

Montenegro

Country name	Montenegro
State title	Montenegro
Name of citizen	Montenegrin
National official language	Montenegrin (<i>cnr</i>) ¹
Country name in official language	Crna Gora / Црна Гора
State title in official language	Crna Gora / Црна Гора
Writing system	Roman and Cyrillic script
Romanization System	Table of Correspondences between Serbian Cyrillic and Roman scripts
ISO-3166 code (alpha-2/alpha-3)	ME/MNE
Capital	Podgorica
Capital in official language	Podgorica / Подгорица
Population / Area	628,000 ² / 13,812km ²

Introduction

After the breakup of Yugoslavia in the early 1990s, Serbia and Montenegro formed a union, as Serbia and Montenegro. In 2006, Serbia and Montenegro each voted to separate, becoming two independent countries: Montenegro and Serbia. Small, mountainous and heavily forested, Montenegro shares land boundaries with Albania; Bosnia and Herzegovina; Croatia; Kosovo and Serbia and has a coastline on the Adriatic Sea.

Geographical names policy

PCGN policy for names in Montenegro is to use official sources from the country, romanizing these where necessary. The Montenegrin language (see more below) may be written in Cyrillic or Roman script. If Cyrillic names are encountered without the official Roman form alongside, the Roman script may be derived by means of the [Serbian Cyrillic table of correspondences](#). It is naturally more straightforward to use Roman-script sources, where they are available, for HMG products. Roman-script names should be used as found, reflecting diacritical marks and upper and lower case as shown in the original source.

¹ ISO 639-3 codes are given for languages mentioned in this Factfile.

² Based on UN data, 2022.

Montenegro maintains a [Geoportal of Cadastre and State Property Administration](#): this resource includes a searchable map and a geographical names search function, and can be considered the best available source for Montenegro.

The US Board on Geographic Names (BGN) [Geographic Names Server](#) (GNS) database is also a good source for geographical names.

Languages

The nationally official language is described in the 2007 Constitution as Montenegrin (*cnr*). This language is usually considered a variant of Serbian, or more broadly a variant of ‘Serbo-Croatian’. This macro-language, which has been described as a ‘polycentric language’ comprising Bosnian, Croatian, Montenegrin and Serbian, is sometimes categorised with a catch-all language code (*hbs*). PCGN has used the language label ‘Montenegrin’ in this factfile, following Montenegro’s preference.

Montenegro’s Constitution also describes Serbian, Bosnian, Albanian and Croatian as being ‘in official use’. This is understood to mean those languages are spoken by peoples of at least 1% of the country’s population, and they have official status within a municipality where speakers constitute at least 5% of the population. In practice, there are unlikely to be spelling differences between Montenegrin, Serbian, Bosnian or Croatian names. Albanian (*sqi*) names are more likely to differ, and Albanian names can therefore be included in a subordinate position on HMG products if they have been verified from an official source in the seven municipalities in which they meet the population criteria³ (in Ulcinj and Tuzi, Albanians are actually the ethnic majority). However, it is notable that Albanian names are included in the geoportal only in Ulcinj, so it is most practicable to follow this source and include Albanian names only in this municipality. These have been shown in the style Ulcinj - Ulqin (i.e. Montenegrin and Albanian, separated by a hyphen or dash) so this presentation may be adopted for HMG products.

In the 2011 census, 42% named their native language as Serbian, while 37% used Montenegrin. In addition, Bosnian and Albanian each recorded about 5%. The same census recorded ethnicity as 45% Montenegrin, 29% Serbian, 9% Bosniak, 5% Albanian and smaller percentages for Roma, Croat and other groups.

Inventory of characters (and their Unicode encodings⁴):

The Montenegrin language and the [table of correspondences between Serbian Cyrillic and Roman](#) contains in its Roman-script form the following letter-diacritic combinations in addition to the unmodified letters of the basic Roman script:

³ These are Ulcinj (Ulqin); Tuzi (Tuz); Podgorica (Podgorica); Plav (Plavë); Gusinje (Guci); Bar (Tivar); Rožaje (Rozhajë). PCGN has not found any official source that includes Albanian names in municipalities apart from Ulcinj, however.

⁴ See www.unicode.org

Upper-case character	Unicode encoding	Lower-case character	Unicode encoding
Đ	0110	đ	0111
Ž	017D	ž	017E
Lj *	01C8	lj *	01C9
Nj *	01CB	nj *	01CC
Ć	0106	ć	0107
Č	010C	č	010D
Dž *	01C5	dž *	01C6
Š	0160	š	0161

*Note that these characters can also be reproduced with individual letters (e.g. l+j).



Map produced by PCGN for illustrative purposes only, and is not to be taken necessarily as representing the views of the UK government on boundaries or political status.

Administrative structure

Montenegro is divided into 25 first-order administrative divisions: 23 of these are *opština* (municipalities); Podgorica is termed *Glavni grad Podgorica* (Capital city Podgorica), and *Prijestonica Cetinje* is the ‘Old Royal Capital’. The newest administrative division, *Opština Zeta*, was [created](#) in 2022.

ADM1	ADM1 Montenegrin Cyrillic	ISO 3166-2	Administrative centre	Administrative centre (Montenegrin Cyrillic)	Location of centre
Glavni grad Podgorica	Главни град Подгорица	ME-16	Podgorica	Подгорица	42°26′29″N 19°15′47″E
Opština Andrijevica	Општина Андријевица	ME-01	Andrijevica	Андријевица	42°44′02″N 19°47′31″E
Opština Bar	Општина Бар	ME-02	Bar	Бар	42°05′35″N 19°06′01″E
Opština Berane	Општина Беране	ME-03	Berane	Беране	42°50′33″N 19°52′24″E
Opština Bijelo Polje	Општина Бијело Поље	ME-04	Bijelo Polje	Бијело Поље	43°01′45″N 19°44′44″E
Opština Budva	Општина Будва	ME-05	Budva	Будва	42°17′11″N 18°50′24″E
Prijestonica Cetinje	Пријестоница Цетиње	ME-06	Cetinje	Цетиње	42°23′32″N 18°55′21″E
Opština Danilovgrad	Општина Даниловград	ME-07	Danilovgrad	Даниловград	42°32′50″N 19°06′19″E
Opština Gusinje	Општина Гусиње	ME-22	Gusinje	Гусиње	42°33′43″N 19°50′02″E
Opština Herceg Novi	Општина Херцег Нови	ME-08	Herceg Novi	Херцег Нови	42°27′11″N 18°32′15″E
Opština Kolašin	Општина Колашин	ME-09	Kolašin	Колашин	42°49′27″N 19°31′21″E
Opština Kotor	Општина Котор	ME-10	Kotor	Котор	42°25′33″N 18°46′19″E
Opština Mojkovac	Општина Мојковац	ME-11	Mojkovac	Мојковац	42°57′50″N 19°34′57″E
Opština Nikšić	Општина Никшић	ME-12	Nikšić	Никшић	42°46′30″N 18°57′30″E
Opština Petnjica	Општина Петњица	ME-23	Petnjica	Петњица	42°54′32″N 19°57′52″E

ADM1	ADM1 Montenegrin Cyrillic	ISO 3166-2	Administrative centre	Administrative centre (Montenegrin Cyrillic)	Location of centre
Opština Plav	Општина Плав	ME-13	Plav	Плав	42°35'49"N 19°56'44"E
Opština Pljevlja	Општина Пљевља	ME-14	Pljevlja	Пљевља	43°21'08"N 19°21'15"E
Opština Plužine	Општина Плужине	ME-15	Plužine	Плужине	43°09'10"N 18°50'22"E
Opština Rožaje	Општина Рожаје	ME-17	Rožaje	Рожаје	42°50'38"N 20°10'06"E
Opština Šavnik	Општина Шавник	ME-18	Šavnik	Шавник	42°57'23"N 19°05'48"E
Opština Tivat	Општина Тиват	ME-19	Tivat	Тиват	42°26'11"N 18°41'46"E
Opština Tuzi	Општина Тузи	ME-24	Tuzi	Тузи	42°21'56"N 19°19'53"E
Opština Ulcinj	Општина Улцињ	ME-20	Ulcinj - Ulqin	Улцињ	41°55'42"N 19°12'23"E
Opština Žabljak	Општина Жабљак	ME-21	Žabljak	Жабљак	43°09'17"N 19°07'19"E
Opština Zeta	Општина Зета	ME-25	Golubovci	Голубовци	42°20'04"N 19°13'31"E

Other Significant Locations

PCGN Approved Name ⁵	Name in Montenegro Roman/Cyrillic	Conventional name	Other names	Location	Feature Type
Bobotov Kuk	Bobotov Kuk / Боботов Кук	-	-	43° 07' 41"N 19° 02' 06"E	Mountain (Montenegro's high point)
Boka kotorska	Boka kotorska / Бока которска	Bay of Kotor	-	42° 26' 00"N 18° 38' 00"E	Gulf
Dinaric Alps	Dinaridi / Динариди	Dinaric Alps	Alpet Dinarike (<i>sqi</i>), Alpi Dinariche (<i>ita</i>), Dinaridi (<i>bos, hrv</i>), Dinarsko gorstvo (<i>slo</i>)	45° 00' 00"N 17° 00' 00"E	Mountain range (<i>Italy, Slovenia, Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, Montenegro, Kosovo, Albania</i>)
Durmitor	Durmitor / Дурмитор	-	-	43° 06' 00"N 19° 01' 00"E	Mountain range and national park
Ibar	Ibar / Ибар	Ibar River	lbër (<i>sqi</i>)	43° 43' 39"N 20° 44' 58"E	River (<i>Montenegro, Serbia, Kosovo</i>)
Lovćen	Lovćen / Ловћен ⁶	-	-	42° 24' 18"N 18° 49' 06"E	Mountain
Skadarsko jezero or Lake Scutari	Skadarsko jezero / Скадарско језеро	Lake Scutari (sometimes Lake Skadar)	Liqeni i Shkodrës (<i>sqi</i>)	42° 10' 00"N 19° 19' 00"E	Lake (<i>Albania/Montenegro</i>)
Zla Kolata	Zla Kolata / Зла Колата	-	Kollata e Keqe (<i>sqi</i>)	42° 29' 06"N 19° 53' 50"E	Mountain (<i>Albania/Montenegro</i>)

⁵ PCGN usually recommends use of conventional names for international features where they exist. If there is no conventional name, or if a product requires local forms, then the relevant name can be shown on the appropriate side of the international boundary on cartographic products.

⁶ The appearance of this mountain is inspiration for the 'Black Mountain' country name (Montenegro / Crna Gora).

Useful references

- BBC Country Profile: <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-17667132>
- CIA World Factbook: <https://www.cia.gov/the-world-factbook/countries/montenegro/>
- Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) Travel Advice: <https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice>
- International Organization for Standardization (ISO): www.iso.org
- ISO Online Browsing Platform (OBP): <https://www.iso.org/obp/ui>
- Languages: <https://www.ethnologue.com/>, www.omniglot.com
- Montenegro [Geoportal of Cadastre and State Property Administration](#)
- [Table of Correspondences between Serbian Cyrillic and Roman scripts](#)
- Unicode Consortium: www.unicode.org
- US Board on Geographic Names Server: [Geographic Names Server](#)
- US Board on Geographic Names Montenegro Country Policy: [Montenegro Country Policy webversion revJul2019.pdf \(nga.mil\)](#)

Compiled by PCGN
www.gov.uk/pcgn
Updated November 2025