- MONTENEGRO TRAVEL 24 -

The best travel tips

FOR YOUR TRIP BY CAR OR MOTORCYCLE





Getting to Montenegro by car or motorcycle is a fantastic way to experience the landscapes and cultures of the Balkans up close. Montenegro, with its rugged mountains, stunning coastline, and charming historic towns, is easily accessible by road, and the journey itself can become an unforgettable adventure. However, to ensure a safe and well-prepared trip, there are a few things to keep in mind. Here are all the important tips for traveling by car or motorcycle that you should know.

1. Travel documents and vehicle papers

To ensure a smooth border crossing and have all the necessary documents ready, make sure to bring the following:

Passport

Tourists from the UK and the USA must present a valid passport when entering Montenegro. It's important that your passport remains valid for the entire duration of your stay.

Driver's License

A UK or US driver's license is valid in Montenegro and will be easily recognized. An international driver's license is not required, but it can be helpful in case of police checks during your journey.

Vehicle Documents

Make sure to always carry your vehicle registration document (V5C) in the vehicle to prove ownership and registration.

International Insurance Certificate

In Montenegro, it's recommended to carry an International Insurance Certificate, as it serves as proof of your liability insurance and makes handling any accident-related matters easier. Some UK insurers automatically provide this, but if you don't have one, be sure to request it from your insurance provider.

2. Traffic Rules and Required Equipment

The traffic regulations in Montenegro include a few important rules that might differ from those in the UK. Here's an overview:

Daytime Running Lights

In Montenegro, it's mandatory to drive with dipped headlights on during the day - for both cars and motorcycles. This rule is in effect year-round and applies to all roads.

Seatbelts and Helmets

Seatbelt use is compulsory for all passengers in a car. Motorcycle riders and their passengers must always wear a helmet.

Getting to Montenegro by car or motorcycle!

ALL THE USEFUL AND VALUABLE TIPS

Speed Limits

The speed limits in Montenegro are generally as follows:

In Urban Areas: 50 km/h (about 31 mph)

Out of Town: 80 km/h (about 50 mph)

On Dual Carriageways: 100 km/h (about 62 mph)

Motorways: 120 km/h (about 74 mph)

Adhering to speed limits is important, as mobile speed cameras are frequently used in Montenegro.

Important Note for All Tourists from the UK:

In Montenegro, as in the rest of the EU, driving is on the righthand side of the road.

Warning Vests

In Montenegro, it is mandatory to wear a high-visibility vest in the event of a breakdown. At least two vests should be kept in the vehicle, and they must be easily accessible.

Warning Triangle and First Aid Kit

Both are also required and should be available for inspection during a check. Make sure your first aid kit is complete and in good condition.

Spare Bulbs and Fire Extinguisher

For many vehicles in Montenegro, carrying a fire extinguisher and a set of spare bulbs is mandatory. Be sure to check before departure whether both are present in your vehicle.

3. Road Tolls and Toll Routes A V E

Although Montenegro does not have an extensive motorway system like other European countries, there are still certain sections where tolls apply:

Sozina Tunnel

This tunnel connects the capital Podgorica with the coastal region towards Bar. It is approximately 4 kilometers long and saves travelers a significant amount of time. The toll for the Sozina Tunnel is about 2.50 Euros for cars.

Other Tolls

Most of the country's roads, including rural and coastal roads, do not have additional tolls. However, many of these roads are mountainous and winding, making driving more challenging. Pay close attention to your speed, especially in these areas, and be cautious of wildlife, which may stray onto the roads during the evening and night.

4. Petrol Stations and Fuel Prices

Montenegro has a well-developed network of petrol stations, particularly along the coastal road and major routes:

Fuel Prices

Fuel prices in Montenegro are generally lower than in the UK. Many petrol stations accept credit cards, but in more rural areas, only cash (Euros) may be accepted.

Petrol Station Opening Hours

Petrol stations in larger cities are often open 24/7. However, in more rural areas and mountainous regions, opening hours can be limited. It's a good idea to keep your tank full when traveling in remote areas.

5. Border Crossings and Waiting Times

Depending on the countries you're arriving from, here's what to keep in mind at the border crossings:

Croatia - Montenegro

The most common border crossing is from Croatia, usually at Debeli Brijeg near Herceg Novi. During the high season (July/August), waiting times of 2 hours or more are not uncommon. It's a good idea to travel early in the morning or late in the evening to avoid peak times.

Serbia - Montenegro

If you're entering via Serbia, the route through Bijelo Polje is popular. While delays can happen here as well, they are usually less severe than at the Croatia border.

Have Your Documents Ready

At the border, officials often check your identification documents, proof of insurance, and driving license. Make sure to have these ready for inspection.

6. Safety Tips and Driving on Mountain Roads

Montenegro is famous for its mountainous terrain, making driving both thrilling and challenging. Here are some safety tips for navigating mountain roads:

Caution on Curves and Slopes

The roads are often narrow, winding, and steep, requiring your full attention. Be particularly careful when approaching curves and ensure you maintain a safe distance from other vehicles.

Driving Culture in Montenegro

The driving style in Montenegro can feel a bit more "relaxed" compared to what you might be used to in the UK. In cities and on winding mountain roads, you may encounter local drivers who follow more impulsive habits, such as tailgating, sudden overtaking, or being less strict with speed limits, especially on quieter roads.

In cities, honking is sometimes used as a form of communication—whether to signal impatience or simply to make others aware of their presence. Stay calm and focused, and don't let it unsettle you.

Getting to Montenegro by car or motorcycle!

ALL THE USEFUL AND VALUABLE TIPS

On country roads, especially in mountainous areas, local drivers might take curves a little sharper or pass without signaling, which can be surprising if you're not used to it. That's why it's a good idea to drive defensively, keep a safe distance, and always be ready for unexpected moves from other drivers.

Parking is another thing to watch out for. In cities, people sometimes park "creatively" – halfway on sidewalks or in double rows. It's also not uncommon to see cars parked at intersections or on narrow streets. For travelers, this means staying patient, driving carefully, and being ready for the unexpected. But with a relaxed attitude, driving in Montenegro becomes an exciting part of the adventure!

Winter Gear

If you're traveling in winter, winter tires are mandatory. Snow chains can also come in handy in mountainous areas.

Animals on the Road

In rural areas, wild animals or livestock (like goats or cows) might suddenly appear on the road. Slow down at dusk and nighttime so you can react quickly if needed.

Getting to Montenegro by car or motorcycle!

ALL THE USEFUL AND VALUABLE TIPS

7. Navigation and Road Conditions

Road quality in Montenegro can vary a lot. Many main roads are paved and in good condition, but smaller roads and rural paths are often narrow and sometimes unpaved.

Navigation Device or App

A reliable navigation system or an offline map is super helpful, especially if you're heading to rural or remote destinations.

Map Updates

Make sure your navigation system is up-to-date, as some roads have been newly built or improved. The best option is to use Google Maps on your smartphone. You can find an eSIM on our portal, which you can conveniently book in advance to have your phone ready to go as soon as you arrive in Montenegro!

Caution with Unpaved Roads

Some routes, especially in the mountains or to remote villages, are best tackled with a 4x4 vehicle. Plan accordingly and check your route in advance.

8. Parking and Traffic Rules in Cities

In tourist hotspots like Kotor, Budva, and Podgorica, specific parking regulations apply:

Parking Zones

City centers often have paid parking zones. Many parking spots are equipped with machines where you can purchase a ticket.

Parking Garages and Monitored Lots

These are usually paid options in heavily visited tourist areas but offer more security than parking on the street.

No Parking Near Curves

In Montenegro, parking near curves or intersections is strictly prohibited. This is especially important in old town areas, where streets are often narrow.

Conclusion: Exploring Montenegro by Car or Motorcycle

Traveling with your own vehicle lets you experience Montenegro in a flexible and immersive way.

The freedom to explore every corner of the country is a huge advantage–from the beaches along the Adriatic to the mountain landscapes in the interior.

With these tips, you'll be well-prepared and ready to fully enjoy your adventure in Montenegro!