

Western Ukraine

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The west is a special case in Ukraine. It likes to think itself more quintessentially Ukrainian than the rest of the country; at the same time it considers itself more European. Thanks to its different history it manages to be both.

Having kept the nationalist fires burning during centuries of Polish, Lithuanian and Austrian rule, people here speak Ukrainian (rather than Russian) and still show greater pride in Ukrainian traditions than elsewhere in the country. Yet overseas visitors will find this one of the most familiar-feeling and friendly regions of Ukraine – poorer than, but not so different from, its central European neighbours. Here, where the Soviets ruled for only 50 years, there's less of that surly 'no-can-do' bureaucracy that still permeates eastern regions of Ukraine. Attitudes are more relaxed and there's a greater willingness and ability to speak English, at least in the cities.

The region's largest city, the Galician capital of Lviv, has long been one of Ukraine's great hopes for tourism and seems to be slotting into that role beautifully. It boasts rich historic architecture and an indulgent coffee-house culture so it's almost obliged to become a popular city-break destination soon. Happily it still displays a shabby authenticity.

A gateway to the equally beguiling Carpathian Mountains (see p136), Lviv is also surrounded by destinations offering something a bit unusual. The golden domes of the Pochayiv Monastery might stand as a far-west outpost of Ukraine's Slavic Orthodoxy, but the historic quarter of split-personality Lutsk, the old-fashioned ways of Truskavets' spa and Drohobych's literary resonance all reveal the contrary pull of mainstream Europe.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Soak up the wonderful atmosphere of **central Lviv** (p116), wandering its uneven cobbled streets between magnificent churches and historic buildings
- Indulge yourself in Lviv with coffee and cake at one of this former Habsburg city's many **Austrian-style cafés** (p125)
- Pay your respects at Lviv's marvellously melancholic, overgrown and Gothic **Lychakivske Cemetery** (p119)
- Head to the **Pochayiv Monastery** (p130) for a more devout atmosphere than you'll find at Kyiv's Lavra
- Wander **Lutsk's old quarter** (p132) to glimpse how this region of Ukraine once looked
- Enjoy a relaxed day-trip hiking up to **Kremenets' castle ruins** (p130)



■ POPULATION: 5.85 MILLION

■ AREA: 75,847 SQ KM

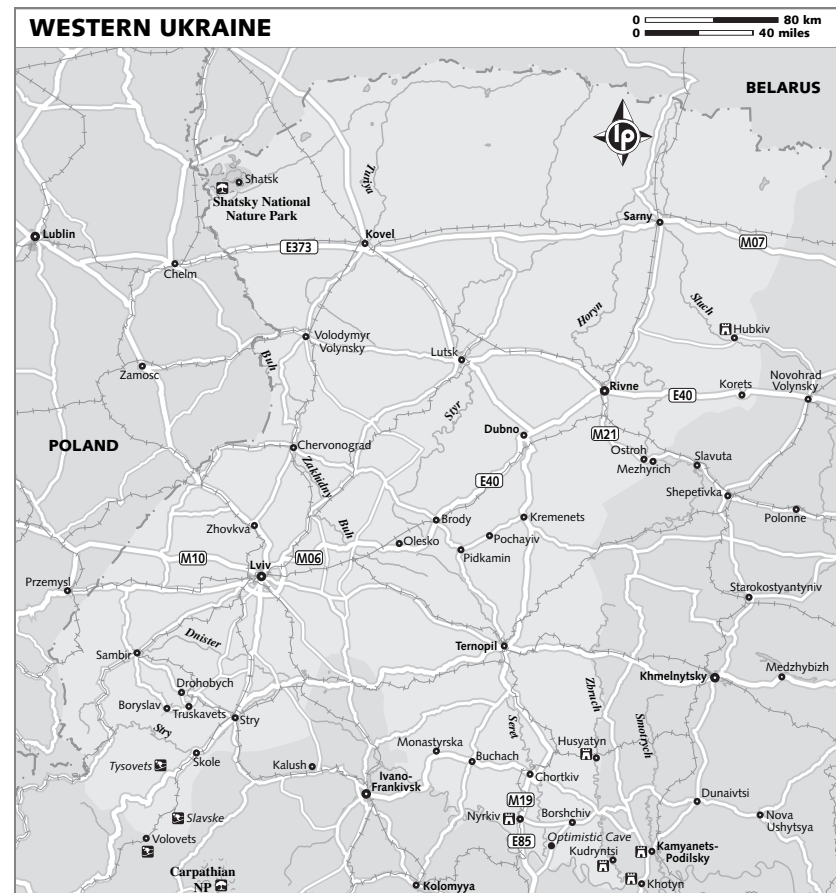
History

Mongols overrunning Kyivan Rus in 1240 never made it as far west as the powerful province of Galicia-Volynia. They did occasionally knock on its door, but the region was largely left to enjoy self-rule under Prince Roman Mstyslavych, his son Danylo Halystky and his descendants.

This idyllic state was shattered in the 1340s when Polish troops invaded, but western Ukraine never lost its taste for independence. Several centuries of Polish domination saw the rise of a unique Ruthenian identity, which is the basis for much contemporary Ukrainian nationalism. Many Galician boyars (nobles), often sent from Poland, Germany or Hungary, adopted the Polish language and Roman

Catholicism. However, the peasants, also known as Ruthenians, remained Orthodox. They were only persuaded to join the new Ukrainian Catholic Church, also known as the Uniate Church, in 1596 (thereby acknowledging the pope's spiritual supremacy) because this church agreed to retain Orthodox forms of worship. Other Ruthenians fled southeast to set up Cossack communities.

In 1772, Galicia became part of the Habsburg Austro-Hungarian Empire and to this day western Ukrainians touchingly remember the Austrians as (relatively) liberal, tolerant rulers. In Serbia, separatists so chafed under the Austrian yoke that they were determined to rid themselves of it. In Ukraine, however, the Habsburgs allowed Ukrainian



nationalism to re-emerge and that made them good guys in this country. Western Ukraine even enjoyed a few days' independence as the Habsburg Empire collapsed at the end of WWI, but it soon found itself again under the dreaded Polish thumb.

Following the outbreak of WWII in September 1939, things went from bad to worse in local eyes. The Red Army marched in and asserted Moscow's control over the region for the first time in history. Finally dispatching the Nazis after bloody battles during WWII, the Soviets hung around until 1991, when the USSR imploded.

LVIV REGION

LVIV ЛЬВІВ

☎ (8)-032 (7-digit Nos), (8)-0322 (6-digit Nos) / pop 758,500

Mysterious, edgy and architecturally lovely, Lviv boasts that it's Ukraine's least Soviet city. It may have a point. The city's Unesco World Heritage-listed centre was built like a rich layer-cake of neoclassical architecture upon rococo, baroque, Renaissance and Gothic styles. There's nary a concrete Soviet apartment block in sight (in the centre, at least), and it has a deep-rooted coffee-house culture that is oh-so-central European.

Yet Lviv does retain a whiff of Sovietness that only broadens its appeal. Weathered babushkas sell pickled vegetables and honey at the city's Krakivsky Market. There's still the odd *gastronom* (food store), Volga and dodgy neon-lit slot machine parlour scattered about. Opera tickets and tram rides are still priced for the people, at the equivalent of \$2 and 10¢, respectively.

While Lviv has more tourist infrastructure than most former Soviet cities (including – gasp – a tourist information centre), English signage is rare and there are only a handful of high-standard restaurants and hotels. On balance, this may be a good thing as it has prevented huge Kraków-sized crowds from materialising.

You'll want to do most of your exploring on foot, dropping into the occasional museum, plopping down at the odd café and stopping to gawk at the myriad churches with their varied cupolas. Walk up to the city's highest point, Castle Hill (Zamkova Hora), for a bird's-eye view of those cupolas. Lviv is nicknamed 'the Florence of the east' and from here it's clear why.

History

Lviv (luh-veev) has had as many names as rulers. It took its first name from Lev, the son of Prince Danylo Halytsky who founded a hill-top fort here on present-day Castle Hill in the 13th century. When the Poles took over 100 years later, the place became known as Lwow, as it still is in Poland. Austrians called it Lemberg between the 18th and 20th centuries, and haven't stopped doing so today. The Russians, who later christened it Lvov, continue to use this historical name. Most of its names – apart from Lemberg, which has many competing origins – can be traced back to 'lion', and the city has always taken the big cat as its symbol.

Lviv had another set of unwelcome occupiers – the Nazis, who also called the place Lemberg. The Nazis invaded in 1941 and weren't driven back by the Soviets until 1944. During these three years, 136,000 people are reported to have died in Lviv's Jewish ghetto and nearly 350,000 in nearby concentration camps. For more about this era, read Robert Marshall's *In the Sewers of Lvov: A Heroic Story of Survival from the Holocaust*.

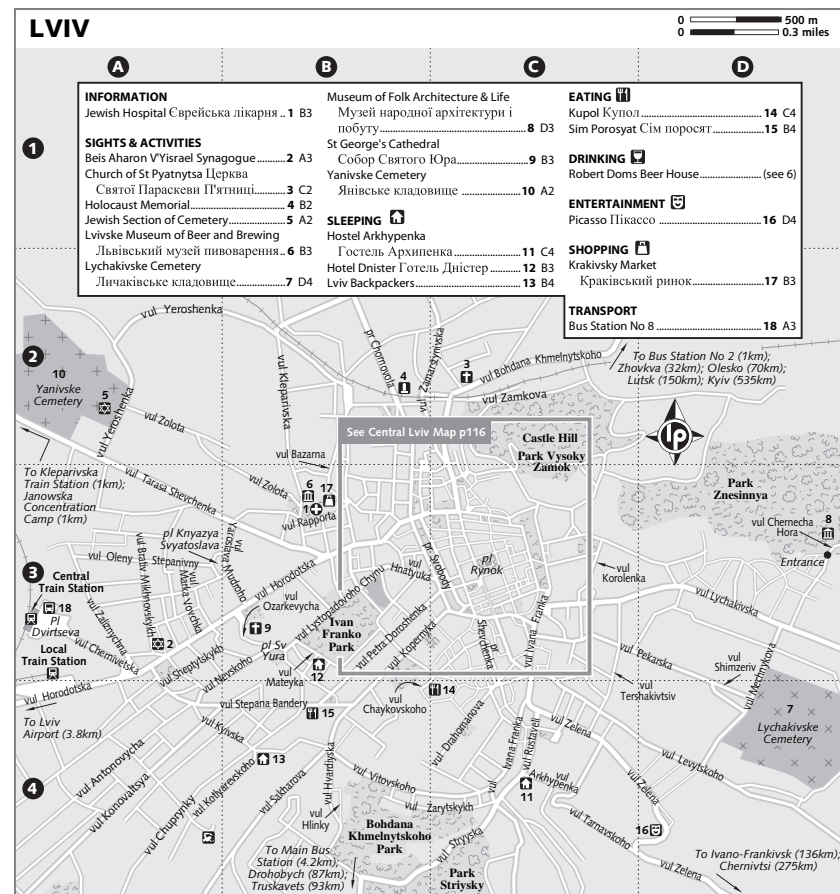
The Galician capital played a major role in the movement that led to Ukrainian independence in 1991. Ukrainian nationalism and the Greek Catholic Church re-emerged here in the late 1980s, and in the early 1990s its people unanimously elected nationalist politicians and staged mass demonstrations. Today, it still has its eyes focused more on Europe than Russia and has been a stronghold for Western-oriented politicians like Viktor Yushchenko.

Orientation

Lviv's main street is the 600m-long pr Svobody, which runs north from pl Mitskevycha to the Theatre of Opera and Ballet. Directly east are the narrow, old-quarter streets around the central pl Rynok. Westwards, 19th-century streets lead to Ivan Franko Park. Most sights are within this roughly 1.25 sq km area, overlooked from the northeast by Castle Hill and from the west by a smaller hill just above Ivan Franko Park. The train station is beyond this park, about 2km west of pr Svobody.

Information BOOKSHOPS

Budynok Knyhy (Book House; Map p116; pl Mitskevycha 8; ☎ 10am-7pm Mon-Fri, 10am-4pm Sat) This large, central bookshop has local maps and guides.



Classicon (Map p116; vul Virnemska 32; ☎ 10am-6pm Tue-Sat) New, used and rare books in an ancient edifice.

INTERNET ACCESS

Chorna Medea (Map p116; vul Petra Doroshenka 50; per hr 6uah; ☎ 24hr) Lviv's greatest internet café, with drinks, Skype and cheap (60 kopeks per minute) long-distance VOIP calls.

Ukrtelekom (Map p116; pl Halytska 7; per hr 3uah; ☎ 8am-11pm)

MONEY

There are plenty of ATMs in Lviv and, in addition to banks (two of which are marked on the Central Lviv map, p116), credit-card cash advances are also available at Western Union

and X-Change Points inside the central train ticket office or in the main post office.

POST

Central post office (Map p116; ☎ 065; vul Slovatskoho 1; ☎ 10am-8pm Mon-Fri, 10am-4pm Sat, 10am-3pm Sun)

TELEPHONE

Central telephone office (Map p116; vul Petra Doroshenka 39; ☎ 8am-11pm)

TOURIST INFORMATION

Tourist Information Centre (TIC; Map p116; ☎ 297 5767/51; www.tourism.lviv.ua; vul Vynnychenka 12/14; ☎ 10am-1pm & 2-6pm Mon-Fri) A tourist info centre in Ukraine? Stop the presses! It's a good one too, with free

maps, brochures and helpful people doling out free advice and arranging city and regional tours.

TRAVEL AGENCIES

InLviv (☎ 272 8001, 8-098 449 2525; www.inlviv.info; vul Rybna 3/19) InLviv runs a variety of tours and has a website with loads of information on Lviv.

Krylos.com (☎ 220 1626, 8-097 960 9040; www.krylos.com) Runs handy three-hour guided tours, bookable through its excellent website. Also arranges transport tickets, hotels or apartment rental, and disseminates advice free-of-charge.

Lviv Ecotour (☎ 276 5121, 8-067 670 0840; www.lviv.ecotour.com) Owner Slav knows the region very well, has plenty of experience in guiding foreigners and speaks fluent English. Highly recommended. Can also arrange accommodation.

Sights

As Lviv gets ever more touristy, winter becomes an ever more appealing time to visit. For a real treat, take an idyllic sunrise stroll through the centre on a Sunday, when church music wafts through the deserted streets and courtyards.

PLOSHCHA RYNOK

Because of Lviv's splendid array of buildings it was declared a Unesco World Heritage Site in 1998, and this old market square (Map p116) lies at its heart. The square was progressively rebuilt after a major fire in the early 16th century destroyed the original. A 19th-century **ratusha** (town hall) stands in the middle of the plaza, with fountains featuring Greek gods on

each of its corners. You can climb the neo-Renaissance **tower** (admission 3uah; ☎ 10am-7pm Tue-Sun). Follow the green signs to the ticket booth on the fourth floor.

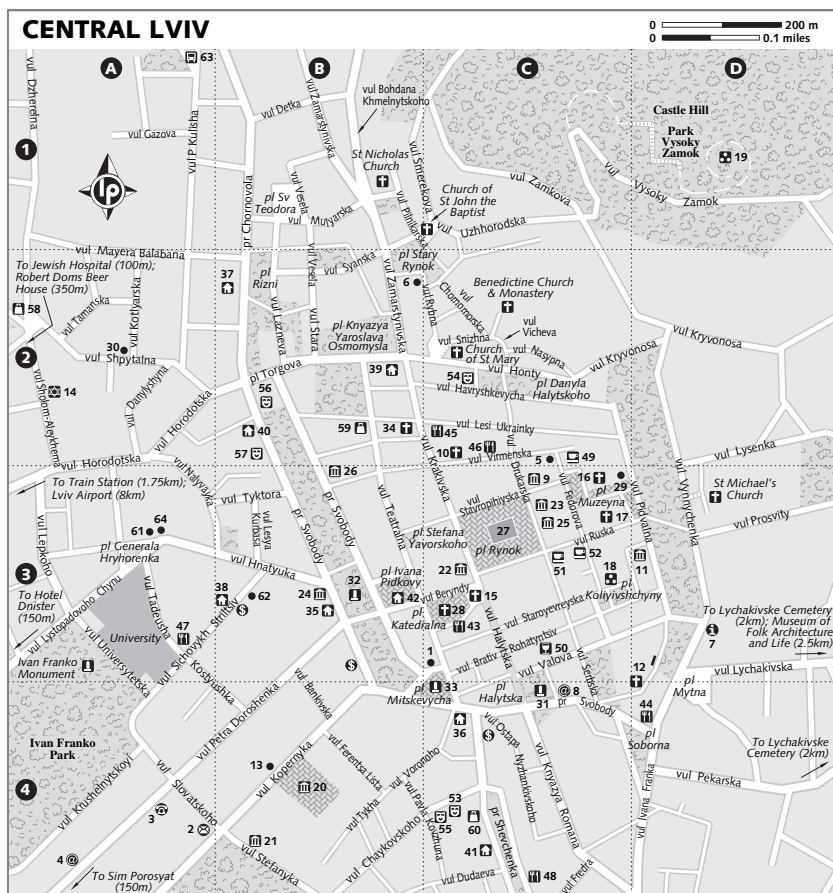
More interesting are the 40-odd buildings around the square's perimeter. Most of these three- and four-storey buildings have uniform dimensions, with three windows per storey overlooking the square. This was the maximum number of windows allowed tax-free, and those buildings with four or more belonged to the extremely wealthy.

House No 4, the **Black Mansion** (Map p116), has one of the most striking façades. Built for an Italian merchant in 1588-89, it features a relief of St Martin on a horse. **The Korniyak House** (Map p116) at No 6 is named after its original owner, a Greek merchant. An interesting row of sculptured knights along the rooftop cornice

makes it a local favourite. Together, Nos 4 and 6 house the largest portion of the Lviv History Museum (p119).

A highlight is the **Boyim Chapel** (Map p116; admission 2uah; ☎ 11am-5pm Tue-Sun) just off the square's southwest corner on pl Katedralna (Cathedral Sq). The blackened façade of the burial chapel (1617) of Hungarian merchant Georgi Boyim and his family is covered in magnificent if somewhat morbid carvings. Atop the cupola is an unusual sculpture of Christ sitting with his head in one hand, pondering his sorrows. The interior is dizzying, featuring biblical reliefs with cameo appearances by members of the Boyim family. There are more images of the family patriarchs on the exterior above the door and on the wall flanking vul Halytska.

Opposite the chapel, on pl Katedralna stands the working **Roman Catholic Cathedral**



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(1370–1480; Map p116). Here you can see a cannonball hanging by a chain off the cathedral's corner; it miraculously failed to penetrate its walls during a historic battle. If you walk around the cathedral, you'll see a relief of Pope John Paul II on the other side, erected to commemorate his visit to Lviv in 2001. The church's exterior is Gothic while the heavily gilded interior, one of the city's most ornate, has a more baroque feel.

VULYTSYA PIDVALNA & AROUND

There are more churches and attractions packed into the small area east of pl Rynok. Down vul Stavropihyiska is one of Lviv's signature sights, the large rococo dome of the **Dominican Cathedral and Monastery** (1745–64; Map p116). Attached to the cathedral and to the left of the entrance is the **Museum of Religious History** (admission 3uah, ☎ 10am–6pm Tue–Sun), which was an atheist museum in Soviet times.

East of the cathedral is the Renaissance-style former **royal arsenal** (Map p116), on a square where you'll see a statue of a monk holding a book. This is Federov, who brought printing to Ukraine in the 16th century. Fittingly, there's a secondhand book market here on weekends.

The Ukrainian Orthodox **Dormition Church** (Map p116; Uspenska Tserkva; vul Pidvalna 9) is easily distinguished by the 65m, triple-tiered **Kornyakt bell tower** rising beside it. The tower was named after its Greek benefactor, a merchant who was also the original owner of Kornyakt House on pl Rynok. It's well worth going inside to see the beautiful interior of the church, accessible through the gate to the right of the tower. It's only open during daily services, at 8am and 6pm. Attached to the church is the diminutive Three Saints Chapel.

Further south is the town's arsenal (1554–56), now the **Arsenal Museum** (Map p116; vul Pidvalna 5; ☎ 721 901; admission 3uah; ☎ 10am–5.15pm Thu–Tue), where you can check out suits of armour and various cannons and weapons.

Lviv's most stunning baroque interior belongs to the 17th-century **Bernardine Church and Monastery** (Map p116) now the Greek Catholic Church of St Andrew. The highlight is the long ceiling covered in recently restored frescoes. Sunday masses spill out into the street, filling the surrounding square with song. Walking from here back to pr Svobody, you'll pass pl Halytska and the **statue of Prince Danylo Halytsky** (Map p116), Lviv's founder.

VULYTSYA VIRMENSKA & AROUND

By some accounts, Lviv has more than 80 churches and it's all too easy to overdose on ornate interiors and golden iconostases, but one church you should not miss is the elegant 1363 **Armenian Cathedral** (Map p116; vul Virmenska 7). The placid cathedral courtyard is a maze of arched passageways and squat buildings festooned with intricate Caucasian detail. Stepping into the courtyard feels like stepping into another era. Quaint, cobbled vul Virmenska was the heart of the old Armenian ('Virmenska' in Ukrainian) quarter.

The tall copper-domed church just west of the Armenian Cathedral is the late-17th-century **Transfiguration Church** (Map p116; cr vul Krakivska & vul Lesi Ukrainky; ☎ 7am–7pm), the first church in the city to revert to Greek Catholicism after Ukrainian independence in 1991.

PROSPEKT SVOBODY

Just in case it should ever slip your mind that Lviv is Ukraine's most patriotic large city, it boasts an enormous **statue of Taras Shevchenko** (Map p116) in the middle of Prospekt Svobody (Freedom Avenue). A gift from the Ukrainian Diaspora in Argentina, the statue of the revered national poet stands beside a wave-shaped relief of religious folk art. In summer, the broad pavement in the middle of the *prospekt* is the town's main hang-out and the hub of Lviv life, where lovers pose for photos at Shevchenko's feet. People promenade along the 'Planta', as older locals call the boulevard, while ponies and tricycles are rented out for children, and people sometimes gather in singing groups. At the northern end of the 'Planta' is the 1897–1900 Solomiya Krushelnytska Lviv Theatre of Opera and Ballet (see p125). At the southern end a **statue of Adam Michiewicz** (Map p116), the Polish poet, stands in pl Mitskvycha. Pr Svobody is closed to traffic on weekends.

HIGH CASTLE HILL

Visiting the **High Castle** (Vysoky Zamok; Map p116) on Castle Hill (Zamkova Hora) is a quintessential Lviv experience. The 14th-century ruined stone fort at the summit was Lviv's birthplace and offers the best vantage point of the modern city. Good times to visit are at sunset and in winter, when there are no leaves obstructing the view. Newlyweds like to pop the cork on a bottle of champagne here, while enterprising locals rent binoculars and sell souvenirs.

There are several ways to reach Vysoky Zamok. The easiest is to make your way to the corner of vul Vynnychenka and vul Kryvonosa and just head up the hill towards the TV tower. The castle is east of the tower; follow the steel stairs behind the restaurant at the first crest of the hill. If you're feeling lazy, you can take a taxi most of the way up, approaching from the east via vul Vysoky Zamok.

LYCHAKIVSKE CEMETERY

Don't even think of leaving town until you've seen the **Lychakivske Cemetery** (Lychakivske Kladovyshche; Map p115; admission 5uah; ☎ 9am–6pm); it is only a short journey from the centre. This is the Père Lachaise of Eastern Europe, with the same sort of overgrown grounds and Gothic aura as the famous Parisian necropolis. Eagle eyes can try to spot the graves of revered nationalist poet Ivan Franko, Soviet gymnastics legend Viktor Chukarin, early 20th-century opera star Solomiya Krushelnytska, and some 2000 Poles who died fighting Ukrainians and Bolsheviks from 1918 to 1920. Ultimately you needn't recognise a single soul to be moved by the mournful photos of loved ones, ornate tombstones and floral tributes.

A good strategy is to combine a trip to the cemetery and the Museum of Folk Architecture and Life (see right). The cemetery is one stop past the stop for the open-air museum on tram 7.

MUSEUMS

Its buildings are Lviv's strong point, rather than its museums, but it's worth popping your head into one or two of them. The best is the **Lviv Art Gallery**, which has two wings – one in the lavish **Pototsky Palace** (Map p116; ☎ 261 3799; vul Kopernyka 15; admission 5uah; ☎ 11am–6pm Tue–Sat, noon–5pm Sun), the other around the corner on **vul Stefanyka** (Map p116; ☎ 261 4647; vul Stefanyka 3; admission 5uah; ☎ 11am–6pm Tue–Sat, noon–5pm Sun). The former houses an impressive collection of European art from the 14th to 18th centuries, including works by Rubens, Bruegel, Goya and Caravaggio. The art is all on the second floor. A tour of the palace's empty but striking ground floor costs an extra 5uah. The wing on vul Stefanyka contains 19th- and early 20th-century art, most of it Polish and Russian.

The **Lviv History Museum** (Map p116; ☎ 720 671; ☎ all branches 10am–5pm Thu–Tue) is split into three collections dotted around pl Rynok. The best

part of this museum is at **No 6** (admission 3uah). Here you can enjoy the Italian-Renaissance inner courtyard and slide around the exquisitely decorated interior in cloth slippers on the woodcut parquetry floor made from 14 kinds of hardwood. It was also here on 22 December 1686 that Poland and Russia signed the treaty that partitioned Ukraine. **No 4** (admission 2uah) covers 19th- and 20th-century history, including two floors dedicated to the Ukrainian nationalist movement. **No 24** (admission 2uah) expounds on the city's earlier history. The highlight is an enormous painting depicting the old walled city of Lviv in the 18th century. Pr Svobody was a moat. None of the branches of this museum have English translations.

The **Apteka Museum** (Pharmacy Museum; Map p116; ☎ 722 041; vul Drukarska 2; admission 1.50uah; ☎ 10am–6pm Mon–Fri, 10am–4pm Sat & Sun) is located inside a still-functioning pharmacy dating from 1735. Entrance into the eerie *pidval* (basement) is by request only. You can buy a bottle of iron-rich medicinal wine, if you can bear the temporary tooth discolouration. Ask for 'vino'.

Most of the **National Museum** (Map p116; ☎ 742 280; pr Svobody 20; admission per exhibit 3–7uah, or 15uah for the entire museum; ☎ 10am–6pm Wed–Mon) is dedicated to Ukrainian art of the 12th to 20th centuries. The old religious icons and medieval books are quite extraordinary if you're a fan. The temporary exhibitions by local artists are of a more variable quality. Taras Shevchenko's moustachioed death mask is also here.

The **Museum of Ethnography, Arts and Crafts** (Map p116; ☎ 727 808; pr Svobody 15 & pl Rynok 10; admission per branch 5uah; ☎ 11am–6pm Tue–Sun) has exhibits of furniture, clothing, woodcarvings, ceramics and farming implements that give a basic introduction to Carpathian life. However, the Hutsul folk-art museum (p146) in Kolomyia is superior.

The open-air **Museum of Folk Architecture and Life** (Muzei Narodnoyi Arkhitektury i Pobuty; Map p115; ☎ 718 017; vul Cherna Hora 1; adult/child 5/2.50uah; ☎ 10am–7pm, closed Mon) displays different regional styles of farmsteads, windmills, churches and schools. It doesn't hold a candle to Kyiv's Pyrohovo Museum (see p79), but it's worth checking out if you're not heading to Kyiv. To get to the museum, take tram 7 or 2 from vul Pidvalna up vul Lychakivska and get off at the corner of vul Mechnykova. From the stop walk 10 minutes' north on vul Krupyarska, following the signs.

JEWISH LVIV

Jewish sites in Lviv are more noteworthy for what's been destroyed than for what remains, but a tour through the city's rich Jewish past can still elicit a range of emotions. There were more than 100,000 Jews in Lviv before WWII, not including the several thousand Jewish refugees who arrived from Germany and western Poland before the war. The Nazis murdered nearly all of them at Lviv's Janowska concentration and forced labour camp, and at Belzec, another hideous extermination camp in present-day Poland where, it is believed, some 600,000 people were killed and only two survived. Today Lviv's Jewish community numbers only about 5000.

Before the tragic events of WWII there were two Jewish districts in Lviv: a wealthy inner district around vuls Staroyevreyska (Old Jewish Street), Fedorova and Ruska in the old town; and a larger outer district covering a vast area north and west of the Theatre of Opera and Ballet.

The late-16th-century **Golden Rose Synagogue** (Map p116; vul Staroyevreyska) stood at the heart of the inner district before the Nazis blew it up in 1941. Archaeologists were hard at work excavating the fenced-off site when we visited. The local Jewish community hopes to rebuild the synagogue in the near future. Another synagogue once stood in the decrepit open lot directly across vul Staroyevreyska.

In the outer district, you'll find the **Jewish Hospital** (Map p115; vul Rappoporta), one of Lviv's architectural highlights. From afar this Moorish, dome-topped building looks like a mosque, but up close Jewish motifs are evident in the striking, eclectic façade. Krakivsky Market (see p126), right behind the hospital, was a Jewish cemetery in medieval times. Around the corner from the hospital is the **B'nai B'rith Leopold Jewish Cultural Centre** (Map p116; ☎ 986 901; vul Sholom Aleykhem 12; 🕒 9am-5pm Sun-Fri), which can arrange tours of Jewish Lviv. Writer Sholem Aleichem lived not far away, at Kotlyarska 1, in 1906. There's a **plaque** (Map p116) to Aleichem on the side of that building. South of here, on vul Nalyvayka, a few old Yiddish shop signs remain. About 500m north of the Theatre of Opera and Ballet on pr Chornovola is the **Holocaust memorial** (Map p115), a vaguely cubist statue of a tormented figure looking skyward. The Lviv ghetto began here after most of the city's Jews were killed or deported to Belzec in the 'Great Action' of August 1942. Nazi hunter Simon Wiesenthal was the most famous resident of the ghetto, which was liquidated in June 1943.

The **Yanivske Cemetery** (Janowska Cemetery; Map p115; vul Tarasa Shevchenka), northwest of the city centre, has a large Jewish section accessible from vul Yeroshenka (a side street off vul Tarasa Shevchenka). A 15-minute walk west of the cemetery are a plaque and a billboard marking the spot of the **Janowska concentration camp** (Map p115; vul Vynnytsya, just off vul Tarasa Shevchenka), now a prison. About 200m further west on vul Tarasa Shevchenka is **Kleparivska train station** (Map p115), the last stop before Belzec on the Nazi death train. A plaque commemorates the 500,000 doomed Galician Jews who passed through here.

Artefacts of Lviv's Jewish heritage are scattered around various museums in the old town. There's a small Holocaust exhibit in the Lviv History Museum branch at pl Rynok 6 (see p119), while the Museum of Religious History attached to the Dominican Cathedral (see p118) has a collection of Jewish relics. Lviv's only functioning synagogue is the attractive **Beis Aharon V'Yisrael Synagogue** (vul Brativ Mikhnovskyykh 4), built in 1924.

For more Jewish sites see the Lviv Walking Tour, opposite.

Lvivske Museum of Beer and Brewing (Map p115; ☎ 294 8065; www.lvivske.com; vul Kleparivska 18; admission with/without beer tasting 15/10uah; 🕒 tours roughly every 1½hr from 10am to 5.30pm, closed Tue) The oldest still-functioning brewery in Europe turns 300 in 2015, and a tasting tour through the mainly underground facilities is well worth the price of admission. One old storage vault has been turned into a unique beer hall (see p125).

OTHER SIGHTS

On a hilltop beyond Ivan Franko Park stands **St George's Cathedral** (Sobor Yura; Map p115; pl Sv Yura 5). This is the historic and sacred centre of the Greek Catholic Church in Ukraine, which was handed back after 44 years of compulsory Orthodox control. Constructed in 1774-90, this yellow building is pleasant enough, especially since a refurbishment for the pope's 2001 visit. However, it's perhaps not as strik-

ing as some of Lviv's less important churches. For many, the most memorable element will be the 3D icon of Christ near the far right corner, if looking from the door. It presents Christ's face from one angle, and the image from the shroud of Turin from another.

South off pl Mitskevycha runs Lviv's lesser grand boulevard, **pr Shevchenka** (Map p116), adorned with rows of attractive early-20th-century buildings. At its far southern end is a statue of a seated Mykhailo Hrushevsky, Ukraine's most famous historian and the country's first president during its brief independence in 1918.

Opposite the Pototsky Palace is the **birthplace of Leopold von Sacher-Masoch** (Map p116; vul Kopernyka 22), the world's original 'masochist'. The author of *Venus in Furs* came into the world here in 1835, although he spent most of his subsequent 60 years begging to be whipped in Austria, Germany and Italy.

The small **Church of St Pyatnytsa** (Map p115; vul Bohdana Khmelnytskoho 77) has a renowned 17th-century wooden iconostasis.

Walking Tour

Lviv's relatively compact centre makes for an easy, pleasant walking tour that will get you to most of the major sites. This tour starts at the spiritual centre of modern day Lviv, the Taras Shevchenko statue on pr Svobody, and ends at enchanting vul Virmenska in the heart of the old city.

With your back to the **Shevchenko statue** (1; p118), start walking right, glancing up at the interesting cast of stone-carved characters (one resembling New York's Statue of Liberty) on the parapet of the **Museum of Ethnography, Arts and Crafts** (2; p119). Continue north on pr Svobody toward the **Solomiya Krushelnytska Liv Theatre of Opera and Ballet** (3; p125). Skirt right around the theatre and head north on vul Lazneva. Take a right on vul Syanska and proceed about one block to the corner of vul Vesela. The 17th-century **Grand Synagogue** (4) occupied the open lot on your left before the Nazis destroyed it in August 1941. It's marked by a small plaque. Another block east is pl Stary Rynok, where another synagogue, the 1845 **Progressive Jews Synagogue** (5), once stood; it's likewise marked by a plaque.

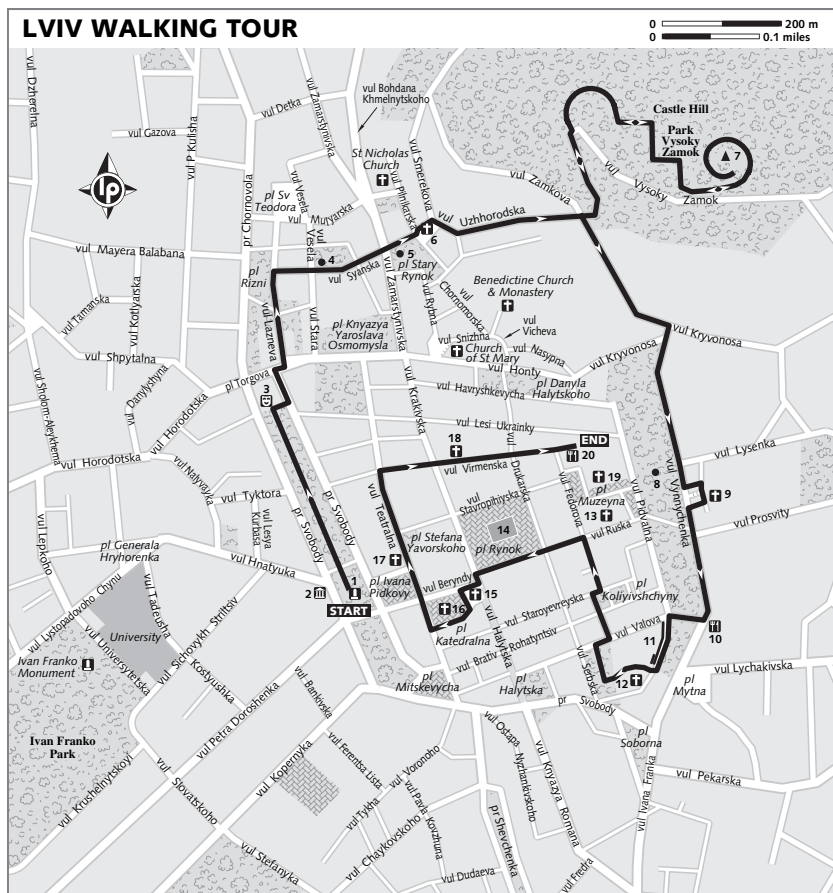
Glance up at the old buildings around pl Stary Rynok before continuing east, passing the diminutive **Church of St John the Baptist** (6), Lviv's oldest church, on your left, then bear

right on vul Uzhhorodska. Continue uphill about 200m to the corner of vul Zamkova. From here you can spot the TV tower on **Castle Hill** (7; p118). If you're up for it, High Castle (Vysoky Zamok) is about a 45-minute round-trip walk from here (follow the directions on p118). Not up for a climb? Take a right on vul Zamkova, which leads to the old town.

Proceed about 300m on vul Zamkova to a three-way intersection and bear right down vul Vynnychenka. In the park on your right is the 16th-century **Gunpowder Tower** (8), part of the old system of walls and bastions, which now houses a seasonal restaurant. The twin-spired church looming up the hill on your left is the Greek Catholic **St Michael's Church** (9). It's worth going inside to see its striking baroque sanctuary. Continue south to vul Valova at the south end of the park. If you need a breather, **Kabinet Café** (10; p125) is a fine place. If not, backtrack about 30 paces and cross the park and tram tracks. You will see No 20 Bapova on your left. Skirt inside the fenced sidewalk and continue along the old brick walls on your right. This is the last standing section of **Lviv's medieval fortifications** (11). Go down the steps and duck right through the arched passageway. You are in the yard of the splendid **Bernardine Church and Monastery** (12; p118).

Head north across the square in front of the church's main entrance, cross vul Valova and continue north on vul Fedorova for about 200m until you come to vul Ruska. The **Dormition Church** (13; p118) and its Kornyakt bell tower loom on your right. Go left on vul Ruska, keeping the **ratusha** (14; p116) on your right as you cross pl Rynok. You can come back and wander around pl Rynok later. For now, look for the black façade of the **Boyim Chapel** (15; p117), on pl Katedralna, and have a look inside. When you exit, head straight down the path in front of you, keeping the **Roman Catholic Cathedral** (16; p117) on your right, and take the next right on vul Teatralna.

You're now close to where you started, walking north parallel to pr Svobody. Continue past the **Jesuit Church** (17), stopping to admire its interesting baroque and Renaissance façade. Your home stretch, vul Virmenska, is easy to spot – it's the prettiest little street in Lviv. Bang a right and set your sights on the eastern terminus of the street – your finish line, where the **Dzyha Café** (20; p125) awaits. But before you get there, pop your head into the courtyard of the **Armenian Cathedral** (18; p118). At the Dzyha,



WALK FACTS

Start Shevchenko Statue

Distance Dominican Cathedral

Distance 5km

Duration 2½ hours (total), 1¾ hours (exclusive of Castle Hill loop)

choose an outdoor table with a view of the **Dominican Cathedral** (19; p118) and order yourself a well-deserved beer, wine or tea.

Tours

The Tourist Information Centre (p115) and private travel agencies market a few specialised tours, such as the 'Lviv underground' tour,

which takes you into the basements of the Apteka Museum, the Transfiguration Church and the Jesuit Church on vul Teatralna 13.

Sleeping

Lviv's hostel situation seems to be in constant flux. You can make bookings and check out the latest offerings on www.hihostels.com.ua. Lviv also has a number of hotels and apartments on offer.

APARTMENTS

As in most Ukrainian cities, apartments are better bang-for-the-buck than hotels. The following have English-speaking proprietors. Lviv Ecotour (p116) also has a couple of apartments.

www.rentinlviv.com (☎ 290 1746, 8-067 673 6580; apt from \$25) Ask for Yaroslav.

www.lviv-apartments.com (☎ 8-067 672 5161; lviv-apartments@ukr.net; apt \$35-85) Ask for Oleh.

Olya (☎ 8-066 174 7500; olya_h@mail.lviv.ua; apt from \$35) Olya has no website but she does have a few wonderful apartments in the town centre.

BUDGET

Sun Hostel (Map p116; ☎ 240 3762; www.sun.lviv.ua; pr Shevchenka 16; dm \$9, d with shared/private bathroom \$28/42) Located in an attractive four-storey townhouse, this popular hostel features six-, eight-, and 12-bed dorm rooms that are reasonably clean and free of malodorous odours. There's free wi-fi and an attractive courtyard for chilling out. The Siberian owner proffers copious amounts of free vodka, which guests either describe as a godsend or a nuisance.

Hostel Arkhypenka (Map p115; ☎ 275 7791; vul Arkhypenka 2; dm \$10; P) Don't expect extras like wi-fi, coffee and English-speaking staff at this simple converted schoolhouse a short walk from the centre. The dorm rooms are cosy but there's one big fat red flag: only two toilets and two showers serving 30 spaces. It's often booked out by school groups.

Hotel Lviv (Map p116; ☎ 242 3555; pr Chornovola 7; s with shared bathroom \$15, s/d with private bathroom \$36/44; P) You're looking at the cheap singles here, which are a super deal considering the location; stay away from the overpriced 'renovated' doubles. While Soviet in character, the Lviv lacks the deal-breakers that dog many hotels of this ilk. The common bathrooms, for instance, aren't gross, and the beds don't sag too badly. Street noise is one problem; ask for a room at the back.

Kosmonaut Hostel (Map p116; ☎ 740 274; info@thekosmonaut.com; vul Sichovykh Striltsiv 8/5; dm \$16, tw \$22-30; ☒) Not as space-age as the branding implies, this resembles a slightly ramshackle but cool student household in Australia, from where one of the owners originates. Flickering neon lights in some dorms mean an eye-mask is always helpful and after 9pm the water system switches to the in-house reserve, which means you have to go easy on the late-night showers. That said, the Kosmonaut is easily the most central, helpful, relaxed and convivial place in town. It's all about atmosphere.

Lviv Backpackers (Map p116; ☎ 237 2053; <http://lvivbackpackers.com>; Apt 2, vul Kotliarevskoho 37; dm \$18-26, d \$30; ☒ Mar-Oct; ☒) Like Marmite, this is an option you'll either love or hate. In a

private apartment, this place is wonderfully clean and modern, although some find the mattresses thin, there really aren't enough bathroom facilities, and it's a 20-minute walk into town. But the big 'if' is whether you'll get on with the gung-ho owner, who had posted notes and rules, and lines up chairs to keep guests out of the kitchen after 11pm. Still, if you fancy, he's more than happy to take you AK47 shooting...

MIDRANGE

All the midrange and top-end hotels listed here accept credit cards and include breakfast in their rates.

our pick **Hotel George** (Map p116; ☎ 725 952; www.georgehotel.ukrbiz.net; pl Mitskevycha 1; 'Tourist-Class' s/d \$38/44, 'First-Class' \$67/80) That elusive 'Soviet chic' vibe is ably captured here, albeit with a bit of Habsburg flair (the gorgeous Art Nouveau building dates to 1901). A butler decked out in classic 1920s regalia meets you at the door and leads you up a grand staircase flanked by 4m-high mirrors. The rooms are faded, but still quite warm and cosy. They feature quaint tea-tables and working TVs produced two-score years ago in the USSR. 'Tourist-Class' rooms come with just a sink. 'First-Class' rooms have bathtubs with sufficient volume for one or even both of Ukraine's heavyweight-boxing Klitschko brothers to work themselves into a sudsy frenzy.

Nataliya-18 (Map p116; ☎ 242 2068; www.natalia18.ho.com.ua; pl Knyazya Yaroslava Osmomysla 7; s/d from \$76/104; P ☒) Located on the edge of the dreamy Armenian quarter, this was the newest hotel in Lviv at the time we visited. It features beautiful big bathrooms with mirrors worthy of a porn set and the softest, fluffiest towels in Ukraine. The odd-shaped rooms are anchored by queen-sized beds draped in fine linens. One gripe: a couple of the rooms we saw smelt awfully smoky. Ask for a room facing the quiet courtyard.

Wien Hotel (Map p116; ☎ 244 4314; www.wienho.tel.lviv.ua; pr Svobody 12; s \$70-110, d \$80-120; P ☒) Tucked behind the Wiener Kaffeehaus just off Lviv's main street, cosy little Wien has 20 freshly renovated, if slightly small, rooms. The kind reception, tasteful and elegant décor, and totally agreeable pricing draw a steady stream of people in the know. The free Wiener Kaffeehaus breakfasts for guests are excellent. Book ahead because it's popular. There's free wi-fi but no business centre.

Hotel Dnister (Map p115; ☎ 297 4305; www.dnister.lviv.ua; vul Matejko 6; economy/standard/superior r\$80/100/125; <

from 10uah to 100uah for local performances; quadruple that for foreign troupes and orchestras.

There are organ concerts every Friday, Saturday and Sunday at 3.15pm in the Museum of Religious History attached to the Dominican Cathedral (see p118; admission 10uah).

Shopping

Outdoor arts and crafts market (Map p116; cnr vul Lesi Ukrainky & vul Teatralna; ☎ 10.30am-6pm) This large market sells rugs, embroidered blouses, wooden *pysanky* (patterned eggs), woodcrafts and lots of everyday knick-knacks.

Ravlyk (Map p116; ☎ 298 2595; pr Svobody 15; ☎ 10am-6pm) Located in the pr Svobody branch of the Museum of Ethnography, Arts and Crafts, the quality of its souvenirs is second to none in Lviv, particularly the *pysanky*, which use real eggshells and are arguably better than those in the museum itself.

Svitoch (Світоч) is one of Ukraine's most popular brands of chocolate, and the company has many own-brand shops. These include the well-stocked confectionery outlet **Svitoch** (Map p116; pr Shevchenka 10).

Fans of outdoor markets will enjoy bustling **Krakivsky Market** (Map p115; vul Bazarna), a real Soviet-style *rynok* (market) with all the fresh fruit, raw meat and cheap junk that entails.

Getting There & Away

More and more tourists are flying to Poland on budget airlines and proceeding overland to Lviv from there. For information on overland routes from Poland see p256.

AIR

Lviv's small, basic **airport** (☎ 229 8112; www.avia.lviv.ua, in Ukrainian) is about 9km west of the centre. A taxi is the easiest way in from the airport and should cost 25uah to 35uah. Otherwise, take trolleybus 9 to the university or *marshrutka* 95 to the centre.

The only domestic flights from Lviv are to Kyiv on Aerosvit or Ukraine International Airlines. Book through **Kiy Avia** (Map p116; ☎ 743 027; www.kiyavia.com; pl Hryhorenka 5; ☎ 8am-8pm).

There are daily flights to and from Vienna on **Austrian Airlines** (☎ 297 6092; Lviv Airport) and to and from Warsaw on **LOT** (Map p116; ☎ 297 5057; vul Sichovykh Striltsiv 5). Insist that your transfer in Vienna be longer than 30 minutes if you want to be absolutely sure your baggage makes it.

BUS

There are three bus stations. The most useful (but least convenient) is the **Main Bus Station** (Holovny Avtovokzal; ☎ 632 473; vul Stryska), 8km south of the centre. It's reached by *marshrutky* 71 and 180 from pr Svobody or trolleybus 5 from pl Petrushevycha.

From the Main Bus Station, buses serve all major southern, eastern and central cities, including Kyiv (90uah, nine hours, four daily), Kamyanets-Podilsky (60uah, eight hours, twice daily) and Odesa (110uah, 15 hours, once daily). Western Ukraine destinations include Ivano-Frankivsk (20uah, three hours, hourly until 5.20pm), Chernivtsi (42uah, 7½ hours, at least twice daily), Kolomyia (30uah, 4½ hours, 12 daily), Uzhhorod (37uah, six hours, four daily), Lutsk (24uah, three hours, about every hour), Rivne (26uah, 3¼ hours, 12 daily), Ternopil (25uah, three hours, every 30 minutes) and Kremenets (24uah, 3¼ hours, once daily) via Olesko and Pochayiv.

Many southbound buses depart from **Bus Station No 8** (Map p115; ☎ 238 8308) in front of the Central Train Station. Destinations served include Ivano-Frankivsk (20uah, 3½ hours, seven daily), Uzhhorod (37uah, 6½ hours, two daily), Odesa (daily), Kyiv (twice daily). Three daily buses to Warsaw also leave from here. For international destinations see p254.

Lviv's harder to reach, suburban, **Bus Station No 2** is about 3km north of the centre near the end of tram line 6. From the tram's final stop (vul Липинського), head right (east) to the bus station. Some services to Zhovkva depart from here.

TRAIN

Lviv's refurbished **train station** (Map p115; ☎ 005, 226 2068) is 2km west of the centre, connected to town by trams 1 and 9.

The quickest way to Kyiv is on an express day train (70uah, 6½ hours, one or two daily except Tuesday). There are also at least four regular trains per day, mostly overnight (100uah, nine to 11 hours). Most services to Kyiv pass through Ternopil (25uah, 2½ hours) and Vinnytsya (48uah, 6½ hours). Slow *elektrychky* service Ternopil (7uah, four hours, three daily), Lutsk (10uah, six hours, once daily) and Rivne (10uah, six hours, two daily).

Heading south, there are trains to Ivano-Frankivsk (from 24uah, three hours, twice daily), Kolomyia (from 12uah, five hours, twice daily), Uzhhorod (56uah, seven hours,

FROM LVIV TO POLAND

With budget airlines flying into neighbouring Polish cities, Lviv is a popular transit point in and out of Ukraine. Poland's EU accession and rampant cigarette smuggling have made border delays even longer. There are several routes between Lviv and the Polish airports in Krakow and Rzeszow, and different travellers have different preferences. Some recommend the train to and from the Polish border town of Przemysl, where you can at least sit during the average two- to three-hour waiting time. Others prefer to jam themselves on the much quicker *marshrutka* 297 between Lviv train station and the road crossing at Shehyni/Medyka (1½ hours), where they alight, walk across the border, and take another *marshrutka* onwards. This can be the quickest route and handy if you need to leave Lviv for Poland after the last train has departed. Beware though; the *marshrutky* are crowded and you have to stand in often long border queues (EU passport holders are sometimes sent to the front of the line). Most agree that taking a bus from Lviv's inconveniently located Main Bus Station is the slowest option leaving Ukraine – although not as dire coming in. See p256 for more details.

at least three daily), Chop (60uah, six hours, once daily), Rakhiv (36uah, 8½ hours, once daily, arriving at midnight) and Chernivtsi (50uah, 5½ to 11 hours, three daily).

There are daily trains to all major cities in central, southern and eastern Ukraine, including Odesa (96uah, 12 hours, twice daily), Simferopol (130uah, one day, daily) and Kharkiv (109uah, 20 hours, three daily). To get to Kamyanets-Podilsky take a train to Khmelnytsky (four hours) and transfer to one of the frequent *marshrutky* (1½ hours).

International trains serve Moscow (25 hours, twice daily), St Petersburg (daily) and Minsk (odd days), among other destinations.

The most painless way to acquire a train ticket is to use the centrally located **train ticket office** (Map p116; ☎ 226 5276; vul Hnatyuka 20; ☎ 8am-2pm & 3-8pm Mon-Fri, to 6pm Sat & Sun).

Getting Around

From the Central Train Station, take tram 1 or 9 to the southern end of pr Svobody; tram 6 will take you to the northern end. Tram and trolleybus fares are usually 50 to 60 kopecks, buses and *marshrutky* 1uah.

Taxi fares in Lviv are fairly standard for Ukraine – 15uah to 20uah for trips of less than 5km. It's getting harder and harder to flag down taxis on the street. To order a cab try ☎ 002, ☎ 083, ☎ 298 6002 or ☎ 8-067 600 0482. **Hertz** (Map p116; ☎ 297 0052; pl Hryhorenka 5) rents cars.

AROUND LVIV Zhovkva & Olesko

With your own wheels, the most impressive day trip from Lviv is probably Pochayiv

Monastery (p130). However, it's too difficult to visit quickly on public transport, leaving the fairly low-key historical town of **Zhovkva** (Жовква) at the top of the list. Its cluster of pastel-coloured buildings, handful of impressive churches, and city-wall remnants will happily occupy you for an hour or two.

Built in the 16th century in an imitation of Italian-Renaissance style, Zhovkva was the birthplace of legendary Cossack Bohdan Khmelnytsky, who reportedly led his men through the 17th-century **Zvirynetska Gate** when liberating the town from the Poles in 1648. Ironically, however, the town's heyday was actually under the Poles, when it became the preferred residence of 17th-century king Jan III Sobieski. Today roughly a dozen buildings – a monastery, lesser churches, a synagogue and a 'castle' that's not really a castle – cluster around the market square.

Given that Zhovkva is small, agreeable and pretty rather than awe-inspiring (references to Unesco candidacy are completely unfounded), it's surprising to find a **tourist information centre** (☎ 8-032 522 2498; tic@zhovkva.lviv.ua; ☎ 10am-5pm Apr-Dec, 10am-5pm Mon-Fri Jan-Mar) at the derelict 'castle's' entrance. It sells multilingual maps and booklets, and at least one of the staff speaks English. If the few restaurants around the square are closed, head to the **Hotel Styl** (СТИЛЬ; ☎ 8-032 526 1941/2; www.hotel-styl.com.ua; vul Dovganuka 5; s/d \$20/26) on the other side of the bus station. Its rooms offer great value, although staying in deathly quiet Zhovkva would be odd.

There are several ways to make the 32km journey north from Lviv, but the easiest route is via *marshrutka* 151 (3uah, 30 minutes), which leaves approximately every 15 minutes

from the stop on vul P (Panteleymona) Kulisha (see map p116), a 10-minute walk northwest from the Opera Theatre. Other frequent services leave from Lviv's Bus Station No 2 (see p126).

Some 70km east of Lviv, **Olesko** (Олесько) boasts a French chateau-style hill-top castle. The current castle dates back to the 18th century but it was built on the site of a medieval fortress, destroyed by Tatar attacks in the 15th century. To get to Olesko, take a bus (1½ hours, eight daily) from Bus Station No 2 in Lviv. Alternatively, travel agencies in Lviv organise day trips.

Drohobych

Once home to Jewish-Polish writer and artist Bruno Schulz, **Drohobych** (дробич) is of most interest to his fans, who might hope (possibly in vain) to recognise the town from his magic-realist novella *The Street of Crocodiles* (1934). Otherwise this quiet provincial town is mildly diverting if not gripping. There are plenty of historical monuments and some faded Polish and Austro-Hungarian homes. The leafy **Bandera Park** above the town square is lovely today, but it was around here that a vengeful German SS officer shot Schulz in 1942.

Indeed, while up to 40% of Drohobych's 35,000 inhabitants were once Jewish, only a handful remain. The truly enormous **New Synagogue** (1865) was a Soviet furniture store and has long lain derelict, although stop-start renovations began in 2005. You pass the building on the left when making the 10- to 15-minute walk from the bus station into town.

Frescoes that Schulz painted for his Nazi 'protector' in WWII were, controversially, taken to Jerusalem's Yad Veshem Holocaust Museum in 2001. But the town schedules a Schulz festival every second November (including in 2008), has plans for a museum and displays a memorial plaque on vul Y Drohobycha. If you speak Ukrainian, Polish or German, a tour organised by one local **university faculty** (☎ 8-032 442 4322; frgf@drohobych.net) might be the thing for you.

The town lies some 80km southwest of Lviv. **Marshrutky** 722 and 122 (9uah, two hours) leave approximately every hour for Drohobych from Lviv's Bus Station No 8 (in front of Lviv's central train station). In Drohobych, **marshrutka** 147 takes you the 10km to Truskavets (see below).

OFF THE BEATEN TRACK: TRUSKAVETS

Truskavets is an old-fashioned spa town that in another country and another time might have given the Czech Republic's celebrated spa town Karlovy Vary a run for its money. Unfortunately, that sort of rivalry is a long way off, but the town still makes a fun day trip from Lviv. Its heart is the Бювет Мінеральних Вод (mineral water *buvet* or spring) in the central park, where locals supposedly once came to drink from the fountain of good health.

Two 'cures' are on tap. Sodova water is reputedly good for the digestive tract; Naftusya for kidney, urinary tract and liver ailments. The springs only run at certain hours and you're supposed to drink the water at a certain temperature, but you can find extensive instructions posted in several languages, including English. Oddly shaped spa cups are used here, with a long spout for sucking. They are so designed because the mineral-rich water is allegedly good for other bodily parts, but not the teeth. You can buy yourself a cup in one of the park kiosks.

Away from its park, Truskavets is mostly a grid of unappetising concrete sanatoria with names like Dnipro, Mir and Moldova, but one hillside hotel stands out if you fancy an overnight stay. The new, foreign-owned **Rixos-Prikarpatye** (☎ 8-032 477 1111; www.rixosprikarpatye.com; vul Gorodyshe 8; weekend s/d per night from \$105, weekday \$130; 📶 📶 📶 📶) is an oasis of luxury with a professional medical centre, trendy modern spa treatments, German patients and Ukrainian oligarchs. It even has its own supply of Sodova and Naftusya – drunk elegantly through straws up here.

Alternatively, for both a pleasant and well-priced stay, try the **Oriana** (☎ 8-032 476 9435; www.oriانا-hotel.com; prov Tekhiy 8; s/d from \$20/30; 📶 📶). Right by Truskavets' joint train and bus station, its staff generally speak no English. However its website handily includes a city map (карта міста).

Truskavets is easy to reach from Lviv. Four *elektrychky* leave daily (6.50uah, 2½ hours) and four main-line trains (15uah) also pass through. Buses (10uah, two hours, every half-hour) also leave regularly from Lviv's Bus Station No 8 in front of the train station. They're just marked 'Truskavets'.

TERNOPIL REGION

'The land, our love' is the new catch phrase of Ternopil Tourism, as it aims to persuade more visitors to come to the region. However, while it's true that there is some stunning countryside, it's difficult for independent travellers to reach. Indeed, not many foreigners even make it to the larger population centres, although a couple of the smaller towns like Pochayiv and Kremenets are worth the effort.

TERNOPIL ТЕРНОПІЛЬ

☎ (8)-0352 / pop 206,000

The city that gives the region its name is one of its least-exciting destinations. Its signature feature is a huge man-made lake that's pleasant enough to stroll around of an evening, and the tiny old-town centre is quite appealing. However, it's hard to ignore the vast acreage of concrete sprawl and the general decrepitude of the roads and buildings.

Orientation

The town centre sits between the artificial lake (to the west) and the train station (to the east). Exit into the square in front of the train station and, crossing vul Bohdana Khmelnystkoho, continue straight ahead down vul Zaliznychna for two blocks until you get to bul Taras Shevchenko, with the central maydan Teatralni at its northern end. Just southwest of the maydan the main pedestrian artery, vul Hetmana Sahaydachnoho, runs west through maydan Voli to the eastern shore of the lake and Hotel Ternopil.

There's a separate cluster of development on the lake's southwestern shore, where you'll find Hotel Halychyna.

Sights

The **Dominican Church and Monastery**, at the western end of vul Hetmana Sahaydachnoho, where it opens up into maydan Voli, has the city's finest silhouette. Built in the mid-18th century, its twin towers rise from a baroque façade. Halfway down vul Hetmana Sahaydachnoho, opposite a fountain, vul Valova leads south (to the right) through a vaulted gateway onto vul Ruska and the 17th-century **Rizdva Khrystovoho Church**. Its small interior is an explosion of gilded colour.

Bul Taras Shevchenko, the town's leafy show-piece, with landscaping and fountains, is a popular hang-out and a nice venue for a stroll. Heading north to maydan Teatralni, you'll find the neoclassical **Shevchenko Theatre**.

Sleeping & Eating

The two major hotels have restaurants. You can also try the old town, particularly around vul Hetmana Sahaydachnoho.

Hotel Ternopil (☎ 524 263; www.hotel.te.ua; vul Zamkova 14; economy s/d \$28/34, superior s/d \$62/75, ste \$85-116; 📶 📶) Conveniently located between the lake and the Dominican Church, the Ternopil is a partially renovated former Intourist, divided into pleasant but overpriced superior rooms and shabby economy accommodation with cracked bathrooms, sporadic hot water and temperamental lights. Renovations continue, so hopefully matters will improve. There's a restaurant on site too.

Hotel Halychyna (☎ 533 595; vul Chumastka 1A; economy s/d \$32/36, superior s/d \$54/64, ste \$72-185; 📶) Across the lake, 1km west of the centre, this renovated, Soviet-style monolith follows the same format as its sister Ternopil, although standards are just marginally higher and the pricing slightly different. It also boasts a tour bureau. Take *marshrutka* 15 or 16 from the train station to get here.

Hotel Globus (☎ 550 044; globus-hotel@mail.ru; vul Stepana Budnoho; s \$20, d \$45-50; 📶 📶) This modern, privately run hotel arguably offers a better correlation between price and general amenities than the city's two monoliths. However, it's less conveniently located and even the staff recommend catching a taxi to get here.

Getting There & Away

There are four regional *elektrychky* a day to Lviv (7uah, three hours), although the two cities are also linked by numerous other main-line services (25uah, usually 2½ hours) to onward destinations. Frequent trains run to Kyiv (from 56uah, eight hours), several a day to Odesa (50uah, 10 to 12 hours) and Simferopol (87uah, 22 to 23 hours), as well as one or two a day to Kharkiv (70uah, 19 hours).

Ternopil's hectic bus station lives up to its role as a regional hub. At least eight direct services a day go to Pochayiv (10uah, 1½ hours), which can also be reached via Kremenets (11uah, 1¼ hours, at least 14 daily). Additionally, buses to Rivne (24uah, four

hours, at least 14 scheduled services) and Lutsk (25uah, four hours, at least 11 daily) all stop in Kremenets and Dubno (15uah, 2½ hours). Heading west, at least 16 buses a day go to Lviv (25uah, three hours). Southern destinations include Ivano-Frankivsk (18uah, roughly 30 a day), Chernivtsi (25uah, four hours, at least 10 daily) and Kamyanets-Podilsky (two daily).

Getting Around

The train station is on the eastern perimeter of the old city centre and within walking distance of the lake and Hotel Ternopil. The bus station is about 1km south of the centre; trolleybus 9 or *marshrutky* 6 and 22 are just some of the options that will get you from the bus station to the train station and the centre.

POCHAYIV ПОЧАЇВ

☎ (8)-03546 / pop 8200

Its ornate golden domes rising up from the surrounding plain, **Pochayiv Monastery** (Pochayivska Lavra; ☎ 612 18; admission free; ☞ grounds 24hr; excursion bureau 11am-4pm) is a beacon of Ukrainian Orthodoxy (Moscow Patriarchate) on the edge of a largely Ukrainian Catholic region. Indeed, it's the country's second largest Orthodox complex after Kyiv's Kievo-Pecherska Lavra (see p75) and was founded by monks fleeing that mother ship when the Mongols sacked Kyiv in 1240.

Visitors will find the monastery's ornate golden dome and church interiors beautiful and its mystical aura intriguing. The atmosphere is much more devout than at the *lavra* in Kyiv.

Pochayiv is frequently packed, but tourists are still outnumbered by pilgrims visiting the Mother of God icon (1597) or the 'footprint of the Virgin Mary'. The busiest religious festivals are the Feast of the Assumption on 28 August and the Feast of St Iov, a 17th-century Pochayiv abbot and the *lavra*'s most important monk, on 10 September.

Both of the monastery's famous religious relics are found in the baroque **Uspensky Cathedral** (1771-83), whose entrance is straight ahead and to your left, on the crest of the hill after you enter the main gate. The famed footprint of Mary, reportedly left after the Virgin appeared to a local monk and a shepherd, has a holy spring with purportedly healing waters. The Mother of God icon is imbued with the power to work any miracle. Both are to the right of the central aisle.

The 65m-tall baroque **bell tower** (1861-71) is worth climbing for the view, if you can sneak in with a tour group or monk. Its central knocker weighs over 315kg.

On the far side of the Uspensky Cathedral is a building with a door leading down to the **Cave Church**. Pilgrims come here to pay their respects to the relics (ie remains) of St Iov.

Because this is an Orthodox place of worship, men are not allowed to wear hats or shorts, and women must cover their head, knees and hands (no trousers, shorts or skirts above the knee). Trouser-clad women can borrow a wraparound skirt from the excursion bureau. The souvenir stalls on the way up to the monastery do a roaring trade in headscarves.

There's a hotel for Orthodox believers – and only Orthodox believers – to stay overnight. However, tourists will almost always visit Pochayiv as a day trip, either from Ternopil, Kremenets, Dubno or even, if they have a car, from Lviv.

Getting There & Away

The bus station is just west of the monastery grounds. *Marshrutky* shuttle back and forth almost constantly to and from Kremenets (3uah, 30 minutes), from where you can pick up services on the main Lutsk-Ternopil or Rivne-Ternopil routes (see Getting There & Away sections for each city). Regular separate services run from Ternopil (9.50uah, 1½ hours) and Dubno (8uah, 1¼ hours). From Lviv, there's only one service a day (22uah, three hours).

KREMENETS КРЕМЕНЕЦЬ

☎ (8)-03546 / pop 22,000

The remains of a hill-top **fortress** overlook picturesque Kremenets' cluster of pastel-coloured, weather-beaten churches. The Mongols never managed to capture this castle during their sweep through Kyivan Rus in 1240-41 (despite reaching Kremenets' outskirts) but today it's easily breached by individual hikers and day-trippers. Dating from at least the 12th century, and possibly earlier, the *zamok* (castle) on Bona Hill now lies in ruins, with only a ring of walls and a gate tower remaining. However, it's a surprisingly pleasant spot for longer-term travellers in Ukraine to while away a few hours. There's an interesting legend attached to the town (see the boxed text, opposite) and the views from the hill are magnificent.

Unlike the Mongols, Ukrainian Cossacks did manage to conquer Kremenets 400 years later. During the Khmelnytsky uprising against Poland in 1648 (see p28), the town was liberated by a band of Cossacks, who principally starved out the Poles. Some 100 or so of the Cossacks who died in the accompanying skirmishes are buried in the remarkable **Pyatnystke Kladovyshche** (Pyatnystke Cemetery), where weathered stone crosses bear faint Slavonic inscriptions. When the Poles regained control of Kremenets, they sealed their victory by building another of the town's main sights, the **Jesuit Collegium** (1731-43).

Yet another of Kremenets' claims to fame is as the birthplace of renowned Jewish violinist Isaac Stern in 1920. Jewish communities lived here, on and off, from the 15th century until 1942, when the Nazis massacred 15,000 people herded into the ghetto here.

The old town centre and fortress both lie 2.5km south of the bus station along the main artery, vul Shevchenko. Turn right when exiting the bus station or bus station office, and keep going about 30 to 40 minutes for the town, which is strung out along the road. To climb the hill, keep going to just past the edge of the town, to vul Zamkova, a fairly obviously marked cobbled turn-off to the left. The entire walk from the bus station to the summit takes roughly one hour and 15 minutes. Alternatively, take one of the many buses or *marshrutky* from the bus station to the centre to halve your journey on foot.

To reach the Cossack cemetery, look for the town market, with the word *рунок* across an arch. Heading from here back north to the bus station, take the next right. Bear left where the road forks and walk about 10 minutes uphill.

The Jesuit Collegium (єзуїтський колегіум) is clearly marked off vul Shevchenko with a yellow sign.

There are three hotels in this tiny town, including the privately run, pink concrete **Hotel Edem** (☎ 8-035 462 4939, 8-097 717 7248; vul 0 Lyatukeskyi; s/d \$24/28, ste \$36; ☐), which is homely and pleasant. With its mismatched towels and bedspreads, it feels like a B & B you might find in the Swiss Alps, but its bathrooms are clean and relatively modern. If it's full, other hotels are clearly marked and there's also a nice motel on the road south out of town to Ternopil.

From Kremenets, there are some 40 daily buses and *marshrutky* to and from Ternopil (15uah, two hours), and a regular service to and from Pochayiv (3uah, 30 minutes). In addition, six buses a day go to and from Rivne and Lutsk (both 10uah, 2½ hours) and one bus daily to Lviv (24uah, 3¼ hours). Other connections include Chernivtsi and Ivano-Frankivsk.

TERNOPII CAVES

The Ternopil region is home to dozens of karst caves, including the 212km-long **Optimistic Cave**, one of Europe's largest. These are all 100km south of Ternopil, near Borschiv. It's not really safe to visit without a tour, but unfortunately, as with so many Ukrainian sightseeing gems, tours are sometimes tricky to arrange. Your best bet is to try to arrange something well in advance with Lviv's **Fund of Support for Scientific and Creative Initiatives** (☎ 8-0332 240 4624; kursor@lviv.farlep.net; www.cave-ua.narod.ru).

VOLYN & RIVNE REGIONS

LUTSK ЛУЦЬК

☎ (8)-0332 (6-digit Nos) ☎ (8)-03322 (5 digit Nos) / pop 206,000

Infinitely more charming than Ternopil to the south and Rivne to the east, Volyn's chief city of Lutsk has a split personality. The modern

THE GHOST OF BONA HILL

The figure of Queen Bona Sforza looms large over the Kremenets ruins. Polish King Sigismund I presented the castle as a gift to his Italian wife in 1536, and she began levying such onerous taxes on Kremenets that its townsfolk began spinning stories about this greedy 'evil witch'.

In her quest for eternal youth, Bona was rumoured to have bathed in the blood of virgins, some 300 of whom were supposedly spiked on one of the castle's towers. She was said to have been a serial adulterer and a murderous mother-in-law. According to another legend, her ghost still lurks in a well below the castle, emerging each Easter with the key to her gold-filled treasury in her mouth for safekeeping. At the end of the day, however, the only thing certain is that Bona gave her name to the hill on which the castle ruins now stand.

town is a relatively successful example of Soviet architecture, with broad boulevards and monumental squares creating a feeling of freedom and space. But the real jewel in Lutsk's crown is its historic quarter. A small, refurbished enclave of cobbled streets is lined with architecture from centuries past, harking back to Lutsk's Lithuanian, Polish and Russian history. It hardly gives, say, Krakow much competition, but in Ukraine it's a rarity.

Orientation & Information

Starting from modern Lutsk's central hub of maydan Teatralny, traffic-free vul Lesi Ukrainky heads southwest towards the picturesque old town, which nestles across busy vul Kovelska in a bend of the Styr River. The leafy vul Lesi Ukrainky is only rivalled by pr Voli, leading east off maydan Teatralny, as the city's most popular pedestrian strip.

Module Internet Center (pr Voli; pr hr 5uah;

☎ 9am-8pm Mon-Fri, 11am-7pm Sat & Sun) Despite the prominent sign (модуль) on the building next to the department store (цум), the entrance is less visibly located, around the back.

Sights

In Lutsk's old quarter, a 14th-century castle stands surrounded by ornate 17th-century churches and homes. **Lutsk Castle** (vul Kafedralna 1; admission 5uah; ☎ 10am-6pm Tue-Sun) is in fairly decent shape for a Ukrainian fortress. Known as Lubart's Castle after the Lithuanian prince who ordered it built, it has sturdy 13m-high ramparts topped with three tall towers, one containing a collection of bells. There are also the archaeological remains of a 12th-century church and 14th-century palace, a small dungeon and a museum of books.

Nearby is the Jesuits' complex on vul Kafedralna. The stately white-and-blue façade of its Roman Catholic **Saint Peter's and Paul's Cathedral** was originally built in 1610. Its renovated interior – painted in pink and yellow tones – resembles a massive Easter egg. To one side is an entrance to the town's huge network of underground **tunnels**. Created in the 16th century, these tunnels were used by locals to move about freely without being seen by the authorities, whether Polish, Nazi or Soviet. Today it's quite the opposite; you need a guide to get into the tunnels. Ask at your hotel or try **Krok Tour** (☎ 323 65; pl Peremohy 1).

Between the church and the castle is the wide-open cobbled **pl Zamkova**. Down vul Kafedralna to the south is the plain, 17th-century **Birgittine Monastery**. Converted into a prison in 1846, it's now Lutsk's music academy.

The former Jewish *shtetl* (village) of Trochenbrod – fictionalised as Trachimbrod in Jonathan Safran Foer's cult novel *Everything is Illuminated* (2002) – used to lie some 30km northeast of Lutsk. There are four Jewish memorials within the former town's footprint, but this area is exceedingly tricky to find. If you're really set on visiting, we recommend contacting an agency like Lviv Ecotour (p116) well in advance.

Sleeping

Hotel Luchesk (☎ 789 070, 788 896; www.hotel.lutsk.ua; pr Vidrodzhennya 1; 'blok' dm \$12, s \$25, d \$25-30, superior d \$50-75; ☎) Although rather inconveniently located on the eastern outskirts of town, this old Soviet lump of concrete offers a much better deal for budget travellers than the central Hotel Svitvaz. Still, no-one would ever accuse the décor of being stylish.

Hotel Svitvaz (☎ 441 72, 455 11; svitjaz@mail.lutsk.ua; vul Naberezhna 4, standard s \$18-32, standard d \$26-42, remodelled 'poly-luxe' s/d \$40/48, 'luxe' ste \$45-56; ☎) This central hotel has one floor of decently remodelled 'poly-luxe' (ie semideluxe) rooms. Bizarrely, these are not only superior to the basic 'standard' rooms, but also the tatty, old (but large) 'luxe' suites. Away from the revamped 'poly-luxe' floor 4, the place is a bit dark and dingy.

Hotel Ukraina (☎ 788 100, 708 106, 788 118; www.hotel-lutsk.com; vul Slovatskoho 2; standard s/d \$40/60, superior s/d \$60/90, ste \$120-180; ☎) A bang-central location overlooking maydan Teatralny, 128 modern rooms offering good standards, and decent (albeit rapidly escalating) prices make this the hotel of choice in Lutsk. Sure, the place has foibles, like a penchant for gold satin bedspreads and showerheads at slightly odd angles, but with a decent restaurant, pleasant staff and even a spa, the net result is positive.

Eating & Drinking

Lutsk restaurants come and go with alarming speed, but a wander down vul Lesi Ukrainky or along pr Voli will bring you to the latest establishments. A surprising number offer English menus.

Celentano (☎ 725 202; pr Voli 9; pizzas from 6.50uah, extra toppings 2-6uah; ☎ 10am-11pm) This cheery,

upbeat and well-kept branch of Ukraine's favourite home-grown pizza chain isn't huge, but sharing a table is a good way to meet the locals.

Orteol (☎ 725 291, 724 319; vul Lesi Ukrainky 57; snacks & appetisers from 6.50uah, mains 15-40uah; ☎ 8am-11pm) Although it touts itself mainly as a patisserie and café-bar, Orteol also serves meals ranging from Ukrainian and Georgian to French and Spanish. There's even a slight Japanese touch in the deliciously oil-free Kyoto salad. Indeed, carnivores and vegetarians alike find the worst thing about the place is having to make a choice from the extensive menu.

Rose Cafe (☎ 722 682; pr Voli 11; snacks 15-17uah; ☎ 9am-11pm) This violet-and-rose postmodern café is not only a chic place to be seen, it serves pretty good coffee, sandwiches, milkshakes, cocktails and spirits, too.

Brave Schwejk (☎ 722 094, 725 029; vul Lesi Ukrainky 56; mains 18-44uah; ☎ 9am-11pm) Named for the famous fictional Czech soldier Svejk (or Schwejk in German), this place harks back to the novel's Austro-Hungarian era with its mix of sausages, goulash, pig's knuckles, milk veal and similar specialities. The atmosphere is that of a small beer hall, where you'll find the likes of Paulaner, Warsteiner and Beck's from Germany alongside Staropramen and Krusovice from the Czech Republic.

Getting There & Around

The bus station is 2km northeast of the centre, right next to a market (зал рынок); trolley-buses 5, 8 and 9, plus numerous *marshrutky*, link it to central maydan Teatralny (look for signs like центр or цум).

There are buses to and from Lviv (from 24uah, three hours) at least every two hours, including three more comfortable **Autolux** (www.autolux.com.ua) services heading to and from Kyiv each day. Autolux has a counter at the bus station. *Marshrutky* to Rivne (10uah, 1½ hours) leave half-hourly; even though they're not clearly marked on the station timetable, you'll find them at platform 1. Buses leave regularly for Ternopil (25uah, 4½ hours), passing through Dubno (6uah to 8uah, 1½ hours) and Kremenets (10uah, 2½ hours)

The train station is just a little south of the bus station, and also northeast of the centre. Trolleybuses 4 and 7, plus numerous *marshrutky*, shuttle between here and maydan Teatralny. There's a daily *elektrychka* to and from Lviv (10uah, six hours) arriving in Lutsk

around midnight. Including Kyiv-Kovel services, there are two trains a day to and from Kyiv (60uah, seven to 9½ hours).

AROUND LUTSK

Some 50km south of Lutsk, **Dubno** (дубно) is one of several towns in the region with a **castle** (vul Zamkova 7), making it an interesting stopover. This is where Andriy, the son of Cossack Taras Bulba, falls in love with a Polish princess in the famous Nikolai Gogol story, *Taras Bulba*, and crosses over to join the princess and her fellow Poles, while his Cossack brothers are busy trying to starve these enemies into submission. Every July, Dubno hosts the increasingly popular **Taras Bulba Festival** (www.tarasbulba-fest.kiev.ua) featuring rock music.

The town's other main attraction is its practicality. It's only 41km from Kremenets (p130) and 66km from Pochayiv (p130). The recently renovated **Hotel Dubno** (☎ 8-036 564 1086, 418 02; vul D Halyskoho 9; r with shared shower \$7-18, r \$22-40, ste \$50-60; ☎ ☎) with its spotless, reasonably priced accommodation and a restaurant, makes an excellent spot to stay while visiting these. Word of this hotel has spread rapidly, so it's safer to book in advance, if you can, or have a back-up plan.

Marshrutky and buses travelling Rivne-Ternopil, Lutsk-Ternopil, Lutsk-Brody and more routes mean there are plentiful connections to/from Dubno. Prices are around 8uah from Lutsk and Rivne, 6uah from Kremenets and 15uah from Ternopil.

Shatsky National Nature Park

The **Shatsky National Nature Park** lies 160km northwest of Lutsk in the corner between Belarus and Poland, and has some 200 lakes, rivers and streams. However, while fascinating to scientists, Ukraine's wild 'Lakes District' and its deep Lake Svitvaz is a long way from appealing to all but the most adventurous of (camping and rafting) tourists.

If you are interested in heading to this park, catch one of the frequent buses to Kovel and change for the village of Shatsk. Daily buses also go direct to Shatsk. Don't even consider heading this way without lashings of mosquito repellent.

RIVNE PIBHE

☎ (8-)0362 / pop 250,000

Standing in Rivne's central maydan Nezalezhnosti, you couldn't be anywhere else but

THE WORLD OF NIKOLAI GOGOL *Marc di Duca*

Although Taras Shevchenko is the greatest literary figure within Ukraine, one of the best-known Ukrainian writers outside the country's borders must be Nikolai Gogol. He was born in 1809 to impoverished parents in the Cossack village of Sorochyntsi near Poltava. It was here, in deepest rural Ukraine, that Gogol spent his formative years before leaving for St Petersburg in 1828.

Often claimed as a great Russian writer, Gogol was Ukrainian through and through. Many of his stories set in Ukraine are inspired by the supernatural world and the rural superstitions and folk tales of his youth in the Poltavshchina. His tales are set in a land of sun-drenched fields and blue skies, where faded nobles nap in the afternoon heat, Cossacks gulp down bowls of *borshch*, kitchen gardens overflow with tobacco and sunflowers and shy Ukrainian beauties fall in love under star-dusted skies. Gogol's short novel *Taras Bulba* is a rollicking Cossack tale flush with romantic nationalism and full of adventure and feats of derring-do.

During his years in St Petersburg, where he was employed in the civil service, his mood changed and his later stories such as *The Nose*, *Nevsky Prospekt* and *The Inspector General* are darker, gloomier, and riddled with ill health, crime and vice. In fact, the capital had such a bad effect on Gogol that he died in 1852 after burning the second half of his last novel, *Dead Souls*, in a fit of madness.

Gogol is an inspirational companion to pack into your rucksack on long train journeys across the snowbound steppe or mid-summer afternoon bus journeys in Ukraine's endless hinterlands.

Ukraine; the **statue of poet Taras Shevchenko** and the golden-domed **Resurrection Cathedral** (1895) are both emblematic national features. Unfortunately, though, the modestly sized, shiny cathedral is just about the city's only attractive building, for as the Nazis' administrative capital in Ukraine, Rivne took a battering during WWII. It's since been rebuilt in a functionalist Soviet style.

Frequently bustling with people, this regional hub is energetic rather than charming, and it's hard to imagine anyone purposefully coming to see the sights here. However, if you're in town, there's a large park to wander in. In summer, the **market** is worth checking out for the region's semitranslucent cherries, while locals flock to **Gilcha Lake**, about 20km south of Rivne on the road to **Ostroh**, where there's an attractive 'castle hill' (namely, castle ruins).

Orientation

Rivne is easy to negotiate, which is lucky because city maps are scarce here. The central district stretches about 3.5km west to east along a long boulevard that starts off as vul Soborna and becomes vul Kyivska. At the western end is the market, with the train station a couple of blocks north of this. In the east lies the bus station along vul Kyivska. The town centre and maydan Nezalezhnosti lie approximately halfway in between, and most *marshrutky* and buses heading east from the market or west from the train station pass through it.

Sleeping & Eating

Hotel Tourist (☎ 267 413; vul Kyivska 36; s/d from \$28/36, newer s/d \$32/48, ste \$85; (P)) The crumbling concrete hulk looming over the bus station is utterly uninviting. However, there's been some interior renovation. Newer rooms have better furniture and TVs, but bathrooms and the overall standard are relatively good even in the older variety.

Hotel Marlen (☎ 690 600; www.marlen.com.ua; cnr vul Hrushevskoho 13 & vul Pushova; r \$75-90; (P) (♿)) Offering by far the poshest lodgings in town, the Marlen is a favourite among Western expats and nouveau riche Ukrainians, but only has nine rooms. Despite its slightly snooty attitude and trappings of 'luxury' (like a small casino), the décor is generally tasteful, especially in the light-filled upper atrium. Travelling west from the bus station, take the first right off vul Kyivska. The hotel is on the fifth corner on the right.

Hotel Mir (☎ 290 470; vul Mitskevycha 32) When we last visited, this former Intourist monolith was closed for major reconstruction, but might be worth checking out when it reopens, hopefully in mid- to late 2008. It's one block north of maydan Nezalezhnosti.

Istanbul (vulitsya Stepana Bandery 31a; most mains 10uah-15uah; ☎ noon-1am) Essentially a glorified park café, at the southwestern corner of the city's central stretch of green, this slightly kitschy themed restaurant serves a Ukrainian idea of Turkish cuisine. From

maydan Nezalezhnosti, facing the same way as the Taras Shevchenko statue, head directly south down vulitsya Chornovola (Чорновола), the street just over to your left with the універсам department store on its corner.

Ventotto (vulitsya 16 Lipnya 17; most mains 18-60uah) With tables shaped like gondolas and a mural of Venice this place is rather ostentatious, but the upmarket Italian dishes make a nice change. Don't be dismayed by the three-figure prices (those are in roubles).

Getting There & Around

There are frequent bus services between Rivne and most outlying towns and larger cities, including half-hourly buses to Lutsk (10uah, one to 1½ hours) and hourly services to Ternopil (24uah, four hours via Kremenets).

Rivne is also on some major north-south train lines, with several trains a day to and from Kyiv (54uah, 5½ to eight hours), plus daily services to Minsk (10 hours) and Warsaw (11 hours). There is a daily *elektrychka* from Lviv (10uah, 4½ hours).

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