[Template:About](/wiki/Template:About" \o "Template:About) [Template:Pp-move-indef](/wiki/Template:Pp-move-indef) [Template:Use dmy dates](/wiki/Template:Use_dmy_dates) [Template:Coord](/wiki/Template:Coord) [Template:Infobox country](/wiki/Template:Infobox_country) [Template:Contains Cyrillic text](/wiki/Template:Contains_Cyrillic_text)

**Montenegro** ([Template:IPAc-en](/wiki/Template:IPAc-en) [Template:Respell](/wiki/Template:Respell) or [Template:IPAc-en](/wiki/Template:IPAc-en) [Template:Respell](/wiki/Template:Respell) or [Template:IPAc-en](/wiki/Template:IPAc-en) [Template:Respell](/wiki/Template:Respell); [Montenegrin](/wiki/Montenegrin_language): *Crna Gora* / Црна Гора [Template:IPA-sh](/wiki/Template:IPA-sh), meaning "Black Mountain") is a [sovereign state](/wiki/Sovereign_state) in [Southeastern Europe](/wiki/Southeast_Europe). It has a coast on the [Adriatic Sea](/wiki/Adriatic_Sea) to the south-west and is bordered by [Croatia](/wiki/Croatia) to the west, [Bosnia and Herzegovina](/wiki/Bosnia_and_Herzegovina) to the northwest, [Serbia](/wiki/Serbia) to the northeast, [Kosovo](/wiki/Kosovo) to the east and [Albania](/wiki/Albania) to the south-east. Its capital and largest city is [Podgorica](/wiki/Podgorica), while [Cetinje](/wiki/Cetinje) is designated as the *Prijestonica*, meaning the former Royal Capital City.[[1]](#cite_note-1) In the 9th century, there were three principalities on the territory of Montenegro: [Duklja](/wiki/Duklja), roughly corresponding to the southern half, [Travunia](/wiki/Travunia), the west, and [Rascia](/wiki/Rascia), the north. In 1042, *archon* [Stefan Vojislav](/wiki/Stefan_Vojislav) led a revolt that resulted in the independence of Duklja and the establishment of the [Vojislavljević dynasty](/wiki/Vojislavljević_dynasty). Duklja reached its zenith under Vojislav's son, [Mihailo](/wiki/Mihailo_of_Duklja) (1046–81), and his grandson [Bodin](/wiki/Constantine_Bodin) (1081–1101).[[2]](#cite_note-2) By the 13th century, *Zeta* had replaced *Duklja* when referring to the realm. In the late 14th century, southern Montenegro ([Zeta](/wiki/Lordship_of_Zeta)) came under the rule of the [Balšić noble family](/wiki/Balšić_noble_family), then the [Crnojević noble family](/wiki/Crnojević_noble_family), and by the 15th century, Zeta was more often referred to as *Crna Gora* ([Venetian](/wiki/Venetian_language): [*Template:Lang*](/wiki/Template:Lang)). Large portions fell under the control of the [Ottoman Empire](/wiki/Ottoman_Empire) from 1496 to 1878 (Between 1454 (For [Niksic](/wiki/Niksic)) and 1878 for [Old Herzegovina](/wiki/Old_Herzegovina)). Parts were controlled by [Venice](/wiki/Republic_of_Venice) and the [First French Empire](/wiki/First_French_Empire) and [Austria-Hungary](/wiki/Austria-Hungary), its successors. From 1515 until 1851 the prince-bishops (vladikas) of Cetinje were the rulers. The [House of Petrović-Njegoš](/wiki/House_of_Petrović-Njegoš) ruled until 1918. From 1918, it was a part of [Yugoslavia](/wiki/Yugoslavia). On the basis of an [independence referendum held on 21 May 2006](/wiki/Montenegrin_independence_referendum,_2006), Montenegro declared independence on 3 June of that year.

Classified by the [World Bank](/wiki/World_Bank) as an upper middle-income country, Montenegro is a member of the UN, the [World Trade Organization](/wiki/World_Trade_Organization), the [Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe](/wiki/Organization_for_Security_and_Co-operation_in_Europe), the [Council of Europe](/wiki/Council_of_Europe), the [Central European Free Trade Agreement](/wiki/Central_European_Free_Trade_Agreement) and a founding member of the [Union for the Mediterranean](/wiki/Union_for_the_Mediterranean). Montenegro is also a [candidate](/wiki/Accession_of_Montenegro_to_the_European_Union) negotiating to join the [European Union](/wiki/European_Union)[[3]](#cite_note-3) and [NATO](/wiki/NATO).[[4]](#cite_note-4) On 2 December 2015 Montenegro received an official invitation [to join NATO](/wiki/Accession_of_Montenegro_to_NATO), whereby it would be the 29th member country. This invitation was meant to start final accession talks.[[5]](#cite_note-5)

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## Etymology[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=1)]

The country's name in most Western European languages reflects an adaptation of the [Venetian](/wiki/Venetian_language) *Montenegro* (< Latin [*mons*](/wiki/Wiktionary:mons#Latin) "mountain" + [*niger*](/wiki/Wiktionary:niger#Latin) "black"), roughly "Mount Black" or "black mountain". Other languages, particularly nearby ones, use their own direct translation of the term "black mountain". Examples are the [Albanian](/wiki/Albanian_language) name for the country, *Mali i Zi*, the [Greek](/wiki/Greek_language) name *Μαυροβούνιο*, and the [Turkish](/wiki/Turkish_language) name *Karadağ*, all meaning "Black Mountain". *Crna Gora* ("Black Mountain") was extended to denote a larger part of Montenegro in the 15th century.<ref name=Fine532>[Template:Harvnb](/wiki/Template:Harvnb)</ref> Originally, it had only referred to a small strip of land of the [Paštrovići](/wiki/Paštrovići), but eventually came to be used for a wider mountainous region after the [Crnojević noble family](/wiki/Crnojević_noble_family) in Upper Zeta.<ref name=Fine532/>

The aforementioned region became known as "[Old Montenegro](/wiki/Old_Montenegro)" (*Stara Crna Gora*) by the 19th century to distinguish it from the newly acquired territory of *Brda* ("the Highlands"). Montenegro further increased its size several times by the 20th century as the result of wars against the [Ottoman Empire](/wiki/Ottoman_Empire), which saw the annexation of [Old Herzegovina](/wiki/Old_Herzegovina) and parts of [Metohija](/wiki/Metohija) and southern [Raška](/wiki/Raška_(region)). The borders changed little since then, losing Metohija and gaining the [Bay of Kotor](/wiki/Bay_of_Kotor).

The [ISO Alpha-2](/wiki/ISO_3166-1_alpha-2) code for Montenegro is ME and the [Alpha-3 Code](/wiki/ISO_3166-1_alpha-3) is MNE.[[6]](#cite_note-6)

## History[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=2)]

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### Ancient times[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=3)]

[Pliny](/wiki/Pliny_the_Elder), [Appian](/wiki/Appian) and [Ptolemy](/wiki/Ptolemy) mentioned the *Docleatae* as living in the maritime region, holding the town of *Doclea* (old Podgorica) [thumb|left|Lead stamp of archont Petar (or Predimir) (9th century), a Byzantine viceroy; The Holy Virgin Mary with the Christ Child (left) and inscription in](/wiki/File:Peter_of_Diokleia.jpg) [Greek](/wiki/Greek_language) "+ Petar archont of Dioklia AMIN" (right).

The [Illyrians](/wiki/Illyrians) were the first known people to inhabit the region, arriving during the late [Iron Age](/wiki/Iron_Age). By [1000 BC](/wiki/1000_BC) a common [Illyrian language](/wiki/Illyrian_language) and culture had spread across much of the [Balkans](/wiki/Balkans). Interaction amongst groups was not always friendly – hill forts were the most common form of settlement – but distinctive Illyrian art forms such as amber and [bronze](/wiki/Bronze) jewellery evolved. In time the Illyrians established a loose federation of tribes centred in what is now [Macedonia](/wiki/Republic_of_Macedonia) and northern Albania. Maritime [Greeks](/wiki/Greeks) created coastal colonies on the sites of some Illyrian settlements around 400 BC. Thereafter [Hellenic](/wiki/Ancient_Greece) culture gradually spread out from Greek centres, particularly from Bouthoe ([Budva](/wiki/Budva)). The [Romans](/wiki/Romans) eventually followed. The initial impetus for the Roman incursion came when, in 228 BC, the Greeks asked for Roman protection from an Illyrian, [Teuta](/wiki/Teuta). She fled to [Risan](/wiki/Risan), forced from her stronghold by the [Romans](/wiki/Romans) who determined to stay in the region, attracted by its natural resources. The [Illyrians](/wiki/Illyrians) continued to resist the Romans until [168 BC](/wiki/168_BC), when the last Illyrian king, [Gentius](/wiki/Gentius), was defeated. The Romans capitalised on this entrée to fully absorb the [Balkans](/wiki/Balkans) into their provinces by 100 BC. They established networks of forts, roads and trade routes from the [Danube](/wiki/Danube) to the [Aegean](/wiki/Aegean_Sea), which further accelerated the process of [Romanisation](/wiki/Romanisation). However, outside the towns Illyrian culture remained dominant.[[7]](#cite_note-7) There are 50,000 farming households in Montenegro that rely on agriculture to fill the family budget.[[31]](#cite_note-31) [Aluminium](/wiki/Podgorica_Aluminium_Plant), steel production and [agricultural processing](/wiki/Agriculture) make up for most of the industrial output. Tourism is an important contributor to the Montenegrin economy. Approximately one million tourists visited Montenegro in 2007, resulting in €480 million of tourism revenue. Tourism is considered the backbone of future economic growth, and government expenditures on infrastructure improvements are largely targeted towards that goal. [Template:Citation needed](/wiki/Template:Citation_needed)

### Infrastructure[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=22)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) [left|thumb|270px|Map of current and two planned roads in Montenegro,](/wiki/File:Montenegro_motorways.JPG) [Bar-Boljare highway](/wiki/Belgrade–Bar_motorway) (red) and [Adriatic-Ionian highway](/wiki/Adriatic–Ionian_motorway) (blue). [thumb|right|](/wiki/File:Montenegro_Tara_bridge.JPG)[Đurđevića Tara Bridge](/wiki/Đurđevića_Tara_Bridge). The Montenegrin road infrastructure is not yet at Western European standards. Despite an extensive road network, no roads are built to full motorway standards. Construction of new motorways is considered a national priority, as they are important for uniform regional economic development and the development of Montenegro as an attractive tourist destination.

Current [European routes](/wiki/European_route) that pass through Montenegro are [E65](/wiki/European_route_E65) and [E80](/wiki/European_route_E80).

The backbone of the Montenegrin rail network is the [Belgrade - Bar railway](/wiki/Belgrade_-_Bar_railway). This railway intersects with [Nikšić](/wiki/Nikšić) – [Tirana](/wiki/Tirana) (Albania) at Podgorica; however, it is not used for passenger service. [thumb|right|](/wiki/File:01.10.13_Nikšić_6111.101_(10101158945).jpg)[Montenegrin Railways](/wiki/Rail_transport_in_Montenegro) EMU CAF train at the [Bar Rail Station](/wiki/Bar_Rail_Station). Montenegro has two international airports, [Podgorica Airport](/wiki/Podgorica_Airport) and [Tivat Airport](/wiki/Tivat_Airport). The two airports served 1.1 million passengers in 2008. [Montenegro Airlines](/wiki/Montenegro_Airlines) is the flag carrier of Montenegro.

The [Port of Bar](/wiki/Port_of_Bar) is Montenegro's main seaport. Initially built in 1906, the port was almost completely destroyed during [World War II](/wiki/World_War_II), with reconstruction beginning in 1950. Today, it is equipped to handle over 5 million tons of cargo annually, though the breakup of the former Yugoslavia and the size of the Montenegrin industrial sector has resulted in the port operating at a loss and well below capacity for several years. The reconstruction of the [Belgrade-Bar railway](/wiki/Belgrade-Bar_railway) and the proposed [Belgrade-Bar motorway](/wiki/Belgrade-Bar_motorway) are expected to bring the port back up to capacity.

### Tourism[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=23)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article)

Montenegro has both a picturesque coast and a mountainous northern region. The country was a well-known tourist spot in the 1980s. Yet, the [Yugoslav wars](/wiki/Yugoslav_wars) that were fought in neighbouring countries during the 1990s crippled the tourist industry and damaged the image of Montenegro for years. [thumb|left|300px|](/wiki/File:%D0%91%D0%BE%D0%BA%D0%B0_%D0%9A%D0%BE%D1%82%D0%BE%D1%80%D1%81%D0%BA%D0%B0_%D0%BD%D0%BE%D1%9B%D1%83.jpg)[Bay of Kotor](/wiki/Bay_of_Kotor) at night. The Montenegrin [Adriatic](/wiki/Adriatic) coast is [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) long, with [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) of beaches, and with many well-preserved ancient old towns. [National Geographic Traveler](/wiki/National_Geographic_Traveler) (edited once in decade) features Montenegro among the "50 Places of a Lifetime", and Montenegrin seaside [Sveti Stefan](/wiki/Sveti_Stefan) was used as the cover for the magazine.[[32]](#cite_note-32) The coast region of Montenegro is considered one of the great new "discoveries" among world tourists. In January 2010, The New York Times ranked the Ulcinj South Coast region of Montenegro, including [Velika Plaza](/wiki/Velika_Plaza), [Ada Bojana](/wiki/Ada_Bojana), and the [Hotel Mediteran](/wiki/Hotel_Mediteran) of Ulcinj, as among the "Top 31 Places to Go in 2010" as part of a worldwide ranking of tourism destinations.[[33]](#cite_note-33) Montenegro was also listed in "10 Top Hot Spots of 2009" to visit by Yahoo Travel, describing it as "Currently ranked as the second fastest growing tourism market in the world (falling just behind China)".[[34]](#cite_note-34) It is listed every year by prestigious tourism guides like Lonely Planet as top touristic destination along with Greece, Spain and other world touristic places.[[35]](#cite_note-35)[[36]](#cite_note-36) It was not until the 2000s that the tourism industry began to recover, and the country has since experienced a high rate of growth in the number of visits and overnight stays. The [Government of Montenegro](/wiki/Government_of_Montenegro) has set the development of Montenegro as an elite tourist destination a top priority. It is a national strategy to make tourism a major contributor to the Montenegrin economy. A number of steps were taken to attract foreign investors. Some large projects are already under way, such as [Porto Montenegro](/wiki/Porto_Montenegro), while other locations, like [Jaz Beach](/wiki/Jaz_Beach), [Buljarica](/wiki/Buljarica), [Velika Plaža](/wiki/Velika_Plaža) and [Ada Bojana](/wiki/Ada_Bojana), have perhaps the greatest potential to attract future investments and become premium tourist spots on the [Adriatic](/wiki/Adriatic).

<gallery mode=packed> File:Old Town of Budva - Montenegro - Southeastern Europe - 7 June 2014.jpg|[Budva](/wiki/Budva) is one of the main tourist destinations File:Tara River Canyon.jpg|[Tara Canyon](/wiki/Tara_River_Canyon), deepest canyon in Europe File:Widok na Perast z zachodu 01.JPG|[Perast](/wiki/Perast) in [Bay of Kotor](/wiki/Bay_of_Kotor) File:Jaz\_beach\_11.jpg|[Jaz Beach](/wiki/Jaz_Beach) File:BiogradskaGora.jpg|[Biogradska Gora](/wiki/Biogradska_Gora), one of the few European [old-growth forest](/wiki/Old-growth_forest) and a national park in [Kolašin](/wiki/Kolašin) File:Sveti\_Stefan\_(909625430).jpg|[Sveti Stefan](/wiki/Sveti_Stefan) island in [Budva](/wiki/Budva). Once secluded, it is now connected to the mainland by a long isthmus File:Durmitor\_-\_%C5%A0kr%C4%8Dko\_jezero.jpg|[Durmitor](/wiki/Durmitor) , Škrčko Lake File:Porto\_Montenegro.jpg|[Porto Montenegro](/wiki/Porto_Montenegro) , [luxury yacht](/wiki/Luxury_yacht) [marina](/wiki/Marina) File:Orjen.jpg|[Orjen](/wiki/Orjen) mountain File:Kotor\_City\_Wall\_and\_mountains.jpg|[Kotor](/wiki/Kotor) city walls File:Lovcen-008-p1010045.jpg|[Lovćen National Park](/wiki/Lovćen_National_Park) </gallery>

## Demographics[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=24)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article)

[Template:Historical populations](/wiki/Template:Historical_populations)

### Ethnic structure[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=25)]

[thumb|200px|Predominant ethnic group in each municipality of Montenegro, 2011](/wiki/File:MontenegroEthnic2011.PNG)

According to the 2003 census, Montenegro has 620,145 citizens. If the methodology used up to 1991 had been adopted in the 2003 census, Montenegro would officially have recorded 673,094 citizens. The results of the 2011 census show that Montenegro has 620,029 citizens.[[37]](#cite_note-37) Montenegro is [multiethnic state](/wiki/Multinational_state) in which no ethnic group forms a majority.[[38]](#cite_note-38)[[39]](#cite_note-39) Major ethnic groups include [Montenegrins](/wiki/Montenegrins_(ethnic_group)) (Црногорци/*Crnogorci*), [Serbs](/wiki/Serbs) (Срби/*Srbi*), [Bosniaks](/wiki/Bosniaks) (*Bošnjaci*), [Albanians](/wiki/Albanians) (*Albanci – Shqiptarët*) and [Croats](/wiki/Croats) (*Hrvati*). The number of "Montenegrins" and "Serbs" fluctuates widely from census to census due to changes in how people perceive, experience, or choose to express, their identity and ethnic affiliation.[[40]](#cite_note-40) [Template:Hidden begin](/wiki/Template:Hidden_begin) Ethnic composition according to the 2011 official data:[[37]](#cite_note-37)

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | Number | % |
| **Total** | **620,029** | 100 |
| [Montenegrins](/wiki/Montenegrins_(ethnic_group)) | 278,865 | 45.0 |
| [Serbs](/wiki/Serbs) | 178,110 | 28.7 |
| [Bosniaks](/wiki/Bosniaks) | 53,605 | 8.6 |
| [Albanians](/wiki/Albanians) | 30,439 | 4.9 |
| [Muslims by nationality](/wiki/Muslims_by_nationality) | 20,537 | 3.3 |
| [Croats](/wiki/Croats) | 6,021 | 0.97 |
| [Roma](/wiki/Romani_people) | 5,251 | 0.8 |
| [Serbo](/wiki/Serbians)-[Montenegrins](/wiki/Montenegrins_(ethnic_group)) | 2,103 | 0.34 |
| [Egyptians](/wiki/Balkan_Egyptians) | 2,054 | 0.33 |
| [Montenegrins](/wiki/Montenegrins_(ethnic_group))-[Serbs](/wiki/Serbs) | 1,833 | 0.30 |
| [Yugoslavs](/wiki/Yugoslavs) | 1,154 | 0.19 |
| [Russians](/wiki/Russians) | 946 | 0.15 |
| [Macedonians](/wiki/Macedonians_(ethnic_group)) | 900 | 0.15 |
| [Bosnians](/wiki/Bosnians) | 427 | 0.07 |
| [Slovenes](/wiki/Slovenes) | 354 | 0.06 |
| [Hungarians](/wiki/Hungarians) | 337 | 0.05 |
| [Muslim-Montenegrins](/wiki/Montenegrins_(ethnic_group)) | 257 | 0.04 |
| [Gorani people](/wiki/Gorani_people) | 197 | 0.03 |
| [Muslim-Bosniaks](/wiki/Bosniaks) | 183 | 0.03 |
| [Bosniaks-Muslims](/wiki/Bosniaks) | 181 | 0.03 |
| [Montenegrin-Muslims](/wiki/Montenegrins_(ethnic_group)) | 175 | 0.03 |
| [Italians](/wiki/Italians) | 135 | 0.02 |
| [Germans](/wiki/Germans) | 131 | 0.02 |
| [Turks](/wiki/Turkish_people) | 104 | 0.02 |
| *regional qualification* | 1.202 | 0.19 |
| *without declaration* | 30.170 | 4.87 |
| *other* | 3.358 | 0.54 |

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### Linguistic structure[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=26)]

[thumb|200px|Linguistic structure of Montenegro by settlements, 2011](/wiki/File:MontenegroLanguage2011.PNG)

The official language in Montenegro is [Montenegrin](/wiki/Montenegrin_language). Also, [Serbian](/wiki/Serbian_language), [Bosnian](/wiki/Bosnian_language), [Albanian](/wiki/Albanian_language) and [Croatian](/wiki/Croatian_language) are recognized in usage. All of these languages, except Albanian, are mutually intelligible. According to the 2011 census, most citizens declared Serbian as their mother tongue. Montenegrin is the majority mother tongue of the population under 18 years of age, although by a very narrow margin- 39.2% comparing to 37.5% of Serbophone citizens.[[41]](#cite_note-41) In 2013, [Matica crnogorska](/wiki/Matica_crnogorska) announced the results of public opinion research regarding the identity attitudes of the citizens of Montenegro, indicating that the majority of the population claims Montenegrin as their mother tongue.[[42]](#cite_note-42) Previous constitutions endorsed [Serbo-Croatian](/wiki/Serbo-Croatian) as the official language in [SR Montenegro](/wiki/SR_Montenegro) and the [Serbian language of Ijekavian Standard](/wiki/Ijekavian) during the [1992–2006 period](/wiki/Republic_of_Montenegro_(federal)). [thumb|200px|Religious structure of Montenegro by settlements, 2011](/wiki/File:MontenegroReligion2011.PNG) [Template:Hidden begin](/wiki/Template:Hidden_begin) According to the 2011 Census the following languages are spoken in the country:[[37]](#cite_note-37)

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | Number | % |
| **Total** | **620,029** | 100 |
| [Serbian](/wiki/Serbian_language) | 265,895 | 42.88 |
| [Montenegrin](/wiki/Montenegrin_language) | 229,251 | 36.97 |
| [Bosnian](/wiki/Bosnian_language) | 33,077 | 5.33 |
| [Albanian](/wiki/Albanian_language) | 32,671 | 5.27 |
| [Serbo-Croatian](/wiki/Serbo-Croatian_language) | 12,559 | 2.03 |
| [Roma](/wiki/Roma_language) | 5,169 | 0.83 |
| [*Bosniak*](/wiki/Bosnian_language) | 3,662 | 0.59 |
| [Croatian](/wiki/Croatian_language) | 2,791 | 0.45 |
| Russian | 1,026 | 0.17 |
| [*Serbo*](/wiki/Serbian_language)*-*[*Montenegrin*](/wiki/Montenegrin_language) | 618 | 0.10 |
| [Macedonian](/wiki/Macedonian_language) | 529 | 0.09 |
| [*Montenegrin*](/wiki/Montenegrin_language)*-*[*Serbian*](/wiki/Serbian_language) | 369 | 0.06 |
| [Hungarian](/wiki/Hungarian_language) | 225 | 0.04 |
| [*Croatian*](/wiki/Croatian_language)*-*[*Serbian*](/wiki/Serbian_language) | 224 | 0.04 |
| English | 185 | 0.03 |
| German | 129 | 0.02 |
| [Slovene](/wiki/Slovene_language) | 107 | 0.02 |
| [Romanian](/wiki/Romanian_language) | 101 | 0.02 |
| *mother tongue* | 3.318 | 0.54 |
| *regional languages* | 458 | 0.07 |
| *without declaration* | 24.748 | 3.99 |
| *other* | 2.917 | 0.47 |

[Template:Hidden end](/wiki/Template:Hidden_end)

### Religious structure[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=27)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) Montenegro has been historically at the crossroads of multiculturalism and over centuries this has shaped its unique form of co-existence between Muslim and Christian population.[[43]](#cite_note-43) Montenegrins have been, historically, members of the [Serbian Orthodox Church](/wiki/Serbian_Orthodox_Church) (governed by the [Metropolitanate of Montenegro and the Littoral](/wiki/Metropolitanate_of_Montenegro_and_the_Littoral)), and [Serbian Orthodox Christianity](/wiki/Serbian_Orthodox_Church) is the most popular religion today in Montenegro. The [Montenegrin Orthodox Church](/wiki/Montenegrin_Orthodox_Church) has been founded in recent years and is followed by a small minority although it is not in communion with any other Christian Orthodox Church as it has not been recognized.

During the intensified tensions between religious groups during the [Bosnian War](/wiki/Bosnian_War), Montenegro has remained fairly stable, mainly due its population having a historic perspective on religious tolerance and faith diversity.[[44]](#cite_note-44) Religious institutions from Montenegro all have guaranteed rights and are separate from the state. The second largest religious denomination religion is Islam, which amounts to 19% of the total population of the country. [Template:Citation needed span](/wiki/Template:Citation_needed_span) A majority of [Albanians](/wiki/Albanians) are [Sunni Muslims](/wiki/Sunni_Muslims), and in 2012 a protocol passed that recognises [Islam](/wiki/Islam) as an official religion in Montenegro, ensures that [halal](/wiki/Halal) foods will be served at military facilities, hospitals, dormitories and all social facilities; and that Muslim women will be permitted to wear headscarves in schools and at public institutions, as well as ensuring that Muslims have the right to take Fridays off work for the [Jumu'ah](/wiki/Jumu'ah) (Friday)-prayer.[[45]](#cite_note-45) There is also a small Roman Catholic population, mostly Albanians with some Croats, divided between the [Archdiocese of Antivari](/wiki/Roman_Catholic_Archdiocese_of_Bar) headed by the Primate of Serbia and the [Diocese of Kotor](/wiki/Roman_Catholic_Diocese_of_Kotor) that is a part of the [Church of Croatia](/wiki/Church_of_Croatia).

<gallery> Podgorica, cattedrale della resurrezione di cristo, esterno 01.JPG|[Cathedral of the Resurrection of Christ, Podgorica](/wiki/Cathedral_of_the_Resurrection_of_Christ,_Podgorica), biggest church in Montenegro Kotor,\_Montenegro\_(7182668221).jpg|[Kotor Cathedral](/wiki/Kotor_Cathedral) Pljevlja\_Mosque\_3.JPG|[Husein-paša's Mosque](/wiki/Husein-paša's_Mosque) in [Pljevlja](/wiki/Pljevlja) Monasterio\_de\_Ostrog,\_Montenegro,\_2014-04-14,\_DD\_14.JPG|[Ostrog Monastery](/wiki/Ostrog_Monastery) the most important Christian pilgrimage site in Montenegro </gallery>

[Template:Hidden begin](/wiki/Template:Hidden_begin) Religious determination according to the 2011 census:[[37]](#cite_note-37)

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Religion | Number | % |
| **Total** | **620,029** | 100 |
| [Eastern Orthodox](/wiki/Orthodoxy_in_Montenegro) | 446,858 | 72.07 |
| [Islam/Muslims](/wiki/Islam_in_Montenegro) | 118,477 (99,038 *Islam*, 19,439 *Muslims*) | 19.11 (15.97 *Islam*, 3.14 *Muslims*) |
| [Catholics](/wiki/Catholicism_in_Montenegro) | 21,299 | 3.44 |
| [Atheists](/wiki/Atheists) | 7,667 | 1.24 |
| Christians | 1,460 | 0.24 |
| [Adventists](/wiki/Adventists) | 894 | 0.14 |
| Agnostics | 451 | 0.07 |
| [Jehovah's Witnesses](/wiki/Jehovah's_Witnesses) | 145 | 0.02 |
| Protestants | 143 | 0.02 |
| [Buddhists](/wiki/Buddhists) | 118 | 0.02 |
| *other* | 6,337 | 1.02 |
| *without declaration* | 16,180 | 2.61 |

**Note**: *In the 2011 census, there are two separate columns for the adherents of Islam, one is called Islam, the other Muslims.*

[Template:Hidden end](/wiki/Template:Hidden_end)

## Education[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=28)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article)

Education in Montenegro is regulated by the [Montenegrin Ministry of Education and Science](/wiki/Government_of_Montenegro).

Education starts in either pre-schools or elementary schools. Children enroll in elementary schools ([Montenegrin](/wiki/Montenegrin_language): *Osnovna škola*) at the age of 6; it lasts 9 years. The students may continue their secondary education ([Montenegrin](/wiki/Montenegrin_language): *Srednja škola*), which lasts 4 years (3 years for trade schools) and ends with graduation ([Matura](/wiki/Matura)). Higher education lasts with a certain first degree after 3 to 6 years. There is one public University ([University of Montenegro](/wiki/University_of_Montenegro)) and two private ([Mediterranean University](/wiki/Mediterranean_University) and [University of Donja Gorica](/wiki/University_of_Donja_Gorica)).

### Elementary education[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=29)]

Elementary education in Montenegro is free and compulsory for all the children between the ages of 6 and 14. [Template:Multiple image](/wiki/Template:Multiple_image)

### Secondary education[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=30)]

Secondary schools are divided in three types, and children attend one depending on choice and primary school grades:

* [Gymnasium](/wiki/Gymnasium_(school)) (Gimnazija / Гимназиjа), lasts for four years and offers a general, broad education. It is a preparatory school for university, and hence the most academic and prestigious.
* Professional schools (Stručna škola / Стручна школа) last for three or four years and specialize students in certain fields which may result in them attending college; professional schools offer a relatively broad education.
* Vocational schools (Zanatska škola / Занатска школа) last for three years and focus on vocational education (e.g., joinery, plumbing, mechanics) without an option of continuing education after three years.

### Tertiary education[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=31)]

Tertiary level institutions are divided into "Higher education" (Više obrazovanje) and "High education" (Visoko obrazovanje) level faculties.

* Colleges (Fakultet) and art academies (akademija umjetnosti) last between 4 and 6 years (one year is two semesters long) and award diplomas equivalent to a Bachelor of Arts or a Bachelor of Science degree.

Higher schools (Viša škola) lasts between two and four years.

### Post-graduate education[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=32)]

Post-graduate education (post-diplomske studije) is offered after tertiary level and offers [Masters' degrees](/wiki/Masters'_degree), PhD and specialization education.

## Culture[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=33)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article)

[thumb|left|upright|](/wiki/File:THEOTOKOS_PHILERMON.jpg)[Our Lady of Philermos](/wiki/Our_Lady_of_Philermos) the patroness of [Rhodes](/wiki/Rhodes) and [Sovereign Military Order of Malta](/wiki/Sovereign_Military_Order_of_Malta) , one of the first Christian icons, according to legend painted by [St. Luke](/wiki/Luke_the_Evangelist) , [National Museum of Montenegro](/wiki/National_Museum_of_Montenegro) , Cetinje.

[thumb|right|The Church of](/wiki/File:Kotor_area_Our_Lady_of_the_Rocks.JPG) [Our Lady of the Rocks](/wiki/Our_Lady_of_the_Rocks), an example of Roman Catholic architecture in Montenegro.

The culture of Montenegro has been shaped by a variety of influences throughout history. The influence of Orthodox, Slavic, Central European, and seafaring Adriatic cultures (notably parts of Italy, like the [Republic of Venice](/wiki/Republic_of_Venice)) have been the most important in recent centuries.

Montenegro has many significant cultural and historical sites, including heritage sites from the pre-[Romanesque](/wiki/Romanesque_architecture), [Gothic](/wiki/Gothic_art) and [Baroque](/wiki/Baroque) periods. The Montenegrin coastal region is especially well known for its religious monuments, including the [Cathedral of Saint Tryphon](/wiki/Cathedral_of_Saint_Tryphon) in [Kotor](/wiki/Kotor)[[46]](#cite_note-46) (Cattaro under the Venetians), the basilica of St. Luke (over 800 years), [Our Lady of the Rocks](/wiki/Our_Lady_of_the_Rocks) (Škrpjela), the [Savina Monastery](/wiki/Savina_monastery_(Montenegro)) and others. Montenegro's medieval monasteries contain thousands of square metres of frescos on their walls.

[thumb|](/wiki/File:Vladin_Dom_(Dom_Rządowy)_w_Cetinje_01.jpg)[National Museum of Montenegro](/wiki/National_Museum_of_Montenegro) , [Cetinje](/wiki/Cetinje).

A dimension of Montenegrin culture is the ethical ideal of *Čojstvo i Junaštvo*, "Humaneness and Gallantry".[[47]](#cite_note-47)[[48]](#cite_note-48) The traditional folk dance of the Montenegrins is the [Oro](/wiki/Hora_(dance)), the "eagle dance" that involves dancing in circles with couples alternating in the centre, and is finished by forming a human pyramid by dancers standing on each other's shoulders.

The first literary works written in the region are ten centuries old, and the first Montenegrin book was printed over five hundred years ago. The first state-owned printing press was located in Cetinje in 1494, where the first [South Slavic](/wiki/South_Slavs) book, [*Oktoih*](/wiki/Oktoih), was printed the same year. Ancient manuscripts, dating from the thirteenth century, are kept in the Montenegrin monasteries.[[49]](#cite_note-49) Montenegro's capital Podgorica and the former royal capital of Cetinje are the two most important centres of culture and the arts in the country.

## Cuisine[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=34)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article) [right|thumb|right|Foods from Montenegro](/wiki/File:Foods_from_Montenegro.jpg) Montenegrin cuisine is a result of Montenegro's long history. It is a variation of Mediterranean and Oriental. The most influence is from Italy, [Turkey](/wiki/Turkey), [Byzantine Empire](/wiki/Byzantine_Empire)/[Greece](/wiki/Greece), and as well from Hungary. Montenegrin cuisine also varies geographically; the cuisine in the coastal area differs from the one in the northern highland region. The coastal area is traditionally a representative of [Mediterranean cuisine](/wiki/Mediterranean_cuisine), with seafood being a common dish, while the northern represents more the Oriental.

## Media[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=35)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article)

The media of Montenegro refers to [mass media](/wiki/Mass_media) outlets based in Montenegro. Television, magazines, and newspapers are all operated by both state-owned and for-profit corporations which depend on [advertising](/wiki/Advertising), [subscription](/wiki/Subscription), and other sales-related revenues. The [Constitution of Montenegro](/wiki/Constitution_of_Montenegro) guarantees freedom of speech. As a [country in transition](/wiki/Country_in_transition), Montenegro's media system is under transformation.

## In popular culture[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=36)]

The first modern official international representation of Montenegro as an independent state was in [Miss World 2006](/wiki/Miss_World_2006), held on 30 September 2006 in [Warsaw](/wiki/Warsaw), Poland. [Ivana Knežević](/wiki/Ivana_Knežević) from the city of [Bar](/wiki/Bar,_Montenegro) was the first Miss Montenegro at any international beauty pageant.[[50]](#cite_note-50) Both Montenegro and Serbia competed separately in this pageant for the first time after the state union came to an end.

Part of the 2006 [James Bond](/wiki/James_Bond) film [*Casino Royale*](/wiki/Casino_Royale_(2006_film)) is set in Montenegro,[[51]](#cite_note-51) although all of the filming was done in the Czech Republic – [Karlovy Vary](/wiki/Karlovy_Vary).[Template:Citation needed](/wiki/Template:Citation_needed)

[*The Big Picture*](/wiki/The_Big_Picture_(2010_film)), based on a 1997 [Douglas Kennedy](/wiki/Douglas_Kennedy_(writer)) novel, is a French film about Parisian who reinvents himself by becoming a photographer in Montenegro. The French name of the film is [BROKEN](/wiki/BROKEN) (The Man Who Wanted to Live His Life).

The first scenes of [*The November Man*](/wiki/The_November_Man) with [Pierce Brosnan](/wiki/Pierce_Brosnan) are filmed in Montenegro.

[Nero Wolfe](/wiki/Nero_Wolfe), the eccentric fictional detective created by American writer [Rex Stout](/wiki/Rex_Stout), is Montenegrin by birth.[[52]](#cite_note-52) One Nero Wolfe novel, [*The Black Mountain*](/wiki/The_Black_Mountain), takes place in [Tito](/wiki/Josip_Broz_Tito)-era Montenegro.

[*The Dark Side of the Sun*](/wiki/The_Dark_Side_of_the_Sun_(film)), a 1988 American-Yugoslavian drama film starring [Brad Pitt](/wiki/Brad_Pitt) about a young man in search of a cure for a dreaded skin disease, was filmed in Montenegro and directed by Montenegrin director [Božidar Nikolić](/wiki/Božidar_Nikolić).

The setting for [Franz Lehár's](/wiki/Franz_Lehár) 1905 [operetta](/wiki/Operetta) [*The Merry Widow*](/wiki/The_Merry_Widow) is the Paris embassy of the Grand Duchy of Pontevedro. Pontevedro is a fictionalized version of Montenegro and several of the characters were loosely based on actual Montenegrin nobility.

In [F. Scott Fitzgerald's](/wiki/F._Scott_Fitzgerald) Novel [*The Great Gatsby*](/wiki/The_Great_Gatsby), Gatsby impresses Nick that he has been awarded a World War I medal "for Valour Extraordinary" from Montenegro. Telling Nick, "Every Allied country gave me a decoration — even Montenegro, little Montenegro down on the Adriatic Sea!"[[53]](#cite_note-53)

## Sport[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=37)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article)

The most popular sports in Montenegro are [football](/wiki/Association_football), [basketball](/wiki/Basketball), [water polo](/wiki/Water_polo), [volleyball](/wiki/Volleyball), and [handball](/wiki/Team_handball). Other relatively popular sports include [boxing](/wiki/Boxing), [judo](/wiki/Judo), [karate](/wiki/Karate), [athletics](/wiki/Athletics_(sport)), [table tennis](/wiki/Table_tennis), and [chess](/wiki/Chess). [thumb|right|200px|](/wiki/File:MontenegrinFans2.jpg)[Podgorica City Stadium](/wiki/Podgorica_City_Stadium), Montenegro fans with national features.

[thumb|left|200px|](/wiki/File:20140101_Nikola_Pekovi%C4%87.JPG)[Nikola Peković](/wiki/Nikola_Peković), Montenegrin professional [basketball](/wiki/Basketball) player, playing for [Minnesota Timberwolves](/wiki/Minnesota_Timberwolves) in [NBA](/wiki/National_Basketball_Association).|150px|right

Previously, people from Montenegro competed in Yugoslavian national teams when Montenegro was part of Yugoslavia. On 24 March 2007, the [Montenegro national football team](/wiki/Montenegro_national_football_team) came from behind to win its first ever fixture, 2-1 in a [friendly game](/wiki/Exhibition_game) against [Hungary](/wiki/Hungary_national_football_team), at the [Podgorica Stadium](/wiki/Podgorica_city_stadium).[[54]](#cite_note-54) The main football clubs in Montenegro are [FK Budućnost Podgorica](/wiki/FK_Budućnost_Podgorica) from capital [Podgorica](/wiki/Podgorica)[[55]](#cite_note-55) and [FK Sutjeska](/wiki/FK_Sutjeska) from [Nikšić](/wiki/Nikšić). At their 119th Session in [Guatemala City](/wiki/Guatemala_City) in July 2007, the [International Olympic Committee](/wiki/International_Olympic_Committee) granted recognition and membership to the newly formed Montenegrin National Olympic Committee. Montenegro made its debut at the [2008 Summer Olympics](/wiki/2008_Summer_Olympics) in Beijing.[[56]](#cite_note-56) Montenegro hosted together with Serbia the [EuroBasket 2005](/wiki/EuroBasket_2005) championships.[[57]](#cite_note-57)[thumb|right|200px|Montenegro vs Croatia, 2010 Men's European Water Polo Championship in](/wiki/File:MNEvsCRO_2010_Mens_European_Water_Polo_Championship_2.jpg) [Zagreb](/wiki/Zagreb).

[Water polo](/wiki/Water_polo) is often considered the national sport. Montenegro won the European Championships in [Málaga](/wiki/Málaga), [Spain](/wiki/Spain) on 13 July 2008, over Serbia 6-5 in a game that was tied 5–5 after four quarters.[[58]](#cite_note-58) This was Montenegro's first major international competition for which they had to qualify through two LEN tournaments. Montenegro won the gold medal at the [2009 FINA Men's Water Polo World League](/wiki/2009_FINA_Men's_Water_Polo_World_League), which was held in [Podgorica](/wiki/Podgorica).[[59]](#cite_note-59) Montenegrin team [PVK Primorac](/wiki/PVK_Primorac) from [Kotor](/wiki/Kotor) became a champion of Europe at the [LEN Euroleague 2009](/wiki/LEN_Euroleague) in [Rijeka](/wiki/Rijeka), [Croatia](/wiki/Croatia).

Montenegro’s first division in water polo consists of six clubs, four of them with an annual budget of one million Euros and more  — VK Primorac Kotor (2007 and 2008 Montenegro champions), VK Jadran Herceg Novi (2006 champions of [Serbia-Montenegro](/wiki/Serbia-Montenegro)), VK Budvanska Rivijera Budva, and VK Cattaro. Montenegro's water polo Olympic team finished fourth overall at the [2008 Olympic Games](/wiki/Water_polo_at_the_2008_Summer_Olympics) in Beijing.

[Chess](/wiki/Chess) is another popular sport and some famous global chess players, like [Slavko Dedić](/wiki/Slavko_Dedić), are born in Montenegro.

At the [2012 Olympic Games](/wiki/Handball_at_the_2012_Summer_Olympics) in London, [Montenegro women's national handball team](/wiki/Montenegro_women's_national_handball_team) won the Silver medal losing to defending World, Olympic and European Champions, [Norway](/wiki/Norway_women's_national_handball_team) in an exciting match 26–23. This is also Montenegro's first ever Olympic medal. Less than half a year later the team got revenge by beating Norway in the final of the [2012 European Championship](/wiki/2012_European_Women's_Handball_Championship), thus becoming champions for the first time.

|  |
| --- |
| +Medals won by [Montenegro at the Olympics](/wiki/Montenegro_at_the_Olympics)[[60]](#cite_note-60) |
| [**Olympic Games**](/wiki/Olympic_Games) | **colspan=3|**[**Olympic medals**](/wiki/Olympic_medal) |
| **Gold** | **Silver** | **Bronze** |
| align=left|[Template:Flagicon](/wiki/Template:Flagicon) [2008 Beijing](/wiki/2008_Summer_Olympics) | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| align=left|[Template:Flagicon](/wiki/Template:Flagicon) [2010 Vancouver](/wiki/2010_Winter_Olympics) | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| align=left|[Template:Flagicon](/wiki/Template:Flagicon) [2012 London](/wiki/2012_Summer_Olympics) | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| align=left|[Template:Flagicon](/wiki/Template:Flagicon) [2014 Sochi](/wiki/2014_Winter_Olympics) | 0 | 0 | 0 |
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## Public holidays[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=38)]

[Template:Main article](/wiki/Template:Main_article)

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Holidays** | | |
| **Date** | **Name** | **Notes** |
| 1 January | [New Year's Day](/wiki/New_Year's_Day) | (non-working holiday) |
| 7 January | [Orthodox Christmas](/wiki/Orthodox_Christmas) | (non-working) |
| 10 April | Orthodox [Good Friday](/wiki/Good_Friday) | Date for 2015 only |
| 12 April | [Orthodox Easter](/wiki/Orthodox_Easter) | Date for 2015 only |
| 1 May | [Labor Day](/wiki/Labor_Day) | (non-working) |
| 9 May | [Victory Day](/wiki/Victory_Day) |  |
| 21 May | [Independence Day](/wiki/Independence_Day) | (non-working) |
| 13 July | [Statehood Day](/wiki/Statehood_Day_(Montenegro)) | (non-working) |

## See also[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=39)]

[Template:Portal](/wiki/Template:Portal)

* [Accession of Montenegro to NATO](/wiki/Accession_of_Montenegro_to_NATO)
* [History of the Balkans](/wiki/History_of_the_Balkans)
* [Languages of Montenegro](/wiki/Languages_of_Montenegro)
* [Law enforcement in Montenegro](/wiki/Law_enforcement_in_Montenegro)
* [List of rulers of Montenegro](/wiki/List_of_rulers_of_Montenegro)
* [Music of Montenegro](/wiki/Music_of_Montenegro)
* [Outline of Montenegro](/wiki/Outline_of_Montenegro)
* [Savez Izviđača Crne Gore](/wiki/Savez_Izviđača_Crne_Gore)
* [Telecommunications in Montenegro](/wiki/Telecommunications_in_Montenegro)

## References[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=40)]

[Template:Reflist](/wiki/Template:Reflist)

### Sources[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=41)]

* [Template:Citation](/wiki/Template:Citation)
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## Further reading[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=42)]

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## External links[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=43)]

[Template:Sister project links](/wiki/Template:Sister_project_links)

* [Official website of the Government of Montenegro (English)](http://www.gov.me/en/homepage)
* [Template:CIA World Factbook link](/wiki/Template:CIA_World_Factbook_link)
* [Montenegro](http://ucblibraries.colorado.edu/govpubs/for/montenegro.htm) from *UCB Libraries GovPubs*
* [Template:Dmoz](/wiki/Template:Dmoz)
* [Montenegro profile](http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-17667132) from the [BBC News](/wiki/BBC_News)
* [Template:Wikiatlas](/wiki/Template:Wikiatlas)
* [Template:Osmrelation-inline](/wiki/Template:Osmrelation-inline)

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[Category:Montenegro](/wiki/Category:Montenegro) [Category:Balkans](/wiki/Category:Balkans) [Category:Countries in Europe](/wiki/Category:Countries_in_Europe) [Category:Liberal democracies](/wiki/Category:Liberal_democracies) [Category:Member states of the Council of Europe](/wiki/Category:Member_states_of_the_Council_of_Europe) [Category:Member states of the Union for the Mediterranean](/wiki/Category:Member_states_of_the_Union_for_the_Mediterranean) [Category:Member states of the United Nations](/wiki/Category:Member_states_of_the_United_Nations) [Category:States and territories established in 2006](/wiki/Category:States_and_territories_established_in_2006) [\*](/wiki/Category:2006_establishments_in_Montenegro) [Category:Southeastern Europe](/wiki/Category:Southeastern_Europe)