

KIEV, SHTETTLES AND MORE!..

Key Information:

Tour Duration: 3 day

Destination(s): Kiev – Berdichev - Shargorod – Uman – Kiev

Total Driving Distance: 762 km

Specialty Categories: Jewish Ukraine, Cultural Encounters

Sightseeing included: 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 jewkraine@gmail.com

This 3 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...;
- make a pilgrimage to gravesites of Rabbi Nachman of Uman and Rabbi Levi Yitzhak of Berdichev. Whether you seek a health recovery, a good marriage prospect or financial prosperity, come, pray, leave Tzedakah (gift of charity) and place a little note with your innermost wish on the top of the tombstones or insides the mausoleums, hoping that these revered sages carry your prayers to the Throne of Heaven.
- visit Shargorod to see the oldest stone synagogue in Ukraine and barely preserved remains of the typical Jewish shtetle houses

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 leave your luggage in the storage room. If you need to refresh, take a shower or change that may be arranged upon request.



This day we invite you to join our Jewish Kiev tour, including visiting of Baby Yar, the steep ravine where over 100 thousand Jews perished during Holocaust and exploring of 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, and Jewish Bessarabka (“Lybedsky” Police District). Here we 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...

After lunch 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, 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” statute and unique collection of Soviet Union military equipment, and enjoy magnificent panoramas around it.



Overnight in Kiev

Day 2. BERDICHEV – SHARGOROD - UMAN



We start the day early, and right after the breakfast take a ride to Berdichev aka "Jerusalem of Volhynia province" for its rich Jewish history & heritage. Beginning in the 18th century, Berdichev was a center of the Hasidic movement, which transformed Jewish religious practice in much of Eastern Europe. Many of Hasidism's revered leaders are buried here. Among the most famous is Rabbi Levi Isaac, who died in 1809. As we arrive, we go straight to his *ohel* (mausoleum). Rabbi Levi Yitzchak of Berdichev is one of the best disciples of the Maggid of Mezhrich, revered for his enthusiastic dedication to Torah and *Mitzvot* (commandments), but above all for his consuming love of God and his people. He became known as the defender of the people of Israel. He would argue with God, charging Him with being too stern a father to His children, pleading for an end to the long and cruel exile.

At that the Berdichev Jewish cemetery itself is one of the most important in Ukraine, in part due to the artistic quality of its gravestones. Approximately 5,000 stones are still on the site, some dating from as early as the 18th century.



After lunch we leave Berdichev for Shargorod, as it is another town worthy of a visit if you're interested in Jewish heritage sites. Shargorod strikes at the first sight with the homes in the Jewish neighborhood that laid virtually untouched over the past century. Most are the same ramshackle structures constructed from a combination of wood, stone, mud and thatch. It doesn't take much imagination to conjure up the Jewish life that Sholom Aleichem etched in his touching tales. Regrettably, in the recent years locals start to occupy the houses and dwell there, so hurry to see the real shtetl neighborhood, while it is still there.



Shargorod also has the oldest stone synagogue in Ukraine, dating from 1589. Its massive, 3-foot-thick walls and pointed crenellations were part of the town's military defenses before the Soviets converted it into a juice factory. The sanctuary entrance has been replaced by enormous stained barrels plugged with tubes. In 2009 the Shargorod Jewish Community succeeded in the restitution of the Synagogue building and launched a restoration project. Visit a community museum and meet activists of the community which is quite small, but striving.

In the evening the bus takes us to Uman, where we stay overnight.

Day 3 UMAN' – KIEV

In the morning 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.





To bridge the gap between spiritual and physical worlds, we suggest you to enjoy your lunch at the site of Sophiivka Park - one of the most gorgeous parks in Europe. 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 beautiful 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 Kiev, to make sure we are on-time aboard!

This tour is over, yet we are eagerly looking forward to your next visit, as JUkraine has yet a lot more exciting and thrilling adventures for you!

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