

2010 Ukraine Tour Itinerary

13 September.

6:25 depart from Toronto terminal 1 on Air Austria Flight #72

14 September.

When we arrive in Kyiv, Ukraine we will be picked up at the Boryspil Airport by an air conditioned coach, which will be our transportation throughout our Tour of Ukraine. We will check into the centrally located "Lybid Hotel" in Kyiv where we'll spend our first three nights in Ukraine. After dinner at the hotel City tour of Kyiv the capital city of Ukraine. Kyiv is one of the oldest & the biggest cities in Europe, with a population of just under 3 million. This is Ukraine's major metropolitan city that rivals any European city for its parks & sights. We'll go on a walk on the main Street – "Khreschatyk Street" to the "Independence square" the center of orange revolutions.

15 September.

Buffet Breakfast at the Lybid Hotel in Kyiv. Tour of St. Sofia cathedral & Pecherska Lavra Monastery, with its Baroque churches, & tour around the territory of the former Pechersk fortress. Lunch at "Opanas" - restaurant. Today we'll park beside St. Andrew's Church (this church is closed to the public in the daytime) & Andriivskiy Uzviz (this is your first chance to pick up your authentic Ukrainian Souvenirs), & take a ride downhill on a Funicular cable car to view the Dnipro River. After dinner we'll go on a boat ride on the Dnipro River & visit a Kyiv underground subway station.

16 September.

This morning we leave for Kaniv to see the Grave of Ukraine's greatest artist & poet, Taras Shevchenko. After Kaniv we will go to open area museum "Mamaeva Sloboda", the area where people used to live & work in the 18-19 century, where you can view exhibits of their homes, household, & ritual buildings, manufacture clothes, production instruments, household articles, agricultural implements. This excursion will help you to imagine the way of life of Ukrainians in olden days. Dinner at the "Vulyk" restaurant. The balance of the day - Leisure. This afternoon will be a free day to take in the sights of Kyiv on your own, do some shopping on the world famous Khreschatyk Street,

17. September.

This morning we depart to Ivano-Frankivsk. Lunch by the way. After our arrival in Ivano-Frankivsk we'll check-in at Nadia Hotel, then we'll have dinner at beer restaurant "Desiatka" & enjoy an evening city walking tour of Ivano-Frankivsk. The balance of the day will be at leisure to relax.

18 September.

After breakfast in the Nadia hotel we depart to Kolomyia check into Pysanka hotel or Kolomyia hotel We'll stop for lunch in Kolomyia, & visit the Pysanka Museum & Gutculshchyna museum. After lunch in Hvalena Hata restaurant we depart to Village church to witness wedding vows & proceed to huge village outdoor tent to take part & celebrate a Hutsul style Ukrainian wedding

19 September.

From, Kolomyia we'll drive to the Carpathian Mountains, The Ukrainian Carpathians make only a central part of the vast mountain chain which stretches for 1500 km, & visit the town of Yaremchie, (Ukraine's comparable of Canada's Jasper area) that is the Hutsul area of Ukraine. We'll visit the Huk waterfall & the craft market, where you may wish to purchase some of your handcrafted souvenirs as well as embroidered towels, etc. Lunch at "Yarson Restaurant" on the bank of waterfall. After lunch we'll drive to Bukovel, the beautiful & popular ski resort of Western Ukraine, here we can taste the mineral water "Bukovelska", visit – Polonyna at the Dovga (Long) Mountain, the area of shepherders, where they live & pasture the sheep in summer. Then we can taste the real Brynza & enjoy the amazing panoramic mountain views. It might be possible to ride the ski-lift (optional). After we check in the hotel, we'll enjoy folk dinner "Hutsulski Vechornyci". Entertainment will be provided with folk musicians & dance. HOTEL ACCOMODATIONS: KORUNA HOTEL, YAREMCHIE8.

20 September.

After breakfast at beautiful Koruna hotel we will drive through the Carpathian villages of, Kryvorivnia Werhovyna, Worohta to Kosiv, which is the capital of Hutsul land. Then we'll visit the workshop of famous Ukrainian craftsman who make ceramics or textiles, & the biggest Kosiv Craft Market in Western Ukraine. In the afternoon we'll leave the Carpathian Mountains, enroute to Chernivtsi. Late lunch in Chernivci. After check in at the "Bukovyna Hotel" we'll have a City tour of Chernivtsi, the regional capital of Bukovina region. The city was founded in the 12th century, as a fortress to protect the Halych-Volyn principality from the nomadic tribes. It has a very rich history closely connected with the history of neighboring Romania & Moldavia. Today it is an administrative, cultural & economic centre of Northern Bukovina - the land of the beech woods picturesquely covering the Carpathian Mountains. Dinner will be at the Hotel.

21 September.

After Breakfast at the Bukovyna Hotel, we'll visit famous Khotyn fortress & the city-fortress Kaminets-Podylski which was founded more than 9 centuries ago with its renowned medieval fortresses & numerous Orthodox, Armenian & Catholic churches, as well as Turkish Minarets. Many historical & architectural monuments have been preserved in this town-museum. The beautiful panorama of the fortress will bring you back to the medieval times. It is now a UNESCO World Heritage site, this 12th-century city has managed to preserve many historical & architectural monuments. Lunch at a "Pid Bramoju" restaurant. After Lunch we'll come back to Chernivci. Dinner at Reflections city restaurant.

22 September.

After breakfast, we leave for Ternopil, which will be our home for two nights. After check in Ternopil hotel, city tour of Ternopil. Ternopil arose in the 16th century on wastel& overgrown with blackthorn bushes. In 1772 it was incorporated as a city, together with the entire Ternopil region into the Austrian Empire. By the end of the 18th century it became part of Russia. After the Russian revolution Ternopil was returned to Poland until 1939, when it was incorporated into the U.S.S.R Ternopil region is the picturesque land with ancient towns, medieval castles & unique caves. Lunch will be at the Old Mill Restaurant afternoon you'll have some leisure time to visit with your family or go on a "Seret Lake" cruise Dinner will be at Dykanka restaurant .

23 September.

Breakfast at Ternopil Hotel. Today we'll travel to Pochaiv Monastery in the city of Pochaiv which is about 75 kms north of the beautiful city of Ternopil. The Pochaiv Lavra is the largest Orthodox sacred place in Volyn & the second largest in Ukraine after the Kyiv Perchersk Lavra. It was around the year 1240 that some monks from Kyiv came to the slopes of Pochaiv Hill. They brought with them the blessing of the founders of the Kyiv Perchersk Lavra. The origin of the monastery is also explained by the miraculous appearance of the Virgin Mary. One can see her footprint (the only one in the world) that turned into a spring of healing water. Dinner at Khutorok restaurant.

24 September.

After breakfast we depart to Lviv We'll spend three last nights at the Wien Hotel in the city center of Lviv. After check in City tour of Lviv "The city of Lions" is the heart & soul of the Western Ukraine with a population of over 1 million. Prince Danylo Halytsky built this city in 1256 & named it after his son Lev ("lion"). One can notice the prevalent lion adornments throughout the Renaissance architecture of city of 15th - 16th c.c. Today we will visit: Vysokyi Zamok (HighCastle), hill with an unforgettable panorama of the entire city, Lychakiv Cemetery, Ensemble of Bernardine Monastery, University of Ivan-Franko & St. George Cathedral. Dinner will be at the Videnska Kaviarna Restaurant in our hotel Today in the evening we'll visit Lviv Opera Theatre .

25 September.

Breakfast at Wien Hotel in Lviv. After breakfast: We'll have a walking City-tour of Lviv with all its high-lights: Rynok Square, Dominican Cathedral, Black House, Italian Courtyard, King's Jan Kazimir III residence. Latin Cathedral, Boims Chappel, the Assumption Church & Ensemble of Bernardine Monastery. Armenian Cathedral Armenian Cathedral one of the oldest in Lviv. After visiting Armenian cathedral, Lunch at "U Pani Stefy" Restaurant. After lunch we'll drive to the Oleskiv Castle – (13th century) for "Knighly medieval games" you will taste the meat & fish on the fire, kylish, kvas or beer, also you can to take a part in the games, folk dances & song to see the girl dancing with fire balls – just fill yourself in the past. And excursion trough the Oleskyi Castle – now the branch of Lviv Art Gallery

26 September.

Breakfast at Wien Hotel. Visit to the Museum of the Victims which were controlled by the former KGB. This was a fearful & sorrowful page of Soviet Ukrainan History. Visit Shevchenkivskyi Hai –this is an open area museum of Ukrainian wooden architecture. The area of museums, you'll find completed number of a micro-village each consisting of about 15-20 architectural objects, which perfectly combine with the landscape of the region. You'll see the old school with special desk for trouble-maker, ancient apiary, & even an old kennel. All these items reflect the real life of Ukrainians in villages in 18-20 cc. Lunch at famous "Kryivka" restaurant Today we'll visit the "Lviv Brewery" for a Tour & Beer Tastingafter our lunch. Since this is your last day in Lviv, the balance of day is yours at leisure. Your last chance to buy authentic embroidery & gifts from Lviv, Ukraine. Gala Dinner at the t "Hutsulskyi Dvir" which is an open area restaurant with music & dancing. A farewell group dinner to say good-bye to all the new friends & to Ukraine is planned for this memorable final evening.

27 September.

Breakfast at Wien Hotel. This morning will be a free time to take in the sights of Lviv on your own, to do last shopping on the craft market or do your final packing for your trip home tomorrow. After lunch we will be transported from our hotel in Lviv to the Lviv Airport , where we will board our plane to return back home to Canada with the memories of Ukraine to last us a lifetime.