

KYIV

Kyiv, the capital of Ukraine, is one of the most beautiful cities in the world. It is located on the scenic banks of the Dnipro River. It is one of the largest cities of Ukraine with the population of more than 3 million people.

Kyiv's glorious history spans more than 1,500 years. According to a well-known legend, the founders of Kyiv were three brothers: Kyi, Shchek, Khoriv and their sister Lybid. In the 19th century, Kyiv became an important political, religious, crafts and trading centre of Kyivan Rus.



There are a lot of parks, tree-lined broad and straight streets in our capital. Kyiv is one of the oldest cities of Europe and it has many places of historic interest.

A visit to St. Sophia Cathedral may be the highlight of your stay in Kyiv. Kyivites say that if you do not see it while here, then you did not see Kyiv. The church was built in 1037 by Prince Yaroslav the Wise on the site of a battle-field to commemorate the victory over the Pechenegs (Asian nomadic tribes) and to glorify the wisdom of Christianity (Sophia in Greek means "wisdom").

The most visitors are impressed by the beauty of St Andrew's Church. This church stands elegantly outlined against Kyiv skyline. It was built in 1748 by the architect Rastrelli, who also built the Mariyinsky Palace in Kyiv. From its terraces, the famous writer M. Gogol used to look down at the lower town of Podil. The winding brick street Andriyivski Uzviz leading up the hill to the church has a variety of interesting art galleries and shops. This is one of the best areas to find traditional Ukrainian crafts and arts.

Kyiv Pecherska Lavra Monastery is one of the most famous sites of Kyiv. "Lavra" is the term used by the Orthodox Church for its largest monastery. It was built in the eleventh century. The monks lived in caves under the monastery, which still can be visited. Lavra incorporates a number of old buildings, churches and museums.

Also in Kyiv you can see the monument to T. Shevchenko, the well-known poet and fighter for freedom. It stands in the park in front of the University. There are some other monuments in Kyiv — the monument to Lesia Ukrainka, the great Ukrainian poetess, the monument to M. Lysenko, the great Ukrainian composer and many others.



The sculptural composition the Motherland Monument is one of the exponents of the Museum of The History of Ukraine in World War II. It is situated on one of the highest spots in Kyiv and can be seen from any part of the city. The total height of the monument including the sword is 102 meters. The figure itself is 62 meters, while its plinth is 32

meters. The total weight of the construction is 450 ton. The sword in the right hand weights 9 ton and the shield in the left hand - 13 ton.

There are many fine museums in Kyiv: the State Historical Museum, the Museum of Ukrainian Art and so on. Kyiv is a city of theatres. It is famous for its theatres such as the Taras Shevchenko Opera and Ballet Theatre, the Ivan Franko Ukrainian Drama Theatre and others.

Kyiv is the centre of science and education. Many scientific research institutes, colleges and universities are in Kyiv. Kyivites are proud of their city.