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Conservation of the 16th Century St. Francis Rampart in Montenegro

Final Phase Recap

December 2025 to June 2026



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Final Phase Overview

December 2025 to June 2026

The conservation of the 16th century St. Francis Rampart in Kotor, funded through the U.S. Ambassador's Fund for Cultural Preservation (AFCP), has entered its final stage.

Approximately 95% of conservation, restoration and stabilization works have been completed, with final completion expected by September 2026. The remaining activities are focused on final technical interventions, detailed cleaning, restoration details, crack repair and preparation of the site for future interpretation and use.

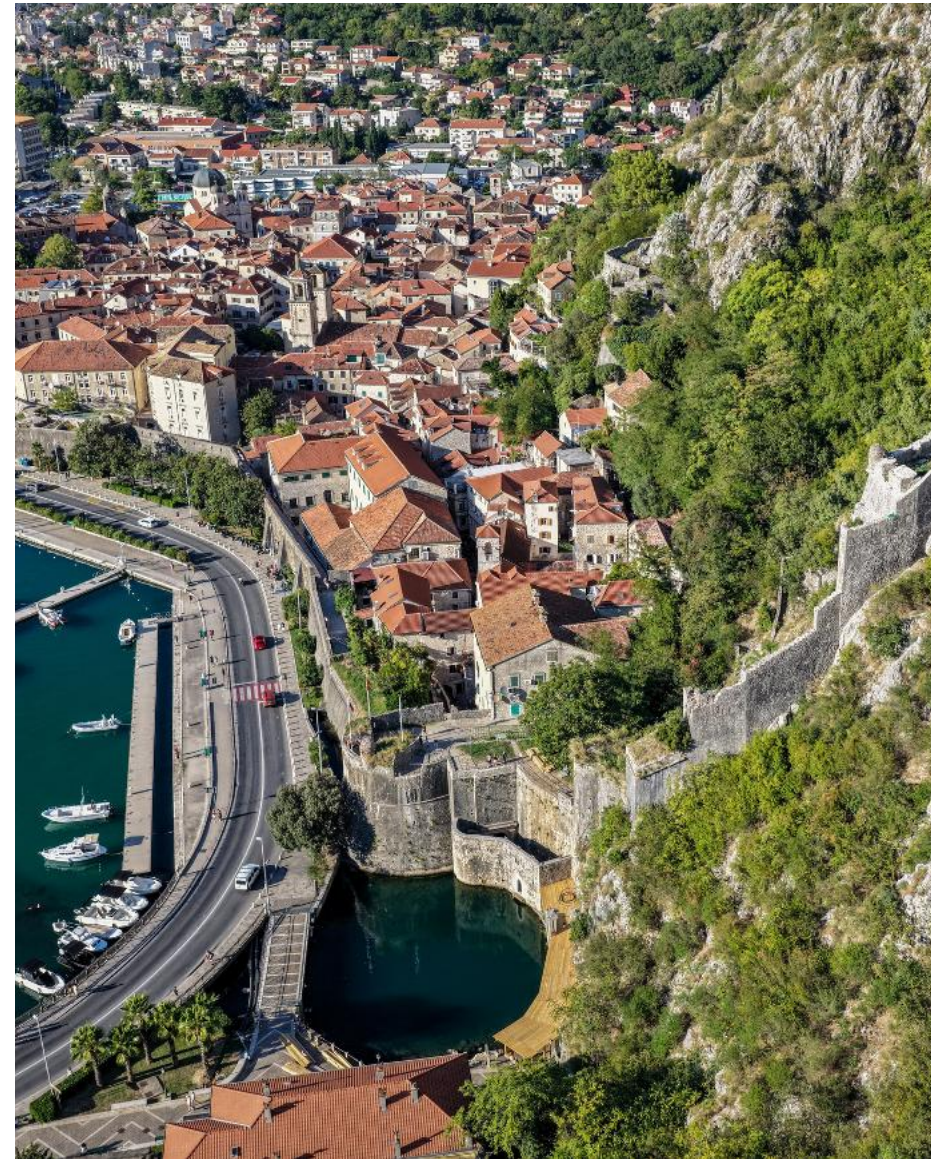
This newsletter brings a public overview of the project's final phase. It presents the progress achieved on one of the most demanding and difficult-to-access sections of Kotor's historic fortification system, as well as the next steps planned for interpretation, visibility and long-term use of the site.

Site Visit in December 2025

The St. Francis Rampart site was visited by the U.S. Ambassador to Montenegro, Her Excellency Judy Rising Reinke, together with representatives of the Municipality of Kotor, the Ministry of Culture and Media, and project partners.

The visit marked an important moment in the final phase of the project. It brought together the Municipality of Kotor, the U.S. Embassy in Montenegro, national institutions and professional teams to review the progress achieved on site and discuss the remaining steps toward completion.

The visit also underlined the value of continued cooperation in preserving Kotor's cultural heritage, especially on a site where conservation work requires technical precision, careful planning and respect for the historic structure of the fortifications.





Project progress overview

The most demanding works have been completed on one of the hardest-to-access sections of Kotor's fortification system.

The route toward St. Francis is clearer. Key wall sections, the wall crown, supporting walls and the artillery point have been stabilized through careful conservation work.

Vegetation and deep roots that damaged the walls were removed. Drainage was improved, while final crack repairs are now part of the closing phase.

The site is gradually moving toward safer future access and clearer public interpretation.

Project Status at a Glance

Phase I: Completed
Administrative procedures, project team setup, procurement procedures and contracts.

Phase II: Completed
Site preparation, access planning, utility supply, safety signage and terrain preparation.

Phase III: Ongoing
Conservation, restoration and stabilization of the St. Francis artillery point and surrounding walls.

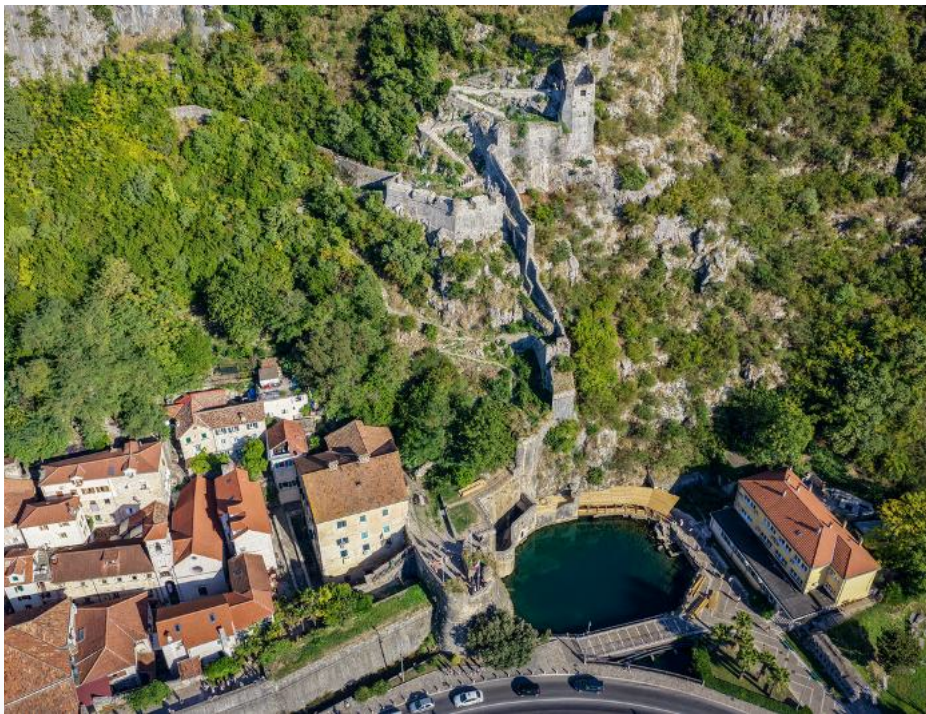


Works completed: approximately 95%

Expected completion deadline: September 2026

Current focus: final technical interventions, detailed cleaning, crack repair and preparation for public interpretation.





St. Francis Site Improvements

Before the works, parts of the route toward St. Francis were difficult to access, covered by vegetation and hard to read as part of the historic fortification system. Through the project, vegetation and deep roots that threatened the wall structure were removed, while the paved path and staircase leading toward St. Francis were cleaned and conserved.

This was not only a cleaning activity. It was an essential conservation step. Deep roots had entered the wall structure and contributed to deterioration, while parts of the access route had become almost invisible.

The works included the restoration of missing and damaged sections of the outer wall, the wall crown and supporting walls. Original stone elements were used where possible, and drainage improvements were introduced to reduce future damage caused by water.

On the most difficult-to-access sections, rope-access techniques were used to complete the works safely and with the necessary precision.



The artillery point became more reachable

Special attention was given to the St. Francis artillery point, including the watchtower, cannon port area, dome, floor and walls. These elements help explain the site's role within Kotor's wider fortification system.

Final works prepare the site for interpretation

Final works are now focused on mechanical cleaning, restoration details and crack repair through the injection of binding mass. These interventions prepare the site for better public understanding and future interpretation.





Project value: Wider Importance for Kotor

The St. Francis Rampart conservation protects more than one section of Kotor's walls. It stabilizes a demanding part of the fortification system and prepares it for safer, clearer and more responsible future use.

For years, this part of the fortifications was visible in the city's landscape, but difficult to approach and understand. Through this project, St. Francis is gradually returning as a meaningful part of Kotor's historic route.

From Conservation to Interpretation

As the project moves toward completion, attention is turning to how the site will be presented to the public.

Planned activities include informational and promotional boards, QR codes connected to a future augmented reality platform and video materials. These tools will help visitors understand what was restored, why it matters and how St. Francis connects with the wider history of Kotor's fortifications.

The final phase is therefore not only about completing works on stone. It is about preparing St. Francis to become a safer, better explained and more meaningful part of Kotor's heritage route.



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