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Type: Culture, Historic Buildings, Photos, Walking Tour

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Ascents of great Mediterranean cultures marked the spirit of this town, and its felt even today, when Budva is a unique touristic pearl of this part of Adriatic sea. This town became known as a touristic destination long time ago, first tourists came here in 1923. and today it is usually called "metropolis of tourism" because it is the most visited destination in Montenegro and one of the most visited on Adriatic.

Along the narrow streets, small piazzas and squares, the cafes, boutiques, bars, restaurant, galleries and churches are lined up... only to witness the transformation of the Old Town into the "Theatre City" during the summer months, thanks to a series of plays, concerts and exhibitions. This is the name of a festival that enriches this coastal town, endowing it with a special charm. Strolling through the Old Town in July and August requires patience – the rivers of curious people from all nations have the same intentions as you!







Budva is the metropolis of Montenegrin tourism thanks to the great number of beaches that make this a most desirable tourist destination. Apart from its natural beauty, such as its bay islands and beaches, Budva is rich in historic monuments. Old town lies on a small peninsula and represents a treasure chest of culture heritage. Crossed with narrow streets and squares are famous buildings, the Church Sv. Trojica, housing the tomb of the exquisite writer Stjepan Mitrov Ljubisa, the Churches of Sv. Ivan, Sv. Bogorodica and Sv. Sava. During the summer months it turns into a City Theatre with numerous local performances and shows from abroad. In the Old Town (Stari Grad) you can also visit many shops, cafe', restaurants and galleries.

The Budva coast is 21 km long with 17 beaches. It is among the most beautiful coasts in the world and its beauty will not leave you indifferent. Budva has marina which is offering services to small boats as yachts of medium large. There is vast archaeological evidence that places Budva among the oldest urban settlements of the Adriatic coast, while numerous written testimonies provide historical facts dating back to the 5th century BC.

A legend tells that Budva was founded by Cadmus the Phoenician, a hero exiled out of Thebes, finding a shelter in this place for himself and his wife Harmonia.







The old town of Budva is a specific Mediterranean combination of landscape, history and culture in the south part of the Adriatic coast. Inside and in the near vicinity of the walls Budva hides a unique history over two and a half millenniums long positioning it among the oldest urban centers of the area.

According to its urban structure Budva was "polismaton" which had all the features of Greek urbanism with main long street which has led to the main town square but not through the center of the town but rather sideways just like nowadays. However, its present look with the walls, as an important fortification system, in its major part is linked with the Middle Ages, though later it was devastated and reconstructed especially after the earthquake in 1667.

On the Montenegrin coast, besides Kotor, only Budva has the wall which circles the entire core of the town with narrow streets and small squares.

From cultural historical monuments related to Budva and old town we should mention: pylons, the gate of Old town gate from the 6th century B.C. the remains of antique necropolis with rich archeological findings, Roman chapels, Roman and early Christianity mosaics, Roman thermas, walls from Middle Ages with Citadel.











Medieval castle of the town Budva, dedicated to St.Mary, better known as Citadela, is the most monumental architectural object within the town walls of Budva. This complex building is architecturally utterly autonomous and presents one of the most significant fortification objects dating from the middle Ages on the Montenegro Coast.

Within the complex there are fortification walls, remains of the medieval church of St. Mary, gates, several plateaus and buildings of the former barracks.

The restaurant located on the first floor presents with its ambience and private dining areas an ideal place for private gatherings including high quality cuisine and special service. Attached to the restaurant there is a spacious terrace on the eastern tower with a stunning view of Saint Nicholas Island and the open sea. Citadel contains one of the most valuable collections of books and maps dedicated to the Balkans, in private ownership. In functional unity with the library there is a spacious Gallery.

During the tourist season fine art exhibitions, concerts and museum presentations are organized. The space of Citadel is also available for the projects of Budva festival, Grad Teatar Budva - Theatre City. There is a lookout with the view of the whole town of Budva on one side and its loveliest beaches on the other side.







Particular cultural and historical values of Budva are numerous sacral monuments. These are the remains of architecture of early Christianity basilica from the end of the 5th century of new era, cathedral church of St. Ivan which relates its origin with the 7th century and was the seat of the Budva bishopric till 1828. In 1867 the belfry was added to the north side of the church and it still exists.

Among preserved monuments the most important ones are the icon "Madonna in Punta" and the rich archives and library. Among its holdings is the Chronicle of Budva most comprehensive source of data and events in Budva between 1796 and 1842, the church Santa Maria in Punta from 840 where rich art and music program is organized in summer months, the church of St, Sava from the 12th century small single nave church whose dimensions are 5×3 m.

During the Venetian and Austrian occupations the most valuable possessions of this church are disappeared, the remains o the church Santa Maria del Castello at the Citadel (from 12th to 14th century) and the church of St. Trinity from 1804 beautifully restored Orthodox Church is crowned with the three bells feature common on so many Orthodox churches. Over the main door is a beautiful colored mosaic.

Particular monument, sacred monument is the protector of the town, the icon of the mother of God with Christ or so called "Lady of Budva" from the end of the 14th century.







What makes the Riviera of Budva recognizable compared to other tourist destinations are beautiful sandy and pebble beach's which lean on each other and cover 38 km of length. A lot of small coves, gulfs with small islets and the island of St. Nikola, which as a protector is just opposite of the old town makes this part of Montenegrin coast a natural rarity.

As natural borders between sharp slopes of the mountains covered with Mediterranean plants and clear blue sea, the beaches are places for resting and recreation, so it is no wonder that during summer there are daily about 100,000 bathers in the Riviera. And there are many ways to enjoy in this God given place, by sun-bathing, enjoying in a shade, including different ways of recreation.

Budva's most famous beach is Mogren. Nestled in-between several large cliffs it is accessed by a 500m pathway from Budva's Old town. Other beaches within official city limits include Ricardova glava (Richard's Head), Pizana, Slovenska (Slav Beach). Many other beaches are located just outside of Budva in smaller adjacent towns and villages such as Becici, Jaz, Trsteno, Milocer, Sveti Stefan, Przno and Kamenovo.



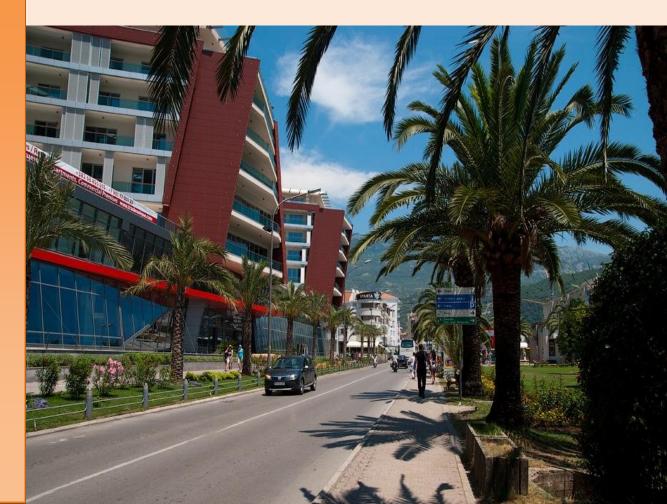
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The larger number of fashion shops and boutiques, offering a wide choice of product lines from all the world's top creators, is located in Budva Old Town (Stari Grad). Stylishly equipped boutiques and splendid windows are similar to many such shops in the world's bigger cities.

There are perfumeries offering the marks of renowned cosmetic houses, jewelry shops, photo shops, bookstores, boutiques for kids, retail shops, cafes and pizzerias. Apart from shopping in Budva Old Town, there is the summer bazaar, located south of Budva Old Town, along the seafront promenade and offering a wide range of retail goods, garments, beach accessories and all types of souvenirs.

In Budva you can also enjoy in small shopping center TQ PLAZA near main Post Office. This nice and pleasant place offer wide range of nice shops, nice cafes and restaurants. There are all basic stores you need: food store, cosmetics, sports equipment, sunglasses... Most of the shops sell branded clothes as Armani, Tommy Hilfinger, Gastra, Oliver, Benetton, Max Mara....







The Budva Riviera is one of the most cosmopolitan places in Montenegro. You can find everything from luxurious five-star dining to plenty of café type eateries and tapas bars that are local favorites and have been around for years.

In Budva you enjoy typical Montenegrin food specialties which will be served in several romantic restaurants at the promenade. Most restaurants at both ends of the price scale have outdoor terraces where enjoying a drink while browsing through the menu on a balmy summer evening, perhaps to the sound of the waves lapping on a nearby beach, can become almost an everyday experience. You can get almost any variations of food like Mediterranean cuisine with original quality and domestic service. Daily fresh fish, sea shelves, shrimps or complete barbecue menus. All along the Budva Riviera and in the spectacular inland areas, there are numerous restaurants that light up their barbecues to cook all the traditional ingredients often with locally sourced fish, meat and local vegetables.

There are lots of small cafes in the old city (Stari Grad) of Budva. Some restaurants serving to visitors at small tables with candlelight's straight on the narrow medieval street under a small stone bridge.

Also Budva has many small fast food restaurants along the beach promenade which offer traditional Montenegrin Burgers, which are really "Big Budvas". The prices are between $1,50 - 2,50 \in$ and they are delicious.

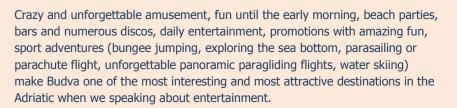
All traditional meals are offered with traditional drinks: Montenegrin brandy (rakija-grappa) Loza, Prvijenac and Kruna, white vines (Krstac, Chardonnay and Sauvignon) and red vines (Vranac, Vranac Procordem, Vranac Reserve, Vranac Barouche, Merlot and Cabernet). For those who love oriental meals there is Chinese restaurants "Hong Kong" and "Shanghai" in the Old town and Japanese restaurant "Promenada" situated in hotel Splendid in Becici.











We believe that on the list of good reasons this one will be definitely another valid one to convince you to visit the Riviera of Budva and experience crazy summer fun here.

Many come just because of that. A town that lives within 24 hours, its real glory experiences during the night when the town streets of two and a half millennia existing Old Town are overwhelmed by hundreds of tourists eager for unforgettable fun.

Thousands of young tourists visit Budva every summer, with a wish to have fun in this town, and maybe experience and the love of their lives.

This call does not refer only to youth, but also to all those who feel young. Budva calls unselfishly offering plenty of entertaining programs.

And the fun starts from the early morning hours, time when every open bar and beach café on each beach start working and during all day offer different programs: first daily then the afternoon parties and crazy night entertainment. With the refreshing drinks, few cocktails and the smell of the sea, while lying in comfortable chairs under an umbrella or canopy, enjoying one of the beaches, while the sounds of world famous hits reach you, you will certainly spend more than pleasant moments.













During the night, when the summer tumult subsides and beaches are empty, the town begins to breathe with full lungs. That's the period when the fun because of which many come to Budva starts.

You will not make a mistake if you enter any bar in Old town, because all of them guarantee you fun, and the atmosphere of old ancient town, the spirit of passed time mixed with world fashion trends and music, makes this combination irresistible and the fun unforgettable.

Numerous open bars along the main town promenade in Budva represent real magnet for thousands of young people who in the open areas, with the most popular local rhythms and world music, have fun till the midnight.

And if you want to continue when the clock strikes midnight, if that is not enough fun for you and you want to welcome the dawn then there are numerous night clubs and discos in the town center which are known for good parties.

If even this is not enough to instigate you to come to Budva, and we believe that there are a small number of those, from year to year new places which offer you good entertainment and programs for everyone's taste are opened.

So be our guest and enjoy every moment that Budva unselfishly bestows you. And we are sure that if you feel just once that "entertaining spirit" of metropolis of tourism, you will be our faithful guests for ages.



























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