main city road. For detailed information about maritime transportation, you can visit www.portofkotor.co.me.

Montenegro is well-connected by road through border crossings with neighboring countries. Serbia, Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Croatia all have border crossings with Montenegro. If you are traveling from Croatia, the Adriatic Highway offers a convenient route that passes through Dubrovnik, Cavtat, the Debeli Brijeg border crossing, Herceg Novi, Bijela, Risan, Perast, and finally Kotor. This highway allows for a relatively quick arrival and offers beautiful views of the Bay of Kotor, with several photo-worthy spots. From the Albanian capital,



TAXI

If you prefer to take a taxi, they can be easily found at designated stands or by calling the numbers provided at information points throughout the city. The cost of the taxi ride may differ depending on whether you choose an individual driver or a company-operated vehicle.

Tirana, you can also take the Adriatic Highway, passing through Tirana, the Sukobin border crossing, Ulcinj, Bar, Budva, and Kotor, enabling a comprehensive tour of the Montenegrin coast in just a few hours. If you're traveling from Podgorica, the main road via Cetinje and Budva will take you to Kotor. Alternatively, you can opt for the scenic old road that goes through Cetinje, Njeguši, and finally Kotor. This road features 25 hairpin turns and provides stunning views of the bay as you approach Kotor.

In Kotor, the bus station is highly frequented, operating from 6 am to 10 pm daily. It is conveniently located only 700 meters away from the Old Town. Information about bus lines can be found on the official website www.autobuskastanicakotor.me. For details about all related bus lines, including the option to purchase bus tickets online, you can visit www.busterminal.me. Local transportation along the bay is provided by small city buses departing from both sides every 60 minutes, with a station in front of the Old Town for easy access. This is the simplest and most affordable way to explore the smaller tourist towns surrounding Kotor.



If you have some free time, it's strongly recommended to explore the bay by going on a boat tour. You have the option to join regular routes that start from the central city park, or you can arrange a private tour at a specific time with a tour operator. To find out more about the departure schedules and prices, you can visit the tourist information points or check the back of the city map, which you can get for free.



CLIMATE

Kotor has a typical Mediterranean climate, which means it has hot and dry summers, as well as mild winters with higher levels of rainfall. This pleasant climate is also enjoyable during the winter months. The region benefits from plenty of sunshine, with over 250 sunny days in a year. This abundant sunshine supports a diverse range of plant life, including palm trees, lemons, oranges, and olives.

WEATHER

The pleasant climate in Kotor makes it a great destination to visit all year round. Summers are warm and dry, while winters are mild with frequent rainfall. The average annual temperature is 15.2°C. During the summer, the sea temperature reaches around 22°C, making it perfect for swimming. The swimming season starts in May and continues until the end of September, or sometimes even longer. The hottest months are typically July and August, with daily temperatures around 32°C. The rainy season begins in November and lasts until March, although December and January can still have sunny days. The coldest month is January, but temperatures below freezing are rare. November tends to be the rainiest month.





