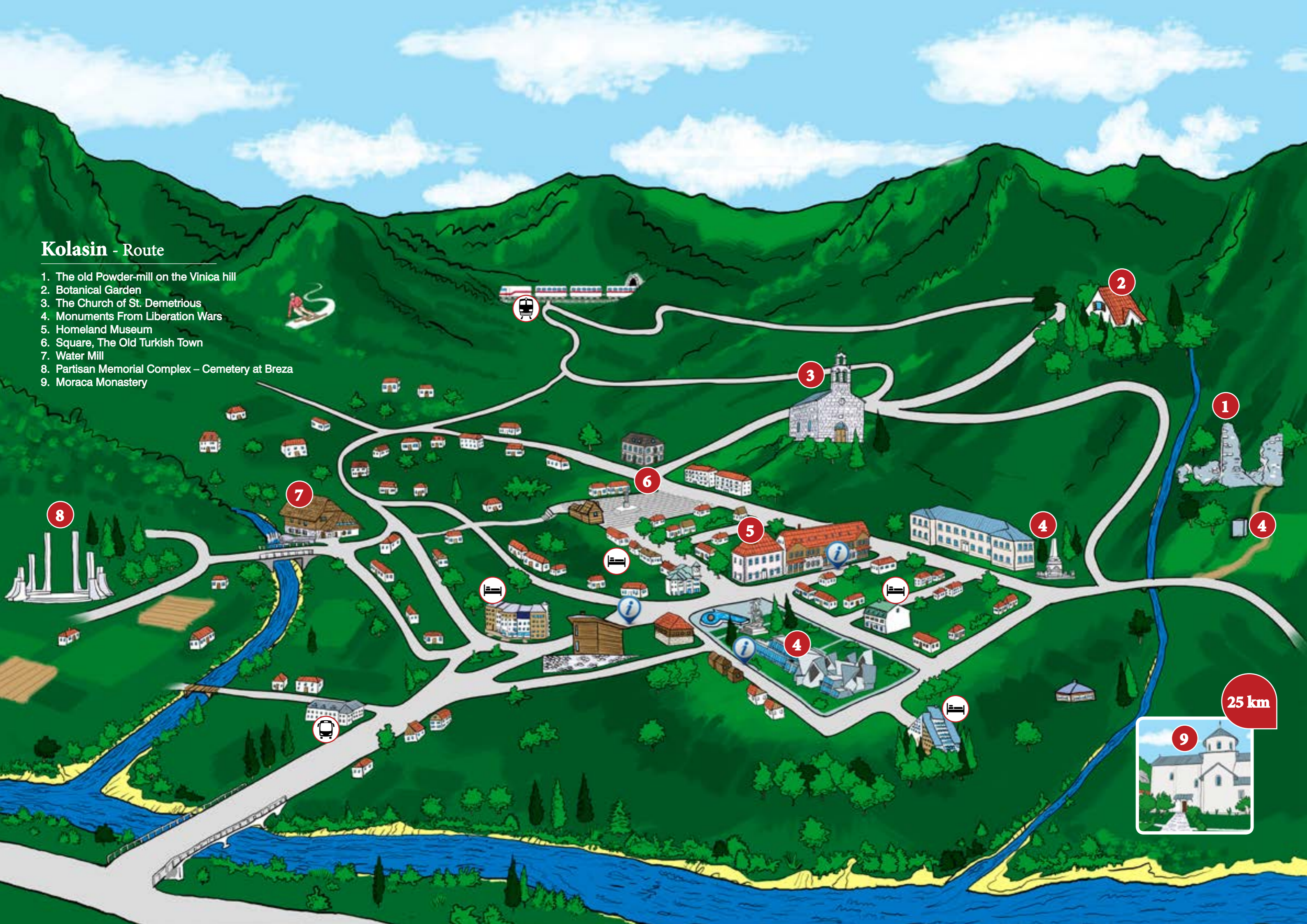


## Kolasin - Route

1. The old Powder-mill on the Vinica hill
2. Botanical Garden
3. The Church of St. Demetrious
4. Monuments From Liberation Wars
5. Homeland Museum
6. Square, The Old Turkish Town
7. Water Mill
8. Partisan Memorial Complex – Cemetery at Breza
9. Moraca Monastery



25 km



## The old Powder-mill on the Vinica hill



Legend says that Turks decided to build a fortification for weapons storage on Vinica hill at the end of the 18th century and they engaged an Orthodox mason of Greek origin for it. Surrounded by scaffolds and protected from views, he built a powder-mill in the shape of an inscribed cross. When Turks saw that the building had a base in the shape of the cross, a symbol of Christianity, they had the mason hanged next to the powder-mill and abandoned the building. When you walk towards the Vinica hill, besides enjoying the most beautiful views of Kolasin and its surroundings, you can also see for yourself

that the mason fulfilled his vow, since the shape of a cross is still clearly seen on the remnants of the powder-mill.

## The Church of St. Demetrius

Since Kolasin did not have a church, after the liberation from the Turks, in 1879, a small chapel was redecored and consecrated for temporary usage, which served as a watchtower in Turkish time. After ten years of service, due to lack of space and deterioration of this building, and in the midst of building churches in liberated regions, a new church was built in Kolasin in 1888. In accordance to the customs of those times, all the conscripts of Kolasin region participated in the construction of the church and the works were managed by the battalion commander. First the stones from the old church of John the Forerunner, were removed one by one, and then they used the same stones to build the new church, the Church of St. Demetrius, a single nave building with a two-floor belfry and semicircular altar apse.



## Botanical Garden

On a surface of 646 m<sup>2</sup> and at 1018 m above sea level, there is the unique and widely famous botanical garden of Daniel Vinček. It was established in 1981 as the only one in Montenegro with indigenous species of mountain areas flora (Bjelasica, Sinjajevina, Komovi and Durmitor). In the garden today, there are more than 400 plant species, among those a large number of endemic types and more than 80 % medicinal herbs.

A person as significant and interesting as the garden itself is its founder Daniel Vinček,



adorer of Kolasin and its nature and in whose honour the plant *Alchemilla vulgaris* was named *Alchemilla Vinčeki*. If you are lucky enough to be guided through the garden by its founder personally, do not forget to ask him to tell you the secret plants used for the production of traditional oriental aphrodisiac sahlab.

- The garden is open for visits from May until the end of August
- The best period for visits is from May 20 to June 30
- All the visitors are provided with a professional tour guide service on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 10 am to 2 pm and from 5 pm to 7 pm
- Sundays – from 10 am to 1 pm
- The reservation is necessary for group visits  
Tel. +382 20865477  
+382 89015478

## Water Mill

At the spot where the main village water mill stood two hundred years ago, a national cuisine restaurant of the same name is located today. Here, in the preserved environment, with two mill stones, you can discover how the grains were milled and why the water mills were homes for fairies and ghosts, but also try some of the regional specialties: polenta, gruel, popara, lamb and veal made on traditional way, roasted under a metal bell, meat made in a rustic manner, and the most famous Kolasin specialty, KOLASIN LEAVED CHEESE. The only thing you have to take care of is to eat all of the polenta, because, according to folk's belief, if you leave some polenta on your plate, your boyfriend or girlfriend will leave you. Very close to the water mill, next to the Kolasin river, you can still see the examples of traditional architecture, huts made of wood and stone with a pyramidal shape roof which were used both as residential and objects where livestock was kept.



## Homeland Museum

The best place to learn more about Kolasin is the Homeland Museum. With its three collections (historical, ethnographic and paintings collection), this museum will give you an opportunity to get to know not only the rich history, but also the customs and way of life of people from this region. Clothes, distaffs, wooden dishes and furniture will evoke the ambience of a traditional Kolasin home. The old photographs, documents, banners and medals testify to the battles that marked the life of the inhabitants of this

region. The museum building is a monument itself. Established in 1982, the museum was placed in the building that once was the seat of Kolasin District management, and a prison during the Second World War. It was built in 1903, for Pavle Milosavljević Vujisić, Head of District, and they say that he lost it gambling soon after.

## Partisan Memorial Complex - Cemetery at Breza

During the Second World War, the town was bombed 18 times by German and Italian forces, and the control over it changed hands at 23 times. Hundreds of people lost their lives in those battles, and the most tragic were the victims of fratricidal wars whose graves were often anonymous. More than 200 partisans from all Montenegro who were kept in Kolasin prison were shot at the meadow on Breza, during the Second World War. When war ended, the names of shot and partisans killed in battles were put on graves and the memorial complex built. In time, Breza became the symbol of the fight for freedom, a place where youth gatherings and central celebrations of historical dates, were held.



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## Monuments From Liberation Wars

Acting as the war capital of Montenegro, Kolasin used to be the center of events crucial for the entire country during the Second World War. Numerous memorial and commemorative plaques around the town testify to this. The first session of the National Anti-fascism Council of Montenegro and Boka (ZAVNO) was held in the building of the Primary School, in November 1943. A memorial building was built in the centre of Kolasin to honour of the 40th anniversary of this event, and busts of bearers of the Order of People's Hero (the medal given for extraordinary acts of bravery during Second World War) from Kolasin region were placed around it. Memorial plaques on the primary school building also remind on the sessions of the First Congress of Anti-fascist Youth of Montenegro and the First Congress of Women Anti-fascists of Montenegro. On the road towards the old powder-mill, there is a plaque of the bearer of the Order of People's Hero Marko Martinović, who died in the battle for the liberation of Kolasin in 1943, covering the enemy machine gun barrel with his own chest.



A monument located at the edge of the schoolyard is a reminder of the victims from the First World War, built as a memory of students from Kolasin region who died as volunteers in that war. Together with the names of those who died, the monument is carved with the lyrics of national poetry.

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## Square, the Old Turkish Town

The road to the Upper Town Square leads us through the main pedestrian street. Don't be surprised by the number of cafés, since it was recorded that Kolasin had as many as 26 cafés in 1891, and it was a town with the largest number of cafes per citizen on the territory of former Yugoslavia. A calculation was made which said that each citizen had a chair. The history of Kolasin is summarized in the history of the main square. It is the place where Ali Pasha Cengic built a fortified town Kolasin in 1651 with a mosque, shops, inns and residential houses. After the Berlin Congress in 1878, when it became part of Montenegro, population from the Montenegrin regions of Moraca and Rovca started inhabiting Kolasin. The Turkish town was destroyed and the houses were built in accordance to the first urban plan and under the influence of the European building styles whose projects were brought by respectable town traders. The most famous is the house of the Maric brothers that can be seen even today and is built in Art Nouveau style.



## Moraca Monastery

Moraca Monastery, one of the most beautiful and significant cultural and historical monuments of Montenegro is located only 25 km away from Kolasin, on the way to Podgorica. It was built in 1252 by Duke Stevan, the grandson of Stefan Nemanja, on the bank of the eponymous river, next to the waterfall Svetigora. The monastery gained its international recognition by its extremely beautiful frescoes. The most important one is a 13th century one "The raven feeds the prophet Elijah". The copy of this fresco won the second place award at the World Frescoes Exhibition in Paris in 1952. The extraordinarily rich monastery treasury houses a copy of "Oktoih", the first printed book in Slavs language from 1493 and the cross made of walnut wood from the 16th century, carved for eleven years. The Monastery complex, surrounded by high walls, consists of the Cathedral Church of Assumption of Holy Mother of God, a small St. Nikola's Church and the residential buildings for monks. The legend says that people made a day's – walk long line, from Tusina to Moraca, in order to transfer the yellow stone – siga, used for the construction of the monastery. For centuries, during fierce fights lead by Montenegrin Moraca and other clans against the Turks, the Monastery acted as spiritual, educational and also political centre where the gatherings of representatives of Montenegrin and Hills' clans were held.



## Tourism Organisations

### Regional Tourism Organisation Bjelasica and Komovi

Address: Trg Boraca 2  
Tel: +382 (0) 20 865 110

### Tourism Organisation Kolasin

Address: Mirka Vesovica bb  
Tel./Fax: +382 (0) 20 864 254  
tokolasin@t-com.me



## Hotels

### Hotel Bianca Resort & Spa \*\*\*\*\*

Address: Marka Vesovica bb  
Tel. +382 (0) 20 863 000  
www.biancaresort.com

### Hotel Lipka \*\*\*\*

Address: Mojkovacka 20  
Tel. +382 (0) 20 863 200  
www.hotellipka.com

### Hotel Brile \*\*\*

Address: Buda Tomovica 2  
Tel/Fax: +382 (0) 20 865 021  
www.brile.me

### Hotel Cile \*\*\*

Address: Ranka i Strahinje Milosevica bb  
Tel. +382 (0) 20 865 039  
www.zlatnido.com

### Hotel Garni \*\*

Address: IV Proleterska  
Tel. +382 (0) 20 865 484

## National Cuisine Restaurants

### Restaurant Konoba

Address: Trg Vukmana Kruscica  
Tel. +382 (0) 69 241 507

### Restaurant Vodenica

Address: Junaka Breze  
+382 (0) 20 865 338

### Restaurant Savardak

Naselje Biocinovići  
Tel. +382 (0) 69 051 264

## Kolasin cheese

With a distinctive regional cuisine: polenta, gruel, popara, Sinjajevina lamb and meat prepared in traditional way, roasted under a metal bell, you must not leave Kolasin without tasting the traditional Kolasin leaved cheese. This gourmet delight is made of the high quality homemade milk from untouched mountain pastures.



## Getting there – Transport

- By plane:** the nearest airport is in Podgorica – 75 km
- By train:** the Belgrade-Bar Railway passes through Kolasin  
www.zcg-prevoz.me, Railway Station Kolasin Tel: +382 (0) 20 441 492
- By bus:** well connected with all the towns in the region  
Bus Station Kolasin Tel: +382 (0) 20 864 033
- By car:** main road from Podgorica – 75 km; from Bijelo Polje – 54 km

## Welcome!

You are at 954 m above sea level in a town surrounded with six mountains that is rightfully called the air spa. From any spot in Kolasin, one can see the magnificent mountain landscapes that attracted tourists even at the beginning of the last century.

Famous for its natural beauties, Kolasin area has an even richer history. Situated at an intersection of important roads, it was a place of many battles lead by the people of this region in their continuous fight against the Ottoman and, Austro-Hungarian Empires and invaders in the Second World War.

The cultural route of Kolasin leads you to the most interesting places in Kolasin where you can discover not only the secrets of Kolasin history but also the legends, customs and gastronomy of this region.

## STEP INTO THE HISTORY OF KOLASIN!



More information on cultural route and organised tours  
Culture center Kolasin – souvenir shop

### Working hours:

weekdays: from 10h to 20h  
Saturday: from 13h to 20h

Address: Trg Boraca bb, 81210 Kolasin  
E-mail: kulturakolasin@t-com.me  
Web page: www.kolasin.me  
Cell: +382 (0) 69/399-448



Even though there is no marked bicycle trail, it is possible to travel the entire route on a bike.

## Clans and Kinships

As it is the case in other parts of Montenegro, people here know which clan or kinship they originate from. They are mostly Rovcani, Moracani, Vasojevići and Uskoci in Kolasin. Each of these groups has stories and legends of their founders, which were passed from generation to generation, and are characteristic in speech and customs, even in the character of its members. The story goes that Rovcani are the most cunning ones and Vasojević women are the most beautiful ones.

## Montenegrin Code of Honour

There is something that is a characteristic to all Montenegrin people, regardless from which clan they originate from. That is the code of Honour, a supreme value which should be regarded as precious as life and loosing of one's honour is a fate worse than death itself. They would rather choose to die than to succumb dishonourably since there is no shame or defeat in death.

The soul of every town is made of its history. And the history of Kolasin is marked with continuous battles, heroism, deaths and sufferings. In the words of one of the most translated writers of this region, Milovan Djilas: "A war here was a survival, a way of life ..." So, do not be surprised that the largest number of monuments and landmarks of this town is related to war events.

