

Have you ever wondered how they celebrate a traditional Easter in Ukraine? Well now you can see for yourself!

Join one of Cobblestone Freeway's favourite tours - one that takes you through both modern cities and quiet mountain villages, to experience the most important holiday in Ukrainian culture from all perspectives!

Learn the traditions and customs from the locals themselves, prepare a traditional Easter basket, and spend Easter with the locals of Ukraine.

This unique tour will show you Easter like you've never seen it before – seeped in colour, customs, and living traditions, with a spirit that is infectious through every city and village.

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS:

- Easter Markets:** shop on the seasonal markets in Lviv.
- Cobblestone streets:** explore the quaint and beautiful city of Lviv.
- Easter Eggs:** visit the World's Only Pysanka/ Easter Egg Museum!
- Ancient Customs:** learn how to put together a traditional Easter Basket.
- Rich Traditions:** attend mass and celebrate Easter Sunday in a remote Carpathian Village.
- Hutsul home:** attend a traditional Easter lunch in the home of a Hutsul Family.
- Village visit:** meet locals and dance Haivky in the authentic Ukrainian village of Tulova.
- Magical Buildings:** marvel at the stunning University of Chernivtsi, a UNESCO World Heritage Site.
- Time Travel:** admire the Kamyanets-Podilskyi and Khotyn fortresses.
- Golden domes:** explore the beautiful capital of Ukraine – Kyiv.
- Cobblestone Exclusives:** attend private concerts, cultural events, and workshops exclusively for Cobblestone freeway travellers.



Day 1 TOUR START DATE | Lviv (-/-/D)

Welcome to Ukraine! Upon arrival in Lviv, you'll be met at the airport by your Tour Leader and chauffeured to your hotel, located in the heart of the city center.

*Your **Tour Leader** will be with you throughout your entire trip – every step of the way. More than just a guide - they will be your personal travel host, along with your private driver and vehicle. Together, they'll make sure you get where you need to go, and be available to stop when you need along the way. Not to mention, they'll show you the best places to eat, and help you with all the small details, from using the bank machines to showing you where to find the best gifts at the market - and negotiating for the best price! They'll share the best of Ukraine, tell you about its history, and show you the modern Ukraine. And if there are any problems, they will make sure everything gets worked out. You're in good hands!*

After check-in and some free time to freshen up, we will provide you with a **city orientation**, so you will know the closest exchange places, ATMs, and best souvenir and convenience stores.

Later on, we will enjoy a delicious **Welcome Dinner** in one of our favorite restaurants with traditional Ukrainian food!

Day 2 | Lviv (B/L/-)

Welcome to Lviv - an ancient, historic city in Western Ukraine that is quickly becoming one of the most popular tourist destinations in Ukraine, and for a good reason! With its quaint charm, cobblestone streets and classical architecture, you won't fail to be charmed by this city of love and UNESCO heritage site. famous for its beer, coffee and chocolate, but also for being a place where time stands still – Lviv truly is a city of a laid-back, café culture where you can pick a spot, relax, and watch the world go by...

In the morning after breakfast, we will take you on a **city tour** on a retro train, to get you acquainted with the rich culture and history of this city, followed by lunch in one of our favorite local restaurants.

Enjoy the rest of the afternoon on your own, with some free time to explore, and get some shopping time in at the seasonal **Easter Markets!** You'll be able to stock up on embroidered shirts, Easter eggs, handcrafted souvenirs, accessories and much more!

Use the time to get to know why Lviv is called the 'The City of Coffee' by drinking fragrant coffee in some of the city's unique coffee shops. Learn about the history, listen to the legends and enjoy the aromas of fresh grinded coffee with a piece of traditional Lviv cheesecake.

HOTEL:

Hotel 'Reikartz' or similar

<https://reikartz.com/en/hotels/medievale-lvov/>

3 Nights



The Destination

Day 3 | Lviv (B/L/-)

In the morning, we'll take you to see some of Lviv's attractions outside of the city centre. We'll take you on a tour around the famous **Lychakiv Cemetery**, a place where famous Ukrainian writers, politicians and public figures are buried. Next, a visit to **Shevchenkivsky Hai** open-air ethnography museum, which houses examples of traditional architecture from around Ukraine. To end our visit, enjoy an artisanal master class in straw weaving or Pysanka making – it will be extra special taking home a souvenir that you've made! Rest of the afternoon at your leisure.

Optional: Take a beer tour - you will be impressed with a wide range and taste variety of Lviv beer in the best breweries of the city! *(Tours must be arranged in advance. Please call our Cobblestone Freeway Office to book your add-ons at least 60 days prior to tour start date.)*

Day 4 | Lviv - Kolomyya - Kosiv (B/L/-)

In the morning, after breakfast and checkout, you'll be moving on to relax in **the Carpathian Mountains!**

On the way, we will visit quaint little town called **Kolomyya**. You will visit the world's only **Pysanka Museum**, and explore local arts & crafts in souvenir & antiques stores.

After lunch in Kolomyya, we'll continue on travelling to the mountains. Arriving in Kosiv, you'll have some free time to relax and freshen up.

Now that we are in the Carpathian Mountains, we'll begin our preparations for our Easter celebrations, including making your own **basket** to bless!

Take a **workshop** in the gardens of your hotel – learn about all the important elements of an Easter basket, the myths and legends behind them, ancient traditions handed down through generations, and learn how to construct a traditional Easter basket from a local expert. Evening at your leisure.

Day 5 EASTER SATURDAY | Kosiv (B/-/D)

This morning, we'll see something truly spectacular, with a visit to the famous **Kosiv Crafts Market**. Once a week vendors and artisans from the area get together to buy and sell art supplies, embroidery, antique stuff, food and even animals! Here you'll see locals buying the last few essential items for their **Easter Baskets**. Even if you don't buy something (which is quite unlikely) – it's a real experience! Enjoy a free afternoon to relax, before we get together in the evening for dinner.

Lviv - Carpathian Mountains

HOTEL:

Villa 'Zatyshna' or similar
<http://zatyshny.com.ua/sadyba/>
4 Nights



The Destination

Day 6 EASTER SUNDAY | Kosiv – Bukovets - Kosiv (B/L/-)

This morning, we'll set off up into the mountains, to the village of Bukovets, where we'll be celebrating Ukrainian **Easter Sunday**.

We'll attend **mass** in the village church and watch the locals having their baskets blessed – and bless our own! Soak up the sights and sounds of these ancient traditions, being carried out in this small village amongst the local people.

After, you are cordially invited to the **house** of a Hutsul family for **Easter celebrations!** Partake in ancient Ukrainian rituals and sample delicacies prepared specifically for the Easter festivities. We'll eat the blessed contents of our baskets, and taste some homemade vodka – made from Golden Root, which only grows above 2000ft! Hutsuls say it's good for your health! Experience true Carpathian hospitality as you sing songs and dance with locals.

Day 7 EASTER MONDAY | Kosiv – Kosmach - Kosiv (B/L/-)

Another Cobblestone **exclusive** awaits you today! In the mountain village of Kosmach, we will take part in some more traditional Easter **rituals** – **Hajivky**. These dances and songs were part of ancient customs of welcoming in spring, and blessing the upcoming sowings for a fruitful harvest. You will learn traditional songs and dances while meeting locals and seeing a traditional way of life!

Day 8 | Kosiv – Tulova - Chernivtsi (B/L/-)

Today, we'll check out and travel onwards to continue our Easter celebrations in the village of **Tulova**. Here the residents are keen to welcome you into their village, to show you around, and show you their day-to-day life. See how they live, eat local, homemade food, listen to live music, and learn Easter songs & dances from the villagers! You'll feel like a part of this big family!

Arrive in Chernivtsi in the evening. Upon arrival, we'll settle you in the centrally located hotel and conduct the city orientation, showing you the exchange places, ATMs, and the best restaurants with delicious Bukovynian food.

Day 9 | Chernivtsi (B/L/-)

Welcome to the heart of Bukovyna - Chernivtsi!

In the morning, after breakfast enjoy a leisurely walk around this beautiful, multicultural city on a **city tour**, and learn its long and varied history.

After, we'll pay a visit to the **famous Chernivtsi University** - the architectural ensemble of the main campus of the university, whose buildings are included on the list of UNESCO World Heritage Sites. We'll stop for lunch, take the rest till the evening to do some shopping, sitting in quaint coffee shops or simply relaxing at the hotel!

Carpathian Mountains - Chernivtsi

HOTEL:

Hotel 'Central Magnat' or similar

<https://central-magnat-cinema.hotels-of-ukraine.com/en/>

3 nights



The Destination

Chernivtsi - Kyiv

Day 10 | Chernivtsi – Kamianets Podilsky - Chernivtsi (B/-/D)

Today we are taking you on a time travel to the fortresses of **Khotyn** and **Kamyanets-Podilsky!** Not literally, of course, but you will get to see how the local princes and rulers lived hundreds of years ago. The different types of people that lived in Khotyn and Kamyanets-Podilskyi each brought their own culture and architecture, meaning that this place is steeped in history and culture.

Day 11 | Chernivtsi (B/L/-)

In the morning, we'll check out. Then take a free day for individual exploration in Chernivtsi. Stock up on snacks as, in the evening – we'll take an overnight train to Kyiv.

Day 12 | Kyiv (B/L/-)

Upon arrival, we will meet you at the train station and transfer to your hotel in the heart of the city. Enjoy some time to check in, relax, and have breakfast.

Your first impression of **Kyiv** is bound to be a surprise. Nowadays, Kyiv is not just a city of Golden Domes, exciting and historical museums and memorials, but it's also a cool, up-and-coming progressive city. Explore the old town, soak up the city's vibrant atmosphere, and treat yourself to some shopping at **Andriyivsky Uzviz** – a street that's home to the city's artisans, craftsmen and vendors – explore items starting from souvenir trinkets, to authentic costumes and war times memorabilia. Evening at leisure, but your guide will offer all kinds of suggestions where to go!

Day 13 | Kyiv (B/L/-)

To introduce you to the city, we'll take you on a **walking city tour** – you'll visit Independence Square, better now known as Maidan, a history changing place, where the Revolution of Dignity happened! We will visit world famous St. Sofia and St.Volodymyr's Cathedrals, see stunning views of the city from the Golden Gates of Kyiv. After, enjoy some free time for shopping on Khreshchatyk Street (Kyiv's shopping district), Maidan Nezalezhnosti (Independence Square), and much more!

Day 14 | Kyiv (B/-/D)

After breakfast, enjoy a visit to one of Kyiv's most important spiritual and architectural sights - the **Kyiv Lavra Cave Monastery**. The monastery's gold-domed churches are a real feast for the eyes! After, we'll visit a Kozak village - **Mamayeva Sloboda**. This is an open-air museum with authentic houses from the Kozak era, wooden churches and marvelous windmills. See and feel how the Kozak would have lived!

In the evening, enjoy one last Zabava to round off your trip! And it's going to be a good one!

Day 15 TOUR END DATE | Kyiv (B/-/-)

After a free morning to stock up on souvenirs we will transfer you to the airport where, sadly, we will have to say our goodbyes!

HOTEL:

Overnight train to Kyiv
1 night

Hotel 'Ukraina' or similar
<https://ukraine-hotel.kiev.ua/en/>
2 nights



Options while in Kyiv

Visit the Chernobyl Exclusion Zone and abandoned town of Prypiat.



Learn more about Ukraine's complicated past at the WW2 Memorial and Museum.



Visit poet Taras Shevchenko's Burial Place in Kaniv.



Marvel at the picturesque Tunnel of Love!



Visit Mezhehiria - the Museum of Corruption.



Take a river cruise down the Dnipro River.



Contact us to arrange your tour add-on today!

*not included in tour price.

Options while in Lviv

Explore Lviv's castles on a day tour!



Climb the High Castle Hill to get a panoramic view of the city!



Visit the weapon museum located in the former City Arsenal



Take a Ukrainian Cookery Class!



Taste the best varieties of local beer and learn its long history in Lvivarnya Beer Museum.



See a Performance at the beautiful Lviv Opera House.



Contact us to arrange your tour add-on today!

*not included in tour price.

Tour Details

WHAT'S INCLUDED:

- Airport Transfers
- All land transportation
- Escorted tour with full time Tour Leader
- Tour in English
- 2 meals a day
- 13 nights in hand-Selected hotels
- 1 overnight train Chernivtsi - Kyiv
- All Events included in the Itinerary
- Internet in hotels when possible
- Interaction with local artists, craftsmen, and performers
- Special events exclusively for Cobblestone travellers
- Cobblestone Freeway t-shirt



NOT INCLUDED:

- Extra days before/after the tour
- Events and Services not included in the itinerary or marked as **Optional**
- Alcoholic beverages
- Meals not listed in Itinerary
- Flights not listed in Itinerary
- Tips for guides / drivers/ maids
- Travel Insurance
- Laundry & Telephone Services

OPTIONAL ADD-ONS:

- Extend your trip
- Upgrade your room / Get a single room
- Do a side trip – visit Family
- Ukrainian Family History researched with our Genealogy service

On our Cobblestone Freeway Tour, enjoy:

Delicious, hand chosen local food, and more inclusions than most other tour operators



Enjoy exclusive Folk dance/ music performances



You will be escorted by a full-time Cobblestone Freeway Tour Leader



EASTER IN UKRAINE 2021 15 Days / 14 Nights

TOUR DATES & PRICES:

April 27 – May 11, 2021 \$2,841 USD
April 19 – May 3, 2022 \$3,125 USD

Prices subject to change.
Secure this price with your full \$500 USD deposit.

TOUR LAND PRICE:

Per Person, Based on Double Occupancy
Single Supplement \$ 870 USD

Early Bird Discount: Save \$200 USD if you
book at least 6 months prior to tour date.

Does not include Airfare or Travel Insurance



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Optional: Join our Bukovets Work Trip

A [Cobblestone Freeway Foundation](#) Project

You can support the local community, by joining our **Bukovets Work Trip** after your Easter in Ukraine Tour. This gives supporters of our Cobblestone Freeway Foundation the chance to actively participate in the aid of the Bukovets school in the Carpathian Mountains.

Day 1 | Lviv

Welcome to Ukraine! Arriving into Lviv, we'll get you settled and oriented. Then the next day – we set off for the Carpathian Mountains.

Day 2 | Lviv - Bukovets

Arriving into the Carpathian mountains, get settled into the mountain village of Bukovets. You'll be welcomed by a local Hutsul family, who will be your hosts during your time here.

The family are also closely connected to the school – they are the director & teacher at the school, which their children attend. Unfortunately, the school lacks the proper support & resources, and the school building itself is crumbling. This is where you come in. Tomorrow, we start work!

Days 3-7 | Bukovets

Volunteers will help continue renovations in the school dormitory, start renovations in the basement to restore a music hall for school concerts, as well as carry out other repair and maintenance work on the school. We will provide more details as the trip approaches.

Jobs will vary from day to day, from painting walls, hauling materials, helping with plumbing, or chatting with the children or teachers. Whatever skills you have, we will put them to use! You are free to opt in and out of any of the tasks. We will have a CFT Tour Leader with you at all times on the trip to make sure you feel safe and happy, and have a few Ukrainian foremen on site to direct the work and make sure you have everything you need. Regardless of what you'll be doing, you'll be making a huge impact on a very special community in Ukraine

Days 8-9 | Bukovets - Lviv

We'll return to Lviv for a final day before ending your journey in Ukraine!

Contact us for more details. *Not included in Easter in Ukraine tour price.

