

THE CHEDI
HOTEL & RESIDENCES
LUŠTICA BAY, MONTENEGRO



THE WINGS OF MONTENEGRO

SELECTED BIRD SPECIES

THE NATURE OF MONTENEGRO

Montenegro boasts a nature that is unparalleled and abundant in superlatives and uniqueness. Within its relatively small expanse, Montenegro encompasses an Adriatic coast adorned with stunning sandy and rocky beaches, including one of the world's most astonishing bays – Boka Bay. The Luštica Peninsula further enhances the natural beauty of the region.

Montenegro is also home to numerous rivers, each carving out unique canyons, crystal-clear lakes, and towering mountains that dominate the landscape. Poetically speaking, it seems as though nature has bestowed its most precious gems upon Montenegro, resulting in an abundance of natural wonders.

To highlight just a few of Montenegro's natural superlatives: the Tara Canyon in Montenegro stands as the largest and deepest canyon in Europe (second only to the Grand Canyon in Arizona, USA); within Montenegro lies one of the last untouched rainforests in Europe, nestled within the Biogradska Gora National Park; and along the Adriatic coast, not far from Ulcinj, stretches one of Europe's longest sandy beaches, among other extraordinary features.





LUŠTICA PENINSULA

Currently, you find yourself on the Luštica Peninsula, a guardian of a stunning natural bay, one-of-a-kind in its beauty. On the opposite side lies Trašte Bay, which captivates with its natural splendor and encompasses the destination known as Luštica Bay.

The climate here is extraordinarily pleasant for the majority of the year, making it easy to immerse oneself in nature. Simply choose a direction and embark on an adventure. As you traverse the peninsula, you'll encounter numerous villages, secluded fishing coves, serene olive groves, charming family estate farms, and picturesque countryside vistas.

Should you steer off the beaten path, you'll uncover a multitude of hiking trails, walking paths, and mountain biking routes that will lead you to hidden gems, sacred sites, historical landmarks, and ancient Austro-Hungarian fortresses.



TIVAT SALINA

Tivat Saline salt pans have a rich history dating back to medieval times. They were crucial for Kotor's prosperity, driven by the salt trade. In 2013, this unique area earned international recognition as a wetland of significance under the Ramsar Convention. Tivat Saline is also on the preliminary Natura 2000 list.

Visitors can explore freely along scenic walking and cycling paths with resting spots. Birdwatchers will find two observation towers within the reserve and a viewpoint along the road to Krtolima. The reserve boasts 21 endemic species, including plants, amphibians, and insects.

A staggering 178 bird species call the Saline area home, some residing year-round while others visit seasonally. You'll spot cormorants, divers, gulls, and various ducks in the shallow waters. Herons like the grey heron and little egret are regulars, and in spring and autumn, the area comes alive with the songs of smaller birds like warblers and swallows.

Tivat Saline holds promise as an Emerald site and an internationally important bird area in Montenegro, preserving its ecological treasures. Enjoy the tranquility and the vibrant avian life that Montenegro's coast has to offer.



THE BIRDS OF MONTENEGRO

Not fewer than 352 bird species have been officially recorded in Montenegro, accounting for approximately 65% of all bird species found on the European continent.

Out of this total number of species, 213 are categorized as safe nesting species, 7 are possible nesting species, and 10 are sadly considered extinct. Furthermore, 106 species are classified as regular residents of Montenegro, meaning they complete their entire life cycle within the country's borders, while 107 species are migratory nesting birds.

Some 14 species are observed only on rare occasions, while 264 species are consistently present in Montenegro. These statistics underscore the exceptional biodiversity of Montenegro's natural

This richness is partly attributed to the diverse terrain, which includes coastal areas, lakes, rivers, salt pans, semi-steppes, canyons, dense forests, mountain plateaus, and high mountain peaks.

Montenegro's advantageous location places it along one of Europe's four most critical bird migration routes, the Adriatic Migration Corridor. This corridor witnesses the annual migration of millions of birds traveling to and from Africa.

Despite its small size, Montenegro's significant number of bird species represents a remarkable natural treasure, even when compared to much larger countries.



OI. EURASIAN SCOPS OWL

ABOUT

The Eurasian Scops Owl is a species of owl that is frequently found throughout all regions of Montenegro.

NAMES

Latin: *Otus scops*

Montenegrin: Ćuk



It is noteworthy that the sole nesting owl species in Montenegro is also a migratory one. These owls establish their nests in forests, groves, parks, gardens, and even urban areas. During their migrations, Eurasian Scops Owls spend the winter months in both western and eastern parts of Africa. Remarkably, they rank among the smallest owl species, not exceeding the size of a closed fist. Nocturnal by nature, they are active hunters during the nighttime hours.

If you find yourself in a tranquil setting in Montenegro, near a forest or park, in the evening or during the night, you are likely to be treated to the distinct and charming calls produced by these lovely birds.

02.

KINGFISHER

ABOUT

The kingfisher is indeed a marvel of the avian world, captivating us with its stunning colors and extraordinary hunting skills. Its brilliant plumage and graceful movements make it a true gem of nature, leaving us in awe of its beauty and adaptability.

NAMES

Latin: Alcedo Atthis

Montenegrin: Vodomar



With their dazzling plumage featuring shades of electric blue, orange, and green, it comes as no surprise that these birds are widely regarded as some of nature's most beautiful creatures.

These charming avians can be encountered on nearly every continent, barring Antarctica, where they have adapted to a variety of habitats worldwide.

Kingfishers are renowned for their aerial acrobatics and precision hunting techniques.

Possessing razor-sharp eyesight, they spot fish from high above and execute flawless dives to snatch their prey from the water's surface.

In an unconventional approach to nesting, kingfishers burrow into riverbanks, fashioning secure sanctuaries for their eggs and chicks. What's truly remarkable is that both male and female kingfishers share parenting duties, taking turns incubating the eggs and nourishing their offspring.

03.

BLACK-WINGED STILT

ABOUT

With its striking black and white plumage and long crimson legs the Black-winged Stilt is a true embodiment of elegance.

NAMES

Latin: *Himantopus himantopus*

Montenegrin: *Vlastelica*



This exquisite bird is a master at wading through shallow waters, effortlessly foraging for aquatic insects, small fish, and crustaceans with its delicate, needle-like bill. It is also celebrated for its exceptional ability to maintain balance on one leg while resting, a pose that enhances its already graceful demeanor.

The kingfisher is renowned for its seasonal movements, often embarking on long journeys between its breeding and wintering grounds.

Montenegro's wetlands play a crucial role in providing a sanctuary for these birds, offering ideal nesting sites amidst lush vegetation. During the breeding season, the male employs elaborate displays of agility and elegance to court the female, aiming to win her affection.

04.

YELLOW LEGGED GULL

ABOUT

The Yellow-legged gull is a striking and adaptable seabird that calls Montenegro home, among other regions. With its bold yellow legs and piercing yellow eyes, this gull stands out among its feathered peers.

NAMES

Latin: *Larus michahellis*

Montenegrin: Galeb / Sinji galeb



Found along the rocky coastlines, pristine beaches, and even inland freshwater habitats of Montenegro, the Yellow-legged gull thrives in diverse environments. Its remarkable adaptability allows it to exploit various food sources, including fish, small marine creatures, scraps from human settlements, and even scavenging opportunities around fishing boats.

During the breeding season, these gulls establish large colonies on isolated coastal cliffs and islands, where they construct

nests from twigs, grass, and debris. Both parents actively participate in incubating the eggs and nurturing their fluffy, down-covered chicks.

Montenegro's abundant fish stocks, rich coastal waters, and numerous artificial food sources provide an ideal habitat for the Yellow-legged gull. The country's diverse wetland areas also attract these gulls during migration, offering temporary stopovers and resting places.

05.

LITTLE BITTERN

ABOUT

Spot me if you can! This master of disguise is a small and elusive bird that finds its home in Montenegro, with a notable presence in the unique habitat of Tivat's Salina.

NAMES

Latin: *Lxobrychus Minutus*

Montenegrin: Mala čaplja / Čapljica



With its stunning camouflage and cryptic plumage, the Little Bittern excels at concealing itself amidst the dense reeds and wetlands. Within the tranquil beauty of Tivat's Salina, the Little Bittern discovers a sanctuary that embodies the delicate balance between nature and human influence.

Tivat's Salina, a coastal salt pan in Montenegro, offers the perfect refuge for the Little Bittern. This shallow wetland provides an ample supply of small fish,

and insects, serving as its primary food source. The bird's slender bill enables it to snatch its prey with precision from the water's edge or within the dense vegetation.

During the breeding season, the male Little Bittern captivates with its deep, resonating call, attracting females to its chosen nesting site. These birds construct their nests low among the reeds, skillfully weaving together plant materials to create a concealed platform for their eggs.

06.

EURASIAN SPOONBILL

ABOUT

The Eurasian Spoonbill is a striking and elegant bird known for its unique spoon-shaped bill.

NAMES

Latin: *Platalea leucorodia*

Montenegrin: Čaplja kašikara



These are social birds that nest in colonies and can be found in various wetland habitats across Europe, Asia, and Africa. Many of them are migratory and engage in elaborate courtship displays during the breeding season. When it comes to feeding, they employ coordinated techniques, and they boast a long lifespan of over 20 years in the wild.

In Montenegro, the Eurasian Spoonbill nests exclusively on the island of Paratuk and the Bojana River, where up to 32 pairs

have been recorded. Preserving marshland habitats is of utmost importance for the well-being of this species, as it heavily relies on these areas for rest and sustenance. This significance is particularly evident in the cases of the Tivat and Ulcinj Saline, which serve as crucial sanctuaries for the Eurasian Spoonbill.

07.

GREATER FLAMINGO

ABOUT

Flamingos are indeed the epitome of summer, with their vibrant pink plumage and elegant, elongated necks. These iconic and enchanting birds add a touch of magic to any landscape they inhabit.

NAMES

Latin: *Phoenicopterus roseus*

Montenegrin: Flamingo



There are six species of flamingos, with the Greater Flamingo being the most widespread and recognized among them.

These magnificent birds inhabit various wetland habitats worldwide, including salt pans, lagoons, and coastal areas. Flamingos primarily feed on tiny shrimp, algae, and other aquatic organisms, which contribute to their distinctive pink coloration. Flamingos are also known for their unique resting posture, often standing on one leg for extended periods.

When Greater Flamingos take flight, their flock forms a striking V-shaped pattern, creating a mesmerizing aerial display.

On the eastern Adriatic coast, the Ulcinj Salina serves as the exclusive nesting spot for flamingos, where these captivating birds can be observed throughout the entire year. Occasionally, smaller flocks of flamingos can also be spotted in Tivat's Salina.

08.

EURASIAN WRYNECK

ABOUT

The Eurasian Wryneck is a captivating bird known for its unique appearance and curious behavior.

NAMES

Latin: *Jynx torquilla*

Montenegrin: Vijoglava



With exceptional camouflage skills, the Eurasian Wryneck seamlessly blends into tree bark and woodlands. Its name derives from its habit of twisting its neck in a snake-like manner when threatened. This insectivorous bird primarily feeds on ants and their larvae, employing its long, sticky tongue to capture its prey. During the breeding season, it exhibits nomadic tendencies, nesting in tree holes, with the female responsible for modifying the nesting cavity.

In Montenegro, the Eurasian Wryneck can be spotted during its migratory periods, typically in the spring and autumn. As a nomadic bird, it may pass through Montenegro while en route to its breeding or wintering grounds in Europe, Asia, or Africa. The country's diverse woodlands and suitable nesting sites provide temporary habitats for this elusive bird during its migration.

09.

EUROPEAN

ROBIN

ABOUT

European robin or robin redbreast is a small passerine bird which can be found in most parts of Europe, ranging from North Africa to Siberia.

NAMES

Latin: *Erithacus rubecula*

Montenegrin: Crvendac'



Both males and females of the robin redbreast exhibit similar coloration, making them easily recognizable. However, what makes the robin redbreast even more intriguing is the history behind its name. It acquired its name long before the introduction of the orange fruit in Europe, which meant there was no distinct name for the color orange at the time, so it was referred to as "red." Although the color orange was introduced in the 15th century and subsequently named as such, the robin retained its name as the redbreast.

These birds primarily feed on insects on moonlit nights or near artificial lighting at night. They are often found in the vicinity of farms and gardens, patiently waiting for people to begin digging the soil so they can search for earthworms and similar food sources. Another noteworthy detail is that female robins typically change their habitat from winter to summer, whereas males tend to inhabit the same territory throughout their entire lifecycle.

OIO.

EURASIAN

JAY

ABOUT

The Eurasian jay is a species of passerine bird which can be often observed in Montenegrin forests and woodland regions.

NAMES

Latin: *Garrulus glandarius*

Montenegrin: Kreja / Sojka



If you're fortunate enough to observe them up close, you'll notice their beautiful blue patches and distinctive white-black bars on their wings, along with moustache-like black stripes around their throats. The Eurasian jay is most notably recognized for its harsh screeching calls, which they emit when they spot potential predators, serving as a warning to other birds. Moreover, jays possess an exceptional talent for imitating the calls of other birds, enabling them to mimic predators or prey effectively, making it challenging for other birds or animals to discern their

true identity unless visually observed. Montenegro boasts numerous preserved oak forest areas, which provide the ideal habitat for jays. These birds are renowned for collecting and dispersing oak acorns, often amassing thousands of them, all the while maintaining an uncanny ability to remember the locations where they've hidden them. In this way, they serve as the primary natural propagators of oak trees and can transport acorns over substantial distances, sometimes exceeding 20 kilometers. The Eurasian jay is a residential nesting bird in Montenegro.

OII.

GOLDEN EAGLE

ABOUT

The Golden eagle is one of the most famous and notable birds of prey in Montenegro. This type of eagle is historically very important for the region, as it was widely used in heraldry. Most coats of arms, including the coat of arms of Montenegro seen on the Montenegrin flag, have a symbol of the Golden eagle.

NAMES

Latin: *Aquila chrysaetos*

Montenegrin: Suri orao



Most of the time, golden eagles spend their days in flight, meticulously observing the terrain and diligently searching for prey. They rely on their long, sharp beaks and formidable claws to hunt. If you happen to spot a large, majestic bird gracefully soaring through the air, there's a good chance it's a golden eagle. Interestingly, females are typically larger than males, and both genders engage in elaborate courtship displays, which may involve dropping and catching objects like rocks or sticks mid-air. Pairs of golden eagles tend to stay together for life.

Both parents take care of the chicks, and after nearly three months, the young eagles become independent. If they manage to survive the vulnerable early years when they are susceptible to predation by other hunting birds like falcons, golden eagles can enjoy a fairly long life, with a life expectancy ranging from 10 to 20 years or even more in some rare cases. Despite being the most common type of eagle, the habitats of golden eagles are diminishing, and they are highly sensitive to human disturbance, underscoring their dependence on human protection status.

OI2.

DALMATIAN PELICAN

ABOUT

These magnificent birds boast one of the largest wingspans of any living bird species, often reaching an impressive 2.7 to 3.5 meters.

NAMES

Latin: *Pelecanus crispus*

Montenegrin: Kudravi pelikan / Dalmatinski pelikan



Dalmatian pelicans breed and inhabit areas around lakes and swamps but are frequently spotted near the seashore as well. This species is considered threatened and receives protection in Montenegro. They are prominently observed on Skadar Lake and occasionally in other locations like Tivat Salina. As the largest type of pelican and one of the largest flying birds globally, they boast a remarkable wingspan of up to 3.5 meters. Their primary diet consists of fish, including carps, perches, rudds, eels, catfishes, mullets, pikes, and similar species.

An adult Dalmatian pelican can consume around 1kg to 1.5kg of fish daily. Interestingly, on occasion, they do not immediately consume the fish they catch but rather store it in their gular pouches, saving it for later.

Adult pelicans have no significant natural predators, but their nests and young chicks can be vulnerable to attacks from wild boars, foxes, jackals, and wolves.

“KEEP A GREEN TREE IN YOUR HEART, AND PERHAPS A SINGING BIRD WILL COME.” - CHINESE PROVERB

We extend our warmest welcome to Montenegro, a place where you can immerse yourself in the beauty of nature while also respecting and preserving the habitat of its magnificent wildlife. If you're interested in birdwatching tours at Tivat Salina, please don't hesitate to reach out to our dedicated Front Office Team at the hotel for bookings and any assistance you may need. We hope you thoroughly enjoy your stay and the enchanting wildlife that Montenegro has to offer!

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