

Christmas in Ukraine Tour

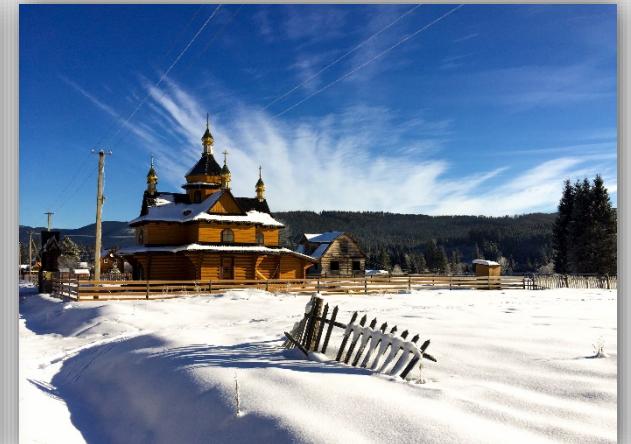
Experience ancient Ukrainian Christmas traditions!

Celebrate Christmas in Ukraine with us, amongst unique and ancient traditions, where the festive customs have remained unchanged for centuries - we guarantee you will see things you have never seen before, and will never see again!

Join the New Year's Eve celebrations in Lviv, before heading up into the snowy Carpathians for Ukrainian Christmas, to experience the taste and traditions of this quaint winter holiday - on this tour, you will see into the heart of this country and its vibrant culture. Take this tour with us, and you will see Christmas in a way you never thought possible!

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS:

- **Christmas Markets:** shop on the stunning seasonal markets in Lviv
- **New Year:** see in the New Year – Lviv style!
- **Cobblestone streets:** explore the quaint and beautiful city of Lviv
- **Magical Buildings:** marvel at the stunning University of Chernivtsi, a UNESCO World Heritage Site
- **Folk songs:** hear the wonderful Gerdan Ensemble perform in Chernivtsi
- **Village visit:** meet locals and learn to make 'varenyky' in the authentic Ukrainian village of Tulova
- **Rich Traditions:** celebrate Christmas Eve in a remote Carpathian Village with a Hutsul family
- **Ancient Customs:** join Ukrainian Christmas Day celebrations in Kryvorivnya
- **Snowy Slopes:** visit the biggest ski resort in Eastern Europe - Bukovel
- **Cobblestone Exclusives:** Attend private concerts, cultural events, and workshops exclusively for Cobblestone freeway travellers.



The Destination

Lviv

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 NEW YEAR'S EVE | Lviv (B/-/D)

It's New Year's Eve! Time to celebrate - but wait! First, you need to get to know this beautiful city a little bit better on a **city tour**... Lviv was considered the centre of the ancient historical region, Galicia. It has many names – Lemberg, the city of Lion, Lvov, – but under any name, Lviv has always been a city of love. The historic city centre, which is included on the UNESCO World Heritage List, with its antiquated buildings and cobblestoned streets, survived through Soviet and German occupations during the Second World War, and yet it still looks almost unharmed!

After an excursion, take some time to rest and relax before the evening's excitement. See in the **New Year the Lviv way**, with celebrations going on across the city - enjoy a delicious dinner followed by celebratory champagne and desserts.

HOTEL:

'Rudolfo' Hotel

<http://rudolfo.com.ua/>

3 Nights



The Destination

Chernivtsi

Day 3 | Lviv (B/-/-)

Happy New Year! Once the champagne has worn off, **take this day** to enjoy the sights Lviv has to offer.

Wander the narrow historical streets, visit the Lviv Opera House, or some of Lviv's many old churches. After a great fire, Lviv lost most of its Gothic-style buildings, but it maintained almost all the original, beautiful buildings from the Renaissance, Baroque and Classic periods.

Oh, and don't forget about Lviv's **Christmas Markets!** They are a sight in themselves! Shop on the open-air markets, try some delicious food or some mulled wine, and have the chance to pick up some souvenirs. We especially recommend you try some famous Lviv chocolate, or some of its aromatic coffee while you are here! Lviv's cosy cafes are the perfect place to relax and watch the world go by...

Day 4 | Lviv- Chernivtsi (B/L/-)

A new day – a new adventure! Today we are off to the city of Chernivtsi. Take in the beautiful scenery as we travel through the Ukrainian countryside...

On the way, we'll stop in the picturesque city of **Kolomyia** and visit the famous **Pysanka** (Ukrainian Decorated Egg) **museum** to admire the best works of this fascinating and rare art! You'll also get the chance to visit the only Museum of Hutsul Culture. Then – back on the road to Chernivtsi. Upon arrival we'll get you checked into your hotel, then take the evening to relax, or wander the streets of this beautiful city.

Day 5 | Chernivtsi (B/-/D)

Welcome to Chernivtsi! Historically a cosmopolitan community, Chernivtsi was once dubbed "Little Vienna" and "Jerusalem upon the Prut". Chernivtsi is currently twinned with seven other cities around the world, the city is also considered one of Ukraine's most important educational and architectural sites.

Today we'll head to one of the largest historical places in Chernivtsi - the **Chernivtsi University!** This Hogwarts-like collection of buildings was the residence of the Bukovinian and Dalmatian Metropolitans, and is even on the UNESCO World Heritage List! After wandering its historic buildings, take some time to wander Chernivtsi's picturesque streets - the rest of the day is yours for further exploration.

That evening – time for something incredible – a performance by the incredible **folk ensemble "Gerdan"**. Traditional authentic Ukrainian clothing, stunning artistic skills combined with warm, joyful music and an unparalleled energy - this is what you have to look forward to!

HOTELS:

'Allure Inn' Hotel

<http://allureinn.com/en/>

2 Nights



The Destination

Carpathian Mountains

Day 6 | Chernivtsi – Carpathian Mountains (B/L/-)

Today, we set off for the Carpathian Mountains... But not before a stop at the village of **Tulova**.

Tulova is a small old village, with a rich history and an age-old culture. Here you will get to meet the very occupants of the village – see inside their homes, try their homemade food, hear their stories, and learn about their Christmas traditions! We will try our hand at making our own borsch and varenyky, learn Ukrainian carols, visit the local church and much more. Experience Christmas in an authentic Ukrainian village – this will be unforgettable!

After, we will continue our journey up into the Carpathian Mountains. Upon arrival, we will check in at the hotel, and relax. Optionally Perhaps warm up and unwind in the sauna!

Day 7 | Kosiv (B/L/-)

Welcome to the beautiful **Carpathian Mountains**! Home to sweeping green forests, flowing rivers and breath-taking waterfalls – it's hard not to feel at-one with nature when you breathe in the fresh mountain air...

This morning you'll visit the famous **Kosiv Craft Bazaar**, to admire the very best hand-made goods of this fantastic region in a kaleidoscope of patterns and colours. Some of these items cannot be found anywhere else – so take a good look! Wool blankets, wooden carved chests, ornate plates, embroidered cloths, beaded décor and traditional clothing – you can buy anything and everything here. The Hutsuls joke, that you can even "buy Hell" at this market!

After a morning of shopping, we will pay a visit to the village of **Sheshory**. Sheshory is a picturesque Hutsul village, located in the Carpathians on the banks of the Pistinka river. Sheshory has been home to many masters of folk art, therefore much of the traditional Hutsul folklore, music and handicrafts have been preserved here. Nowadays the village actively takes part in developing green tourism. Here we will have a dinner at the restaurant on the shore of the picturesque Pistinka river. Relax, and take in the view.

HOTELS:

'Sokilske' hotel

<http://sokilske.com.ua/>

4 Nights



The Destination

Carpathian Mountains

Day 8 UKRAINIAN XMAS EVE | Carpathian Mountains (B/L/D)

In the morning, we will return to Kosiv: take the day to do some more exploring, and take the chance to get some more shopping done while you can!

This evening we will travel to the high mountain village Bukovets, to celebrate today's special event – **Ukrainian Christmas Eve**. Experience Christmas in an authentic Ukrainian village – this will be unforgettable!

You will get to meet the very occupants of the village – see inside their homes, hear their stories, and learn about their Christmas **traditions**. We'll try our hand at making traditional dumplings "varenyky" and "borshch" in preparation for a traditional Christmas Eve meal, or "Sviata Vechera".

On Christmas Eve, the supper is traditionally made up of 12 courses – one for each of Jesus Christ's apostles. Ukrainians fast over the Nativity, so there are certain foods that they abstain from eating during the Christmas Eve Supper - meat, eggs and milk (including cheese). But that doesn't mean that the meal has to be a boring one – it's still delicious! Instead the meal is comprised of dishes from fish, mushrooms and various types of grain.

Traditionally the meal starts with a dish called "Kutia" – this is made from crushed poppy seeds, mixed with wheat, nuts and honey. Poppy seeds are used in many of this festive supper's dishes, because they are considered to symbolise abundance and prosperity.

You'll of course try traditional borshch and holubtsi, among the 12 dishes, but one of the most popular dishes during the holiday is deep fried or boiled varenyky, with a variety of vegetarian fillings.

For dessert (if you have room!) - doughnuts filled with jam called pampushky.

Day 9 UKRAINIAN XMAS DAY | Carpathian Mountains (B/L/-)

Today is **Ukrainian Christmas Day** – to celebrate, we are going to be the guests in the village of **Kryvorivnya**.

We will visit an 18thC wooden Hutsul **church**, where we will be able to discover ancient traditions, and feel the Christmas spirit in the traditional Hutsul style. Learn some Christmas Carols and sing them in the street with the locals - did you know that the Ukrainian song "Shchedryk" became the basis for the world-famous Christmas carol, "Carol of the Bells"? Now you do!

After magical Christmas Day celebration, we will transfer to Bukovel Ski Resort.

HOTELS:

Bukovel 'Bukovel' hotel

<https://bukovel.com/en/>

2 Nights



The Destination

Carpathian Mountains - Lviv

Day 10 | Carpathian Mountains (B/-/D)

Bukovel is not only the most popular ski resort in the Ukrainian Carpathian Mountains, but is also the largest ski resort in Eastern Europe. Bukovel currently boasts 16 ski lifts with 60 km of tracks, of varying difficulties.

Take this amazing opportunity and take a day to make the most of the best Winter sports activities the Carpathians have to offer. Take your pick, from skiing to sleigh rides or just hiking in the mountains. You can even take up some lessons in the Bukovel Ski School!

The evening is at your leisure to relax and enjoy.

Day 11 | Carpathian Mountains (B/L/-)

Today we will visit **Yaremche** - one of the most famous tourist destinations of the Carpathian region. With its breath-taking mountain landscapes, pure air, unique Hutsul character and huge variety of activities, you can see why!

We will pay a visit to the **Yaremche Crafts Bazaar**, set above the torrents of the Prut River, where locals skilfully produce all kinds of local handicrafts - from Pysanky (Ukrainian Easter Eggs) to jewellery boxes, pottery and embroidery, leather goods and much more. Take some time to wander – wonder at the local architecture, with houses designed with long sloping roofs, and old wooden churches... Visit the Yaremche rail viaduct, which travels over the Prut Valley 30 meters (98 feet) above the ground!

The rest of the afternoon is yours to enjoy – maybe take another go on the ski slopes, or just relax by the hotel fire with a Glühwein...

Day 12 | Lviv (B/-/D)

We will be ending our trip back where we started - the lovely city of **Lviv**. After a drive back from the Carpathians to Lviv, take some time to relax, do some last bits of shopping - maybe visit an art gallery or museum, or climb the Lviv Town Hall tower for a panoramic view of this lovely city.

In the evening, time for a fun-filled farewell dinner to say goodbye to this beautiful city in style!

Day 13 TOUR END DATE | Lviv (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:

'Rudolfo' hotel

<http://rudolfo.com.ua/?lang=en>

1 Night

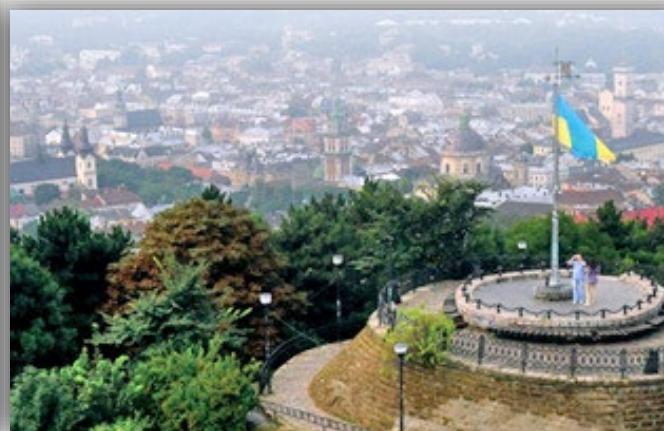


Options while in Lviv

Take a tour of Lviv's castles on a day tour!



Climb the High Castle Hill to get scenic 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.



Make chocolate candies at a workshop at Lviv Handmade Chocolate Factory.



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
- 12 nights in hand-Selected hotels
- 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



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

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

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



CHRISTMAS IN UKRAINE TOUR 13 Days / 12 Nights

TOUR DATES & PRICES:

Dec 30, 2022 - Jan 11, 2023	\$3,298 USD
Dec 30, 2023 - Jan 11, 2024	\$3,679 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 =
2022-23: \$620 USD | 2023-24: \$650 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

Click Here to Book Now!



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