

# Directory

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## ACCOMMODATION

Accommodation will be your single biggest expense in Ukraine, and it's often wildly overpriced. This is particularly true in Kyiv, Crimea and eastern Ukrainian cities, where decent hotel rooms usually start at \$100. People have been hoping for prices to drop to more realistic levels for some time, but it's not happening quickly. Only in smaller towns do prices better reflect the standard of accommodation. Room prices in rural towns can be as low as \$20 to \$30 a night, with prices plummeting to \$10 in some places.

Although prices fluctuate wildly according to region, as a rule of thumb, this guidebook treats budget accommodation as anything under \$50 per double room per night; at the lower end of this scale you will usually

have to share a bathroom. Midrange rooms (always with private bathroom) range from \$50 to \$100, while anything above \$100 per night is top end. Unless noted, breakfast is included.

To simplify the mental arithmetic, hotel prices in this guide are given in dollars, in contrast to food, transport and other expenses listed in the local currency, the hryvnia (uah).

Note that water problems – hot and cold – plague Crimea, Lviv and Odesa. The situation is exacerbated in busy periods and is sometimes worse in budget hotels. More expensive accommodation (as well as a couple of private hostels) often has private water tanks to guarantee 24-hour supply.

## B&Bs

Just a handful of Ukrainian establishments truly fit this description, but they're often the most wonderful places to stay in the country. In particular, see the sleeping sections in Kyiv (p83), Kolomyia (p146) and Bakhchysaray (p196).

## Camping

Camping in the wild is permitted in the Carpathian National Natural Park (p141), apart from on the eastern side of Hoverla. In Crimea camping is officially permitted in *turstoyanki* (tour stands) listed by the **Mountain Rescue Service of Crimea** ([www.kss.crimea.ua/info/st\\_2004.htm](http://www.kss.crimea.ua/info/st_2004.htm), in Russian). In reality, though, everyone pitches their tent wherever they please. Read **Try Ukraine** ([www.tryukraine.com/crimea/hiking.shtml](http://www.tryukraine.com/crimea/hiking.shtml)) for more details. Lighting fires in national parks is officially forbidden, although most people do it anyway.

### BOOK YOUR STAY ONLINE

For more accommodation reviews and recommendations by Lonely Planet authors, check out the online booking service at [www.lonelyplanet.com/hotels](http://www.lonelyplanet.com/hotels). You'll find the true, insider lowdown on the best places to stay. Reviews are thorough and independent. Best of all, you can book online.

## PRACTICALITIES

- Ukraine uses the metric system for weights and measures.
- Electricity here runs on 220V, 50Hz. Most sockets take European continental plugs.
- DVDs sold in Ukraine tend to be either Region 2 or Region 5 DVDs.
- TV is the leading broadcast medium; private channels like Inter TV (<http://intertv.com.ua>) and Studio 1+1 (<http://1plus1.tv>) are much more successful than the state-run channels UT1, UT2 & UT3 ([www.1tv.com.ua](http://www.1tv.com.ua)). Local pop music channel M1 (<http://m1.tv/ua/>) now has competition from MTV ([www.mtv.com.ua](http://www.mtv.com.ua)). The Ukrainian TV landscape is laid out in English at [www.ukrainatv.com](http://www.ukrainatv.com).
- Ukraine has hundreds of FM radio stations, with a combination of Ukrainian or Russian programming and a broad range of music. For English speakers, the BBC World Service (594MW) and Radio Liberty ([www.rferl.org](http://www.rferl.org); various rebroadcasters) also have services.
- The biggest-selling tabloid newspaper remains *Fakti i Kommentarii* ([www.facts.kiev.ua](http://www.facts.kiev.ua)) followed by *Segodnya* ([www.segodnya.ua](http://www.segodnya.ua)). Other papers include *Ukrayina Moloda* ([www.umoloda.kiev.ua](http://www.umoloda.kiev.ua)) and *Den* ([www.day.kiev.ua](http://www.day.kiev.ua)). News weekly *Korrespondent* (<http://korrespondent.net>) is a sister publication of the English-language *Kyiv Post* ([www.kyivpost.com](http://www.kyivpost.com)). Entertainment tips can be found in *What's On Kiev* ([www.whatson-kiev.com](http://www.whatson-kiev.com)). News agencies Unian ([www.unian.net](http://www.unian.net)) and Interfax Ukraine ([www.interfax.com.ua](http://www.interfax.com.ua)) also have English pages.

Outside the Carpathians and Crimea, camping in Ukraine is not highly recommended. Most so-called camp sites are really former Soviet holiday camps, and slightly more formalised than most Western campers like. Facilities here aren't brilliant, either.

## Homestays

### HOSPITALITY CLUBS

Stay-for-free club **Couch Surfing** ([www.couchsurfing.com](http://www.couchsurfing.com)) has several hundred hosts in Ukraine; crashing with a resident isn't just cheap, but a great way to get to know individual cities. You can also hook up with Ukraine-based hosts via **Hospitality Club** ([www.hospitalityclub.org](http://www.hospitalityclub.org)) and **Global Freeloaders** ([www.globalfreeloaders.com](http://www.globalfreeloaders.com)).

### ONLINE PROJECTS

Several 'green' tourism organisations have offered homestay programmes in the past, but their websites are mostly outdated. The best current option is **Karpaty Info** ([www.karpaty.info](http://www.karpaty.info)), which offers details on B&Bs, homestays and hotels in the Carpathians.

### PRIVATE RENTALS

In parts of Ukraine, you will still find people standing outside train or bus stations offering rooms in their houses or private apartment rentals. Look for signs reading *кімнати* (*kimnaty*, Ukrainian) or *комнати* (*komnaty*, Russian), *садиба* (*sadyba*, Ukrainian, seen

mainly in the Carpathians) or *жильо* (*zhilyo*, Russian, seen mainly in Crimea). This is still common in summer holiday spots like Crimea and Odesa. Although the numbers of *babushky* (grannies) doing so are dwindling, it's also still possible in Kyiv. Prices are usually quite reasonable at \$25 to \$50 per night.

## Hostels

A couple of dozen hostels have opened in Ukraine in the past few years, which you'll find listed mainly at **Hostelling Ukraine International** ([www.hihostels.com.ua](http://www.hihostels.com.ua)). However the market is still finding its feet, and hostels are a rather ad hoc bunch, usually either built in private apartment buildings or occasionally converted from unappealing Soviet hotels. See individual town listings for details.

We're less convinced by **Youth Tourism & Hostels of Ukraine** ([www.hostels.org.ua](http://www.hostels.org.ua)), whose hostels tend to be in rather odd locations.

## Hotels

Forget hotel ratings of one to five stars. Ukrainian hotels historically fall into two categories: stinky Soviet or stinkingly expensive. OK, that's a slight exaggeration, but good-value midrange accommodation is only now emerging – and slowly at that. If Ukrainians have enough money to avoid budget hotels, they generally want to show it by luxuriating in grand surrounds.

'Stinky Soviet' budget establishments often have itchy blankets and bathrooms that look more suited to undertaking medical procedures than having a wash. They might have problems supplying 24-hour hot water and often rely on city-controlled central heating, so you could find yourself freezing in early autumn before the local government turns on the heat. This guidebook mentions such places only where no other budget options are available.

Former Intourist establishments are quite idiosyncratic to the former Soviet Union, offering a whole range of rooms from budget to luxury. They've usually had a few floors' worth renovated, while others remain unreconstructed. In these cases, hot water won't be a problem, and heating rarely, but the standard of the cheaper rooms might be poor. It's always worth asking to see a room before you take it, even a more expensive one – sometimes a 'luxury' room is renovated and modern, and other times it's as bad as the cheap rooms, just larger.

Top-end hotels usually meet most Western standards of service and aesthetics, but are frequently overpriced for what you get.

## Rental Accommodation

Even if you never normally think of renting an apartment when abroad, you should consider it in Ukraine. With insufficient midrange hotels available, these help fill the gap.

You can book an apartment for just one night if necessary. For longer stays, you not only have the benefit of a washing machine and a kitchen, you can save up to half the cost of a hotel. Apartments in Kyiv, for example, usually start at \$50 to \$60 for a downtown studio, or \$30 to \$40 if you rent somewhere out of the centre.

There are some things to check for, though. Does the apartment have its own hot-water supply (the only guarantee of 24-hour availability)? Its own central heating? Without the latter, you're waiting for the city government to turn on the heating in October and wishing it would turn the settings down in January.

Although many rented apartments are in a Soviet block with a concierge, it's also worth asking whether the entrance is well lit at night.

## Train Stations

Many Ukrainian train stations have a small 'hotel' of simple rooms designed for late-night arrivals or those departing early.

Some *kimnaty vidpochynku* (Кімнати відпочинку; resting rooms) are old, rudimentary, and cost about \$10. Even these might suffice for one night. At the other end of the scale are new train station lodges with clean, bright, well-equipped rooms. Two outstanding examples are those in Kyiv (see p84) and Uzhhorod (see p157). Both cost about \$40 per double room, or \$20 per bed if you share with a stranger. Check the listings for individual cities and towns for other worthwhile examples.

## Turbazy & Sanatoria

You might read about *turbazy* (tourbases) and sanatoria elsewhere, but our advice is this: don't, unless you're desperate. *Turbazy* are simple holiday resorts, most common in the Carpathians, the vast majority of which remain unchanged from the Soviet era. Similarly, Soviet-era sanatoria (health resorts) found speckling the Black Sea coastline are rather run-down and crumbling. They tend to require at least a week's stay, too.

## ACTIVITIES

In summer, both Crimea and the Carpathian Mountains are extremely popular with hikers, climbers and mountain bikers. Both also attract winter skiers, though the Carpathians offer far better slopes.

## Boating

In Crimea there are plenty of opportunities to rent a small boat with a pilot who will sail you around the Black Sea's coastal nooks and crannies. Both scheduled and chartered boats operate between May and mid-October.

The Centre for Green Tourism in Chernihiv organises kayaking tours (see p97).

## Bungee Jumping

Daredevils can bungee jump at a couple of places in Ukraine: try Kyiv's Hydropark (see p81) or Zhytomyr (p100).

## Caving

Speleologists might be tempted by a three-hour 'extreme' tour at the Marble Cave in Crimea (p212), or a visit to a series of karst caves in the Ternopil region, which includes the 212km-long Optimistic Cave (p131).

## Hiking

The Crimean landscape is arguably more spectacular, but you get a real sense of

adventure and trailblazing in western Ukraine. Equipment and supplies are widely available. See the individual chapters for more details.

### Ice Fishing & Swimming

Ice fishing is a national pastime for Ukrainian fishermen, who sit motionless – and usually vodka-fuelled – for hours next to a small hole drilled through the thick ice. Ice fishing is common on both the Black Sea and the country's many lakes.

People who like to make holes in the ice in winter and swim in the freezing water beneath are nicknamed 'walrus'. They're particularly common in the east of the country.

### Mountain Biking

Mountain biking is a popular and fast-growing sport in Crimea, where the landscape is perfect for it (see [www.mt.crimea.com](http://www.mt.crimea.com) for more info). The Chornohora ridge in the Carpathians provides another spectacular, if challenging, route; **Lviv Ecotours** ([www.lvivecotour.com](http://www.lvivecotour.com)) can arrange activity tours.

### Paragliding

Sea breezes hitting Crimea's long thin mountain plateaus create some wonderful thermal uplifts. Visit [www.paragliding-crimea.com](http://www.paragliding-crimea.com) for English-speaking assistance or head just outside Koktebel (see the boxed text, p216).

### Saunas

Cold winters and a historical lack of domestic plumbing helped make communal baths a national Ukrainian pastime. Today many hotels have either a dry-heat Finnish sauna or a steamy, Russian-style *banya* (or both). In the latter, it's common for people to pair up to beat each other's naked bodies with birch twigs. Consequently, the baths are divided into men's and women's sections. Massages and the like are also commonly provided.

### Skiing & Ice Skating

The Ukrainian Carpathians are unlikely to become a major international skiing destination anytime soon, but they're already big in Eastern Europe. If you're coming this way already, the passes, equipment rental and accommodation are generally quite reasonably priced. For more details see Bukovel

(p145), or the boxed text on p146. There is also some skiing in Crimea, on Mt Ay-Petri or around the Marble Cave, but it's not as good.

There aren't that many ice rinks around the country, but just as in London, seasonal winter ice rinks in public parks and other locations seem to be gaining popularity in Kyiv (see p81).

### BUSINESS HOURS

Official weekday working hours are 9am to 5pm or 10am to 6pm. Some banks close for the day at 4.30pm. Bigger shops, especially in Kyiv, tend to stay open later, until 8pm or 9pm (Sunday closing is increasingly rare).

Most restaurants around the country are open from at least noon to 11pm, and times are not listed for individual eateries in this book unless they significantly diverge from these (where no times are listed for a restaurant, you can be sure they are open for at least lunch and dinner). Some cafeteria-style eateries and cafés open earlier, at 8am or 9am, and close at 6pm or 7pm.

Many places, especially government-run establishments, still close for lunch (1pm to 2pm or 2pm to 3pm). However, this is becoming slightly less common, especially in bigger cities.

Museum hours are typically from 9am to 5pm or 6pm, but they vary, and there are always one or two days a week when museums are closed. Occasionally, they close for cleaning sometime during the last week of each month, but this is very rare these days.

### CHILDREN

Ukraine is not the world's most child-friendly destination, so if you're going to bring young children here it's advisable that you have previous experience of the country, or you limit yourself to a short break in a major city like Kyiv.

The country remains a fairly challenging destination to travel around and many parents might be unwilling to put their offspring on a not-particularly-roadworthy Ukrainian bus or *marshrutka* (see p259), or to submit them to dirty bathrooms. There are also practical difficulties with small children, from arranging sterilised bottles to dealing with the bureaucracy with bored and tired toddlers in tow.

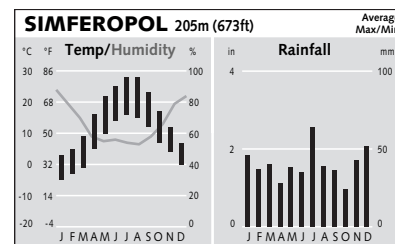
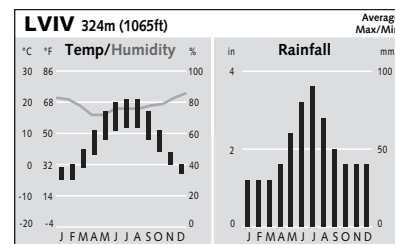
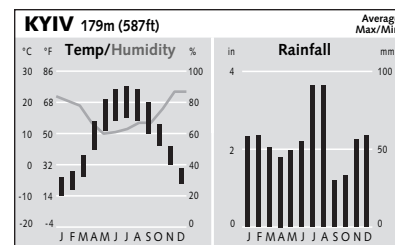
Ukrainians still tend to have children young, and local kids are generally very visible in public. There are many small playgrounds or 'fun fairs' in public parks and squares. On the other hand, Ukrainian sightseeing attractions might not appeal to Western children. The most obvious option to recommend is the open-air Museum of Folk Architecture and Everyday Life (p79) in Kyiv.

Note that single adults travelling with non-Ukrainian children can be required to show documentary evidence of parental responsibility before being allowed to enter or leave the country.

For further information on family travel in general, see Lonely Planet's *Travel with Children* by Cathy Lanigan.

### CLIMATE CHARTS

For more information on Ukraine's climate and the best time to visit, see p16.



### CUSTOMS

You are allowed to carry up to US\$1000 when entering Ukraine without having to sign any documentation. You are also permitted to bring in the following items duty-free: 1L of spirits, 2L of wine, 5L of beer, 200 cigarettes or 200g of tobacco, and up to €50 worth of food (not exceeding 2kg). If you exceed these limits, you will have to sign a *deklaratsiya* (customs declaration). Be careful not to lose this completed form – you will need to present it when departing the country. More than US\$10,000 in cash cannot be imported at all without special written permission beforehand.

The duty-free limits for export are the same as for import. You may now also take out local currency up to 1000uah. It's prohibited to export antiques (including icons), works of art or cultural/historical treasures without special written permission from the **Ministry of Culture** (☎ 8-044 226 2645, 226 2902; vul Ivana Franka 19, Kyiv). Under international treaties, it is also forbidden to take more than 250g of caviar out of Ukraine, although it's unclear how strictly this is policed.

### DANGERS & ANNOYANCES

As LP Hartley might have reminded us: 'Ukraine is a foreign country; they do things differently there.' And the difference that usually strikes overseas travellers is the bureaucratic, apathetic and occasionally downright rude service. Dumbstruck hotel desk staff, unhurried shop assistants and ticket offices that shut just when you get to the front of a long queue – these are all little annoyances from the Soviet Union that independent Ukraine has yet to entirely shake.

Spend a bit longer in the country and you become cognisant of the crazy driving (see p260), the crowded public transport, the litter, and the almost superstitious local aversion to 'draughts' (ie fresh air), which often means people are unwilling to open a window on a packed *marshrutka* in 30°C heat. You might also be astounded by all the passive smoking you're doing. On the other hand, this is all part of travel's great tapestry, isn't it?

### Crime

As far as crime goes, Ukraine is usually as safe as most Western European countries.



The worst that's likely to befall most visitors is petty theft.

Avoiding this is largely a matter of common sense. Ukrainians can usually spot foreigners at 10 paces, and no matter how hard you try to blend in, you will stand out as a 'rich' Westerner, so don't compound matters by flashing your money around. Watch your wallet and belongings, particularly on public transport and in crowded situations. Stay low-key in appearance and have more than one place on your body where you stash your cash. Avoid being alone at night in parks or secluded places.

There's one famous scam (see following) and growing credit-card fraud. However, the sort of organised robberies on trains that occur in many other parts of Europe don't happen on domestic routes here. Keep your valuables with you at all times, of course, and travel in 2nd class if you don't want to draw too much attention to yourself. However, no one is likely to release knock-out gas into your compartment while you sleep.

#### CREDIT-CARD FRAUD

Although Ukraine remains largely a cash economy, credit cards are increasingly accepted by up-market hotels, restaurants and shops both in and outside Kyiv. Unfortunately, some embassies have warned of a concomitant rise in credit card fraud. They suggest you use your card only as a last resort, and only in reputable locations. Take all the usual precautions to make sure no one sees or copies down your PIN.

#### THE DROPPED-WALLET SCAM

This well-known rort starts with you suddenly noticing a wallet or a large wad of cash on the ground near you. If you pick it up, you'll be approached by someone saying it's theirs. They'll thank you... and then say that they had two wallets or wads of cash and accuse you of stealing the other. Alternatively, they'll directly accuse you of stealing the first wallet. Accomplices might be brought in as witnesses or 'police'. Don't get involved and walk away quickly.

#### RACIST ATTACKS

Ukraine has tended to be more welcoming to people of African, Asian and Caribbean appearance than neighbouring Russia. However, that has always been relative. In the past couple of years, there's been a worrying increase

#### GOVERNMENT TRAVEL ADVICE

The following government websites offer travel advisories and information on current hot spots.

- **Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade** (☎ 1300 139 281; www.smarttraveller.gov.au)
- **Foreign Affairs and International Trade Canada** (☎ 800-267-6788; http://international.gc.ca)
- **UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office** (☎ 0845-850-2829; www.fco.gov.uk)
- **US State Department** (☎ 888-407-4747; http://travel.state.gov)

in seemingly racially motivated attacks – with the UN and the International Organization for Migration (IOM) speaking out about the problem in 2007 and again in 2008, after an asylum seeker from Congo was stabbed 15 times and died outside a Kyiv metro station.

The situation is nowhere near as bad as, say, in St Petersburg; but if you're black, Asian or of Middle Eastern appearance, stay alert and exercise extreme caution if going out alone at night.

#### EMBASSIES & CONSULATES

The following are in Kyiv (☎ 044) unless otherwise noted. Call your embassy if you need emergency help. Consulates issue visas and can help their own citizens if there is no embassy.

- Australia** honorary consulate (Map pp68-9; ☎ 289 3085; Apt 11, vul Kominterná 13/18; 📍 Volkzalna)
- Belarus** embassy & consulate (Map pp68-9; ☎ 537 5200; www.belembassy.org.ua; posolbelarus@mail.ru; vul Mykhayla Kotsyubynskoho 3; 📍 Universytet)
- Bulgaria** embassy & consulate (Map pp68-9; ☎ 246 7237; vul Hospitalna 1; 📍 Palats Sportu)
- Canada** embassy & consulate (Map pp68-9; ☎ 590 3100; www.kyiv.gc.ca; vul Yaroslaviv Val 31; 📍 Zoloti Vorota)
- Czech Republic** embassy (Map pp68-9; ☎ 272 0431; www.mzv.cz; vul Yaroslaviv Val 34A; 📍 Zoloti Vorota); consulate (Map pp68-9; ☎ 238 2641; www.mzv.cz; vul Bohdana Khmelnytskoho 58; 📍 Universytet)
- France** embassy & consulate (Map pp68-9; ☎ 590 3600; www.ambafrence-ua.org; vul Reytarska 39; 📍 Zoloti Vorota)
- Georgia** embassy & consulate (Map p66; ☎ 451 4353, 451 4355; vul Melnikova 83D, Section 4; 📍 Lukanivska); Odesa consulate (Map pp162-3; ☎ 8-0482 726 4727; geonconsulate@paco.net; vul Tolstoho 21)

- Germany** embassy (Map pp68-9; ☎ 247 6800; www.german-embassy.kiev.ua; vul Bohdana Khmelnytskoho 25; 📍 Zoloti Vorota)
- Hungary** embassy (Map pp68-9; ☎ 230 8001; fax 272 2090; vul Reytarska 33; 📍 Zoloti Vorota) Uzhhorod consulate (☎ 671 994; vul Peremoha 92)
- Japan** embassy & consulate (Map pp68-9; ☎ 490 5500; www.ua.emb-japan.go.jp; fax 490 5502; prov Muzeyny 4; 📍 Maydan Nezalezhnosti)
- Moldova** consulate (Map pp68-9; ☎ 280 7721; vul Sichnevoho Povstannya 6; 📍 Arsenalna)
- Netherlands** embassy (Map pp68-9; ☎ 490 8200; www.netherlands-embassy.com.ua; pl Kontraktova 7; 📍 pl Kontraktova)
- Poland** consulate (Map pp68-9; ☎ 230 0700; www.polska.com.ua; vul Yaroslaviv Val 31; 📍 Zoloti Vorota)
- Romania** embassy (Map pp68-9; ☎ 234 5261; http://kiev.mae.ro; vul Mykhayla Kotsyubynskoho 8; 📍 Universytet); consulate (Map pp68-9; ☎ 2382 2013; http://kiev.mae.ro; vul Belinskoho 5A) Odesa consulate (Map pp162-3; ☎ 8-048 724 0532; konsulro@paco.net; vul Bazarna 31); Chernivtsi consulate (Map p153; ☎ visas 8-037 254 5440; konsulro@infocom.cv.ua; vul Shkilna 16)
- Russia** embassy (Map p66; ☎ 296 4504; www.embrus.org.ua; vul Kutuzova 8; 📍 Pecherska); consulate (Map p66; ☎ 244 0961; www.embrus.org.ua; pr Vozdukhoflot-sky 27; 📍 Vokzalna); Odesa (Map pp162-3; ☎ 296 4504; www.embrus.org.ua; Gagarinskoe Plato 14)
- Sweden** embassy (Map pp68-9; ☎ 494 4270; www.swedenabroad.com/kiev; 3rd fl, vul Ivana Franka 34/33; 📍 Universytet)
- Switzerland** embassy (Map p66; ☎ 281 6128; kie.ver.tretung@eda.admin.ch; vul Kozyatynska 12; 📍 Druzhby Narodiv)
- Turkey** embassy (Map p66; ☎ 284 9964; vul Arsenalna 18; 📍 Pecherska); Odesa (Map pp162-3; ☎ 8-048 234 7275; bul Prymorsky 10)
- UK** embassy (Map pp68-9; ☎ 490 3660, 24hr emergencies 231 5297; www.britemb-ukraine.net; vul Desyatynna 9; 📍 Maydan Nezalezhnosti); consulate (Map pp68-9; ☎ 494 3400; Arytom Centre, vul Hlybochytyska 4; 📍 Lukanivska)
- USA** embassy (Map pp68-9; ☎ 24hr emergencies 490 0000; http://kyiv.usembassy.gov; vul Yuriya Kotsyubynskoho 10; 📍 Lukanivska); consulate (Map pp68-9; ☎ 207 7071; vul Mykolya Pymonenka 6; 📍 Lukanivska)

#### FESTIVALS & EVENTS

Thousands of small cultural events and festivals are held throughout Ukraine, many in celebration of the seasons and local folk traditions. Also see public holidays on p246.

#### January

**Orthodox Christmas** Ukrainians celebrate Christmas according to the old Julian Calendar on 7 January. On

Christmas Eve families gather for the 12-course meal of *Svyata Vecherya* (Holy Supper), while children might go carolling (*kolyadky*).

**Feast of St Melania** New Year's Eve, according to the Julian calendar, falls on 13 January.

**Epiphany** During 18–19 January, the faithful celebrate the arrival of Christianity in Kyivan Rus. See p83 for details of the biggest celebration, in Kyiv.

#### April

**Humorina** In Odesa, a one-day street carnival centred on humour, on the 1st of the month.

#### May

**Kamyanets-Podilsky Days** In mid-May, street parties, concerts, parades and a picturesque hot-air balloon festival take over the rock-island town (p110).

**Kyiv Days** A colourful spring celebration and festival in honour of the capital city; last weekend of May.

#### June

**Sheshory Festival** (www.sheshory.org) The most talked-about ethnic music festival in the country has been compared to both Burning Man and Woodstock. The roving festival was held in Podillya in 2007; check its website for this year's destination, dates and program of music, dancing, folk arts and other workshops.

#### July

**Ivana Kupala** A pagan celebration of midsummer (see the boxed text, p40).

**Kazantip** (www.kazantip.com) This huge, seaside rave festival (p191) kicks off in late July and runs for five weeks, into August.

**Kraina Mriy Festival** (www.krainamriy.com) A free three-day festival of ethnic music. See p83 for details.

**Taras Bulba Festival** (www.tarasbulba-fest.kiev.ua) A hard-rock festival – of course – in honour of Gogol's legendary Cossack character.

#### August

**Independence Day** On the 24th, each city hosts festivals and parades with performances and special events.

**Pidkamin** Another popular ethnic music, jazzy-type festival organised by Lviv bar-club Dzyha (p125).

#### September

**Koktebel International Jazz Festival** (http://jazz.koktebel.info) International jazz stars join locals after Crimea's summertime crush has passed.

#### October

**Kyiv International Film Festival Molodist** (www.molodist.com) A great time to check out new cinematic talent.

## December

**Catholic Christmas** On 25 December, Catholic Ukrainians celebrate the first of two Christmases they mark every year. **New Year** Gifts are placed under a traditional fir tree on the 31st, and special songs are sung. See out the old year with vodka and welcome in the new with champagne.

## FOOD

As with accommodation, prices fluctuate wildly across the country, with meals in Kyiv, Dnipropetrovsk, Donetsk and Odesa costing as much as in Western Europe and typical country cafés charging pennies. As a general rule, we've treated places where mains are under \$5 as being budget restaurants. In midrange establishments, mains cost between \$10 and \$15. Where mains go for more than \$15, you're in a top-end establishment. Street treats such as ice creams, pastries and cakes are cheap and extremely popular, too.

## GAY & LESBIAN TRAVELLERS

Homosexuality is legal in Ukraine. However, few people are very out here and attitudes vary across the country. On the one hand, you have the Kyiv sophisticates who'll point you to the popularity of drag-queen singer Verka Serdutchka, Ukraine's Eurovision 2007 entrant. On the other hand, there's also the recent TNS Ukraine poll showing that only eight percent of Ukrainians believe that gays and lesbians should have the same legal rights as other citizens.

Essential to know is that you never really see displays of affection between two men or two women on the street, and most locals warn that it will create hostility.

There is an underground scene, though. The biggest is in Kyiv, but Kharkiv and Odesa have one or two bars. Simeyz, in Crimea, is also reportedly a gay Mecca in August and early September. Some useful websites:

- [www.gay.org.ua](http://www.gay.org.ua)
- [www.geocities.com/gayguideua](http://www.geocities.com/gayguideua)
- [www.gayukraine.com](http://www.gayukraine.com)

## HOLIDAYS

The main public holidays in Ukraine:

**New Year's Day** (according to the new Gregorian calendar) 1 January

**Orthodox Christmas** 7 January

**New Year's Day** (according to the old Julian calendar) 14 January

**International Women's Day** 8 March

**Orthodox Easter (Paskha)** April

**Labour Day** 1–2 May

**Victory Day (1945)** 9 May

**Constitution Day** 28 June

**Independence Day (1991)** 24 August

**Great October Socialist Revolution Anniversary (1917)** 7–8 November

**Catholic Christmas** 25 December

## INSURANCE

It would be particularly foolhardy to travel to Ukraine without comprehensive insurance. Worldwide travel insurance is available at [www.lonelyplanet.com/travel\\_services](http://www.lonelyplanet.com/travel_services). You can buy, extend and claim online anytime – even if you're already on the road.

Additionally, if you're staying longer than 90 days in the country (and therefore will need a visa) you might also be asked to show you have appropriate health insurance, as decided by the Department of Citizenship, Passport & Immigration (see p251). If your insurance doesn't make the grade, the major approved Ukrainian insurer is **Pro100 Strakhuvannya** ([www.pro100.com.ua/eng](http://www.pro100.com.ua/eng)).

The country has a reciprocal health agreement with the UK, so Britons may be asked to prove they have insurance.

## INTERNET ACCESS

Only very upmarket hotels offer internet access via their rooms and clear instructions will be given in these instances. However, given the vagaries of the Ukrainian phone system, you're better off heading to the business centre (if one exists), or connecting via wi-fi.

In any case, almost every Ukrainian town has at least one internet café. The quieter ones will be in or near the main telephone centre or the post office. Another noisier kind is the computer games/internet centre, which will be overrun with teenage boys trying to kill each other electronically. Prices for internet access range from about 3uah in smaller cities to up to 12uah in Kyiv.

When you open a web browser, the keyboard should automatically produce English characters. If it doesn't, click on the language prompt (Ru/En) in the bottom right-hand corner of the screen. If no such prompt is visible, hit Ctrl+Shift to switch between the Cyrillic and Roman alphabets.

Internet service in Ukraine can be very intermittent, with networks and servers going down frequently. If an email or web address in

this book doesn't work the first time, it's worth trying again the next day (or the next!).

## LEGAL MATTERS

You should carry your passport with you at all times; if stopped by the police you will be obliged to show it. However, ask to see their ID first and know that they must return your documents immediately.

Do not get involved with drugs or anything that might get you arrested. The penalties can be severe and the process leading up to them labyrinthine. If the worst happens, the US embassy in Kiev maintains a list of English-speaking lawyers ([http://kyiv.usembassy.gov/amcitt\\_legal\\_eng.html](http://kyiv.usembassy.gov/amcitt_legal_eng.html)).

## MAPS

In the UK, travel bookshop **Stanfords** (☎ +44-20-7836 1321; [www.stanfords.co.uk](http://www.stanfords.co.uk)) sells a range of city maps, including Kyiv, Kharkiv, Lviv and Odesa. A very limited number of city maps are available on the free online database **Ukrainian Map Server** ([www.infoukes.com/ua-maps](http://www.infoukes.com/ua-maps)).

In Ukraine, accurate city maps (*plan mista*) are widely available for all reasonably sized cities. Just pop into a bookshop for a map of the town you're in.

Country maps are easy to find, both inside and outside the country. Gizimap produces *Ukraine: Moldova* (1:1,200,000) with a street map of Kyiv and an enlargement of Crimea, while IGN's *Ukraine* map (1:1,000,000) has street maps of Kyiv, Lviv, Odesa, Dnipropetrovsk, Donetsk and Kharkiv. Many are available online from **Stanfords** (☎ +44-20-7836 1321; [www.stanfords.co.uk](http://www.stanfords.co.uk)). **Freytag & Berndt** ([www.freytagberndt.at](http://www.freytagberndt.at), in German) produces comprehensive *Ukraine: Moldova* (1:1,200,000) maps that can be ordered online. Stanfords also sells road atlases.

In Ukraine keep an eye out for the excellent maps by **Topograficheskaya Karta** (☎ 8-044 274 6249, 274 6269; fax 274 6148). The series, based on former Soviet army mapping, covers the entire country in 286 maps (1:100,000). These are the most detailed maps available and useful to hikers (even though trails as such are not marked). The maps – printed in Russian only – are quite inexpensive.

## MONEY

The Ukrainian hryvnia (usually pronounced *gry-vnya* instead of the correct *hry-vnya*, or even just *grev*) is divided into 100 kopecks.

Coins come in denominations of one, five, 10, 25 and 50 kopecks, plus one hryvnia. Notes come in one, two, five, 10, 20, 50, 100, 200 and 500 hryvnia.

That said, there is a chronic shortage of change throughout the country, so try to give the correct money whenever you can. Be patient, too. If someone seems reluctant to give change, or asks you for more money (to make up an even sum), they're probably genuinely out of change, rather than trying to cheat you.

In some places, particularly in Crimea, people quote prices in roubles instead of hryvnia. Don't be confused; it's just force of habit.

After the Orange Revolution, Ukraine dropped its strict hryvnia-US dollar peg, but the local currency has remained fairly stable at about 5uah per US dollar. Many prices, particularly for hotel rooms, continue to be listed in dollars. Likewise, this guidebook uses hryvnia prices for most commodities. However, to save readers converting large numbers from an unfamiliar currency, we've opted to list dollar prices for hotels and international transport.

Officially, you can only pay for air tickets and foreign visas in US dollars. Some hotels and travel agencies will also let you pay in dollars or euros, although they probably shouldn't. Your change will come in hryvnia.

It's virtually impossible to buy any hryvnia before you get to Ukraine. For other exchange rates, see the inside front cover.

## ATMs

Automated teller machines (ATMs) dot the landscape in Ukraine in all but the tiniest villages. Hence the best way to manage your money here is to simply take it out of your account in hryvnia. Cirrus, Plus, Visa, MasterCard/EuroCard and other global networks are all recognised. *Bankomats*, as ATMs are known locally, are also found in major airport terminals, hotel lobbies, central post offices and Irish pubs, as well as on the street. At Boryspil airport there are several in the arrivals hall.

Your own bank will likely charge you a small fee for taking out foreign currency; check with it before leaving home. Some ATMs also distribute US dollars.

## Cash

US dollars and Russian roubles are the easiest currencies to exchange, increasingly followed

by the euro. The British pound is hard to exchange, except in Kyiv and, to a lesser degree, Crimea. In western Ukraine Polish zloty, Hungarian forints and Slovak crowns are widely accepted.

Whatever currency you bring, you should ensure that it is in fairly pristine condition. Banks and currency exchange offices will not accept any old, tatty notes with rips or tears, or US dollar bills issued before 1990. Even a fold in a bill might prompt extra checks for counterfeiting.

### Credit Cards & International Transfers

Ukraine remains primarily a cash economy. Credit cards are increasingly accepted by up-market hotels, restaurants and shops both in and outside Kyiv. However, be aware of possible credit-card fraud (see p244).

**Raiffeisen Bank Aval** ([www.aval.ua](http://www.aval.ua)), **UKRExim Bank** ([www.eximb.com](http://www.eximb.com)) and **Western Union** ([www.ufg.com.ua](http://www.ufg.com.ua)) all make cash advances (in dollars or hryvnia) on major credit cards (with around 3% commission). The procedure can be bureaucratic and confusing, however.

Western Union will receive money wired from anywhere in the world.

### Exchange Offices

Most hotels have an exchange office and there are numerous exchange kiosks (обмін валют) scattered along main streets. It's best to wander around a bit comparing rates before choosing one.

### Travellers Cheques

Travellers cheques should be avoided, or be brought only as a backup. It's relatively hard to find banks that will accept them and the process is lengthy, involving lots of paperwork.

If you must use them, take Thomas Cook, American Express or Visa cheques in US dollars. Cheque-friendly establishments include branches of the nationwide chains Raiffeisen Bank Aval or UKRExim Bank. Expect to pay 2% commission.

### POST

The national mail service is run by **Ukrposhta** ([www.ukrposhta.com](http://www.ukrposhta.com)). Its major post offices (*poshta* or *poshtamt*) are open from around 8am to 9pm weekdays, and 9am to 7pm on Saturday. Smaller post offices close earlier and are not open on Saturday.

Outward mail is fairly reliable, but you should always send things *avia* (airmail). This takes about a week or less to Europe, and two to three weeks to America or Australia. Sending a postcard or a letter up to 20g costs 3.50uah to anywhere outside Ukraine. Postcards to international destinations must be sealed inside an envelope. Drop your stamped letters to destinations abroad in the post box marked за кордон. Take packages to the post office unwrapped, so their contents can be verified.

Express mail is faster, more reliable and more expensive, depending on weight. The state-run International Express Mail (EMS) is available at most main post offices; letters allegedly arrive anywhere within five days.

Incoming post is still unreliable. It's better to use email for everyday communications and a courier service if you need to take delivery of something important. DHL and FedEx have offices throughout Ukraine.

### Addressing Mail

Traditionally, addresses were written in reverse order (eg Ukraine, Kyiv 252091, vul Franko 26/8, kv 12, Yuri Orestovich Vesolovsky), but the continental European fashion (Yuri Orestovich Vesolovsky, vul Franko 26/8, kv 12, Kyiv 252091, Ukraine) is now common. The return address is written in smaller print in the top left-hand corner on the front of the envelope (not on the back).

When addressing outgoing mail, repeat the country destination in Cyrillic if you can. Incoming mail addressed in Cyrillic, rather than Roman, characters will reach its destination sooner.

### SHOPPING

Ukraine's rich folk culture is renowned, but the most popular souvenir is its booze. Local vodka is cheap and frequently comes in attractively etched bottles. Top brands include Hetman, Ivanoff and Nemiroff. Wines and champagne are also produced locally, but you might want to exercise more caution here. As journalist David Whitely has written in Australian newspaper the *Age*, 'Ukrainian pseudo-champagne' is the sort of thing you buy 'just to take back as an amusingly undrinkable gift'. You'll have better luck with Ukrainian cognac, which isn't half bad.

If you're looking for nonconsumables, there are numerous souvenir markets in the

major cities. Among other things, these sell embroidery (*vyshyvka*) in various forms, including long, narrow towels (*rushnyky*), men's shirts (*sorochky*) and women's blouses (*bluza*). Ceramics (*keramiky*) and woollen blankets (*lyzhnyky*) are other choices. Most Ukrainian patterned eggs (*pysanky*) for sale are wooden imitations. You can buy the real thing in Lviv at the Museum of Ethnography, Arts & Crafts (p119).

Tatar handicrafts are available in Crimea at the Usta Workshop and Store (p195). Several antique shops in Kyiv sell old, hand-painted wooden icons – most of which are officially illegal to take out of the country (see p243).

### SOLO TRAVELLERS

More independent travellers are making their way to Ukraine, and though the rest of the country still doesn't exactly cater to their needs, the growing network of hostels does. Apart from a few well-trodden international train routes (eg Przemysl, Poland to Lviv), these are the only places you can really bank on meeting other travellers.

However, if you're moving around, rather than staying in one city, you'll never feel alone in Ukraine. Whether pressed against local people on a crowded, long-distance bus seat or sharing a train compartment with them, they will often want to chat – regardless of your respective language skills. It's a good incentive to learn at least a little Ukrainian or Russian.

Similarly, you won't feel particularly like 'Billy No-Mates' in restaurants. With eating out considered such a treat here, almost no locals would do so alone; everyone will immediately realise you're foreign and chalk your solitude up to that.

### TELEPHONE

Ukraine's country code is sometimes listed as 380 and sometimes as 38. Although the former is the officially correct version, the latter makes more practical sense, so we've chosen it for the Quick Reference on the inside front cover of this book. Using 38 as the country code, you don't have to remember to drop the initial 0 of the city code when dialling from abroad. To call Kyiv from London, for example, you would just dial 38 00 38 044, instead.

As the Ukrainian telephone system slowly migrates from analogue to digital, many cities and towns now have two area codes. The longer one (eg 38 0482 for Odesa) is used with

the shorter, old numbers. The shorter area code (eg 38 048) just drops the last digit and will be used with longer, new numbers.

Wherever this happens, we've listed both area codes under the town or city name, and it should be fairly self-explanatory. Just remember that complete phone numbers should always have a total of 10 digits.

### Intercity & International Calls

Always 'dial 8, then wait' (for a dial tone) – that's the single most important thing to know about making international calls from Ukraine and when phoning from city to city within the country. To make things easier, we've listed an (38 8-) as an option beside each city code throughout this guidebook.

To call internationally, dial 38, wait, then dial 10, followed by the country code, city code and number. If you can't dial directly, book a call through the international operator (38 079, 073) who will make the connection for you. Kyiv has some multilingual international operators (English 38-191, French 38-192, German 38-193, Spanish 38-195). However, they tend not to be very fluent.

To make an intercity call from a private phone, dial 38, wait for a dial tone, then punch in the city code (including the initial 0) followed by the number.

Every city has a telephone office (many open 24 hours), where you can make an international (*mizhnarodny*), intercity (*mizhhorodny*, *mizhmisky*) or local calls. You pay the switchboard operator first, go to your assigned booth (*kabina*) and dial the number you require (as above). If there is a black button labelled 'otvet' (answer) on the booth phone, press it when the person you are calling responds. After your call, pay the operator, who will give you change for any unused time. In some telephone offices, the switchboard operator will dial the number for you and direct you to your assigned booth once the connection has been made.

Using a Utel card phone is another way to make international and national calls, although you have to track down a Utel phone and the chip cards for them. Both are found in some post offices and hotel lobbies. The cards have printed instructions in English.

### Local Calls

Public phones on the street can be used for local calls only. Most require a phonenumber.



sold at post and telephone offices for just a few kopecks. However, phones in each city require a different brand of card, and a high percentage of the phones are broken anyway.

To dial locally, just use the last six or seven digits. If this doesn't work – the Ukrainian phone system is rather temperamental – dial as for an intercity call, using ☎ 8 plus the city code.

### Mobile Phones

European GSM phones usually work in Ukraine; double-check with your provider before leaving. However, if you're going to be making a few calls, it's more economical to get a prepaid SIM card locally. Various denominations from 25uah to 300uah are available from mobile-phone shops, plus some hotel receptions and street kiosks, and you get to use the full value in talk time. The three main mobile providers here:

**Djuice** ([www.djuice.com.ua](http://www.djuice.com.ua)) Network operator Kyivstar's prepaid division.

**Life:** ([www.life.com.ua](http://www.life.com.ua))

**MTC** ([www.mts.com.ua](http://www.mts.com.ua)) Formerly called UMC.

As with intercity calls, you always need to prefix calls to local mobile phones with an ☎ 8-. Common codes for mobiles include ☎ 8-050 (MTC) and ☎ 8-067 (Kyivstar/Djuice).

### TIME

Ukraine is located in one time zone – GMT plus two hours. During daylight-saving time, from the first Sunday in April until the last Sunday in October, it's GMT plus three hours.

When it's noon in Kyiv it's 2am in San Francisco; 5am in New York; 10am in London; 11am in Paris, Warsaw, Prague and Budapest; noon in Minsk, Bucharest and Cairo; and 1pm in Moscow.

### TOILETS

There's a Ukrainian saying: 'Where's the toilet? The toilet is everywhere!' When you see some of the public toilets you'll understand why. To be fair, only a few are actually vile, stinky, clogged holes with foot markers on either side, but when you encounter one you realise why people so often prefer to go behind a bush.

Where it's not possible to consult nature, pay toilets are the most bearable – although they will almost certainly be squat toilets. An attendant will demand 30 to 50 kopecks and proffer toilet paper in exchange. Public facilities in Crimea

are generally much better than elsewhere in the country. The toilets at the Kyiv and Lviv railway stations are quite acceptable, too.

The bathrooms on the trains themselves are another mucky subject. By the end of a journey, they are usually awash in liquid – but be consoled that it's usually nothing but water that's been splashed around from the tap.

Toilet paper in Ukraine is no longer so bad or so rare that you need to carry a major stash. That said, it's a good idea to always keep a little on hand.

A women's toilet (*tualet*) is marked with an upwards-facing triangle or ж (for *zhinochy*); men's are marked with a downwards facing triangle, ч or м (for *cholovichy* or *muzhcheny*).

### TOURIST INFORMATION

#### Local Tourist Offices

Well-equipped tourist offices are virtually unknown in Ukraine. At the time of writing, only the tourist office in Lviv approached Western standards, although there are other fledgling bureaux in Chernivtsi, Ivano-Frankivsk and Zhovkva.

However, those who run the country's nascent network of hostels have filled the gap, acting as tour guides, translators and general hand-holders, all of which makes it useful to spend a night or two at one of them, even if your budget doesn't demand it.

Chance encounters and train journeys can also often yield interesting results. If you can speak a little Ukrainian or Russian to the locals, or meet anyone who speaks English, they will be very keen to fill you in on the undiscovered wonders of their country. It's not unheard of for them to spend a day just showing you around.

#### Tourist Offices Abroad

Ukraine has no tourist offices abroad, and the information stocked by its consulates and embassies is very basic. Foreign travel agencies specialising in Ukrainian travel (see p258) are more helpful.

### TRAVELLERS WITH DISABILITIES

Even Kyiv, the best-equipped Ukrainian city, isn't that friendly to people with disabilities. The rest of the country is worse. Uneven pavements, steep drops off of curbs, holes in the road, lack of disabled access to public transport and very few wheelchair-accessible hotel rooms mean the only way to have an

enjoyable time would be to come on a tour catering specifically for disabled travellers – and these don't exist.

### VISAS

For stays of up to 90 days, citizens of the EU, Canada, the USA, Iceland, Japan, Norway and Switzerland do not need a visa, nor do those of Andorra, Liechtenstein, Monaco, San Marino and the Vatican, plus the Balkan and CIS nations. However, if arriving for the purpose of employment, study or permanent residency, visas will be needed even for these nationalities. Other nationalities always need visas, as do those intending to stay in Ukraine for more than 90 days.

Visas are available from your local embassy. See the **Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine** ([www.mfa.gov.ua](http://www.mfa.gov.ua)) for a complete list of embassies, including contact details (click on 'About the Ministry' and choose 'Diplomatic Missions of Ukraine').

There are several types of visa, including business, tourist, private, with single, double and multiple entries available. Detailed explanations are found via the **Embassy of Ukraine in Australia** ([www.ukremb.info](http://www.ukremb.info)). Letters of invitation are technically needed for all visas, although this is more of a formality these days. Single- and double-entry visas can be bought for one to six months. Multiple-entry visas are valid for three to 12 months.

It's important to note that you can't stay visa-free in Ukraine for more than 90 days in any 180-day period. Therefore, it's not possible to leave the country after 90 days and immediately come back across the border by renewing your entry stamp.

#### Visa Extensions

If you're staying for longer than three months on a tourist visa or six months on a business visa, or if you want to extend your visa, you'll need to visit the **Department of Citizenship, Passport & Immigration** (☎ 8-044 224 9051; bul Tarasa Shevchenka 34, Kyiv; ☎ 9am-5pm Mon-Fri). This is a bureaucratic ordeal that's best avoided if at all possible. Take a friend or helper along if you don't speak Russian or Ukrainian.

### WOMEN TRAVELLERS

Old-fashioned attitudes – so much for Soviet feminism! – still reign in Ukraine. Here,

women are a *devushka* ('miss' or 'young lady') pretty well up until they become a *babushka* and retire, and that quaint quirk says it all. The upside is that security guards and police who might stop male foreigners (see the boxed text, p179) consider women harmless and usually let them pass. Hotel staff and train conductors, who are often women themselves, frequently take pity on women travelling alone, and will make an unusual effort to be nice.

The likelihood of being harassed is pretty slim. Unless they are extremely drunk, local men tend to be either wary of, or protective towards, foreign women. Young Ukrainian women dress to kill and deflect most sexual attention anyway. If you're very cautious, always travel 2nd-class on trains. Sharing the compartment with three other passengers, rather than just one, offers safety in numbers.

Most Western women will take a very dim view of the demimonde of 'dating agency' tourism in Ukraine between Western men and local women.

### WORK

Before the Orange Revolution, Kafkaesque bureaucracy meant that most foreign workers in Ukraine had jobs with foreign multinationals or joint-venture corporations, or were government workers. Volunteers for the US Peace Corps and Soros Foundation have a long history with the country, as do religious missionaries.

However, in the past few years, adventurous entrepreneurs and English teachers have been seeking work independently in Ukraine. It's not always an easy process, as to get a work permit you have to show that a Ukrainian could not do the job you're being hired for. However, a little persistence will usually pay off.

For more tips, start with **Try Ukraine** ([www.tryukraine.com/work.shtml](http://www.tryukraine.com/work.shtml)). Online jobs are advertised on the following websites:

**www.cicerone.com.ua** Kyiv language school.

**www.go2kiev.com/view/jobs.html** Jobs and work permit info in English.

**http://job.ukr.net** Click on поиск вакансий (Vacancy Search) and type 'English' next to ключевые слова (Key Words).

**www.kievjob.info** Jobs advertised in English.

**www.rabota-ukraine.com.ua** Type 'English' next to ключевые слова (Key Words).

# Transport

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## GETTING THERE & AWAY

The majority of visitors fly to Ukraine – generally to Kyiv. However, low-cost flights to neighbouring countries mean a growing number of travellers are entering the country overland. Flights, tours and rail tickets can be booked online at [www.lonelyplanet.com/bookings](http://www.lonelyplanet.com/bookings).

### ENTERING THE COUNTRY Passport

Your passport must be valid for at least one month beyond your intended departure from Ukraine. It must be stamped with a visa if you need one (see p251).

### Other Documents

You will need to complete an immigration card on arrival in Ukraine. The card will be stamped on arrival and asked for upon departure, so keep it safe. For documentation necessary when driving your own vehicle, see p260.

### AIR

For the cheapest fares to Ukraine, including regularly updated special offers, see <http://www.attitudetravel.com/ukraine/low-costairlines>.

### THINGS CHANGE...

The information in this chapter is particularly vulnerable to change. Check directly with the airline or a travel agent to make sure you understand how a fare (and ticket you may buy) works and be aware of the security requirements for international travel. Shop carefully. The details given in this chapter should be regarded as pointers and are not a substitute for your own careful, up-to-date research.

### Airports & Airlines

Most international flights use Kyiv's **Boryspil international airport** (KBP; ☎ 8-044 490 4777; [www.airport-borispol.kiev.ua](http://www.airport-borispol.kiev.ua)). Odesa and Lviv also receive some international flights, and some also land in Simferopol in summer.

Ukraine's international airline carriers are **Ukraine International Airlines** (PS; ☎ 8-044 581 5050, 8-044 234 4528; [www.flyuia.com](http://www.flyuia.com)) and **Aerosvit** (VV; ☎ 8-044 490 3490; [www.aerosvit.com](http://www.aerosvit.com)). The following airlines also fly to/from Ukraine:

**Aeroflot** (SU; ☎ 8-044 234 7638; <http://ua.aeroflot.aero/eng>)

**Air Baltic** (BT; ☎ 8-044 238 2649/68; [www.airbaltic.com](http://www.airbaltic.com))

**Air France** (AF; ☎ 8-044 496 3575; [www.airfrance.com](http://www.airfrance.com))

**Austrian Airlines** (OS; ☎ 8-044 289 2032, 492 7232; [www.aa.com](http://www.aa.com))

**British Airways** (BA; ☎ 8-044 585 5050; [www.ba.com](http://www.ba.com))

**Delta Airlines** (DL; ☎ 8-044 246 5656; [www.delta.com](http://www.delta.com))

**Dniproavia** (Z6; ☎ 8-056 239 5311; [www.dniproavia.com](http://www.dniproavia.com))

**El Al** (LY; ☎ 8-044 230 6993; [www.elal.co.il](http://www.elal.co.il))

**Estonian Air** (OV; ☎ 8-044 289 0520; [www.estonian-air.ee](http://www.estonian-air.ee))

**Finnair** (AY; ☎ 8-044 247 5777; [www.finnair.com](http://www.finnair.com))

**KLM** (KL; ☎ 8-044 490 2490; [www.klm.com](http://www.klm.com))

**LOT** (LO; ☎ 8-044 288 1054/55; [www.lot.com](http://www.lot.com))

**Lufthansa** (LH; ☎ 8-044 490 3800; [www.lufthansa.com](http://www.lufthansa.com))

**Malév** (MA; ☎ Kyiv 8-044 490 7342/43, Odesa 8-048 749 5475; [www.malev.hu](http://www.malev.hu))

**Transaero** (UN; ☎ 8-044 490 6565, 8-044 286 7913; [www.transaero.ru/english](http://www.transaero.ru/english))

**Turkish Airlines** (TK; ☎ Kyiv 8-044 490 5933, Odesa 8-048 734 7906/07/0; [www.thy.com](http://www.thy.com))

### AUSTRALIA & NEW ZEALAND

Vienna is probably the most efficient transit hub between Ukraine and Australia/New Zealand, although many travellers choose London for familiarity. Check whether it's cheaper to book a separate Sydney–London flight with one airline, and the London–Kyiv leg with another.

### EUROPE

Ukraine International flies from Kyiv's main Boryspil airport to 14 Western European destinations, including Amsterdam, Helsinki, London, Madrid, Paris, Rome and Zurich. From both Kyiv and Odesa it flies to Vienna, code-sharing with Austrian Airlines. Austrian's subsidiary, Tyrolean Airways, flies regularly between Vienna and Dnipropetrovsk, Donetsk, Kharkiv, and Lviv.

Aerosvit flies mainly to central Europe, plus Greece, Turkey, Estonia and Sweden. Dniproavia operates some Ukraine International Airlines services from Dnipropetrovsk to Frankfurt-am-Main, Germany.

There are daily flights from Kyiv to central Europe, especially Budapest, Prague and Warsaw (with Aerosvit, LOT and Malév). Odesa is well-connected to central Europe, too. Most major Western European carriers have regular flights to Kyiv Boryspil.

Low-cost carriers arriving at **Budapest Ferihegy airport** ([www.bud-airport.hu/english](http://www.bud-airport.hu/english)) range from big players **easyJet** ([www.easyjet.com](http://www.easyjet.com)) and **Ryanair** ([www.ryanair.com](http://www.ryanair.com)) to the smaller **German Wings** ([www.germanwings.com](http://www.germanwings.com)) and **WizzAir** ([www.wizzair.com](http://www.wizzair.com)). Check the airport website or [www.flycheapo.com](http://www.flycheapo.com) for further carriers.

### RUSSIA, BELARUS, TRANSCAUCASIA & CENTRAL ASIA

There are daily flights from Moscow and St Petersburg to Kyiv (with Aeroflot, Aerosvit or Transaero), as well as frequent Moscow flights to/from Dnipropetrovsk (with Dniproavia), Odesa and Simferopol (with Aeroflot, Aerosvit or Transaero).

Aerosvit flies between Kyiv and Minsk (Belarus) and Baku (Azerbaijan). From Simferopol there are also former Soviet carriers to/from Tashkent (Uzbekistan), Tbilisi (Georgia) and Yerevan (Armenia).

### USA & CANADA

Aerosvit flies from Kyiv to Toronto (three times a week) and New York's JFK airport (five times a week). The carrier also has routes between North America and eastern cities like Dnipropetrovsk and Donetsk. Delta code-shares with Austrian Airlines from the US to Ukraine.

### CLIMATE CHANGE & TRAVEL

Climate change is a serious threat to the ecosystems that humans rely upon, and air travel is the fastest-growing contributor to the problem. Lonely Planet regards travel, overall, as a global benefit, but believes we all have a responsibility to limit our personal impact on global warming.

### Flying & Climate Change

Pretty much every form of motor travel generates CO<sub>2</sub> (the main cause of human-induced climate change) but planes are far and away the worst offenders, not just because of the sheer distances they allow us to travel, but because they release greenhouse gases high into the atmosphere. The statistics are frightening: two people taking a return flight between Europe and the US will contribute as much to climate change as an average household's gas and electricity consumption over a whole year.

### Carbon Offset Schemes

Climatecare.org and other websites use 'carbon calculators' that allow jetsetters to offset the greenhouse gases they are responsible for with contributions to energy-saving projects and other climate-friendly initiatives in the developing world – including projects in India, Honduras, Kazakhstan and Uganda.

Lonely Planet, together with Rough Guides and other concerned partners in the travel industry, supports the carbon offset scheme run by climatecare.org. Lonely Planet offsets all of its staff and author travel.

For more information check out our website: [lonelyplanet.com](http://lonelyplanet.com).



**ELSEWHERE**

Aerosvit flies daily between Kyiv and Istanbul, with at least two flights a week to Cairo. Turkish Airlines flies regularly from Istanbul to Dnipropetrovsk, Donetsk, Odesa and Simferopol. Aerosvit also flies from Kyiv to Dubai five times a week. El Al has one to two flights a day between Kyiv and Tel Aviv; Aerosvit has a daily service, while both carriers link Israel less regularly with regional airports like Dnipropetrovsk, Odesa (weekly) and Simferopol (in summer).

**LAND  
Border Crossings**

Crossing the border into Ukraine is a fairly straightforward, if slightly drawn-out, affair; expect customs personnel to scrutinise your papers.

Heading in the other direction, out of Ukraine into the EU and Schengen zone, be prepared for delays. These are popular cigarette-smuggling routes, and there are thorough – although not always entirely effective – customs checks. Indeed, after the extension of Schengen in 2008, some border crossings popular with cigarette smugglers were at least temporarily closed (see Romania, p257) so it's always best to check the latest where you can.

When heading for Belarus, Moldova or Russia also ensure you have the right visa. You might need special medical insurance for Belarus, purchasable at the border.

**Belarus  
BUS**

In most cases, you're better off going between Ukraine and Belarus by train, although the Lviv–Brest bus service (nine hours, one or two a day) is a possible exception. It leaves from Lviv's Bus Station No 2 (p126).

**CAR & MOTORCYCLE**

Only two crossings are official. The M20 road north from Chernihiv to Homel crosses just north of the Ukrainian village of Novy Yarylovichy. The M14 road between Brest and Kovel crosses just southeast of the Belarusian village of Makrany.

**TRAIN**

The main services are Kyiv–Minsk (\$35, 12½ to 15 hours, one to two daily), the Lviv–St Petersburg train (see p257) that passes through

Minsk, and the summertime Varna–Minsk service, which passes through Lviv. Lviv to Minsk takes 13 to 14 hours. Change at Minsk for Brest. To even pass through Belarus, you will need a transit visa.

**Hungary  
BUS**

Between one and two daily buses go from Uzhhorod to Nyíregyháza (\$8, three hours).

**CAR & MOTORCYCLE**

The road crossing between Zahony and Chop is open all year. Follow the E573 (M17) from Debrecen and Nyíregyháza. Other crossings are Beregsurány–Luzhanka and Tiszabecs–Vylok.

**TRAIN**

Chop, 22km southwest of Uzhhorod, is the international junction for trains between Ukraine and Hungary. Because the two countries use different rail gauges, services like the daily 015 Kyiv–Budapest (\$125, 25 hours) and 016 Budapest–Moscow (37 hours, via Kyiv) will have a long stop while the wheel-gauge is changed. The journey between Chop and Budapest (\$55) is about eight hours, including the gauge change.

Carriages on the 015 continue to (or originate from) Belgrade, with connections to Zagreb three times a week.

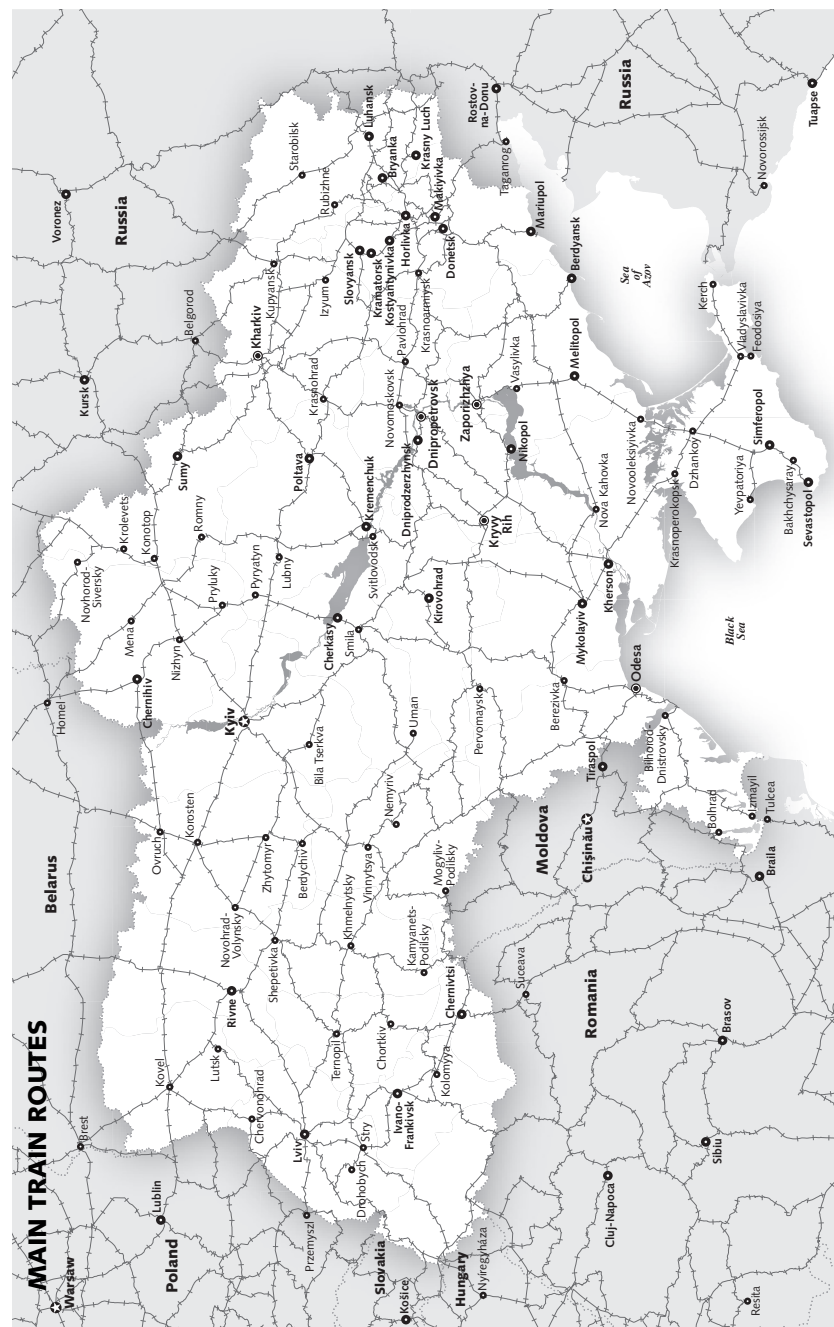
Note that if coming from Budapest, you'll generally save money by buying a domestic ticket as far as Zahony, then a short international ticket to Chop, and purchasing a domestic train ticket onwards.

**Moldova**

Visas and unofficial 'taxes' (read: bribes) will be your biggest headache here, mainly because of the unofficial republic of Transdnestr bordering Ukraine for some 500km. At research time, all trains between Odesa and Chişinău

**ONWARDS BUSES**

In addition to the information on pp254 & 256-57, bus operator **Regabus** ([www.regabus.cz](http://www.regabus.cz)) has services from several Western Ukrainian towns to the Czech Republic, including Prague. **Ecolines** ([www.eco-tickets.com](http://www.eco-tickets.com)) travels between a handful of Ukrainian cities and the Baltics.



had been cancelled (indeed, as had all Ukraine–Moldova trains) because of Ukraine’s blockade of troublesome Transdnistr. That situation is unlikely to change soon.

EU and US citizens, Canadians, Swiss and Japanese no longer need visas for Moldova. However, Australians, New Zealanders, South Africans and others do.

On entering Moldova from Transdnistr, you almost certainly won’t get an entry stamp. However, few report any trouble leaving Moldova, despite this.

## BUS

There are at least 10 daily buses to Chişinău via Tiraspol, and two via Palanka (\$8 to \$10, five to seven hours). The latter avoid Transdnistr. If you’re on a service that transits Transdnistr you’ll need to budget for an entry permit. Officially these cost \$1 to \$5 depending on your nationality, and they’re available at the border no matter what the guys on duty tell you. However, Westerners are frequently shaken down for much more than this. We’ve heard of people paying up to \$200, but up to \$50 is more usual. Everyone has their own experience, but perhaps it’s best not to take too much cash: the less you have, the less they can hit you up for. Arguing vociferously about it probably isn’t a good idea.

## CAR & MOTORCYCLE

Most of the dozen border crossings between Ukraine and Moldova enter Transdnistr. To get into Moldova without going through the breakaway republic, you’ll need to come up from the south. The most obvious route is the M15/E87 to the crossing at Palanka – a 280km-long diversion.

## Poland

The many low-cost carriers arriving at **Krakow airport** ([www.lotnisko-balice.pl](http://www.lotnisko-balice.pl)) and, to a much lesser extent, **Rzeszow airport** ([www.lotnisko-rzeszow.pl](http://www.lotnisko-rzeszow.pl)) have made the path from Poland to Lviv popular in and out of Ukraine. (See [www.flycheapo.com](http://www.flycheapo.com) for all airlines landing there.) The boxed text on p127 explains the relative merits of each mode of transport; the following sections include a few more practical details.

All this said, though, please be warned that in early 2008, wildcat strikes by Polish customs workers were meaning ridiculously long waits at the Ukrainian–Polish border (sometimes up to 55 hours). We hope this will be resolved

by the time you read this but it might not hurt to double-check before leaving home.

## BUS

While international services do go from Lviv’s main bus station, it’s best to give this station a miss for cross-border travel. From Lviv there are terrible delays leaving the country (we’ve heard reports of generally at least four and sometimes even nine hours at the border). Coming in, many services from Warsaw (\$25, 11 hours, four daily) and Krakow (\$22, nine to 10 hours, two daily) often drop passengers at the train station, so try to check when booking your ticket.

Between Przemysl and Lviv it’s quickest to take the *marshrutky* (minibuses) from outside each city’s train station to the border, walk across and hop onto an on-wards *marshrutka*. Leaving Lviv, you want *marshrutka* 297 between Lviv train station and the road crossing at Shehyni/Medyka (\$2 to \$3, 1½ hours). While they are quick, nimble and handy if you need to leave Lviv for Poland after the last daily train has departed, the *marshrutky* are crowded. If you’re unlucky you might get caught in a long pedestrian queue at the border, although Western passport holders are often sent to the front of the line (as they are thought less likely to be professional smugglers of massive amounts of cheap cigarettes).

## CAR & MOTORCYCLE

There are several crossings, of which the easiest in terms of both distance and formalities is Shehyni on the E40 (A259) between Lviv and Przemysl. Travelling Kyiv–Warsaw via Lutsk, you cross over the border at the Buh River before stopping in the Polish town of Okopy Nowe.

## TRAIN

Poland has an **online train timetable** ([rozklad.pkp.pl](http://rozklad.pkp.pl)) in several languages, including English. There are direct trains between Kyiv and Warsaw Wschodnia (\$90, 15 to 18 hours, twice daily), and plenty of other services if you change. The direct services are actually the Kyiv–Berlin (\$145, 24¼ hours) and Kyiv–Prague (\$130, 35 hours) trains passing through.

From Lviv, there are two trains a day to/from Przemysl (\$20 to \$25, nominally two hours but more like four or five), one of which carries on to Krakow (\$60, six to nine

hours). Note that it’s generally cheaper to buy domestic tickets as close to the border as you can, adding a short an international hop in between. (That’s to say it’s usually more cost effective to buy Krakow–Przemysl–Lviv tickets, than one Krakow–Lviv ticket.)

## Romania

### BUS

There’s only one bus a day from Chernivtsi to Suceava (\$8, four to five hours), leaving in the early morning. The short journey is drawn out by a lengthy border stop, as it’s a popular cigarette smuggling route. Private *marshrutky* will also take you. Look for them at Chernivtsi bus station.

### CAR & MOTORCYCLE

There are three Ukraine–Romania road crossings, only two of them important and only one of those is guaranteed to be open. That one’s 40km south of Chernivtsi, where the E85 (A269) crosses between Porubne, Ukraine and Siret, Romania.

The other crossing, the bridge between Solotvyno in Ukraine and Sighetu Marmatiei on the Romanian side, should be open again, but it’s best to check (see the boxed text, p152).

Note that if you try to cross between southern Ukraine (say, from Odesa) and Romania via Reni, north of Izmayil, you will have to cross a tantalisingly short stretch of Moldavian soil. If you need a visa, you almost certainly won’t get across. If you have one, you’re probably fine, although it took border guards a while to adjust to the new visa-free regime for EU citizens and others.

## TRAIN

There’s a daily Chernivtsi–Sofia service (\$90, 23 hours) via Bucharest (\$55, 11 hours). Elsewhere, trains run on Monday, Wednesday and Friday between Teresva in southwestern Ukraine (outside Rakhiv) to the Romanian town of Sighetu Marmatiei (\$3 to 4, 1½ to two hours, two running on each day of operation). This train has been suspended in the past to discourage cigarette smuggling, so always check the latest (see the boxed text, p152).

## Russia

### CAR & MOTORCYCLE

The main route between Kyiv and Moscow starts as the E93 (M20) north of Kyiv, but

becomes the M3 when it branches off east, some 50km south of Chernihiv.

## TRAIN

Most major Ukrainian cities have daily services to Moscow, all passing through either Kyiv or Kharkiv. There are up to nine trains a day between Kyiv and Moscow (\$70 to \$80, 10 to 15 hours), but only one from Kyiv to St Petersburg (\$70 to \$75, 25¼ hours). There’s also a St Petersburg train, via Minsk, to/from Lviv (\$80 to \$90, 30 hours, every second day, daily in summer).

Many of the daily international trains between Ukraine and Western Europe either originate or terminate in Moscow.

## Slovakia

Low-cost carriers land at **Bratislava airport** ([www.letiskobratislava.sk](http://www.letiskobratislava.sk)) and **Kosice airport** ([www.airportkosice.sk](http://www.airportkosice.sk)), with easy connections to Western Europe. Start with **SkyEurope** ([www.skyeurope.com](http://www.skyeurope.com)) and **Ryanair** ([www.ryanair.com](http://www.ryanair.com)).

## BUS

At least two buses a day go from Uzhhorod to Košice (\$8, three hours), from where you can get low-cost flights onward as well as regular trains to Prague.

## CAR & MOTORCYCLE

The E50 from Košice crosses at Vyšné Nemecké on the Slovak side to Uzhhorod in Ukraine, becoming the M17 afterwards. Expect long queues, particularly on weekends.

## TRAIN

As for Hungary, Chop is the gateway to/from Slovakia. Again, because of differing rail gauges, services like the 7 Kyiv–Bratislava (\$105, 30 hours, five times a week) via Lviv (19 hours from Bratislava) will have a long stop while the carriages’ bogies are changed. Chop–Bratislava (\$65) takes about 13 hours, including the gauge change. Twice a week, the 7 continues on to (or originates in) Vienna (\$145 from Kyiv).

## SEA

Cruise and cargo ships are the main users of Ukrainian ports but some useful scheduled ferry services do exist. Please note, however, that some routes frequently change, so double-check any information you can just before leaving home.

**TO/FROM ILYICHEVSK**

From Ilyichevsk, outside Odesa, **Ukrferry** (☎ 8-0482 344 059; www.ukrferry.com) travels year-round to Varna, Bulgaria (one-way passenger \$10, car \$85 to \$135, 20 hours, Ilyichevsk departure 6pm Monday, Varna departure 6pm Wednesday).

It also sails to Georgia, heading for Poti (one-way from \$150, 58 hours to Georgia, 42 hours from Georgia, Ilyichevsk departure 11pm Tuesday, Poti departure 6pm Saturday). Note that services to Batumi are cargo only.

**TO/FROM IZMAYIL**

From Izmayil's river port, **Transcruise** (☎ 8-048 412 0550, 230 64) runs ferries to/from Silistra, Bulgaria (\$85 one-way, six hours to Bulgaria, 3½ hours to Ukraine, twice weekly June to September, weekly October to May).

**TO/FROM KERCH**

Old ferries shuttle regularly between Kerch's **Port Krym** (☎ 8-065 616 9588) and Port Kavkaz in Russia's Novorossiysk region (adult \$5, child \$3, car from \$25, 30 minutes). In summer, eight ferries a day cross; in winter there are six. At the time of research, ferries left Kerch at 1.30am, 4.45am, 7.30am, 10.15am, 1.15pm, 4.15pm, 7.00pm and 10.30pm in summer; in winter the 04.45 and 16.15 services do not sail.

Beware that timetables change and that travel onwards from Port Kavkaz might not be that easy unless you're on a bus or have your own wheels.

The 2007 oil spill in the strait left ferries unaffected. Ukrainian authorities are promising a bridge here, but have been for years.

**TO/FROM ODESA**

**Ukrferry** (☎ 8-0482 344 059; www.ukrferry.com) runs a route to the Turkish capital, Istanbul (one-way from \$155, 36 hours, Odesa departure 3pm Monday and 8pm Saturday, Istanbul departure midnight Tuesday and noon Friday).

**London Sky Travel** (☎ 8-0482 729 3196; www.lstravel.com.ua) sells tickets on fast catamarans to Varna in Bulgaria from June to August only (one-way \$115, nine to 11½ hours, Odesa departure 2am Tuesday and Saturday, Varna departure 1pm Monday and Friday).

**TO/FROM SEVASTOPOL**

There are weekly ferries between the **Port of Sevastopol** (☎ 8-069 254 4082, 540 522; www.morport.sevastopol.ua) and Karakoy, in Istanbul (from \$140, 25 hours, Sevastopol departure 7pm

Sunday, Istanbul departure 10pm Thursday). In Turkey, call ☎ +90 212 2529720 or see www.letsgoistanbul.com.

**TO/FROM YALTA**

A catamaran route between **Yalta Port** (☎ 8-065 432 0094; vul Ruzvelta 5) and Sinop, Turkey, may or may not continue. Check with **London Sky Travel** (☎ 8-0482 729 3196; www.lstravel.com.ua).

**TOURS**

The following agencies provide package tours to Ukraine. Remember that train tickets are much cheaper at Ukrainian railway stations than via booking agents.

**Australia**

**Gateway Travel** (☎ 02-9745 3333; www.russian-gateway.com.au) Offers escorted group tours.

**Canada & USA**

**Chumak Travel Agency** (☎ 905-804 8826; www.ukrainetour.com) Run by Ukrainians now based in Canada.  
**Meest Travel** (☎ 416-236-7707, 800-210-7272; www.meest.net) This delivery and travel service has more than 400 representatives throughout Canada, the USA and Ukraine.

**Scope Travel** (☎ 973-378-8998, 877-357-0436; www.scopestravel.com) Offers tours from the major cities to the Carpathian countryside.

**UK**

**Black Sea Crimea** (☎ 07808 160 621; www.blacksea-crimea.com) Small but helpful operator, with an informative and up-to-date website.

**Panorama Tours** (☎ 0870 066 2052; www.panorama-tours.com.ua) City breaks to Kyiv, Lviv and Odesa with this Ukrainian International Airlines partner.

**Regent Holidays** (☎ 0845 277 3317; www.regent-holidays.co.uk) Knowledgeable company with varied itineraries.

**Ukraine Travel** (☎ 0161-652 5050; www.ukraine.co.uk) The UK's leading Ukraine specialist, also known as Bob Sopol's. It even has Ukrainian football information.

## GETTING AROUND

**AIR**

Ukraine doesn't have the world's safest airline industry, but then it's probably not the world's least safe either. In 2005 the US Federal Aviation Authority downgraded the country's safety rating to Category 2, although both of Ukraine's international airlines meet

FAA standards and air fatalities since independence are low. (Essentially, planes are old, while operating procedures do not meet minimum international safety standards.)

The national network mainly uses Kyiv as a hub. To fly from Lviv to Donetsk or from Simferopol to Kharkiv, for example, you almost always need to go through the capital.

In addition to the airports listed on p252, Kyiv's **Zhuliyany airport** (IEV; ☎ 8-044 242 2308; www.airport.kiev.ua) receives many domestic (and some international) flights. Smaller airports are listed under individual cities.

**Airlines in Ukraine**

Between them, Ukraine International Airlines and Aerosvit (see p252) can book most internal flights. However, many services are operated by their domestic code-share partners, often using creaky, smoky Soviet-era Antonov, Ilyushin and Yak aircraft. It's too complicated to discuss all the individual domestic carriers here, but for reference, they and their IATA codes include Air Ukraine (6U), Dniprovia (Z6), Donbassaero (7D), Lviv Airlines (5V), Motor Sich (M9), Odesa Air (5K) and Tavrey Airco (T6).

Ukraine Mediterranean Airlines (UF) was banned by the EU in 2007 because of safety concerns.

**Tickets**

Ukraine International Airlines and Aerosvit have offices in most cities, and the website of **Kiyavia Travel** (www.kiyavia.com) lists timetables, prices and aircraft used – all in English. Tickets can be booked with Kiyavia by email but must be collected in person.

**BICYCLE**

Although you have to keep an eye out for crazy drivers and keep to the road's shoulder, cycling is a great way to see the real Ukraine. The Carpathians and Crimea – in that order – are particularly pleasant cycling country. Markets everywhere sell lots of spare parts. Rental is rare; you'll be better off buying a bike and selling it at the end of your trip.

To transport your bike on a mainline train, you must remove the wheels, wrap the bike in plastic, and place it in the luggage niche above the top bunks. On local *electrychky* trains you only need to buy an outsized luggage ticket (3uah to 4uah).

**BOAT**

Dnipro River cruises, from Kyiv to the Black Sea, can be booked through many travel agencies, but the principal operator is **Chervona Ruta** (☎ 8-044 253 9247; www.ruta-cruise.com). Check its very comprehensive website for details.

**Ukrferry** (☎ 8-048 234 4059; www.ukrferry.com) has Black Sea cruises in Crimea, where, depending on availability, you might be able to nab a berth for just one leg, say from Sevastopol to Yalta. A similar arrangement exists with Dnipro River trips (see above) where you might be able to travel from Odesa to Sevastopol. For these short hops, contact **London Sky Travel** (☎ 8-0482 729 3196; www.lstravel.com.ua).

**BUS**

Buses serve every city and small town, but are best for short trips (three hours or less) as they're generally old and uncomfortable. There's a very ad hoc feel to the experience, with buses continually coming and going, seemingly without rhyme or reason, and drivers sometimes decorating their buses with religious photos, curtains or plastic flowers.

Some Western-standard 'luxury' coaches do ply major routes. The largest operators are **Autolux** (www.autolux.com.ua) and **Gunsel** (www.gunsel.com.ua).

Bus stations are called *avtovokzal* or *avto-stantsiya*. Some of Ukraine's larger cities have several stations – a main one for long-distance routes and smaller stations that serve local destinations.

**Information**

Reliable timetables are displayed near the ticket windows, but don't rely on the Soviet-era route maps. Destinations are usually signposted on platforms. There might be an information window (*dovidkove byuro*; довідкове бюро), but you can usually ask at any window.

Online information is found at www.bus.com.ua, but it's not very reliable.

**Tickets**

Tickets are sold at the bus station a few hours before departure and resemble shop-till receipts. Your destination and time of travel is clearly marked, as well as your seat number (*meest*; мейст). Tickets from the bus station are valid only for one service. Having bought a ticket, you can't suddenly decide to take a later bus without paying again.



Unless the bus is full, you can always simply pay the driver, however. Indeed, if the bus is passing through town, tickets can only be bought this way.

## CAR & MOTORCYCLE

We don't particularly recommend driving in Ukraine, unless you're used to developing-world driving conditions. The roads are mostly terrible and there's a tacit, unofficial highway code that local drivers understand but which you probably never will. Traffic accidents are also on the high side, with an average 7000 people killed annually on Ukraine's roads. In 2007 a sharp spike in numbers (9500 deaths) even prompted President Viktor Yushchenko to launch a major road safety campaign, plus a road-investment programme of \$3 billion for 2008.

### Bringing Your Own Vehicle

To bring your own vehicle into the country, you'll need your original registration papers (photocopies not accepted). Also, having a 'Green Card' International Motor Insurance Certificate will save a lot of insurance hassles. Your registration number will be noted on your immigration card, and you'll have to explain if leaving the country without your vehicle. For stays over two months, you'll have to register your car with the local authorities.

### Driving Licence

Most official sources say an IDP (International Driving Permit) is necessary, and given the Ukrainian traffic police's habit of pulling people over for minor transgressions, it would be silly not to have one.

## Fuel & Spare Parts

Ukrainians call their country one of 'churches, cafés and petrol stations', so you'll never have to go far to get fuel. Innovative, shoestring repairs are widespread; proper spare parts are not quite so.

### Hire

Between them, **Avis** ([www.avis.com](http://www.avis.com)), **Europcar** ([www.europcar.com](http://www.europcar.com)) and **Hertz** ([www.hertz.com.ua](http://www.hertz.com.ua)) have locations in Kyiv (airport and downtown), Dnipropetrovsk, Donetsk, Kharkiv, Lviv, Odesa, Simferopol and Yalta. Drivers must be over 25 years of age. Check insurance and hire conditions carefully.

### Insurance

Third-party insurance is compulsory, which will normally be covered by a 'Green Card' International Motor Insurance Certificate. Other insurance isn't compulsory in Ukraine, but a useful national insurer is **Pro100 Strakhuvannya** ([www.pro100.com.ua/eng](http://www.pro100.com.ua/eng)). Hire companies provide their own vehicle insurance.

### Road Conditions

While roads are generally poor, the three main E/M highways traversing the country are better than most, especially the recently reconstructed E93 (M20) between Kyiv and Odesa. The east-west E40 (M17) from Lviv to Kharkiv via Kyiv, and the E95 (M2) from Kharkiv to Simferopol are also decent. Generally, roads are better in the east than the west.

### Road Rules

Traffic here drives on the right. Unless otherwise indicated, speed limits are 60km/h in towns, 90km/h on major roads and 110km/h on highways. There's a zero-tolerance policy

on drink-driving and it's also a criminal offence not to wear a seat belt (although everybody completely ignores the latter). Legally, you must always carry a fire extinguisher, first aid kit and warning triangle.

## HITCHING

You simply can't hitchhike around Ukraine for free. Hitching a ride is common, but it's necessary to pay drivers for the privilege. Also, hitching is never entirely safe anywhere. However, given the prevalence of unofficial taxis in Ukraine, it's reasonably safe to do so during the day, within big cities. Obviously, exercise common sense, particularly if you're a woman travelling solo.

You will need to speak the lingo to discuss your destination and price and it's easiest to get a ride where locals are flagging down cars. Put your hand up in the air, palm down.

## LOCAL TRANSPORT

Ukrainian cities are navigable by trolleybus, tram, bus and (in Kyiv, Kharkiv and Dnipropetrovsk) metro. Urban public transport systems are usually overworked and overcrowded. There's no room for being shy or squeamish – learn to assert yourself quickly.

Still, a ticket (*kvytok* or *bilyet*) is dirt-cheap. A single bus/tram/trolleybus ride costs 60 kopecks. It's always simplest to pay the driver or conductor. Tickets have to be punched on board (or ripped by the conductor). Unclipped or untorn tickets warrant an on-the-spot fine, should you be caught.

For the metros you need a plastic token (*zheton*), sold at the counters inside the stations for 50 kopecks. Metros run from around 5.30am to midnight. Metro stations can have several names – one for each different line that passes through it.

## TAXIS

Most taxis lack meters, and drivers double or triple their prices (or worse) when they hear your accent. There are several ways to deal with this. Ask your hotel to call for a quote. This doesn't always get you a truly local price, but it's never a total rip-off. Alternatively, haggle with drivers (you'll need to speak some Ukrainian or Russian) and then bite the bullet. Even inflated prices are ultimately cheap for Westerners. Cabs in front of hotels and major train stations always charge a premium.

Published rates are roughly 5uah for the first 3km and 1.25uah for each kilometre thereafter. Be very happy if you're charged this. For day trips, it's worth trying to negotiate by the hour, but not with the few cabs that do have meters, since they charge for waiting time.

## TRAIN

Although the rolling stock is overdue for retirement and the rails aren't in the best shape, train is still the preferred form of transport in Ukraine. Although they're very slow, they're also cheap and reliable – lateness is rare. You can also move around or get some sleep.

Every train station (*zaliznychny vokzal* or just *vokzal*) has a left-luggage counter – which usually goes by the Russian name *kamera khranyeniya* (камера хранения) or *kamera zberihannaya* (камера зберігання) in Ukrainian. Many are open 24 hours except for signposted short breaks. You usually pay when you deposit your luggage and retrieve it with the receipt or metal tag you are given.

Most railway personnel in Ukraine tend to be Russian-speaking. Train tickets are printed in Ukrainian and Russian.

### Classes of Trains

*Spalny vahon* (SV) is a 1st-class couchette (sleeper) compartment for two people. This is perfect for couples but, if travelling alone, sharing with a stranger can be a little awkward. Your bed will already be made for you and SV toilets are much cleaner. Not all trains offer SV, which costs two to three times more than *kupe*.

*Kupe* or *kupeyny* is a 2nd-class sleeper compartment for four people. This is the most popular class – which books up fast on some routes – and also the safest and most fun. Sharing the compartment with two or three others is less awkward and there's safety in numbers. *Kupe* is about twice as costly as *platskart*. Unless otherwise noted, train prices quoted in this guidebook are for *kupe*. Bed-sheet charges (usually 6uah to 8uah), which used to be paid to train attendants, are now usually included in the ticket price. *Platskart* is a 3rd-class sleeper. The entire train car is open (no separate compartments), with groups of four bunks in each alcove, along with two others in the aisle. This is not really recommended for foreigners.

*Zahalny vahon* (*obshchiy* in Russian) means an upright, hard bench seat for the entire

### DAI – OR GIMME

Among the biggest road hazards in Ukraine are the traffic cops. The underpaid DAI (Derzhavna Avtomobilna Inspektsiya) officers are infamous for waving drivers down and demanding a 'fine' for some minor violation (eg not carrying a warning triangle), or even an imaginary breach of the road rules.

In 2005 President Yushchenko sacked the entire force in disgust, after being continually pulled over himself while driving an unmarked car from Kyiv to Poland. The DAI was later reinstated by Prime Minister Yankuvoych.

If you're pulled over when not speeding, they're probably just looking for a little cash (say around 40uah). However, they don't speak English and so some expats suggest that yabbering on until they lose patience is a good way to escape. It's worth trying at least. Amusingly, 'dai', being short for 'dayte', translates as 'gimme' in Russian and Ukrainian.

**GIVE ME A SIGN**

There are so many varying classifications of desk across Ukraine's non-English-speaking train stations it would be impossible to list them all. However, a few major signs to watch out for, or words to know of, follow:

- Довідкове бюро – Information desk
- інформація – Information
- Добова каса/каса квиткова Добова – Tickets for today (for departures within the next 24 hours)
- Продаж квитків – Ticket booking/advance tickets
- інвалідів та учасників війни – Try to avoid windows with this on the glass, unless you're an invalid or war veteran
- сервіс центр – Service centre, where you might or might not be sent if you hold a foreign passport. They won't speak English, but the queues are generally less brutal.
- міжнародні квитки – International tickets
- приміський вокзал – Station for local or suburban trains (usually part of, or adjoining, main train station)
- приміська каса – Local or suburban ticket desk
- міський транспорт – City transport
- камера схову/камера зберігання/камера хранения – Left-luggage room and/or lockers (sadly the easily pronounceable first option – *scovy* – is rarely the term used or understood)
- Кімнати відпочинку – 'Resting' rooms, or rooms for overnight stays, ie train-station hotel
- розклад – Timetable
- прибуття – Arrivals
- відправлення – Departures

journey. This is generally only used over short distances, although one or two long-distance overnight services use it.

All classes have assigned places with your carriage (*vahon*) and bunk (*mesto*) numbers printed on your ticket.

There are many types of trains but the most important difference is between diesel-engine mainline services (often just *poiyzd* but sometimes called *pasazhyrskiy poiyzd*, *skoriy poiyzd* or *shvydkiy poiyzd*, meaning 'passenger train', 'express, long-distance' and 'fast') and electrified suburban trains (*elektrychka*). The latter will leave from a different part of the train station set aside for local trains (*prymisky poiyzd*, or *pryorodny poiyzd* in Russian). Some express trains from Kyiv to eastern cities have airplane-style seats, rather than the usual benches.

**Costs & Reservations**

Despite enormous price hikes, train fares are still cheap and you can go from one end of

the country to the other for not much more than \$40. However, buying tickets is impossible without using a smattering of Ukrainian or Russian (or getting someone else to do it for you). You'll need to learn some basic phrases or point to the sentences in the back of this book (see p268).

Several cities, such as Kyiv, Lviv and Simferopol, have advance ticket offices in the centre, and some larger train stations (eg Kharkiv, Kyiv, Simferopol) have 'service centres' where foreigners might be directed, particularly in busy periods. No-one in either will speak English, but at least you won't be shoved by so many irate people waiting behind in line.

When buying train tickets you must show a passport (or give a name) for each ticket. This is to thwart touts who used to buy all the seats on popular routes and resell them at a premium.

**Information**

There's a searchable **English train timetable** ([www.poezda.net](http://www.poezda.net)) that's not 100% up-to-date and

which uses downright perverse spelling for town names (eg Chernovcy for Chernivtsi, Harkov for Kharkiv), but is still pretty good. The official **Ukrainian Railways site** ([www.uz.gov.ua](http://www.uz.gov.ua), in Ukrainian) even includes prices from Kyiv. Also good is <http://www.seat61.com/Ukraine.htm>.

Strictly Russian- or Ukrainian-speaking attendants in information booths (*dovidkove byuro*; довідкове бюро) are frequently surly and uncooperative, but at least they no longer levy charges for information given.

Schedules are posted on the wall – once you have mastered some basic words (see p268), they're simple to decipher.

In Kyiv, an updated and comprehensive train timetable is printed in the *Kyiv Business Directory*. At some stations you can buy pocket train timetables or pick up free ones sponsored by local advertising.

**On the Journey**

Each carriage has an attendant called a *provodnik* (male) or *provodnitsa* (female), who collects your ticket, distributes sheets, makes morning wake-up calls, and serves cups of tea.

It's *de rigueur* to change into sleeping wear in your carriage, so bring tracksuit bottoms, a comfortable top and thick-soled slippers or flip-flops (thongs). Your fellow passengers will happily leave the carriage while you change – just motion.

It's always been traditional to share food and drink with your fellow passengers. This is still common, although much less so than formerly. Dining cars rarely sell anything more than sandwiches, snacks and drinks.

Toilets are locked some 30 minutes either side of a station. Bring your own paper. Don't drink the water from the tap or even clean your teeth with it.

# Health

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## BEFORE YOU GO

Ukraine's health service is under-resourced and decidedly primitive by Western European standards, so it's important to be prepared. Bring extra supplies of any medication you are taking and familiarise yourself with the Latin name if it's not on the label.

In Ukraine this is often written in the Roman alphabet alongside any medicine's local name. Although most Ukrainian hospitals now use disposable syringes, supplies can be short, so it doesn't hurt to bring your own in a sterilised first-aid kit. Contact lens solution and spare contacts are now readily available in major cities.

### INSURANCE

Ukraine has reciprocal health-care arrangements with some countries – the UK, for example – but these are only ever for emergency medical care. Americans and others lacking affordable health insurance should at least consider a policy that covers you for the worst possible scenario, such as an accident requiring an emergency flight home.

Ukraine's health-care system can usually take care of less serious ailments and afflictions – such as influenza, cuts requiring stitches and simple broken bones – at bargain prices.

Of course having the appropriate level of travel insurance is always a good idea as well.

### INTERNET RESOURCES

Before departing, check with your local public health service for information on current epidemics or health risks for travel to Ukraine. The World Health Organization's (WHO) publication *International Travel and Health* is revised annually and is available online at [www.who.int/ith](http://www.who.int/ith). Other useful websites include [www.mdtravelhealth.com](http://www.mdtravelhealth.com) (travel health recommendations for every country; updated daily), [www.fitfortravel.scot.nhs.uk](http://www.fitfortravel.scot.nhs.uk) (general travel advice), and [www.maristopes.org.uk](http://www.maristopes.org.uk) (information on women's health and contraception).

### VACCINATIONS

No jabs are mandatory to enter Ukraine, but it is recommended that your immunisations

#### MEDICAL CHECKLIST

Pharmacists in Ukraine are the first port of call for many people suffering minor complaints, and they will usually perform a diagnosis if you can explain or point to the problem. Most common medicines are available, but it might be handy to bring the following.

- Adhesive tape
- Antibacterial ointment (for cuts and abrasions)
- Antidiarrhoeal drugs (eg loperamide)
- Anti-inflammatory drugs (eg Ibuprofen)
- Antihistamine (for hay fever and allergic reactions)
- Aspirin or paracetamol
- Bandages, gauze, gauze rolls
- DEET-based insect repellent for the skin
- Eye drops
- Insect spray containing pyrethrin, for clothing, tents and bed nets
- Oral rehydration salts
- Scissors, safety pins, tweezers
- Sun block
- Thermometer

are current for diphtheria, polio, tetanus, measles (Kyiv experienced an outbreak in 2006), hepatitis A and typhoid (the last two are given jointly). Those going hiking in summer should also consider shots against tick-borne encephalitis and rabies.

## IN TRANSIT

### DEEP VEIN THROMBOSIS (DVT)

Blood clots may form in the legs during plane flights, chiefly because of prolonged immobility. The longer the flight, the greater the risk. The chief symptom of DVT is swelling or pain of the calf, usually but not always on just one side. When a blood clot travels to the lungs, it might cause chest pain and difficulty breathing. Travellers with any of these symptoms should immediately seek medical attention.

To prevent the development of DVT on long flights, you should walk around the cabin, contract the leg muscles while sitting, drink plenty of fluids and avoid alcohol.

### JET LAG & MOTION SICKNESS

To avoid jet lag (common when crossing more than five time zones) try to drink plenty of non alcoholic fluids and eat light meals. Try to readjust your schedule for meals, sleep etc as soon as you board your flight, or even in the days before departure. Upon arrival, get exposure to natural sunlight.

Antihistamines such as dimenhydrinate (Dramamine) and meclizine (Antivert, Bonine) are usually the first choice for treating motion sickness. A herbal alternative is ginger.

## IN UKRAINE

### AVAILABILITY & COST OF HEALTH CARE

There are some Western European-standard private clinics in Kyiv but these are usually expensive. By contrast, health care in state-run hospitals is remarkably cheap, although a shortage of cash in the post-Soviet era means equipment is often lacking or outdated. While most doctors at the state-run hospitals don't speak English, they are usually well trained and can take care of run-of-the-mill ailments and accidents. For serious complaints you should travel to a larger town or ask your embassy or consulate to recommend a private clinic, doctor or dentist in Kyiv.

The US embassy maintains a comprehensive list of regional hospitals at [http://kyiv.usembassy.gov/amcitt\\_medical\\_serv\\_ukraine\\_eng.html](http://kyiv.usembassy.gov/amcitt_medical_serv_ukraine_eng.html).

### INFECTIOUS DISEASES

#### Diphtheria

This bacterial infection of the throat, nose and tonsils is resurgent in parts of Eastern Europe, including Ukraine. The disease causes lesions in the infected area and in severe cases can cause swelling and fluid build-up in the neck. In many countries, diphtheria booster shots are recommended every 10 years. Travellers should ensure theirs is current before visiting Ukraine.

#### HIV & AIDS

Ukraine is the site of Europe's worst HIV epidemic. The country is thought to have more than 10 times the number of HIV cases than equivalent Western European nations, and the virus continues to spread faster here than elsewhere on the continent. Newly reported HIV diagnoses reached record levels in 2007, and UNAIDS now estimates that 410,000 people – or 1.4% of the adult population – is HIV positive. That number could be as high as 680,000. Most cases go unreported, which explains the uncertainty and why official figures released by Ukraine's Ministry of Health are much lower.

While the epidemic was originally drug-driven, heterosexually transmitted infection is on the increase, rising to about 35% of new HIV cases in 2006, according to UNAIDS. The worst-hit areas are Crimea, Dnipropetrovsk, Donetsk, Odesa and Mykolayiv.

The message should be clear: always practise safe sex.

#### Rabies

This is a potential concern considering the number of stray dogs running around in packs throughout Ukraine. If bitten by a dog, seek medical attention immediately (most main hospitals will have a rabies clinic), but don't panic – while rabies is transmitted via the animal's saliva, the rabies virus is present in saliva only during the final stages of the disease in the animal, often only in the last week of the dog's life. It is therefore a relatively rarely transmitted disease. Still, do not take any chances and seek medical attention. Any bite, scratch or even lick from an unknown animal should be cleaned immediately and thoroughly. Scrub



with soap and running water, and then apply alcohol or iodine solution.

A rabies vaccination does exist, but it only reduces the level of treatment needed following a bite. Travellers vaccinated against rabies should still seek medical treatment if bitten.

### Tick-Borne Encephalitis

This is spread by tick bites. It is a serious infection of the brain and some medical practitioners advise vaccination for those planning to spend time hiking in the Carpathians or Crimea between April and August. The risk of getting bitten in Ukraine is quite low, however. So other clinics suggest prophylactic prevention – ie using DEET- and pyrethrin-based insect repellents to prevent tick bites – particularly for short-term visitors. In either case, check your body for ticks each evening.

Two doses of vaccine will give a year's protection, three doses up to three years'. However, many doctors' surgeries have to order the vaccine in advance and the shots need to be given at certain intervals for maximum protection. So, if you are planning to have a series of shots, you should look at having the first injection about a month before departure.

### Tuberculosis

As in many countries of the former Soviet Union, the incidence of drug-resistant tuberculosis (TB) has reached epidemic proportions in Ukraine. However, most travellers are at very low risk of contracting this disease, as infection requires prolonged contact with a contagious individual. Many West Europeans and Australians will have been vaccinated against some strains of TB in adolescence. This, and being in good health, is thought by some practitioners to increase your natural immunity against other strains too. American travellers, who won't usually have been immunised, might want to consider a TB vaccination if going into a high-risk situation. However, its efficacy is questionable when given in adulthood.

In any case, try to avoid spending a lot of time with someone with a persistent dry cough. If that proves to be unavoidable, it's a sensible precaution to get a TB test on your return home.

### Typhoid & Hepatitis A

These diseases are spread through contaminated food (particularly shellfish) and water. Typhoid

can cause septicaemia; hepatitis A causes liver inflammation and jaundice. Neither is usually fatal but recovery can be prolonged. Hepatitis A and typhoid immunisation is now routinely provided in a single vaccine. However, the first dose lasts only a year, after which you will need a booster to provide 10 years' coverage.

### TRAVELLER'S DIARRHOEA

If you develop diarrhoea, be sure to drink plenty of fluids, preferably an oral rehydration solution (eg Dioralyte). A few loose stools don't require treatment, but if you start having more than four or five stools a day, you should start taking an antibiotic (usually a quinolone drug) and an anti-diarrhoeal agent (such as loperamide), and seek medical treatment. Furthermore, if diarrhoea is bloody, persists for more than 72 hours or is accompanied by fever, shaking, chills or severe abdominal pain, you should also seek medical attention.

### ENVIRONMENTAL HAZARDS

#### Chernobyl

The risk to short-term visitors to the Chernobyl nuclear power plant is thought to be insignificant. Any areas contaminated enough to present a health risk have been sealed off and should not pose a threat unless you are foolhardy enough to stray from your group and wander off on your own. See p95 for more details.

However, some authorities have advised against swimming in the Dnipro around Kyiv, although it's a popular local pastime in summer. Portions of silt flowing downstream may contain minute traces of radiation.

The most absorptive foods are mushrooms and berries. These two staples of the Ukrainian diet should be avoided if they are from the Polissyan woods around Chernobyl or if their origin is uncertain.

#### Hypothermia & Frostbite

Ukraine's harsh winters do present a risk of hypothermia, so be alert to the first warning signs, like chattering teeth and shivering, before loss of judgment and clumsiness set in. Unless rewarming occurs at this point, the sufferer deteriorates into apathy, confusion and coma. Prevent further heat loss by seeking shelter; donning warm dry clothing; drinking hot sweet drinks and sharing bodily warmth. Be aware that hypothermia can occur both because of a gradual loss of temperature over hours or following a sudden drop of temperature.

Frostbite is caused by freezing and subsequent damage to bodily extremities. It is dependent on wind-chill, temperature and length of exposure. Frostbite starts as frostnip (white, numb areas of skin) from which complete recovery is expected with rewarming. As frostbite develops, the skin blisters and then becomes black. Adequate clothing, staying dry, keeping well hydrated and ensuring adequate calorie intake best prevent frostbite. Treatment involves rapid rewarming.

Even on a hot summer's day in the mountains, the weather can change rapidly, particularly on the exposed ridges of Crimea. So always carry waterproof garments and warm layers, and inform others of your route.

#### Water

Foreigners in Ukraine should be wary about drinking water straight from the tap. You

should at least boil or purify water (with filters, iodine or chlorine). However, an even safer solution is to drink bottled water, which is cheap and plentiful.

It's normally fine to clean your teeth in tap water, but on trains you shouldn't even do that. Take a bottle of water into the train bathroom with you.

### WOMEN'S HEALTH

Emotional stress, exhaustion and travelling through different time zones can all contribute to an upset in the menstrual pattern. If using oral contraceptives, remember that some antibiotics, diarrhoea and vomiting can stop the pill from working and lead to the risk of pregnancy – remember to take condoms with you just in case. Time zones, gastrointestinal upsets and antibiotics do not affect injected contraception.

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# Language

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## THE GREAT LANGUAGE DEBATE

Language politics in Ukraine could fill a book and have underpinned several academic theses, but as a visitor to Ukraine you at least need to know the practical details. The country's only official language is Ukrainian, and while many would like to see Russian adopted as a second (being arguably the more widely spoken lingo), President Yushchenko has reiterated that he has no intention of making Russian a second official language.

While three-quarters of the population define themselves as ethnically Ukrainian, many of those Ukrainians still speak Russian as their first language. Add their weight to the ethnic Russian community, and Russian probably accounts for up to 50% of the language spoken as a mother tongue throughout Ukraine. Many more know it as a second language and it's generally the only

## THE RUSSIAN CYRILLIC ALPHABET

### Cyrillic Roman Pronunciation

А, а	<b>a</b>	as in 'father' (in stressed syllables); as the 'a' in 'ago' (in unstressed syllables)
Б, б	<b>b</b>	as in 'but'
В, в	<b>v</b>	as in 'van'
Г, г	<b>g</b>	as in 'good'
Д, д	<b>d</b>	as in 'dog'
Е, е	<b>ye/e</b>	as the 'ye' in 'yet' (in stressed syllables and at the beginning of a word); as the 'e' in 'ten' (in unstressed syllables)
Ё, ё	<b>yo</b>	as in 'yore'
Ж, ж	<b>zh</b>	as the 's' in 'measure'
З, з	<b>z</b>	as the 'z' in 'zoo'
И, и	<b>i</b>	as in 'marine'
Й, й	<b>y</b>	as in 'yell' (not transliterated after <b>ы</b> or <b>и</b> )
К, к	<b>k</b>	as in 'kind'
Л, л	<b>l</b>	as in 'lamp'
М, м	<b>m</b>	as in 'mad'
Н, н	<b>n</b>	as in 'not'
О, о	<b>o/a</b>	as the 'o' in 'for' (in stressed syllables); as the 'a' in 'hard' (in unstressed syllables)
П, п	<b>p</b>	as in 'pig'
Р, р	<b>r</b>	as in 'rub' (trilled)
С, с	<b>s</b>	as in 'sing'
Т, т	<b>t</b>	as in 'ten'
У, у	<b>u</b>	as in 'rule'
Ф, ф	<b>f</b>	as in 'fan'
Х, х	<b>kh</b>	as the 'ch' in Scottish 'loch'
Ц, ц	<b>ts</b>	as in 'bits'
Ч, ч	<b>ch</b>	as in 'chin'
Ш, ш	<b>sh</b>	as in 'shop'
Щ, щ	<b>shch</b>	as 'sh-ch' in 'fresh chips'
Ъ, ъ	-	'hard sign' (rarely used)
Ы, ы	<b>i</b>	as in 'ill'
Ь, ь	'	'soft sign'; softens a preceding consonant, like adding a faint 'y' sound
Э, э	<b>e</b>	as in 'end'
Ю, ю	<b>yu</b>	as the 'u' in 'use'
Я, я	<b>ya/ye</b>	as the 'ya' in 'yard' (in stressed syllables); as the 'ye' in 'yearn' (in unstressed syllables)

language spoken in the east and the south (apart from Crimean Tatar in Crimea).

Kyiv is broadly Russian-speaking, although the capital is not the only place where you'll hear Russian and Ukrainian

intermingled to create a dialect commonly known as *surzhyk*.

All of this said, many locals – particularly those in the west who overwhelmingly speak Ukrainian – still see Russian as the language of an oppressor and it's often more politically correct not to use it. Certain Ukrainian spellings, such as Kyiv instead of the Russian Kiev, are these days ingrained in the national consciousness, too.

Just after independence, western Ukrainians were quite prickly about hearing Russian. Their reactions tend to be more muted nowadays, especially if you're obviously a foreigner, but they still prefer to hear Ukrainian used.

We include basic Russian and Ukrainian words and phrases in this language guide. If you'd like a more comprehensive guide to either language, get a copy of Lonely Planet's compact *Russian Phrasebook* and *Ukrainian Phrasebook*.

## PRONUNCIATION & SCRIPT

Russian and Ukrainian are both written in the Cyrillic alphabet, and it's well worth the effort to familiarise yourself with it so that you can read maps and street signs. A few letters are peculiar to each language and most letters are common to both. The table on p268 covers the Russian Cyrillic letters, most of which are also common to Ukrainian. The table on p273 covers the letters common only to Ukrainian, or those that have a different pronunciation to Russian.

## Word Stress

For words with two syllables or more, the transliterations in this language guide show stressed syllables as italic.

# RUSSIAN

## ACCOMMODATION

### Where's a ...?

Где ...?	gdye ...?
<b>boarding house</b>	
пансионат	pan-si-a-nat
<b>hotel</b>	
гостиница	ga-sti-ni-tsa
<b>youth hostel</b>	
общежитие	ap-sheche-zhi-ti-e

### What's the address?

Какой адрес?	ka-koy a-dres?
--------------	----------------

## Do you have a ... room?

У вас есть ...?	u vas yest' ...?
<b>single</b>	
одноместный номер	ad-na-myest-ni no-mer
<b>double</b>	
номер с двухспальной кроватью	no-mer z dvu-spal'-ney kra-va-t'yu
<b>twinn</b>	
двухместный номер	dvukh-myes-ni no-mer

## per night

за ночь	za noch'
---------	----------

## for two people

за двоих	dva-ikh
----------	---------

## cheap

дешёвый	di-sho-vi
---------	-----------

## May I see it?

Можно посмотреть?	mozh-na pas-mat-ryet'?
-------------------	------------------------

## Where is the toilet?

Где здесь туалет?	gdye zdyes' tu-al-yet'
-------------------	------------------------

## There's no (hot water).

Нет (горячей воды).	nyet (gar-ya-chey va-dih)
---------------------	---------------------------

## It's too ...

В комнате очень ...	f kom-nat-ye o-chin' ...
---------------------	--------------------------

## cold

холодно	kho-lad-na
---------	------------

## noisy

шумно	shum-na
-------	---------

## small

тесно	tyes-na
-------	---------

## The ... doesn't work.

... не работает.	... nye ra-bo-ta-yit
------------------	----------------------

## air conditioner

Кондиционер	kan-dit-sih-an-yer
-------------	--------------------

## heater

Отопление	a-tap-lye-ni-ye
-----------	-----------------

## toilet

Туалет	tu-al-yet
--------	-----------

## CONVERSATION & ESSENTIALS

### Hello.

Здравствуйте.	zdrast-vuy-te
---------------	---------------

### Hi. (informal)

Привет.	pri-vyet
---------	----------

### Goodbye.

До свидания.	da svi-da-ni-ya
--------------	-----------------

### Bye.

Пока.	pa-ka
-------	-------

### Yes.

Да.	da
-----	----

### No.

Нет.	nyet
------	------

### Please.

Пожалуйста.	pa-zhal-sta
-------------	-------------

**Thank you (very much).**

Спасибо (большое). spa-si-ba (bal'sho-e)

**You're welcome.**

Пожалуйста. pa-zhal-sta

**Excuse me. (also an apology)**

Извините. iz-vi-ni-te

**No problem/Never mind.**

Ничего. ni-che-vo

**I don't like ...**

Мне не нравится ... mnye nye nra-vits-ya ...

**What's your name?**

Как вас зовут? kak vas za-vut?

**My name is ...**

Меня зовут ... me-nya za-vut ...

**Pleased to meet you.**

Очень приятно. o-chen' pri-yat-na

**How are you?**

Как дела? kak de-la?

**Where are you from?**

Откуда вы? at-ku-da vi?

**I'm from ...**

Я из ... ya iz ...

**DIRECTIONS****Where is ...?**

Где ...? gdye ...?

**How do we get to ...?**

Как добраться к ...? kak da-brat's-ya k ...?

**It's straight ahead.**

Прямо. pry-a-ma

**Please show me (on the map).**

Покажите мне, пожалуйста (на карте). pa-ka-zhi-te mnye pa-zhal-sta (na kar-te)

**Turn (at the) ...**

Поверните ... pa-ver-ni-te ...

**corner**

за угол za-u-gal

**left**

налево na-lye-va

**right**

направо na-pra-va

**here/there** тут/там tut/tam**near** близко blis-ka**far** далеко da-le-ko**behind ...** за ... za ...**in front of ...** перед ... pye-ret ...**next to ...** рядом с ... rya-dam s ...**opposite ...** напротив ... na-pro-tif ...**north** север sye-ver**south** юг yuk**east** восток vas-tok**west** запад za-pad**EMERGENCIES – RUSSIAN****Help!**

Помогите!

pa-ma-gi-te!

**I'm lost.**

Я заблудился/заблудилась.

ya za-blu-dil-sya/za-blu-di-las' (m/f)

**Leave me alone!**

Приваливай!

pri-va-li-vay!

**There's been an accident.**

Произошёл несчастный случай.

pra-i-za-shol ne-shas-ni sl-u-chay

**Call ...!**

Вызовите ...! vi-za-vi-te ...!

**a doctor**

врача vra-cha

**the police**

милицию mi-li-tsi-yu

**HEALTH****I'm ill.**

Я болен/больна. ya bo-len/bal'-na (m/f)

**I need a doctor.**

Мне нужен врач. mnye nu-zhen vrach

**I need a doctor (who speaks English).**

Мне нужен врач (англоговорящий). (an-gla-ga-va-ryash-chi)

**It hurts here.**

Здесь болит. zdyes' ba-lit

**Where's the nearest ...?**

Где ближайшая ...? gdye bli-zhay-sha-ya ...?

**chemist/pharmacy (night)**

аптека (ночная) ap-tye-ka (nach-na-ya)

**dentist**

зубной врач zub-noy vrach

**doctor**

врач vrach

**hospital**

больница bal'-ni-tsa

**I'm allergic to ...**

У меня аллергия на ... u men-ya a-ler-gi-ya na ...

**antibiotics**

антибиотики an-ti-bi-o-ti-ki

**bees**

пчелиный укус pche-li-ni u-kus

**nuts**

орехи ar-ye-khi

**peanuts**

арахисы a-ra-khi-si

**penicillin**

пеницилин pe-ni-tsi-lin

**I have (a/an) ...**

У меня ... u min-ya ...

**asthma**

астма ast-ma

**diabetes**

диабет di-ab-yet

**condom**

презерватив pre-zer-va-tif

**contraceptives**

противо-зачаточные средства pra-ti-va za-cha-tach-ni-e sryets-tva

**nausea**

тошнота tash-na-ta

**sunscreen (cream)**

солнцезащитный крем soln-tse-zash-chit-ni kryem

**tampon**

тампон tam-pon

**LANGUAGE DIFFICULTIES****Do you speak English?**

Вы говорите по-английски?

vi ga-va-ri-te pa an-gli-ski?

**I don't speak Russian.**

Я не говорю по-русски.

ya nye ga-var-yu pa-ru-ski

**I speak a little.**

Я немного говорю.

ya nim-no-ga ga-var-yu

**I don't understand.**

Я не понимаю.

ya nye pa-ni-ma-yu

**Please speak more slowly.**

Говорите помедленнее, пожалуйста.

ga-va-ri-te pa-mid-lin-ye-ye pa-zhal-sta

**Please write it down.**

Запишите, пожалуйста.

za-pi-shi-te pa-zhal-sta

**NUMBERS****How much/many?**

Сколько? skol'-ka?

**0** ноль nul'**1** один a-din**2** два dva**3** три tri**4** четыре che-ti-re**5** пять pyat'**6** шесть shyest'**7** семь syem'**8** восемь vo-sem'**9** девять dye-vyat'**10** десять dye-syat'

<b>11</b>	одиннадцать	a-di-na-tsat'
<b>12</b>	двенадцать	dve-na-tsat'
<b>13</b>	тринадцать	tri-na-tsat'
<b>14</b>	четырнадцать	che-tir-na-tsat'
<b>15</b>	пятнадцать	pyat-na-tsat'
<b>16</b>	шестнадцать	shest-na-tsat'
<b>17</b>	семнадцать	sem-na-tsat'
<b>18</b>	восемнадцать	va-sem-na-tsat'
<b>19</b>	девятнадцать	de-vyat-na-tsat'
<b>20</b>	двадцать	dva-tsat'
<b>21</b>	двадцать один	dva-tsat' a-din
<b>22</b>	двадцать два	dva-tsat' dva
<b>30</b>	тридцать	tri-tsat'
<b>40</b>	сорок	so-rak
<b>50</b>	пятьдесят	pyat'-des-yat
<b>60</b>	шестьдесят	shih-s-des-yat
<b>70</b>	семьдесят	syem'-des-yat
<b>80</b>	восемьдесят	vo-sem'-des-yat
<b>90</b>	девяносто	de-vya-no-sta
<b>100</b>	сто	sto
<b>200</b>	двести	dve-ye-sti
<b>300</b>	триста	tri-sta
<b>400</b>	четыреста	chi-tih-tri-sta
<b>500</b>	пятьсот	pit'-sot
<b>600</b>	шестьсот	shihst'-sot
<b>700</b>	семьсот	sim'-sot
<b>800</b>	восемьсот	va-sim'-sot
<b>900</b>	девятьсот	di-vit'-sot
<b>1000</b>	тысяча	ti-sya-cha

**SHOPPING & SERVICES****I need ...**

Мне нужно ... mnye nuzh-na ...

**Do you have ...?**

У вас есть ...? u vas yest' ...?

**How much is it?**

Сколько стоит? skol'-ka sto-it?

**Do you accept ...?**

Вы принимаете оплату ...?

vi pri-ni-ma-e-te a-pla-tu ...?

**credit cards**

кредитной карточкой kre-dit-nay kar-tach-ya

**travellers cheques**

дорожным чеком da-rozh-nim chye-kam

**bank**

банк bank

**chemist/pharmacy**

аптека ap-tye-ka

**currency exchange**

обмен валюты ab-myen va-lyu-ti

**market**

рынок ri-nak



<b>post office</b>	
почта	<i>poch-ta</i>
<b>telephone</b>	
телефон	<i>te-le-fo-n</i>
<b>telephone office</b>	
телефонный пункт	<i>te-le-fo-ni punkt</i>
<b>travellers cheques</b>	
дорожные чеки	<i>da-rozh-ni-e chye-ki</i>

## TIME & DATES

**What time is it?**  
Который час?  
*ka-to-ri chas?*

**It's (ten) o'clock.**  
(Десять) часов.  
*(dye-syat') chi-sof*

**At what time?**  
В каком часу?  
*f ka-to-ram chi-su?*

**At (ten).**  
В (десять) часов.  
*v (dye-syat') chi-sof*

**am/in the morning**  
утра  
*u-tra*

**pm/in the afternoon**  
дня  
*dnya*

**in the evening**  
вечера  
*vye-che-ra*

<b>When?</b>	Когда?	<i>kag-da?</i>
<b>today</b>	сегодня	<i>se-vod-nya</i>
<b>tomorrow</b>	завтра	<i>zaf-ta</i>
<b>yesterday</b>	вчера	<i>vche-ra</i>

Dates are given day-month-year, with the month usually in Roman numerals. Days of the week are often represented by numbers in timetables (Monday is 1).

<b>Monday</b>	понедельник	<i>pa-ne-dyel'-nik</i>
<b>Tuesday</b>	вторник	<i>ftor-nik</i>
<b>Wednesday</b>	среда	<i>sre-da</i>
<b>Thursday</b>	четверг	<i>chet-vyerk</i>
<b>Friday</b>	пятница	<i>pyat-ni-tsa</i>
<b>Saturday</b>	суббота	<i>su-bo-ta</i>
<b>Sunday</b>	воскресенье	<i>vas-kre-syen'e</i>

<b>January</b>	январь	<i>yan-var'</i>
<b>February</b>	февраль	<i>fev-ral'</i>
<b>March</b>	март	<i>mart</i>
<b>April</b>	апрель	<i>ap-ryel'</i>
<b>May</b>	май	<i>may</i>
<b>June</b>	июнь	<i>i-yun'</i>
<b>July</b>	июль	<i>i-yul'</i>
<b>August</b>	август	<i>av-gust</i>
<b>September</b>	сентябрь	<i>sen-tyabr'</i>
<b>October</b>	октябрь	<i>ok-tyabr'</i>
<b>November</b>	ноябрь	<i>na-yabr'</i>
<b>December</b>	декабрь	<i>de-kabr'</i>

## TRANSPORT

### Public Transport

**How often do buses come?**  
Как часто ходят автобусы?  
*kak cha-sta kha-dit af-to-bu-si?*

**Does it go to ...?**  
Этот автобус идёт в ...?  
*e-tat af-to-bus id-yot v ...?*

**When does it leave?**  
Когда отправляется?  
*kag-da at-prav-lya-et-sya?*

**How long does it take to get to ...?**  
Сколько времени нужно ехать до ...?  
*skol'-ka vrye-me-ni nuzh-na ye-khat' da ...?*

**1st-class (sleeper)**  
спальный вагон (СВ) *spal'-ni va-gon (es-vee)*

**2nd-class (sleeper)**  
купейный вагон *ku-pey-ni va-gon*

**3rd-class**  
плацкартный вагон *plats-kart-ni va-gon*

**4th-class (seated upright)**  
общий вагон *op-shi va-gon*

<b>bus</b>	автобус	<i>af-to-bus</i>
<b>minibus</b>	маршрутка	<i>marsh-rut-ka</i>
<b>train</b>	поезд	<i>poy-ezt</i>
<b>first</b>	первый	<i>pyer-vi</i>
<b>last</b>	последний	<i>pas-lyed-ni</i>
<b>map</b>	карта	<i>kar-ta</i>
<b>platform</b>	платформа	<i>plat-for-ma</i>
<b>station</b>	станция	<i>stant-si-ya</i>
<b>stop (bus)</b>	остановка	<i>a-sta-nof-ka</i>
<b>ticket (to ...)</b>	Билет (на ...)	<i>bil-yet (na ...)</i>
<b>timetable</b>	расписание	<i>ras-pi-sa-ni-e</i>
<b>trolleybus</b>	троллейбус	<i>tra-ley-bus</i>

### Private Transport

**I'd like to hire a ...**  
Я бы хотел/хотела взять ... на прокат.  
*ya bi kha-tyel'/kha-tye-la vzyat' ... na pra-kat (m/f)*

<b>car</b>	машину	<i>ma-shi-nu</i>
<b>4WD</b>	машину с полным приводом	<i>ma-shi-nu s pol-nim pri-vo-dam</i>
<b>motorbike</b>	мотоцикл	<i>ma-ta-tsikl</i>

**Is this the road to ...?**  
Эта дорога ведёт в ...?  
*e-ta da-ro-ga ved-yot f ...?*

**Where's a petrol station?**  
Где заправка?  
*gdye za-praf-ka?*

### Please fill it up.

Заполните бак, пожалуйста.  
*za-pol-ni-te bak pa-zhal-sta*

**I'd like (15) litres.**  
(Пятнадцать) литров, пожалуйста.  
*(pyat-na-tsat') li-traf pa-zhal-sta*

**diesel**  
дизельное топливо *di-zel'-na-e to-pli-va*

**petrol (regular)**  
бензин номер 93 *ben-zin no-mer tri de-vya-no-sta*

**petrol (unleaded)**  
очищенный бензин *a-chish-che-ni ben-zin*

## UKRAINIAN

The Ukrainian used in this language guide is the standard language spoken in the capital, Kyiv, and other major centres.

### ACCOMMODATION

**Could you tell me where to find a ..., please?**  
Скажіть, будь ласка, де ...?  
*ska-zhit', bud' la-ska, de ...?*

<b>camping ground</b>	<i>kem-pinh</i>
<b>guesthouse/youth hostel</b>	<i>mo-lo-dizh-ny gur-tozhitok</i>
<b>(cheap) hotel</b>	<i>(de-she-vy) ho-tel'</i>

**What is the address?**  
Яка адреса?  
*ya-ka a-dre-sa?*

**Could you write it down, please?**  
Могли б ви записати, будь ласка?  
*moh-lu-b vy za-py-sa-ty, bud' la-ska?*

**Do you have any rooms available?**  
У вас є вільні номери?  
*u vas ye vil'-ni no-me-ry?*

<b>I'd like (a) ...</b>	<i>ya kho-chu ...</i>
<b>single room</b>	<i>no-mer na o-dno-ho</i>
<b>double-bed</b>	<i>lizh-ko na dvokh</i>
<b>twin room (with two beds)</b>	<i>dviy-nuy no-mer z dvo-ma lizh-ka-my</i>

**per night/person**  
за ніч/особу  
*za nich/o-so-bu*

### UKRAINIAN CYRILLIC

The Ukrainian letters Б, Ж, З, К, Л, М, Н, П, Р, С, Т, Ф, Х, Ц, Ч, Ш, Щ, Ю, Я, Ъ are shared with Russian (p268). Shown below are the Ukrainian letters not found in Russian, or the letters that are pronounced differently.

<b>Cyrillic</b>	<b>Roman</b>	<b>Pronunciation</b>
А, а	<b>a</b>	as in 'father'
В, в	<b>v</b>	as in 'van' before a vowel
	<b>w</b>	as in 'wood' before a consonant or at the end of a syllable
Г, г	<b>h</b>	as in 'hat'
Ґ, ґ	<b>g</b>	as in 'good'
Е, е	<b>e</b>	as in 'end'
Є, є	<b>ye</b>	as in 'yet'
И, и	<b>y</b>	as in 'myrtle', but short
І, і	<b>i</b>	as in 'pit'
Ї, ї	<b>yi</b>	as in 'yip'
Й, й	<b>y</b>	as in 'yell'; almost always precedes or follows a vowel as in 'pot', but with the jaws slightly more closed and the lips a little more pursed
О, о	<b>o</b>	
У, у	<b>u</b>	as in 'put'

**May I see the room?**  
Можна подивитися на номер?  
*mo-zhna po-dy-vy-ty-sya na no-mer?*

**Where is the toilet/bathroom?**  
Де туалет/ванна?  
*de tu-a-let/van-na?*

**Do you have another room?**  
У вас є інший номер?  
*u vas ye in-shy no-mer?*

**The shower/tap doesn't work.**  
Душ/кран не працює.  
*dush/kran ne pra-tsyu-ye*

**There's no hot water.**  
Немає гарячої води.  
*ne-ma-ye ha-rya-cho-yi vo-dy*

**There's a broken ... in my room.**  
У номері поламане ...  
*u no-me-ri po-la-ma-ne ...*

**There's no toilet paper in my room.**  
У мене немає туалетного паперу.  
*u me-ne ne-ma-ye tu-a-let-no-ho pa-pe-ru*

**I can't open/close the window.**  
Вікно не відчиняється/зачиняється.  
*vik-no ne vid-chinya-etsya/zachinya-etsya*

**It's very cold/hot here.**  
Тут дуже холодно/жарко.  
*tut du-zhe kho-lod-no/zhar-ko*

## SIGNS – UKRAINIAN

Вхід	Entrance
Вихід	Exit
Інформація	Information
Відчинено	Open
Зачинено	Closed
Заборонено	Prohibited
Міліція	Police
Увага!	Attention/Caution!
Туалет	Toilets/WC
Чоловічий ▽	Men
Жіночий △	Women
<b>On Timetables</b>	
<b>Russian</b>	<b>Ukrainian</b>
daily	
ежедневно	щоденно
on odd dates	
чѣтным дням	парні
on even dates	
нечѣтным дням	непарні

## It's very noisy here.

Тут дуже шумно.  
tut du-zhe shum-no

## The room is dirty.

У номері брудно.  
u no-me-ri brud-no

## CONVERSATION &amp; ESSENTIALS

## Hello.

Привіт. pry-vit (informal)

## Hello/Good day.

Добрый день. do-bry den'

## Goodbye/Bye. (polite/informal)

До побачення/  
Щасливо. do po-ba-chen-nya/  
shcha-sly-vo

## Please.

Будь ласка/Прошу. bud' la-ska/pro-shu

## Thank you.

Дякую. dya-ku-yu

## You're welcome.

Добро пожалувати. do-bro po-zha-lu-va-ty

## Yes.

Так. tak

## No.

Ні. ni

## Excuse me.

Вибачте. vy-bach-te

## I'm sorry.

Перепрошую. pe-re-pro-shu-yu

## What's your name?

Як вас звати? yak vas zva-ty?

## My name is ...

Мене звати ... me-ne zva-ty ...

## Where are you from?

Звідки ви? zvid-ky vy?

## I'm from ...

Я з ... ya z ...

## I (don't) like ...

Мені (не) me-ni (ne)  
подобається ... po-do-ba-yet'-sya ...

## DIRECTIONS

## Where is ...?

Де ...? de ...?

## Go straight ahead.

Ідіть прямо. i-dit' pry-a-mo

## Turn left.

Поверніть ліворуч. po-ver-nit' li-vo-ruch

## Turn right.

Поверніть праворуч. po-ver-nit' pra-vo-ruch

## at the corner

на розі na ro-zi

<b>behind</b>	ззаду	zza-du
<b>in front of</b>	спереду	s-pe-re-du
<b>far</b>	далеко	da-le-ko
<b>near to</b>	біля	bi-lya
<b>opposite</b>	протилежний	pro-ty-le-zhny

## HEALTH

## I'm ill.

Мені погано. me-ni po-ha-no

## It hurts here.

У мене болить тут. u me-ne bo-lyt' tut

## I have ...

У мене ... u me-ne ...

## asthma

астма a-stma

## diabetes

діабет di-a-bet

## I'm allergic to ...

У мене алергія на ...  
u me-ne a-ler-hi-ya na ...

<b>antibiotics</b>	антибіотики	an-ty-bi-o-ty-ky
<b>bees</b>	бджоли	bdzho-ly
<b>nuts</b>	горіхи	kho-ri-khy
<b>peanuts</b>	земельні	ze-mel-ni
	горіхи	kho-rikhy
<b>penicillin</b>	пеніцилін	pe-ni-tsu-lin

## condom

презерватив pre-ze-rva-tyw

## contraceptive

протизачаттєвий засіб pro-ty-za-chat-tye-yy za-sib

## nausea

тошнота to-shno-ta

## EMERGENCIES – UKRAINIAN

## Help!

Рятуйте!/Допоможіть!  
rya-tuy-te/do-po-mo-zhit'!

## There's been an accident!

Там був нещасний випадок!  
tam buw ne-shcha-sny vy-padok!

## I'm lost.

Я заблукав/заблукала.  
ya za-blu-kaw/za-blu-ka-la (m/f)

## Go away!

Іди/Ідіть (звідси)!  
i-dy/i-dit' (zvid-sy)! (inf/pol)

## Call a doctor!

(Викличте) лікаря!  
(vy-klych-te) li-ka-rya!

## Call the police!

Викличть міліцію!  
vy-kly-chit' mi-li-tsi-yu!

## sunscreen (cream)

крем від сонця krem vid son-tsy-a

## tampons

тампони tam-po-ny

## LANGUAGE DIFFICULTIES

## Do you speak English?

Ви розмовляєте англійською мовою?  
vy roz-mow-lya-ye-te an-hliys'-ko-yu mo-vo-yu?

## I don't understand (you).

Я (вас) не розумію.  
ya (vas) ne ro-zu-mi-yu

## I'm a foreigner.

Я іноземець/іноземка.  
ya i-no-ze-mets'/i-no-zem-ka (m/f)

## I don't speak Ukrainian very well yet.

Я ще не дуже добре розмовляю  
українською мовою.  
ya shche ne du-zhe do-bre ro-zmo-wlya-yu  
u-kra-yins'-ko-yu mo-vo-yu

## Please write it down.

Запишіть будь ласка.  
za-py-shit' bud las-ka

## Could you please speak slowly?

Ви не могли б говорити повільно?  
vy ne mo-hly b ho-vo-ry-ty po-vil'-no?

## Can you show me (on the map)?

Ви можете показати (мені) на карті?  
vy mo-zhe-te po-ka-za-ty (me-ni) na kar-ti?

## NUMBERS

Spelling and pronunciation of numbers in Ukrainian is very similar to Russian (see p271).

## SHOPPING &amp; SERVICES

## I'd like to buy ...

Я б хотів/хотіла купити ...  
ya b kho-tiv/kho-ti-la ku-py-ty ... (m/f)

## How much is it?

Скільки це (він/вона) коштує?  
skil'-ky tse (vin/vo-na) ko-shtu-ye? (m/f)

## Do you accept ...?

Ви приймаєте ...? vy pry-ma-ye-te ...?

## credit cards

кредитні картки kre-dy-tni kar-tky

## travellers cheques

мандрівникові чеки man-driw-nu-ko-vi che-ky

## I'm looking for ...

Я шукаю ... ya shu-ka-yu ...

## a bank

банк bank

## the hospital

лікарня li-kar-nya

## the market

ринок ry-nok

## the police station

міліція mi-li-tsi-ya

## the post office

пошта po-shta

## a public phone

телефонавтомат te-le-fo-naw-to-mat

## a public toilet

загальний туалет za-hal-ny tu-a-let

## the telephone centre

телефонний центр te-le-fo-ny tsentr

## TIME &amp; DATES

## What time is it?

Котра година? ko-tra ho-dy-na?

## It's (8) o'clock.

(Восьма) година. (vos'-ma) ho-dy-na

## in the morning

вранці wran-tsi

## in the afternoon

вдень w-den'

## in the evening

у вечері u-ve-cheri

## When?

Коли? ko-ly?

## today

сьогодні s'o-ho-dni

## tomorrow

завтра zaw-tra

## yesterday

вчора wcho-ra

**Monday** понеділок po-ne-di-lok  
**Tuesday** вівторок vi-wto-rok  
**Wednesday** среда se-re-da

<b>Thursday</b>	четвер	<i>che-tver</i>
<b>Friday</b>	п'ятниця	<i>pya-tny-tsya</i>
<b>Saturday</b>	субота	<i>su-bo-ta</i>
<b>Sunday</b>	неділя	<i>ne-di-lya</i>

<b>January</b>	січень	<i>si-chen'</i>
<b>February</b>	лютий	<i>lyu-ty</i>
<b>March</b>	березень	<i>be-re-zen'</i>
<b>April</b>	квітень	<i>kvi-ten'</i>
<b>May</b>	травень	<i>tra-ven'</i>
<b>June</b>	червень	<i>che-rven'</i>
<b>July</b>	липень	<i>ly-pen'</i>
<b>August</b>	серпень	<i>ser-pen'</i>
<b>September</b>	вересень	<i>ve-re-sen'</i>
<b>October</b>	жовтень	<i>zhov-ten'</i>
<b>November</b>	листопад	<i>ly-sto-pad</i>
<b>December</b>	грудень	<i>hru-den'</i>

**TRANSPORT****Public Transport****I want to go to ...**

Мені треба їхати до ...  
*me-ni tre-ba yi-kha-ty do ...*

**What time does the ... leave?**

Коли відправляється ...?  
*ko-ly vid-pra-wlya-yet'-sya ...?*

**What time does the ... arrive?**

Коли ... прибуває?  
*ko-ly ... pry-bu-va-ye?*

<b>boat</b>	пароплав	<i>pa-ro-plav</i>
<b>bus</b>	автобус	<i>aw-to-bus</i>
<b>train</b>	поїзд	<i>po-yizd</i>
<b>trolleybus</b>	тролейбус	<i>tro-ley-bus</i>

**I'd like a ...**

Я б хотів/хотіла ...  
*ya b kho-tiv/kho-ti-la ... (m/f)*

**one-way ticket**

квиток в один бік *kvy-tok v o-dyn bik*

**return ticket**

зворотний квиток *zvo-ro-tny kvy-tok*

**the first**

перший/перша *per-shy/per-sha (m/f)*

**the last**

останній *o-stan-niy*

**platform number**

номер платформи *no-mer plat-for-mu*

**station**

станція *stant-si-ya*

**timetable**

розклад *roz-klad*

**Private Transport****I'd like to hire a ...**

Я хочу взяти на прокат ...  
*ya kho-chu vzya-tu na pro-kat ...*

**car**

машину *ma-shy-nu*

**4WD**

чотирьох привідну машину *cho-ty-ryokh pry-vid-nu ma-shy-nu*

**motorbike**

мотоцикл *mo-to-tyykl*

**Is this the road to ...?**

Це дорога до ...?  
*tse do-ro-ha do ...?*

**Where's the nearest service station?**

Де найближча заправка?  
*de nay-blyzh-cha za-praw-ka?*

**Fill it up.**

Заповніть/Залийте.  
*za-pov-nit'/za-ly-te*

**I'd like ... litres.**

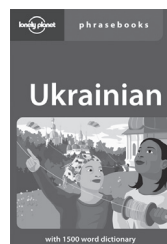
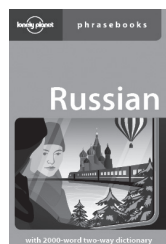
Дайте, будь ласка, ... літри/літрів.  
*da-yte, bud' la-ska, ... li-try/li-triv*

**diesel**

дизель  
*di-zel*

**(leaded/unleaded) petrol**

(неочищений/очищений) бензин  
*(ne-o-chy-shche-ny/o-chy-shche-ny) ben-zyn*



Also available from Lonely Planet:  
*Russian and Ukrainian Phrasebooks*



# Glossary

You may encounter some of the following terms and signs during your travels in Ukraine. A few Russian (R) words are included here; the rest are Ukrainian. See also the Language chapter (p268).

**aeroport** – airport  
**apteka** – pharmacy  
**avia poshta** – airmail  
**avtobus** – bus  
**avtomat** – automatic ticket machine  
**avtostantsiya, avtovokzal** – bus station

**babushka** – literally ‘grandmother’, but used generally in Ukrainian society for all older women  
**bankomat** – automated teller machine (ATM)  
**banush** – Hutsul polenta-like dish (wetter than *mammalyha*)  
**banya** – bathhouse  
**bez** – without  
**bilyet** (R) – ticket  
**bluza** – embroidered women’s blouse  
**blyny** – pancakes  
**bolshoy** (R) – big  
**borshch** – traditional Ukrainian soup, often made with beetroot, but comes in a huge number of varieties  
**boyar** – high-ranking noble  
**brynza** – a crumbly cows’ or goats’ cheese tasting like feta  
**bulvar (bul)** – boulevard

**cholovichy** – men’s toilet, also *muzhcheny*  
**CIS** – Commonwealth of Independent States; an alliance proclaimed in 1991 of independent states comprising the former USSR republics minus the three Baltic States. Ukraine is only a semimember, having signed the alliance but not ratified it in the national parliament.

**dacha** – country cottage, summer house  
**deklaratsiya** – customs declaration  
**devushka** – young woman, miss (a common form of address to anyone not yet a *babushka*)  
**dezhurna** (U), **dezhurnaya** (R) – hotel floor attendant  
**dorohy** – expensive  
**dvorets** (R) – palace

**elektrychka** – electrified suburban train

**gastronom** – speciality food shop  
**gorod** (R) – city, town  
**gosteenitsa** (R) – hotel

**haryachy** – hot (but not of weather; see *zharky*)  
**hazeta** – newspaper  
**hetman** – Cossack leader  
**hora** – mountain  
**horilka** – vodka  
**hryvnia** – Ukrainian currency (uah)

**i, y, ta** – and  
**imeni** – ‘named after’  
**inozemny** – foreign  
**Intourist** – old Soviet State Committee for Tourism, now privatised, split up and in competition with hundreds of other travel agencies

**kabina** – cabin, for making a phone call in a call centre  
**kamera skhovu** (U), **kamera khranenia** (R) – left-luggage office  
**karta** – map  
**kemping** – camp site; often has small cabins as well as tent sites  
**kimnaty** (U), **komnaty** (R) – rooms; used to indicate rooms available for homestays  
**kimnaty vidpochunku** (U), **komnaty otdykha** (R) – resting rooms found at all major train stations and several smaller ones  
**kino** – cinema  
**kobzar** – minstrel-like bard  
**kolhosp** – collective farm  
**kolonka** – archaic gas heater  
**kopeck** – the smallest unit of Ukrainian currency  
**kozak** – Cossack  
**kulak** – Stalinist name for a wealthier peasant  
**kupe** – train compartment, most often used to refer to four-berth 2nd-class compartment or 2nd-class train ticket  
**kvartyrta** – flat, apartment  
**kvytok** – ticket

**lavra** – senior monastery  
**likar** – doctor  
**likarnya** – hospital  
**litak** – aeroplane  
**lyux** – a kind of hotel suite, with a sitting room in addition to bedroom and bathroom; a *pali-lyux* suite is the less spacious version

**magazin** – shop  
**maly** (U), **malenky** (R) – small  
**mammalyha** – a Hutsul dish similar to polenta  
**marshrutka** – minibus that runs along a fixed route  
**mashyna** – car

**matryoshka** – set of painted wooden dolls within dolls  
**maydan** – square  
**meest** – seat number  
**militsiya** – police  
**mist** (U), **most** (R) – bridge  
**mizhhorodny** (U), **mizhmisky** (R) – intercity  
**mizhnarodny** – international  
**more** – sea  
**muzey** – museum  
**muzhcheny** – men’s toilet, also *cholovichy*

**naberezhna (nab)** (U), **naberezhnaya** (R) – embankment/promenade  
**novy** – new

**oblast** – region, administrative district

**palats** – palace  
**Paskha** – Easter  
**perepichky** – frankfurters deep-fried in dough, fairground-style  
**pereryv** – break (when shops, ticket offices, restaurants etc close for an hour or two during the day)  
**peshchera** – cave  
**platskart** – 3rd-class train sleeper compartment  
**ploshcha (pl)** – square  
**plyazh** – beach  
**poliklinika** – medical centre  
**poli-lyux** – less spacious version of a *lyux*; equivalent to a semideluxe room, or junior suite  
**polonyna** – high-mountain pasture  
**poshta, poshtamt** – post office  
**posolstvo** – embassy  
**posvidka** – certificate  
**poyezd** – train  
**prospekt (pr)** – avenue  
**provodnik** (m), **provodnitsa** (f) – carriage attendant on a train  
**prymisky vokzal** – local train station (where *elektrychky* leave from)  
**pysanky** – patterned eggs  
**pyvo** – beer

**rada** – assembly, parliament  
**rakhunok** – bill  
**ratusha** – town hall  
**rekomendovany lyst** – registered letter  
**remont, na remont** – closed for repairs  
**rika** – river  
**rushnyky** – long embroidered towels  
**rynok** – market

**sad** – garden/s  
**salo** – pig fat  
**sanitarny den** – literally, ‘sanitary day’; the monthly day when some museums, shops, restaurants, hotel dining rooms etc still shut down for cleaning

**sich** – Cossack fort or settlement  
**shchyot** (R) – bill  
**shtetl** – village/town  
**shvudky poyezd** – literally, fast train; a long-distance train  
**snidanok** – breakfast  
**sobor** – cathedral  
**sorochky** – embroidered men’s shirts  
**spalny vahon** – 1st-class sleeping compartment on a train, with only two bunks  
**spusk** (R) – descent, slope  
**stary** – old  
**stolova** (U), **stolovaya** (R) – canteen/cafeteria, most commonly found in Crimea  
**Svyata Vecherya** – Christmas Eve, Christmas eve dinner; an important part of the season’s celebrations

**taksofon** – pay telephone  
**teatr** – theatre  
**teatralna kasa** – theatre ticket office  
**telegrama** – telegram  
**tramvay** – tram  
**tryzub** – Ukraine’s trident symbol  
**tserka** – church  
**TsUM (Tsentralny Univermag)** – generic name of department store  
**tualet** – toilet  
**tudy i nazad** (U), **tuda i obratno** (R) – ‘there and back’, return ticket  
**turbaza** – tourist camp

**univermag, universalny magazin** – department store  
**uzviz** – descent, slope

**vahon** – train carriage  
**varenyky** – dumplings with a variety of possible fillings  
**velosyped** – bicycle  
**velyky** – big  
**voda** – water  
**vodopad** – waterfall  
**vokzal** – station  
**vulytsya (vul)** – street  
**vykhidny den** – day off  
**vyshyvka** – embroidery

**z** – with  
**zal** – hall, room  
**zaliznychny vokzal** – train station  
**zamok** – castle, fortress  
**zamovlennya** – reservation (of hotel room)  
**zapovidnyk** – national park  
**zharky** – hot (weather)  
**zheton** – token (for metro etc)  
**zhinochy** – women’s toilet  
**zupynka** – bus stop

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