

Discover the beating heart of Ukraine.

Ukraine is a country of great variety, and the product of thousands of years of traditions and resilience. This journey takes you right through the heart of Ukraine. You will experience 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.

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:

- **Golden domes:** explore the beautiful capital of Ukraine – Kyiv
- **Ukrainian Village:** spend a night in a village museum in Velyki Sorochyntsi
- **Mykola Hohol:** visit the home of the famous writer, and the villages that inspired him
- **Unique pottery:** take a pottery workshop in the village of Opishnya
- **Time Travel:** explore Poltava and learn about a battle that changed history
- **Ukrainian Kozaks:** step back in time on Khortytsia island – the first ever Kozak state
- **Black Sea:** visit the stunning coastal city of Odesa
- **Wine Tasting:** enjoy a winery tour and wine tasting at Shabo near Odesa
- **Cobblestone Exclusives:** attend private concerts, cultural events, and workshops exclusively for Cobblestone freeway travellers



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

Welcome to Ukraine! Upon arrival in Kyiv, 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 | 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!

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, we'll stop for lunch in one of Kyiv's many fantastic restaurants.

Afterwards, enjoy a free afternoon. Treat yourself to a **shopping** at Andriyivsky Uzviz – a street that's home to the city's artisans, craftsmen and vendors – discover all kinds of items, from souvenir trinkets, to authentic costumes and war time memorabilia.

Evening at your leisure, but your guide will offer all kinds of suggestions of where to go!

HOTEL:

Hotel 'Khreshchatyk'

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

3 Nights



Day 3 | Kyiv (B/-/D)

Today we'll visit the **Kyiv Pechersk Lavra**. 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 at a restaurant, in the style of a traditional Ukrainian house.

After, we'll visit the **Holodomor museum**. Here we will pay our respects to those who suffered one of the most terrible crimes against the Ukrainian nation – famine. Learn about the tragedy at the underground museum before walking around the memorial park, and taking a moment to reflect at the monument. Evening at your leisure.

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

Today we'll travel to **Velyki Sorochyntsi**.

On our way we will visit one of the oldest Historical and Cultural Reserves of Ukraine – **Kaniv**. This is the burial place and the Memorial Museum of the great Ukrainian poet Taras Shevchenko. 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 this prominent Ukrainian poet and artist to understand better his important role in the world literature.

Velyki Sorochyntsi 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.

Upon arrival to Velyki Sorochyntsi – we will take you to “**Khutir Hoholya**”. This village stay & museum was created as a celebration of Ukrainian Village culture, and exists as a way for visitors – both national and international tourists – to experience age-old village life first hand! This museum is an authentic recreation and a living museum, and reflects the writings and musing of Hohol!

In the evening, participate at traditional **Poltava Style Zabava**! Eat authentic food, listen to live music, surrounded by welcoming hosts in traditional costumes and an energetic atmosphere! Party like a local, before retiring to your house – don't worry, it has some home comforts too!

HOTEL:

'Hohol's village' Hotel

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

1 Night



Day 5 | Poltava (B/L/-)

This morning we'll exploring this picturesque area - we will head to **Opishnya** village, considered to be the pottery capital of Ukraine. From long ago, this 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 your hand at pottery yourself, while talking a **pottery workshop!**

Lunch after the excursion and the workshop.

Next stop is 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/-)

Welcome to Poltava! Today we'll get to know the history and culture of this wonderful Central Ukrainian city. We'll take a walking tour on the battle grounds of the **1709 Battle of Poltava**. This battle decided the fate of many individual nations and states for decades, or even centuries after it happened. Feel the power of this place and the history it created. Afterwards, we'll treat you to lunch.

Today we will also show you 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 Kotlyarevskyi**, who lived here and created his biggest masterpiece - "Aeneid".

His Museum-Mansion, where we'll take you for the excursion, is the replica of his real mansion, where he lived. The memorial complex, also is home to typical Ukrainian village houses from the 18th century. After the museum - you'll be driven to the hotel. Evening at your leisure!

Day 7 | Poltava - Zaporizhia (B/L/-)

This morning we will check out from the hotel, and travel to **Zaporizhia**. Driving to Zaporizhia you'll pass by beautiful scenery, of golden fields, quaint villages and towns, observing the locals' everyday life. On our way we will stop for lunch. Upon arrival, spend the rest of this day relaxing at your leisure.

HOTELS:

'Reikartz Gallery' Hotel | Poltava

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

2 Nights



The Destination

Zaporizhia

Day 8 | Zaporizhia (B/L/-)

Zaporizhia is a large industrial city in the southwest of Ukraine. It is not only a hotbed of modern industry, but also a historically valuable region. Since ancient times Zaporizhia was considered the cradle of The Kozaks (also Cossacks), who are legendary in Ukraine. This fierce group of warriors ruled a vast territory, and struck fear into the hearts of all civilizations. They had great influence on the history, culture, and psychology of modern day Ukraine! They created a stronghold called the “Zaporozhian Sich” on a small island on the Dnipro River.

Today a recreation of the Sich stands on the **Khortytsia island** near Zaporizhia, and Kozaks still live there today! Today we'll take an **excursion to Khortytsia island** and the **Sich**.

Get to know the Kozaks' main weapon and technique of its use, in a **sabers workshop** with real Kozaks! In the afternoon – learn more at the Museum of Zaporozhian Kozak history.

Afterwards, take a **boat tour** around Khortytsia Island, enjoying the spectacular views of the famous bridges, the Dnipro River and the nature around the island itself.

Afternoon at your leisure.

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 (HES). This immense structure 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** - 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 see the modern and historical controls of the station. You'll have the 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 off for **Odesa**, the pearl of the Black Sea. Enjoy a free morning, and then we'll drive you to the airport to catch a flight to Odesa, with a 1-hour layover in Kyiv.

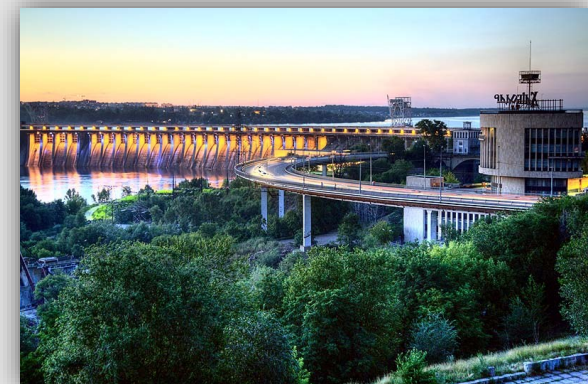
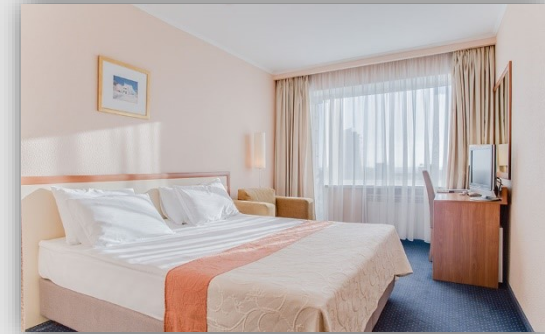
Upon arrival in Odesa, you will be met and transferred to your hotel at the very city centre. Take some time to refresh and unpack your suitcases, then we will head out into the city for a city orientation tour.

HOTEL:

'Hotel 'Reikartz' Hotel

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

3 Nights



Day 11 | Odesa (B/L/-)

Odesa – known as the Pearl of the Black Sea, is a blossoming, cosmopolitan city, and historic Black Sea Port. Immigrants from all over Europe were invited to make their fortune here when Odesa was founded in the late 18th century by Russia's Catherine the Great, meaning that Odesa is one of the most multicultural cities in Ukraine –you will feel its unique vibe as you wander its eclectic streets stunning buildings, and the famous Potemkin steps which sweep down to the glistening Black Sea.

Upon arrival, we'll get you checked into your hotel, take some time to freshen up and grab some breakfast.

Then we'll enjoy a leisurely walk through the city, on a **city tour**! See the most prominent places around Odesa – including the **Potemkin Steps**, which create a fascinating illusion as you look out over the Black Sea, and Derybasivska Street, the bustling hub of the city. After, we'll stop for lunch in one of the many delicious local restaurants. In the afternoon, take some time to explore, relax, or sunbathe by the sea...

In the evening, we recommend you try out one of the many seafood restaurants in Odesa - your guide can help you chose one! The rest of the evening is at your leisure.

Day 12 | Odesa (B/-/D)

Free day for individual exploration, shopping or just relax at the beach.

In the evening, we'll enjoy a traditional Odesan Zabava, with entertainment by a local band and a delicious dinner of local delicacies! Try "forshmak" – a local dish of ground herring, traditionally eaten as a spread on bread! Tastier than it sounds, we promise!

Day 13 | Odesa (B/L/-)

For those who enjoy delicious wines, today is your lucky day! Today, the small town of **Shabo** will open its doors to us... Shabo is home to its own **winery and wine factory**, where we will take a tour of the winery, and learn how they make their world famous products – from vineyard to factory shop! Shabo's wine is famous around the world for its quality and exceptional taste – you're lucky enough to be able to try some of their fabulous products at a **wine tasting**, with tips from a professional sommelier! If you like it enough, you can even purchase some to take a taste of Odesa home! After the tour we will return to Odesa, where you can enjoy a leisurely evening of rest and relaxation.

Day 14 TOUR END DATE | 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!

HOTEL:

'Londonskaya' Hotel

<https://londonskaya-hotel.com.ua/en/>

3 Nights



Options while in Odesa

See a Performance at the beautiful Odesa Opera.



Discover the mysterious Odesa Catacombs on an underground tour.



Shop at the local Pryvoz Market.



Hit the beach! Take a day to relax by the Black Sea.



Learn about Odesa's dark past on a Criminal Odesa Tour.



Taste the local liquors, beers and wines in Odesa's best bars!



Contact us to arrange your tour add-on today!

*not included in tour price.

Options while in Kyiv

Visit the Chernobyl Exclusion Zone and abandoned town of Prypiat.



Be a Kozak for a day at the Mamajeva Sloboda Kozak Village!



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.

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
- Flight Zaporizhia - Odesa
- 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



CENTRAL UKRAINE TOUR 14 Days / 13 Nights

TOUR DATES & PRICES:

July 4 – July 17, 2022	\$3,969 USD
Oct 3 – Oct 16, 2022 G	\$3,969 USD
July 4 – July 17, 2023	\$4,365 USD
Oct 3 – Oct 16, 2023 G	\$4,365 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: \$820 USD | 2023: \$850 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



(780) 436-7482



www.cobblestonefreeway.ca



info@cobblestonefreeway.ca



10515 - 111 Street NW Edmonton, Alberta, Canada T5H 3E8



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. See more details below!

OPTION: Join our Western Ukraine Tour!

Combine our two incredible tours on our UKRAINIAN COMBO TOUR: 28 Days / 27 Nights

START in LVIV with the WESTERN UKRAINE TOUR

See all the western highlights of Ukraine - ranging from the magnificent cathedrals in Lviv, to the quaint mountain villages of the Carpathian Mountains, the multicultural Chernivtsi and the 'Paris of Ukraine' – the beautiful Lviv.

Tour Transition (\$200USD value, included for free!)

After the Western Ukraine Tour ends, we'll put you on a comfortable, fast train from Lviv to Kyiv in time for the start of the Central Ukraine Tour. Extra hotels and transfers included – on us!

TRAVEL from KYIV to ODESA on our CENTRAL UKRAINE TOUR

Central Ukraine is our new Cobblestone Freeway favorite! From the Magnificence of Kyiv and its domed churches to the international flair of Odesa. Experience the heartbeat of Ukraine and step back in time to the land of Kozaks.



UKRAINIAN COMBO: WESTERN & CENTRAL UKRAINE TOURS

TOUR DATES & PRICES:

Combined Tour Dates 2022

Western Ukraine: June 20 – July 3/ Sept 19 – Oct 2	\$3,652 USD	
Transition between tours (\$200 USD value)	\$0 USD	\$7,621 USD
Central Ukraine: July 4 – 17/Oct 3–16	\$3,969 USD	Total

Combined Tour Dates 2023

Western Ukraine: June 20 – July 3/Sept 19–Oct 2	\$3,995 USD	
Transition between tours (\$200 USD value)	\$0 USD	\$8,360 USD
Central Ukraine: July 4–17/Oct 3–16	\$4,365 USD	Total

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

TOUR LAND PRICES:

Per Person, Based on Double Occupancy

Combined Single Supplement 2022: \$ 1,520 USD

Combined Single Supplement 2023: \$ 1,580 USD

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

Does not include Airfare or Travel Insurance

\$500 USD per person, per tour deposit required upon registration.