

Ukraine is a country of great variety, the product of thousands of years of traditions and resilience.

This journey takes you right through the heart of Ukraine, from its ancient, magnificent capital - Kyiv, thriving Poltava, where the history of nations were decided; through the Kozak stronghold of Zaporizhia, to the wide Black Sea, and grand Odesa!

From famous Kozaks to famous writers, Central Ukraine is the birthplace of Ukraine's cultural renaissance, home of the Hopak and an undiscovered gem, which you can discover with us.

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS:

- Visit UNESCO World Heritage sites in Kyiv
- Spend a night in a village museum in Velyki Sorochyntsi, the home of Gogol
- Explore Poltava and learn about a battle that changed history
- Step back in time on Khortytsia island – the first ever Kozak state
- Enjoy a tour and wine tasting at Ukraine's best Winery in Shabo, near Odesa
- Attend private concerts and cultural events exclusively for Cobblestone Freeway travelers



Day 1| Kyiv (-/-/D)

Welcome to Ukraine and its beautiful capital Kyiv.

Upon arrival, you'll be met at the airport and transferred to your hotel accompanied by a Cobblestone representative. Check-in at the centrally located hotel.

We will provide you a **city orientation**, so you will know the closest exchange places, ATMs, best souvenir stores and the restaurants with most delicious food!

Afterwards, you will be taken out to a traditional **Kyiv Style Dinner** at one of the best restaurants in the downtown!

Day 2 | Kyiv (B/L/-)

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.

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'll also walk down the **Khreshchatyk Street** – the most famous and well-trodden street, which runs along the chestnut alley.

Next up, you will be also taken through iconic sights like St. Michael's Golden-Domed Monastery and **St. Sophia's Cathedral**, which dates back to the 10th century!

After the city tour let your feet rest during lunch in one of many fantastic restaurants with delicious Ukrainian cuisine! Then treat yourself to a **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!

HOTEL:

'Khreshchatyk' Hotel

<http://www.hotel-khreschatyk.kiev.ua/en>

3 Nights



Day 3 | Kyiv (B/-/D)

In the morning, visit **Kyiv Pechersk Lavra** –another Orthodox pilgrimage destination. Founded more than a thousand years ago and set on the hills above the Dnipro River, this monastery astonishes tourists with its gold-domed churches, ancient icons and underground labyrinths lined with mummified monks!

Next, we'll take you for lunch to the restaurant made in a style of a traditional Ukrainian ancient house. To end the city exploration – visit **Holodomor museum** devoted to one of the most terrible crimes against Ukrainian nation – famine.

Afterwards, we'll drive you to the hotel and then give the recommendations how to spend your free evening.

Day 4 | Kyiv – Velyki Sorochyntsi (B/L/-)

Travel to Velyki Sorochyntsi.

On our way we will visit one of the oldest Historical and Cultural Reserves of Ukraine-Kaniv, where the burial place and the Memorial Museum of the great Ukrainian poet Taras Shevchenko are situated. Admire a splendid panorama of the Kaniv Reservoir from Tarasova (Chernecha) Hill, explore the Taras Shevchenko Museum and a folk museum Tarasova Svitlytsia. Discover interesting facts about the life and the work of the prominent Ukrainian poet and artist to understand better his important role in the world literature.

Upon arrival to Velyki Sorochyntsi – we will take you Poltava village style hotel, located in the very heart of Velyki Sorochyntsi village on the bank of Psel river. The place is devoted to an outstanding Ukrainian writer Mylola Hohol, who was born in this village and is well-cherished by locals for praising Ukrainian culture, customs and rituals.

The village consists of five traditional Ukrainian houses, which are designed as the museums that hold lots of household exhibits of 18th century of Central Ukraine.

In the evening, participate at traditional Poltava Style Zabava, which will be organized specifically for you! Enjoy the performance of the local band and treat yourself to rich dinner!

HOTEL:

'Hohol's village' Hotel

<http://gogol-hotel.com/>

1 Night



Day 5 | Poltava (B/L/-)

In the morning, check out and continue on exploring this picturesque area. We will head to Opishnya village that is considered to be the pottery capital of Ukraine. From the ancient times the village has been known for its talented artists. At the end of the 19th century there were more than 1000 potters living in Opishnya, whose ceramic works were exported to all the continents. That's why there were no doubts where to build the biggest Pottery Museum in Ukraine. You will have an opportunity not just to visit the museum, but to try yourself at pottery while talking a private workshop.

Lunch after the excursion and the workshop.

Next destination on our way to Poltava will be the village of Dykanka, famous among Ukrainians for its cultural significance. The location became iconic after Mykola Hohol published his collection of short stories 'Evenings on a Farm Near Dykanka'. As the writer was born in the region, travelling to Dykanka is also a nice chance to explore Hohol's motherland.

Then we'll hit the road again and drive to Poltava. Once we arrive, we'll check you in and conduct a brief city orientation.

Day 6 | Poltava (B/L/-)

On this day we will get acquainted with Poltava stunning historical center. Take a walking tour on the battle grounds of the 1709 Battle of Poltava – it decided the fate of individual nations and states for decades, or even centuries – magical place has something special in itself and certainly worth visiting. Afterwards, we'll treat you to lunch.

Today we will also prove that Poltava is considered to be not just the historical heart of Ukraine, but cultural as well. A lot of sights in Poltava are connected with the name of another classical Ukrainian writer and dramatist Ivan Kotlyarevskiy, who lived here and created his biggest masterpiece – "Aeneid". His Museum-Mansion, where we'll take you for the excursion is the replica of the real mansion, where the writer lived. The memorial complex, fenced with flower-twined paling, consists of dwelling house – the typical Ukrainian hut from the 18th century. After the museum – you'll be driven to the hotel. Evening at leisure!

Day 7 | Poltava – Zaporizhia (B/L/-)

After morning check out from the hotel we will travel to Zaporizhia. Driving to Zaporizhia you'll be passing by beautiful sceneries of the fields, villages and towns, observing the locals' everyday life. On our way we will stop for lunch. Upon arrival, spend the rest of this day on your own discretion.

HOTEL:

'Reikartz Gallery' Hotel

http://www.galery.com.ua/en_main.php

2 Nights

'Hotel 'Reikart' Hotel

<https://reikartz.com/ru/hotels/zaporozhye/>

3 Nights



Day 8 | Zaporizhia (B/L/-)

Zaporizhia is a large industrial city in the southwest of Ukraine. It is not only a hotbed of massive plants and factories, but also a historically valuable region. Since the ancient times Zaporizhzhya was considered as the cradle of Kozaks and the symbol of true courage. Region itself has always represented the aspirations of Ukrainian people for freedom and independence, and its long history - the well of secrets and mysteries of different ages.

In the morning – **excursion to Khortytsia island**. This place reproduced the atmosphere of Kozak's times and striking in its realism. Thereafter, familiarize with Kozak's main weapon and technique of its use on sabers workshop. Afternoon - excursion to Museum of Zaporozhia Kozak's history.

Afterwards, take an excursion by the motor ship around Khortytsia Island, enjoying the spectacular views of the famous bridges, the Dnipro River and the nature around the island itself. During this boat trip you will get lots of positive emotions and learn interesting facts about Khortytsia and Zaporizhia. The passage through the gateway with a water level drop of 38 meters will spice the trip up a bit. But no worries – it's absolutely safe! The duration of the boat trip varies from 1.5 to 2hrs.

Day 9 | Zaporizhia (B/L/-)

The turning point in the history of this industrial city started in 1927 when the Soviet authorities decided to build the Dnipro Hydroelectric Station. It served the basis of the entire metallurgical, chemical and machine-building industrial complex in Zaporizhia.

Today we will take you on an **Industrial tour to DniproHES** as it's a unique chance to visit the largest hydroelectric power station on Dnieper River.

The excursion will include visits to Control Center of DniproHES and view of modern and historical remote controls of the station; viewpoint with panoramic view of Turbine Room building. You'll have an opportunity to visit the Turbine Room with view of turbines and a small turbine starter, ending with a panoramic view of DniproHES.

Day 10 | Zaporizhia - Odesa (B/L/-)

Today we will leave the Kozak city of Zaporizhia and set of for Odesa, the pearl on the coast of the Black Sea. Free morning, and then we'll drive you to the airport to catch the flight to Odesa.

Departure time: 1:25pm – arrival time 4:30pm

1 hour layover in Kyiv.

Upon arrival in Odesa, you will be met and transferred to your hotel at the very city centre. Take some time to refresh and unpack your suitcases, then we will head out into the city for a city orientation tour.



Day 11 | Odesa (B/L/-)

Welcome to the beautiful city of Odesa. In the morning get ready for the city tour – you will have a chance to enjoy a leisurely walk through the city, learning its history and visiting the main tourist sites, including the Potiomkin Stairs, Derybasivska Street, and the local quay. After an excursion our Cobblestone guide will point you to one of many delicious local restaurants to have lunch.

Spend evening by exploring the city and taking some cool pictures of amazing Odesa!

Day 12 | Odesa (B/L/-)

Free day for individual exploration, shopping or just relax at the beach.
Traditional Zabava, featured with a local band and rich dinner!

Day 13 | Odesa (B/L/-)

There probably isn't anyone who wouldn't enjoy what we have planned for today! We will take you to a small town called Shabo! You will get a tour of the premises, participate in a wine tasting with tips from a professional sommelier and then visit a gift shop to buy the products you enjoyed the most! There is a great restaurant there too, so you have time to enjoy lunch too. Afterwards, relax near the sea. Check whether you took swimsuits with yourselves, as we will have time for swimming and sunbathing. Free evening.

Day 14 | Odesa (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! Thank you for travelling with Cobblestone Freeway!

OPTIONAL THINGS TO SEE & DO IN ODESA:

#1 Discover mysterious Odesa Catacombs on a tour

The catacombs are a large, winding labyrinth filled with hidden caves, located right under Odesa. Its length is about 2500 km and it's the largest underground labyrinth in the world!

#2 Enjoy different kinds of shopping

If you want to do authentic shopping – you should definitely pay a visit Pryvoz market, a visit card of Odesa. Alternatively, visit the Passage - a covered street of chic shops with impressive facades!

OPTION: Join our Western Ukraine Tour!

Before exploring Central Ukraine, you can start your journey on our Western Ukraine Tour, which seamlessly pairs with this tour, to let you get the most out of your time in the country.

14 days | Lviv – Ivano-Frankivsk – Carpathian Mountains – Chernivtsi – Ternopil - Lviv

*Unforeseen events and new discoveries may result in changes to this itinerary, but only for the better! We take care of the details so all you have to do is enjoy your amazing travel experience.

HOTEL:

'Bristol' Hotel

<http://bristol-hotel.com.ua/en>

4 Nights



Tour Details

WHAT'S INCLUDED:

- Escorted tour from beginning to the end with full time Cobblestone Tour Leader
- All Events included in the Itinerary
- 2 big meals a day
- All land transportation in an air conditioned quality bus with professional driver
- 13 nights in comfortable character rich 4 & 5 star hotels
- Internet in hotels when possible
- 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 and some meals
- Travel Insurance
- Laundry & Telephone Services

OPTIONAL ADD-ONS:

- Extend your trip – see above!
- Upgrade your room / Get a single room
- Do a side trip – visit Family
- Ukraine Genealogy, have your Family History researched

On our Cobblestone Freeway Tour, enjoy:

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



Enjoy exclusive Folk dance/
music performances



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



“NEW” CENTRAL UKRAINE TOUR 14 Days / 13 Nights

2020 TOUR DATES & PRICES:

May 26 - June 8, 2020*	\$3145 USD*
July 29 - August 11, 2020	\$3377 USD
Sep 30 - Oct 13, 2020	\$3377 USD

* Value Season

TOUR LAND PRICE:

Per Person, Based on Double Occupancy
Single Supplement \$ 720 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