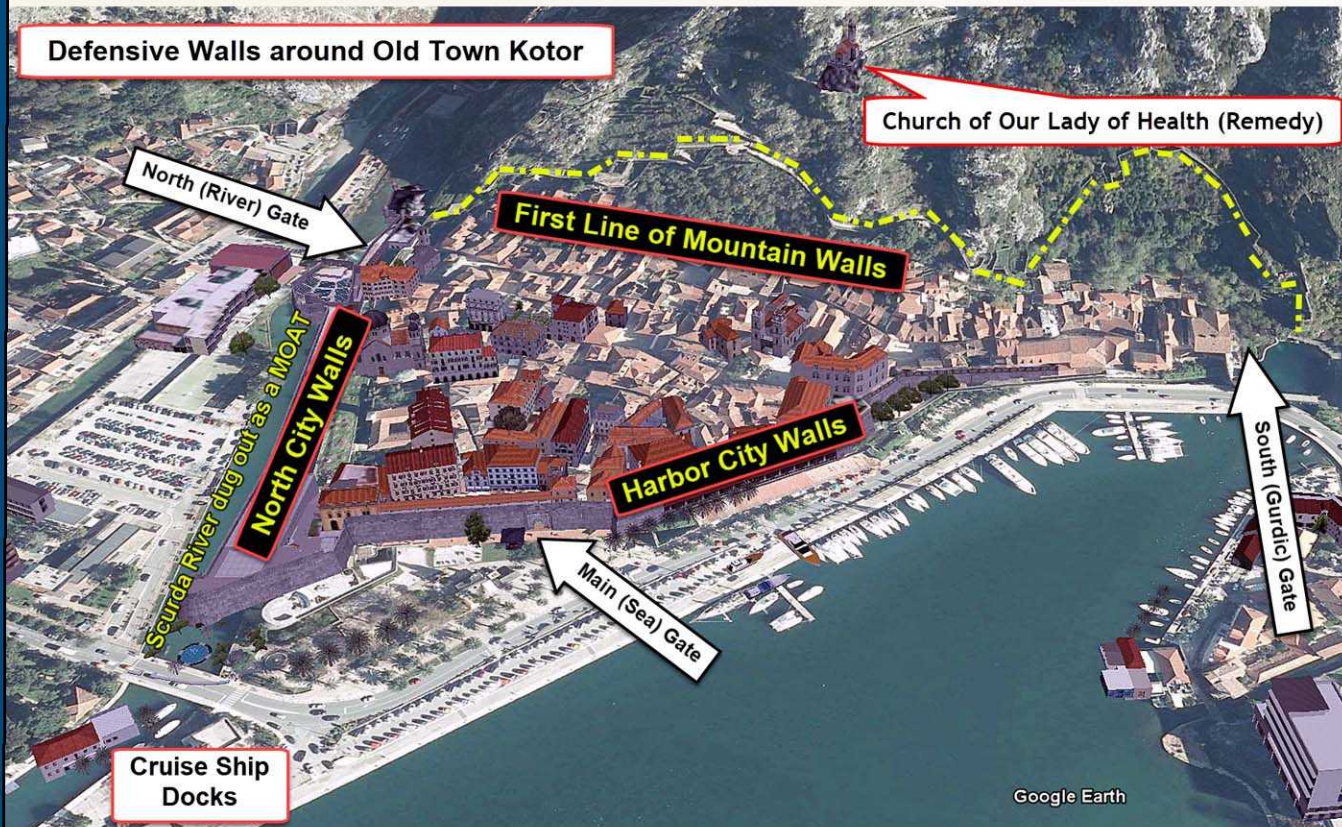


Kotor, Montenegro

Port Guide Part 1 of 2

Kotor has a rich history as a heavily fortified Medieval Port. Map of Old Town (below)



Part 1 of the Kotor Guide focuses on a walking tour of Medieval Old Town and Hiking Trails to Our Lady of Health (Remedy) Church and St John Fortress.

Part 2 of the Kotor Guide describes tourist sites outside the city of Kotor; namely, Sveti Stefan, Budva, Our Lady of the Rocks, and Perast.

Toms Kotor Montenegro Cruise Port Guide Part 1 of 2

Tourist Sites in Kotor City: 1) Old Town walking tour maps 2) Churches, squares, historic buildings, palaces, 3) Hiking trails to Our Lady of Health (Remedy) and St. John Fortress.

Compelling Reasons to visit Kotor, Montenegro:

- A spectacularly beautiful port with a gorgeous “sail in” through the Bay of Kotor surrounded by steep mountains lined with historic buildings, churches, towers, docks, and marinas along the shore. It’s on the list of the 25 most beautiful bays in the world.
- The region has “Outstanding Universal Value” combining natural beauty of mountains and bays with the culture and history of fortified and open cities, settlements, palaces, and monastic ensembles integrated into the cultivated terraced landscape on the slopes of high, rocky hills. (UNESCO description)
- Culture: For centuries, Kotor had an important role in spreading Mediterranean cultures to the Balkans
- History: Kotor has a rich history as a heavily fortified commercial port since Medieval times. It was one of the most important trading centers in this area of the Adriatic Coast.
- People: The people are hard working, friendly, intelligent, and welcome visitors.

We were on a 23-day cruise in 2017 to 9 countries and 17 ports. As we sailed away from Kotor, the widely held view among passengers was that Kotor Montenegro was our best port of call. I asked why people liked Kotor. The answer was, “It’s beautiful, there is a lot to see, the people are friendly, intelligent, and welcoming. This is a great port to visit, I want to come back to spend more time in Montenegro.” Tom Sheridan

Table of Contents

Subject	Pages
History and location of Kotor Montenegro	2
Scenic “Sail-In” through the Gulf of Kotor	3-4
Map of defensive fortifications around Old Town Kotor	5
Kotor Old Town Map with a list of 69 points of interest	6-7
Using GPS coordinates to find locations and view Google street-level photos	8
Walking route from Cruise Ship Docks to North River Gate	9
Photo of City Walls from Scurda River Bridge, Main (Sea) Gate entrance to Old Town	10
The South Gurdic Gate, Walking tour of Old Town, Clock Tower	11
Old Town Walking Tour Map	12
Pima Palace, St Tryphon Cathedral, Maritime Museum, Karampana Fountain/well	13
St Nicholas Church	14
St Luke’s Church, Church of St Mary of the River (The Blessed Ozana), Trail-Head to St. John Fortress	15
Photos of colorful and inviting, shops, cafes, and restaurants in Old Town	16-17
Google maps have excellent, 360 degree photos of Old Town	18
Hiking trails to the fortress and churches on the mountain, Church of Our Lady of Health (Remedy)	19
St John Fortress, Castle of St John	20
St John Church	21
Google Map of Hiking Trails	22
User Feedback, Copyright Notice, Terms and Conditions for use of Toms Port Guides	23

CAVEAT

Information contained herein is believed to be accurate. PLEASE verify the information you use for your travel plans. Opinions expressed are my own. This port guide is protected by copyright law - see the last page of this guide for legal notices.

Tom Sheridan

I would like to thank Carol Mills and Avril Cude for their help on this port guide.

History of Montenegro

The name “Montenegro” is a combination of “monte” which means “mountain” and “negro” which means “black.” Montenegro was named for the dense tree cover on the mountains that make the mountains look black. For centuries, Montenegro was a territory or district of different countries. The political landscape changed over the years and the parent country for Montenegro changed several times. It was part of Yugoslavia from 1918 until 2006 when Montenegro declared independence as a new country.

Location: Montenegro borders

Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina on the North-West
Serbia on the North-East, and
Kosovo and Albania and on the South-East

Kotor (Kotop) is the cruise port for Montenegro. It is south of Dubrovnik, Croatia.

Location of Montenegro (Map Below)



Unesco describes Kotor as having “Outstanding Universal Value”

The “Outstanding Universal Value” of this region is the combination of natural beauty of mountains and bays with the culture and history illustrated by the quality of architecture in fortified and open cities, settlements, palaces, monastic ensembles, and their integration to the cultivated terraced landscape on the slopes of high, rocky hills. For centuries, Kotor played an important role in spreading Mediterranean cultures into the Balkans.

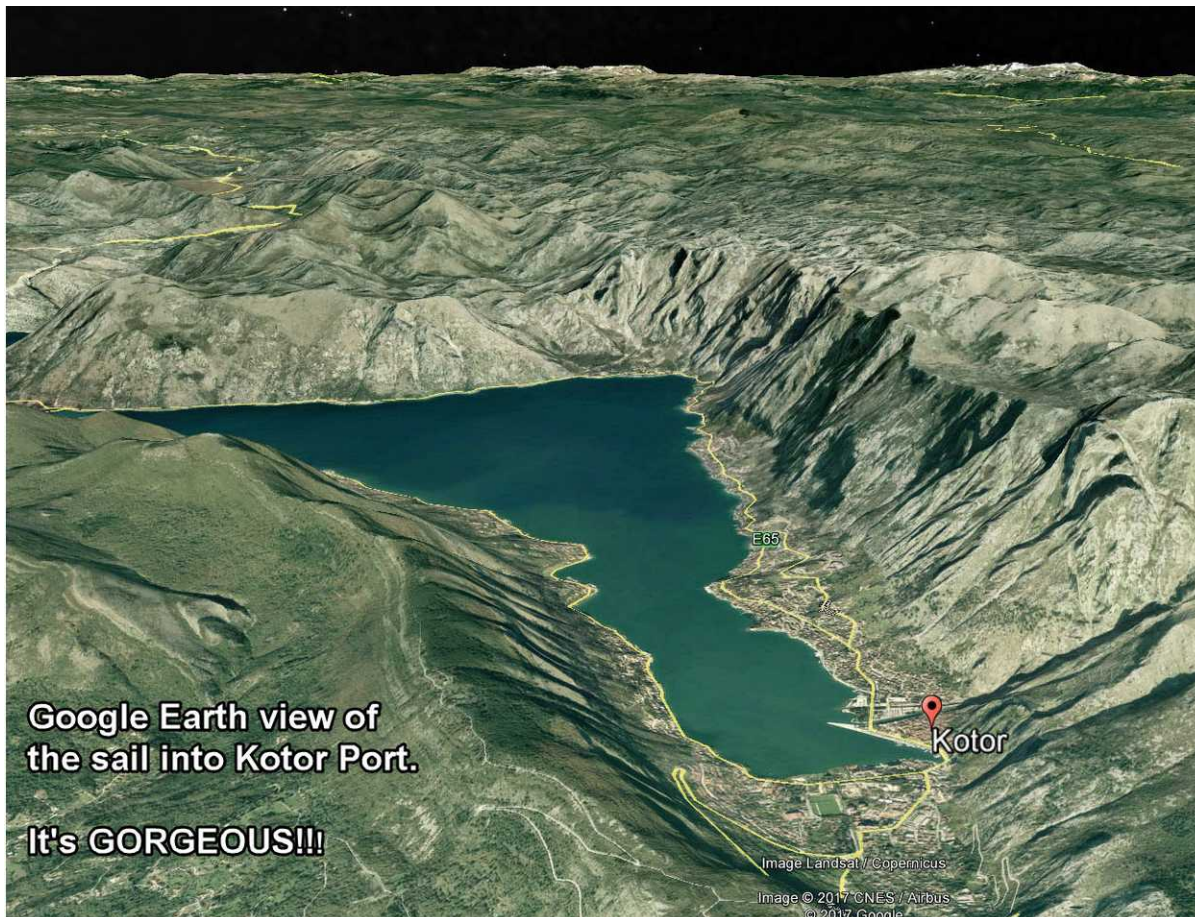
See the UNESCO gallery of photos by professional photographers at http://whc.unesco.org/?cid=31&l=en&id_site=125&gallery=1&maxrows=42

The scenic entrance to Kotor is shown on the map below.



It takes about an hour for a cruise ship to sail 25 miles (40 km) from the Adriatic Sea through the Gulf of Kotor to the dock in center city Kotor (Kotop). During the sail in, you are surrounded by steep mountains lined with historic buildings, churches, towers, docks, marinas, and fishing areas along the shore.

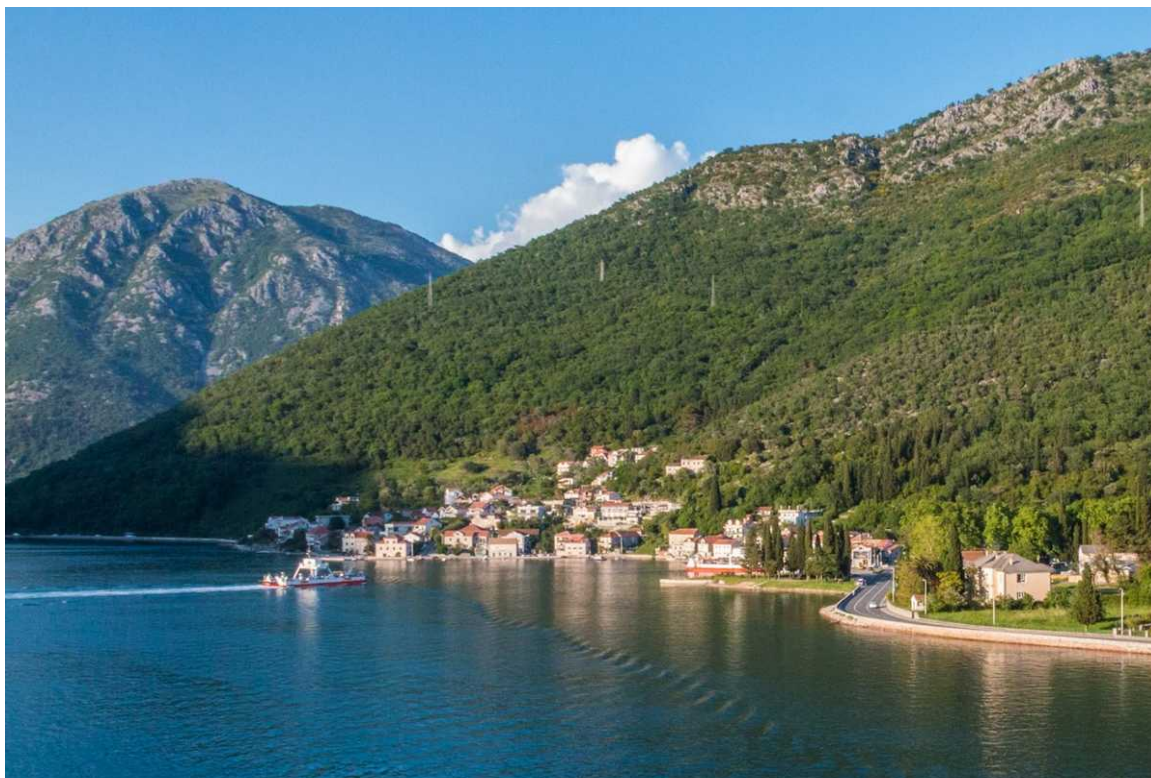
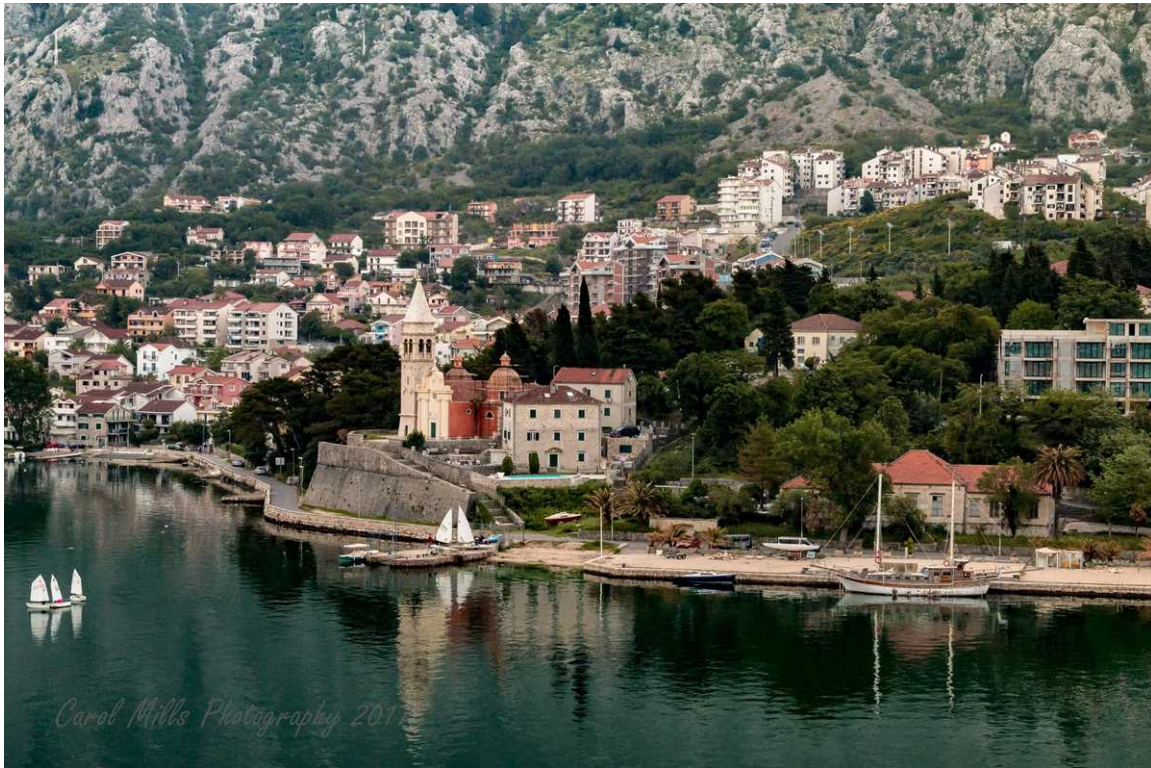
This Google Earth View illustrates the dramatic landscape with steep hills along the waterway.



Kotor is described as a “Mediterranean Fjord”. It’s beautiful, but it’s not a fjord. Fjords were formed during the Ice Age as glaciers moved through mountains to the sea carving deep valleys along the waterway.

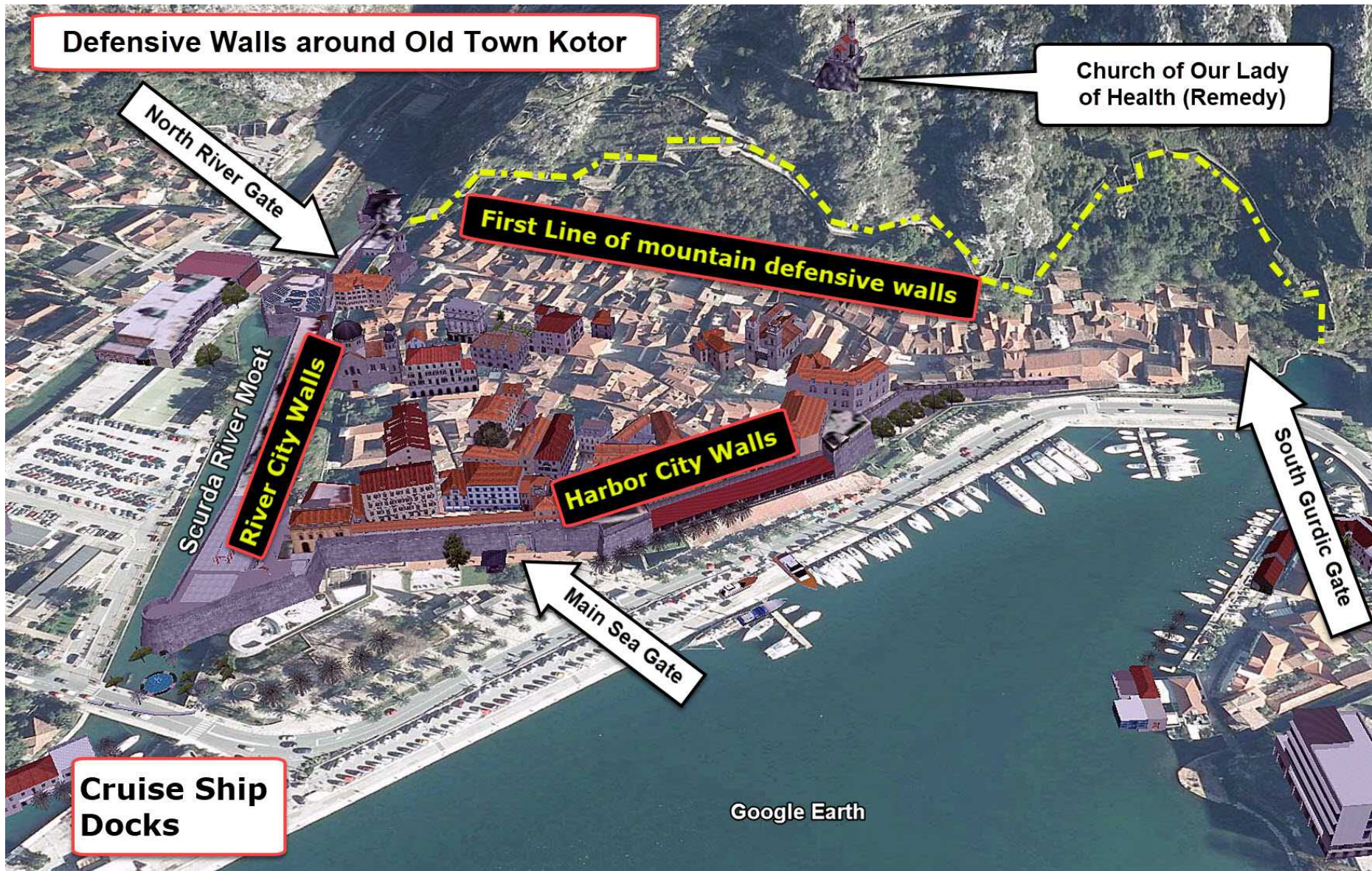
Plan ahead to be near a window, on the outside deck, or your balcony as your ship sails into and out of the port.

Two **photos below** of our sail into Kotor by my good friend Carol Mills.



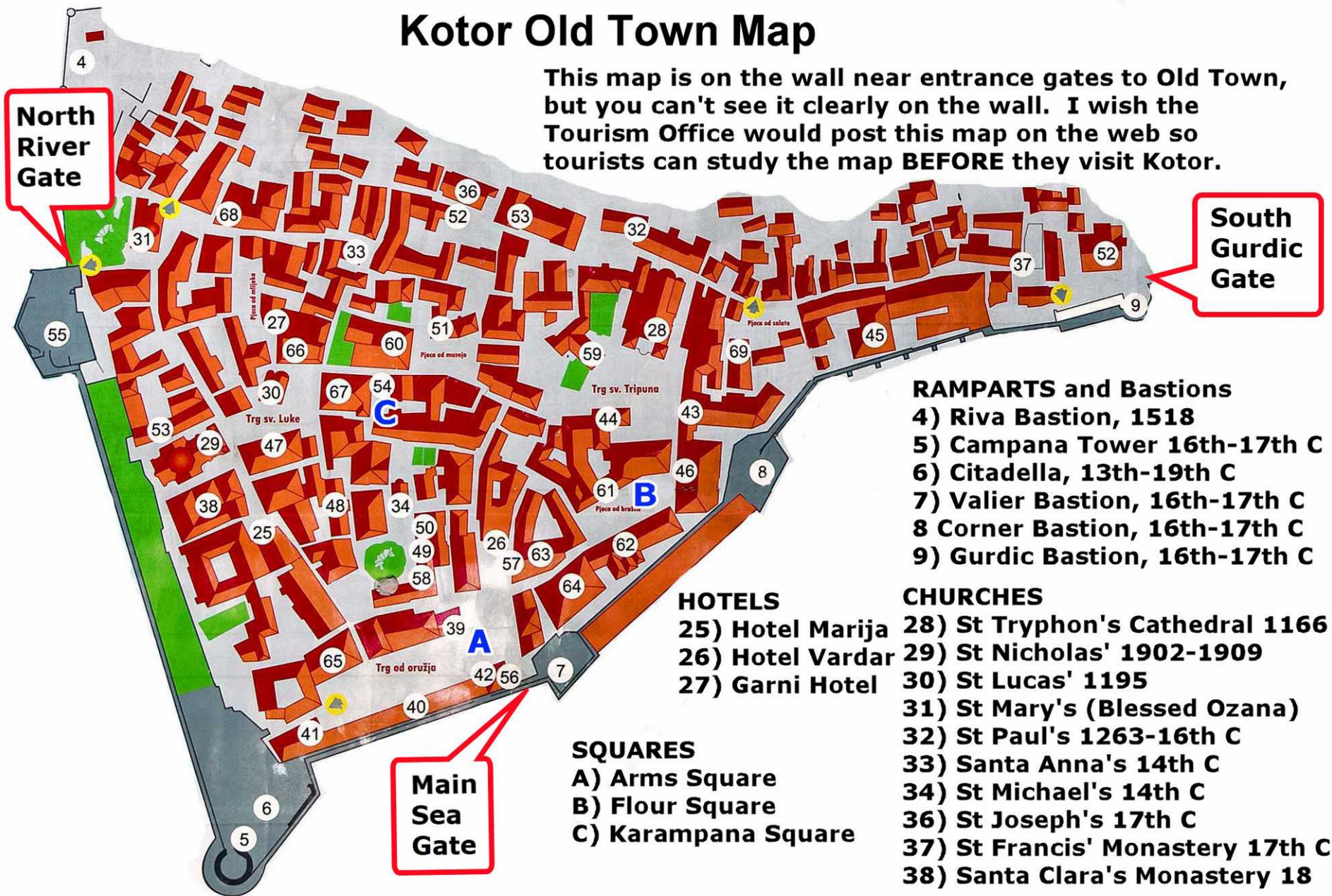
The Old Town of Kotor is heavily fortified. There are massive city walls along the Scurda River (MOAT) and along the Harbor. The mountains behind Kotor have multiple lines of defensive walls, with fortresses, churches, a castle, etc. The map below shows the first line of defensive walls as a yellow dashed line. Many tourists hike the steps along the ruins of these walls for spectacular views of the area.

There are three gates to enter Old Town Kotor through the walls; namely, the North (River) Gate, the Main (Sea) Gate, and South (Gurdic) Gate.



Kotor Old Town Map

This map is on the wall near entrance gates to Old Town, but you can't see it clearly on the wall. I wish the Tourism Office would post this map on the web so tourists can study the map **BEFORE** they visit Kotor.



- RAMPARTS and Bastions**
 4) Riva Bastion, 1518
 5) Campana Tower 16th-17th C
 6) Citadella, 13th-19th C
 7) Valier Bastion, 16th-17th C
 8) Corner Bastion, 16th-17th C
 9) Gurdic Bastion, 16th-17th C
- HOTELS**
 25) Hotel Marija
 26) Hotel Vardar
 27) Garni Hotel
- CHURCHES**
 28) St Tryphon's Cathedral 1166
 29) St Nicholas' 1902-1909
 30) St Lucas' 1195
 31) St Mary's (Blessed Ozana)
 32) St Paul's 1263-16th C
 33) Santa Anna's 14th C
 34) St Michael's 14th C
 36) St Joseph's 17th C
 37) St Francis' Monastery 17th C
 38) Santa Clara's Monastery 18
- SQUARES**
 A) Arms Square
 B) Flour Square
 C) Karampana Square

PUBLIC BUILDINGS AND INSTITUTIONS

- 39) Town Clock Tower 1602**
- 40) Prince's Palace 17th-18th C**
- 41) Old Town Hall 1904 (Former Napoleon's Theatre 1810)**
- 42) Venetian Arsenal 1420**
- 43) Town Hall**
- 44) Historical Archives**
- 45) Cultural centre "Nikola Djurkovic" (Venetian Military Hospital 1769)**
- 46) Faculty of tourism and hotel management**
- 47) Music School**
- 48) Concert Hall (Holy spirit Church 17th-20th C)**
- 49) Cinema (Church of our Lady of Angels)**
- 50) Library**
- 51) Bokelian Navy Head Office**
- 52) Venetian Barracks 1765**
- 53) Austrain Prison 19th C**
- 54) Karampana Fountain 17th C**
- 55) Open-air theatre**
- 56) Info-tourist centre**
- 57) Post Office**
- 58) Gallery**

PALACES

- 59) Drago Palace 15th and 17th C (Regional Institute for Culture & Heritage)**
- 60) Grgurina Palace 1732 (Maritime Museum)**
- 61) Pima Palace 17th C**
- 62) Buca Palace 14th C**
- 63) Bizanti Palace 17th C**
- 64) Beskuca Palace 1776**
- 65) Bjeladinovic family House 19th C**
- 66) Macchin House**
- 67) Lombardic Palace**
- 68) Grubonja Palace (Old Pharmacy 1326)**
- 69) Vrachien Palace 18th C**

As you can see from the map and legend above, there are an incredible number of historic places to see, visit, and photograph in Old Town Kotor. Use this map to plan your walking tour and carry it with you on your shore excursion. Also, you may want to join a group tour with a local guide who explains the history of Old Town and calls your attention to details you might otherwise miss.

Terminology – Names of Tourist Attractions Can Be Confusing

Kotor is a medieval city that has been shaped by multiple cultures and people speaking different languages. Hence, multiple names are used for the same site.

North Gate and the River Gate are different names for the gate on the Scurda river (moat). The Church of Our Lady of Health and Our Lady of Remedy are the same building. "The Square of Arms" is also called "Trg od oružja". And, of course, the Fortress of St John is the same as the Fortress of San Giovanni.

To the extent possible, I cite multiple names that are used for the same site.

GPS Coordinates

GPS coordinates are a powerful tool to find tourist sites on Google maps and to see street-level photos. I provide GPS coordinates for important locations for use with Google maps and GPS enabled devices. The format for GPS coordinates is Degrees, Minutes, and Seconds ddd° mm' ss.ss" N ddd° mm' ss.ss" E.

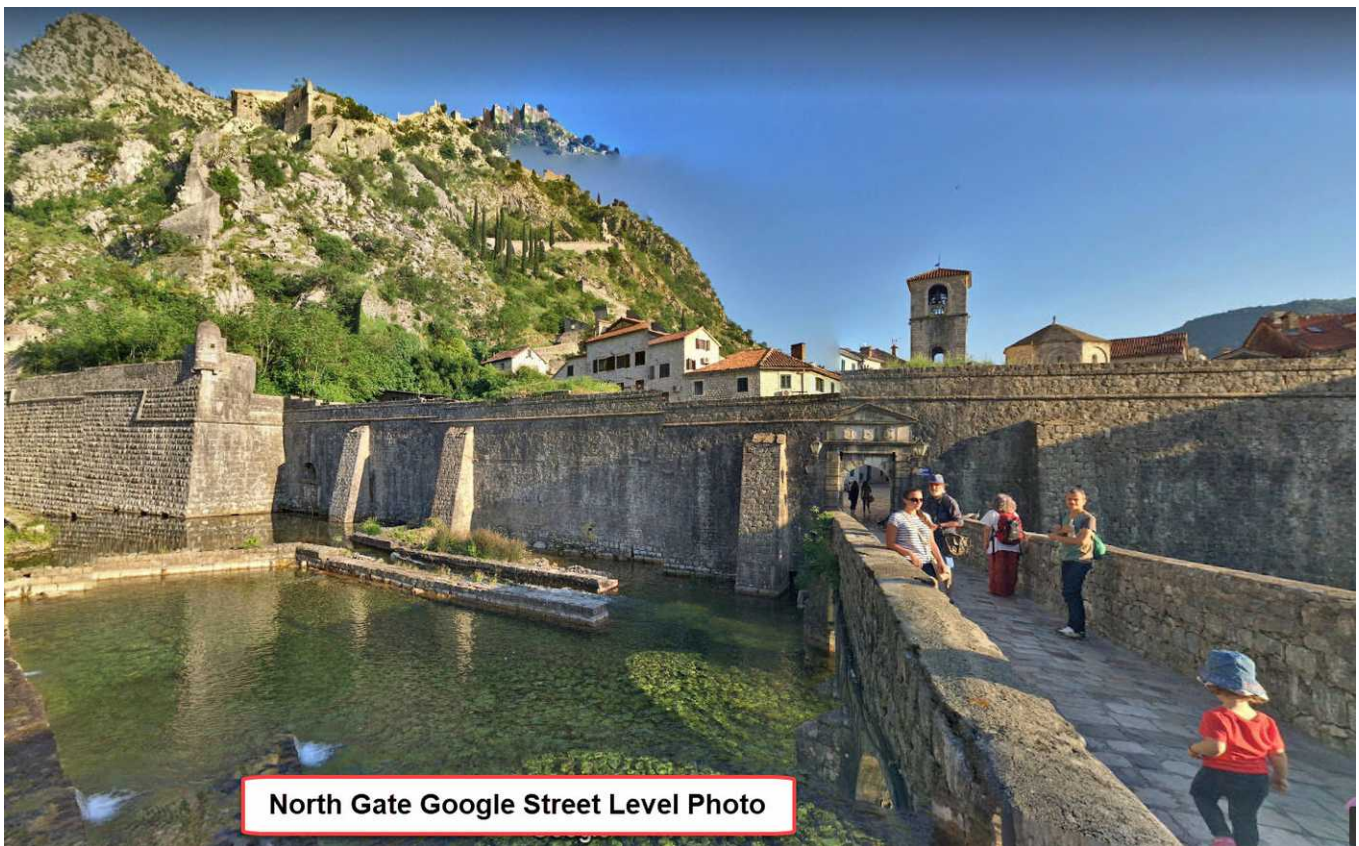
Copy and paste GPS coordinates from this guide into Google or Microsoft Bing maps

Or type GPS coordinate numbers and periods into the map search box replacing the symbols for degrees, minutes, and seconds with spaces.

For example: **The North (River) Gate GPS coordinates = 42°25'35.2"N 18°46'19.9"E**

Type **42 25 35.2 n 18 46 19.9 e** to find the North (River) Gate on Google maps

To see a Google street-level photo of the North Gate, open Google Maps. Type 42 25 35.2 n 18 46 19.8 e Press Enter. A down-pointing red arrow appears. Change the map scale to 1000 ft using the +/- buttons above the yellow man icon. Drag the yellow man icon onto the tip of the down pointing red arrow to see the photo. It's a 360 degree photo. Place the mouse on the photo and rotate the photo to the desired view. Save as a "screenshot" on your computer.



North Gate Google Street Level Photo

Walking distance from the cruise ship docks to the three entrance gates to Old Town Kotor.

Cruise Ship Docks GPS = [42°25'31.8"N 18°46'06.1"E](#)

NOTE: When all the dock space is taken by cruise ships, arriving ships will tender passengers into this dock area.

North (River) Gate GPS = [42°25'35.2"N 18°46'19.9"E](#)

Main (Sea) Gate GPS = [42°25'29.1"N 18°46'10.6"E](#)

South (Gurdic) gate GPS = [42°25'19.3"N 18°46'17.1"E](#)

Google Satellite Map of Cruise Ship Docks



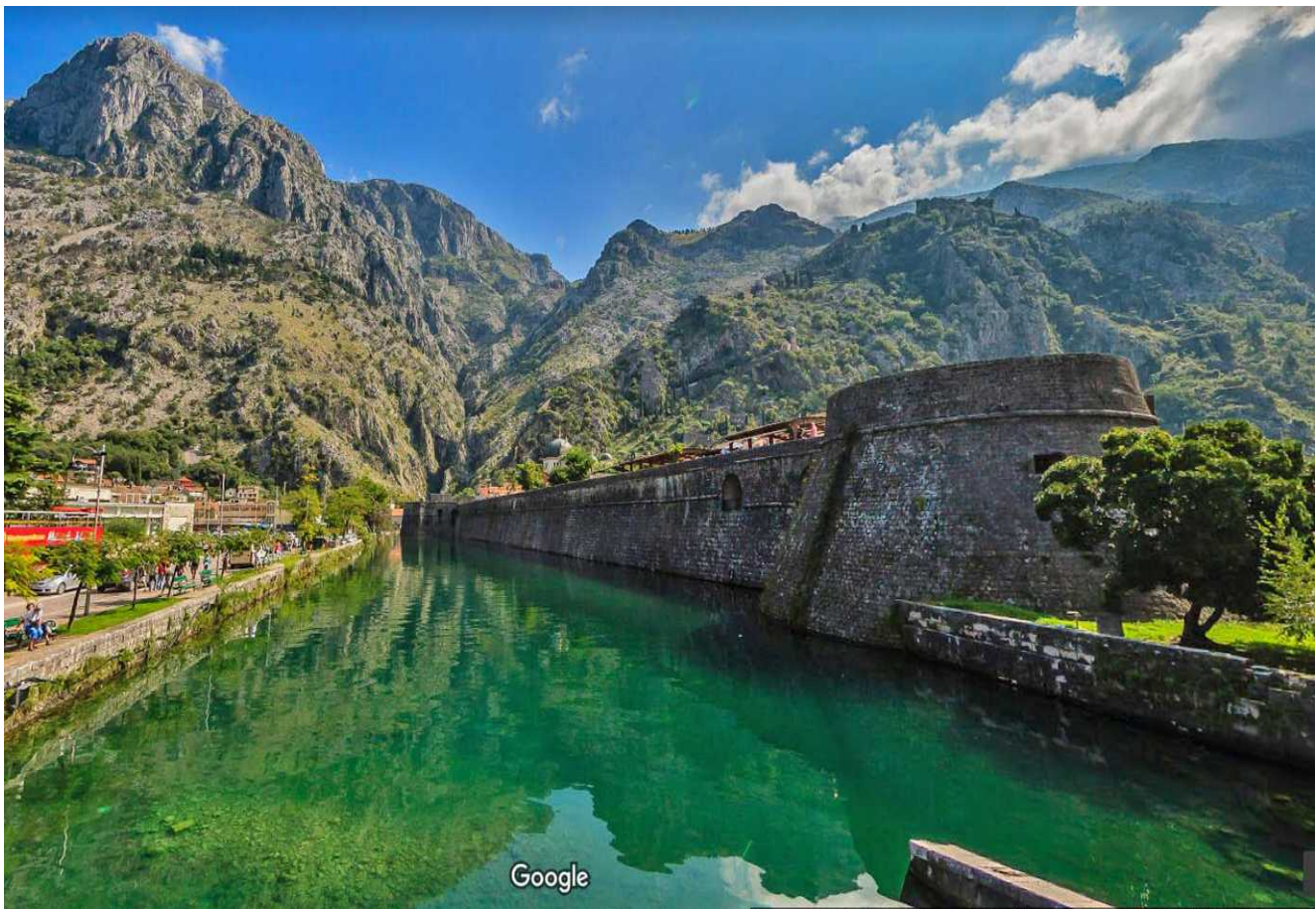
Walking Route from Cruise Ship Docks to North (River) Gate



When you walk across the Scurda River bridge near the cruise ship docks, you'll have an excellent view of the City Walls along the river. This is a great location for photos of the city walls.

To "preview" this photo shoot, enter GPS = [42°25'33.1"N 18°46'06.6"E](#) into Google maps and view the street level photo using the technique as described for the North Gate street level photo.

Google street-level photo of Kotor City Walls from Scurda River Bridge



Main (Sea) Gate entrance Google street-level photo at
GPS= [42°25'29.1"N 18°46'10.6"E](#) (Photo Below left)



Photo by Carol Mills (Above at Right) of the Main Gate.

Most people enter Old Town through the Main (Sea) Gate because it is closest to the cruise ships.
It's a 2 minute, 160 m, 0.1 mile walk from the Cruise Ship Docks to the Main Gate.

The South (Gurdic) Gate is at GPS = [42°25'19.3"N 18°46'17.1"E](#)

It's an 8-minute, 600 m, 0.37 mile walk from the Cruise Ship Docks to the South Gate.

Google Maps Street-Level photo of South Gate **Below**



Walking tour of Old Town Kotor

You can tour on your own or with a guide. Walking tours are inexpensive and you can learn about the history from your guide. Below, I describe a “typical” walking tour from the Main Gate. You enter the main gate to Arms Square. It's the main and largest square in the town with many restaurants, cafes, shops, and historic monuments, buildings, with four streets into town. For gorgeous 360° photos, see [Trg od oružja - Square of arms](#) and [Trg od oružja - Square of arms](#)

39) Clock Tower (1602) GPS = [42°25'29.3"N 18°46'11.7"E](#)

Photo at right by Carol Mills.

The pyramid in front of the tower is the pillory with holes for the head and hands to secure a person for torture and public abuse.

Flour Square GPS = [42°25'27.3"N 18°46'14.0"E](#)

For a 360° photo, see [Trg od brašna - Square of flour](#)

62) The Buca Palace

The Buca palace was owned by one of the most important families in Kotor. The original palace was built in 14th C. It was damaged extensively by earthquakes and rebuilt after 1667.

NOTE: Virtually every square in the city is lined with outdoor seating for restaurants, cafes, bars, etc. There is no excuse to be hungry or thirsty in Old Town.



Old Town Walking Tour

This popular walking tour begins at the Main Sea Gate. Visit Arms Square (A), the largest square with many shops, cafes, restaurants, and monuments. Stop at the Clock Tower (39).

1, 2 TrailHeads to mountain

North River Gate

South Gurdic Gate

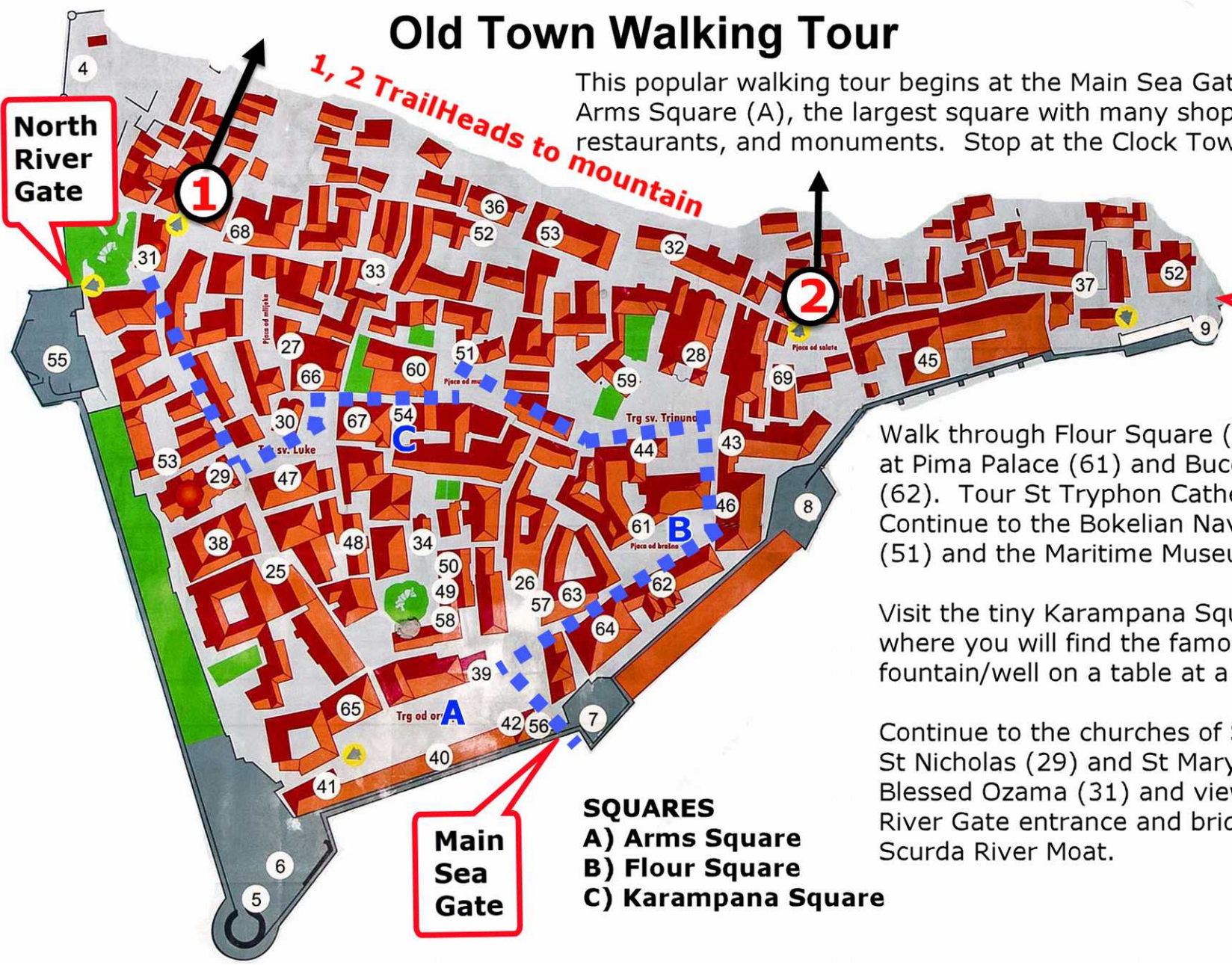
Main Sea Gate

- SQUARES**
A) Arms Square
B) Flour Square
C) Karampana Square

Walk through Flour Square (B), and stop at Pima Palace (61) and Bucca Palace (62). Tour St Tryphon Cathedral (28). Continue to the Bokelian Navy Head office (51) and the Maritime Museum (60).

Visit the tiny Karampana Square (C) where you will find the famous fountain/well on a table at a small cafe.

Continue to the churches of St Lucas (30) St Nicholas (29) and St Mary's Church - Blessed Ozama (31) and view the North River Gate entrance and bridge across the Scurda River Moat.



61) Pima Palace in Flour Square Google Street Level Photo at GPS = [42°25'27.3"N 18°46'14.0"E](#)



61) The Pima Palace (above) dominates the square. The balcony rail metal work was done by Kotor blacksmiths. The coat of arms of family Pima supported by angels, is above the portal. For a 360 degree photo of Pima Palace and Flour Square, see [Trg od brašna - Square of flour](#)

28) St Tryphon Cathedral (photo at right by Carol Mills)
GPS = [42°25'27.0"N 18°46'16.3"E](#)

The square in front of the Cathedral has several important buildings including the building of Municipality, Bishopric, Historical Achieves, and the Institution for Protection of Cultural Monuments..

51) The Bokelian Navy Square

60) The Maritime Museum is in the former Grgurina Palace 1732

Exhibits include models of ships and weapons (swords and guns). Adult admission = 4 euros
See <http://www.museummaritimum.com/eng/eng.htm>

For a 360 degree photo view of Museum Square, see [Trg od muzeja - Museum square](#)

54) Karampana Fountain 17th C

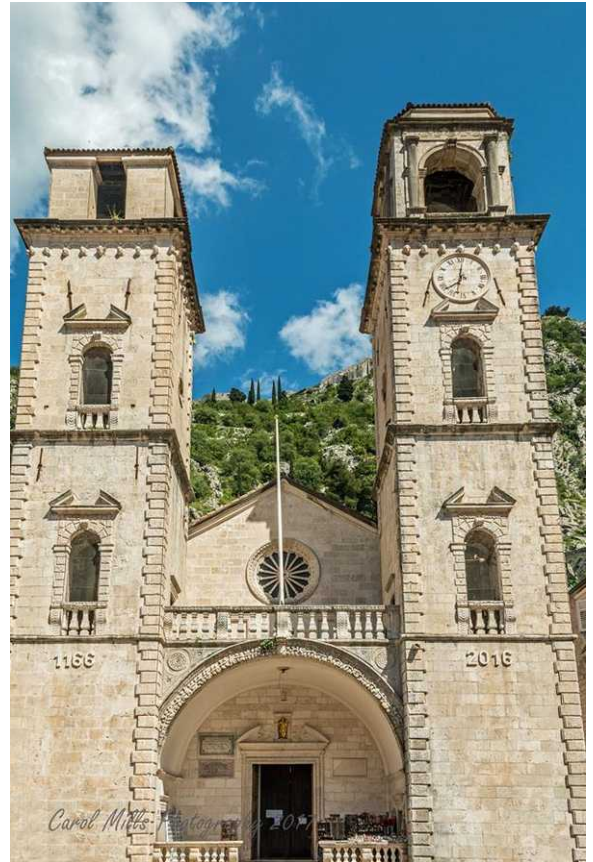
GPS = [42°25'29"N 18°46'16"E](#)

It can be difficult to find. It's directly south of the Maritime Museum in a small square shown as C on the walking tour map. It's in a group of shops, cafes, and small restaurants.

When you are looking at the front entrance to the Maritime Museum, the fountain square is on your left. At one time, Karampana fountain/well was the only source of fresh water in the town (photo at right).

For a 360 degree photo view, see

[Česma Karampana - Karampana fountain](#)



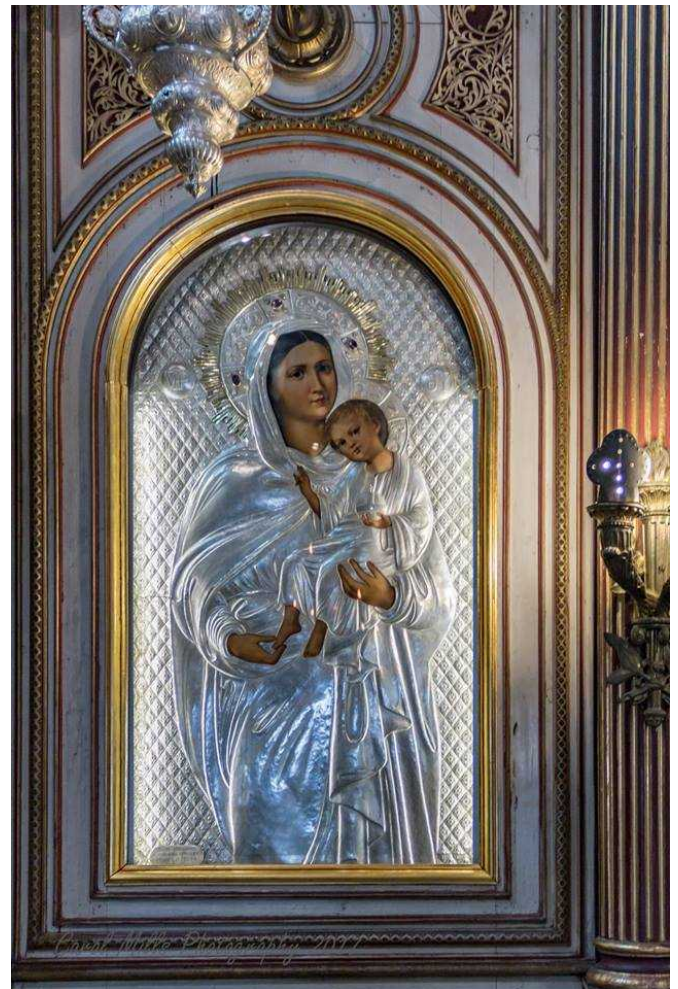
Photos below by Carol Mills.

29) St Nicholas Church

Be sure to visit St Nicholas Church located on St Luke's Square. Entrance is free.

There are no pews because standing is a sign of respect.

The interior is impressive as shown by these photos.



30) St Luke's Church (Photo Below)



See [Trg Sv Luke - Square of St Luca](#) for a 360° photo view of St Luke Sq.



31) Church of St Mary of the River (The Blessed Ozana) GPS = $42^{\circ}25'33.3''N$ $18^{\circ}46'18.4''E$
Google street-level photo at right above.

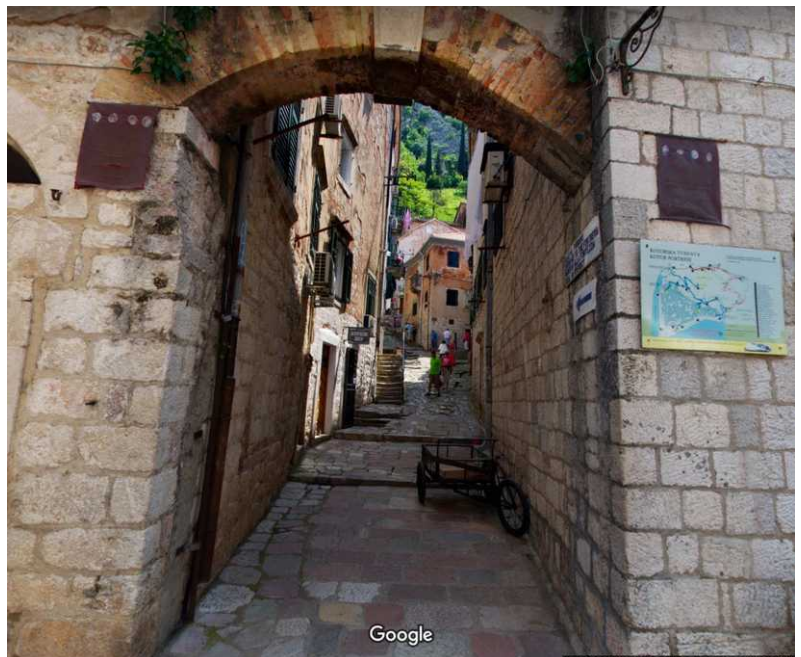
If you look carefully on the right side of the church in this photo, you will see an archway in the distance. That is the trail-head entrance to the hiking trails along the fortifications on the mountains to the Church of Our Lady of Health (Remedy) and St John Fortress.

For a 360 degree photo view of the church, see [Crkva Blažene Ozane - Church of St Ozana](#)

The church was built in 1221 on the foundation of the old Christian Episcopal basilica from the sixth century. Researchers determined this church had been a baptistery and discovered frescoes from the fourteenth century. The church contains relics of Saint Ozana. Hence the name of Blessed Ozana.

Google Street-Level Photo at right
at GPS = $42^{\circ}25'33.1''N$ $18^{\circ}46'19.5''E$

This is the trail-head next to the Church of St Mary of the River (The Blessed Ozana)
Note the trail map at the right of the arch showing the hiking trails to the fortifications on the mountain and the Church of our Lady of Health (Remedy) and St John Fortress.



Old Town is inviting and colorful as shown by these photos by Carol Mills



You'll find many shops to visit.





There are colorful and inviting cafes, restaurants and bars throughout the town.



Take time to explore Old Town. It's clean, comfortable, inviting, and fun!!!

For excellent 360 degree photos of Old Town Kotor, see Google Maps at this link

[https://www.google.com/maps/d/viewer?](https://www.google.com/maps/d/viewer?hl=en&oe=UTF8&msa=0&ie=UTF8&mid=19TIHIOvMoh9ukQCRshZCY5IL8sk&ll=42.42478601398757%2C18.77188524)

[hl=en&oe=UTF8&msa=0&ie=UTF8&mid=19TIHIOvMoh9ukQCRshZCY5IL8sk&ll=42.42478601398757%2C18.77188524](https://www.google.com/maps/d/viewer?hl=en&oe=UTF8&msa=0&ie=UTF8&mid=19TIHIOvMoh9ukQCRshZCY5IL8sk&ll=42.42478601398757%2C18.77188524)



Each circle on the map has an outstanding 360 degree photo of that area. **This is a must visit website.**

Go to the website to see the map and click on the photos you wish to see.

View all of them. These are INCREDIBLE PHOTOS OF OLD TOWN!!!

Familiarity with a cruise port is the key to planning a shore excursion for your priorities

Throughout this guide, I have provided maps, photos, and descriptions of things to see and do. Photos are particularly useful to help you “see” the tourist sites because “a picture is worth a thousand words”.

Hopefully, this information will help you plan your shore excursion for your priorities. There are an incredible number of things to see, do, photograph, experience, and enjoy in Old Town Kotor:

I hope you enjoy your visit to Old Town Kotor,

Tom Sheridan

Hiking Trails to the Fortress and Churches on the Mountain

Caveat: I am not a hiker nor an expert on hiking. However, I have reasonable knowledge of maps, GPS coordinates, and how to find places on Google, Bing, and OpenStreet maps. I've published two web-pages on maps and use of GPS coordinates.

See my **map user guide** at <http://www.tomsportguides.com/map-user-guide.html> and

My **GPS user guide** at <http://www.tomsportguides.com/world-gps-maps.html>

There are two Trail-Heads in Old Town Kotor to access trails to the Fortress



Trail-head #1 is located near 31) The Church of St Mary at GPS = $42^{\circ}25'33.1''N$ $18^{\circ}46'19.5''E$

I have shown detailed photos of Trail-Head #1 on page 15 of this guide.

Trail-head #2 is located near 69) Vrachien Palace 18th C at GPS = $42^{\circ}25'25.6''N$ $18^{\circ}46'17.5''E$

For a 360 degree photo of Trail-Head #2, see [Zanatska ulica - Craft street](#) Viewing this photo will help you recognize the square and Trail-Head #2 as you walk to it.

The main points of interest on the trails are:

Church of Our Lady of Health (Remedy) GPS = $42^{\circ}25'27.6''N$ $18^{\circ}46'22.7''E$

Google street-level (photo below) at these GPS coordinates.



The church was built in 1518 by survivors of the 14th C plague. The church became a site for pilgrimages.

**Kotor Fortress (St John , San Giovanni Fortress) GPS = [42°25'19.3"N 18°46'29.5"E](#)
Google street-level (photo below) at these GPS coordinates.**



**Castle of St John (San Giovanni) GPS = [42°25'19.7"N 18°46'29.4"E](#)
Google street-level (photo below) at these GPS coordinates.**



St John (San Giovanni) Church

GPS = [42°25'20.8"N 18°46'33.3"E](#)

Google street-level (**photo below**) at these GPS coordinates.



As you can see from these photos, hiking the trails allows you to explore and photograph historic ruins, the mountains, and view/photograph the harbor and Old Town from this high elevation.

Hiking is for people who are physically fit and enjoy walking. I'm not physically fit nor a hiker so I don't have personal experience nor recommendations on hiking these trails. Depending on your mobility, fitness, and endurance, this may or may not be appropriate for you.

The steep and rocky hike involves ~ 1350 steps to St John Fortress.

- Depending on your physical condition, mobility, and stamina it takes ~ 20-30 minutes to the Church of Our Lady of Health (Remedy). You are climbing a vertical distance of ~ 220 feet.
- It's another 40-60 minutes to St John Fortress and the Castle next to the fortress where you are climbing an additional vertical distance of ~ 500 feet. Going all the way to the Fortress can be exhausting because you are walking 1350 steps and climbing 720 feet vertically up the mountain. **That's like walking up the stairs of a 72-story building!!!**

For most of the hike you are walking on steps or a trail next to the defensive walls in the mountains. The trails follow the irregular pattern of the fortification walls connecting the buildings. In some areas the footing may be unstable. Some of the steps and rocks tend to move. Take care of where you step. Also, if it rains, it can be slippery.

Morning is usually the best time for a hike because it is cooler. In the summer, plan on starting the hike before 9 am. Carry the water you need. There may be some locals on the mountain selling water and drinks.

Most people enter at Trail-Head #1. You pay 3 euros for a pass and receive a trail map. The office that sells permits is open 8 am to 8 pm. If you begin hiking earlier, you won't buy a pass but you won't get the trail map. Many people hike on their own. Some hike with a guide.

There are many articles and websites on hiking. Search the web for "hiking trails in Kotor Montenegro", "hiking to the fortress in Kotor", or "Climbing city walls in Kotor".

See <http://grantourismotravels.com/2010/05/12/climbing-up-to-kotors-castle-of-san-giovanni/>

The trails close to Old Town are judged to be relatively low risk. Beginning at the Church of Our Lady of Health, the trails are classified as moderate to high risk as shown in red color on the map below. The highest risk area is walking and climbing next to the old fortification walls near the fortress and St John Church.



User Feedback Is Welcome

Goal

My guides are designed to help you plan a great cruise vacation by providing information such as where the ship docks, location of tourist sites, public transit, walking tour maps, things to see and do, travel issues unique to the port, etc. Knowledge of ports is important when planning shore excursions because you have to make many decisions and commitments long before your ship docks. I believe the information in this guide is accurate, however you are responsible to verify accuracy of the information that you use to plan your vacation.

Information on cruise ports frequently changes such as bus routes, admission fees to sites, rental car locations, etc. Cruise Critic is the best source for up-to-date, detailed information on travel details for shore excursions, reviews of cruise ships, etc. There are many knowledgeable people on Cruise Critic who are willing to share their expertise and travel experience. I highly recommend www.CruiseCritic.com; it's free to join.

Why feedback is important

User feedback helps me make corrections and improve the format and content in my quest to produce the “ultimate” port guides. I welcome offers to collaborate with me or provide materials for use in my guides.

PLEASE Help “spread the word” about my website

The only negative feedback I get is, “I wish I knew about your port guides before my vacation”. Please tell your friends and post a reference to my guides and website on the blogs. To receive email notification when new guides are available, send your email address to me at TomsPortGuides@gmail.com

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Tom Sheridan