



tor the beauty and charm that we see today.

At the decline of the Venetian Republic, Kotor changed hands numerous times. The city would be ruled by the Austro-Hungarian Hapsburgs, followed by the Napoleonic French, then taken by the English and eventually restored to the Austrians. The Austrians lost the city to Yugoslavia following the collapse of their empire following World War I.

During World War II fascist Italy and Nazi Germany occupied Kotor. The city was liberated on November 21, 1944 and with Allied victory the city became part of the Socialist Republic of Montenegro within Communist Yugoslavia. When the separate republics of Yugoslavia splintered in the late 20th century the people of Montenegro eventually voted for independence...the date was May 21, 2006.

This mountainous coastal region of Montenegro has been hit by earthquakes over the centuries. In the 1500s and 1600s the town was severely damaged. In the 20th century, on the morning of April 15, 1979, a powerful quake shook the region and caused extensive dam-

age throughout the entire area. Shortly thereafter the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) declared Kotor a World Heritage Site. Together with help from the European community and the U.S., the Regional Institute for Protection of the Cultural Heritage of Kotor led the massive effort to restore this wonderful old city.

KOTOR PLACES OF INTEREST

1 The **Town Ramparts and Walls** that are seen today (on the foundation of walls dating back centuries) were built by the Venetians from the 14th through the 17th centuries. The massive structure extends nearly three miles around the city.

2 The **Gates** are the only way to gain entrance into the city. The Sea Gate (Main) together with the River Gate (North) were constructed by the Venetians in the Renaissance style and completed in the mid 1500s. The Gurdic Gate (South) is actually the oldest, having

undergone many changes since it was first constructed and opened in the 9th century.

3 The **Clock Tower** initially began construction in 1602. Built in a Gothic/Baroque style, it took decades to complete. The 1667 earthquake caused the tower to lean and it did so for three centuries until finally righted after restoration was completed following the 1979 quake.

4 The **Cathedral of Saint Tryphon** dates back to the mid 1100s. It is one of the oldest churches in Europe, predating Notre Dame by decades and St. Peter by centuries. It was built in the Romanesque style upon the foundation of an earlier church which in turn was built upon the foundation of a Roman temple that dated back at least 1,000 years. The Cathedral is home to many beautiful pieces of religious art.

5 The **Maritime Museum** preserves the amazingly rich seafaring history of Kotor. The museum displays interesting paintings, ship models, antique navigational equipment and maps.

6 The **Town Fountain** may look like a strange piece of art but for centuries this was Kotor's main source of fresh water.

7 The **Church of Saint Luke** was completed in the Roman/Byzantine style in the late 1100s. It is one of the few buildings to have survived the 1979 earthquake in tact.

8 The **Church of Saint Nicola**, in comparison with others, is brand new. It is a Serb Orthodox church in the Neo-Byzantium style and was completed in the first decade of the 20th century. It stands upon the foundation of a previous church (lost to fire) that dated back to the mid 1500s.

9 The **Drago Palace** is one of the city's most dramatic 15th century buildings. It was built by one of the city's most prominent families, after which the palace is named.

10 The **Fortress of St. John** is an impressive complex that sets on the mountainside over looking the city and the bay. The primary fortification was built by the Venetians in the early 1400s. Though it may look impregnable the fort was taken numerous times over the centuries.

SHORE EXCURSIONS To make the most of your visit to Kotor and surrounding areas we suggest you take one of our organized Shore Excursions. For information concerning tour content and pricing, consult your Shore Excursion Order Form or contact the Shore Excursion Desk. When going ashore, please be advised to take only necessary items and secure any valuables onboard. If you are planning to visit local churches or cathedrals, modest attire is appropriate and shorts are not permitted.

LOCAL CUSTOMS Bargaining: In shops and boutiques prices are usually set. Many vendors in the open markets will bargain with visitors.

Tipping: A 10% tip is standard in restaurants and cafés. Tipping your taxi driver is not customary however it is always appreciated.

LOCAL CUISINE AND DRINK SPECIALITIES The cuisine of Montenegro has been influenced by its history. Numerous empires and conquerors have controlled the coast or swept through the interior

of the Balkans over the centuries. The Venetians, Turks and Austro-Hungarians, to name a few, brought their tastes with them and eventually contributed to what is now considered traditional Montenegrin cuisine. Along the Adriatic Sea the cuisine is Mediterranean. Moving inland one discovers the simple yet delicious style of the mountains and the rich southern agricultural regions. Kacamak is a thick and hardy porridge made with barley, sour cream and cheese. Rastan is a combination of boiled potatoes and spiced cabbage. Lamb is served in many ways. It can be stewed in milk, baked in a covered pot, roasted over an open flame or grilled for kebabs. Čorbast Pasulj is a sausage and bean stew. Punjene paprika are fresh peppers that have been stuffed with a mixture of rice and pork or beef, covered with a rich tomato sauce and roasted. Goulash is a rich stew made with red peppers, onions, beef and paprika powder. It is popular throughout the Balkans. If you have never had a steaming bowl of traditional goulash, ask some of the locals in Old Town and find out which café serves the best. You will not be disappointed.

There are some surprisingly good wines produced in Montenegro. Among them are Krstac, a light and crisp white wine and Vranac, a rich and earthy red. Sljivovica is the famous plumb brandy. It is commercially produced throughout the Balkans. If, however, you can find a bottle of Sljivovica that was homemade by someone's grandfather... there is no comparison. Nikšić is the country's most popular beer and is sometimes served with a wedge of lemon. Turkish coffee is very popular.

SHOPPING FACILITIES Old Town has numerous fashion boutiques. Many of the shops offer the latest high quality European design with an emphasis on the Italian. There are also jewelry stores as well as antique and souvenir shops. Old Town has many nice cafés where visitors can relax and get a bite to eat. A short distance across the river from the North Gate visitors will find the Kotor Market. This is a colorfully vibrant place where vendors have been selling their wares and produce for countless generations.

LOCAL CURRENCY Montenegro's currency is the Euro (EUR, €). Every euro coin carries a common European face. On the obverse, each Member State decorates the coins with their own motifs. No matter which motif is on the coins they can be used anywhere inside the Member States. There are 7 euro notes. The notes are uniform throughout the euro area. All euro notes are legal tender in all countries of the euro area.

POST OFFICE There is a Post Office located in the heart of the Old City.

TOURIST INFORMATION The Visitor's Center is located at the entrance to the Old Town (at the Sea Gate).

TRANSPORTATION As the Old City is a relatively small and the streets are narrow, only pedestrians are allowed inside the walled city. There are car rentals, taxis and busses available for visitors that wish to travel outside the city center.

USEFUL WORDS AND PHRASES When the constitution of Montenegro was ratified on October 22, 2007 the official language of the country was declared to be Montenegrin. The language is part of the South Slavic diasystem and is widely spoken, in one form or another,