



Our Lady of the Rocks near Perast · Photo: Diego Delso · CC BY-SA 4.0

FIRSTHAND FAMILY FIELD GUIDE · BASED ON OUR 2018 TRIP

Bay of Kotor from Dubrovnik

The perfect Montenegro day trip through Savina, Perast and Kotor

TIME 1 very full day	STYLE Self-drive · coast + culture	AUTHOR SSEASCAPES
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This was one of the fullest days of our 2018 trip, but it never felt like just Kotor. Savina's calm, Perast's waterfront and the short boat ride across the bay were as meaningful as the fortress climb and medieval lanes at the end.

The Bay is the destination. Kotor is the finale.

ROUTE AT A GLANCE

Dubrovnik → Savina → Perast → Our Lady of the Rocks → Kotor → Kamenari ferry → Dubrovnik

The confirmed 2018 day

Start early, protect Perast and keep the fortress climb conditional on heat, daylight and family energy.

01 Savina Monastery
Begin near Herceg Novi with the quiet monastery complex and sea-facing setting.

02 Perast waterfront
Wander the stone lanes, stairways and waterfront rather than treating Perast only as a pier.

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- 03 Our Lady of the Rocks
Take a passenger boat from Perast and look across to St. George. Confirm return arrangements and island access before boarding.
 - 04 Kotor fortress
Use the official entrance for the steep, exposed route to San Giovanni / St. John Fortress. A lower viewpoint is a sound family trim.
 - 05 St. Tryphon + Square of Arms
Return to the Old Town for the cathedral, main square and unhurried lanes.
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The car ferry

The Kamenari-Lepetane crossing is part of the road route. Navigation may correctly lead into a ferry terminal.

- 01 2026 service
The official summer plan lists continuous day-and-night departures every 15-20 minutes through October 14; winter service is reduced.
 - 02 Fare + payment
The official tariff lists a small car at €5 in season and €4 off-season. Online purchase supports credit/debit cards and emails the ticket.
 - 03 Queue reality
Do not assume navigation time includes terminal approach, vehicle queues, loading and disembarkation.
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If you have more time

These were original research recommendations, not part of our confirmed 2018 route.

- 01 Lovćen National Park
Our strongest extra-day recommendation. The Njegoš Mausoleum requires 461 steps; verify weather, hours and road restrictions.
 - 02 Sveti Stefan viewpoint
Go for the iconic coastal view and verify island access locally; a planned 2026 reopening does not guarantee public entry.
 - 03 One overnight
Split Perast and Kotor across two days so Lovćen and the fortress are not competing with the border clock.
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Verified September 2026

Operational details change. Recheck each official source just before travel.

- 01 Border lesson
In 2018 we learned tourists could not necessarily use every small checkpoint. Verify the exact international crossing for every passport and rental car; do not blindly follow a minor-road shortcut.

- 02 Perast boats
Official tourism guidance identifies the docks below the bell tower. Confirm operator, price, life jackets, return plan and church access on the day.

- 03 Fortress
The latest Kotor municipal visitor notice lists two official entrances, a €15 individual fee and seasonal staffed hours. Recheck current conditions and use official access only.

- 04 Documents
Carry required travel documents, rental agreement, cross-border authorization and insurance evidence; build a flexible delay buffer.

OFFICIAL PLANNING LINKS

[Official ferry + tickets](#)

[Official ferry schedule](#)

[Montenegro border crossings](#)

[Live border cameras](#)

[Kotor fortress notice](#)

[Lovćen official tourism](#)

Firsthand notes reflect our 2018 trip. Ferry, border, fortress and extra-time sources were verified in September 2026. Recheck operations, fares, access, documents and weather before travel. No private traveler or booking details are included.