

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS:

Celebrate Ukrainian New Year 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! Celebrate a traditional Ukrainian Christmas in the wintery Carpathian Mountains, before marvelling at the colourful spectacle of the Malanka Festival in Chernivtsi. Learn Ukrainian traditions, see the stunning, colourful costumes, and experience the local people at their most festive – on this tour, you will see into the heart of this country and its vibrant culture. You'll be taking home some amazing, colourful memories from this tour – other New Year's celebrations just don't compare!

- **Festive Parade:** experience a unique and colourful Malanka parade in Krasnolisk and Chernivtsi – a feast for all your senses!
- **Christmas Markets:** shop on the stunning seasonal markets in Lviv
- **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
- **Magical Buildings:** marvel at the stunning University of Chernivtsi, a UNESCO World Heritage Site
- **Village visit:** meet locals and learn to make 'varenyky' in the authentic Ukrainian village of Tulova
- **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/-)

Experience winter in one of Ukraine's most beautiful cities: today you'll 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!

Next up – free time! Take advantage of shopping in the city! We'll let you loose on Lviv's shimmering **Christmas Markets**! Visit the thriving Christmas Markets to sample some Ukrainian donuts, pick up some local delicacies, or shop for handmade delights or souvenirs.

Take the rest of the day to explore: skate on the ice-rink in the main square, drink mulled wine, while wandering the cobblestoned streets under the glistening lights!

HOTEL:

'Rudolfo' Hotel

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

2 Nights



The Destination

Day 3 | Lviv – Carpathian Mountains (B/L/-)

A new day – a new adventure! Today we are off to the beautiful **Carpathian Mountains**... Take in the beautiful scenery as we travel through the wintery Ukrainian countryside – not many places can look this beautiful in winter! Snow covered mountains and glistening icicles, the beauty of the Carpathians is a sight to behold!

On the way, we'll stop in the picturesque city of **Kolomyya** and visit the famous **Pysanka** (Ukrainian Decorated Egg) **Museum** and the Museum of Hutsul Culture.

Then – back on the road to Kosiv. Upon arrival we'll get you checked into your hotel, then take the evening to relax by a warm fire with a mulled, or take a walk to admire the stunning winter scenery.

Day 4 UKRAINIAN CHRISTMAS EVE | Carpathian Mountains (B/-/D)

Today is Ukrainian Christmas Eve, or “Sviat Ve chir” - a day soaked in tradition and flavour! Take the morning to relax – wander around **Kosiv**, spend some time with the locals as they prepare for their Christmas Eve celebrations, or just enjoy the view of the mountains.

This evening we will 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 Ve chera”. 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 a 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.

Carpathian Mountains

HOTELS:

'Sokilske' hotel

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

3 Nights



The Destination

Day 5 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!

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

Take the morning to relax and do some last bits of shopping in Kosiv before we check out and carry on our journey.

We’ll transfer to **Bukovel**, where you can take the rest of day to relax and enjoy the beautiful mountain scenery – go for a relaxing wintery walk, or take the ski lift to enjoy stunning panoramic views of the Carpathian Mountains.

Day 7 | Carpathian Mountains (B/L/-)

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 8 | 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.

Visit the Yaremche rail viaduct, which travels over the Prut Valley 30 meters (98 feet) above the ground!

Carpathian Mountains

HOTELS:

Bukovel ‘Bukovel’ hotel

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

4 Nights



The Destination

Chernivtsi

Day 9 | Carpathian Mountains (B/L/D)

Take today to relax and explore Bukovel before all the excitement of **Malanka** starts!

Bukovel has a whole host of activities in its resorts, so you won't be stuck for what to do! Relax in the sauna, or treat yourself to a massage (not included). Take the chance to go skiing, take a walk up into the snowy mountains, relax by the fire with a gluhwein, and admire the beautiful mountain scenery.

This evening, we'll round off our trip to the Carpathians with a well-earned traditional meal and **Zabava!**

Day 10 | Carpathian Mountains - Chernivtsi (B/L/-)

Today, we set off for Chernivtsi... 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 to the capital of Bukovyna, Chernivtsi.

Day 11 | Chernivtsi (B/L/-)

Today we will get chance to properly explore **Chernivtsi!**

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.

Day 12 | Chernivtsi (B/-/D)

If you thought the Christmas celebrations in Ukraine were good, then get ready for what's next - Ukrainian New Year! Ukrainian New Year, or "Malanka" is a hypnotic festival of colour, culture and tradition – it's a feast for all your senses!

This celebration is so deeply embedded in Ukrainian identity and culture, that no one is quite sure exactly where it came from or how old it is, but over time it has developed and evolved from a variation of a Pagan celebration, to a huge New Year celebration.

The main event of this celebration is a parade through the village of **Krasnoilsk**. The entire village turns out on New Years Eve, which falls on January 13th, to celebrate this festivity. The celebrations start at nightfall on the 13th and continue through the night into the day of the 14th – New Years Day. This experience will blow you away – the people and parade seem to have come from a parallel world in a pageant of brightly coloured costumes and bewitching performances.

HOTELS:

'Allure Inn' Hotel

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

4 Nights



Day 13 | Chernivtsi (B/L/-)

Today we will continue the **Malanka celebration in Chernivtsi**.

Malanka is mostly a rural celebration but lately it has begun to make its way into cities as well, and Chernivtsi has held its own Malanka festival every year since 2011. The Malanok Festival in Chernivtsi is a unique event featuring Ukrainian, Bessarabian, Hutsul, Moldovan, and Romanian Malanka traditions, and the entire city turns out to celebrate this festivity.

Firstly, a carnival procession of the participants of the Festival fill the streets of the city – just as in Krasnolisk, there are multiple colourful characters, but this time accompanied by bigger, more decadent floats, and unlike Krasna Malanka, Malanka Fest in Chernivtsi features lots of elements of pop culture. These floats and characters compete against each other for the title of the Best Float every year - experienced ethnographers, art historians, and cultural experts watch the performances of the groups and choose who they deem best. So get ready for a parade like you've never seen before! Followed by concerts and stage performances, all in the beautiful cultural hub of Chernivtsi!

Day 14 | Chernivtsi - 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 15 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



OPTIONAL – Extend your Trip with a few days in Kyiv! See below for details!

Suggestion to extend your trip

OPTION: 3 Day Kyiv Post-Tour Extension

Day 15 | Sunday, January 17 (Optional)

After an overnight train from Lviv – Kyiv, we'll introduce you to **Kyiv**, and its fascinating history, architecture and traditions, we'll take you to see its main, iconic sights - visit Independence Square, we will wander down Khreshchatyk Street – the main 'artery' of Kyiv, and the widest, yet shortest main street in the world! Not forgetting, Kyiv's beautiful **Christmas Markets!** Explore the city centre under glistening Christmas lights, while listening to carollers and enjoying the festive spirit.

Day 16 | Monday, January 18 (Optional)

After breakfast, we will take you on a **City Tour** of Kyiv's most prominent historic sites. Admire the beautiful St. Volodymyr's Cathedral, step back in time through the Golden Gates (or Zoloti Vorota), back into the 11th century when these gates once protected the Capital of the ancient Kyivan Rus... Marvel at the Golden domes of the iconic St. Sophia's and St. Michael's Cathedrals.

Grab some lunch, and enjoy some free time to shop! Either on "**Andrijvesky Uzviz**", or "Andrew's Descent", named after the church at the top of the street. This winding street is home to the city's artisans, craftsmen and vendors – explore all kinds of items on their stalls, from souvenir trinkets, to authentic costumes, and antique Soviet memorabilia. You can also shop on the sprawling Christmas Markets, selling delicacies and hand crafted gifts from all over Europe! Leave room in your suitcase for lots of goodies!

Day 17 | Tuesday, January 19 (Optional)

Today you have the chance to visit one of the largest Christian holy places in the country - the **Kyiv Pecherska Lavra** – a world famous historical and architectural landmark. Wander down into the underground labyrinths filled with ancient mummified monks - intriguing to say the least... Following that, we will visit the **Museum of Folk Culture** and Ethnography of Ivan Honchar, which consists of approximately 15 thousand ethnographic and artistic items... Learn some more about Ukrainian history, culture and heritage. Take the rest of the day to wander and explore. Maybe learn more about Ukraine's complicated past at the **WW2 Memorial and Museum**. (Optional) The giant soviet "Rodina Mat" Motherland monument, which is part of the complex, is one of Kyiv's most distinctive features (and taller than the Statue of Liberty!).

Day 18 | Wednesday, January 20 (Optional)

Sadly, your trip will come to an end here. After breakfast, the car will be waiting to take you directly to the airport. Thank you for traveling with Cobblestone Freeway - we hope your trip was an enjoyable one!



Options while in Lviv

Explore the outdoor museum –
Shevchenkivsky Hai.



Take a Ukrainian Cookery
Class!



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



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



Visit the weapon museum located
in the former City Arsenal



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
- 14 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



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



MALANKA IN UKRAINE 15 Days / 14 Nights

TOUR DATES & PRICES:

January 3 – 17, 2022	\$3,093 USD
January 3 – 17, 2023	\$3,572 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= \$930 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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