

Kiev to Istanbul

Places you visit

Kiev

Ukraine's lively golden-domed capital is a collection of formal parks and boulevards, built on seven green hills. Kyiv Rus, the state from which Ukraine, Russia and Belarus originated, was established here between the 9th and 11th centuries. The UNESCO-listed St Sophia's Church is the city's oldest standing church, built from 1017–1031 in honour of Prince Yaroslav's victory over a rival tribe.

Zaporozhye

Zaporozhye is the ancestral home of the legendary Cossacks, the fascinating history of whom is depicted here in the Cossack Museum.

Kherson

Located in southern Ukraine, Kherson was founded on the site of a small fortress in 1778 by Prince Potemkin, the General Field-Marshal, statesman and great love of Catherine the Great. Today, Kherson is an important port on the Black Sea and Dnieper River. Your trip on a small boat takes you through picturesque canals to the secluded Fishermen's Island.

Sevastopol

Sevastopol retains a strong Russian feel, due to its importance during the Crimean War and WWII. It is a naval port, closed to foreigners until 1996 and is currently home



Crimea, Bakhchisarai



Crimea, Khersones



to both the Russian and Ukrainian fleets. The Panorama Museum depicts the 349-day siege of Sevastopol in 1855.

Yalta

Yalta is a charming town. With its palm trees and mountain backdrop, it combines elements of the 19th century French Riviera with a Soviet-era seaside resort. The Livadia Palace was the site of the 'Big Three Conference' in 1945 held by Winston Churchill, Theodore Roosevelt and Josef Stalin. Romanov enthusiasts will find many interesting photographs and mementos of the royal family in their private apartments.

Odessa

Lively, cosmopolitan Odessa has much to offer the visitor. Founded by Catherine the Great in the late 18th century, Odessa is Ukraine's biggest commercial port. The elegant tree-lined boulevards lead down to the famous Potemkin Steps.

Constanta

Constanta is the oldest living city in Romania. Located on the western coast of the Black Sea, it was settled in the

6th century AD by Greek merchants as a sea port. It was later developed by the Romans and renamed after the emperor Constantin. The city was given a new lease of life in the 19th century when King Carol I decided to turn it into an active seaport and seaside resort. Its proximity to the beach resorts makes Constanta a focal point for Black Sea tourism. It is now the biggest seaport in Romania and the country's second largest city.

Nessebar

The charming town of Nessebar on the Black Sea coast is listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Its scenic cobblestone streets and Byzantine ruins are a magnet for tourists in the summer months.

Istanbul

Turkey's cultural and financial centre is the only metropolis in the world situated on two continents. During its long history, Istanbul served as the capital city of the Roman, Byzantine, Latin and Ottoman Empires. It is a cultural and ethnic melting pot and its inhabitants are renowned for their warmth and hospitality.