



SEE YOU IN UKRAINE!



KYIV · 2011



WE ARE A PULSATING PART OF EUROPE!

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Ukraine is a young country in Central-Eastern Europe, which proclaimed its independence in 1991. Since then, the country has completely changed its political system, economic model, social relations, lifestyle, and many other things. The changes are so drastic that those who visited the country a couple of decades ago may not recognize it now.

The new generation of Ukrainians does not always understand their parents when they recall the past. Ukrainians love the freedom they have been dreaming about for so many generations. Now they are trying to build a strong democratic country. The political system and legislation are rapidly improving, the faces of the cities are changing, and business and cultural life are booming. Today, the country can be compared to a living creature in the time of its intensive growth, and the pulse of its new life is heard everywhere.

Ukraine is integrating intensively into the global community, which isn't surprising, since Ukrainians are an open-hearted nation. The Soviet "iron curtain", which severely restricted any and all contacts with the outside world, fell, and once that happened, Ukrainians set off with great interest and enthusiasm to explore that world and tell about themselves. State officials, researchers, businessmen, students, sportsmen, singers, and artists increasingly take part in various international events. Ukraine has been invited to many international organizations, and the number of business contacts is growing.

However, there are things that remain unchanged in Ukraine. These include the natural treasures and historical monuments of various epochs, as well as the cultural and intellectual achievements of past generations. Ukraine is the motherland of writer Nikolai Gogol, dancer Serge Lifar, artist Kazimir Malevich, aircraft designer Serhiy Koroliov, academician Yevhen Paton, and many other talented individuals in various fields. Another thing that is beyond change is Ukrainian open-heartedness and hospitality. So, let's meet in Ukraine!

A youth flash mob in Lviv
Odesa Humor Day



A shopping and office center in Kyiv
The Odesa Sea Port at night



On the merry-go-round



WE LIVE IN A VERY BEAUTIFUL COUNTRY!

A Carpathian landscape
A Guelder Rose, one of the symbols of the Ukrainian ethnos



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Nature in our country is diverse and impresses even seasoned travelers. Located in the temperate zone, its dense forests, endless fields and rivers running through the plains are calmly beautiful and enchanting. In spring and summer, the greenery of the plant life lifts the spirits; in the fall, yellow, red and orange dominate, while winter covers everything in a white blanket of snow. Ukrainian winters are snowy but not very severe.

Ukrainians like to spend their vacations in Crimea or in the Carpathians. Crimea is a peninsula in Ukraine's south. The sea there meets the mountains. The southern coast of the peninsula is a subtropical oasis where blossoms are seen the year round. In the country's west, the Carpathian Mountains give a different impression. People call them "blue mountains", perhaps because of the mist that usually rises from the valleys. Probably because of that mist, time and space here feel different than anywhere else. In winter, the Carpathians become the center of attraction for skiers.

You can also see Europe's only conservation area that preserves the untouched steppe. This is Askania Nova in the country's south. Doves of bison and Przewalski's Horses graze here in silvery waves of feather-grass. Here, you can go on a safari, hunting for wild animals – a photo safari, of course, because this is a preserve. The valley of wild, narrow-leaved narcissuses, the Smotrych River Canyon, Podil Tovtry, and the Dnipro and Southern Buh rapids are all natural treasures that are worth seeing.

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A view of Andriyivsky Uzviz in Kyiv
The valley of wild narcissuses in Zakarpattia



Fog over the dormant volcano Kara-Dag in Crimea
The Crimean seacoast



WE LIVE IN A VERY BEAUTIFUL COUNTRY!

A fortress in Kamyanets-Podilsky (12th-18th centuries)



WE KEEP OUR TRADITIONS AND REMEMBER OUR HISTORY



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Trypillia-style ceramics
St. Sophia's of Kyiv (11th century)

WE KEEP OUR TRADITIONS AND REMEMBER OUR HISTORY

The history of our land is the history of the many nations and states that existed here. Researchers from various countries are now studying the remains of the mysterious Trypillia civilization (4000 B. C.). This was one of the world's first agricultural civilizations.

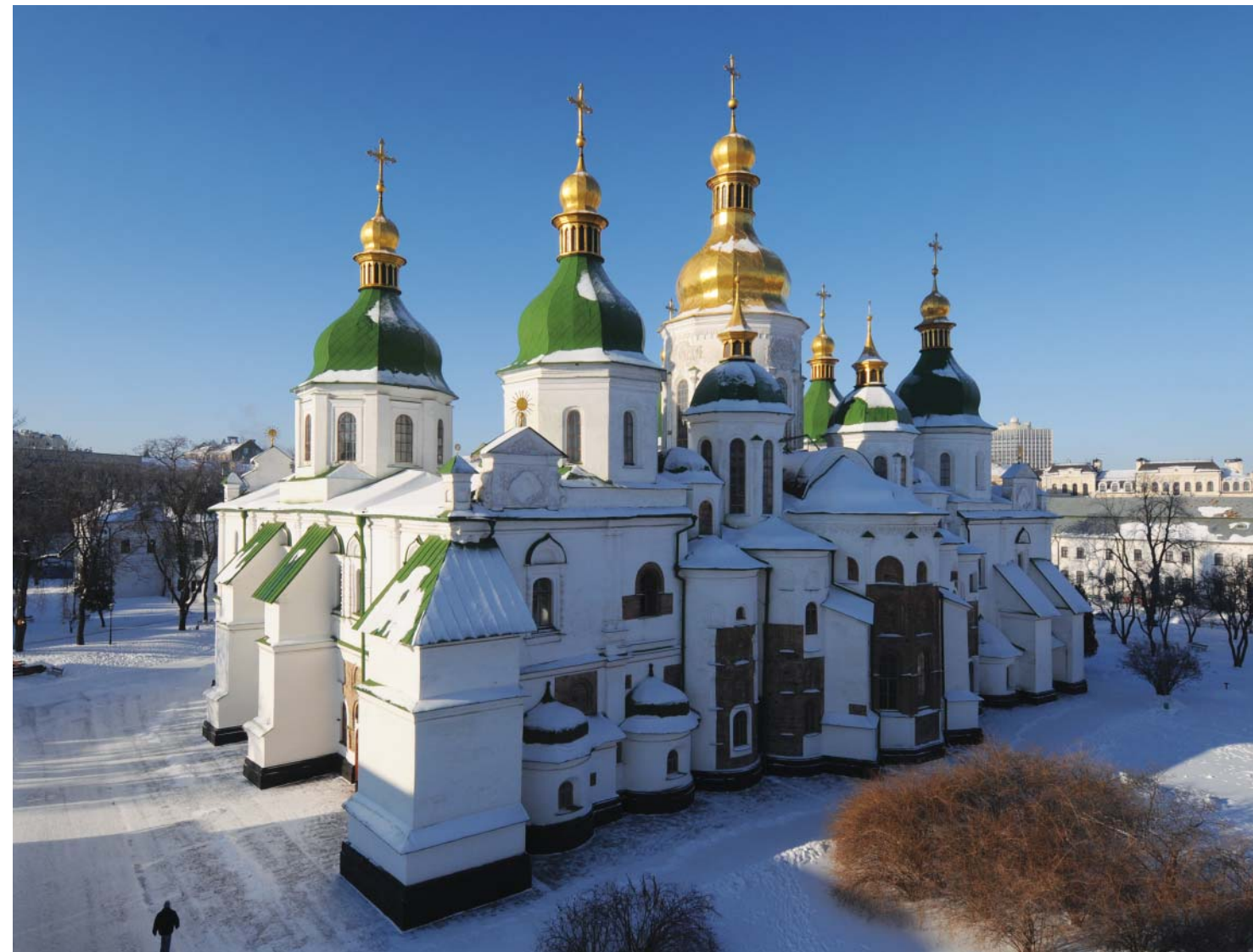
The nomadic tribes of Scythians also left their mark on the territory of Ukraine back in the 6th–4th centuries B.C. The most famous archeological find is the gold Scythian pectoral that weighs more than a kilo.

The lands of modern Ukraine were once the cradle of the civilization of Eastern Slavs. A powerful European state known as Kyivan Rus flourished here in the 10th–12th centuries. Since those legendary times, the cupolas of the Kyiv-Pechersk Lavra and St. Sophia of Kyiv have dominated the cityscape of Kyiv. These monuments are on the UNESCO World Heritage List.

A bright page of our history is the Cossacks who appeared in the 15th century. Despite the fact that Ukraine was a part of other states at that time, a unique state formation appeared here known as the Hetman Cossack State with its own political center called the Zaporizhian Sich. Cossacks elected their leaders according to democratic principles.

As with any nation in the world, Ukrainians have features that may look unusual to a guest. One example is the local cuisine. In many restaurants, you will be offered a strange red-colored soup called "borshch". To better learn the local folk traditions, you are advised to visit a festival that combines ethnic motifs with new trends in various arts.

Ukraine is home to 130 ethnic communities. While in Ukraine, guest may familiarize themselves with Ukrainian traditions as well as the traditions of many other nations. The Ukrainian Carpathians is the motherland of several ethnic communities that feature their own unique cultures. These are the Lemkos, Boykos, and Hutsuls. The Crimean peninsula offers a visitor the traditions of the Crimean Tatars.



A theatrical performance at the Sorochyntsky Fair



The ancient Greek city of Chersonese in Crimea (5th century B.C.)
A "pysanka", a decorated Easter egg



Learning to paint ethnic motifs
The Kyiv-Pechersk Lavra (11th century)



The former residence of Bukovyna metropolitans (1864–1882),
now the Yuriy Fedkovych National University of Chernivtsi
At a lecture



WE LEARN AND SHARE OUR KNOWLEDGE

To study and strive for an education is a matter of prestige and necessity in Ukraine. Perhaps this is why the number of people with a higher education in Ukraine per capita exceeds the European average. More than 90 percent of Ukrainian citizens have either a secondary or higher education.

The high level of Ukrainian education is well reflected in the excellent performances of Ukrainian school children and student teams in international competitions in such areas as software programming, mathematics, physics, chemistry, biology, astronomy, and astrophysics. The high educational level of the Ukrainian people has also been noticed by international businessmen who see it as a competitive advantage of the country.

There are currently 881 institutions of higher learning of various accreditation levels in Ukraine: universities, academies, institutes, conservatories (music academies), colleges, and technical schools. In 2005, Ukraine joined the Bologna Declaration and now the country is carrying out Bologna reforms together with the other 45 European countries that are members. Thus, the country has taken the course of implementing European educational standards and integrating into the European education and research community. An important component of international cooperation to promote the country's integration into the European and global academic community is the country's participation in international projects and programs, as well as Ukraine's representation at international forums. The country continues its cooperation with the European Union within the framework of the Trans-European Mobility Partnership Scheme for University Studies (TEMPUS /TACIS), as well as Erasmus Mundus and Jean Monet, just to name a few.

Ukraine enrolls prospective students from foreign countries. Since 1946, Ukraine's institutions of higher learning have trained approximately 250,000 specialists from more than 160 countries. In terms of the number of foreign students, Ukraine is in the world's top 10. It's no wonder, since Ukraine has strong research schools, and the quality of training is high and meets international standards.

At a practical training class
A lecture at the O. O. Bohomolets National Medical University



Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv
Student life



Now they are masters!



WE WORK TO MAKE OUR DREAM COME TRUE



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A sunflower
Ukrainian fields



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Ukrainians are a nation of industrious people. This has been the case since many centuries ago when farming was nearly everyone's primary activity. Almost every Ukrainian classical writer addressed this topic in their works.

When traveling in Ukraine, Honore de Balzac wrote: "Everything I have seen up to this time is worth nothing. Here is where the real Ukrainian "chornozem" (black soil) begins." Quite recently, farming was a symbol of the Ukrainian way of life. The country is still one of the world's major grain exporters.

In Soviet times, Ukraine was the weightiest component of the USSR's economy. The country inherited a powerful industry whose core is metallurgy, ore mining, and machine-building. Ukraine is now one of Europe's largest markets. The country of more than 46 million people has substantial natural and intellectual resources, as well as a favorable geographic and strategic location between the European Union and Russia. In 2008, Ukraine joined the World Trade Organization, a move that has had a positive impact on its investment image and has broadened opportunities for Ukrainian companies.

Today Ukraine occupies leadership positions in various branches of research and technology, building aircrafts and rocket carriers, and developing software and research products. The global community knows well the world's largest "iron birds", the "Mriya" and "Ruslan", created by the Antonov Design Bureau, and the world's most reliable rocket carrier, the "Cyclone". The participation of Ukrainian researchers and companies in the "Sea Launch" project has been well appreciated, much as has been their participation in the millennium project of building the Large Hadron Collider, for example.

The world's largest aircraft AN-225 "Mriya", a creation of Antonov Design Bureau



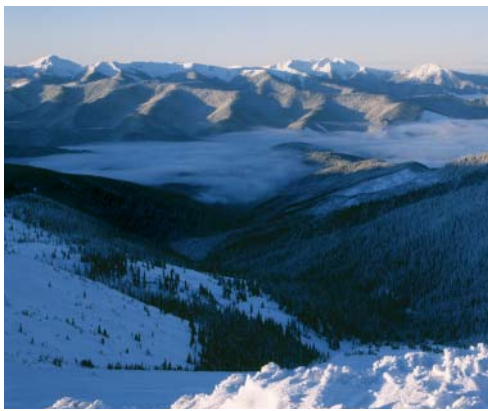
The Kyiv Railway Terminal
Wheat



Construction in the capital
In a new office center



WONDERFUL LANDSCAPES
AND EXCITING CITIES



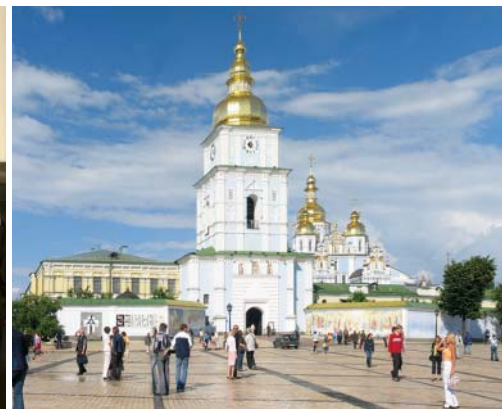
UNIQUE TRADITIONS
AND ANCIENT HISTORY



HOSPITABLE AND FRIENDLY
PEOPLE



A HIGH LEVEL
OF EDUCATION AND
INDUSTRIOUS



SEE YOU IN UKRAINE!



Побачимось в Україні!

фотоальбом англійською мовою

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