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TOUR UPDATE



The Newsletter of mikesworldtour

Tour Highlight:

October 2025
Kotor, Montenegro



Hidden Gem in the Bay

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A QUICK HISTORICAL, POLITICAL, & SOCIAL OVERVIEW

After the Congress of Berlin in 1878, Montenegro borders were set to what it is today. Increased trade pressured the nation to modernize, but this was interrupted by the Balkan Wars in 1912 where they sided with Serbia. When World War I ended, the national assembly deposed the King and united with the Serbian state which eventually became Yugoslavia. Little investment went to Montenegro under Yugoslavia before World War II, but after the war they became high officials in the new government. In the disintegration of Yugoslavia, Montenegro sided with Serbia in fighting Slovenia and Croatia who tried to secede. An independent identity formed in protest of Serbian treatment of Bosnians. Initially it remained joined as a nation with Serbia until a referendum barely passed in 2006 to become independent. It joined NATO in 2015 which was heavily protested by Russia. It is targeting to join the EU in 2028.

Kotor, Montenegro



Some quick tips for Kotor :

- It is not in the Schengen Area so you have to go through immigration
- You have to pay a cash fee to hike to the Kotor Fortress
- Although not in the EU they use the Euro

TRANSPORTATION

I wanted to add a quick disclaimer about the bus journey to Kotor. We can from Dubrovnik and took the bus to and from Dubrovnik. Both times our bus arrived 2.5 hours after the scheduled time. This was due to a 2 hour wait in the line at immigration to cross the border into Dubrovnik. This line is shorter with a rental car, but I think it is important to know and plan for.

FOOD

SENSO CAFE

We found this cafe in the middle of the old town and the people that worked here were so nice. They found out we were from the US and were so excited and started playing Empire State of Mind because my friends told them they live in New York. I got a pistachio croissant which was really good and their coffee was also great. Solid way to start your day with awesome vibes, highly recommend checking them out.



MORITZ EIS

If you know me, then you know that I have a passion for ice cream. Throughout the old town there are so many ice cream and gelato places that we found ourselves treating to dessert almost every night (oops). Founded by an investment banker in Serbia in 2012 the company has grown throughout the baltic countries and even to Chile! Known for organic ingredients in their ice cream, I can safely say this was the best scoop of the trip.



Kotor, Montenegro

EXPERIENCES AND SITES

Old town Kotor is much smaller than its counterparts, but still has so many things to do and character in the city. We stayed in an awesome airbnb that had crazy high ceilings and original architectural details and was the same price as places in more popular destinations. The bay of Kotor is also so beautiful, and if you are going in Summer make sure to save time to enjoy the water and related activities.

SAINT TRYPHON'S CATHEDRAL



Home to the seat of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Kotor, it is one of two Roman Catholic cathedrals in Montenegro. It was built in honor of Saint Tryphon, the protector of the city. An earlier church was built at the site in 809, and the current cathedral was built in 1166. It was damaged by earthquakes in 1667 and 1979, but quickly repaired after.

CLOCK TOWER



Built in the 17th century it is in a mix of Baroque and Gothic style. Part of it was reconstructed in the medieval style. It sits in the main square and is a main symbol of the old town.

LET ME PASS STREET

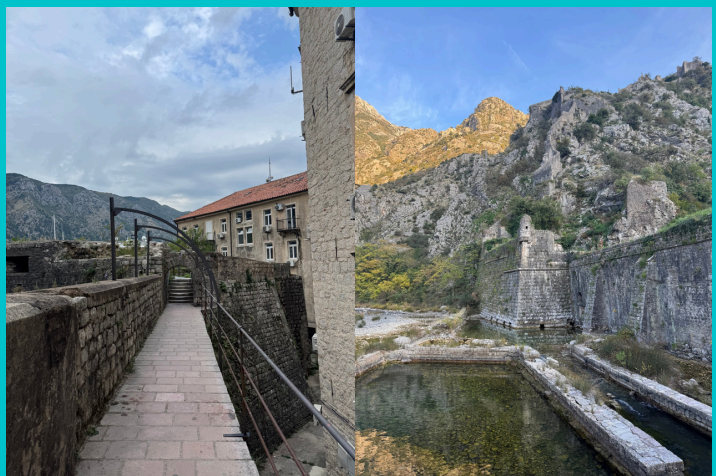


The old town of Kotor is known for its small alleyways and streets where it is easy to get lost. The most narrow street is 80 centimeters wide and was named by locals since it is so hard for two men to pass on the street. In the old town there are no official street names, locals create unofficial names to fit the needs of their daily life which then catches on to the wider population. This is one of the unofficial street names that someone cleverly came up with. I'd say it's a little fatphobic.



CITY WALLS

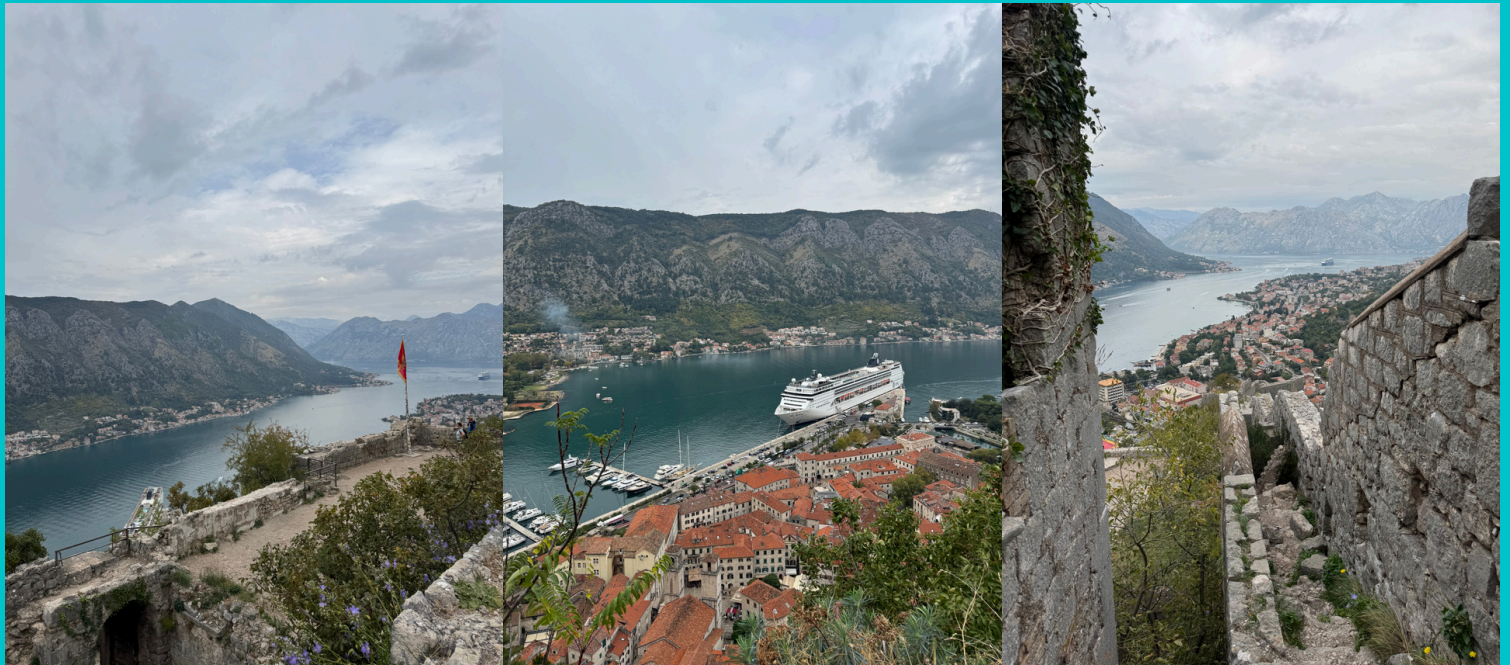
Unlike the walls in Dubrovnik, these have free entrance! The current structure dates back to the Venetians in 1420 when they ruled the city. The top of the mountain (more on that soon) had already been fortified. The walls incorporate military architecture that was used to protect the city. There were multiple sieges from the Ottomans while the Venetians ruled and the walls were passed to the monarchies ruling the city. In 1979 it was inscribed as a world heritage site for its cultural significance.



Kotor, Montenegro

KOTOR FORTRESS

It can be confusing because I saw multiple names online for this including St. John's Fortress, San Giovanni Fortress, and Kotor Fortress. Luckily it is pretty easy to find the entrance. You have to hike up to the Fortress and there is a ticket stations right at the beginning of the path in the Old Town where you pay an entrance fee (cash only). The path up to the top takes about 45 minutes and is not super hard. They have stairs which make it really easy and we stopped a lot because the views are insane from up here. There is a different path called the ladder that is supposedly free, but we did not try it. Many sites and blogs online will complain that the Fortress is not well kept and there is trash everywhere. Well that is partly true, it did not impact the coolness of it and we really enjoyed walking around. In some aspects it is better this way because you can explore it as you please without ropes and people telling you where you can walk. It was built in the 16th century by the Venetians as a way to block Ottoman attacks. Soldiers lived up here and would come down to the city to stop attacks (kinda far to be on call like that)



See You On the Next Stop on the Tour!