

Jewish Ukraine at a Glance

Key Information:

Tour Duration: 7 day

Destination(s): Kiev – Belaya Tzerkov – Uman – Odessa – Kiev

Total Driving Distance: 963 km

Specialty Categories: Jewish Ukraine, Cultural Encounters

Tour Customizable: Optional sightseeing available

Meals: Kosher options available upon request at all sites

Price: may vary depending on the type/class of accommodation, transportation, meals & spoken languages

Contacts for inquiries: <http://www.jukraine.com/contact-us.html> or jewukraine@gmail.com

This 7 days package offers you the chance to explore some of the most important sights of Jewish Ukraine. Secular or religious, seeking for pleasure or for meaning, you'll find it all here:

- stroll the streets of ancient, ever-young Kiev, the city where "Torah and light emanate from", visit Jewish Podol & Bessarabka, see notorious Baby Yar and elegant mansions of famous Jewish magnates and Maecenas, and more...;
- explore the Jewish Heritage of Belaya Tzerkov, a typical Jewish town in the Pale of Settlement. As you walk by its synagogues and market place, imaging yourself to be your great-grandparent, who once fled Russian Empire looking for the better life across the ocean;
- make a pilgrimage to Rabbi Nachman's graveside in Uman, read Tehillim and leave Tzeddakah (charity) for the sake of his blessing and protection;
- visit cosmopolitan "Black Sea Pearl" - Odessa, the birthplace of Zhabotinsky and Pinsker, Arlozoroff and Dizengoff, Menachem-Mendl Ussishkin, bntkm and Isaak Babel and have a chance to perceive why Jews used to say in Yiddish "Lebn vi Got in Odes" (to live like God in Odessa)...

The treasures of Jewish Ukraine are just around the corner... Welcome to JUkraine!

Day 1. WELCOME TO KIEV, THE CAPITAL OF UKRAINE!

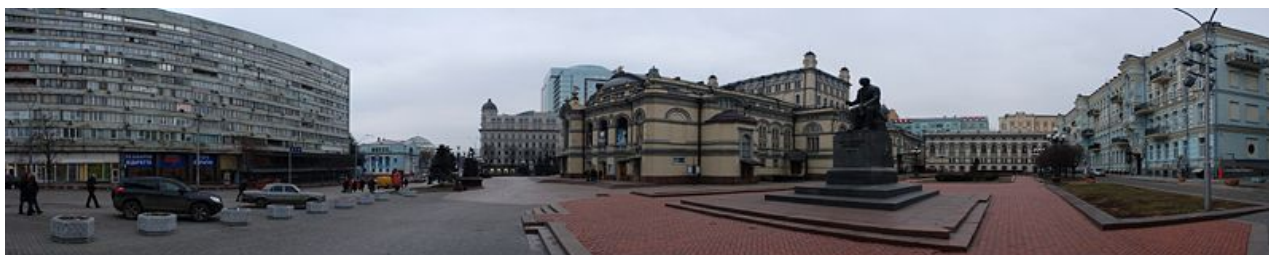
Arrive in Kiev and transfer to your hotel. Depending on when you arrive there may be time to explore the city.

Upon check-in, we explore some of the key sights of Kiev, including the ancient 'onion-domed' St Sophia Cathedral, its bustling main boulevard Kreschatyk, and the Golden Gates, the only remaining section of ancient Kiev's original fortifications.

After lunch we head the Lavra cave monastery complex, with its stunning churches and underground tunnels, and also Museums (of Microminiatures, of Treasures and other). Then we visit WWII Memorial complex with its famous "Mother Motherland" statue and unique collection of Soviet Union military equipment.

This evening we may have the opportunity to visit the opera, if you wish (depending on availability and dates of performance), or simply take a chance to ride a boat along Dnieper or relax at the Botanic Garden.

Overnight in Kiev.



Day 2. KIEV THE JEWISH

Start the day with visiting of Baby Yar, the steep ravine where over 100 thousand Jews perished during Holocaust, and pay tribute to innocent victims. Yet as you'll see, Jewish life goes on!

Explore two major areas where Jews were allowed to settle in late XIX - early XX century:



Jewish Podol ("Flat" Police District) - Discover the area where houses and mansions of Jewish rich merchants and industrial tycoons border with apartment buildings of the neediest strata of Jewish population. Learn a mysterious story of the construction of Podol Synagogue and also see typical prayer houses; immerse into the controversial world of Judeo-Christian relations (Kyiv-Mohyla Academy, a spiritual academy where Hebrew was one of mandatory subjects and Jews were preferred lessees, as well as the church of father Glagolev, the Christian priest, who was a principal defendant during the infamous Mendel Beilis case (blood libel); see the house of Fanny Kaplan (who allegedly attempted at Lenin's life and that case was used by Communists as an excuse to launch Red Terror), and more...



After savoring traditional Jewish cuisine during kosher or kosher-style lunch, we will continue with Jewish Bessarabka ("Lybedsky" Police District) – discover heritage of Brodsky family (Great Choral "Brodsky" Synagogue, Bessarabsky market, former Merchant's Synagogue); learn about Kiev days of Sholom Aleichem; find out more about the role of Kiev in the shaping of world Zionism (Houses Trumpeldor & Golda Meir) and more...



Evening is free. Optional attractions are available upon request (eg. Night Kiev Tour, etc.)

Overnight in Kiev

Day 3 BELAYA TZERKOV



Today we leave Kiev and move on. Belaya Tzerkov (White Church) town is ahead.

As we arrive to Belaya Tzerkov, we see majestic of the Great Belaya Tzerkov Synagogue (one of the largest in Eastern Europe), historic site of Jewish market, the house of Sholom-Aleichem during his Belaya Tzerkov days. Also we visit Jewish section of Belaya Tzerkov cemetery to pay tribute to children shot by Nazi (the first registered case of Nazi killing children during Holocaust) and see

peculiar designs of typical Soviet-style gravestones.

After lunch we continue to explore Belaya Tzerkov, and see other landmarks: monument to Yaroslav the Wise, one of the most powerful Princes of Kievan Rus, the John the Baptist's Cathedral (also the organ hall) and Transfiguration church. Who knows, maybe one of such white churches had once given the name to this town! Belaya Tzerkov encounter will climax with visit to Alexandria Park, one of the most beautiful landscape parks in Ukraine - cascades of deep ponds with crystal pure spring water, waterfalls, fountains, arch bridges, as well as other landmarks: "Echo" Collonade, "Rotunda" pavilion, "Chinese bridge", "Ruins", "Sadness" column, "Red House", "Chinese pergola", "Devil's Bridge" viaduct, etc. Also marble and bronze sculptures, statues, vases, as well as stone compositions and great variety of exotic plants.



Overnight in Belaya Tzerkov

DAY 4. UMAN'



Relaxed bus-ride brings us further to the South, and here is Uman.

First of all we will hurry to the grave side of the world known Tzaddik, Rabbi Nachman of Breslov. Years ago he willed to be buried in Uman, to rectify the souls of innocent victims of one of the most horrible pogroms in the Jewish history of Ukraine, known as "Koliivschina", when in June 1768 over 20 thousand Uman Jews were ruthlessly killed by Kossaks. Whether you chant *Na Nach Nachma Nachman Meuman* or not, you too may receive Rabbi Nachman's blessing by praying at his grave and leaving the gift of charity .

Have a lunch at the site of Sophiivka Park - one of the most gorgeous parks in Europe, which is larger and even more impressive than Alexandria in Belaya Tzerkov. This park, a masterpiece of world garden-park art of end XVIII - begin XIX ages has a romantic story behind its creation: it was founded in 1796 by rich polish magnate Stanislav Schensny Pototsky in honour of Sophia, his beauty-Greek wife, and was presented her at day her name-day at May 1802. The idea of creation of park in romantic stiletto with use of Roman and Greek mythology belonged to most Sophia.

After a romantic walk (or a horse ride!) along the shady alleys of Sophiivka park, we depart to Odessa. The Pearl of the Black Sea's calling!

Overnight in Odessa, Londonskaya Hotel or similar

DAY 5. THE BLACK SEA PEARL WELCOMES GUESTS!



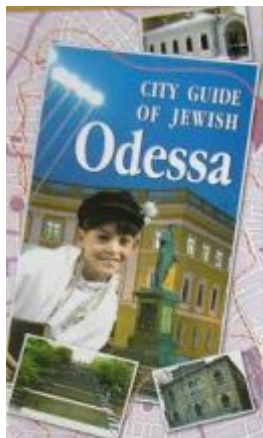
After breakfast we explore this historic city. Odessa has many loving nicknames "the Black Sea Pearl", "The Southern Palmira", "The Humor Capital of the USSR", all of them show a special attitude to this city and its unique status. Odessa's location on the Black Sea has meant that for centuries it has been a crossroads of trade routes as well as cultures. It is one of the most beautiful cities in Ukraine with wonderful beaches, shady parks and tree-lined boulevards. We explore the old part of town, the historic city center with its many splendid classical buildings, walk along Primorsky boulevard (Primorsky means "at the sea-side"), visit the legendary Potemkin Steps, with its 192 stairs leading to the harbor. Pivotal in the 1905 Russian Revolution, these stairs were the setting for a famous scene in Serge Eisenstein's epic 1926 film, *Battleship Potemkin*. Take a picture at the famous statute of Duke de Richelieu, see Opera House, considered to be one of the most beautiful in Europe, stroll along famous Deribasovskaya street and across the City Garden, the very heart of this cosmopolitan city!

After lunch you may explore Odessa on your own, go to sunbathe at the sea-side or ask for optional sightseeing tours (the Criminal Odessa, the Literary Odessa, etc.). In the evening you may want to attend an optional performance at the recently reopened Odessa Opera House, go clubbing or simply enjoy a warm Odessa evening in one of many cafés or restaurants.



Overnight in Odessa

DAY 6. ODESSA THE JEWISH



This day we see the Jewish Odessa in its incomparable beauty. Russian speakers are aware of a unique “Odessa slang” that only those who were born in Odessa or lived there for a long time may boast to master. Yet not everyone realizes that “slang” mainly consists of Yiddish and Hebrew words! Visit the Museum of Odessa Jewish heritage to learn about the history of Odessa Jews and their contribution to the Jewish civilization, discover Odessa Synagogues and “Privoz” (market), peak into the gangster hideouts and other places that inspired Odessa Tales of Isaac Babel. Naturally, one of the sights will be the Holocaust Memorial, as even in the “Humor Capital” of the former Soviet Union we remember about the sad days.

After lunch you may continue with independent or organized (optional) sightseeing or meet representatives of Odessa Jewish community.



Overnight in Odessa

DAY 7. FAREWELL

Depending on your departure time and place you may whether enjoy some more Odessa sights or drive back to Borispol airport where you can connect with your onward flight.

Tour ends and we will be eagerly looking forward to your next visit, as JUkraine has yet a lot more exciting and thrilling tours for you!



To obtain more details with regard to the itinerary above, send us the inquiry

Via website: <http://www.jukraine.com/contact-us.html>

Via email: jewkraine@gmail.com

Check our weekly packages:

[Ukraine – the Cradle of Hasidism](#)

[Routes to Your Roots: Schlep across the Pale of Settlement's Shtetlts:](#)

[Jews and Feudals: Unique Castles, Fortresses and Cemeteries](#)

[Crimea: Jewish Heritage of the Mysterious Peninsula](#)