

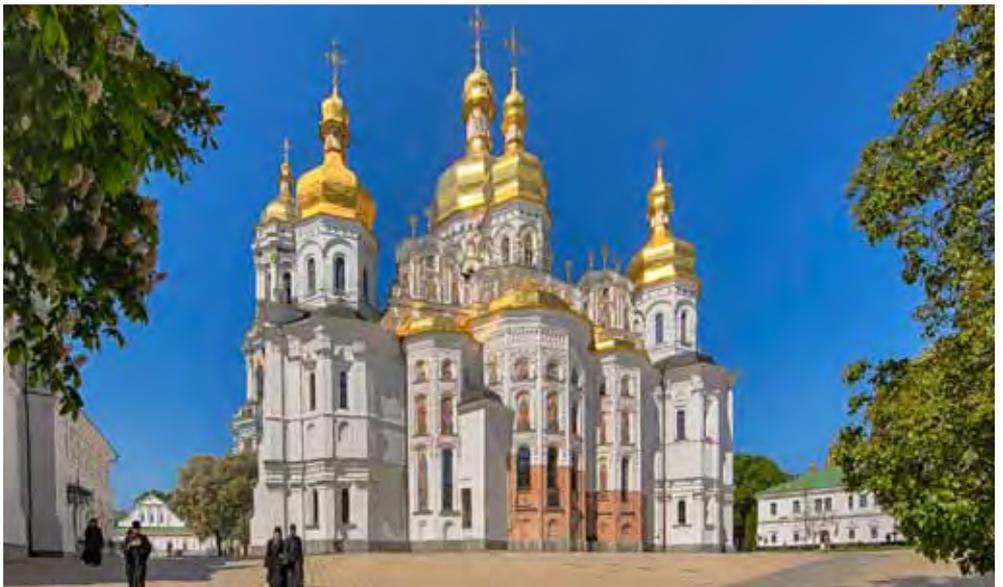


WORLD AFFAIRS COUNCIL
of Philadelphia & Cooperating Councils

Seminar in Ukraine
July 12-22, 2021

Belarus pre-tour extension: July 9-12

Moldova post-tour extension: July 22-25



Why This Tour?

Dynamic, diverse, and ripe for discovery, Ukraine encompasses one of the most intriguing and under-appreciated corners of Europe. Polish princes, Cossack *hetmen*, Turkish khans, and Russian communists have all held claim over this strategic borderland, which boasts vibrant city centers, centuries of art and architecture, fascinating remnants of a once-thriving Jewish culture, and stunning natural landscapes. Despite decades of evolving politics and historical struggles Ukrainians have kept their independence of spirit, their proud traditions, and their warm-hearted, welcoming hospitality.

This in-depth seminar tour will immerse travelers in the complex history, cultural treasures, and current events of this remarkably resilient nation. Explore the cities of Lviv and Chernivtsi with their magnificent churches and sophisticated European feel; survey the historic port of Odessa and its WWII-era partisan caves; and admire the glittering golden cupolas of Ukraine's capital, Kiev, the mother city of the Slavs. Throughout the journey, enjoy specially arranged meetings with VIP guests and senior government officials, and learn about the challenges affecting Ukraine today from distinguished experts and members of the local community.



Program Highlights & Special Meetings

- High level meetings with politicians in Ukrainian government and a briefing with the U.S. Ambassador.
- Meet with a distinguished member of the Lviv community and discuss European integration and other issues facing Ukraine today.
- At UNESCO-listed Chernivtsi National University, meet with university professors or administrators and learn about Ukraine's education system.
- With a specially invited local guest in Odessa, discuss contemporary issues, such as the Russian annexation of Crimea and the plight of Crimea's native Tatar population.
- Explore Odessa's Jewish heritage, including Brodsky Synagogue, among only three of Odessa's 78 synagogues to survive the Soviet period.
- During dinner in Kiev, meet with a specially invited guest, who can recount the events before, during, and after the 2014 Revolution.
- Outside of Kiev, visit Mezhyhirya, the former compound of ousted President Viktor Yanukovich.
- Visit the Chernobyl Museum, remembering the 1986 explosion and fire at Reactor #4, only 62 miles from Kiev.

Main Tour Day by Day Itinerary

July 11-12

Depart USA • Arrive Lviv, Ukraine

Depart the USA on July 11th en route to Ukraine. Arrive in Lviv and transfer to the city center hotel for a welcome dinner. *Hotel Astoria (1D)*

July 13

Lviv

Set out to explore Lviv. Well-preserved buildings from the 16th to the 19th centuries grace the central square of the UNESCO-listed Old Town. Attractions include the 19th century Town Hall, Lychakiv Cemetery, and the oldest working pharmacy in the country. During lunch, meet and converse with a local expert on current affairs. *Hotel Astoria (B, L)*

July 14

Lviv

Stop by a local icon painter's workshop, and continue to Lviv's fascinating open-air ethnographic museum. Tour Lviv's beautiful Opera and Ballet Theater and, schedules permitting, attend an evening performance here. *Hotel Astoria (B, L)*

July 15

Lviv • Chernivtsi via Ivano-Frankivsk & Kolomiya

In Ivano-Frankivsk, visit the old Market Square with its Art Deco former City Hall, and the lovely Great Synagogue. Continue to Kolomiya, one of the oldest settlements in the region. This area is the home of the *Hutsul* people, high mountain pastoralists whose woodcarving and embroidery are highly prized. Enter the egg-shaped Pysanka Museum, celebrating the Ukrainian painted egg. Arrive in Chernivtsi in time for dinner. *Hotel Pansky Dvir (B, L, D)*

July 16

Chernivtsi

Chernivtsi has in the last three hundred years belonged to Austria, Romania and Soviet Ukraine. Discover the Metropolitan's Residence, St. Nicholas Cathedral, and Schiller Theater. Visit the magnificent ensemble of Chernivtsi National University, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, and meet with professors or administrators. Explore Chernivtsi's Jewish heritage with visits to Czernowitz Synagogue, the former ghetto area, and Sadhora Cemetery. *Hotel Pansky Dvir (B, L)*

July 17

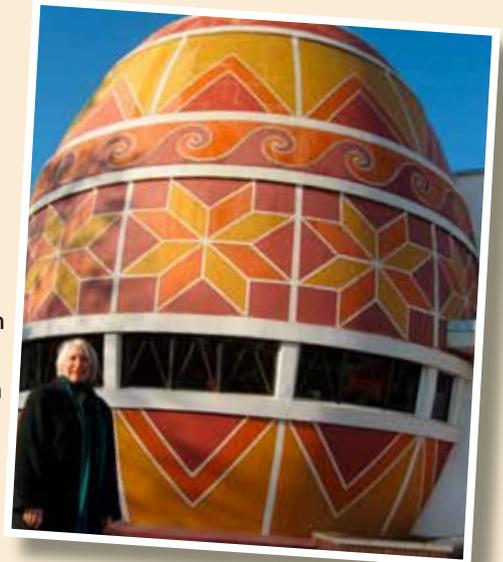
Chernivtsi • fly to Odessa

Catch a morning flight to Odessa via Kiev. Take in the exterior of the elaborate Viennese-designed Odessa Opera and Ballet Theater; the Vorontsov Palace, built in 1826 for a city governor; and the striking blue and white Cathedral of the Assumption. Visit the Archaeological Museum, displaying artifacts from burial mounds along the Black Sea coast. Over dinner, discuss issues of Ukraine's Black Sea region with a specially invited guest. *Hotel Duke (B, L, D)*

July 18

Odessa

Explore Odessa's rich Jewish heritage, including Brodsky Synagogue. Take a walk on pedestrian Deribasovska Street, named after Jose de Ribas, a Spanish Jew who won an important naval victory over the Turks. Board a boat and get a new perspective on Odessa. *Hotel Duke (B,L)*



July 19

Odessa • fly to Kiev

Take a short morning flight to Kiev, the mother city of all Eastern Slavic peoples. Begin exploring with Kiev's oldest Church, St. Sophia Cathedral. The UNESCO-listed cathedral boasts a rich Byzantine interior, decorated with frescoes and mosaics. Walk along the pedestrian Andriyivsky Uzviz (Descent), filled with galleries, gift shops, restaurants, cafés, and artists' co-ops and studios. Continue to Independence Square, also known as the Maidan, the center of the 2014 protests against Ukraine's former president, Viktor Yanukovich. At dinner, meet with a specially invited guest who was there before, during, and after the 2014 Revolution. *Hotel Premiere Palace (B, L, D)*

July 20

Kiev

Visit UNESCO-listed Pecherska Lavra, the Monastery of the Caves. The monks dug caves and underground labyrinths, and their mummified bodies still line the walls. Nearby is the 330-foot stainless steel Rodyna Mat, the "Nation's Mother" statue. This complex includes an open-air museum of Soviet tanks, artillery, and helicopters, and a Museum of Army History is located in the base of the giant statue. *Hotel Premier Palace (B, L)*

July 21

Kiev

Discover Mezhyhirya, the former compound of ousted President Viktor Yanukovich, complete with a full-size galleon, a classic car collection, and a private zoo. Make a stop at the Chernobyl Museum, illustrating the combination of human error and design flaws responsible for the 1986 explosion and fire at Reactor #4. Gather for a festive farewell dinner. *Hotel Premier Palace (B, D)*

July 22

Depart Kiev

Transfer to the airport for international departures. *(B, schedules permitting)*

Please Note: Several substantive meetings will be added to the final itinerary.

Belarus Pre-Tour: July 9-12

If you didn't get a chance to visit the Soviet Union before its demise, catch a glimpse of it in Belarus. Explore the highlights of the capital, Minsk, including the Museum of the History of the Great Patriotic War (WWII). Trace the Jewish heritage of Minsk, once home to one of the largest and most important Jewish communities in the Russian Empire. Head into the countryside to visit two of Belarus' UNESCO sites: 15th-century Mir Castle and the Nesvizh Palace. *Hilton DoubleTree Minsk (3B, 2L, 1D)*



Moldova Post-Tour: July 22-25

In spite of its growing reputation as prime wine country, Moldova remains one of the least-frequented countries in Europe. Browse the Ethnographic and National History Museum in the capital, Chisinau, then visit the Old Orhei Monastery Complex, inhabited since prehistoric times. Wander the traditional villages of Butuceni and Trebuzeni, and enjoy a tour and tasting at one of the largest underground wine cellars in the world, Cricova. *Bristol Central Park Hotel (3B, 2L, 1D)*



Program Rates, per person based on double occupancy:

Ukraine Main Tour: \$6,490 • Single Supplement: \$895

Belarus Pre-Tour: \$2,350 • Single Supplement: \$495

Moldova Post-Tour: \$2,245 • Single Supplement: \$375

Included: All accommodation, hotel taxes • Meals per itinerary (B=breakfast, L=lunch, D=dinner) • Arrival/departure transfers for passengers arriving/departing on scheduled start/end days • Internal airfare from Chernivtsi to Odessa and from Odessa to Kiev • All overland transportation per itinerary by private vehicles • Special cultural events and extensive sightseeing, including entrance fees • English-speaking guides and Tour Manager throughout the itinerary • Baggage handling at the hotels; gratuities to local guides, drivers, Tour Manager and restaurant staff during included meals • Visa support (excluding visa fees) • Comprehensive pre-departure packet

Not Included: International airfare to Lviv/from Kiev. Our tour operator MIR Corporation can assist with reservations • Travel insurance • Meals not specified as included in the itinerary • Personal items such as telephone calls, laundry, excess baggage fees, visa fees, alcoholic beverages with included meals

Air Arrangements: Program rates do not include international airfare to Lviv/from Kiev. Because of the global nature of our members and patrons, there is no group flight for this program. A recommended flight itinerary will be sent by our tour operator upon confirmation.

What to Expect: This trip is moderately active due to the substantial distances covered and the extensive walking and stair climbing required. The tour is not wheelchair accessible. To reap the full rewards of this adventure, travelers must be able to walk at least two miles a day (with or without the assistance of a cane) over uneven terrain while keeping up with the group, and stand for extended periods of time during walking tours and museum visits. Flexibility and the willingness to accept local standards of amenities and services are essential to the enjoyment of this program.

Reservations and Payments: Mail the completed registration form with a check (payable to MIR Corporation-Trust) or credit card information to World Affairs Council of Philadelphia. Final payment for all land and air costs is due May 13, 2021, 60 days prior to departure. Payment of the balance is due by check or bank transfer only.

Cancellations and Refunds: All cancellations must be made in writing to the World Affairs Council of Philadelphia and MIR Corporation and the following cancellation charges will apply: Cancellations received 61 or more days before departure will forfeit \$250 of the \$500 per person deposit; those received 31 days to 60 days before departure, forfeit 50% of land tour cost per person; those received 30 days or less before departure, no refund. Refunds cannot be made to passengers who do not complete the full tour for any reason at all. World Affairs Council of Philadelphia and our tour operator MIR Corporation reserve the right, without penalty, to withdraw the tour announced (i.e., cancel a tour). MIR Corporation reserves the right to decline to accept any person as a participant in a tour, or to require any participant to withdraw from a tour at any time at his/her own expense, when such action is determined by tour staff to be in the best interest of the health, safety, or general welfare of the tour group or of the individual participant, and subject only to the requirement that the recoverable cost of unused services and accommodations be refunded, if any.

Note: Neither World Affairs Council of Philadelphia nor MIR Corporation accepts liability for any airline cancellation penalty incurred by the purchase of a non-refundable ticket in connection with this tour. It is recommended that you not purchase international flights until instructed by MIR Corporation. Itinerary and World Affairs Council Host leadership based on a minimum of 10 participants. The exact schedule of events and speakers is subject to change.

Single Travelers: We make every effort to match single travelers who request a roommate. However, shared accommodations cannot be guaranteed and a single supplement rate will apply in the case that no match is found.

Insurance: Trip cancellation/interruption insurance is available from World Affairs Council. Details will be sent upon receipt of your registration.

Responsibility: A detailed statement of limitations and exclusions of liability of World Affairs Council of Philadelphia and MIR Corporation for loss of property, injury, illness or death will be provided to passengers upon enrollment and is available to prospective travelers upon request. A signed release of liability/assumption of risk agreement is required for trip participation.



WORLD AFFAIRS COUNCIL
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World Affairs Council of Philadelphia
One South Broad Street, Suite 2-M
Philadelphia, PA 19107

Please mail the completed registration form with check (payable to MIR Corporation-Trust) or credit card information to World Affairs Council of Philadelphia, One South Broad Street, Suite 2-M, Philadelphia, PA 19107. Balance of payment for all land and air costs is due by May 13, 2021, 60 days prior to departure. Payment of the balance is due by check or bank transfer only. Space is limited. Reservations will be processed in order of receipt, subject to availability.

The enclosed deposit of \$ _____ (\$500 per person) to hold _____ place(s). The deposit is 50% (\$250) refundable until 61 days prior to departure.

I am a member of _____ Council.

Please confirm my reservation for: Ukraine Program Belarus Pre-Tour Moldova Post-Tour

Enclosed check, payable to MIR Corporation-Trust Visa Mastercard American Express Discover

Credit card number _____ Exp date _____ CVC _____

Billing Address (if different from mailing address) _____

Signature of cardholder _____

Full name #1 (as listed in passport) _____ Date of birth _____

Full name #2 (as listed in passport) _____ Date of birth _____

Mailing address (no PO boxes please) _____

City _____ State/Province _____ Zip _____ Council _____

Phone (Home) _____ Email _____
(Work/Cell)

Please note preferences:

I am traveling alone and prefer a single room wherever available at the single supplement rate (\$895).

I will share accommodations with _____

I would like to share with a Non-smoker Smoker (shares are not guaranteed)

International airfare is not included in the tour price. A recommended flight itinerary will be sent by our tour operator upon confirmation.

Please send me a recommended air itinerary and fare estimate between my home city _____ and Lviv/Kiev in:
 Business class Economy class

For more info contact World Affairs Council at (800) 942-5004 exts. 217/209 or 215-561-4700, travel@wacphila.org, or visit www.wacphila.org