

OLD BAR & ULCINJ

*On the frontier of
Orient*

*The longest beach,
the oldest olive and
Cervantes!*

Welcome!

ABOUT TOUR



The way to the most southern Montenegrin town reveals the typical atmosphere of the Orient. Large number of people, countless mosques, the longest sand beaches - South Coast beaches is considered the finest in Montenegro, and perhaps the finest among all beaches in the Mediterranean - Adriatic region, The Old city on rocks above the sea and exceptional hospitality of the locals will take over you with its unique charm.

Type: History, Old Towns, Nature, Scenic Drive, Charming Village

Length: 8 Hours

Walking: Medium

Mobility: No wheelchairs

Guide: Licensed Guide

Language: English, Italian, French, German, Russian (other languages upon request)

We travel by coach to the South along the Adriatic coastline, passing towns Petrovac, visiting Old Town of Bar and Ulcinj – the most southern Montenegrin town where European and oriental culture mixed. The towns of Bar and Ulcinj were under the Turkish occupation for a long time, until the Montenegrin King Nikola the I liberated it in 1878. Different cultures, religions, customs and traditions mingled in this area. The Orient meets the Christian West.



ABOUT BAR



Bar is a coastal town in Montenegro and it has about 40,000 inhabitants. City of Bar is the centre of municipality and a major seaport of Montenegro. The Port of Bar is the most recognizable feature of the city where from June 15th 1965 is maintained regular ferry line between of cities Bar in Montenegro and Bari in Italy. Bar is also the final station of the Belgrade - Bar railway, which connects Bar with Podgorica, northern Montenegro and Serbia.

Besides being Montenegro's main seaport, Bar and its surroundings are also one of the most popular tourist destination. Today's Bar is a modern city, built almost entirely after World War II, with modern buildings, wide boulevards and lots of parking space.

Although there are some nice cobble beaches in Bar itself, many tourists choose destinations in other small towns in Bar municipality, notably Sutomore, with its beautiful long sandy beach. The entire area around Bar is mostly untouched nature, and is rich in vegetation.

The pleasant Mediterranean climate attracts a large number of tourists each year. With an average of 270 sunny days per year, Bar is one of the Mediterranean's sunniest towns. The 44 kilometre long sea coast, including over 9 kilometers of beaches, the 67 kilometre long shore of Lake Skadar and the mountain range dividing these two large bodies of water make Bar an ideal destination for tourists who wish to relax on lovely beaches and enjoy the unspoilt environment, as well as for those wanting to visit the numerous cultural and religious sites or to spend their holidays engaged in various sports activities.



Culture and History



Like most Montenegrin towns, throughout its history Bar has belonged to various civilizations and cultures. What makes it stand out among Montenegrin towns today is that it is representative of several of the cultures that it belongs to, and in some cases had belonged to for centuries.

As a city of olives, the sea gate of Montenegro, Bar represents different confessions and nations, a mix of modernity, tradition and beauty. It is an important and dynamic economic centre within Montenegro, but is also a town of rich cultural and historical tradition. Some of the highest achievements of Montenegro's civilization originated in Bar. The oldest written documents and the most important work of medieval Montenegrin literature and history can be found here.

The Bar municipality contains beautiful churches and monasteries is one of the few towns which can boast several churches representing a rare religious and social phenomenon. Namely, these churches were used by both Christian confessions existing in the region – Orthodox and Catholic. There are a lot of mosques in the municipality but most of them are close to the Old Bar and in the eastern part of the municipality of Bar. Now, in Bar an Orthodox temple, a Catholic cathedral and an Islamic center are being built in the same time.

The town also served as the seat of the oldest religious institution of Montenegro (the Bar archbishopric), one of the world's oldest olive trees grows here, the Old Olive of Mirovica, which is more than 2000 years old, King Nikola's palace from 19th century, ruins of Bar Old Town...



King Nikola's palace



Of all the cultural and historical monuments in Bar, the 19th-century King Nikola's palace is the one that attracts the most attention. It was built in 1885 on the seashore. The palace was a present from King Nikola to his daughter Princess Zorka and his son-in-law Prince Petar Karadjordjevic. It consisted of a large palace, a little palace, a chapel, guard houses and a winter garden. In 1910 a spacious ballroom was built in the palace. As part of the palace, there is a park with many different species of Mediterranean vegetation, among them a cork tree. In front of the palace, there was a wooden pier, which served as a mooring for boats and yachts.

During the period between 1866 and 1916 King Nikola is owned ten yachts. One of them, named "Sibil" was bought from novelist Jules Verne, while the last yacht which he bought, called "Rumija" was sunk in 1915 by the Austro-Hungarian navy in the area of today's harbour.

Here, you can also find a large flower garden, made of a stainless steel structure of interesting shape, which was given as a present by the Italian king, Emanuel, and which is nowadays used as the restaurant called "Knjazeva basta" ("The Duke's Garden").

Nowadays, the palace building complex is used as the Homeland Museum of the City of Bar, as well as for festivals (concerts, exhibitions and literary events).



The Old Town of Bar



The Old town of Bar is the largest urban agglomeration in ruins in Montenegro. It is the witness of tumultuous historical events and medieval civilizations. It is 4 km away from the present-day city of Bar. It is located on a large rock and protected by cliffs on three sides. Along the western side it is protected by ramparts. The ruins of 240 buildings can be found in the city, with narrow winding streets and asymmetrical squares. Structures were made of hewn stone, with one or more floors.

Several attractive sightseeing structures, such as Turkish baths, a powder magazine and a clock tower (that dates from 1753) were constructed during the period of Turkish rule, as well as an aqueduct from the 17th century, which was used for supplying water to the Old Town of Bar.

There are also several ruins of church structures, that date from the Middle Ages, such as St. Theodora's Church (later, St. Djordje's Church), St. Nikola's Church (later, St. Marko's Church), St. Veneranda's Church and St. Katarina's Church, in the city.

The position of the Old Town of Bar provides visitors with the opportunity of enjoying watching the panorama of the green plain of Bar, the new part of the town, the harbour, open sea and the Mount Rumija massif.

A special attraction of the Old Town of Bar is the market place (in the local language called "pjaca"), where salesmen dressed in traditional costumes offer customers domestic products, such as citrus fruits, olives, olive oil made in Bar, cheese and various handicraft products.



The Old Olive



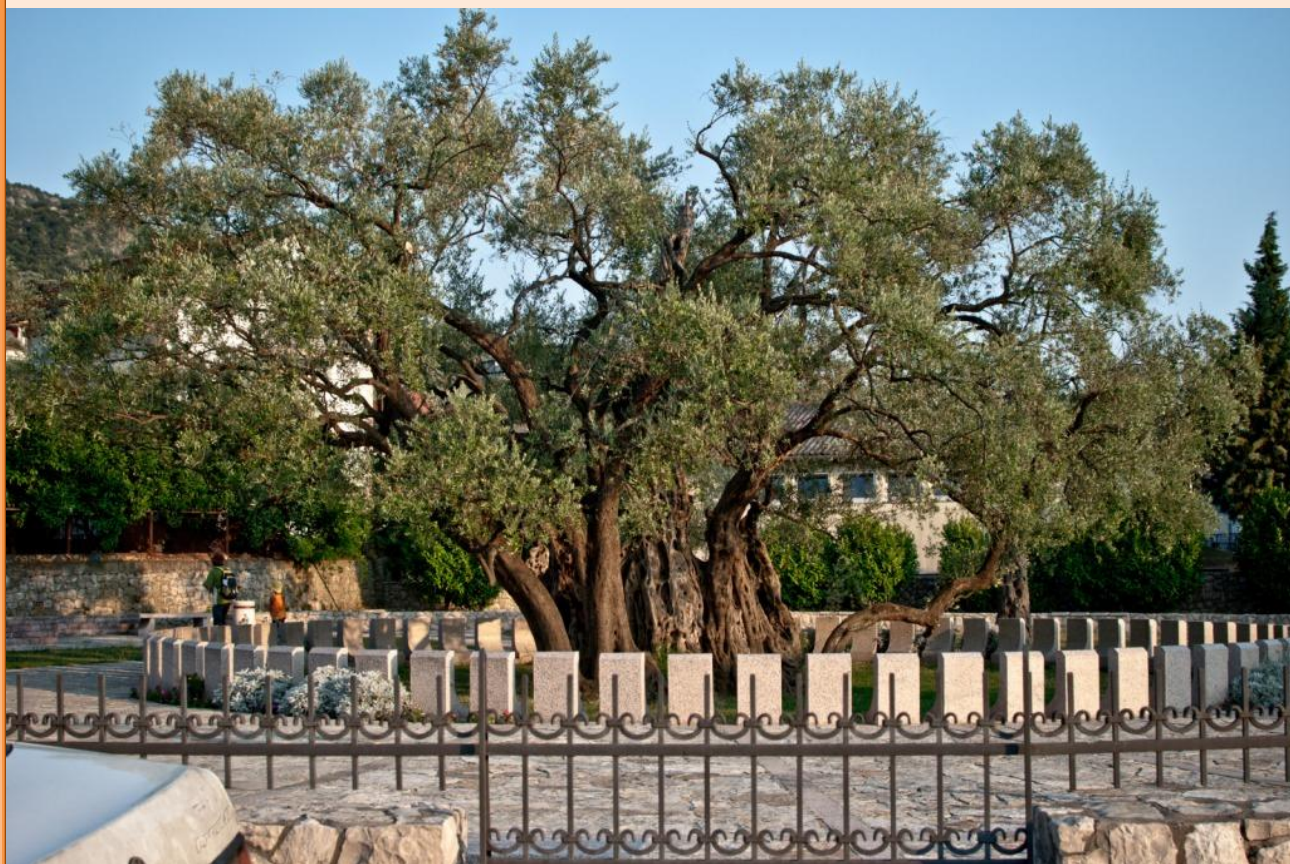
Old olive tree at Mirovica (the root of the name is "mir", meaning peace) represents a monument of nature, which has been protected by law in 1957. The olive tree is over 2,000 years old and it is considered to be the oldest tree in Europe. The trunk volume is 10m³.

According to legend, meetings of the quarrelling families were held around the olive tree, where they would reconcile.

The Bar area is well known for its olive trees which number over a hundred thousand, most of which are over a thousand years old.

One tale about the Bar olive groves is quite interesting – no young man was allowed to get married if he had not previously planted a certain number of olive shoots.

Back in 1927, in addition to the famous old mills, there was the "Brothers Maric Oil Factory" in Old Bar, where up to 20 tones of olives were refined daily and where the famous 'Bar oil', which used to be exported to America, France and Germany, was produced.



ULCINJ



The excursion continues to Ulcinj, the southernmost town on the Montenegrin coast. With its southern part Ulcinj stretches along 32.7 km along the Adriatic coast, and its eastern part borders with the river Bojana, which forms the natural border between Montenegro and Albania. Ulcinj is located on open sea, opposite the Otrant passage.

With almost 20 km of beaches, 15 km of which are fine sandy beaches, with over 6000 ha of cultivated land, olive groves with about 88.000 trees, the curing qualities of the sand, of mud and mineral sulfur water, Ulcinj represents a significant economic and touristic potential for the development of all kinds of tourism and agriculture.

The cultures of both the Orient and the West have met each other in the area of Ulcinj, which can be felt everywhere by the richness of historical heritage. Ulcinj is one of the oldest towns on the Montenegrin coast, and due to its significant geographic position it had been the target of numerous invaders since pre-historical time. Some stayed there longer, some shorter, but all these people left here some indelible trace.

Today, after 25 centuries of existence, Ulcinj is a town where you can find traces in both the stone and the spirit which had been left by the Illyrians, old Greeks, Romans, Byzantines, the Nemanjic, Balsic, the Venetians and Turks are gave to this town a mosaic of history and culture.



History



Ulcinj is one of the oldest towns on the Adriatic coast. On the crossroads between the East and the West, the southernmost town has always been a target for many invaders due to its interesting geographic position and the mild climate. Some historical traces show that Ulcinj had previously belonged to the Illyrians, and the Old town of Ulcinj was founded in the fifth century B.C. by Greek colonists from Colchis. In the second century B.C. the town was conquered by the Romans and during the Roman Empire Ulcinj first got the status of a town with special privileges, and then it became a town with an independent status – Municipium. The Byzantine emperor Justinian renewed and reestablished Ulcinj, and the Nemanjic, Balsic, the Venetians and the Turks decorated it with new constructions during later centuries.

When in 1183 the great Serbian county prefect Stefan Nemanja conquered the town, it became one of the most significant coastal towns, a big trade and coastal centre with a town autonomy inside the state of Raska. Ulcinj was not a permanent residence of rulers and co-rulers of Zeta and the Coast, but the rulers of both Zeta and the Coast made it here their residence for some time.

There had been fierce struggles around Ulcinj, in 1421 it was conquered by the Venetians, and in 1571 by the Turks, who then populated it with Algerian pirates to help them in the sea wars against the Venetians. Due to its big slave market and the pirating, the town had a very bad reputation for almost 300 years. In the liberating war against the Turks (1876 – 78) the Montenegrins are conquered Ulcinj, however, the conventions of the Berlin congress had to be obeyed, so that Montenegro had to give it up again. It was only until 1880 when is Ulcinj finally became part of Montenegro.



The Old Town



The Old Town of Ulcinj is a castle of unique beauty whose walls arise direct from the sea. The town covers an area of approximately three hectares and it consists of two parts – the upper town – the citadel and the town settlement which stretches down the slopes towards the south. Once upon a time there had been convicts on this place, and according to a legend in one of these solitary cells there was the one-hand slave Miguel de Cervantes for five years. Therefore he named the heroine of his novel „Don Quixote” Dulcinea, which means Ulcinj woman, and many areas described in this masterpiece of world literature are authentic descriptions of the town where Cervantes spent his slavery. At the Slavery Square there is also the Balsic Tower from the XII century which is nowadays used as a gallery. Close to the sea near the lighthouse there are two beautiful buildings, the Balsic Castle and the Venetian Palace. In front of the southern entry to the town there are the foundations of the orthodox church of Our Lady from the XII century. A little further there is the Turkish powder magazine from the XVIII century, and behind the walls of the Old Town many other cultural monuments have been saved: „Pasha’s Mosque” with a „hamman”, the main mosque Namazdjah, the Church of St. Nikola at the bottom of Bijela Gora and the Minster Church of St. Nikola at the bottom of Meterizi from 1890, which had been erected to honor the fallen Montenegrins during the battles in 1878. In the vicinity of the Orthodox Church St. Nikola in the bottom of Bijela Gora, there is the catholic church of St. Josip.

The Old Town of Ulcinj was the last refuge for one of the greatest rebels from the 17th century, Sabatei Tsevi (1626-1676), the reformer of the Talmud – Jewish Holy Book. This Jewish saint was buried in Ulcinj, and the location of his grave has been kept as a secret.



The Long Beach



Long Beach stretches from Port Milena (name of King Nikola's wife) near Ulcinj to Bojana River which separates it from Ada Bojana. Beach is a natural phenomenon of beauty and abundance, and it is situated 5 km away from Ulcinj. The beach's length is 12 km, 60 m wide so the people call it "Copacabana of Ulcinj" which makes it the longest beach in Montenegro. Beach is covered with finest sand and it is estimated that its capacity is 15,000 people. The quality of the sand is such that it has medicinal features. It is rich with minerals, and is good for those suffering from rheumatism and other illnesses. Its two main disadvantages are that the water is very shallow and in windy days, when the waves are high, it is forbidden to swim here.

At the end of the largest beach in Montenegro there is the river of Bojana. The upper arm of the Bojana River makes a natural border between Montenegro and Albania while the lower arm of the River runs through a nature reserve and ends in the Adriatic Sea. At the mouth of the river is the famous nudist beach "Ada" which is accessed by a bridge over the river.

Scattered along the coast of Bojana River are famous wooden houses "kalimera", from which the locals on a traditional way catch fish that you can immediately try in the seafood restaurants, also built in an attractive setting.

There are also several excellent fish restaurants near the island, serving seafood and fish from the river Bojana, as well as from the sea.



Ada Bojana island



Ada Bojana is located at the southernmost point of the Montenegrin coast (18 km from Ulcinj), The island was artificially created it has a triangular shape, the two sides by the river Bojana and a third on the Adriatic Sea which is facing the sandy beach 2.880 m long, which can accommodate about 13,000 swimmers. It is a real paradise for windsurfing, sailing, water skiing, horseback riding on the beach, for Robinsons and those in love ...

According to the legend in 1858 the ship "Merito" which was owned by Mr. Antun Alegreti from Trogir, and which is steered by captain Naporeli is sank at the place of the present river mouth. It is this fact that was significant for the creation of Ada. In the XIX century there were two tiny islands at this location. The ship wrecks kept the river sediments together with these two islands and thus the beautiful island Ada was formed. It became vivid in 1882.

The hotel is located in the west of the island with the bungalows which have not jeopardized the authentic environment. Thus, one can still experience the natural setting of the 1973 when the nudist oasis was built. It is the unique place, a paradise for those who are keen on naturism.

Far from the street noise and the city buzz, surrounded by virgin nature, the azure blue water of Adriatic, Mediterranean breath, Ada is a love at first sight place and therefore Ada has been one of the most popular tourist destinations in Montenegro for a long period of time.



PRICES



Prices from 35,00 € per person

Price of the excursions includes:

1) Transport

- Up to 2 persons – Car Transport
- From 3 to 7 persons - Minivan Transport
- From 8 to 18 persons – Mini bus Transport
- From 18-49 persons - Bus Transport

2) Visit to The Old city of Bar, Old Olive tree, Visit City of Ulcinj and Bojana River

3) Tourist Guide Services

PRICE EXCLUDES: Other Entrance fees and meals

Supplement of your choice:

Lunch is between 12,00-15,00 € per person - traditional home-made meals!





Map of Excursion



VISIT US AGAIN!



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