

MONTENEGRO



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Capital: name: Podgorica, **Time:** UTC+1 (6 hours ahead of Washington)

Background: The use of the name Montenegro began in the 15th century when the Crnojević dynasty began to rule the Serbian principality of Zeta; over subsequent centuries Montenegro was able to maintain its independence from the Ottoman Empire. From the 16th to 19th centuries, Montenegro became a theocracy ruled by a series of bishop princes; in 1852, it was transformed into a secular principality. After World War I, Montenegro was absorbed by the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes, which became the Kingdom of Yugoslavia in 1929; at the conclusion of World War II, it became a constituent republic of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. When the latter dissolved in 1992, Montenegro federated with Serbia, first as the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and, after 2003, in a looser union of Serbia and Montenegro. In May 2006, Montenegro invoked its right under the Constitutional Charter of Serbia and Montenegro to hold a referendum on independence from the state union. The vote for severing ties with Serbia exceeded 55% - the threshold set by the EU - allowing Montenegro to formally declare its independence on 3 June 2006.

Location: Southeastern Europe, between the Adriatic Sea and Serbia

Map References: Europe

Area: total: 14,026 sq km, land: 13,812 sq km, water: 214 sq km

Climate: Mediterranean climate, hot dry summers and autumns and relatively cold winters with heavy snowfalls inland.

Terrain: highly indented coastline with narrow coastal plain backed by rugged high limestone mountains and plateaus.

Population: 678,177 (July 2008 est.)

Nationality: noun: Montenegrin(s), adjective: Montenegrin

Religions: Orthodox, Muslim, Roman Catholic

Languages: Montenegrin (official), Serbian, Bosnian, Albanian, Croatian

Economy: Montenegro severed its economy from federal control and from Serbia during the MILOSEVIC era and maintained its own central bank, used the euro instead of the Yugoslav dinar as official currency, collected customs tariffs, and managed its own budget. The dissolution of the loose political union between Serbia and Montenegro in 2006 led to separate membership in several international financial institutions, such as the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development. On 18 January 2007, Montenegro joined the World Bank and IMF. Montenegro is pursuing its own membership in the World Trade Organization as well as negotiating a Stabilization and Association agreement with the European Union in anticipation of eventual membership. Severe unemployment remains a key political and economic problem for this entire region. Montenegro has privatized its large aluminum complex - the dominant industry - as well as most of its financial sector, and has begun to attract foreign direct investment in the tourism sector.

Industries: steelmaking, aluminum, agricultural processing, consumer goods, tourism

Currency: euro (EUR)

Railways: total: 250 km, standard gauge: 250 km 1.435-m gauge (electrified 169 km) (2006).

Roadways: total: 7,353 km, paved: 4,274 km, unpaved: 3,079 km (2005)

Airports: 5 (2007)

Heliports: 1 (2007)

Visa: All travellers require a passport valid for the duration of their stay, and should ensure that it is stamped for entry. Passports should be carried at all times. Visitors must register with the local police within 24 hours of arrival (this is done automatically when checking in to a hotel or official tourist accommodation). Failure to do so could

mean a fine or imprisonment. Travellers must only enter Montenegro through recognized border crossings. Visitors might have to show a return or onward ticket, documents for next destination and proof of sufficient funds.

Duty Free: The following can be brought into Montenegro without paying duty: 200 cigarettes or 50 cigars or 250g tobacco; a litre of wine and 750ml of spirits; perfume for personal use; personal jewellery and clothing; up to two cameras and one movie/video camera; electronic equipment (such as radio) for personal use; and sports equipment. Pets can be brought into the country with a veterinary certificate of good health.

Health: Montenegro is generally a healthy country with few risks, however a hepatitis A vaccination is recommended. A typhoid vaccination is recommended only for those who are likely to travel off the beaten track, but is not necessary for those staying in hotels and resorts and eating in good restaurants. Only bottled or purified water should be consumed, and food should be well prepared and well cooked. Those intending to hike in the countryside should take precautions against ticks. Medical facilities in Montenegro are limited, and supplies are lacking. Medical insurance with evacuation cover is strongly recommended. There are some private clinics in Podgorica, which treat travellers, but payment in cash is expected. A reciprocal health agreement entitles visitors from the UK to free emergency treatment.

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BUDVA

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PODGORICA

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AIRLINES & HELICOPTERS

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