



TRAVEL THE UNKNOWN

TAKE THE ROAD LESS TRAVELLED

UKRAINE EXPLORER

11 days



Countries visited

Ukraine

Tour Highlights

- Kornyakt Palace in Lviv
- Climb the Potemkin Stairs in Odessa

- One of the oldest cities in the world, Belhorod-Dnestrovskiy
- The historic Akkermann Fortress
- Local wine of Shabo village
- Remarkable history at the Museum of Strategic Missile Forces
- Architectural monuments in Kiev
- Chernobyl & Pripyat in Chernobyl Exclusion Zone

Places visited

Lviv • Odessa • Belhorod-Dnestrovskiy • Shabo Village & Winery • Kiev • Chernobyl

What's included

- Arrival & departure transfers
- Ground transport with driver
- Accommodation
- Meals (refer to itinerary for meal plan)
- English-speaking guides
- Entrance fees to sites & parks

What's not included

- Meals not mentioned in itinerary
- Drinks
- Visa fees
- Tipping
- Camera / video camera fees
- Personal items (laundry, telephone, etc.)
- Medical expenses
- Any services not mentioned in itinerary

All accommodation subject to availability. Final accommodation choices will be confirmed after booking.

Your Itinerary Map



Your Itinerary Explained

Date	Place visited	Meals
	<p>The first part of the text in each day is the itinerary schedule and will explain what you will normally see/do during this day of your itinerary.</p> <p>---</p> <p><i>The part of the day's text in italics (and comes after the three dashes "---") is background information on the places or sites on that day of your itinerary. It is not part of your itinerary and may mention places that will not be visited on your itinerary. If you have any questions please ask us. Travel times where noted are only meant as a guideline.</i></p>	<p>B: Breakfast</p> <p>L: Lunch</p> <p>D: Dinner</p>

Tour Itinerary

Day 1	Lviv	Meals
 <p>Flight</p>	<p>Arrive into Lviv airport, where you will be met by a Travel the Unknown representative and transferred to your hotel. Overnight stay in Lviv.</p> <p>---</p> <p><i>Overnight in Hotel Taurus, Lviv</i></p>	<p>N/A</p>
 <p>Lviv</p>	<p>Spend the morning sightseeing in Lviv. Tour the Old Town and see key sights, including the City House, the Black Stone Building and Kornyakt Palace. Later, travel to the village of Shevchenkivskiy Hai, visiting their museum and learning of local customs and traditions. Overnight stay in Lviv.</p> <p>---</p> <p><i>Lviv is known as the centre of west Ukraine. Although never a part of imperial Russia, Lviv was in the Habsburg empire and suffered a turbulent and violent history. The unique old charm of Lviv can be found in the stone architecture and market squares of the Old Town. Key sights include the grand Kornyakt Palace and the Medieval Pharmacy Museum.</i></p> <p><i>Shevchenkivskiy Hai Museum is better known as the Museum of Folk Architecture and Rural Life. It is one of the largest open-air museums in Europe, with over 100 buildings displaying architecture from the past 2 centuries. The traditional atmosphere of western Ukrainian villages is recreated within the museum - allowing visitors to learn more about the customs, culture and history of the region.</i></p>	<p>B</p>

Overnight in Hotel Taurus, Lviv

Day 3	Lviv - Odessa	Meals
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Lviv

Spend the day touring the castles of Lviv. Tour the relics of Olesko Castle before visiting Zolochiv Palace, where you will find the Grand Palace and Chinese Palace. Spend the rest of the day at your leisure in Lviv before transferring to the railway station to board your overnight train to Odessa. Overnight on board the sleeper train, dinner not included.

B

Olesko Castle stands on top of a hill, surrounded by a moat not far from the city of Lviv. The castle was built in the 13th century and has since been owned by Poland, Lithuania and Hungary. Olesko Castle became a political symbol during the 14th century - as borders were moved between the three countries, each fought for ownership of the castle. Evidence of this remains within the castle, where a deep well can be found, that used to be an escape route for prisoners.

Zolochiv Castle lies in the town of Zolochiv, just outside of Lviv. Built at the beginning of the 17th century, its original purpose was as a defensive fortress. It has since housed royals and served as a prison. The castle is now a museum, which displays a fine example of Ukrainian medieval architecture.

Day 4	Odessa	Meals
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Odessa

You will be met on arrival at the railway station and transferred to your hotel. Spend the day touring some of Odessa's key sights, including the Potemkin Stairs and Odessa Opera House. Later, stop off at Odessa's Fine Art Museum. Overnight stay in Odessa.

B

Odessa, also known as the 'pearl of the Black Sea', is one of Ukraine's major port cities and transportation hubs. A key sight is the Fine Art Museum located in the former palace of Count Pototsky, where you can find an extensive collection of Russian and Ukrainian art.

Odessa's iconic **Potemkin Stairs** were constructed between 1837 and 1841, leading from the harbour up towards the city that stands on a high plateau. Before the Potemkin Stairs were in place, this had meant winding pathways and wooden stairs. The design of the stairs hides an optical illusion - when looking down the stairs, one only sees the landings and the steps seem to be invisible; those looking up only see the steps.

Odessa Fine Arts Museum is situated in the ancient Pototsky Palace, itself being a monument of 19th century architecture. It houses some 10 thousand pieces of artwork that includes some of the most well known Russian and Ukrainian artists of the 19th and 20th century. Leading it to have one of the richest and most interesting collections of artwork in the country.

The **Opera House in Odessa** is the oldest theatre in the city and remains one of its most iconic landmarks. It was first opened in 1810, although later destroyed in a fire. It was reconstructed with a neo-baroque and French rococo influence, evident in its ornate architectural design and grand audience hall.

Overnight in Alexandrovsky Hotel, Odessa

Day 5

Odessa

Meals



Odessa

Depart Odessa for Belhorod-Dnestrovskiy and take a tour of the city, before visiting Akkermann Fortress. From there, continue on to Shabo village where you will learn of traditional winemaking as you sample local produce. Return to Odessa, where you will stay overnight.

B

Belhorod-Dnestrovskiy, formerly known as Akkerman, is one of the oldest cities in the world - dating back to the 6th century BC. This impressive port city stands on the banks of the Dniester estuary in southwestern Ukraine. It is home to many sights of significance, including the ancient fortress of Akkerman, St. Nicholas Church and Ascension Cathedral.

The Akkerman Fortress was built by Moldovans, Genoese and Turks from the 13th to the 15th century. It was built as a part of the Ottoman defensive system against Poland, Lithuania and later, the Russian Empire. The castle is one of the best preserved castles in the country, where you can walk along almost all of its walls - stretching nearly 2 km.

*Located between the Black Sea and the Dniester estuary, the small village of **Shabo** is famous for its wine production. An ancient plant within the village is open for visitors to come and witness traditional methods of winemaking and taste wine that was made centuries ago.*

Overnight in Alexandrovsky Hotel, Odessa

Day 6

Odessa

Meals



Odessa

Travel to Nerubalske village, where you will spend the day exploring the tunnels of the Odessa catacombs. Return to Odessa, where the rest of the day will be free to spend at your leisure. Overnight stay in Odessa.

B

*The **Odessa Catacombs** are a network of tunnels that lie beneath Odessa and the surrounding region. These were formed as a result of stone mining and later widened by smugglers, reaching almost 60 metres below sea level. Although the labyrinth of tunnels is yet to be fully mapped, it is thought that there are around 1000 known entrances. A small portion of the catacombs are open to the public, and can be found in the Museum of Partisan Glory.*

Overnight in Alexandrovsky Hotel, Odessa

Day 7

Odessa - Kiev

Meals



Kiev

Make the journey on to Kiev, en route stopping at Pervomaysk (approximately 3 hours from Odessa) to visit the Museum of Strategic Missile Forces. You will spend 1.5 - 2 hours at the museum and then continue on to Kiev (approximate arrival time 17:00). Overnight stay in Kiev.

B

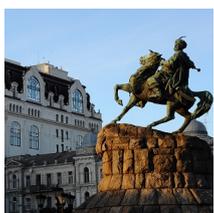
 The **Museum of Strategic Rocket Forces** is located near the Ukrainian town of Pervomaysk. Beginning in 1959, it posed as the divisional headquarters for the 46th Rocket Division during the Cold War, being home to many nuclear weapons and missiles. The Pervomaysk site remained in operation until 1997. Today, it remains almost exactly as it was, allowing visitors to tour the former secret USSR base. You can even sit in the seat of the missile launch control panel and simulate part of the missile launch procedure!

Overnight in Khreshatyk Hotel, Kiev

Day 8

Kiev

Meals



Kiev

Spend the morning touring the city of Kiev, seeing key sights such as Maidan Square, the Golden Gates and St. Michael's Golden-Domed Monastery. Later, visit the Cave Monastery of Lavra. Overnight stay in Kiev.

B

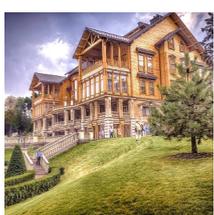
 Founded in the late 9th century, **Kiev** is one of the oldest cities in Europe that has played a pivotal role in Slavic civilisation and Orthodox Christianity. It is home to a myriad of architecturally important and historically significant monuments, some of which include the ornate St. Sophia Cathedral, St. Andrew's Church and the Golden Gates of Kiev.

Overnight in Khreshatyk Hotel, Kiev

Day 9

Kiev

Meals



Kiev -
 Mezhihiriya
 Palace/Museum
 of Corruption

Begin the day with a tour of Mezhihiriya Palace. Later, travel to the Chernobyl Museum, where you will spend the rest of the day. Overnight stay in Kiev.

B

 The **Chernobyl Museum** is dedicated to the 1986 disaster. It houses a variety of artifacts and scale models or visual media aimed to educate visitors about the nuclear accident of Chernobyl.

Mezhihiriya Palace (also known as the "Museum of Corruption") was once home to the former President of Ukraine, Viktor Yanukovich, who was forced to resign in 2014 during the Revolution of Dignity. Following this event, the Mezhihiriya residence opened to visitors as a modern-day palace, showcasing the luxurious presidential lifestyle. Set in 140 hectares, the palace required 2,000 staff and daily maintenance costs of \$75,000 to upkeep the facilities, which include a yacht pier, tennis courts and a helicopter pad.

Overnight in Khreshatyk Hotel, Kiev

Day 10

Kiev

Meals



Kiev

Travel to the Chernobyl Exclusion Zone, spending a full day touring the site. Later, return to Kiev where you will stay overnight.

Chernobyl lies within the **Chernobyl Exclusion Zone** and became famous after the Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant disaster in 1986. Today it is a ghost town, although a few residents still live in Chernobyl, marking their doors with signs saying 'owner of this house lives here'. Regulations have since been put in place to limit the dangers of exposure and to mitigate any long-term consequences of the Chernobyl catastrophe.

Overnight in Khreshatyk Hotel, Kiev

B L

Day 11

Kiev

Meals



Flight

Transfer to the airport where you will depart for your onward journey.

B