



UKRAINE & MOLDOVA

Discovering Eastern Europe

May 20-29, 2022
10 Days / 8 Nights



WORLD AFFAIRS COUNCIL
OF GREATER HOUSTON

Global Perspectives, Local Conversations



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ITINERARY

DAY 1	Leave USA for Kiev, Ukraine
DAY 2	Arrival in Kiev / Kiev
DAY 3	Kiev sightseeing / Kiev
DAY 4	Kiev sightseeing / Kiev
DAY 5	Morning in Kiev. Fly to Odessa / Odessa
DAY 6	Odessa sightseeing / Odessa
DAY 7	Odessa sightseeing / Odessa
DAY 8	Drive to Transnistria & Chişinău-Moldova / Chişinău
DAY 9	Chişinău sightseeing / Chişinău
DAY 10	Departure



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HIGHLIGHTS

11th century St. Sophia Cathedral in Kiev

Andrew's Descent, old quarters of Kiev

**Kyiv-Pechersk Lavra, Caves Monastery Complex in Kiev,
a UNESCO heritage site**

"The Gold of the Scythians" in Ukrainian Treasures Museum

Antonov Aircraft Plant

Statue of Motherland in Kiev

Ukrainian music and dance

Odessa Archaeology Museum

Potemkin Staircase in Odessa

The Catacombs of Odessa

Odessa Seaport

"Cognac" tasting in Odessa

Drive-through separatist region of Transnistria

Walking tour of Chisinau, capital of Moldova

**Tasting of Delicious Moldovan wine in Chisinau,
visiting one of the world's biggest wine collections**



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INCLUDED

Accommodations including daily breakfast.

Meals as indicated in the itinerary, including bottled water during meals.

One domestic flight (Kiev-Odessa)

Transportation by a/c bus with driver, depending on the size of the group.

Two small bottles of water per person per day on the bus.

English speaking guides throughout the tour.

All sightseeing, excursions and entrances as listed.

Tips for included meals and hotels.

Gratuities for guides and drivers.

Local taxes.

Trip photo book following return home.

NOT INCLUDED

International airfare:

Houston - Kiev / Chisinau - Houston

Excess luggage charges.

Travel insurance.

Any items not listed as included.



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SUGGESTED FLIGHTS

Suggested flights will be on Turkish Airlines

20 May **Houston to Istanbul**
TK 34 **dep: 8:55 pm / arr: 4:45 pm on 21 May**

21 May **Istanbul to Kiev**
TK 459 **dep: 6:20 pm / arr: 8:10 pm**

29 May **Chisinau to Istanbul**
TK 270 **dep: 9:55 am / arr: 11:30 am**

29 May **Istanbul to Houston**
TK 33 **dep: 2:10 pm / arr: 7:15 pm**

Economy class fare: \$1567

Business class fare: \$3858

per person including taxes, surcharges and fees as of Sep 17, 2021. Fares may change based on availability.



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PROGRAM DETAILS

DAY 1	Fri, May 20 - Houston to Kiev
	We will leave Houston for Kiev.

DAY 2	Sat, May 21- Kiev
	Arrival in Kiev. Our guide and driver will meet us at the airport and transfer to hotel in the city center.
	Overnight in Kiev Meals: -



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DAY 3

Sun, May 22 - Kiev

Today we will have a full day tour of the city covering the ancient center of Ukrainian culture, the capital of the first Ukrainian state, “Kyiv Rus”.

We will discover its main monuments: the Golden Gate, St. Michael's Cathedral, St. Sophia Cathedral, and other churches and monasteries with golden domes.

Lunch at the home of a Ukrainian family accompanied by a small folk performance.

We will walk along Andrew’s Descent, Kyiv’s most ancient district, residence of numerous painters, artists and artisans who display their creations here. Visit to admire the remarkable St. Andrew’s Church, the work of Bartolomeo Rastrelli, in Baroque style, with its terrace overlooking Kyiv.

We will walk through the most ancient and the lowest part of the city – Podil – along cozy elegant streets with its Kyiv-Mohyla Academy.
Ride by Kyiv funicular – the oldest transport of Kyiv.

In the evening dinner at a nice restaurant.

Overnight in Kiev

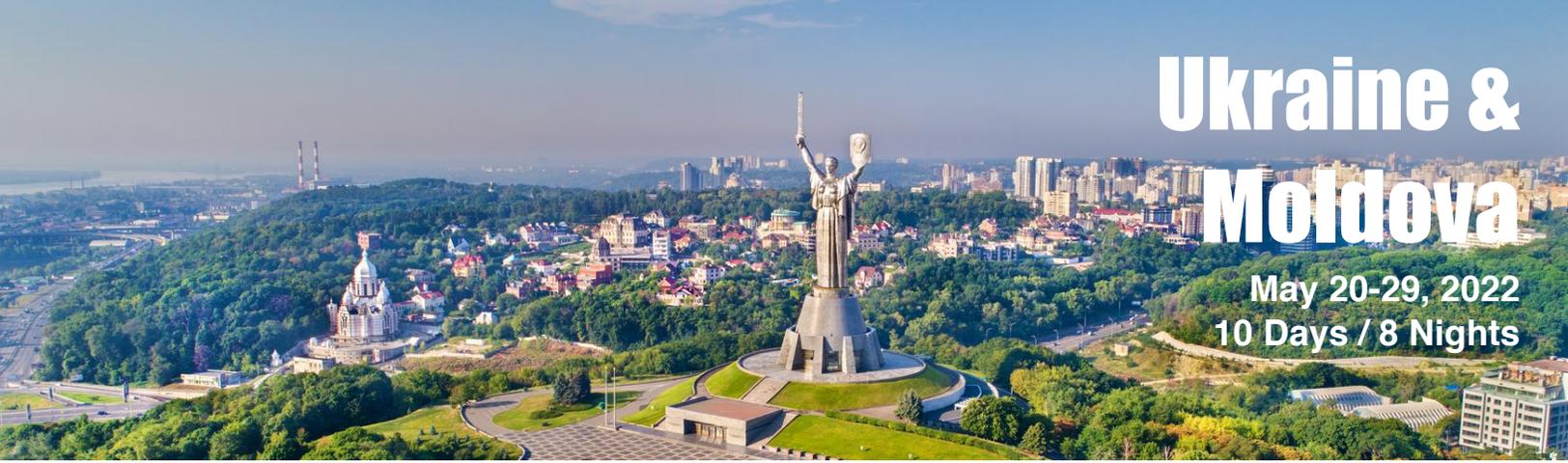
Meals: B-L-D

Kiev: is the capital and most populous city of Ukraine. The city was founded on the banks of Dnipro River. It is an important industrial, scientific, educational and cultural center of Eastern Europe; home to many high-tech industries, higher education institutions, and historical landmarks.

St. Sophia Cathedral: The oldest remaining church in Kiev. Parts date from the 11th century. It is a UNESCO World Heritage site, and has world biggest ensemble of frescoes and mosaics dating from 11th century. The site stopped being an active church in 1934, and has since been operated as government owned museum.

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DAY 4

Mon, May 23 - Kiev

Morning visit of Antonov plant. Half day visit including lunch at the plant.

In the afternoon we will drive back to the city to visit the Museum of Miniatures.

Museum of miniatures is recognized as one of the most unusual of capital's museums, where exhibits are visible only by microscope. All works exhibited in the museum are true micro works of art, made by the extraordinary talented master Mykola Siadristy, who is famous far outside Ukraine.

Dinner is scheduled at a nice restaurant on the bank of Dnipro river.

Overnight in Kiev

Meals: B-L-D

Antonov: Ukraine has a long and unique history in the field of aerospace technology going back to the early decades of the 'space race' in the 20th century. During that time, many of the leading Soviet design and production facilities were located in Ukraine – where they continue to remain active to the present day.

Antonov's particular expertise is in the fields of very large airplanes and airplanes using unprepared runways. Antonov has built a total of approximately 22,000 aircraft, and thousands of its planes are currently operating in the former Soviet Union and in developing countries.



DAY 5

Tue, May 24 - Kiev - Odessa

Today we will start with a visit to the Statue of Motherland. The site gives us a breathtaking view of the vast panorama of the ancient Slavutych – the Dnieper river.

Then we will visit Kyiv-Pechersk Lavra (Caves Monastery Complex). After lunch, we will have a private tour to the museum of treasures "The gold of the Scythians". There we will find a truly unique collection of the ancient gold of the Scythians and various ornaments worn in ancient times by the royal people.

Late in the afternoon we will be transferred to the airport for our flight to Odessa.

Overnight in Odessa

Meals: B-L-D

Kyiv-Pechersk Lavra: One of the oldest and most important monasteries in Ukraine and in the territory of the former Soviet Union. Only the most important monasteries were designated as Lavras; there were only four, of which this Cave Monastery is the oldest. It was founded in 1077 by St Antony. The Lavra is a powerful spiritual landmark, the most honored Orthodox church in Eastern Europe. It is in UNESCO World Heritage List.

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DAY 6

Wed, May 25 - Odessa

Today we will have a walking tour of Odessa city center. Among other places, the Potemkin Staircase remains one of the most famous landmarks in the world thanks to Eisenstein's 1925 film, "Battleship Potemkin".

We will have lunch at a nice local restaurant.

In the afternoon, we will visit the Archeology Museum which has a beautiful collection of remnants of the first civilizations of the Black Sea, including jewelry and coins.

In the evening we will have a private visit of the Museum of Fine Arts (Palace of Pototsky), with its famous underground grotto which is rarely seen by visitors.

Dinner is at a local restaurant.

Overnight in Odessa

Meals: B-L-D

Odessa: is the third most populous city of Ukraine and a major tourism center, seaport and transport hub located on the northwestern shore of the Black Sea. Before the Tsarist establishment of Odessa, an ancient Greek settlement existed at its location. A more recent Tatar settlement was also founded at the location in 1440.

In 1794, the current city of Odessa was founded by a decree of the Russian empress Catherine the Great.

The city was once the center for trade for the Russian Empire as well as an intellectual and artistic centre prior to the revolution and during the Soviet Union era. Much of the grandeur of the city dates from the period before the Soviet era.

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DAY 7

Thu, May 26 - Odessa

Today, our visits will start with underground complex of Odessa – the catacombs in Moldovanka district, including a walking tour of the Jewish neighborhood learning about the Jewish heritage of the city.

Then, we will have a chance to visit Seaport in Odessa: the largest Ukrainian seaport and one of the largest ports in the Black Sea basin. We will have a guided tour of the commercial port and its infrastructure.

After lunch we will visit the Shustov Cognac Museum: we will walk through the old cellars discovering the secrets of creating this noble drink. The owners of the production, the Shustov family, received the Grand Prix in 1900 at the World Fair in Paris and it was officially recognized that their products deserved the right to be called cognac, not brandy as it was originally. Nowadays the plant exports its cognac to France.

We will visit the cellars and have a cognac tasting.

In the evening dinner will be on our own discovering various dining options in the city.

Overnight in Odessa

Meals: B-L

Jewish Heritage in Odessa: The history of the Jews in Odessa dates to 16th century. Since the city's founding in 1795, Odessa has been home to one of the largest population of Jews in Ukraine. They comprised the largest ethno-religious group in the region through most of the 19th century and until the mid-20th century. Jewish participation in commerce played an important role in the city. The richer Jews lived largely in the centre of the city, while the poor were concentrated in Moldovanka and Peresyp region.

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DAY 8

Fri, May 27 - Odessa - Transnistria - Chisinau

We will leave Odessa early in the morning and drive to Transnistria. On the way we will visit the Tighina Fortress.

Then we will drive to Tiraspol, the “capital” of Transnistria, and have lunch. In Tiraspol we will have the opportunity to travel in time back to USSR. We will start by visiting the monument of Vladimir Lenin and tanks left from the Second World War. The city seems to be a ghost of the Soviet past.

We will arrive in Chisinau, Moldovan capital, early in the evening. After checking into our hotel, we will have dinner at a local restaurant.

Overnight in Chisinau

Meals: B-L-D

Tighina Fortress: The old mediaeval fort of Tighina was first built in the 15th century by the princes of Moldavia. Occupied by the Ottomans in 1538 (in a campaign lead by the Sultan Suleiman the Magnificent), the fort was strengthened in 1541 and became the center of the Ottoman power in the region. Its walls and rounded towers still stand today.

Transnistria: officially the Pridnestrovian Moldavian Republic (PMR), is an unrecognized breakaway state located in the narrow strip of land between the river Dniester and the Moldovan–Ukrainian border that is internationally recognized as part of Moldova. Its capital and largest city is Tiraspol.

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DAY 9

Sat, May 28 - Chisinau

We will start our day with a walking tour of the city center: the main street of the capital – Stefan cel Mare, the Central Cathedral, the Parliament building, the alley of the literature park of Stefan cel Mare.

Before lunch, we will visit Cricova Winery to get informed about Moldovan wines and to taste a number of different samples.

Then we will head for Orhei Vechi area, outside the capital, for lunch and visits.

In Orhei Vechi, we will visit the unique cave monastery (13th cent.), carved in limestone rock - the part of the picturesque landscape. On the other side we can still see the remaining ruins of a Dacian fortress. We will also visit the house-museum of traditional life of Moldavian farmers in the village of Butuceni.

Then back to Chisinau. We will have a farewell dinner to mark the end of our trip

Overnight in Chisinau

Meals: B-L-D

Cricova Winery: The wine cellars of Cricova are one of the largest wine cellars in Moldova. It boasts 75 miles of labyrinthine roadways. Tunnels have existed under Cricova since the 15th century, when limestone was dug out to help build Chişinău.

They were converted into an underground wine emporium in the 1950s.

Half of the roadways are used for wine storage. The roads are named by the wines they store. This "wine city" has its warehouses, tasting rooms, and other facilities underground. It goes down to 330 ft. below ground and holds 1.25 million bottles of rare wine.



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DAY 10

Sun, May 29 - Departure

Early in the morning we will be transferred to the airport for our return flight.

Contact Us

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