



# KATUN ROAD AND



## THE LAND OF SHEPHERDS AND CHEESE

*“Borderline Heights”*



SUITABLE FOR:



SERVICES:







Mokra planina

## IMPRESSUM

**PUBLISHER:** Regional Development agency for Bjelasica, Komovi and Prokletije

www.bjelasica-komovi.me

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**PHOTOGRAPHY:** Jovan Nikolić, Vladimir Vukčević, Jelena Krivčević

**PRINT:** Studio Mouse, Podgorica

**CIRCULATION:** 1000

**YEAR:** 2017



This project is funded  
by the European Union

*Brochure has been printed through the project Rural Tourism for Economic Development of Cross-border Area of Montenegro and Kosovo\* - a project funded by European Union's IPA CBC Montenegro and Kosovo programme*

\* This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence.

## Explore transhumance in Montenegro

*Looking for a vacation, off the beaten track, within pristine nature and high in the mountains? Want to learn about ancient traditions of transhumance, still preserved in Montenegro? Then we have a treat for you!*

*Come to the cross-border area of Montenegro and Kosovo, to the zone of Prokletije mountain range, spectacular with its unique and diverse mountains. We have developed for you thematic route that will show to you less known mountains that belong to this mountain range, and how our, but your as well, ancestors have lived in past. This is the area popular for transhu-*

*mance – nomadic movement of herders between lowlands, where their permanent settlements are located, to the highland grasslands where they spend their summers. Experience our katuns, temporary settlements in highlands where farmers live in perfect harmony with nature, practicing ancient traditions and preserving the unique culture. Come to the land of shepherds and cheese, meet the farmers, taste their way of life, and enjoy the breathtaking environment that is part of their everyday life. Explore who is richer and happier, you or them, be a farmer for a day or two!*

*Jelena Krivčević,  
Director of the Regional Development  
Agency for Bjelasica, Komovi and Prokletije*





Čmiljevica

## KATUN ROAD BORDERLINE HEIGHTS

Katun road Borderline Heights is a thematic, katun road more than 160km long, which binds together more than 30 katuns on the mountains right along the border with Kosovo and it represents the first touristic product in Montenegro that completely relies on the cultural heritage and tradition illustrated in katuns. The area of katun road embraces several

mountains – Čakor, Mokra, Smiljevica, Hajla which belong to the northeast branch of Prokletije, the southernmost mountain chain of Dinarides. We would like to share this tradition with you, along with the stunning landscapes where our farmers have lived for centuries, to show you and tell you everything that is worth seeing and hearing about the tradition

of transhumance which is slowly dying out. So, if you have decided to go through this area but you'd first like to get detailed information about what to see here, we have prepared some additional information about this zone, we have made some recommendations for you and have described the services that you can get on the katun road.

### WHY TAKE THIS ROUTE?

- You will explore beautiful mountain areas, off the beaten track.
- You will meet the magical world of katuns, warm and hospitable people in them, and live their life for couple of days.
- You will step into the history, taste the life of the farmers, the way it used to be couple of centuries ago.
- You will try homemade delicacies that cannot be found elsewhere, made from only those ingredients available high in the mountains.
- You will get to see the wild beauty of Montenegrin mountains, rich with diverse flora and fauna.
- By coming here you will not be just a tourist, you will be the support to the locals to continue to treasure this centuries old tradition.





Kaludarske kape



## TECHNICAL INFORMATION

You can walk through the area, you can ride a bike or motor-bike, drive a terrain vehicle or you can find a combination of these which suits your needs. What we would also recommend is that you rent a horse from the locals and try this skill out as well!

You can access the trail from Rožaje, then from a place called Lokve, municipality of Berane, from the village Kaludra or Šekular, Berane, from the village Seoce, municipality of Andrijevica or from Murino, Plav. You can choose whether you want to go through the entire trail or just some of its parts. Anyway, we have done a lot to create conditions which will help people not to get lost.

## SIGNALIZATION

**1. Billboard** – they are set at the connections with the main road and they look like this.



**2. Road sign** – these signs are made in such a manner that you know for sure how far away the next katun is from your location, as well as the katuns that follow. The sign has a vertical writing KATUN ROAD to make it easy for you to see the trail you're on and not to get confused by some other road signs you may come upon. If the sign has a vertical writing EXIT ROAD, then it shows you the fastest way to leave the trail and access the nearest main road. Anyway, you will find these road signs at every important cross-roads of the trail.

**3. Pictogram arrow** – we have set arrows on places where side roads

branch from the main one, for you to be certain where to go. These arrows show left or right. If you are still confused, or if the arrow is missing, just head along the main road and you will soon come upon some of the control points.

**4. Pictogram control point** – these pictograms are set along the entire trail, their purpose being to show the visitors that they are on the trail. They are very frequently set, and if you hike along the trail and you see no pictogram, it means that you have turned off somewhere. This pictogram also says who this trail is designed for – hikers, cyclists, bikers and ter-





Mokra planina

rain vehicle drivers. One more thing, riding a bike or driving a terrain vehicle is not allowed anywhere else except along the macadam roads.

**5. Info boards** – info boards are set in all the larger katuns, and besides the name of the katun you're in, they also provide a detailed and precise map with your current location marked.

**6. Viewpoints** – since you are at a great height, the view is always very beautiful. But, there are places that we warmly recommend because the view from them is spectacular.

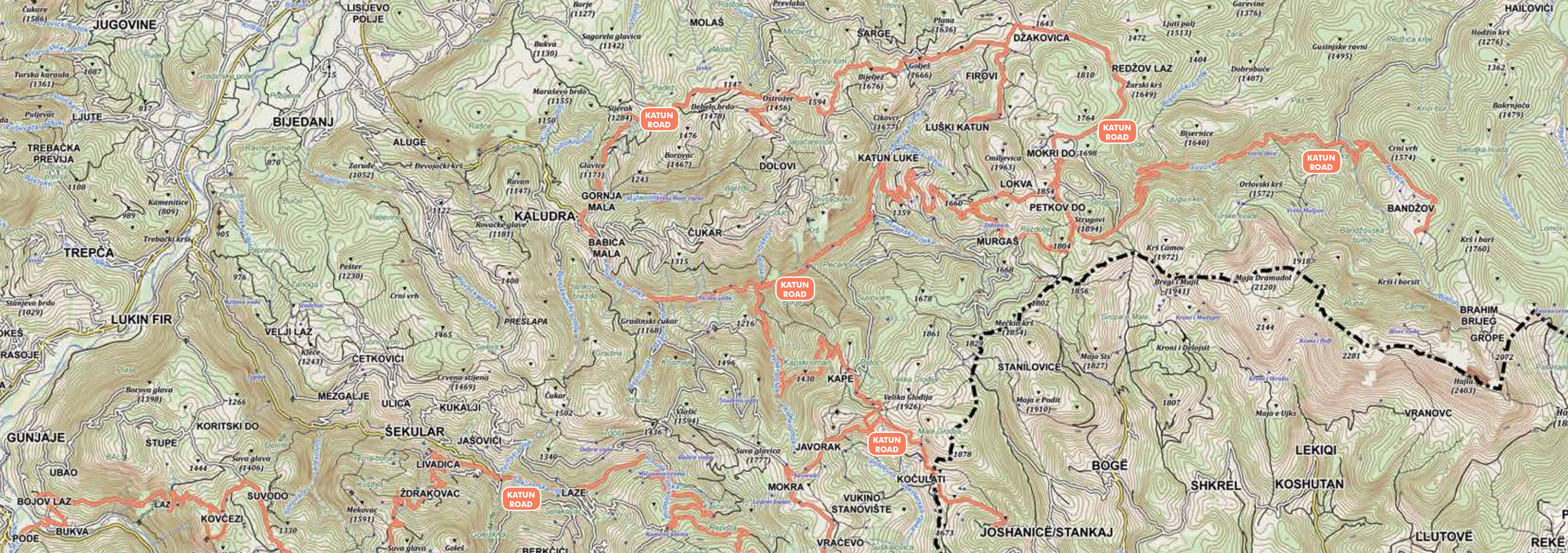
**7. Info text** – these boards give you additional information that can be useful. If these boards are only in Montenegrin language, they are designed for local population then; all the significant information for tourist are translated into English language.

For even more precise orientation, you can download the track log of the Katun Road on **[www.katunroads.me](http://www.katunroads.me)**.











# SERVICES

Different services are offered throughout the katuns you visit. For a detailed list of these services, check the map, we have marked there everything that can be seen in katuns. And when you come to the place itself, the services are marked in the following way:



**1. Camps** – this pictogram is used to mark the locations of camps set within the existing katuns. Camp places are free of charge but if you need to rent a tent, you will have to pay for the service.

**2. Accommodation** – these are the huts in the mountains the owners are willing to rent to visitors who prefer roofs over their heads rather than the tents.

**3. Homemade food** – if you see these pictograms in a katun, it means there are families there who can prepare some of the traditional specialties typical for the katuns.

**4. Horse riding** – you can rent a horse in a katun where you see this pictogram. You will have to discuss the details with the locals.

**5. Rural activities** – if you see this pictogram in a katun and you

want to take part in some of the typical village jobs, just ask the locals.

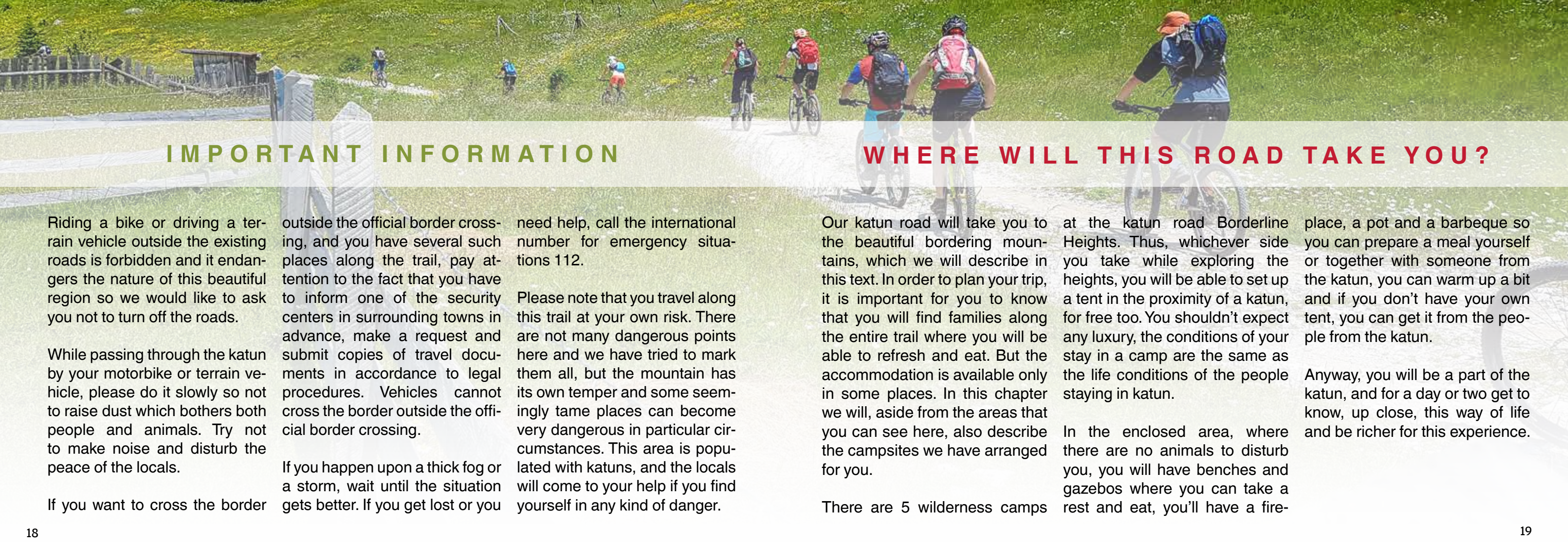
**6. Typical products** – if you want to buy some of the typical products of a katun, look for the huts with this pictogram and the products that you can buy are various: cheese, kaymak (cream), blueberry and other forest fruit, slatko (preserved fruit), potato, juices, brandy and so on.

**7. Souvenirs** – This pictogram is set in the katuns where you can find families that make souvenirs from wood or make wool products.

**8. Charging devices** – all the katuns on the trail of Katun Road are supplied with solar systems, so you will be able to charge your cell phone, camera batteries or GPS.







## IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Riding a bike or driving a terrain vehicle outside the existing roads is forbidden and it endangers the nature of this beautiful region so we would like to ask you not to turn off the roads.

While passing through the katun by your motorbike or terrain vehicle, please do it slowly so not to raise dust which bothers both people and animals. Try not to make noise and disturb the peace of the locals.

If you want to cross the border

outside the official border crossing, and you have several such places along the trail, pay attention to the fact that you have to inform one of the security centers in surrounding towns in advance, make a request and submit copies of travel documents in accordance to legal procedures. Vehicles cannot cross the border outside the official border crossing.

If you happen upon a thick fog or a storm, wait until the situation gets better. If you get lost or you

need help, call the international number for emergency situations 112.

Please note that you travel along this trail at your own risk. There are not many dangerous points here and we have tried to mark them all, but the mountain has its own temper and some seemingly tame places can become very dangerous in particular circumstances. This area is populated with katuns, and the locals will come to your help if you find yourself in any kind of danger.

## WHERE WILL THIS ROAD TAKE YOU?

Our katun road will take you to the beautiful bordering mountains, which we will describe in this text. In order to plan your trip, it is important for you to know that you will find families along the entire trail where you will be able to refresh and eat. But the accommodation is available only in some places. In this chapter we will, aside from the areas that you can see here, also describe the campsites we have arranged for you.

There are 5 wilderness camps

at the katun road Borderline Heights. Thus, whichever side you take while exploring the heights, you will be able to set up a tent in the proximity of a katun, for free too. You shouldn't expect any luxury, the conditions of your stay in a camp are the same as the life conditions of the people staying in katun.

In the enclosed area, where there are no animals to disturb you, you will have benches and gazebos where you can take a rest and eat, you'll have a fire-

place, a pot and a barbeque so you can prepare a meal yourself or together with someone from the katun, you can warm up a bit and if you don't have your own tent, you can get it from the people from the katun.

Anyway, you will be a part of the katun, and for a day or two get to know, up close, this way of life and be richer for this experience.





## ČAKOR MOUNTAIN

Geographical position and shape, the abundance of vistas, the water, wealthy and diverse flora and fauna, katuns – they all make Čakor one of the most beautiful regions in this part of Montenegro.

The mountain pass Čakor, located between the mountain Čakor (2058m) and Mokra Gora, at the altitude of 1,849 m used to be the highest road pass in former Yugoslavia. The road from Murino (a place close to Andrijevica) to Peć – Kosovo, built in 1926, meanders over the pass. This was the shortest connection of Macedonia, Kosovo and

southeast part of Serbia to the Adriatic Sea. The road on the Montenegrin side, from Murino to Bjeluha was paved in 2013.

Čakor is an important geographical and historical, even economical and civilization point of the Balkans. True, there is little evidence of this fact today, besides several monuments at the pass. A famous tavern located at the pass closed long ago. However, visitors are welcomed by the cattle breeders from the close-by katuns, as is in their ancient tradition.

The pass is known as a view-

point, as crossroads of pristine roads, a place of historical events and gatherings of people, but also as important summer pasture.

Many Montenegrin mountains can be seen from here. A large village called Velika spans on one side of the pass, the river Lim is close by, proud peaks of Visitor, Zeletin ... The other side is taken by Rugovska gorge where Pećka Bistrica snakes through tame and fertile Metohija plains. On the right and left, there are paths which lead towards other viewpoints, valleys and katuns.





## ČAKOR CAMP

This camp is located almost on the top of a Čakor pass, within a hardworking household Jokić that regularly comes to the katun. There are several more households in this region, each and every of them can offer some kind of service. They all sell typical products, prepare home-made dishes, and most of the women are engaged in handicrafts. If you choose to stay here, you will be able to explore the splendid mountain Čakor. You can decide to take the katun road or you can go in a completely opposite direction, towards Prokletije, over Starac and Bandera or you can go down to Rugovska gorge and take the katun road in Kosovo from there. But please be careful, this is an unofficial border crossing and you can inquire about the procedure of crossing the border at the Tourist organization Plav. Anyway, this is the only one of five camps which you can reach by asphalted road. From here, you can go further by terrain vehicle, a bicycle or on foot. You can also go to your new exploration on horses which you can rent from the families in the katun.





Mokra planina

## MOKRA MOUNTAIN

Some good connoisseurs of Montenegrin peaks claim that Mokra is the most beautiful mountain. It was pretty isolated till recently and known only to locals of Ržanica, Velika, Murino who would go to their katun. Nowadays, by constructing the road from Mašnica and Lijepi do it becomes more available, even some modern cottages sprout there.

Katuns are three hours walk away from the village. They are located in the area covered with forest and large pastures. Water is everywhere, this is the reason for the simple name of the mountain (Mokra –wet). The huts are very

close to one another. Petrovdan is a holiday when fairs are organised at Mokra and shepherds and others from the surrounding katuns and villages come then. Mokra resembles a vast plateau. Its only two peaks barely reach the altitude of 2,000 m. Their names are Prijedolska glava, 2,003 m and Lumere, 2,001 m.

Streams, brooks, ponds contribute to the beauty of the total picture of this area. The same could be said for versatile forests, bare rockeries, wooden huts and herds of sheep and cattle.

Some low game can sometimes run through this picture, like rab-

bits, foxes, martens, squirrels, but also some larger ones like chamois, wild boar, and for the brown bear – it would be better if it stays on its higher grounds. The sound to this picture will be given by partridge, wood grouse, golden eagle, hawk, cuckoo, thrush, woodpecker, jay ... who can distinguish them all.

Once upon time these were listened by Turkish nizam while they stood guard on towers, and a mountain woman in the katun beware of eagles nowadays and she will try to chase them away by yelling at them if they try to come close to her hens at the meadow...



## KRŠ RUŠIN CAMP

This camp is 20 kilometers away from the camp Čakor and it's located right next to a katun which is also called Krš Rušin. From June to September there are three households with their herds in the katun. There are some young people here who know this entire area as the back of their hand. In this katun also, as in the rest of them, you can buy typical products, rent horses, eat home-made food and try one of the specialties we've found here – a juice made of the pinecones of the black pine. Right above the katun, there are some remains of the old Nizamska kula, the fortress of the Turkish army, because once upon a time this was the border of the Turkish Empire. Many stories and

legends are related to this place, and the locals will eagerly tell them. The location of this katun will enable you to easily explore in more directions – you can reach the katun Čafa prijedolska, where a small church is located, which is famous for being at the highest altitude in Montenegro. Or you can go next to the Vulev katun, several hundreds of meters away from the camp, where you will find families who offer a wide range of services and then go towards the once largest katun called Mašnički. There are several regular cattle-raising families in Mašnički katun, and there are also several log cabins used only for resting and which can be rented if a camp way of life doesn't really suit you.

## VRAĆEVO CAMP

A surprise in the heart of the Mokra mountain: Vračevo is the only katun which has an improvised playground where a group of kids spend their time. In the 21st century, children are a rarity in the katun, and that is why they are a wealth of this katun and something that makes it specific. There are sever-

al cottages here and they all belong to a large family Lekić. The camp is tucked away next to the katun, in a valley surrounded by a forest. At the top of this glade, there are remnants of another Nizamska kula. You should certainly visit this place, the view from it is fantastic.



## KALUDARSKE KAPE CAMP

Katun Kaludarske kape is the largest katun in the north-east of Montenegro. It is a real pleasure to climb the top of the mountain and find a wealth and step into old times, when all the katuns were teeming with people and cattle. There are 10 families here, we haven't counted the cattle – it's simply an impossible thing to do. A large puddle in the center of katun is its trademark. You will have a great time with the locals, you will try the supreme home-made cheese, and several families will also offer some home-made food. There are plenty of horses too, so if you want to ride, you will easily agree with the locals to rent one. From this place, you can take the katun road

towards Mokra, through Usovište and Ravne livade (you should be extremely careful if you go by terrain vehicle and if it's wet outside, don't even try to go down) or you can take the macadam road and descend to the other side, towards the village Kaludra, and from here you can go towards Cmiljevica, following the signalization. The border to Kosovo is close to this katun and you can see Kosovo villages from the top of the mountain. If you walk, and duly announce it, you can directly go towards Kosovo from here, following the old macadam roads which pass by the remnants of the old katuns where, unfortunately, no one comes anymore.





## SMILJEVICA MOUNTAIN

Smiljevica is also famous for its beauty, a mountain on whose slopes you'll start climbing as soon as you go downhill from Kaludarske kape.

It is located on the side opposite the one where Džakovica and Rugova are. The mountain is tame, with lots of water, meadows, rich woods and fertile fields

surrounding katuns, where potatoes thrive. Katuns of Smiljevica are visited by the locals of the villages Zagorje, Luge, Petnjik, Donja Ržanica and Kaludra.

The distance between the villages and katun is two hours walk. There were some householders once who used to own more than 500 sheep.

Smiljevica was once very popular as a ski resort that operated within the Hotel Lokve, which is located on the main road Berane - Rožaje. This hotel is currently in the phase of adaptation and will be opened soon. The skiing area work for local skiers, and only by putting the hotel into operation it will become popular as it used to be in the past.

### MURGAŠ CAMP

This camp is located within the katun Murgaš and several families come here regularly. This place is a hub of different roads which can lead you to different sides. The border to Kosovo is very close as well as the numerous katuns of Cmiljevica, that we warmly recommend to visit. It's very easy to reach the katun Lokva zagors-

ka. Petkov do hides a beautiful little lake called Košutina lokva, from here you can carry on towards Mokri do katun and even further towards Džakovica. On the other side, you can explore the katuns of Skrobutača, go down to one of the most beautiful katuns Luke, and visit the families that offer services on this route.





Hajla



Bandžov

## H A J L A M O U N T A I N

Many, however, consider Hajla the most beautiful mountain in Montenegro.

It is located at the Montenegro-Kosovo border. It often played the role of the delimiter in the past. However, from the beginnings of its existence, Hajla was a bond between two natural entreties, Prokletije and Kosovo – Metohija plain, and between people, too. Mokra Mountain is on its left. Its west border is a river which (somehow) belongs to the God – Bogška river (God's river). The south border belongs to the fierce Pečka Bistrica, which goes through picturesque Rugovska gorge. The slopes of Hajla travel down the gorge, bringing several tributaries to

Bistrica. The most important one is, allegedly, Alagina river. The road over the pass and the border pass Kula goes towards Peć.

The height of its highest point at 2,403 m makes it the highest mountain in this northern group of Prokletije mountains.

Hajla is made of limestone and volcanic silicate and, due to this, its relief is versatile, indented and its shapes are diverse. Rocky cliffs, passes, ravines, valleys, plateaus, grassy slopes, woods, streams are quite unbeknown but more and more mountaineers and alpinists are coming there; they can find nice conditions for accommodation, too.

Hajla is like some modest, unobtrusive, beautiful shepherdess. It emerges from the morning fog, its color white from the edelweiss, or ruddy from the carnation, its smell intoxicating from the spruce and pine. The river Ibar gives it freshness and smile. All these things, the smile, the fragrance, the lightness are incorporated in its name, too.

Bandžov's huts are located at the foothill of Hajla. There are some rich grazing areas with loads of water here, woods and pastures, too. Cattle breeders go up around June 1 and they come back down in September.



## ACCOMMODATION SERVICES

### LOG CABINS

Unless you are really interested in wilderness camping, and you have the desire to explore the katun road, there are several log cabins on this route which can easily be rented by the hosts. They are located at the following katuns:

- Krš Rušin
- Mašnički katun
- Kaludarske kape
- Dolovi
- Džakovica
- Mušino brdo
- Katun Hajla

If you are interested to stay in one of them, please send us an enquiry letter and you will easily come to an agreement with the hosts.

### ACCOMMODATION FACILITIES

There are several accommodation facilities on the route of katun road or in its close proximity which offer a much better comfort from camps and log cabins. We recommend:

#### **Hotel Lokve**

Located at the highway Berane-Rožaje, only several kilometers away from the katun road.

#### **Etno village Oka i po**

Located in the village Kaludra, directly on the route of the katun road Borderline Heights (Granični visovi). For more information of this facility visit the site [www.okaipo.com](http://www.okaipo.com)

#### **Mountaineers lodge Bandžov**

Located at the starting point of the katun road, within the katun Bandžov, and you will obtain more information by sending inquiry on [omkok@t-com.me](mailto:omkok@t-com.me)

#### **Culture Center Dermando**

is located in katun Bandžov. It has 60 seats in the restaurant, and has 30 beds for overnight stays. More information on this link [www.facebook.com/Dom-Kulture-Derman-doo-1474887549502254](http://www.facebook.com/Dom-Kulture-Derman-doo-1474887549502254) and the contact number is +382 67 510 999.

## TRANSFER TO KOSOVO TERRITORY

On several occasions, our Katun road comes to the very border with Kosovo, and if you want to explore the beauty of mountainous areas on the Kosovo side, we have several recommendations for you.

Following the Katun road “Borderline Hights” (Granični visovi) you can reach the village of Velika, and join the Top biking trail 3 “Eastern enchantment”, which will take you through Plav to Bogićevica, where you can connect to the Katun road in Kosovo and explore that part of Prokletije, as well. You can find more infor-

mation about this on the portal [www.katunroads.me](http://www.katunroads.me), and there you can also download track logs for easier and safer orientation.

Pay attention to submit the request to cross the border outside the official border crossing, and you will receive the necessary instructions on this in the office of Tourist Organization in Plav.

If you want to continue towards the Rugovska gorge and then go down to Peja, then you have two options. You can come down

from Čakor to Kotlovi, where the official border crossing is expected to open in the coming period. For now, this is an unofficial border crossing and you need to announce your crossing to the police. Another option to cross from the Katun road “Granični visovi” to the territory of Kosovo is that when you find yourself at the place called Ravne livade, between the katuns Kaludarske kape and Barice, you head towards the tourist place called Boge. This is also an unofficial border crossing.





Kacamak

## WHAT YOU MUST NOT MISS

### HOME - MADE FOOD

Distance of katuns and inability of farmers to frequently go and get groceries in villages have influenced katun gastronomy to center around those ingredients that are produced in katuns, or can be collected in nature around them. In both cases, ingredients are of high-quality, completely natural and unpolluted, which is a genuine rarity in the 21st century and it gives this type of cuisine a tremendous value.

Locals bring with them or regularly get only wheat and corn flour, salt, oil, sugar and coffee. Cattle breeding means that families enjoy the abundance of dairy products, and it is these products that represent the backbone of most meals in katuns.

Some of the famous dishes are kacamak (a dish made of wheat or corn flour), kukuruza (traditional corn bread), gotov or cicvara (melted cheese and cream cooked with corn flour), priganice (fried bread dough), and even simple boiled or roasted potato with mountain cheese and cream has a special taste here. A home-made bread, of locally produced flour, that used to be baked directly on hotplate and on embers, and today is baked in that famous firewood stove 'ciganac', when served warm along with cheese and cream is unusually tasty and all the guests who come from abroad regularly mention it. Meals in katuns have abundance of calories, in order to provide energy needed to all family members who over the day have numerous and

exhausting tasks to handle. Especially delicious dish you can find in mountains only is called skrob, and is made from nettle collected in the mountain, or zeljanica, a pie made of wild spinach also collected in nature. Sheep and lambs are rarely slaughtered for food, because in katuns it is hard to preserve raw meat, but this is done only when farmers know that all the meat will be eaten quickly - when the great works such as mowing and hay collection are done and the whole extended family and friends come to help, or during mountain fairs when katuns are full of guests from all sides. A particular delicacy in katuns is lamb roasted on a spit, which takes half a day to prepare, but when it is finally done you understand that it was worth your whi-





le to wait.

Even all the drinks here are home-made. Juices and liqueurs are made from pine cones, pine needles, wild strawberries, blueberries, raspberries, blackberries. Tea is never purchased, locals collect various medical and aromatic herbs, dry them, mix them to their preference and prepare perfect hot beverages. Sweets are rarely prepared here, today people buy them when they can, and still keep them to serve the guests.

### RURAL ACTIVITIES

Feel free to join the life in the katun. It will be a unique experience for you. There are enough duties for everyone, even the smallest child can help. The mountain women would rather be alone in their huts while making cheese (they are the only ones who know everything about milk temperature, all the secrets of the cheese in each and

every vat - its maturing stage, what is the cheese like at the bottom and on the top of the vat, if it should be pressed more tightly or poured over...), but she can teach you to milk the sheep and you can help her in collecting nettles and greens, in hoeing the onion and potato in the garden, preparing meals and washing up.

You can chop and bring the firewood, help in making the sheepfold or eave, in herding the cattle in or out of the sheepfold. Learn to mow the meadow, to layer and collect the hay in stacks. Sharpening the scythe is a special skill. So is shearing the sheep. While shearing, one should hold the sheep and take care of the wool.

Spinning the wool is a job that less and less women know how to do, so use a chance, if you get one, to try it on. Perhaps you will also see how a skilled mountain woman

knits the woolen socks using several small needles. Believe it, it's not so difficult to do it.

### HOMEMADE PRODUCTS

In katuns you can also buy various products – from food to handicrafts. Mountain women used to compete in making the cheese. When they climbed down the mountain with their cattle, everyone could see and count the number of vats full of cheese on the horses. Today, the cheese is sold at green markets, it can even be found in shops and housewives don't mind selling it while still on katun.

At the place of production, in these mini dairies, you can try and buy superb cheese and kaymak (cream). The cheese can be mild, medium or aged, the same goes for kaymak. The milk can be of cow, sheep or mixed. The yoghurt is thick, it can even be eaten with a





Horse riding

fork. It is a perfect complement to almost every dish.

Another extremely healthy beverage is sour whey.

The bread is made of wheat or corn flour. You already know that eggs are organic.

You have tried the homemade brandies and realized why the local plum brandy is so famous. Some hosts also make pear or apple brandy, or plum brandy with herbs - juniper or gentian. The mountain women offer their guests only homemade juices, slatko (fruit preserve) and jams they prepared during the autumn. We would like to recommend - everything! Don't refuse anything they offer, try it. Honey, elderberry juice, blueberry juice, jellied fruit and jam made of plums, strawberries, blackberries. If there is enough time, the hostess will make patišpanj (spon-

ge cake), a simple cake made of eggs and flour.

The hosts can tell you stories about some interesting and very healthy products made of wild fruits. Vodnjika, for example, is pickle made of wild pears. The liquid as well as the fruit tastes wonderfully, a completely particular flavor. The wild cherry juice (the fruit is pearl size, almost completely black and adored by birds) is the most delicious thing you will taste in your life.

Conifers are story for themselves. Have you ever tried a juice made of early pinecones? It has healing powers, as all the different salves and syrups made of pine outgrowths. Healing properties of pines have been known forever.

Wood and wool are the main materials on katuns. Different objects are made of wool, from bowls and

spoons to fiddle, and wool is used for making socks, vests, sweaters, caps, bags, carpets.

## HORSE RIDING

You needn't be afraid, the horses are tame and obedient. Even the children can experience this adventure - they can get familiar with this noble animal and enjoy in the sensation "betwixt the heavens and earth". There is no feeling more natural than the one you get while riding the horse through the meadows. At the viewpoints, you are the watch-bird, the master of the peaks and valleys. At the forest path, the steady sound of hooves and cozy swinging will turn off the notion of time and space. The only thing left is the fine flickering of light in the branches of spruces, firs and pines. A sail through eternity.

When you rent a horse, look after





it. It will express its gratitude with big, warm eyes. Without the horse, the life on katun would be impossible. The horse can surmount even the impossible ascents and slopes, the tiniest of paths. The horse here is the flying carpet as well as the wagon train. It is happier here than in a village - it brings the wood or you ride it around for a while and then it enjoys the freedom and wide open space.

### COLLECTION OF PLANTS AND FOREST FRUIT

A lot of things can be collected or gathered in the mountain, then eaten fresh or they can be cooked and baked or even dried for winter. If you are not very familiar with the plants, ask the shepherds. But you will surely recognize the hazelnut, wild apple (used for making the magical apple vinegar), wild pear,

wild cherry, wild strawberry, blackberry, raspberry, blueberry, several types of eatable mushrooms.

Along the hiking paths, you will identify dandelions, chamomile, St. John's Wort, plantain, yarrow, thyme, wild garlic, juniper, and rosehips - the fruit of the wild rose.

You can enjoy in collecting, or you can refresh yourself by eating something on the spot, or you can prepare the meal on the fireplace in the camp or at your host's. You can make the tea yourself, the most fragrant souvenirs from the katuns.

Collecting the plants and forest fruit will provide you with a new perspective of the wildlife in these mountains. You will go through a variety of encounters, with butterflies, ladybugs, May chafer and grasshoppers. With baby birds in their nests.







## HOW HAVE WE DECIDED TO DEVELOP KATUN ROAD?

Katun road “Borderline Heights” is the first tourist product in Montenegro, focusing on the katuns. We developed this product as we wanted to achieve several things:

- *To include the specific cultural heritage represented by our katuns in the overall tourism offer, thus increasing its visibility and valorizing it.*
- *To provide tourists with services even high in the mountains, where services are otherwise difficult to get.*
- *To enable locals to generate additional income by giving them the opportunity to offer their products and services at their place of living.*
- *To support the survival of katuns by improving the living conditions of the people through*

*the provision of solar systems, as there is no electricity supply in the katuns.*

- *To explore the biodiversity with which these areas are extremely rich and create a map that gives an overview of this richness.*

This idea was supported by the European Union through the cross-border cooperation programme Montenegro-Kosovo, and a grant was used to make the Katun road Borderline Heights, set up supporting infrastructure for thematic trail, produce promotional materials, and provide solar systems for nearly 50 families along the Borderline Heights trail. Our research has shown that 97% of users of this project have never heard of an EU project that has been imple-

mented in katuns, and that 92% have never had any benefit from an EU funded project. We are therefore very pleased that we were able to direct EU funds towards the marginalized group of the rural population, being very important part of our society due to their agricultural activities, but also as the only keeper of the old katun tradition and culture.

For all your comments, suggestions or impressions, please contact us at: [office@bjelasica-komovi.co.me](mailto:office@bjelasica-komovi.co.me) You can also follow us on: [www.bjelasica-komovi.me](http://www.bjelasica-komovi.me) and [www.katunroads.me](http://www.katunroads.me), the site dedicated to the katun road.

We hope you will enjoy this journey!



