

Places you visit



Day 1: Kiev

Known as the 'Mother of Cities', Kiev is one of the oldest cities in all of Europe. From the 9th century onwards, it was the centre of trade on the Dnieper River route from Scandinavia to the Black Sea and on to Constantinople. Board your ship, then acquaint yourself with this beautiful city.

Day 2: Kiev

Your coach and walking tour explores the old section of Kiev, where many of its most historic buildings and monuments still remain. See the beautiful domes of St Sophia Cathedral, which was completed in 1037 and contains fascinating and ornate frescoes and mosaics, as well as the marble tomb of Yaroslav the Wise. After lunch on board visit the Monastery of Caves, a complex of domed churches and museums which was founded by monks in 1051. It is surrounded by 17th century houses built above caves that have served as religious tombs for hundreds of years. The main church boasts one of Europe's highest bell towers.

Day 3: Dnieper River & Kremenchuk

During your morning of scenic cruising, take in the landscapes along the Dnieper River with its gently rolling hills, forest groves, ancient villages, wide lakes and many reservoirs. After lunch, stop in Kremenchuk for a guided tour. Largely destroyed in World War II, this town has now been rebuilt as an important Ukrainian industrial centre, with parks, squares and monuments reflecting the city's past.

Day 4: Zaporozhye

Zaporozhye's rich history as the ancestral home of the legendary Cossacks is highlighted in the Cossack Museum of Khortitsa. The city is a major water supply centre with a massive hydroelectric plant and dam. This afternoon you are treated to a spectacular show of Cossack horsemanship, folkloric music and dance.

Day 5: Kherson

Morning scenic cruising. Afternoon arrival in Kherson where you'll board a small boat and cruise the narrow, picturesque canals to



Cossack rider

Fishermen's Island, with scenic landscapes of the Dnieper Delta as your backdrop.

Day 6: Sevastopol

Sevastopol's natural harbour has served as the principal base of the Russian Black Sea Fleet since the early 19th century. Visit the Byzantine St Vladimir Cathedral set high on a hill above the city and Admiral Nakhimov Square. Optional concert of the Black Sea Choir.

Day 7: Bakhchisarai & Sevastopol

A highlight of your visit to the Tatar city of Bakhchisarai is the Khan Palace, which was built in 1519. It is a magnificent example of Tatar-Muslim architecture with its mosques, harem and gardens graced by the landmark Fountain of Tears. Afternoon free to explore the harbour city of Sevastopol. You can learn more about its fascinating maritime history at the Museum of the Black Sea Fleet or take an optional tour to the Panorama Museum.

Day 8: Yalta

Yalta is one of the most popular resorts of the Crimea region. Your city tour takes you along Lenin Embankment to the Alexander

Nevsky Cathedral and Livadia. Visit the Livadia Palace, site of the 1945 conference between Roosevelt, Stalin and Churchill. See the official halls and private apartments of the Tsar's family, then travel via the old town, on your way back to your ship. You have free time to explore at leisure or choose an optional tour to the Nikita Botanic Gardens.

Day 9: Yalta

Enjoy free time in Yalta or you may wish to join an optional wine-tasting excursion to Massandra, an important state institute of viticulture or visit the Aloupka Palace.

Day 10: Odessa

Known as the 'Pearl of the Black Sea', Odessa is the gateway to the region's seaside resorts. This breathtaking city spans a series of terraced hills. Your walking tour will present panoramic views and graceful historic buildings, including the famous Odessa Opera House and Potemkin Steps. There is an optional evening performance at the Opera.

Day 11: Odessa

Disembark.



Odessa, Ballet