

## Ukraine (Україна) – 2009.

Kyiv  
Київ

Known as the 'mother of Slavic cities', Kyiv has plenty to offer from both the nation's lavish past and its new trappings of independence. Roam the cobbled streets and gain a valuable insight into the Ukraine's tragic history with a visit to the Chernobyl Museum. Another must see is The Lavra, which is the city's single most fascinating and extensive tourist site. Don't forget to leave some time to visit St Sophia's cathedral, St Michael's church, Podil, and Maydan Nezalezhnosti. Travelling around the city is easy using the metro.

LVIV  
Львів

Mysterious, edgy and architecturally lovely, Lviv boasts that it's Ukraine's least Soviet city. It may have a point. The city's Unesco World Heritage-listed centre was built like a rich layer cake of neoclassical architecture upon rococo, baroque, Renaissance and Gothic styles. There's nary a concrete Soviet apartment block in sight (in the centre at least), and it has a deep-rooted coffee-house culture that is oh-so-central European. Be captivated by the gracefully crumbling facades of Lviv's Old Town. Work up an appetite for delicious Ukrainian borscht with a walk through medieval Rynok Square or maybe up to High Castle Hill.

Kolomyya  
Коломия

Stay with a local family and join in with the cooking of Ukrainian delicacies. Peruse exquisite folk art including pysanky - eggs decorated with elaborate designs dating back to pre-Christian times. Located near the borders of Romania, Poland, Hungary and Slovakia, the Carpathians hold an eclectic mix of Eastern European cultures. Appreciate the immense natural beauty of this region with a hike in the hills.

CHERNIVTSI  
Чернівці

Admire the crumbling architecture of this once magnificent city. Especially worth mentioning is the university with its stunning red brickwork.

KAMYANETS-PODILSKY  
Кам'янець-Подільський

Dramatic, breath-taking and stunning are just a few words to describe this picturesque corner of Ukraine. The old town and the stunning fortress are a must see. The old town is a wonderful place to make your base so that you

can enjoy the peace and quiet once day visitors leave.

ODESA  
ОДЕСА

You want sea they got sea. Its famous Potemkin Steps sweep down to the Black Sea and Ukraine's biggest commercial port. Odesa is a hedonistic city with plenty for the visitor to see and do. From the wonderful architecture, to the many clubs that line the beaches. Take the cable car that runs from boulevard Frantsuzsky down to the beach then walk along Trassa Zdorovya. Stroll along bul. Prymorsky to enjoy that wonderful pastime 'people watching'. Local writer Issac babel claimed Odesa had 'more charm than any city in the Russian Empire' and that's probably true in modern-day Ukraine.

Vylkovo  
Вилково

A network of navigable canals has earned Vylkovo the moniker 'the Venice of Ukraine'. The comparison is far fetched to say the least. The sleepy fishing village of Vylkovo is as far removed from Venice as one can imagine. What Vylkovo does have going for it, however, is the wonderful Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve. The largest section of this marshy, bird-laden reserve (Europe's largest wetlands) lies in Romania, however the Ukrainian side has few foreign visitors those that do are rewarded with the opportunity visit the delta's unique waterways.