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# INTERESTING KYIV

 **TOP 120**

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My name is Vladimir, I am the founder family-owned publishing house SKY HORSE in Kyiv, which has issued many books about Ukraine and its capital over the past 12 years.

Now our country is going through a difficult time, and our publishing house can no longer print paper books. Therefore, we decided to distribute them free of charge in electronic form, hoping for your support.

If you like this book, please donate whatever amount you deem possible. Thank you in advance for appreciating our work and allowing us to continue our favourite job!

Sincerely,  
Vladimir Nevzorov



[nahs.haus@gmail.com](mailto:nahs.haus@gmail.com)



All you need to know about Kyiv is here in this one book. Exactly 120 features of the Ukrainian capital are described in detail – from the world famous Lavra and Sophia’s Cathedral to the ethnic and local such as “perepichka” (pie), “palatki” (tents) and “marshrutki” (minibuses). After all, it is such seemingly small things that form the complete picture of the city.

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Kyiv 2022



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1

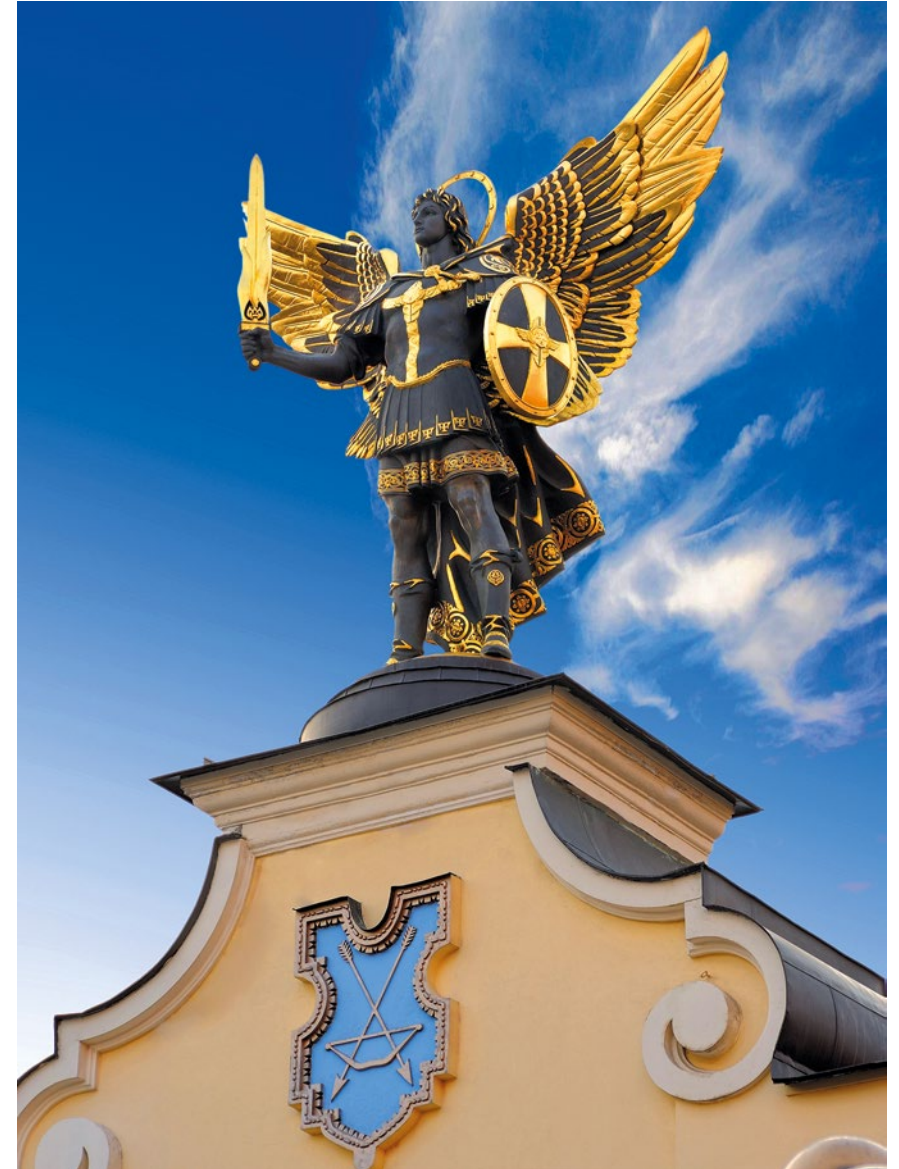
The leader of Heaven's  
forces is the patron saint  
of the city of Kyiv



# Archangel Michael

In 1782, the tsarist authorities approved Kyiv's official coat of arms: the image of Archangel Michael in a silver gown with a flaming sword in his hand against an azure background. In 1851, Nikolay I ordered the imperial crown to be shown on all the coats of arms of all provinces, districts, and provincial towns of Russia's Empire. So Kyiv's coat of arms was redesigned: a shield topped with the royal crown and edged with Alexander's azure ribbon was added. Archangel Michael in a silver gown equipped with sword and shield was depicted against it. In 1917, Alexander's ribbon was replaced by Vladimir's ribbon, red with two black stripes on the edges. But then in 1919, this emblem was abolished as being of the "old regime". Much later in 1995, the patron saint of our city returned to the coat of arms of the present-day capital city of independent Ukraine – but without the royal crown and the decoration ribbon. Today, statues of Archangel Michael can be found on Maidan (Independence Square), on Instytutska Street, in the public garden at Obolonskyi Avenue, on the facade of St. Michael's Cathedral, on the dome of the Samson fountain, and in Podil. The monastery, the church, the square, the street and alleys in the city also bear the name of the Archangel. The church honors Michael the

Archangel as a defender of the faith, and a fighter against heresies and all evil. He is glorified by many miracles recorded in the spiritual writings of Orthodox Christians, Catholics, Jews, and Muslims. The patronage of Archangel Michael contributes to the philosophy of Kyiv as a multi-ethnic and peace-loving city. A. A.



50.450902  
30.52286



Maidan Nezalezhnosti

Maidan Nezalezhnosti 



2

Semi-mythical founders  
of the capital city



## Kyi, Shchek, Khoriv, Lybid'

Who founded Kyiv and when? This question is ever-present in scholarly minds. Archaeological excavations show that settlements in the Kyiv region existed 15,000-25,000 years ago. Claudius Ptolemy wrote about the mysterious capital city of Sarmatia on the Dnieper, and another legend says that the emergence of a large city on the hilly banks of the Dnieper was predicted by Andrew the Apostle who traveled through Ukrainian lands in 55 AD. The traditionally recognized year of Kyiv's establishment is 482 AD. According to the 12<sup>th</sup>-century chronicle "Povest vremennykh let" ("Tale of Bygone Years"), Kyiv was founded by three brothers, Kyi, Shchek, and Khoriv, leaders of the Polyanian tribe of East Slavs. Each established his own settlement on a hill, and these settlements became the town of Kyiv, named for the eldest brother, Kyi. A small stream nearby was named for their sister Lybid'. The Tale of Bygone Years by Nestor the Chronicler says that: "The Polyanians lived apart and governed their families. There were three brothers, Kyi, Shchek, and Khoriv, and their sister was named Lybid'. Kyi lived upon the hill where the Borychiv trail now is, and Shchek dwelt upon the hill now named Shchekavytsa, while on the third resided Khoriv, after whom this hill is named Khorivyt-

sa. They built a town and named it Kyiv after their oldest brother. Around the town lay a wood and a great pine-forest in which they used to catch wild beasts. These men were wise and prudent. They were called Polyanians, and there are Polyanians descended from them living in Kyiv to this day... Kyi was then the chief of his kin, and it is related that he received a great honour from the Emperor when he visited the imperial court... Kyi returned to Kyiv, and soon after his life came to an end. His brothers Shchek and Khoriv, as well as their sister Lybid', died there too." And to this day, on the maps of Kyiv you can see the three mountains – Kyivytza, Schekavytsa and Khorivytza, as well as the Lybid' River, after which the metro station is named. There are also a great number of mosaics and images of Kyiv's founders, most of them displayed when Kyiv celebrated its 1500<sup>th</sup> anniversary. In 1982, a statue of Kyi, Shchek, Khoriv and Lybid' standing on an ancient riverboat was unveiled at the riverside of Navodnytsky Park. The monument, created by Vasyl Borodai, soon became iconic for the city and has since been used as Kyiv's unofficial emblem. Kyivans call it "Boat". This is the favorite place for newlywed photo shoots, and every bride feels it her duty to throw a wedding bouquet into the boat to attract good luck. *L. S.*



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30.56909943



Pechers'kyi district  
Dnipro 



3

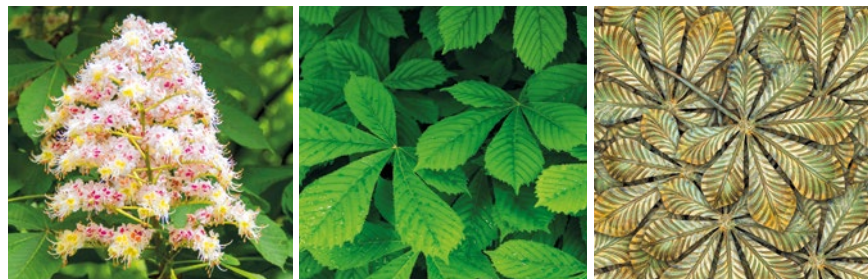
Main tree of Kyiv:  
lush inflorescences in  
the spring, nice prickly  
fruits in the autumn



# Horse Chestnut Trees

Kyiv has been associated with the horse chestnut tree for more than 150 years. In 1842, construction of the Boulevard Shaussee (now, Taras Shevchenko Boulevard) began. Horse chestnut trees were planted along the boulevard but did not flourish. At the command of Emperor Nikolay I they were replaced with poplars. However, Kyivans did not abandon the rooted out saplings – they spirited them away and planted them on their farms. And to everyone's delight, they recovered and thrived. Next spring they were in full bloom. Since then city authorities have always welcomed a horse chestnut planting and never refuse permission for a new specimen not only in gardens but also on the surrounding streets. Horse chestnut trees grew, blossomed and fruited in Kyiv in ancient times. In the old days they grew mainly in the Kyiv monasteries, specifically, in Kyiv Pechersk Lavra, Vydubychskiy and Florovskiy monasteries and hermitages. Starting from the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, the chestnut tree has been established in many orchards and public gardens. Kyivans always loved the chestnut tree for its cool shade and beautiful “candlesticks” of flowers in spring. Many generations have grown up under the Kyiv horse chestnut trees. “And your thick and mighty horse chestnut trees – Chandeliers of Spring – Still blossom as before, Guard-

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ing my childhood night dreams...”, Alexander Vertinsky, a resident of Kyiv, wrote in 1956. No wonder that when restoring Khreshchatyk after the devastating Nazi occupation of 1941-1943, Kyivans laid out a magnificent avenue of these wonderful trees on the main street of their beloved city. The Kyiv horse-chestnut flower is the emblem of the capital city of Soviet Ukraine. Today, the horse-chestnut flower is a customary “cream” decoration on the famous “Kyiv torte”, yet another symbol of the ancient capital city. In 2009, in Mariinskyi Park, a monument to an open chestnut fruit was installed; and recently a mini-monument to Kyiv chestnuts appeared downtown within the interesting local history project “Shukai” (Search). You are supposed to find a tiny sculpture but we will help you – it is on the wall, right at the entrance to the city administration building. A. A.



Wikipedia





4

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Most favorite city festival



## Kyiv Day

The historical age of Kyiv was not defined by archaeologists, but by the decree of the old Soviet authorities. In 1982, they decided to celebrate the 1500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the city. This caused much heated debate among scholars and experts on Kyiv's actual birthday, but the ordinary, less fussy residents of Kyiv happily welcomed this "Day of the City". It immediately became one of the most popular urban traditions and in 1987 received official status. Kyiv Day is celebrated on the last Sunday of May but in fact, the whole weekend is a party. Many exciting events are held throughout the city, the number of which grows every year. Concerts on the Maidan Nezalezhnosti and Spivochke Pole, the sailing regatta on the Dnieper and the Race Horizon Park bicycle race, as well as the Chestnut Run – a sports charity event – are among the most popular. In the evening of the last day there is a salute. However, the most well attended celebration event is the exhibition-fair of fine arts and folk crafts on Andrew's Descent. An infrequent visitor or tourist to the capital will find much pleasure in walking down the steep hill which has become an open air craft market and buying a souvenir. From tiny ceramic pots to a sizable canvas or an exclusive piece of jewelry. They can then contemplate their prize while sitting in a cafe and taking a lot of colourful pictures. *V. U.*





5

Centuries-old witness  
to Kyiv history



## StaroKyivska Linden

One of the oldest and most revered trees of the city has significant surroundings – it grows on StaroKyivska mountain, a few steps from the basement of the Tithe Church and not far from St. Andrew's Church. For several decades now, there has been controversy as to its real age: some experts, both dendrologists and historians, are inclined to think that Metropolitan Peter Mogila; the prince of Moldova; the son of the Hungarian Queen; a great warrior and the founder of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy planted it in 1635. His efforts restored the Church of the Tithes – the first stone church in Kyiv Rus, built by Prince Vladimir in the 10<sup>th</sup> century and destroyed by the hordes of Batu during the capture of Kyiv in 1242. Other researchers claim that the tree is much older and witnessed the invasion of the Mongol-Tatars. Somehow, it miraculously survived those terrible days. Their additional argument is a linden growing at the Far Caves of the Kyiv Pechersk Lavra, which, according to legend, was planted by Theodosius of Pechersk at the beginning of the 12<sup>th</sup> century. It is curious that over the past one and a half to two centuries it has not changed in size – and in the old engraving, which depicts the restored temple of the Virgin (Tithe), it looks the same as today. However, while some are tempted to believe the

supporters of the second version, the first one is much more likely. The Linden is at least 383 years old, and has seen many dramatic and heroic events in Kyiv history and the rise and fall of many historical figures. The legendary tree is shrouded in many other mystical secrets and superstitions. Kyivans believe that if you make a wish and tie a ribbon to a branch, it will surely come true. However, that is now strictly forbidden. First of all, the rotten hollow in the trunk was sealed, then it was surrounded by a fence and the hanging of decorative objects was forbidden. You can still walk around it clockwise seven times and make a wish. But keep your distance! The StaroKyivska Linden will help those who are in love, in a quarrel or separation, and those who are searching for their betrothed. It brings good luck to all. *V. U.*



50.457716  
30.516929



2 Volodymyrska St.

Zoloti Vorota  Poshtova Ploshcha 

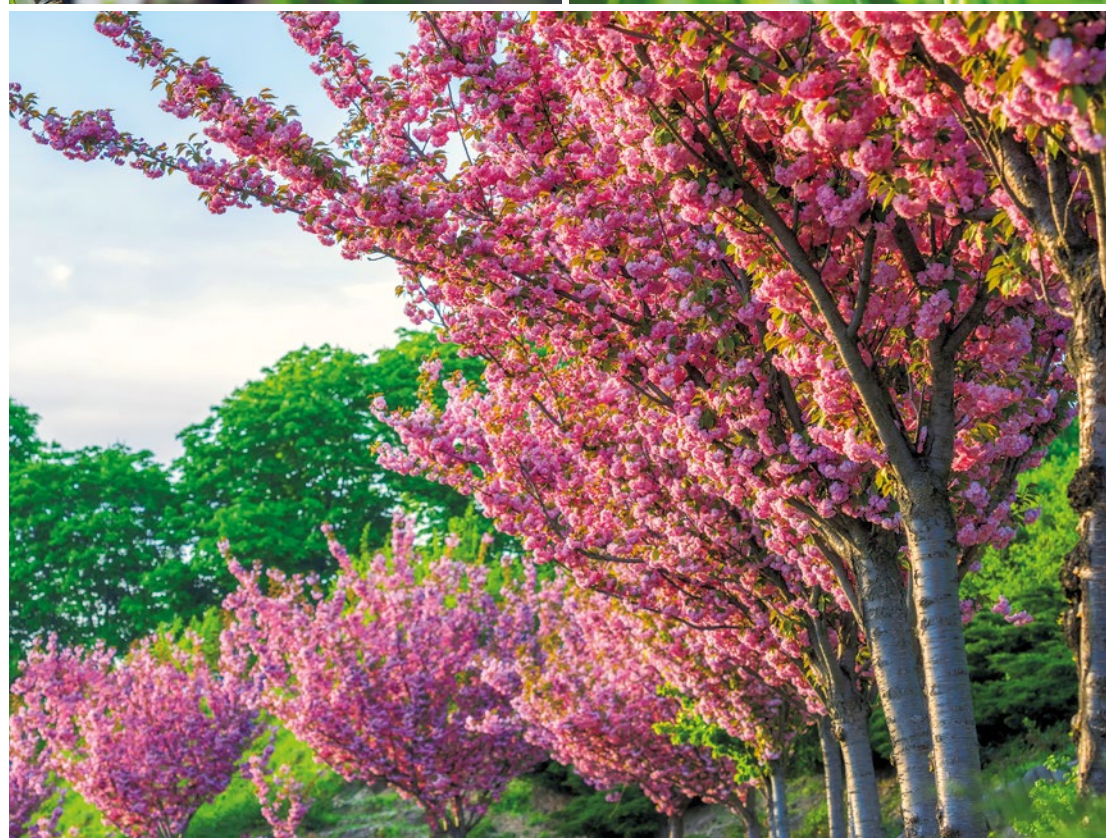


Best time to visit Kyiv  
is April-May



## Kyiv Spring

In late April – early May, Kyiv is suddenly transformed by a flood of green as the sun shines down through the bright, fresh new leaves. Four months of a hot dry summer later, and the foliage will have been scorched and burned into yellows and browns. But that's for later. A second feature of Kyiv which often surprises visitors are the abundant fruit trees in the gardens of the older houses. Cherries, apricots, apples and pears bloom in the spring filling the air with their delicate fragrance. Soon after the numerous lilacs and horse chestnuts burst into flower Kyiv chestnuts with their spatulate five fingered leaves and white and pink candle-like flower stalks are the official symbol of the city. Kyiv lilacs are seen at their best in the Central Botanical Garden. Ordinary to look at for the rest of the year, in May they put on a tremendous display of colour and scent. It is customary for Kyivans to make a special visit to see the lilacs at this time of the year and crowds are substantial. A week or two after the lilacs, it is the turn of the peony fields to bloom in the Botanical Garden. At this time of the year the air is fresh and clean and not too hot. Although the real summer is not far away. Fountains burble, the birds are singing and the icy winter is quickly forgotten. The hills are green and carpeted with wild flowers. And the common guide book phrase "Kyiv – the green pearl" makes perfect sense. If you have the choice, come to Kyiv in the spring – it is very special. V. U.





7

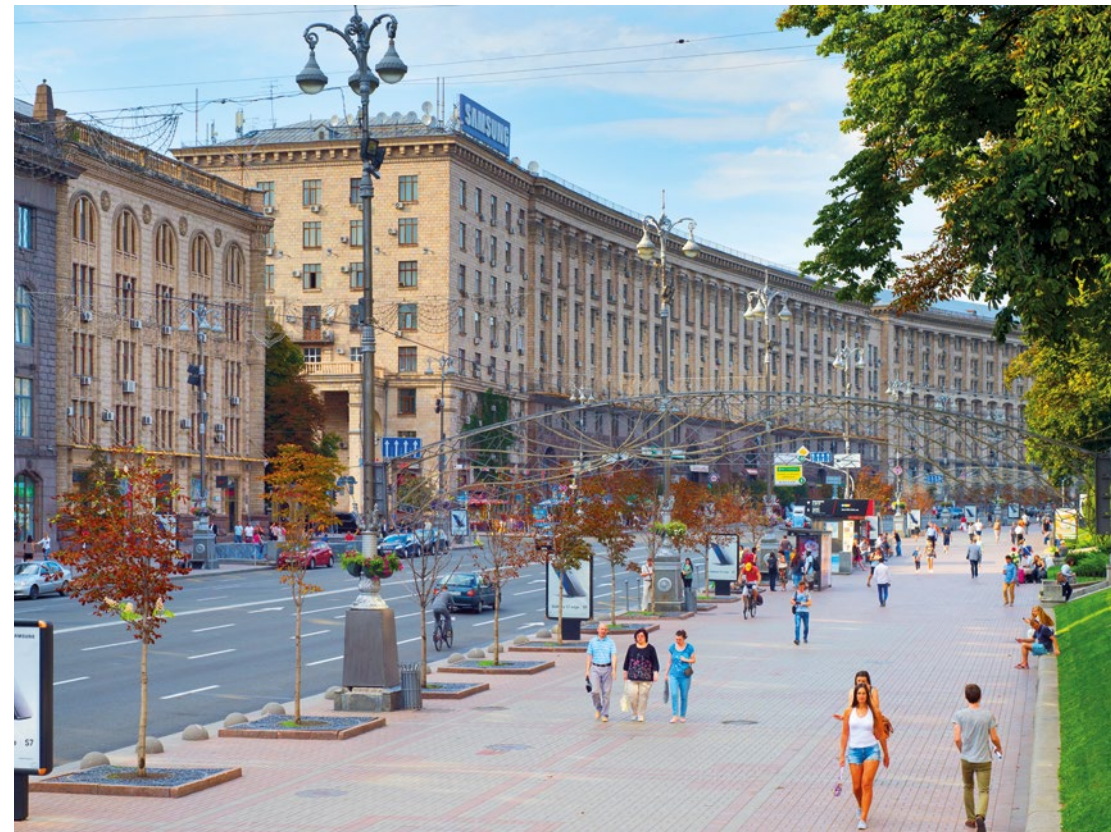
Main street of Kyiv  
and Ukraine. Only for  
pedestrians on weekends



# Khreshchatyk

By Kyiv standards, Khreshchatyk is very recent. Less than two centuries ago, a stream ran through this site. Now there is Khreshchatyk, the premier main street of the capital, and its business and cultural center. What is more, this street was not simply laid down – a deep ravine was filled up with thousands of tons of soil taken from the surrounding hills and compressed into a solid foundation. And only then were the three separate parts of Kyiv – Pechersk, Podil and the Old Town (Princely Town) conjoined into the city as we now know it. Under the shadow of lindens and chestnuts, Khreshchatyk is much shorter than it seems, a little less than a kilometer. The street is meant for leisurely strolls, convivial encounters and gatherings, and that is why shops, cafes and restaurants line its pavements. During WWII, the street was totally reduced to ruins and the story of its restoration is a cause of local pride. Kyiv architects travelled to Europe to study the optimum designs for the main street of the capital. They took inspiration from the optimistic and uplifting architecture of Italy and Spain, and combined these styles with traditional Ukrainian baroque to produce a striking result. The chief architect, Anatoly Dobrovolsky, remade Khreshchatyk much wider than it was before the war. On average it is 75 m and near the central department store,

(known as TsUM) – 130 m. Here you will find the famous chestnut groves, manicured lawns and flowerbeds. It was in the early 1950s, the time of the internal USSR struggle “with excesses in architecture” and all these boulevards, lawns, golden tiles, columns and magnificent Corinthian creations were considered to be an ostentatious disgrace. Dobrovolsky high position and career came under attack and he was removed from office, but nevertheless Khreshchatyk had acquired its spectacular make-over that prompted a foreign envoy to say, “I’ve seen a lot of parks in cities, but for the first time I see a city in the park”. The greenery of the gardens, the trees lining the street, the intersecting squares — all combine with the various colors of brick, red and gray granite, and decorative ceramic tiles to give Khreshchatyk an attractive and colorful aspect much admired by Kyiv’s inhabitants and visitors. V. U.



50.447636  
30.522338



Khreshchatyk St.

Khreshchatyk  Maidan Nezalezhnosti 



8

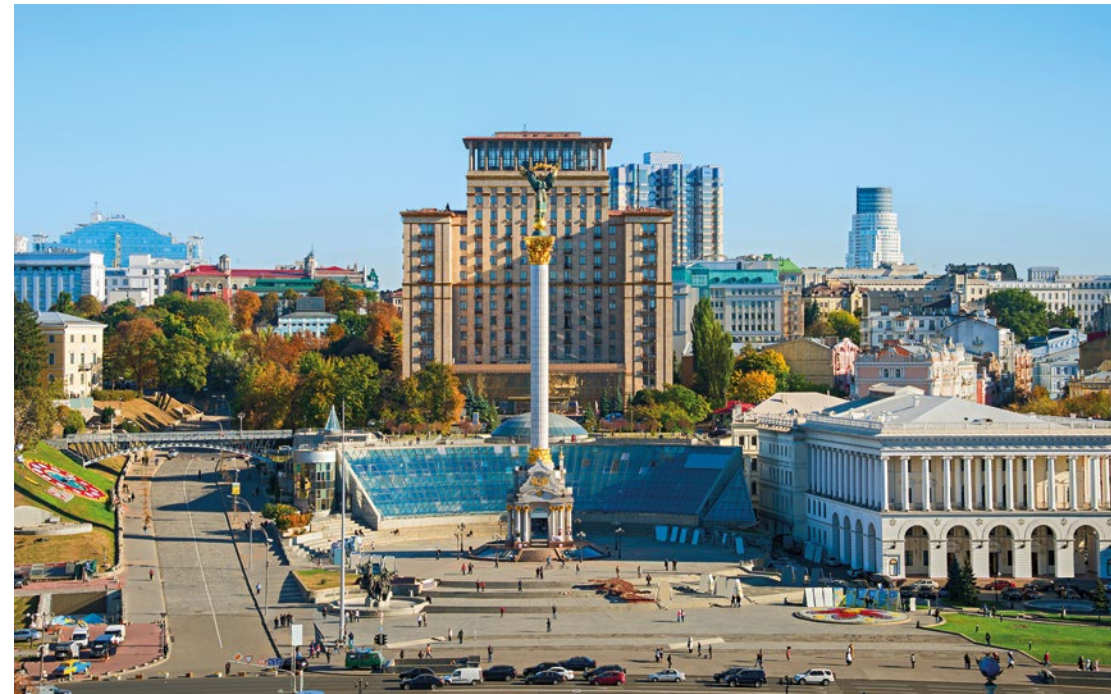
Independence Square.  
The place where  
history is made



# Maidan Nezalezhnosti

Today, it is rather difficult to imagine that Maidan Nezalezhnosti, the main square of Ukraine, was once swampy lowland called the Marsh of Goats. That place seemed insignificant but it was over that frozen marsh in the very cold winter of 1240, the troops of Batu Khan broke into the besieged city through the Lyadski Gates. Kyiv was left in ruins. For centuries, this place remained a deserted wasteland with a bad reputation. The only signs of life was the occasionally appearance of a rough and ready market. The first stages of transformation happened in the 1830s, when first the houses were built on the street later called Khreshchatyk, from which the adjacent square received its name – Khreshchatytska. The square changed its name many times during Ukraine's turbulent history: Duma Square, Soviet Square, Kalinin Square, Square of the October Revolution, and finally Independence Square. In World War II, the square was completely destroyed and then rebuilt from scratch when hostilities ceased. In 1991, Ukraine gained its independence from the Soviet Union and, naturally enough, the square was renamed Independence. Since the start of Ukraine's independence movement in 1990, the square has been the traditional place for political rallies, including four large-scale radical protest campaigns: the 1990 student "Revolution

on Granite", the 2001 "Ukraine without Kuchma", the 2004 Orange Revolution, and the 2013-14 Euromaidan, when dozens of people were killed and hundreds were injured. The protesters put up tents to live in, so it is the tent that can be considered the unofficial symbol of Ukrainian revolutions. Maidan is also a regular site for non-political displays and events. At weekends and on public holidays traffic is banned from Khreshchatyk Street and Independence Square and pedestrians are king. Around the square are unique buildings erected in the middle of the last century. They still echo Ukraine's Soviet past, but now this Stalinist architecture is just a memory of those times – now Ukraine looks forward to its own Independent future. The area is dotted with numerous monuments, statues and new sculptures. One of the most impressive is the Independence Column topped with a statue of Archangel Mi with sword and shield, who is the saint patron of Kyiv. Another is the 5,000 jet musical fountain called Friendship of Nations. Also, you can find the Globe Monument, with the distances to the world capitals, the Kyiv Founders Monument, and the statue "Beregynya" – a girl holding a Viburnum branch; another symbol of independent Ukraine. V. U.



50.450254  
30.523721



Maidan Nezalezhnosti

Maidan Nezalezhnosti 

9

Most beautiful  
pedestrianized street in Kyiv;  
souvenirs and cafes  
are just here



## Andrew's Descent

This is without a doubt one of Kyiv's most popular streets – and one of its oldest too. In ancient times it linked the administrative part of the upper town – the city officials – with Podil, the lower town of merchants and craftsmen. It was so narrow, that only pedestrians and those on horseback could pass. No carts or wagons. Only in the 18<sup>th</sup> century was the street widened to be more suitable for horse drawn vehicles. Andrew's Descent begins at the summit of Starokyivska Hora (Old Kyiv mount) near the ornate late-baroque St. Andrew's Church, which gave the street its name. The historical name of the descent was Borychiv Descent. In the early 20 century it became known as Liver Descend (after the name of the young revolutionary Georgiy Liver), but in 1957 the street was once again renamed Andrew's Descent. Almost every building here is an architectural gem. The intriguing building at No. 15 is referred to by Kyivans as "Richard's Castle". The Bulgakov Museum is a must visit for literary enthusiasts, and is located at No. 13 – a monument to this world famous writer. Next to the museum is a popular place for photoshoots. At the bottom of the descent lies the unique One Street Museum, one of the most famous and popular museums in Kyiv with a small but exquisite display of exhibits. Andrew's Descent also hosts two

popular Kyiv theaters: Koleso ("The Wheel") and the recently renovated Theater on the Podil. This steep and winding descent, paved with cobblestones, is a traditional venue for outdoor festivals and fairs, and is dotted with numerous intriguing art galleries, museums, cafes, bars and restaurants. Today Andrew's Descent looks like a long and twisting open air museum. It is at the very heart of Kyiv's artist community, and is the favourite stop for tourists in search of paintings and traditional Ukrainian crafts. This is also a well-known place for all kitsch Soviet souvenirs. Strolling down this street, you will meet artists, jewelers, wood carvers, embroiderers and knitters, skin and fur experts, potters, glass blowers and many other creators of original products. You can buy a traditional Ukrainian embroidered shirt or a woven bag, accessories with semiprecious stones, glass, ceramics, leather or wood, find an genuine antique or an old postcard – or just a funny T-shirt or a fridge magnet. The street often feels like a non-stop party – so go early in the morning to enjoy the beautiful architecture, the views and the street, before the crowds arrive. *V. U.*



50.458624  
30.51767



Andrew's Descent

Poshtova Ploshcha, Kontraktova Ploshcha 



10

One of the oldest  
boulevards in the city



## The Poplars


Boulevard Street appeared in Kyiv in 1830. Later it was renamed Shaussee Street, and then University Street. Eventually, in 1869, in memory of Kyiv's governor-general Dmytriy Bibikov, the street was given his name and became known as Bibikovsky Boulevard. But then came another change and since 1919 the boulevard bears the name of Taras Shevchenko. For many years, this was a train traveler's first view of Kyiv as they stepped from the adjacent station. For this reason, Kyivans have always maintained the boulevard in perfect order – first impressions are important!

Its history is convoluted but amusing. First, linden trees were planted on the avenue, but in 1842 they were replaced by horse chestnut saplings but they did not flourish. Next, by order of Emperor Nikolay I, they were replaced by poplars. But then in 1935, when the capital of Soviet Ukraine moved from Kharkiv to Kyiv, the authorities decided that maples would be best. The idea displeased Kyiv-born residents and the public. After the Great Patriotic War, justice was done and poplars were returned to the boulevard, and along with horse chestnuts, they are also vivid symbols of the city. Taras Shevchenko Boulevard, now as in old times, looks respect-



50.442471  
30.519152



Shevchenko Blvd.  
Teatralna, Universytet 

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able and harmonious. The wonderful trees compliment the many original stately old buildings which line the avenue. It is an extremely handsome thoroughfare. A. A.





11

The start of Khreshchatyk  
and Entrance to  
Naddniprovisky Parks



## European Square

The European Square from which Khreshchatyk (Kyiv's main street) begins is an amazing place. It was known under many different names during the last two hundred years: Horse's Square – Theater Square – European Square – Tsar Square – Third International Square – Stalin Square – Lenin's Kom-somol Square. When Ukraine became independent, it regained its historical name, well-loved by Kyivans – the European Square. The surrounding landscape, houses and monuments were renovated, modernized and transformed; but enough original features remain for European Square to be recognizable as the square depicted on old postcards. The large flower-bed in the center has never changed, except for the ancient fountain of 1840 named Ivan that has been removed. Of all the pre-revolutionary buildings, only the Kyiv Philharmonic (formerly the Merchant's Assembly) built in neo-renaissance/baroque style in 1882 by architect Vladimir Nikolaev has survived. Some of the old buildings were destroyed during WWII and some after. Today's European Square is dominated by the multi-story Dnipro Hotel built in 1964 by famous Kyiv architects Victor Elizarov and Natalia Chmutina. Another white building attracts attention with a wide multi-tiered staircase. This is the former Kyiv branch of the Central


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Lenin Museum built by Vadim Gopkalo in 1982. To build it, the original European Hotel which had survived WWII was demolished and a large part of the Vladimir hill was leveled. After Ukraine declared its independence, this building became known as the Ukrainian House, a venue for exhibitions and fairs, while skateboarders and roller skaters made use of its wide steps. Hotel Dnipro faces Yaroslav the Wise National Library of Ukraine built in 1911 with funds donated by Kyivans and designed by architect Zbigniew Klave. Despite all the reconstruction, European Square still remains one of the most intimate areas of central Kyiv with access to Khreshchatyi and Mariinskyi parks, the Vladimir Hill and to the Dnieper embankment. V.U.



50.452446  
30.527379



European Sq.  
Maidan Nezalezhnosti 



12

The old square, where a post station building once stood, and now – Riverside Station, a large McDonald's restaurant, and a church



## Poshtova Square

This square is also known as the “Gate of Podil”. Here begins Hetman Petro Sahaidachnyi Street which leads straight to Kontraktova Square. Originally, this street had the name of Khreshchatyk from the brook flowing nearby. Its appearance has changed over the centuries. Of the ancient buildings that remain only the former post station building, which was operating from the 1850s through 1919, and the huge building of the tsarist mill owned by millionaire Lazar Brodsky survive. The dominant feature of this neighborhood is the Church of the Nativity. This old building was built in 1814 (on the site of an Old Russian church which dated back to the 11<sup>th</sup> century) from the plans of architect Andrey Melensky. Like many churches, it was destroyed during the Soviet era but now has been restored. The church is associated with the names of poet and artist Taras Shevchenko and writer and playwright Mikhail Bulgakov. The River port station building, an interesting piece of architecture, stands nearby. The lower station of the funicular railway, the oldest in the Russian Empire, is worth a look too. In the park, there is a monument to the first electric tram that trundled up and down in 1892. In general, Poshtova (Postal) Square has always been an important transport crossroads as it linked Pechersk and Khreshchatyk with Podil. Along the Dnieper embankment and lanes

of Podil the stagecoaches carried passengers and mail on to various destinations. The steamship wharf was also located here. Nowadays, there is the usual metro station underneath the square.

In 2018, during the construction of the shopping mall, archaeological ruins and artifacts were discovered. By accident, the construction workers stumbled on an ancient medieval street (or maybe even a town) with buildings, defensive fortifications, and a mass of household items of great historical value. Legal wrangling over the future of these artifacts continue! Hopefully, this archeological site at Poshtova Square will be preserved and history will triumph over commerce. A. A.



50.45926  
30.525541



Poshtova Square

Poshtova Ploshcha 



13

The house-street right in the city center with a variety of branded shops and cafes



## The Passage


It is the most unusual street in the capital. Should we say house-street, as it is a house that consists of two opposite buildings connected by passage-ways. Having passed under the arch from bustling Khreshchatyk, you find yourself in a small space with a touch of class. This commercial/residential building with the corridor has always been a special place for VIP guests of the city and for those who live in the capital. Its construction began in 1913; the project of Kyiv architect Pavel Andreev and was half built when World War I began. It remained unfinished until WWII, and then in the autumn of 1941 was bombed flat together with most of the buildings on Khreshchatyk. After war the building was reconstructed. Its exterior was restored according to the original plan. The upper floors were rebuilt as apartments for the elite of the arts. Here lived famous singers, writers, composers, architects, artists, and doctors, and you can see commemorative plaques with many of their names. Now, famous brand boutiques, shops, cafes and pubs are located on the first floor. The facade is richly ornamented with interesting decorative elements. For example, a bas relief of children figures: they are not playing with the lion and lioness, they are teaching them to drink! They are opening his mouth; some are bringing a cup of wine; others pouring wine from an

amphora. The other children with grapes are making wine, and two of them are tasting it. You can also see garlands, coats of arms, skulls of bulls, angels, owls, wands of mercury, men and women hugging, etc. Passage Street is also famous for its sculptures: “Bench” and “Bicycle” (a chair on the bike), or the monument to famous architect Vladislav Gorodetsky, sitting at a cafe table with a cup of coffee in his hand. This is the same cafe he had visited so often while he was alive. The arch of Kyiv Passage has seen tragic events. It was used as a public gallows during the revolution of 1917 and both world wars. Convicts and criminals were hung from its crossbar. But these events did not taint the Passage – it is too beautiful, too much appreciated by Kyivans and Kyiv’s visitors. In 1990s, a small fountain appeared in front of the arch. Today the Passage is a famous place for shopping and strolling. Also, it is a great place to meet the one you love! V. U.



50.44766  
30.524585



15 Khreshchatyk St.  
Khreshchatyk 



14

Oldest city square,  
the heart of Podil



# Kontraktova Square

This unique historical and architectural complex has developed and changed throughout history. Podil is the oldest district of Kyiv. In its center, Kontraktova Square, was formed in the times of the Kyivan Rus. Here were located such important city agencies as Kontraktovyi House and the Shopping arcade. These buildings are still present, although their former functions have changed. The square used to be home to Magistrates, Mohylyanska Academy famous throughout Europe, the Greek Monastery of St. Catherine, and the Bratsk Monastery of the Epiphany. Also the Podil main temple – Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church mentioned in the poem “Words about Igor’s regiment”. The Samson fountain is another addition to this collection of historical and architectural monuments. The Kontraktovi Fairs, well-known throughout Eastern Europe, were held here.

Nowadays, the square is still a business center and also a leisure spot for Kyivans and visitors. Plan for the next renovation of the square are already in progress. The intention is to do away with the untidiness – the jumble of small stalls and kiosks; and to restore the Kontraktovyi House and Mag-



50.463304  
30.518025



Kontraktova Sq.

Kontraktova Ploshcha 

INTERESTING KYIV • TOP120



istrate Hall buildings to their original forms. To redesign the whole area next to the statue of philosopher and educator Gregory Skovoroda and to introduce public gardens; and to build some attractive cafes here. A. A.





15

Oldest street, a quiet and cozy spot in the city center



## Borychiv Tok

Some parts of this ancient Kyiv street still retain traces of the now almost completely vanished old single-story Kyiv. This street is mentioned in the poem “Word about Igor’s regiment”. At that time it was part of the Borychiv descent. Let us try to trace the roots of this name. There are several theories as to its origin. Some historians believe that the name came from the Borych natural landmark, or from the hill with the same name (now called St. Andrew’s). Some insist that the name originated from the word “biryuch”: that is an official of the princely epoch, or a town crier. There is also an interesting hypothesis that it was the name of Prince Igor’s ambassador. Indeed, the poem “Word” says, “... Igor is walking along Borychiv to the Holy Virgin Pirogoscha”. He was returning from Polovtsian captivity, making for the said church to hold a prayer service. He was not alone but in the company of a representative of the ruling elite. The word “tok” could mean a place for threshing wheat, as well as a violent underground flood. Borychiv Tok burned down in 1811 during the worst fire in the history of the city, but later it was rebuilt. Today, you can see a few houses that have survived from those times. Another interesting fact is that the street runs on two different levels in respect to the road. That is the reason for the

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originality of its appearance. Steps and also bridges, lead to the houses that stand well below road level. The last large-scale development of Borychiv Tok took place at the turn of 19<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. Nowadays, such places are under the constant threat of modern development, but this special “street from a museum” will always be preserved for posterity. A. A.



50.460781  
30.517774



Borychiv Tok St.

Poshtova Ploshcha





16

One of three oldest  
areas of Kyiv and its most  
picturesque place



## Podil

The name “Podil” derived from an Old Slavic word meaning “lowlands”. This oldest district has a long history and many legends and stories with reference to some historical places: Kozhemyaki, Gonchary, Degtyary, Biskupshchina, etc. Despite the Dnieper flooding and its steep slopes, people settled here from time immemorial. Additionally, they experienced many other severe losses: they suffered under princely feuds and from countless conquerors’ raids, from never-ending floods and devastating fires. In 1811, this district was burned nearly to the ground. But Kyivans rebuilt it every time, because of the city’s main value – the navigable Dnieper with its famous trade route “from the Varangians to the Greeks”, which allowed them to survive at all times. Later, Prince Vladimir “baptized Rus” on the same site, and this memorable event was set in stone in form of the monument to Magdeburg Law. Architecture of today’s Podil is eclectic. After the devastating fire of 1811 it was re-planned and rebuilt, but you can still find here the buildings and objects of different styles and epochs: House of Contracts (1812) and House of Emperor Peter the Great (early 18<sup>th</sup> century), Samson fountain with rotunda (1749) and Kyiv-Mohyla Academy (17<sup>th</sup> century), Funicular (19<sup>th</sup> century) and Church of Virgin Pirogoshchi (1136), first



50.4669022  
30.5172509



Podil

Poshtova Ploshcha, Kontraktova Ploshcha 

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pharmacy-museum in Kyiv and Frolovsky Monastery. Also, there are monuments to outstanding Ukrainian philosopher Grygoriy Skovoroda and talented Hetman Petro Sagaidachnyi. But even a bare listing of Podil attractions takes a lot of time and space. In 2018, during another large-scale construction in Poschtova Square, there were found the unique archaeological artifacts that can serve as the basis for a special museum of life in ancient Kyiv. And if you just want to immerse yourself in the atmosphere of the ancient city and feel the breath of eternity, you should take a walk along the Dnieper embankment or sit in one of Podil street cafes. And you will surely feel the ancient world aura miraculously preserved in Podil, one of the business centers of today’s Kyiv. *V. U.*





17

A bright and colourful neighborhood of Kyiv



## Gonchary-Kozhemyaki

Gonchary-Kozhemyaki urochische – the traditional place of the potters and leather makers since ancient times. The surrounding hills shielded the craftsmen from bad weather and streams provided them with water. For landslide and flood protection Kyivans used the engineering technology of that time. Part of the area – the Gonchary – got its name from the principal craft of the locals which was pottery. There was a marketplace



close to the river and from there pots were transported to different regions by boat. The fire of 1811 reduced most of Podil to ashes but the pottery business survived and recovered. Next door was the Kozhemyaki, where leather makers were engaged in their speciality. From here, originated the legend of the epic hero Nikita the Kozhemyaka, who defeated the terrible dragon-ogre and rescued Kyivans from death. A. A.



50.459166  
30.512977



Honcharna St., Kozhemiatska St., Dehtiarna St.  
Kontraktova Ploshcha 





18

The Dnieper, islands,  
and many cafes along  
the embankment



## Obolon'

Before the time of the Kyivan Rus, Obolon' was the home of the Eastern Polans. Then during the time of Kyivan Rus and the Grand Duchy of Lithuania the land belonged to the Principality of Kyiv, and often became a battlefield as the princes fought with nomads. At the time of the Cossack Hetmanate, under Khmelnytsky and under Mazepa, Obolon' belonged to the Kyiv Regiment. Obolon's pastures and hay meadows were often the subject of arguments between the Cossacks, the city magistrate, monasteries and the garrison of the Tsardom of Moscovia. At one time this area was also the haunt of smugglers. In the early 19<sup>th</sup> century, military camps were situated here, and almost a century later, the aerodrome of the Kyiv Aeronautics Society was opened. Obolon' has a chequered history. But in 1967, the redevelopment of Obolon' began with rather more purpose when a comprehensive plan was approved by the Soviet government. Accordingly, residential areas were to be constructed on the wetlands on both sides of the Dnieper. Hydraulic fill technology was employed to create sandbanks 4-5 m above the water level. In 1972-1980, the biggest housing estate in Kyiv was built here comprising 9 & 16 story towerblocks. Obolon' is isolated from other parts of the city by the bays and lakes of the Dnieper river. There are

six Obolonsky lakes – the Jordan (Lower), Kyrylivske (Upper), Andriivske (Bogatyrske), Opechen (Lugove), Ptashyne (Avian) and Minsk – together they originally formed Lake Opechen'. They were separated into six during the hydraulic filling process. Springs at the bottom of the lakes keeps the water clear and clean, and locals love to relax here on hot summer days. Older residents still remember the beavers who lived here not so long ago; and verdant banks with many nesting birds creates the illusion of an intact nature area. Today, you would never guess the scale of the reconstruction that took place. Lake Verbne however, also popular among Obolonians, was never a natural feature. It is entirely man-made. In recent years, the area has become even more attractive. Natalka Park (formerly Kyivan Rus Park) on the Dnieper slopes now has a completely new look. There are viewing decks, three wonderful gazebos looking over the river, imaginative flower beds – one in the form of a tortoise, an artificial football field, a small training complex and many other interesting features. This place has become a favorite recreation area not just for Obolon' residents – Kyivans flock here from all over. One of the most unusual objects, pointed out by tour guides is “Object No. 1” (also called the “Submarine” or the “Trumpet”). This is really a strange object, a section of the Northern Tunnel of the Stalin Metro – the so-called “Obolon' caisson” (17 meters high, 52 meters long). They planned to bury it 30 m underground depth but never got round to it for some reason, so the Submarine remains on the surface – a peculiar sight. Finally, this is the home of Obolon beer, one of the most famous Ukrainian breweries. Try one. Or two! *V. U.*



50.516429  
30.48086



Obolon'  
Heroiv Dnipro, Minska, Obolon' 



19

"Kyiv Venice" with splendid  
canals and a beautiful  
embankment




## Rusanivka

Rusanivka is one of the first residential areas in the world, completely built on alluvial soils. To get there is very simple – you can just walk from Livoberezhna metro station. The main attraction here is the southern part of an artificial canal (2,700 m long, 3-4 m deep and 40 m wide). There are 15 illuminated water fountains, which put on a spectacular show at dusk. Three road and two pedestrian bridges cross over the canal. Previously, on the site of this residential area, there was Rusanivka tract, land owned by Kyiv monasteries. The tract supposedly gets its name from Savva Rusanovich, who owned neighboring lands in the 16<sup>th</sup> century.

Later, appeared the village of Rusaniv, and the lake nearby was named Rusanivske. The first bridge over the Rusanivskyi valley was built in 1906, with petrol tram tracks laid to the city of Brovary in 1912. During WWII the bridge was bombed, and it was not until 1965 that it was replaced by a new reinforced-concrete bridge for the metro and cars. Rusanivka is considered one of the best residential areas in Kyiv due to the developed infrastructure, convenient location and proximity of the Dnieper and its embankment. The canal is quiet and shady and you can

50.439766  
30.599091

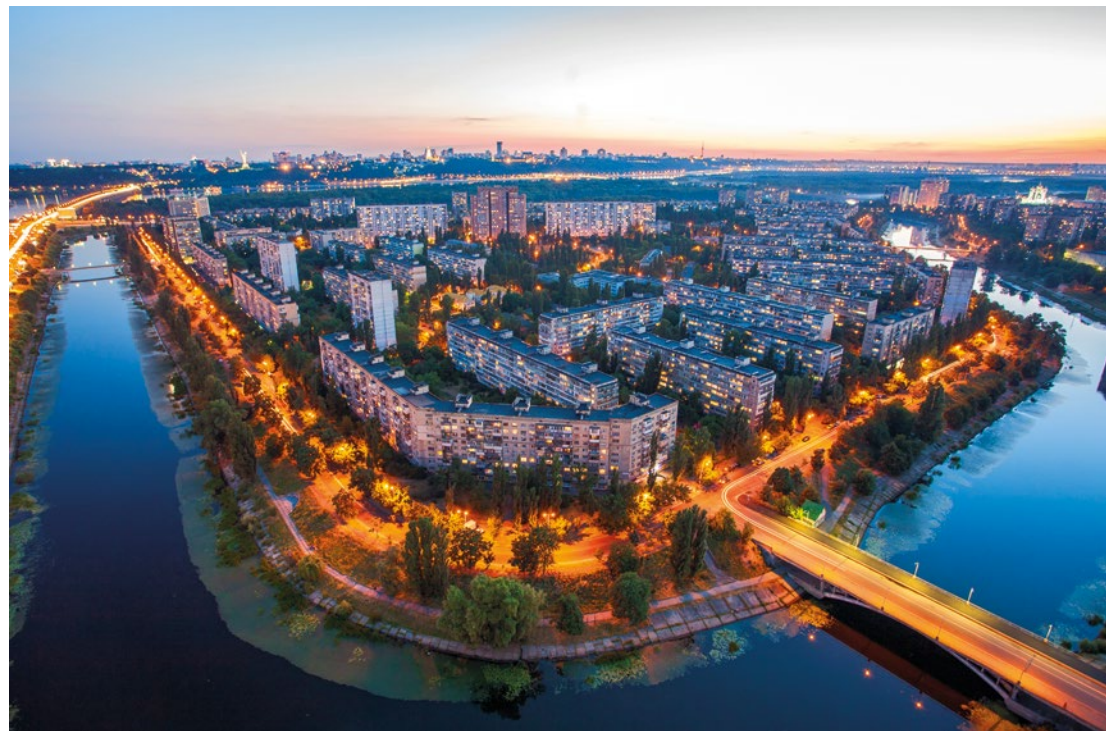


Rusanivka  
Livoberezhna 

INTERESTING KYIV • TOP120



meet river dwellers here like ducks and seagulls. Enjoy a spot of fishing if you wish. It was in Rusanivka that the world-famous actress Mila Jovovich lived when she was a child. *L. S.*





20

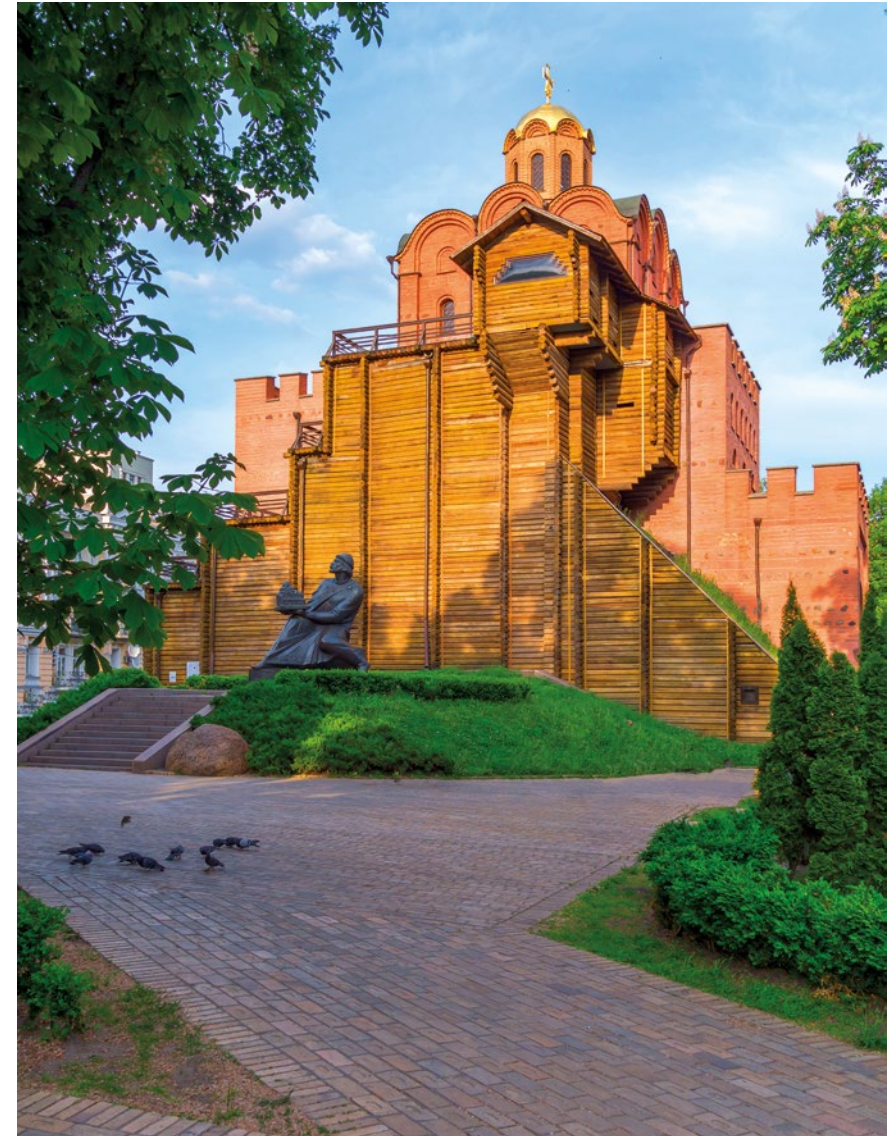
The only surviving  
section of the ancient  
city fortifications



## Golden Gates

The Golden Gates was the main entrance to Kyiv through the ancient city walls. It was built in the 11<sup>th</sup> century by Yaroslav the Wise, Grand Prince of Kyiv, in Byzantium style. The entrance through the huge stone and brick structure was by way of heavy oak doors leading through to a secure passageway. This was crowned by a viewing platform and the small Church of the Annunciation, which in turn, was topped by a gilded dome – another possible reason for the name. This golden dome, decorated with mosaics and frescoes, became a prominent landmark easily visible from outside the city. Kyivans called them “Gates to Heaven”, because the rising and setting sun “passed” through them twice a day. The gate was damaged during the Mongol onslaught of the 13<sup>th</sup> century, but continued to be used (often for ceremonies) through the 18<sup>th</sup> century, although it gradually fell into ruins, then buried underground and finally this landmark was lost to the cityscape for nearly 50 years. In 1832, excavations were carried out and the crumbling ruins of the once-magnificent entrance were discovered. The walls and sections of the arch that remained were reinforced with buttresses and protected with iron plates. In late 19<sup>th</sup> century, the Goldengate public garden was laid around this antique monument. In 1979, a pavilion was built over

the ruins to protect them and recreate the original look of the gate. The pavilion was completely restored in 1982 to mark the 1500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the city – but not everyone liked the result. Arguments about this controversial restoration have not yet ceased. A bronze statue of Yaroslav the Wise with a model of St. Sophia Cathedral in his hand (sculpture Ivan Kavaleridze) was later added to the park that surrounds the gate. *V.U.*



50.448667  
30.513188



40A Volodymyrska St.  
Zoloti Vorota 



21

The most notable house  
in Khreshchatyk



## No. 25 Khreshchatyk St.

Built postwar on the ruins of the old Khreshchatyk, this house resembles a tall castle with a dungeon and two adjoining towers, standing on a rock above the river. But this river is the stream of people flowing down the street. The width of the street here reaches 130 meters, which makes the house-castle appear even higher and more imposing. It is flanked by waterfalls of granite stairs accompanied by street lights in the form of blooming magnolias. House is now visually cut off from the street by a granite retaining wall. The architects who built the house were inspired by the Spanish Steps in Rome and although this is not a direct copy, you might describe it as a Ukrainian baroque “interpretation”. In this exuberant context, the star surmounting the central tower has never been perceived by Kyivans as a USSR ideological symbol. On the ground floor, a small cinema – “Druzhba” (“Friendship”) – was known throughout the city for showing rare films.


This romantic place has always attracted creative professionals: It is a very rare film shot in Kyiv that does not include at least one scene on the stairs and close-ups of its magnolia streetlights. Today, the House of Friendship is a favourite of Kyiv free climbers. From its roof they enjoy a spectacular

view of Khreshchatyk and its surroundings. Once they even attempted to celebrate the New Year on the roof. But this activity is NOT recommended. The residents do not share the enthusiasm of these thrill-seekers and get extremely angry with their antics. V. U.



50.444524  
30.522440



25 Khreshchatyk St.  
Khreshchatyk, Teatralna 



22

The main post office  
of Ukraine

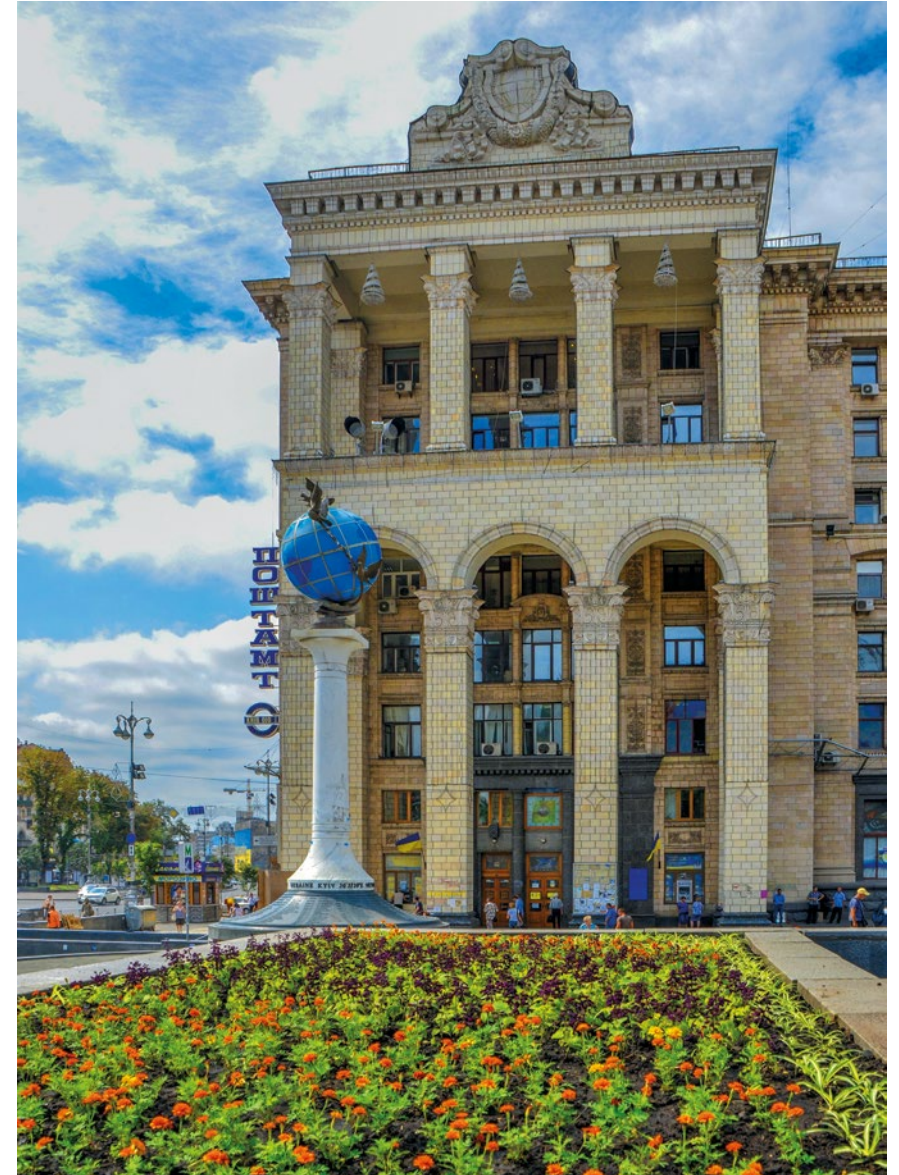


# Central Post Office

Kyiv Main Post Office (Glavpochtamt) with its imposing entrance – a massive portico and columns — faces Maidan (Independence Square). It is the start of the so-called “Administrative Arc”; the group of buildings that stretch along Khreshchatyk to the Central Department Store TsUM. All of them were built in the early 1950s on the ruins left after the war. The authors of this large-scale project were architects Boris Priymak, Vadim Ladnyi and Victor Elizarov. The solemn exterior of this building belies its lofty interior: huge halls with marble floors and columns, high ceilings with stucco molding, and light cabinet windows – overall inside it is rather romantic and uplifting. The myriad windows as well as colorful pictures of city landmarks in the main hall are pretty impressive. The smaller hall to the right offers a wide selection of postcards and stamps for your letters and parcels. Or to add to your stamp collection!

Construction of the Central Post Office and Communications House was completed in 1957. In August 2, 1989, the porch of Central Post Office partially collapsed during a heavy rainstorm, killing a dozen people and injuring others. The porch was rebuilt in the following years reproducing

the original design – but stronger. The Post Museum was opened here in 1996. Its exhibits includes 19<sup>th</sup>-century mail magazines, old stamps, a collection of postcards with images of postal transport and much more. *V. U.*



50.449809  
30.523178



22 Khreshchatyk St.

Maidan Nezalezhnosti





23

Most unusual of  
Kyiv's mansions

# The House with Chimeras

This mansion on Bankova Street, 10 was built in 1903 by Vladislav Gorodetsky, one of the most prominent Kyiv architects, as a house for rent. The distinctive Art Nouveau building is imaginatively decorated with figures of mythical creatures and wild animals: nymphs and mermaids, dolphins and crocodiles, rhinoceroses and elephants, whose hanging trunks serve as drainpipes. All the sculptures were based on Gorodetsky's sketches reflecting his passion for hunting and manufactured by the Italian sculptor Elia Sala. This eccentric architect was also known as a big game hunter, traveler, and author of the book "In the Jungles of Africa". Built as a tribute to his passions for hunting and travel, the house lost its owner in an all too predictable way. Yet another safari to Africa pushed Gorodetsky into debt and forced him first to mortgage his masterpiece and then to sell it. It is said that, when leaving the house, Gorodetsky cursed it. No one can be sure if this is myth or truth. But companies who rented rooms in the house often went bankrupt or disappeared under mysterious circumstances. The nickname for this fantastic building came immediately – as one, Kyivans dubbed it "the House with Chimeras". Although this house is known for its unusual exterior décor, its interior is equally unique. Suffice to just mention the hall with a painted

stucco under the sea ceiling. With a huge kraken in the center, the entire ceiling is decorated with shells, water plants and fish. The house also impresses with its "two faces". Located on a hill, the cube-like house looks like a three-floor building from one side, but like a six-floor building from another. In former times, there was also an alpine rock garden with a fountain. The house was lucky to survive the war years, revolutions and the culturally Soviet "struggle against architectural excesses". Recently it was restored, and now it is used for government and presidential receptions. *V. U.*

50.444955  
30.52855

10 Bankova St.

Khreshchatyk 



24

The historic building  
of the National Bank

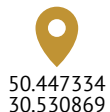


# The State Bank

Originally the office building of the State Bank of Russia, this is a unique architectural and historical monument of the city. A fine example of great architecture and ambitious engineering planning. Built in 1902-1905, it was originally two stories and stayed that way until 1934, when two more floors were added. Incorporated into its construction was the latest natural air conditioning system which still works perfectly today.

The authors of the original project were architects Alexander Kobelev and Alexander Verbitsky, and the decorative aspects executed by Elio Sala and Fyodor Sokolov. In 1934 the architect Valerian Rykov was engaged to execute the additional floors in keeping with the existing Gothic and Romanesque style. The building of the National Bank of Ukraine has never changed its profile and has always been used for banking purposes. In addition to its exterior beauty, it also has magnificent interiors.

Today, this is the main building of the National Bank of Ukraine. A. A.



9 Instytutska St.  
Khreshchatyk





25

One of most distinctive and beautiful mansions in Kyiv.  
But no, you can't eat it!



# The Chocolate House

The house No. 17/2 located on Shovkovychna Street is the former mansion of the famous merchant and philanthropist Semen Mogilevtsev. With his money, 200 exhibits for the Art Museum were bought, and the cross held in the hands of the St. Vladimir Monument was equipped with electric lighting. Also, the current Teacher's House was built. The Chocolate House, a copy of a Renaissance palace was built in 1901 close to two other iconic houses – the Castle of Sighs and the Gothic Castle of Baron Ikskyul-Gildenband. The interiors are in different architectural styles: there is a Moorish hall, a Renaissance dining room, a modernist boudoir with two stained-glass windows, and a study with carved furniture in neo-Byzantine style. On the ceiling of the last hall is a portrait of Sarah Bernhardt in the role of the Dream Princess, an interpretation of the famous poster by Alfons Mucha. The study ceiling was originally decorated with paintings by Svetoslavtsev, but these are currently in storage at the National Art Museum. Semen Mogilevtsev died shortly before the revolution and did not live to see how his mansion was appropriated and reconstructed by the state. When the marriage ceremony was once again permitted in the USSR, the house became the civil registry from the early 1960s to 1986.



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30.531469



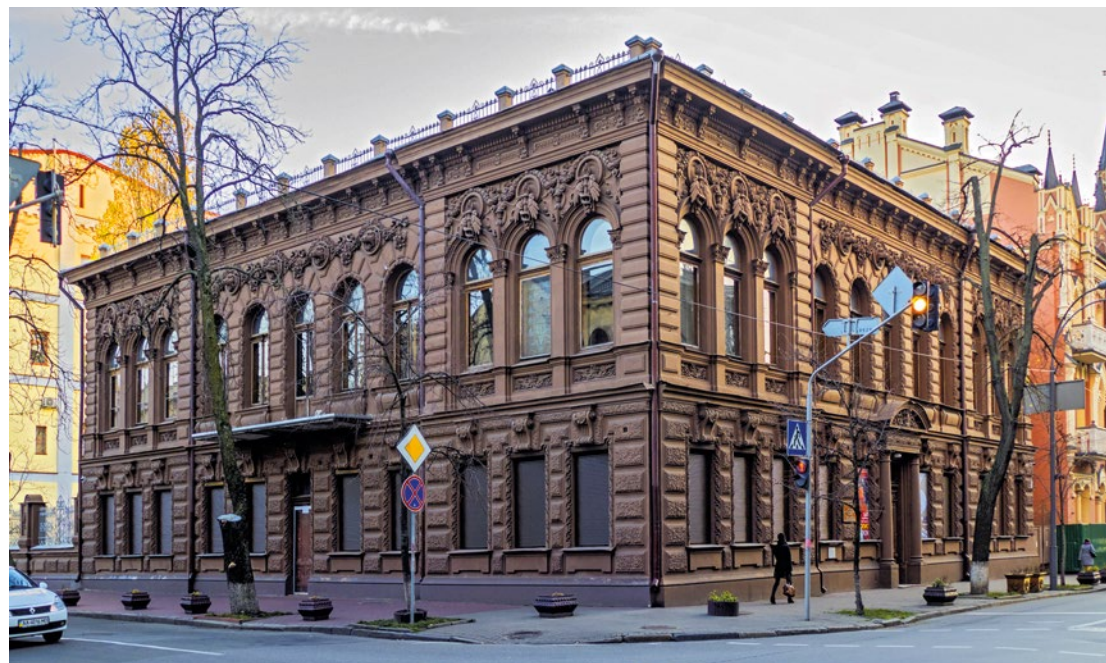
17 Shovkovychna St.

Khreshchatyk, Arsenalna 

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Most Kyivans remember the Chocolate House as the place where they or their friends made their vows. And the newlywed tradition is that to have a long and happy marriage, you must look into the mirror in the white (Renaissance) hall. Although marriage ceremonies are no longer held here, the mirror still has its mystical power of happiness. This house has been renovated and preserved virtually in its original form with its original furniture and other items returned. You can hire the house for parties, events, and literary or musical evenings. *V. U.*





26

The hotel where Jaroslav  
Hašek wrote his great book



## Leipzig Restaurant Building

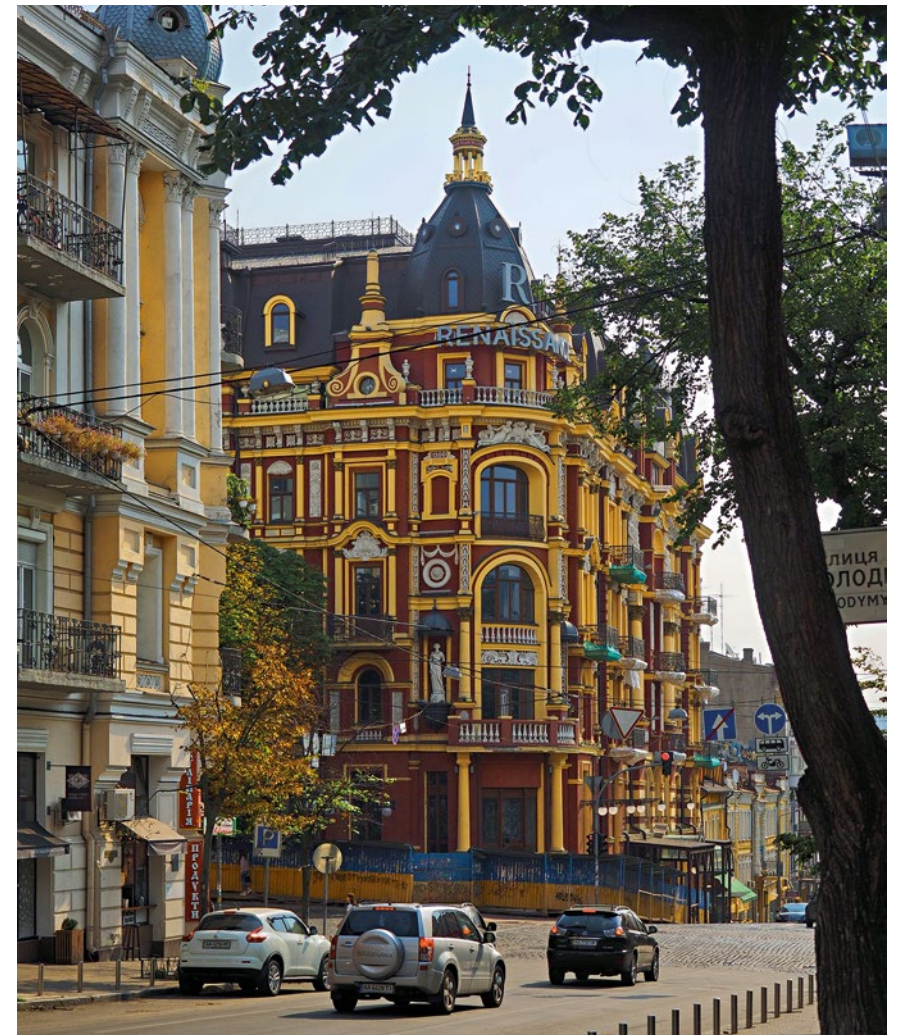
This original building dates back to 1901 and is a real ornament to the city. Its author, architect Karl Schiemann, fulfilled all of his customer's whims and created a vivid example of building in the so-called "Kyiv Renaissance" style. Back then it was the tallest building in Kyiv. With its very interesting turret it towered 42.5 meters above the rest of constructions and buildings, and literally hovered over the city. But we are talking about a residential house, not just about the belfry. After its consecration, this "skyscraper" housed the furnished rooms of a Palermo hotel type; and there were also shops and restaurants here. The building was mentioned in Mikhail Bulgakov's novel "The White Guard" for Marquis Cafe, best known for its excellent pastries, cakes, tarts and sweets. Soviet government made miserable adjustments to the house's life. The editors office of "For Soviet propaganda and agitation" magazine was housed in the former furnished rooms, and many other rooms were converted into various office premises. But it was here that the Czech writer Jaroslav Hašek, a former soldier of the Czechoslovak Legion, whom vicissitudes of the WWI and the Civil War brought to Kyiv in the twenties of the last century, was working on the first chapters of his great "Soldier Schweik" (Švejk).

50.44898  
30.514734



24/39 Volodymyrska St.  
Zoloti Vorota 

After WWII the cocktail lounges, the first-class restaurants – “Chaika” (“Seagull”) and Leipzig, were set up here. Although there was no turret anymore... Then the restaurants were shut down, and tenants of other premises had to move out. Since 1990, the once magnificent building had been deserted and destroyed. More recently it has been restored, but not to its original form though. There are plans to rebuild this house as a five-star hotel for 220 rooms. The building proves key in shaping the unforgettable architectural silhouette of the ancient city. Kyivans and guests of the capital city appreciate this building for its originality. A. A.





27

Abandoned "ghost mansion"




## The Baron's Castle

One of the main ornaments in old Kyiv is undoubtedly this building, which townsfolk call the Baron's Castle – although it has nothing to do with any Baron, alive or dead! Although one did live in a close-by neighboring estate – a winemaker and entrepreneur Maxim Steinheil – but he had no connection with the castle. This house was built towards the end of 19 century (1898) in a mixture of Gothic and Renaissance styles. It was commissioned by Mikhail Podgorsky, a land owner of Polish origin, who employed the talented architect and civil engineer Nikolai Dobachevsky. So, he built one of the most famous buildings in Kyiv – but his life and career was not a happy one. This is the only example of his work that survives today – it looks just like a castle from a fairytale. Originally, there were magnificent fireplaces with beautiful tiles, splendid stucco ceilings, and the entrance to the building spelt out the word "Salve" (Hello!) in the mosaic floor. Menacing gargoyles on its facade did not make the house less welcoming. Originally, there were three apartments arranged for guests (including the owner), as well as small rooms for servants. The first floor has at different times been a cozy cafe with its own top-quality pastries, and then a cinema. After 1917, the once luxurious apartments were turned

50.449161  
30.511879



1 Yaroslaviv val St.  
Zoloti Vorota 

INTERESTING KYIV • TOP120

into multi-room communal flats (with kitchen and toilet facilities shared by several families). And the first floor tenants were shown the door. As an historical, architectural monument, the house is now under state protection, but overall, it is in a sorry state. The spire-crowned turret and the two chimeras that "guard" the entrance are still here but as for its former luxury and opulence only traces remain. However the mosaic tile entrance still gives you a cheery "Salve" as you approach. A. A., V. U.





28

A house with striking  
architecture and  
a mysterious story




## Weeping Widow House

The story of this captivating house is very interesting. In 1905, merchant Sergei Arshavsky bought it from lieutenant Lev Gorbanevsky. Dismantling the old one-story wooden house, he chose a noted architect Eduard Bratman to design and build a very special house in the art-nouveau style. It was completed in 1907. To pay contractors, Arshavsky had to rent out the entire second floor. He and his family lived on the first floor. The merchant lived in style and his impressive house was noted for lavish parties. But his circumstances changed, and Arshavsky was forced to sell to his colleague, a top guild merchant Tevje Apshtein. This happened in 1913. However the facade is still marked with the monogram initials S.A. The building's main appealing feature and attention grabber is the sculpted head of a woman displayed on the upper part of the facade, which gives the house its name – when it rains, the water, pouring down the woman's cheeks, creates an illusion of a crying face. But why was she a widow? – that remains a mystery. After the events of 1917, the mansion became a home to many organizations. From 1918, it was occupied by the Federation of foreign groups, part of the Central Committee of the Republican Communist party (Bolsheviks) Others included a special department of the 12<sup>th</sup> army and a trade



50.443635  
30.527796



23 Luteranska St.  
Khreshchatyk 

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union of the South Western railway... From 1939, the Kyiv military command was headquartered here. After the liberation of Kyiv in 1943, the Central Committee of the Communist party of Ukraine moved into the part of the mansion that remained undamaged after fire and explosions. Currently, the building is the seat of the Presidential Administration, and it is one of his official residences. The Arshavsky mansion is a true architectural masterpiece. It is notable for its elegant interiors, but only the government elite get to see them. A. A.





29

Most famous "castle" in Kyiv




## The Richard Castle

One of Andrew's Descent main attractions is the building that Kyiv writer Viktor Nekrasov once romantically called the "Castle of Richard the Lionheart", the hero of the famous novel by Sir Walter Scott. This English Gothic building became another of Kyiv's architectural ornaments in 1904 – its creator, architect Andrey Krauss. The commissioner of this huge dwelling was Dmitry Orlov. It contained all the latest modern conveniences of those times. From the castle, there are breathtaking views of Podil, Pechersk, Upper City and Zadneprovie. Originally, there were a number of coach shelters, stables and other utility premises in the courtyard. The owner died tragically in 1911 (he was shot), and soon after the building with the adjacent land was acquired by a new owner. However, it was rumoured that Mr. Orlov had not left at all, and that his tormented ghost still haunted the castle. Because of this, the luxury apartments were never fully occupied. However, the Soviet government had no fear of ghosts. They nationalized the building and converted it into communal apartments for workers. Today, the castle once again provides a home for wealthier Kyiv residents and part of it will soon become a hotel. For those who do not believe in ghosts! A. A.



50.459941  
30.515864



15 Andrew's Descent  
Poshtova Ploshcha, Kontraktova Ploshcha 

INTERESTING KYIV • TOP120





30

The most mystical house  
in the city and the museum  
dedicated to the great writer




## Bulgakov House

In this fantastical house, as Mikhail A. Bulgakov himself described it, the Bulgakov family lived for 13 years (from 1906 to 1919). It was built according to the plan of a talented architect Nikolai Gordenin for the family of merchant Litoshenko. Then the building passed into the ownership of another merchant and honorary citizen of Kyiv, Z. Mirovich. The Bulgakov family rented the second floor and paid 720 rubles a year for the privilege. In 1909, the house again changed hands and passed into the possession of architect Vasili Listovnichy. He and his family lived on the first floor. In 1919, the Bolshevik government arrested the owner and shot him when he tried to escape. The same year the building was nationalized, and the Bulgakovs themselves had to promptly vacate their rooms. This house is renowned throughout the world not only as a place where the future great writer lived, but as the house the characters from his immortal novel "The White Guard" and his play "The Days of the Turbins" lived. These works are about the fifty-one days spent by the Turbin family in Kyiv during the civil war. Mikhail Bulgakov changed the name of the street: the present St. Andrew's Descent is called Alekseevsky Descent, but the No. 13 he describes corresponds to the current real address. Open since 1989, the Lit-



50.460755  
30.514661

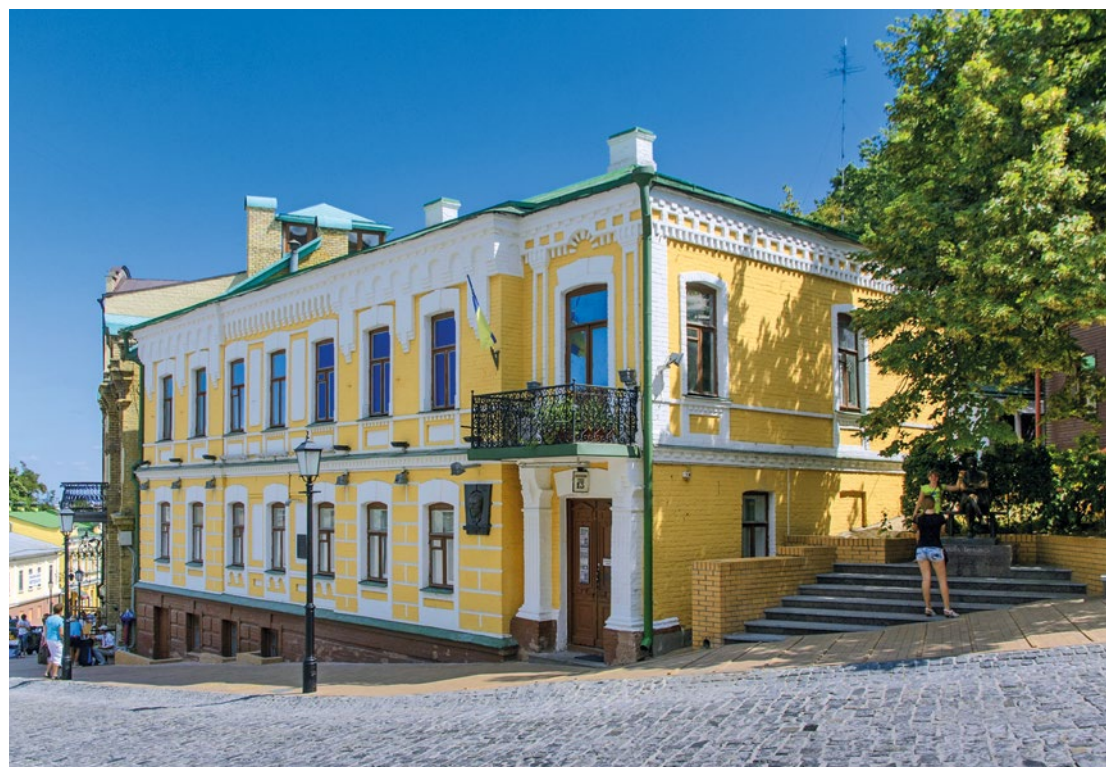


13 Andrew's Descent  
Poshtova Ploshcha, Kontraktova Ploshcha 

INTERESTING KYIV • TOP120



erary-Memorial Museum to Mikhail Bulgakov contains an exhibition of nearly 3,000 items, 500 of which once belonged to the Bulgakov family. Over the years the museum has received many thousands of visitors. A. A.





31

The National Technical  
University of Ukraine "Igor  
Sikorsky Kyiv Polytechnic  
Institute" (NTUU "KPI")



KPI

The Kyiv of the late 19<sup>th</sup> – early 20<sup>th</sup> century was a unique city. The rapid growth of industry and trade and huge donations from Kyiv millionaires turned the city into a modern and prosperous place worthy of its centuries-old history. Of course, many outstanding buildings were constructed. Among them is the Kyiv Polytechnic Institute, founded on August 31, 1898 as Kyiv Polytechnic Institute of Emperor Alexander II, although its buildings (architect Kitner) were not actually completed until 1902. Between times, the institute was housed in the leased building of the Commercial School on Vorovskogo Street. Construction cost a fortune: 3,150,000 rubles. In addition to the three educational buildings, there was a canteen and four large residential buildings for the director, teachers and other employees. At the time this was the equivalent of \$12-m. There were four departments: Mechanical, Chemical, Agricultural, and Civil Engineering. Distinguished scholars worked at the KPI, and many of their discoveries are still in practical use around the world. In 1905-1906, the aeronautical department appeared within the KPI mechanical club, which made Kyiv one of the Empire's aviation centers. In September 1908, the section was expanded with airplanes, helicopters, and engines as separate departments. KPI professor


Nikolay Delone was a passionate proponent of aviation and gliding, and he basically founded the Kyiv aeronautic community. The abilities of students and graduates of Kyiv aeronautics promoted KPI's worldwide reputation. It is enough to mention just two names. Igor Sikorsky, the inventor of the helicopter, whose name the institute proudly bears today. And Sergey Korolev, the founder of practical cosmonautics and rocket and space technology. In 1998, the Technical Museum opened at the Institute. It contains more than 10,000 displays from the various fields of science and technology – instrument engineering, radio engineering, radio electronics, telecommunications, precision engineering, aviation and astronautics, and much more besides. Additionally there are unique documents, photographs, letters, and the personal belongings of outstanding scientists of the Institute. Next to the museum is the pathway of monuments to and statues of outstanding scholars, such as the pioneer of computer technology Sergey Lebedev, the pioneer of space exploration Sergey Korolev, the founder of Electric Welding Institute Evgeny Paton, and many others. *V. U.*



50.449446  
30.460602



37 Peremohy Ave

Politekhnichnyi Instytut 



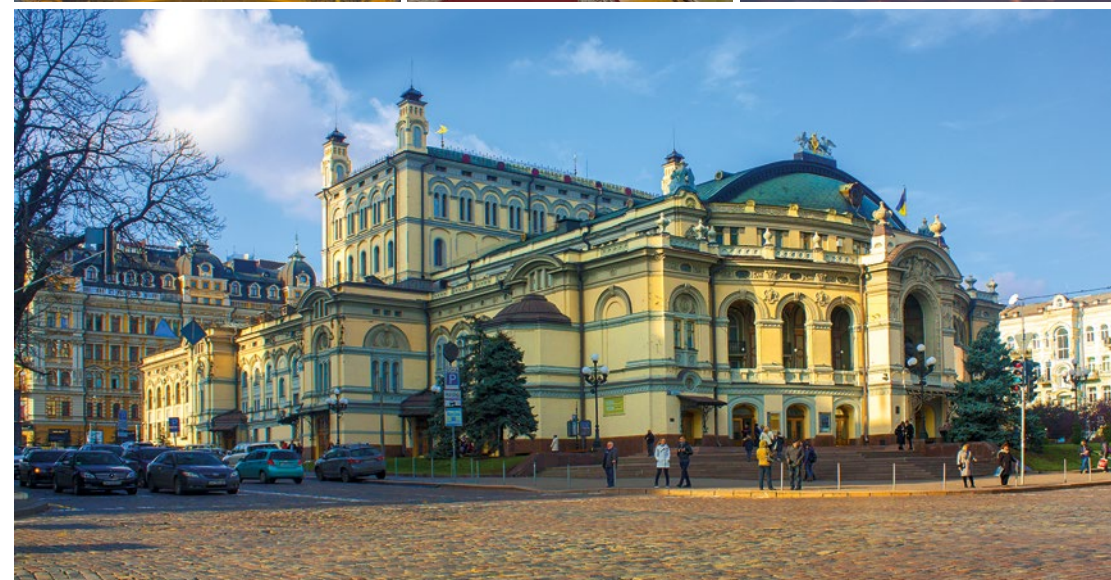
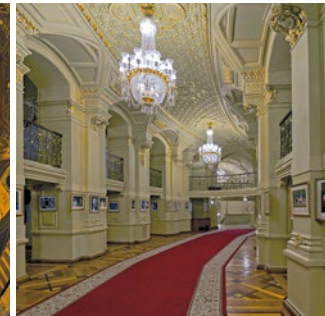
32

National opera  
stage of Ukraine

# Opera House

The Kyiv Opera group was formally established in the summer of 1867 by Ferdinand Berger who invited many talented singers, musicians, and conductors. So the city council offered the troupe the use of the City Theater for their performances. The day of the first performance, November 8, 1867 was made a city holiday. The performance of the opera “Askold’s Tomb” by Alexey Verstovsky was the troupe’s debut. That day saw wonderful opera singers and great dramatic actors, including Sarah Bernhardt and Eleonor Duse. But in 1896, on the last day of the season, the theater burned down, along with one of the largest musical libraries in Europe, along with many stage props and costumes. After the fire, the City Council announced an international competition to design a new building for the Opera House. Victor Schröter made the winning proposal. The exterior was in Neo-Renaissance style and the interior was designed in a classical style and called Viennese Modern. However, its greatest achievement was the stage, one of the largest in Europe. In addition, specially shaped pottery was concealed in the walls to create perfect acoustics. It is also said that reeds were buried in the plaster to further improve the hall’s sound qualities. The Opera House could seat 1650 spectators in the stalls, the tiered stalls, the dress circle and four upper

circles. The main entrance was first adorned with the city coat of arms depicting Archangel Michael, the patron saint of Kyiv. But then, some local religious people protested that this was blasphemy, so it was replaced with an allegorical composition: mythical griffins holding lyres. The ceremonial opening took place in September 1901 with a performance of “Cantata Kyiv”. The building has seen murder within its walls. A most famous event that shook the nation occurred on September 14, 1911, when the young activist Dmitry Bogrov assassinated the reform prime minister Pyotr Stolypin. After the revolution, the Opera House was nationalized but never changed its original purpose. In 1988, it was thoroughly reconstructed. The area was expanded; the orchestra pit re-equipped; the old organ replaced; the house extended upwards and the entrance surmounted with a bust of Taras Shevchenko. *V. U.*

50.446559  
30.513028

50 Volodymyrska St.

Teatralna  Zoloti Vorota 



33

One of the oldest national  
academic theaters in Ukraine



# The Franko Theater

Ivan Franko Square is the home of the Drama Theater building and a small public garden with a fountain. The theatre, neo-Greek in style, was designed by architects Edward Ferdinand Bradtman and George Shleifer and opened to the public in 1898. It was known as Solovtsov's Theater. The intimate 1,200-seat hall was decorated in rococo and baroque styles. Another eminent architect, Vladislav Gorodetsky, contributed to the interior design work. In 1919, the theater and its building were nationalized by the state and the institution became known as the Lenin Second State Theatre of the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic. In 1920-1924, a drama studio was added and run by V. Sladkopevtsev. In due course, it was replaced by the Berezil Theater directed by Les' Kurbas. In 1926, the acting troupe of Ivan Franko made this theater their home and they have stayed ever since. During the Nazi occupation of 1941-1943, the building was badly damaged and but then rebuilt in 1946. In 1960, the building largely survived the spate of capital reconstruction but lost many of its original decorative elements. At this time, the third floor was added, the entrance hall widened, and the facade and interiors rearranged. Today's the theater's full name is the Ivan Franko National Academic Drama Theatre.



50.445823  
30.527736



3 I. Franko Square  
Khreshchatyk 

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The square in front of the theater features two touching monuments to outstanding Ukrainian actors Gnat Yura and Nikolai Yakovchenko. Yura is depicted as brave soldier Svejk and Yakovchenko as an old man wearing a beret sitting on a bench with his beloved dog Fan Fang, just as he liked to do during his life. V. U.





34

The country's  
premier circus



## Circus

The Kyiv circus building on Peremohy (Victory) Square opened its doors on 5 November 1960. The architect Vladimir Zhukov created the largest domed building in Kyiv. The audience capacity of the circus is 2,000 people, but tickets are often sold out weeks and even months ahead of a performance. The circus building keys nicely with the neighboring architecture – the Lybid' Hotel and the Ukraine department store. The look of today's square was established after World War II. Before the circus, stood the farmstead of St. John Chrysostom's Church, with a busy merchandise and food market nearby, also known among folks as the Yevbaz (Jewish bazaar). This lowland area frequently suffered from flooding of the Lybid' river, which is hidden under the square, and Skomorokh creek that also runs close by. It took a lot of skilled work from various professions to prevent these recurring disasters for good. But then it became possible to build permanent structures on pilings. The monument to the "Hero City" Kyiv (after WWII many cities were designated "Hero Cities") can also be counted as part of the square, as well as the symmetrical rows of poplar alley that connect it to Taras Shevchenko Boulevard and Peremohy Avenue. Peremohy Square is always crowded for shopping, business and the busy hotel. A. A., V. U.



50.447349  
30.492287



2 Peremohy Square  
Vokzalna 





35

A fairy-tale spot in  
Khreshchatyi Park



# The Puppet Theater

The medieval castle with tall spires arose in Khreshchaty Park only dates that back to 2005. Architect Vladimir Yudin added many fairy-tale characters, popular with kids because this is the home of the Kyiv Academic Puppet Theatre. The surrounding area continues the same fairy-tale theme. Here also, the oldest water tower in Kyiv (1876) houses the Water museum and Water information center (2003). The walls of the Puppet Theater are decorated with a peacock mosaic which has survived the removal of the old Dnipro cinema which used to be here. Luxuriant flowerbeds, spiral staircases, the Thumbelina fountain, and bronze figures of characters from Alexey Tolstoy's wonderful tale are all part of the childhood charm. The puppet castle has two audience halls designed for 300 and 110 spectators and when entering this land of fairytales, kids can see and even handle the antique puppets. There is a comfortable cafe also popular with the children. Suitably refreshed, then take a wander among the spectacular butterflies and fairy dragons, and heroes of popular cartoons. Kyiv families and guests love to stroll through Khreshchatyi Park. From here, you also have views of the Dnieper River and the entire Left bank area. A. A.



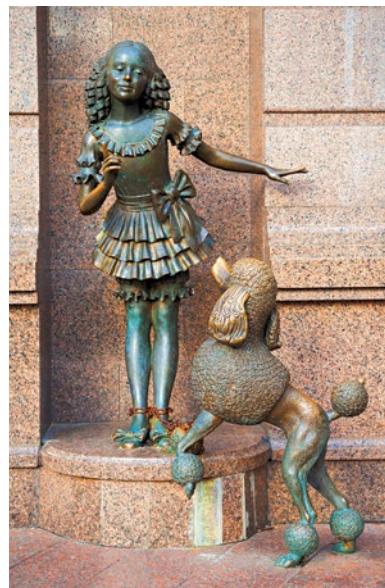
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30.53057861



1-A M. Hrushevskya St.  
Maidan Nezalezhnosti



INTERESTING KYIV • TOP120





36

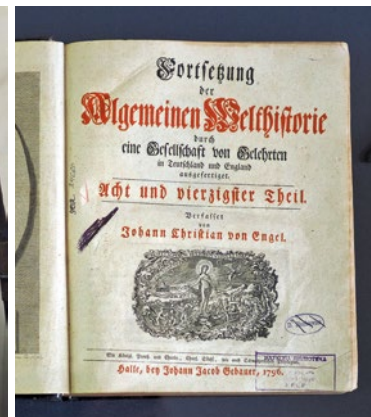
The entire history  
of Ukraine – from ancient  
times to the present day –  
in a single place



# Historical Museum

The National Museum of the History of Ukraine dominates Andrew's Descent. It faces the ever popular St. Andrew's Church. As its name suggests, the museum is dedicated to showing and explaining the development of Ukrainian society. Its vast and varied displays comprising 15 different exhibitions, trace the major milestones in the development of Ukrainian society and state. Artifacts from Stone Age camps, the weapons and armor of Polovtsians, household items and ornaments of the famous Trypillian culture, many exhibits from the times of Kyivan Rus (9-13<sup>th</sup> century), the Cossacks (14-17<sup>th</sup> century), the Ukrainian National Republic (1917-1920) – flags, fabrics, portraits, and everyday objects, etc. Perhaps the most spectacular exhibit of the museum is the light carriage (coupe) which Empress Elizabeth Petrovna used for her travels. The Empress donated it to Kyiv Metropolit Rafail Zaborovskiy during her stay in Kyiv in 1744. The carriage is well-preserved and visitors can behold its beauty and be amazed by the sumptuous luxury that surrounded Elizabeth wherever she went. There is also the largest collection of coins in Ukraine – over 120,000 items – fully representative of the different states and different historical periods. The pride of the Historical Museum is a holographic exhibition of 30 paintings and sculptures.

Of these, the most important and memorable is the famous Scythian bust from 4<sup>th</sup> century BC, which captures the eye with its heroic gaze. Do take your time and walk around this museum! Outside, on the observation deck there is the famous stone with inscription in Old Church Slavonic: "From whence started the Russian land..." (The Tale of Bygone Years). At the entrance to National History Museum of Ukraine you see the six famous ancient statues of women, the Scythian stone sculptures of gods and warriors: three from the Scythian epoch (6<sup>th</sup> century BC) and three — Polovtsian (12-13<sup>th</sup> centuries). They say that it is better not to get too interested or familiar with them as legend says they are sacred and untouchable! Once they stood in the steppes of Eastern and Southern Ukraine. Also, in the meadow in front of the museum you can find the ruins of the Prince's houses and the shrine of Perun (a Slavonic pagan God). L. S.



50.45832299  
30.51610085



2 Volodymyrska St.

Zoloti Vorota  Poshtova Ploshcha 



37

Ancient temple in the heart  
of Ukrainian capital



## The Art Museum

Originally, the Moscow architect Pyotr Boytsov was commissioned to design the Museum of Antiquities and Arts but he declined to complete the job, so the famous Kyiv architect Vladislav Gorodetsky was invited to take over. Taking Boytsov's drawings as the basis, Gorodetsky introduced a few simple changes which radically changed the concept. He turned the building 90 degrees along the street and included a staircase. The lawns on both sides and the Mariinsky Park trees give the impression of unspoiled nature. Gorodetsky, an avid hunter and traveler, decorated the museum with sculptures of real and mythical animals. His stone lions are strikingly different from the standard "palace lions". These usually lie in solemn poses or sit with their paws on a shield, ball or other object. In contrast, the huge lions with flying manes of the Art Museum are full of life and impress visitors with their energy and vitality. The front of the museum is decorated with a statue of Apollo. Below it, a bas-relief "Triumph of the Arts"; and below that, medals with square corners showing the battles of Greek heroes with centaurs. Majestic griffins "guard" the museum roof. All sculptures were made of cement by the Italian sculptor Elia Sala. Construction of the museum was completed in 1899 but the opening ceremony was delayed until 1904. Before the revo-

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lution, the growth of exhibits was funded by private patrons of the arts. Currently, the collection presents a compact history of Ukrainian art, starting with some great altar pieces in the Byzantine style, some Mannerist religious sculptures in wood, classic portraits of Ukrainian nobles (including the national hero Bohdan Khmelnytsky), some beautiful pastoral scenes from peasant life, and then urban life from around 1900. Then more experimental work – socialist realism from the 1930s followed by a return to formal painting in the 1970s. But there are many other things to see too. The gem of the icon collection is the 12<sup>th</sup> century polychromic wooden relief called "St. George with scenes from his life". In the evening, the museum is illuminated with blue lighting that gives it a magical appearance. *V. U.*



50.449582  
30.530475



6 Hrushevskogo St.

Maidan Nezalezhnosti





38

A museum where  
the past comes to life



# Natural History Museum

The National Museum of Natural History at National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine – Wow! what a long, stern and official name – hides a place where ancient nature comes to life. It is quite easy to find in the very heart of Kyiv, on Bohdan Khmelnytskyi Street, in a beautiful antique mansion spotted by its sky-blue color. In fact, Museum of Natural History is not one museum but five: Geological, Paleontological, Zoological, Botanical and Archaeological. There are more than 30,000 exhibits in 24 halls covering an area of 8,000 m<sup>2</sup>. They reveal the origin, structure and geological evolution of the Earth; its plant and animal life; the history and culture of the tribes and peoples that lived in the ancient territory of Ukraine. The four rooms of the Archaeological Museum, is located on the ground floor. This museum boasts a collection of 7,000 exhibits (the oldest of them dating back at least 800,000 years) and some surviving relics of human activities from the Paleolithic site of Korolevo in Transcarpathia. Also, visitors can see unique artifacts from the famous ancient cultures of our country: Trypillian, Scythian, Cimmerian and Sarmatian. The 1<sup>st</sup> floor belongs to the Geological Museum whose collection of exhibits began in 1927. Here you can see amazing rocks and sparkling minerals of all shapes and sizes,

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fossil remains and fossil imprints of ancient plants. The 2<sup>nd</sup> floor is occupied by the Museum of Paleontology – a collection first begun in 1919. There are over one million separate items in the collection but there is only room to display just over 2,000 of them. The impressive reconstructed skeletons of fossil mammoths and other ancient animals makes this annex well worth a visit. The Zoological Museum located on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor was also established in 1919. There are only two halls – mammals and birds – but they are really worth seeing! Visitors can view 5,000 exhibits belonging to 4,000 species. The Botanical Museum located on the 4<sup>th</sup> floor was inaugurated in 1921. There are five halls with many exhibits. The plants look completely alive, as if brought from their natural habitats just yesterday. This is a “trademark” of the museum: a unique method of drying and preservation developed by the staff which maintains their natural beauty. In summary, tens of thousands of different, interesting things to see here. Many, many fossils including entire skeletons of many extinct species, mineral samples, mammals, aquatic life, early humans, and modern taxidermy of many species. A wide ranging selection of exhibits from many categories representing nature in the round. *L. S.*



50.445574  
30.514281



15 Bohdana Khmelnytskoho St.

Teatralna 



39

Best collection of Eastern  
and Western art in Ukraine



## Khanenko Museum

The beautiful, elegant mansion on Tereshchenkivska Street (No. 15) was built in Kyiv in 1881-1882 under the supervision of the world-famous court architect Robert Friedrich Melzer from St. Petersburg. At the request of the man commissioning this building, Bogdan Khanenko, many well known painters, such as Mikhail Vrubel and Wilhelm Kotarbinsky, were involved in the interior decoration, as well as Melzer. The building seamlessly blends with the other handsome buildings in this scenic part of the city; It is original yet practical in all respects. The former homeowners, Melzer's lawyer Bogdan Khanenko and his wife Varvara, over the years gathered a collection of art and antiques from the East and the West. They began collecting in St. Petersburg, and continued in Warsaw, where Bogdan Khanenko worked as a magistrate. Other antiques were purchased in antique shops and at auctions in Rome, Madrid, Berlin, Vienna and other European capitals. In 1881, the family settled in Kyiv, amidst their rich collection. Among various prestigious positions held by Bogdan Khanenko were: Chairman of the board of the Tereshchenko brothers sugar beet mills and refineries; a member of the Kyiv stock company, The chairman of Kyiv trade and manufactures committee, a member of the council of

INTERESTING KYIV • TOP120

trade and industry representatives in St. Petersburg, a member of council for Russian industry and commerce bank; a Board member of the Russian society of sugar, a Board member of Southern Russian society for the promotion of agriculture and agricultural industries, The chairman of the society for commercial education, a member of the Red Cross general directorate and the chairman of Kyiv society of antiquities and arts. Quite a career! In December 1918, Varvara Khanenko, now widowed, decided to pass the collection over to the Ukrainian Academy of Sciences to keep it intact. When Ukraine gained its independence in 1991, the history of the collection was resurrected and the Khanenko family given the credit they deserved. Today, this unique collection embellished with many new additions, justly bears the names of its founders. A. A.



50.441199  
30.514314



15 Tereshchenkivska St.

Teatralna  Ploshcha Lva Tolstoho 



40

First Kyiv pharmacy is now  
a unique museum



## The Pharmacy-museum

In 1730, the German-born pharmacist Johann Heiter became Kyiv's first private apothecary. Later, Heiter's son-in-law Georg Bunge inherited the business and founded a pharmaceutical dynasty. This chemist became very popular among the city's residents. By 1750 it could boast the largest assortments of drugs in the city – about a thousand different types. All drugs that were sold here (ointments, pills, mixtures, balms, smelling salts, soaps, etc.) were made in the pharmacy's laboratory only from natural ingredients from the famous Apothecary garden laid out on the slopes of St. Andrew's Church. Contemporaries often compared Bunge's pharmacy to Kunstkamera (a place where the deformed bodies of infants were preserved) as so many unique books, tools for preparation, and other pieces of equipment were collected by its owner. In 1839, the pharmacy closed and the building changed hands many times until enthusiasts opened the unique Pharmacy-museum in 1986. Its interior fully recreates an apothecary typical of the 18<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> century, and its collection has over 3,000 exhibits. They are displayed in 12 exhibition halls, each of which has its own theme. The hundred year old cash register that you see on the ground floor is a special attraction. In its day, it helped not only register drug sales,

but also kept information records of patients and the money they owed. There is also a prescription book from 1834, which records the names of medicines, prescriptions and prices. The pestles and mortars and mills that ground the raw materials, nutcrackers, an ancient pill making machine, as well as antique furniture and ancient medicines are exhibited in other halls. There are several installations in the basement: The hut of a healer, the cell of a monk-herbalist, and the laboratory of an alchemist. It is interesting to look at the collection of old pharmaceutical packaging, boxes of powder, tooth powder, creams, bottles of perfumes and aromatic oils, lip balms, bottles of ink – everything that could only be bought from a pharmacist in those times. The museum offers guided tours, so you can listen to the fascinating stories and immerse yourself in a time gone by. Also, you can have a cup of tea made from Bunge's recipe, or buy ointments, balms, and soaps made from natural ingredients by the original 19<sup>th</sup> century's technology. And if you do visit the Pharmacy-museum, don't miss the Florovsky Monastery located right next door. V. U.



50.464117  
30.514152



7 Prytysko-Mykilska St.

Kontraktova Ploshcha 



41

Arsenal of Arts.  
Culture as a weapon



# Mystetskyi Arsenal

Between Kyiv Pechersk Lavra and Eternal Glory Park, close to Arsenalna metro station, you will find the Cultural-Art Museum complex “Mystetskyi Arsenal”. It is an architectural monument of national importance, which proves that beauty is a most powerful weapon. The size of the Arsenal complex allows it to hold extremely large-scale events. But let’s go back in time. Before Arsenal, in the 17<sup>th</sup> century, stood the Ascension Nunnery headed by hegumeness Mary-Magdalene Mazepina, mother of the famous Ukrainian Hetman Ivan Mazepa. With funds from Ivan, the Ascension Church and Holy Virgin Protection Church were built. And in August 1706, at the order of Russian Tsar Peter I, the Kyiv-Pechersk Citadel was also founded here. The Arsenal building in its current form was the project of Lieutenant-General Ivan (Johann) Meller between 1783-1801. Designed as a fortress, it is believed that he designed the arsenal with the potential for conversion to civilian use “This building will some day be for people, not just for the military”. But from the early 19<sup>th</sup> century into the late 20<sup>th</sup> century, the arsenal was used for its original purpose – as military warehouses and weapon repair facility. But finally in 2006, Viktor Yushchenko, the President of Ukraine, initiated a project for creating

a new generation museum with modern technical infrastructure to meet the requirements of a dynamic exhibition center and to simultaneously perform a broad educational function. The area of the Mystetskyi Arsenal Building is about 60,000 m<sup>2</sup>, but it is partly (12,000 to 24,000 m<sup>2</sup>) still in a state of conversion. From 2010, Mystetskyi Arsenal, showcases many events including the Arsenal International Festival of Books which attracts dozens of Ukrainian and foreign publishing houses, as well as writers, artists and illustrators. While walking over the Pechersk hills, enjoying the panoramic view of Kyiv do not miss the chance to visit Mystetskyi Arsenal. It is one of the best places for art events in Kyiv. Today Mystetskyi Arsenal is constantly active, because the Old Arsenal building in June 2010 was a brilliant conversion from the old into the new. Flexible and comfortable for dozens of different kinds of exhibition and events for organizers and audiences alike. *L. S.*



50.435109  
30.554010



10-12 Lavrska St.  
Arsenalna 



42

The largest contemporary  
art center in Ukraine



# PinchukArtCentre

PinchukArtCentre is one of the largest centers of contemporary art in Central and Eastern Europe, and was founded in 2006 by Ukrainian entrepreneur and philanthropist Viktor Pinchuk. Currently PinchukArtCentre occupies six floors with a total exhibition space of more than 3,000 square meters. The exhibition halls are located on four of them. There is also a library, a education room, bookstore, video lounge and cafe. The center is situated in the historic district of the Bessarabian quarter. In the early 2000s, this was restored, and both the architectural and interior designs for the center were developed by French architect Philippe Kyambaretta. Open to the public daily from 12:00 to 21:00, admission is free. To date, the Center has already received three million visitors. This forward-looking project is still dynamically developing and constantly expanding the sphere of its activity. Thus, awards for young artists under the age of 35 have been introduced. The Future Generation Art Prize and the Pinchuk-ArtCentre Prize, with a large cash reward, provides for an internship for the winner in the workshop of world famous artists. Since 2011, the Curatorial Platform educational program has been up and running, providing curators with professional, international training. In 2016, a pioneering



50.441803  
30.521145



1-3/2 Velyka Vasylkivska St.  
Teatralna Ploshcha Lva Tolstoho   
Palats Sportu

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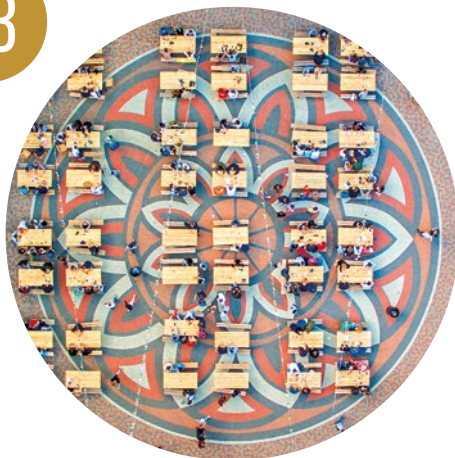
research project was launched, with the goal of creating a living archive of contemporary Ukrainian art, beginning in the 1980s. The center constantly hosts exhibitions, lectures and public discussions. *V. U.*





43

"Platform Art-Factory":  
a place of Art and  
Entrepreneurship



## Art-Zavod Platforma

Even the most unsightly places can be rescued and turned into a multifunctional and entertaining venue for recreation, creativity and development. Which is what happened to Darnytskyi silk factory. In 2001 one of its buildings was turned into Darynok market, and 13 years later the team of associates got around to the other derelicts and started their reconstruction. They removed debris and renovated these abandoned wrecks, replacing windows and tiling a central area, re-turfed the grounds and laid down a convenient parking lot. So this abandoned factory near Lisova metro station became the first Kyiv factory of art with a total area of 120,000 m<sup>2</sup>. In autumn 2014, the Platform whose fame was growing, was the venue for Kyiv's first street food festival. This was rapidly followed by a host of other events... concerts, handicrafts and flea markets, different shows and entertainment, participation and master classes, the show-rooms of young designers, a permanent food court, lectures and dozens of different festivals. There are coffee shops, playgrounds, galleries, parks etc. The area is constantly growing and improving. But Platform's philosophy remains the same. Our world is constantly changing, therefore, for the sake of success and bringing innovations to life, business should embrace creativity. The project team work on constantly im-

proving this vibrant "city in the city" in order to make it as convenient and inspiring as possible.

The street food festival and the monthly Kurazh Bazar flea market are the most well-known and popular events. In just a couple of years the street food festival grew from a small party where you could try unusual dishes to a huge event for thousands of visitors with a lot of entertainment where you can spend the whole day. Kurazh Bazar flea market has become a charity zone, where funds are raised for various needy causes, and all proceeds from sales go to such destinations. The organizers support disabled people and arrange for special buses for them to get here. Entrance to events is always free. In 2018 Kurazh Bazar moved to the Expocenter of Ukraine (VDNG, or Exhibition) having outgrown its original venue. *L. S.*



50.459431  
30.641963



1 Bilomorska St.

Lisova 



44

This is an architectural monument of Soviet times, which became the best leisure and recreation area in Kyiv



## VDNG

VDNG stands for National Economy Achievement Exhibition, or simply Exhibition, and it is known not only to residents of Holosiivskyi district where it resides, but virtually everyone in the city. Now it is the favorite vacation spot for many townspeople who like to return to nature or engage in recreational sports. It is very easy to get there – the central entrance is located near Vystavkovyy Tsentr metro station. The Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of the USSR of 1949 assigned the foundation of the VDNH under the name of Republican Agricultural Exhibition. Construction of a huge complex began in 1952 on the site of a small suburban village called Krasny traktir (Red tavern) and lasted six years. The ceremonial opening of the Exhibition of the Latest Economic Achievements of Ukrainian SSR (Soviet Socialist Republic) took place in 1958. Throughout its existence the Exhibition has repeatedly changed its name: The Exhibition of Achievements of National Economy, the Center of Exhibitions and Fairs of Ukraine, the National Exhibition Center of Ukraine and finally the National Complex Expo-center of Ukraine. By that name it is known up to the present. There are a great many pavilions in the Exhibition area, from the tiny to the enormous. The first pavilions were: Central, Machine-building and instrument making,

Coalmining, oil and gas and metals industry, Power and electrification, Construction and building materials industry, Plastic and polymer materials, Agriculture, Grain and oil crops, Industrial crops, Animal husbandry, Vegetable growing, horticulture and viticulture, as well as pavilions of full-scale display of animal husbandry. Later there appeared: Coal industry with a model producing mine, Periodic exhibitions, Mechanization and electrification in farming, Consumer goods, Marine wealth, Public education and Visual advocacy. Unfortunately, this impressive place had long been out of commercial use and fallen into disrepair – but a change of management in 2015 brought revitalisation. It was decided to transform the Exhibition into a recreation center. Now there is a pet zoo, a year-round ice rink, climbing, rope and swing parks, amusement arcades, outdoor recreation facilities, a swimming pool, and cycle paths. The complex hosts music festivals and various events and well-known TV shows and serials are shot here. Those who want a quiet life can walk along the shady parkways, listen to the twitter of birds and even look for mushrooms. But nobody forgets the VDNH's major feature: Twice a year it puts on large agricultural exhibitions where everyone can buy products directly from the producers and farmers can buy animals and farm machinery. The VDNH is also worth visiting for its fantastic-looking central ensemble of pavilions. *V. U.*



50.377872  
30.479548



1 Akademika Hlushkova Avenue  
Vystavkovyy Tsentr 



45

An impressive  
collection of aircraft



# State Aviation Museum

Oleg Antonov State Aviation Museum, or Aviation Museum, is the largest museum displaying the country's technical history. The museum is located on the former Training Air Base of KIIGA (now National Aviation University, NAU), and the aircraft then assigned to the base became the core of the collection. It is close to Igor Sikorsky Kyiv International Airport (formerly Zhulyany Airport) at Medova St, 1. You can get there from Demiivska metro station by taxi-bus No. 220. The museum opened its door to the public on 30 September 2003, marking an important date – the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of world aviation and the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of national aviation in Ukraine. Today, it is the place where you can meet future pilots and technicians examining and studying the flying machines. In the beginning there were only 30 exhibits on a 20-ha area, but now they are almost 70. Helicopters, missile carriers, fighters, trainers and passenger aircraft. There are also weapons here – various missile and bomb launchers for aircraft and helicopters. Pilotless aerial vehicles (PAV) for operational and tactical intelligence and launcher units are also in the collection. The Museum plans an expansion for at least another 10 exhibits. You may touch and examine, climb into the pilot's seat, listen to factual recordings, and finally buy a special souvenir in the shop. *L. S.*



50.407294  
30.459406



1 Medova St.

Demiivska 

INTERESTING KYIV • TOP120





46

A two-stored blue and white  
royal palace and the most  
famous park of Kyiv



## The Mariiński Park

This colourful Kyiv palace on the right bank of the Dnieper is next to the Ukrainian Parliament building. It was built by order of Empress Elizabeth Petrovna in 1744. This baroque structure was designed by Bartolomeo Rastrelli, the most famous architect in Russia, in the Elizabethan era. It is symbolic that it was painted in the colours of the Ukrainian flag but no one in those days made a big deal of it. One of the students of Rastrelli, Ivan Michurin with a group of other architects, completed the project in 1752. However, Elizabeth herself never found the time to visit. The first Royal person to do so was Catherine II, who visited Kyiv during her trip to the south in 1787. Her beloved Prince Potemkin tried to persuade her to move the capital of the empire to Kyiv but he failed to do so. At the turn of the 18<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> centuries the palace with its stone ground floor and wooden first floor was the residence of governor-generals of Kyiv province. After a series of unfortunate fires the palace was a wreck. Only in 1870 did the Emperor Alexander II order it to be restored to its original design. The renovated palace, now completely built in stone took its name from Alexander's wife, the Empress Maria, and ever since has been known as the Mariiński Palace. By order of the Empress in 1874 and under the control of scientist and gardener Anton Nedzel-



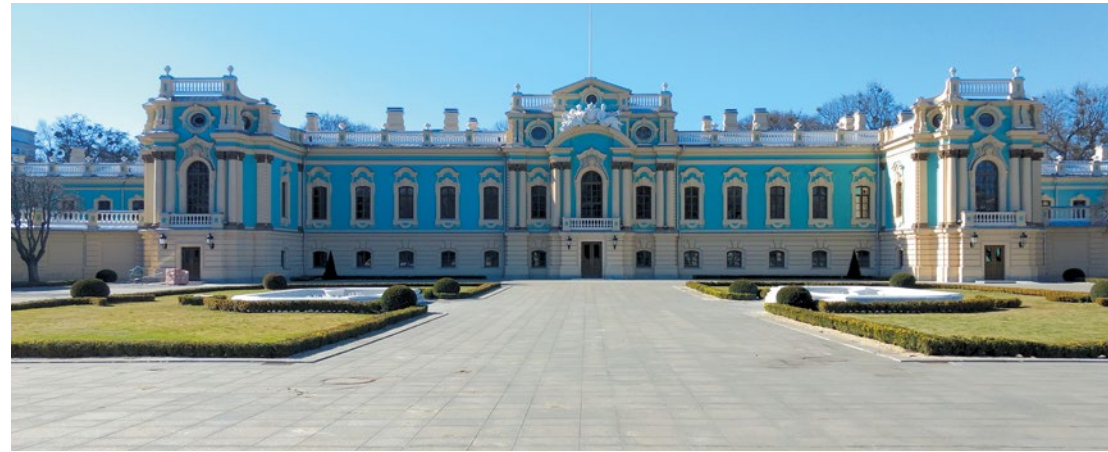
50.447705  
30.535867



5 M. Hrushevskiy St.

Khreshchatyk, Arsenalna 

INTERESTING KYIV • TOP120



skyi, a park was laid out on the Dnieper hills opposite. It was in the English landscape style, which can be described as “well manicured nature”. The park was renamed often: Tsarist, Mariiński, Victims of the Revolution, Proletarian and Soviet, but the native Kyivans only ever called it the Mariiński. The park is famous for its shady paths and a variety of tree species – not only traditional maples, lindens, chestnuts, oaks, acacia, but also ginkgo, Japanese sophora, Ayilant, Amur velvet and many other rare species. Early in the 20<sup>th</sup> century, a magnificent lilac garden was planted. In addition to lush flowerbeds and marble sculptures, the park was decorated with Termen fountains (architect Alexander Schiele), very popular in Kyiv. After the revolution, the park changed drastically and in 1930 the Alexander Church was demolished. After the war a monument to General Vatutin, who died in 1944, appeared in its place. The viewing area near the palace affords a magnificent view of the Dnieper. V. U.





47

Park in front of the main university of Ukraine: a great green spot to walk in the very heart of the city



## Taras Shevchenko Park

The foundation stone of Kyiv University was ceremonially laid in 1837, after Emperor Nikolay I of Russia had signed the Charter for its creation. The University was built in Russian style by the father and son team of architects, Vikenty and Alexander Beretti. As the university took the name of St. Vladimir, the ruler who brought Christianity to the Kyivan Rus, it was painted in the red and black of the Vladimir Order ribbon. And for this reason, generations of students, have called their alma mater “The Fire department”. In the 1870s, the city deputies decided to sell much of the unused land around the University for private property development. But during his 1876 visit to Kyiv, the Brazilian Emperor Pedro II, saw that the land still left in front of the University land had been reserved for the creation of a park... which the Brazilian Emperor promptly instigated under the supervision of the gardener Karl Christiani. He did an excellent job as you can see. In 1896, a monument to the Emperor Nikolay was erected here and the University Park was renamed Nikolaevsky Park. Three fountains were also constructed, and you can still see them here today. After the revolution of 1917 the park became a less welcoming place. The fountains were blocked and dry, park benches were stolen, and the monument to Nikolay was dismantled and



melted down. In 1939, the Park took the name of great Ukrainian poet Taras Shevchenko and today, from the center of the park, his solemn and thoughtful looking statue gazes down, like a stern yet loving father. This, the smallest park in Kyiv is popular with many different types of visitors. Joggers find the park ideal for fresh air and exercise. Students love to spend time here between lectures. In the mornings the older generation grab benches to read newspapers and to play chess. The regulars stay whatever the weather, from morning until night. Arguments and even a bit of pushing and shoving between opponents occasionally breaks out between rivals. At noon, business people come here for lunch and relaxation, replaced in the evenings by loving couples. In this park there is always something interesting going on. You might even come across an organized pillow fight or a Salsa Open Air Event. You will also find a “Classic Babushka Sculpture” Real Grandmas sit on the benches near the park gates and are a common feature of post-Soviet countries. In rain, snow and sun, old ladies sit in their favorite spots and discuss, discuss, discuss... So installed in Taras Shevchenko park is a real sculpture of one of Kyiv’s classic grandmas. Both Kyivans and visitors are very fond of taking pictures of her. *V. U.*



50.441711  
30.51289



59 Volodymyrska St.

Teatralna  Ploshcha Lva Tolstoho 



48

A lovely place to stroll  
through the kingdom  
of plants




# Gryshko Botanical Garden

Mykola Gryshko National Botanical Garden came to be called by Kyivans as the “new” garden, as opposed to the “old University” garden. This beautiful park in the Zverinets area is a real respite for the residents of a large bustling city. It is especially beautiful in spring, when the magnolias, lilac and chestnuts burst into flower. The staff of this scientific and educational institution make every effort to give the very best floral show to the residents and guests of the city. The garden dates back to 1918, when it was founded simultaneously with the Academy of Sciences of the then young Ukrainian state. In 1935, the USSR government allocated another 120 hectares for extending the garden. By 1941 this garden had more than 1,000 outdoor species.

The greenhouse collection was also carefully selected. During the German occupation of Kyiv in 1941-1943, the garden was badly damaged. Restoration work began in 1944. According to the concept proposed by scientist Mykola Gryshko, the garden combined both the scientific and the educational. The recreation area was also laid out. Today, the botanical garden houses more than 10,000 species and varieties of plants collected from around the world. There is a residential building in the garden—



1 Tymiryazevska St.

Druzhby Narodiv, Vydubychi 

INTERESTING KYIV • TOP120



Svyatoionynskyi Monastery, well-known through whole Orthodox world. Close to it stands Vydubtskyi Monastery with a magnificent architectural prospect. From here, one has splendid views over the ancient but also eternally young city of Kyiv. A. A.





49

University Botanical Garden,  
an example of  
architectural landscaping



# Fomin Botanical Garden

This wonderful slice of nature expands outwards from close to the old red building of Taras Shevchenko National University. For over 170 years this green expanse has been delighting Kyiv residents and visitors. The idea of laying out a botanical garden in this place belongs to the architect of the university building – Vikenty Beretti. He suggested using the waste area in front of the university, with its natural hills and ravines, for a research nursery where student biologists could be trained. In 1839, the first collection of plants appeared brought from all the lands of the Russian Empire and Europe. The garden bears the name of Professor Alexander Fomin, who was head of the University from 1914 to 1935. In the cold, famine year of 1919, he with his colleagues heroically saved the collection from destruction. Some valuable flora specimens were brought from Germany during the Nazi occupation of Kyiv in 1941-1943. In the postwar period, the infrastructure of the garden was significantly improved. The old greenhouses were renovated and new ones were built. In 1960, Fomin Botanical Garden was decreed by the USSR Council of Ministers to be a monument of landscaping art of national importance. In 1969, it was granted the up-graded status of a research institution. Today, there are more 10,000 flora



1 Symon Petliura St.  
Universytet 

INTERESTING KYIV • TOP120



species from different geographical areas in the garden's 22-hectares. The University garden, alongside its scientific pursuits, opens its gates to fans of all outdoor activities. The "old" botanical garden is a green and verdant gem in the heart of Ukraine's capital. A. A.





50

Fancy sculptures, colorful mosaics and a breathtaking view of Podil



## Landscape Alley

Landscape Alley is a normal road which follows a line of defenses that used to protect the part of the city where Kyiv Princes lived in the time of the Kyivan Rus. The Alley starts from the meadow in front of National Museum of History of Ukraine, near an ancient (300–400 y.o.) linden tree, and ends by the buildings 36–40 on Velyka Zhytomyrska Street. Landscape Alley was designed by the famous architect Abraham Miletyskyi as part of the History and Architecture area “Ancient Kyiv”, created in the Old Town’s territory in the late 20<sup>th</sup> century. However, only the 1.48-ha alley project was the only thing built in the early 1980<sup>s</sup>. This place was chosen because the ancient hills of the Upper Town command imposing views of historic Kyiv. It is these impressive landscapes that gave the Alley its name, and it is an excellent observation place to see famous Podil and the mighty Dnieper. At the start of Landscape Alley there is a staircase connecting it to the picturesque Vozdvizhenka Street. This wooden staircase was built for the Moscow Olympics 1980, and in 2018 it was completely renovated. It wasn’t until the year 2009 that the unique park was created, with its unusual playgrounds, fountains and sculptures that made it into the corner of Kyiv like no other. The thirty-meter-long wall was adorned with a

bright mosaic picture of a long centipede cat in whose “jaws” children like to be photographed. Pyramids, built of many-colored blocks and crowned with fairy-tale angels, also adorn the Alley. And near these pyramids one can see the cheerful elephant fountain and the zebra in love. Take a seat on one of the unusual animal-shaped benches and contemplate these strange things! This fairy world in Kyiv’s downtown was created by the famous Kyiv city sculptor Konstantyn Skretutskyi. The “Alice in the Wonderland” playground, with carousels and slides shaped like the characters from the fairy-tale, is a magical place for kids of all ages. Further along the alley there are some other playgrounds with giant taps with eyes, snake pipes, roof-shaped benches and swings, an equestrian monument to Prince Svyatoslav, a number of famous peeing boys (!) ... and much more – such as the beautiful graffiti-riddles murals. *L. S.*



50.457535  
30.511826



Peizazhna Alley

Zoloti Vorota  Poshtova Ploshcha 




51

Main zoo garden  
of the country

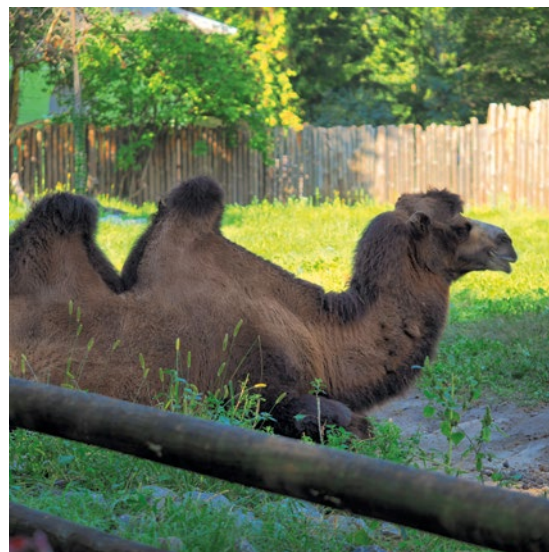
## Kyiv Zoo

The City Zoo was founded in 1908 by the city community but unfortunately many animals arrived before suitable premises were ready and they spent their first winter in the freight department of the railway station. On 21 March 1909, they were moved to the University red building (at the side of the Botanic Garden) where they were supported by charitable donations. On 16 May 1912, this location had become seriously overcrowded so the city council allocated large area of ground close to the Polytechnic Institute. The open day was the following year. During World War I and the Revolution of 1917, the Zoo staff managed to fully preserve and protect its animal collection. In 1919, this unique scientific and educational establishment got its official name of The Kyiv Zoo. Its collection was regularly increased with new animals and eventually it grew to become the largest zoo in the USSR. When the Nazis occupied Kyiv in 1941, almost all of the Zoo animals were taken to Germany and the Zoo itself was severely damaged. But remarkably the Zoo was ready to reopen its gates to visitors in 1944. Its collection was gradually replenished, new aviaries were built, new paths laid, the ponds and lakes cleaned up. The central entrance building with the cash desk was built in 1966, as part of another large-scale reconstruction. And in 1968,

50.452159  
30.46214732 Peremohy Avenue  
Politekhnichnyi Instytut 

INTERESTING KYIV • TOP120

near the main entrance, bronze sculptures of a bison and lions (sculptor Yuri Ruban) were installed, which have since become the symbols of the Kyiv Zoo. This institute was named the National Zoological Park in 1983. Today, the Zoo has 1,950 animals from 339 species. A. A.





52

The leisure park on the  
Dnieper islands.  
Just a 10-minute drive and  
you arrive in a resort



# Hydropark

Hydropark was named on the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the October revolution. But a century ago Kyiv residents would have found no fun here! In this place was a settlement of workers (Slobodka) for maintaining the Chain Bridge – appropriate workshops, crude dwelling houses and rough kitchen gardens. The workers were registered to the Arsenal factory. During the spring, the Dnieper would flood, leaving estates, gardens and meadows underwater and houses and gardens flooded. The residents had a tough time. Hydropark island itself was formed due to severe floods in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. So this risky unpredictable area was largely ignored by the nearby townsfolk. There were safer places to be. Bridgehead slobodka, alas, was burned and destroyed during the Nazis retreat in 1943. For a long time only small fishing huts and flimsy, illegal dachas standing on timbers could be found here. Kyivans nicknamed this area “Venice” for its numerous bays and channels. In the early 1960s it was transformed and a large area (188 ha) was remade with beaches, playgrounds, and even two restaurants – Okhotnik (Hunter) and Kolyba (Fishing Hut). A substantial pedestrian bridge (114 m) provided a link with the neighboring Dolobetsky Island. This was called the Venetian Bridge. In short, everything was done in the best way within the limits of what was




possible in the Soviet era. Today, the total area of Hydropark is now 365 ha. There are countless beaches, playgrounds for kid's rides, cafes and restaurants. There is also an open-air museum “Kyiv in miniature”, which displays the most significant buildings and sites of Kyiv in scale 1:33. From here you can get some amazing views of old Kyiv spread out on the hills above the right bank of the river. Convenient transport to and from with the city (car and metro) has turned Hydropark into the most popular relaxation area for Kyiv residents and visitors. A. A.



50.445554  
30.576062



Brovary Ave.  
Hydropark 



53

Leisure area in  
the very heart of Kyiv




## Trukhaniv Island

This elegant bridge appeared in Kyiv in 1957. It linked the Dnieper embankment with Trukhaniv Island, a traditional leisure area of Kyivans and guests of the city. Architect Alexey Zavarov, who was in charge of the bridge design and construction, involved top engineers in this project. The pedestrian bridge has a length of 439 m and seven spans in its construction, with its total weight measuring 985 tons. It was the second all-welded bridge built in Kyiv. Professionals from Paton electric welding institute of Ukrainian SSR Academy of Science were also engaged in its design developments. Trukhaniv Island is a historical and cultural monument that covers an area of 450 ha. At various times, the island was both the seat of a Polovtsian khan (one theory is that it took the name of Tugor khan), and the property of Equal-to-Apostles St. Princess Olga. In the later period of national history it was owned by the Deserted monastery of St. Nicholas, later – by the city council. In the 19<sup>th</sup> century, the shipyards of the shipping joint stock company on the Dnieper River and its tributaries were founded on the island, as well as the imperial yacht club and Hermitage, a luxury entertainment place. There was also the majestic St. Elizabeth's church and the female diocesan school here. In 1943, the settlement on the island



50.456689  
30.534126



Trukhaniv Island  
Poshtova Ploshcha 

INTERESTING KYIV • TOP120



was burned by the retreating Nazis. In the postwar period, the chapters of various water sports associations and the recreation camps for working people were built here. A restaurant with a dance floor was set up, too. Bobrovnya reserve area and Peoples' Friendship Park occupy the northern part of Trukhaniv Island. A. A.





54

The Cossack capital  
in downtown Kyiv



## Mamajeva Sloboda

The Cossack village called “Mamajeva Sloboda” is a unique feature in Kyiv city. However, it is not so easy to get there – but give it a try. From Shuliavska metro station take a taxi bus No. 201 to stop “M. Donets St.”. And then you will be amazed by your beautiful surroundings. From a noisy metropolis you, somehow have been miraculously transported to an authentic cultural complex that reproduces a Cossack settlement of the 17<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> century. Many people think that the village name came from the name of Cossack Mamaj, who once lived there. But this is not so: Mamaj is a generalized main character in Ukrainian folklore, pictured in many paintings. He is usually depicted, sitting cross-legged with a pipe in his mouth and musical instrument – a “kobza” – in his hands. Cossack Mamaj’s image became the embodiment of the best national features: the defender of Motherland; the object of a girl’s dreams and a symbol of Cossack spirit. It decorates the “red corner” along with other icons and was often hung in churches – especially if the founder or Maecenas of the Temple was depicted as Cossack Mamaj. These lands once belonged to the St. Michael’s Golden-Domed Cathedral and were occupied by the monastery apiary with a farm and pond. Later, gardens were planted and a park was laid out.



50.435673  
30.429118



2 Mykhaila Dontsya St.  
Shuliavska 

In 1990, this land was assigned for the building of an ethnology center which took 19 years to construct. 98 copies of historic homes and buildings were reconstructed, built following original plans including tree placements and hedges. The appearance the Cossack cannons, and Cossack plates and dishes have been faithfully copied from historical drawings. Nowadays Mamajeva Sloboda receives most of its visitors during national and religious holidays when it hosts large-scale folk festivities. And on a regular day the museum organizes theme tours. Most of them are educational and interactive: visitors have an opportunity to try on national Ukrainian costumes, experience a Cossack cannon salute, ride a horse, learn the arts of bell-ringing, pottery or traditional painting and more. Or just visit the Church of Intercession of the Holy Virgin built without a single nail. And, of course, try traditional dishes in the shynok (Ukrainian restaurant). *L. S.*





55

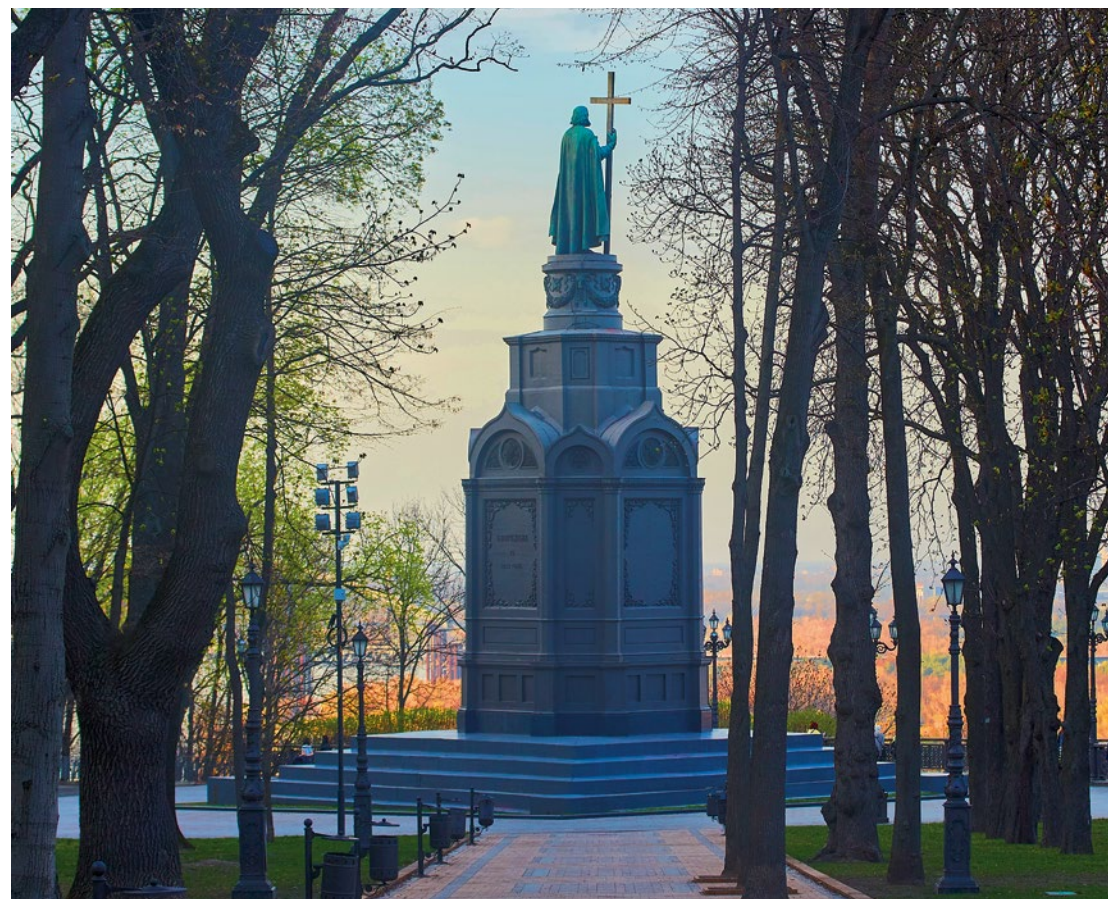
Monument to man who  
baptized the Kyivan Rus.  
One of Kyiv's most  
important visiting cards



## St. Vladimir Monument

Around 1840, a series of landslides caused great damage to Alexandrovsky Descent. So it was decided to stabilise the hillside with trees and bushes and to create a park. According to legend, somewhere in this location, Prince Vladimir baptized the inhabitants of the city, thereby turning the Kyivan Rus into a bulwark of Christianity in these Slavic lands. The city authorities and local residents believed that such a significant place should be commemorated. At first, the church resisted any sculptural monument because, in the metropolitan's words, it was a blasphemy to create a "false idol" in such a religious place. However, when the tsar permitted the construction of Vladimir Cathedral in 1853, the metropolitan acquiesced to the creation of a monument. The statue of Vladimir itself was created by Peter Clodt von Jürgensburg, the pedestal by Alexander Ton and the bas-reliefs by Vasily Demuth-Malinovsky. The 4.4 m bronze statue depicts Prince Vladimir in a cloak with a large cross in his right hand and a Grand Prince's cap in his left hand. It stands on a 16-meter pedestal, which has the shape of an octagonal chapel in pseudo-Byzantine style. The brick pedestal and bas-relief are faced with cast-iron plates. The total height of the monument is 20.4 m. The pedestal depicts scenes of the baptizing of Rus in 988 AD, the

emblem of Kyiv, and the star of the Order of St. Vladimir. The cross in the hands of the prince was soon illuminated at night by mounted gas lights (later replaced with electric bulbs). The cross glowing with white light on the Dnieper hillside made an indelible impression on the people. In those times it seemed like a miracle and served as a beacon to pilgrims, being visible for many kilometers. The park laid out at the same time had two terraces and was arranged to resemble Swiss mountains, with numerous brick pathways, linking all levels and terraces together. It became very popular among Kyivans. Firstly, because of its central location and splendid views, and secondly, because it was the first free park in Kyiv, open to everyone. All other city parks were paid admission only, therefore only local aristocrats used them. Now this enormous monument is recognized as one of main symbols of Kyiv and is often depicted in postcards. *V. U.*



50.456098  
30.526927



1 Volodymyrsky Descent  
Maidan Nezalezhnosti





56

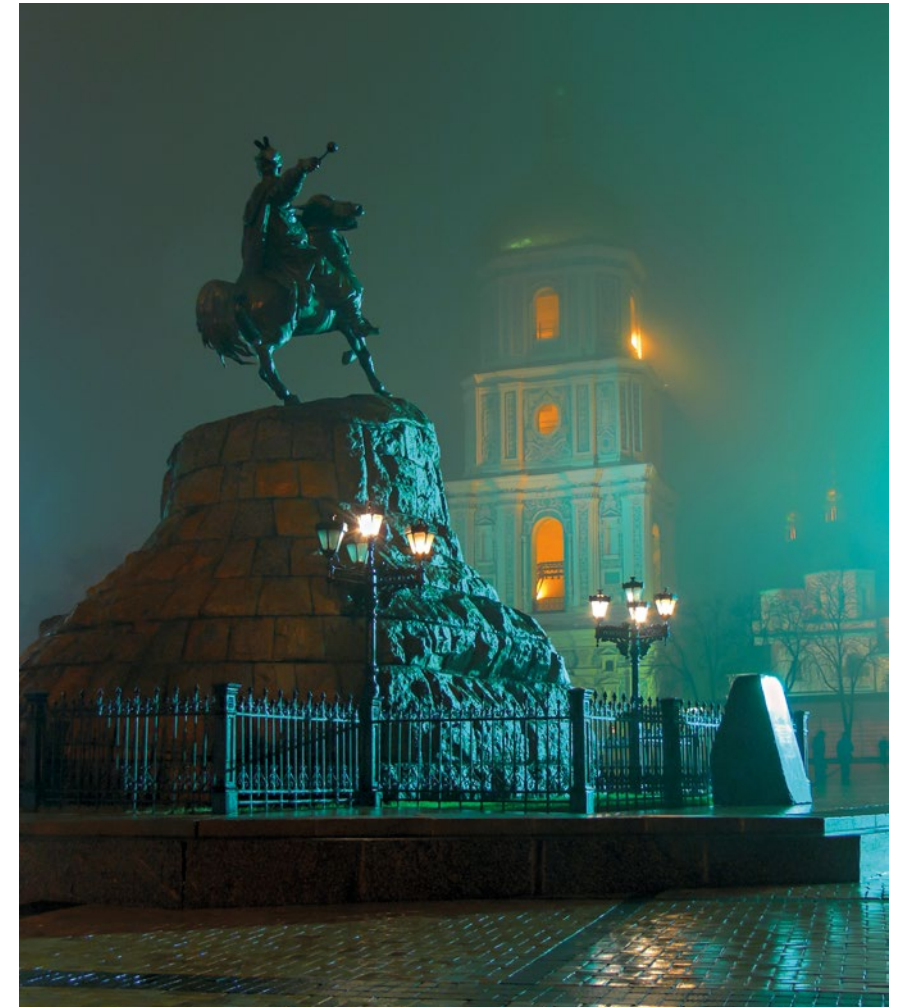
Monument to the famous  
commander and politician



# Khmelnytsky Monument

The monument is dedicated to the Hetman of the Zaporizhian Host Bohdan Khmelnytsky. It was built in 1888. It is one of the oldest sculptural monuments in Sophia Square and is a dominating feature. Here on 23 December 1648 residents of Kyiv greeted Khmelnytsky and his Cossack regiments after the victory over the Polish Army at the battle of Pyliavtsi. The monument has suffered some misfortunes. First, there was a location problem. Permission was originally granted for an equestrian statue in Bessarabka only. But eventually the monument was permitted in Sophia Square. But then another problem arose – which was the politically correct direction for the Hetman to be pointing with his mace? On Bessarabka, the hetman would have pointed his mace towards a popular pub. And in Sophia Square? – somewhere in the direction of Moscow or Sweden. The author's original idea was to “threaten” Poland with the mace, but then pilgrims going to Sophia would have been staring at the horse's rump. It was finally resolved but then came a confusion over dates. Two main dates were to be commemorated: the reunification of Ukraine with Russia in 1654 and the unveiling of the monument on July 23, 1888. The first plaque installed read “Bohdan Khmelnytsky. 1654-1888”, which surprised and

puzzled many as to the hetman's extraordinary longevity. This was then replaced by the enigmatic and equally confusing “1888”. Third time, they got lucky. The statue was originally surrounded by shrubs, bushes and a wrought iron fence with lanterns. Then the fence was removed and flower bed was dug around the pedestal. Probably the best the Khmelnytsky monument looked was from the mid-1950s to the early 1970s, when its pedestal was completely covered with ivy and surrounded with a bed of roses with paths between them. Later the ivy was cut down and the roses were replaced with more mundane plants, until the next reconstruction of Sophia Square, when the fence was restored but no flowers. V.U.



50.453558  
30.516447



Sophia Square

Maidan Nezalezhnosti  Zoloti Vorota 



57

A Memorial Museum in honor  
of the Heroes of Victory over  
the Nazi invaders inside  
the Monument



# The Motherland Monument

This grand memorial by the Dnieper River was inaugurated on 9<sup>th</sup> May 1981. This solemn ceremony was attended by the then General Secretary of the USSR, Leonid Brezhnev. Inside this huge structure is the Ukrainian State Museum of the Great Patriotic War. It is 20 ha and the museum has 18 exhibition rooms. The displays include Fire of Eternal Glory; Alley of the Hero-cities, combat vehicles, and around one hundred bronze figures symbolizing the heroic struggle against the invaders. The memorial is crowned by the gigantic Motherland statue with a 16 m long shield that alone weighs 12 tons. A damping device to reduce wind vibration is installed in the highest point of the sword in the statue's right hand. The diameter of her arms is 6 m! With the pedestal, which houses the museum, the all-welded structure is 102 m high and weighs 450 tons. This is one of the highest statue figures in the world. The memorial was designed by Evgeny Vuchetich and a team of sculptors and architects from Moscow and Kyiv. The principals were: Vasily Borodai, Viktor Yelizarov, Frid Sogoyan, Georgy Kislyi. Despite the many changes that have happened since independence, the museum keeps alive the memory of Ukraine's contribution to the the victory over fascism. The memorial complex is a favorite tourist spot and a popular day out for Kyiv residents. A. A.



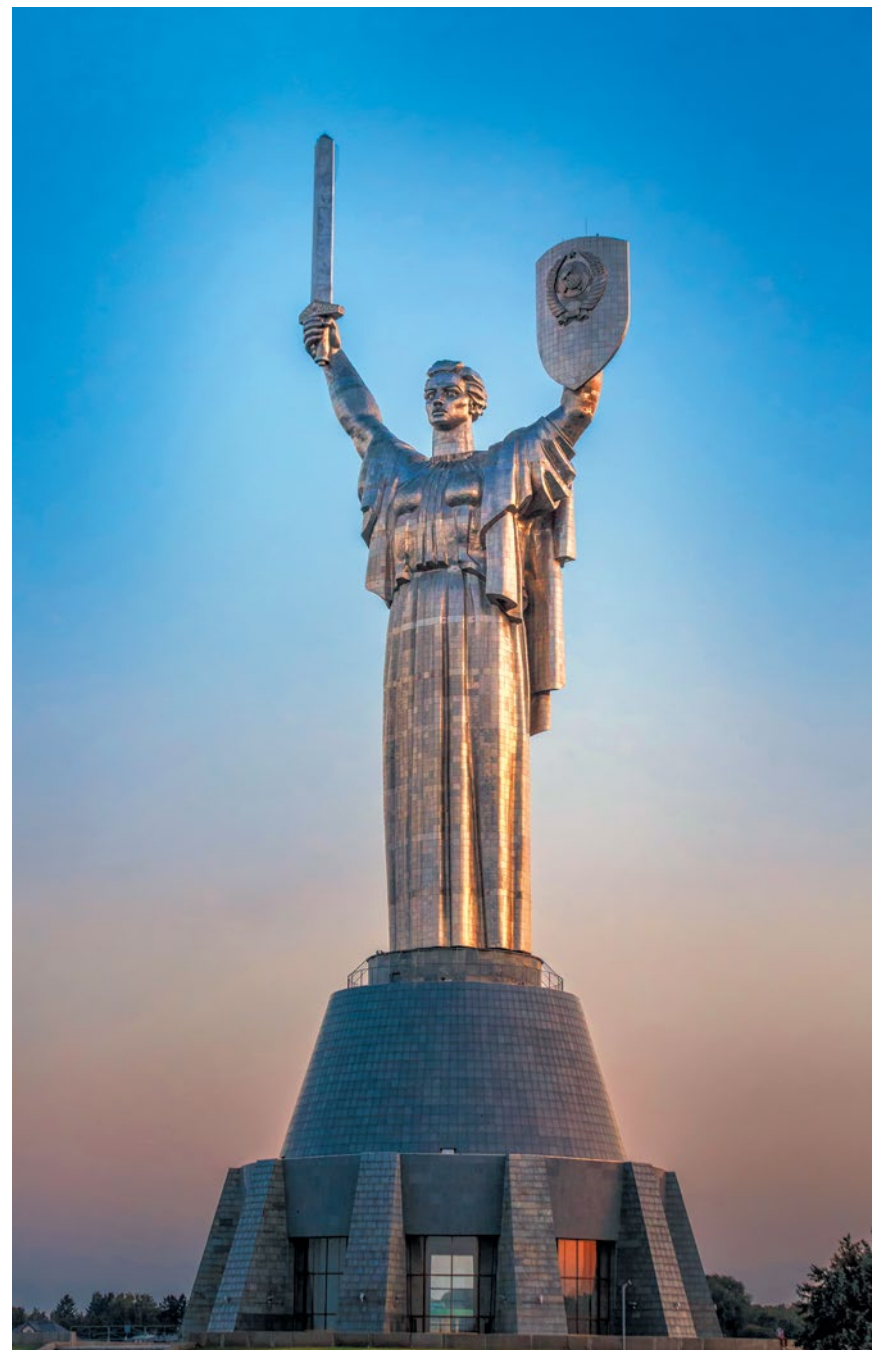
50.426476  
30.562914



3 Mazepa St.

Arsenalna 

INTERESTING KYIV • TOP120





58

Equal-to-the-Apostles  
Princess, the greatest  
ruler of Ancient Rus



## Princess Olga Monument

The monument to Princess Olga was unveiled in September 4, 1911. The sculpture of the princess stands on a pink granite pedestal, with the figure of Apostle Andrew on her left, pointing to the “Holy mountains of Kyiv”. On her right, the figures of Cyril and Methodius, teachers of all the Slavic people. The plaque on the pedestal says: “She will be the first to enter the kingdom of heaven from the land of Rus, for she is praised as the head mother by the sons of Russia”. Below, another plaque says: “A gift from His Imperial Majesty to the city of Kyiv. Summer 1911 AD” as some of the money for the monument was given by Nikolay Romanov. This group of figures was created by the sculptor Ivan Kavaleridze assisted by his colleagues Fyodor Balavensky, Pyotr Snitkin and Velerian Rykov. But this beautiful statue, in its original form, did not survive the Revolution. In 1919 the statue of Princess Olga was toppled from its pedestal, and in March 1923 the statues of the Apostles and teachers were also destroyed. In 1926, a park was laid out here.

In 1996, having dug out the remains from a flowerbed, the monument was recreated in marble from the original drawings. A. A.



50.455372  
30.520507



Mykhaylivska Square  
Maidan Nezalezhnosti





59

Secret-wish-granting  
fountain

## Samson Fountain

The Samson fountain was created by the talented architect Ivan Grigoryevich-Barsky. It was the main water source in the Kyiv-Podil area. However, the citizens wanted it to be not only practical but beautiful too. The fountain was originally known as “Felitsiyal” (Feliticas is the Greek goddess of good luck). The statue of the Goddess was placed over the spring. Then in 1808 it was replaced by another sculpture “Samson pulls away the lion’s jaws (from the water)” topped with a copper figurine of the patron saint of the city of Kyiv – St. Michael the Archangel. There is also a sundial on the pediment. In olden days, the fountain was extremely popular with the many worshipers and pilgrims who came to the many holy places of Kyiv. Visiting Podil, they took water “from the Lion” and hung crosses made of cypress twigs and small icons on his neck as a token of their gratitude. According to folklore, he who takes “holy water” from the fountain three times would settle down in Kyiv for the rest of their lives. In 1934 the fountain was destroyed – but restored in 1981. By the way, the sculpture that now stands in the rotunda is a copy. And the original is stored in the Art Museum. A.A.



50.463893  
30.516845



Kontraktova Square

Kontraktova Ploshcha





60

One of the best viewing places overlooking the islands and the left bank of the Dnieper



## People's Friendship Arch

The landmark of Khreshchatyi Park (formerly Garden of Merchant Assembly, Proletarian Garden, and Pioneer Park) is a sculptural group crowned by the grandiose People's Friendship Arch. It was unveiled on the site of the former open-air theatre on November 7, 1982 to commemorate the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the USSR and the celebration of the 1500<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Kyiv. The monument consists of the rainbow-shaped arch, made of titanium, dedicated to the unification of Russia and Ukraine and a bronze statue depicting Russian and Ukrainian workers holding up the symbol of the People's Friendship ribbon.

The monument stands 6.2 m high. Close by you can also see a granite obelisk with a multi-figured sculpture. Hetman Bohdan Khmelnytsky and Russian boyar Buturlin, the key negotiators in an agreement that saw the reunification of the Ukraine and Russia in January 1654. Its creators were sculptor Alexander Skoblikov, architects Igor Ivanov, Sergey Mirgorodsky and Konstantin Sidorov. At dusk, the arch is lit in spectacular fashion with rainbow colors. This site offers splendid views of the left bank of the Dnieper. A. A.



50.454226  
30.529645

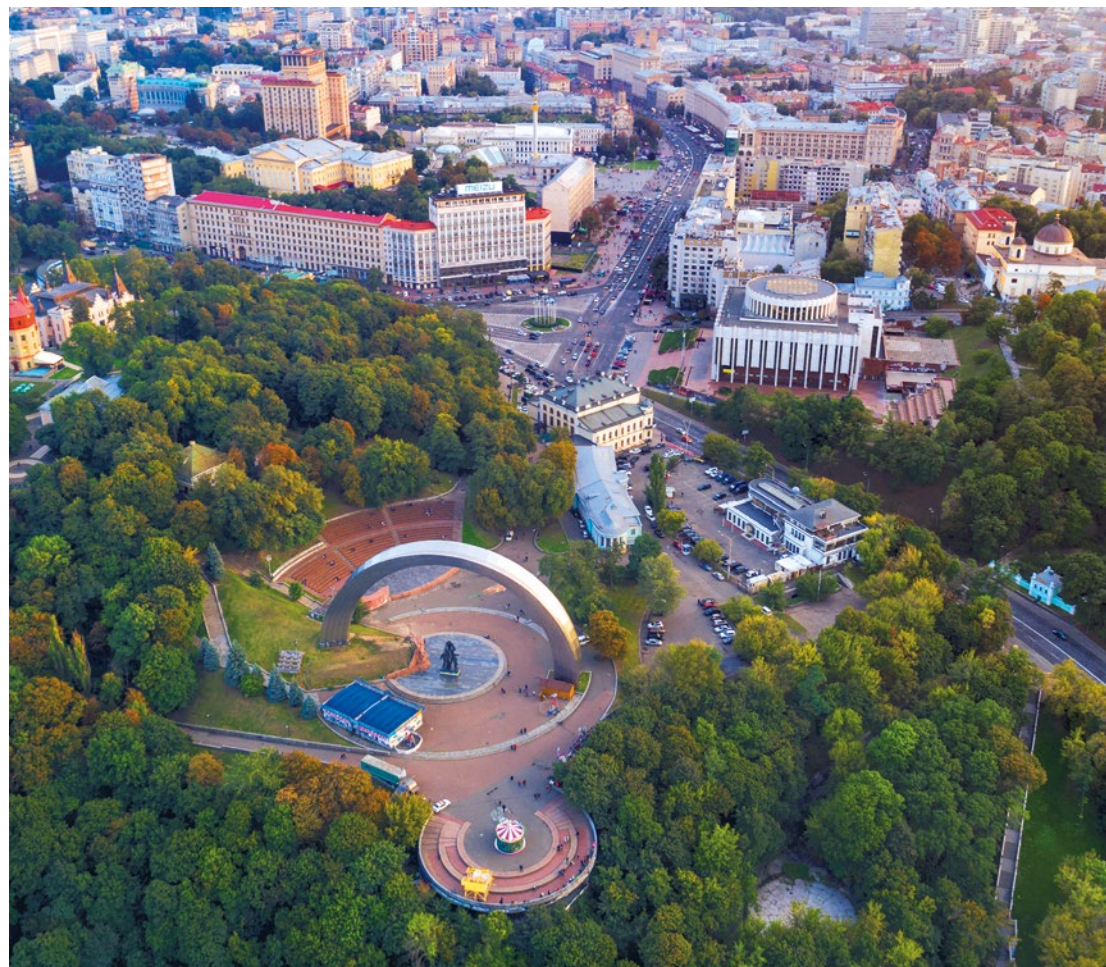


European Sq.

Maidan Nezalezhnosti



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61

First monument to an  
"enlightened" Kyiv



## Magdeburg Law Pillar

The first monument to the "enlightened" Kyiv was an edifice on the Dnieper embankment in 1808. It is an 18 m high pillar erected above the Khreschatitsky spring in the place "where the children of the most Orthodox Grand Prince Vladimir were baptized." The monument is known as Pillar of the Magdeburg Laws, saluting the years of Alexander I, when the city of Kyiv once again was granted the privilege of municipal self-governance. The pupil of the prominent architect Giacomo Quarenghi Andrey Melensky was commissioned to commemorate this event with the monument.

The 18-meter pillar built by the talented architect had crowned a chapel with a natural source, from which the citizens took healing water for centuries and above which the churches in honor of St. Vladimir, the Baptizer of Rus, towered for years. Interestingly, the source was worshipped as one of the most important shrines of the Orthodox Church. After the Pillar's completion, the appropriate dedicatory tablets appeared there: "To Saint Vladimir, the Enlightener of Russia" and "To Emperor Alexander I from the grateful and full-hearted Kyiv civil society for upholding our rights and

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privileges". The funds for the monument were raised by the entire city. In the 1930s, in the place of the chapel destroyed by Bolsheviks, a beer and soft drinks stall was opened. A. A.



50.45599  
30.529495



Naberezhne Highway  
Poshtova Ploshcha





62

Many fancy sculptures  
created by Kyivans  
themselves



## The Sculptures of Kyiv

Until 1991, this former capital of the USSR republic was subject to strict city design rules. On its streets and squares, only “ideologically aware” statues of state and party leaders were permitted with just a smattering of others. But after gaining independence, Kyiv was in rush to make up for lost time. Either at city expense, but more often from private donations and Kyiv resident funds, a wide variety of more relaxed “fun” sculptures appeared. Among them are monuments to favorite book and film characters and the actors/actresses who played them. These include famous Panikovsky statue (from the film “The Golden Calf”) on Proreznaya street, Pronya Prokopovna and Svirid Golokhvastov (from the film “After Two Hares”) near St. Andrew’s Church, the brave soldier Schweik at the Franco Theater and a monument to military pilots, using the image of the hero of the cult film “Only old men are going to battle”. The second group of urban sculptures are even more fun. Firstly, as a rule, they are not cast from metal and not carved from stone, but made from scrap materials. Secondly, their main purpose is simply to enliven the urban environment and they serve many people as “companions” for a souvenir photo. One of the most well-known is the Hedgehog in the Fog – a character from a Soviet cartoon, loved by generations of Ukrainians. Many of these light hearted sculptures live in Landscape Alley, occupying a special art space. Also here you will find the Princess and the Pea; the Little Prince, and fish, zebras,

and cats. There are tributes to the Rose-colored glasses in the Pechersk Landscape Park and to the shoes of an insurance agent on Belorusskaya Street. Symbols of the city are also commemorated such as the Blooming Chestnut in Mariinsky Park. And recently, a cute project “Shukai” (“Search”) has been launched in Kyiv. Mini-sculptures of local specialties are being placed all over the city – chestnuts at the entrance to city hall or a Chicken Kyiv on Gorodetsky St. Gorodetsky himself sits nearby – in the Passage, at the table, drinking coffee from a bronze cup. *V.U.*





63

The oldest monastery of the  
Kyivan Rus and a UNESCO  
World Heritage site



## The Lavra


The Kyiv Pechersk Lavra, is a spectacular orthodox Christian monastery and cave complex, standing on a hill overlooking the river Dnipro. This is a large complex of golden domed churches and onion shaped towers in a mini city, built on top of a labyrinth of narrow underground caves containing chapels, catacombs, and monastic rooms. This magical and enchanting monastery is the most Holy place in Ukraine and the center of Orthodox Christianity in Eastern Europe. It was founded by reclusive monks Antony and Fiodosiy in 1051 as a center from which to spread Christianity throughout the Kyivan Rus. It is recorded that the reclusive Reverend Antony first settled in the Varangian caves and his friends and monks began visiting him, bringing him food and clothes. Followers continued to join the community and eventually there was no other option than to build a church above ground. By the 12<sup>th</sup> century the Lavra had become the leading religious and cultural focal point in all of Eastern Europe. The caves themselves were still used by the monks as dwellings and a place to worship. They were even buried there, the cool humid atmosphere helping to preserve the bodies and mummify them naturally. In fact this apparent miracle only served to enhance the monastery's reputation and the monks

bodies can still be seen almost perfectly preserved to this day. Since the 13<sup>th</sup> century, the Lavra has gone through several tragic periods of history: devastating raids of the Pechenegs, Polovtsians, Torques, and the overrunning of Kyiv by hordes of Mongol-Tatars led by Batu Khan when all of its buildings were destroyed, plundered, and burned several times over. Reconstruction began only in the 18<sup>th</sup> century. The Cathedral of the Holy Dormition and the Trinity Gate Church were built and decorated in then-popular baroque style. The 96.5-meter high Great Lavra Bell tower also appeared by the monastery at that time. And despite all these terrible historical events, including the bloody years of the 1917 revolution followed by decades of religious persecution and the horrors of WWII, the Lavra has survived and become more and more beautiful. Today, there are two parts. The Upper Lavra, which is a recognized historic and cultural monument (since 1990 it is a UNESCO World Heritage Site) and the Lower Lavra, which is a working monastery. In addition to the beautiful Dormition Cathedral and the Great Lavra Bell there are a number of exhibitions and museums to enjoy: the museum of microminiatures of N. Syadristy, the museum of jewelry, the museum of Ukrainian folk decorative arts, the museum of books and printing, and the museum of theater, music and cinema. Every year, over 45 million visitors from all over the world tour this majestic monastery complex and are amazed by its beauty and splendor. *V. U.*



50.434626  
30.554876



9 Lavrska St.  
Arsenalna 



64

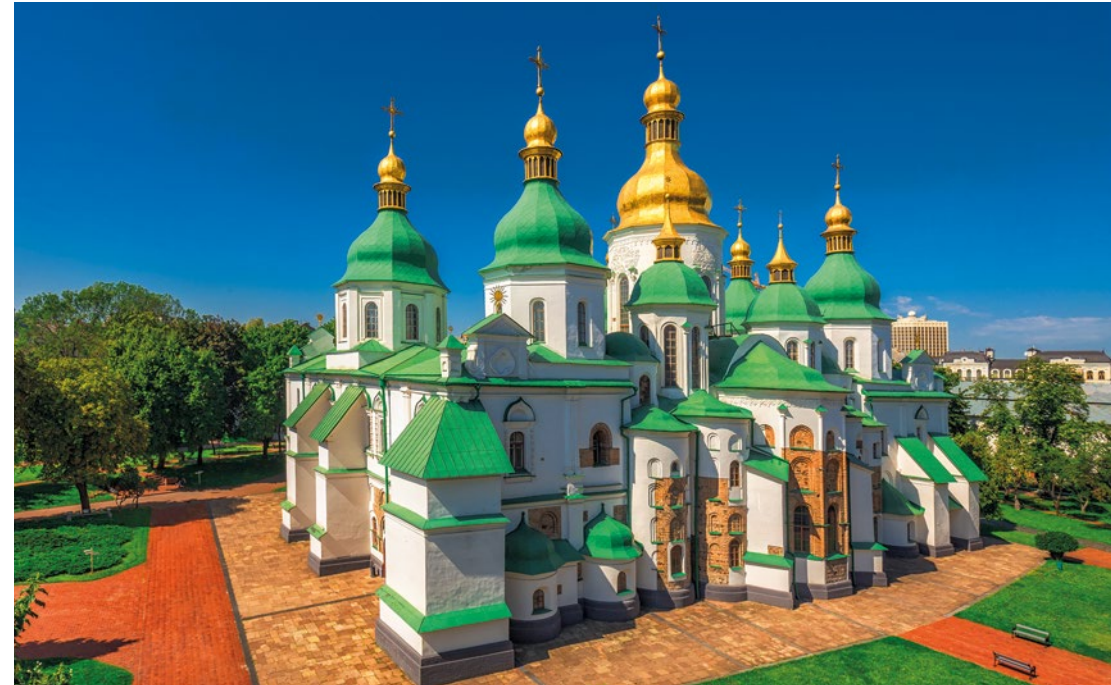
One of the world's largest collections of 11<sup>th</sup>-century mosaics and frescoes created by Byzantine artists



# St. Sophia Cathedral


The cathedral was founded by Grand Prince Yaroslav the Wise and built between 1037 and 1044 on the site of a victorious battle where Kyivans defeated the Pechenegs (Asian nomadic tribes). Its name comes from the 6<sup>th</sup>-century Hagia Sophia cathedral in Constantinople. After the pillaging of Kyiv by Andriy Bogolyubskyi in 1169, followed by Mongolian Tatars in 1240, the cathedral fell into disrepair. It was also greatly damaged in the 16<sup>th</sup> century, when Poland and Ukraine were trying to unite catholic and orthodox churches. In 1633 Orthodox leader Peter Mohyla commissioned the repair work and the upper part of the building was completely rebuilt in distinctive Ukrainian Baroque style, while preserving the splendid Byzantine interior. The collection of 11<sup>th</sup> century mosaics and frescoes is unique and complete. The best known is the 6 m tall mosaic of the praying Virgin Orans, made of 177 colours of glass and stone tiles. The other masterpieces include the Pantocrator, the Communion of Apostles, the Deisis and the Annunciation. Some frescos are especially interesting from both historical and artistic points of view, and show not only scenes from the Holy Bible, but also secular subjects. For example, in the cathedral one can see portraits of the Yaroslav family members. The belfry is decorated with paintings of the 11<sup>th</sup> cen-

tury depicting scenes of the games arranged in Constantinople by Emperor Constantine in honor of Princess Olga. In addition to numerous images of heavenly Powers and the pantheon of Christian saints, many scenes from Byzantine court life are preserved on the walls and pillars of the cathedral. These are known as the Sophia graffiti featuring grandees, equestrian competitions, hunting, and musicians. These 7,000 examples of graffiti are of great historical value. One of the most famous from the 11<sup>th</sup> century is the signature of Anna Yaroslavna, the future Queen of France. St. Sophia Cathedral was the first Ukrainian landmark included onto the UNESCO World Heritage List. The architectural complex includes the 76-m-tall azure and white bell tower, Metropolitan house, the refectory, the Zabrovsky gate, the south entrance tower, the caves of cathedral elders and the seminary encircled by a stone wall. The underground caves of Sophia are fascinating. Despite many searches since 1916, no-one has been able to find them. Legend has it that they may contain the lost Library of Yaroslav the Wise, a legendary collection of books, documents and various – even mystical – artifacts. Visitors to St. Sophia Cathedral should note the angels in Cossack trousers on the courtyard facade of the bell tower. They hover over the entrance, welcoming the incoming and blessing the departing. V. U.



50.452871  
30.514256



24 Volodymyrska St.  
Zoloti Vorota 



65

The restored shrine/temple  
of the patron saint of Kyiv



# St. Michael's Cathedral

The buildings of the golden domed St. Michael's monastery, are one of the architectural jewels of ancient Kyiv. They are also the Christian religious center of Ukraine. The main building, St. Michael's Cathedral, is the guardian of Kyiv and was consecrated in the name of Archangel Michael, the patron saint and protector of the Ukrainian capital city. The cathedral stands on the Old Kyiv hills dominating its surroundings yet still in perfect harmony with the trees and neighboring buildings built in different eras. The fate of St. Michael's Golden-domed monastery is very sad. Founded in 1108 by the Kyiv prince Svyatopolk Izyaslavovich, it became a resting place for many princes and metropolitan citizens. But in 1240 the hordes of Batu destroyed the monastery, but due to the efforts of the medieval Orthodox authorities it was restored, and its features, were rebuilt in the "Ukrainian baroque" style, largely during the 18<sup>th</sup> century. In addition to the restored cathedral, there arose a majestic bell tower, a refectory, and a strong fortress wall surrounding the entire monastery area. Judging the number of those who wish to visit the monastery and pray within its walls, it was a worthy rival to Kyiv Pechersk Lavra. But then the death sentence was passed upon the monastery by the Soviet Union. In the 1930<sup>s</sup>, St. Michael's

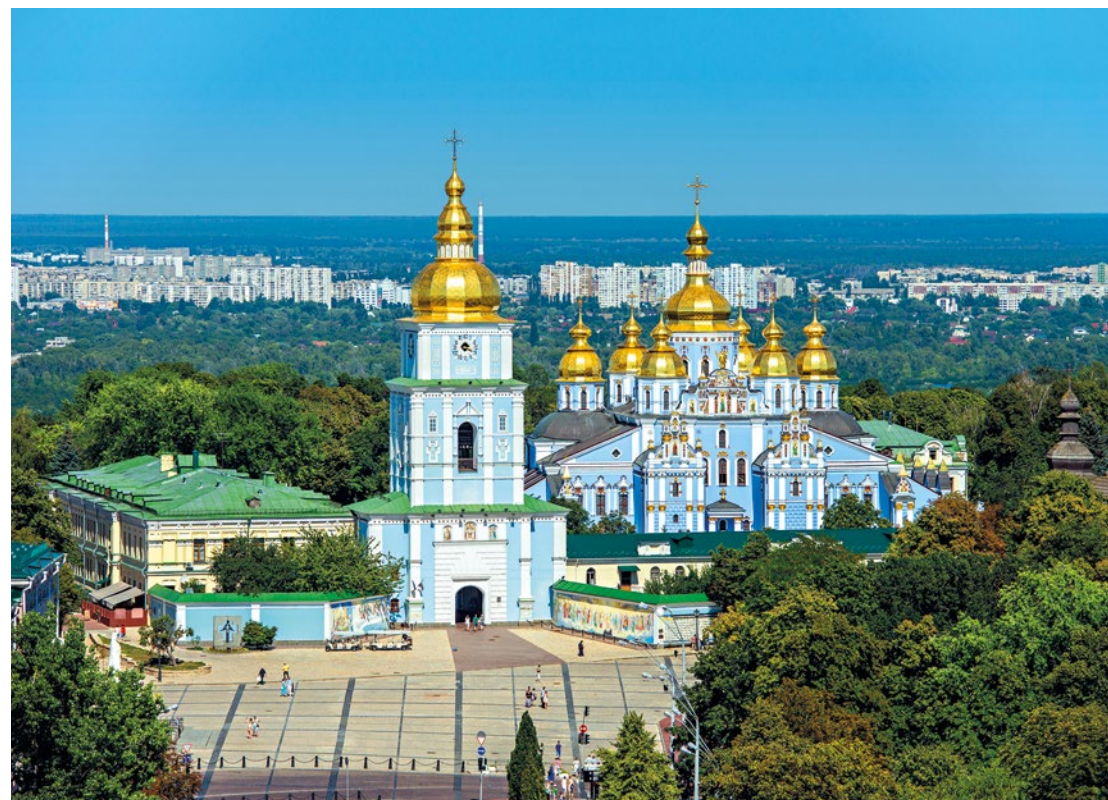
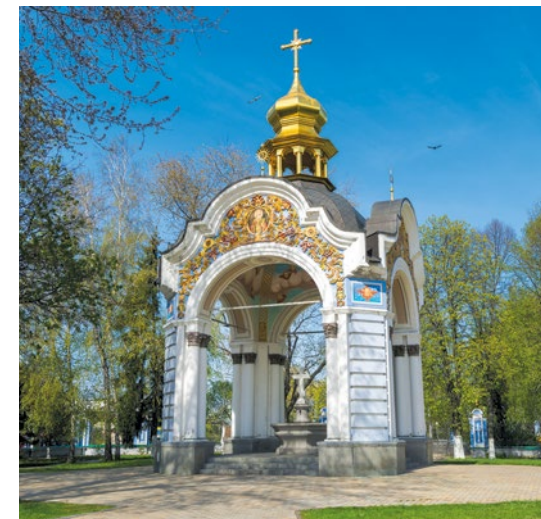


8 Triohsviatytska St.  
Maidan Nezalezhnosti



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Cathedral was blown up and the majestic bell tower along with a part of the monastery wall were destroyed. For decades, only the foundations of Ukraine's most ancient church remained. But today, the church, the bell tower and other monastery buildings have been restored. Since 2000, the liturgy is administered here. The modern monastery complex attracts both believers and tourists, and mirrors the neighboring architectural complex of St. Sophia Cathedral. A. A.





66

Cathedral to honor  
Prince Vladimir, Baptist  
of Kyivan Rus



# St. Vladimir's Cathedral

St. Vladimir's Cathedral was constructed to commemorate the 900<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Christianity in Kyivan Rus and the baptism of Vladimir the Great. The original design of architect Ivan Storm was approved personally by Emperor Nikolay I in 1852, but its construction was commissioned by the next emperor, Alexander II, in 1862. In the same year the stone foundation was laid, yet it was another 20 years before its completion. The cathedral was built on donations and so the project was postponed on multiple occasions for the lack of funds. When it was almost finished, cracks on its walls and ceilings appeared because of errors in design. It took another decade to cure the problem. The cathedral was built in a new Byzantine style and represents a traditional hexastyle temple crowned by seven cupolas. Famous art historian Adrian Prahov was in charge of its decorative appearance and this work took over 11 years. Elements of the interior and mosaic floor were made of multicolored marble imported from Spain, France and Italy. Gray Carrara marble was used to make its astonishing iconostasis. Its eye-filling mosaics lining the interior were created by masters from Venice. The gallery of Cathedral frescos was made by 96 painters! Most of the wonderful frescos were created by outstanding painter Viktor Vasnetsov. Altogether he created


15 thematic compositions and 30 separate figures of a total area of about 3,000 m<sup>2</sup>. His most famous works are "God's Mother with a Child" on the eastern altar wall (it alone took 2 years of his painstaking daily work), "Saints" and "Prophets" on its northern and southern walls as well as "Jesus Christ" in the main cupola. On both sides of the entrance to the Cathedral you may also admire his "Baptizing Vladimir" and "Baptizing Kyivans". Several compositions ("Christmas", "Resurrection", "Epiphany") as well as numerous icons of the iconostasis were made by famous painter M. Nestorov. The purely ornamental murals performed by another famous painter M. Vrubel make the heart soar. In the summer of 1896, in the presence of the last Russian emperor Nikolay II and his wife, the cathedral was holily consecrated. Surprisingly, the sad fate of most of the old Kyiv churches passed St. Vladimir's Cathedral. Though the dome was removed in 1929 and in 1934 they intended to dismantle the rest but never did; and ironically, in 1941 the Cathedral was rescued from explosion by German sappers and even restored during the occupation. Nowadays, St. Vladimir's Cathedral is rightly considered one of major landmarks in Kyiv. *V. U.*



50.444648  
30.508558



20 Schevchenko blvd.

Universytet 



67

Most gorgeous  
church in Kyiv

# St. Andrew's Church

Saint Andrew's Church was built in honor of Saint Andrew who is recognized as the "Apostle of Rus". According to the chronicle "The Tale of Bygone Years", Saint Andrew came to banks of the Knieper in the 1<sup>st</sup> century AD and erected a cross – and this is where the church now stands. He prophesied that the sparsely inhabited area would one day become a great city. And just he predicted, the great city of Kyiv arose to become the center of the Eastern Orthodox faith. St. Andrew's came into being when Empress Elizabeth decided she needed a summer residence in Kyiv; a palace and a church. During the official ceremony on September 9, 1744, the Empress personally laid the first three foundation stones which were stamped with the gold monogram "E I" under the royal crown. Secular gossip had it that the Empress planned to get married to Ukrainian singer and songwriter Alyosha Rozum (later Count Razumovsky), whom she brought to the imperial court in 1732 as her favorite and where she granted him his noble title. After her death, Razumovsky destroyed all documents about his marriage to Elizabeth and gave up his noble title. So were they married or not? This question of Razumovsky, Elizabeth and her children has never been resolved. Princess Elizabeth Tarakanova made a career out of pretending to be their

daughter. Her story served as a plot for many novels, paintings and films. Finally, she was imprisoned and either died from tuberculosis, or drowned during the floods of 1777. Perched at the top of Andrew's descent, this colorful Baroque church is one of the city's best known landmarks. The elegant silhouette of its large dome and five smaller cupolas are easily visible from Podil and beyond. It was designed by imperial court architect Bartolomeo Rastrelli (whose other works include the Winter Palace in St. Petersburg and the Mariinsky Palace in Kyiv), but was built by Kyiv architect Ivan Michurin. Perfection in line and proportions; harmony of forms and the surrounding landscape have attracted worldwide recognition and fame, as well as UNESCO world heritage status. *V. U.*

50.458954  
30.51779423 Andrew's Descent  
Poshtova Ploshcha



68

Ancient church with  
a unique iconography



## The Cyril Church

Saints Cyril and Athanasius of Alexandria Church is a remarkable survivor of ancient history. In its time, the church suffered much and was repeatedly at risk of destruction but it has survived. The church was founded in a once distant suburb – Dorogozhychi, in the dynasty of Chernigov princes Olgoviches. In 1139, while fighting for the throne of Kyiv, Prince Vsevolod Olgovich stormed and captured the city from this direction. And here he decided to lay the foundations of the temple-residence and the temple-tomb of the dynasty. The church was rebuilt anew several times, and it is preserved as an example of the “Ukrainian baroque” style, but the clear influence of the ancient architects of Chernigov can be easily seen in its design.

In the 19<sup>th</sup> century, during renovation work, restorers uncovered the ancient frescoes, some of which you can see today. The wall of icons is magnificent: it comprises four icons painted by brilliant Mikhail Vrubel – St. Athanasius, Virgin Mary, Christ, and St. Cyril. Some wall paintings in the choir gallery are also by him. In 1929, St. Cyril Church was closed for services and it became part of an historical and cultural reserve. During the Nazi occupation services were resumed, but after the liberation of Kyiv the

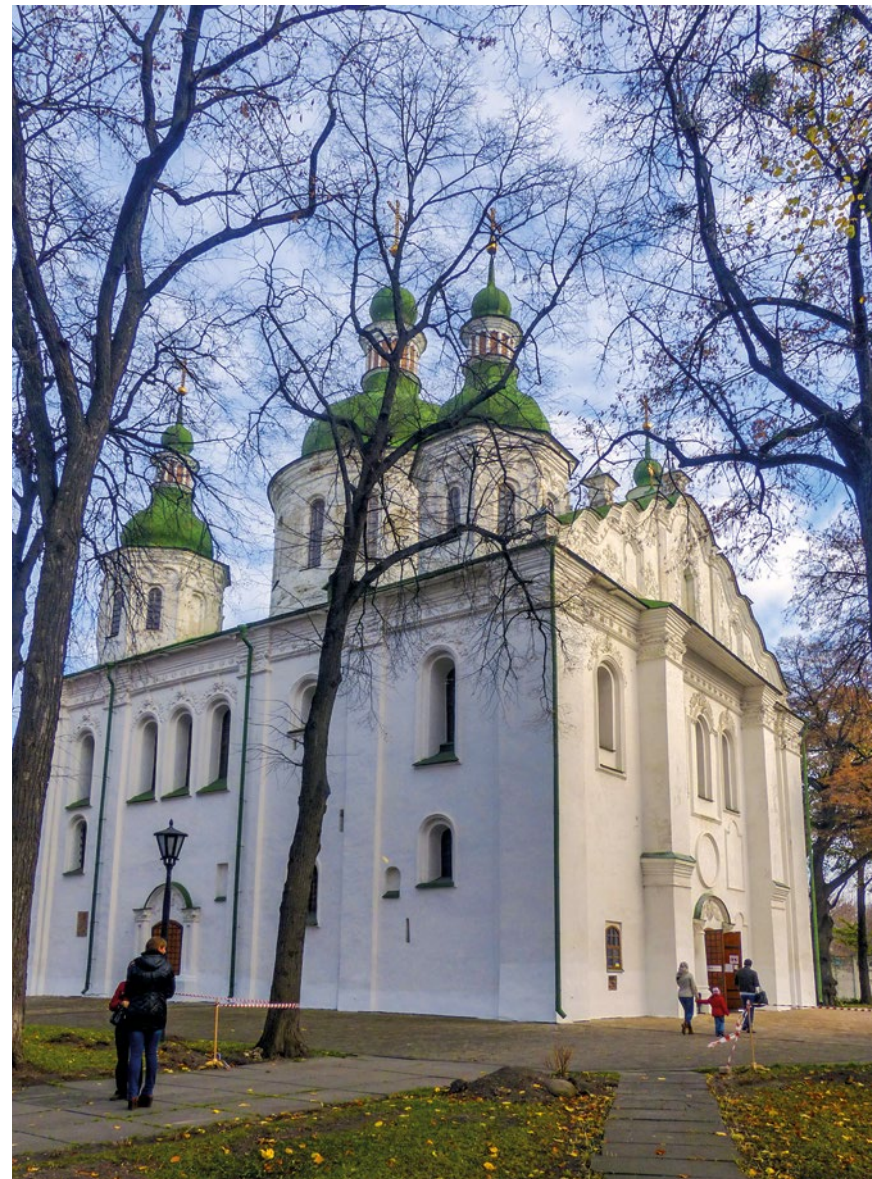


12 Olena Teliga St.

Pochaina  Dorohozhychi 

INTERESTING KYIV • TOP120

church was turned into a museum. The great acoustics makes the performance of hymns and prayers memorable events. Presently, the church is open for services for Christians on certain weekdays. A. A.





69

Where the pagan god  
Perun came ashore



## Vydubitsky Monastery

The Vyduybichi neighborhood was first mentioned in Russian texts as far back as 1070, in connection with the construction of the Krasny (Red) courtyard – a country seat of the Grand Prince of Kyiv Vsevolod Yaroslavich. Now, here is the Central Botanical Garden of the NAS of Ukraine named after academician M. Gryshko. One of the stories says that the name Vyduybichi comes from the wooden pagan idol Perun which was thrown out of the chapel into the Dnieper River after the Christian baptism of Kyivans in 988. Perun was a persistent fellow and resurfaced (“vydybnul” in Ukrainian) washed ashore just in front of this very hill.

Next to the lower part of the Red courtyard stood the monastery, the patrimony of the Monomakh dynasty. This was burned down by the Polovtians in 1096. The monastery was restored and developed over many centuries. Later, many of the Princes became patrons of the monastery: Vladimir Monomakh, Vasilko Terebovlyansky, and Danilo Galitsky. In 1199-1201, a strong supporting wall was built to protect the monastery from erosion caused by the Dnieper River. The ancient stone Mikhaylovsky (St. Michael) Temple is preserved to this day and the necropolis has

also partially survived. This part of the monastery was built in the 18<sup>th</sup> century. Its majestic buildings are pleasing to the eye, for they are not only a natural looking addition to the surrounding landscape, but are also outstanding examples of sacred architecture. A. A.



50.416869  
30.568163



40 Vydubitska St.  
Vydubychi 



70

Female convent  
founded and headed  
by the princess



# Pokrovskyi Monastery

In 1889 the Grand Princess Alexandra Romanova (who later became a Abbess), wife of Prince Nikolay Nikolayevich, brother of Emperor Alexander II, founded the Pokrovsky female convent. The family chapel was also in the convent, where Alexandra Petrovna renewed her faith by praying before the icon of the Mother of God. Later she took the monastic vows under the name of Anastasia. A number of charitable institutions were established in the convent. Its medical facilities were highly advanced for the time and the best Kyiv doctors worked there. In 1923 the convent was abolished by the Soviet authorities, but reborn in the autumn of 1941.

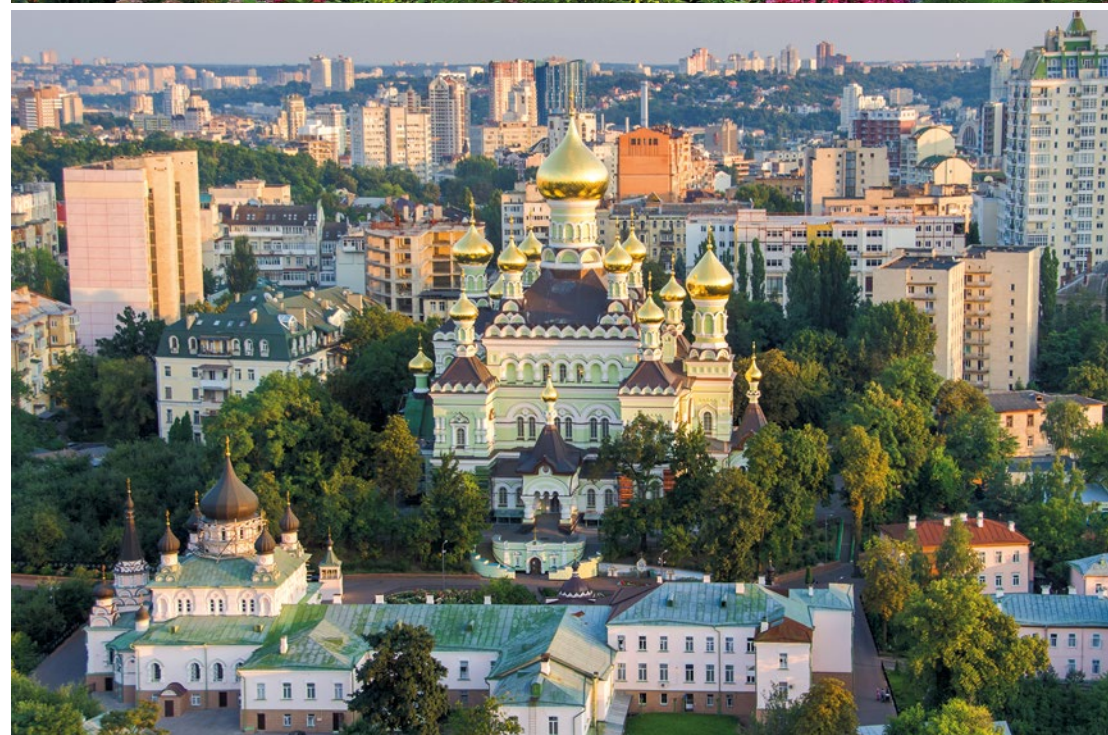
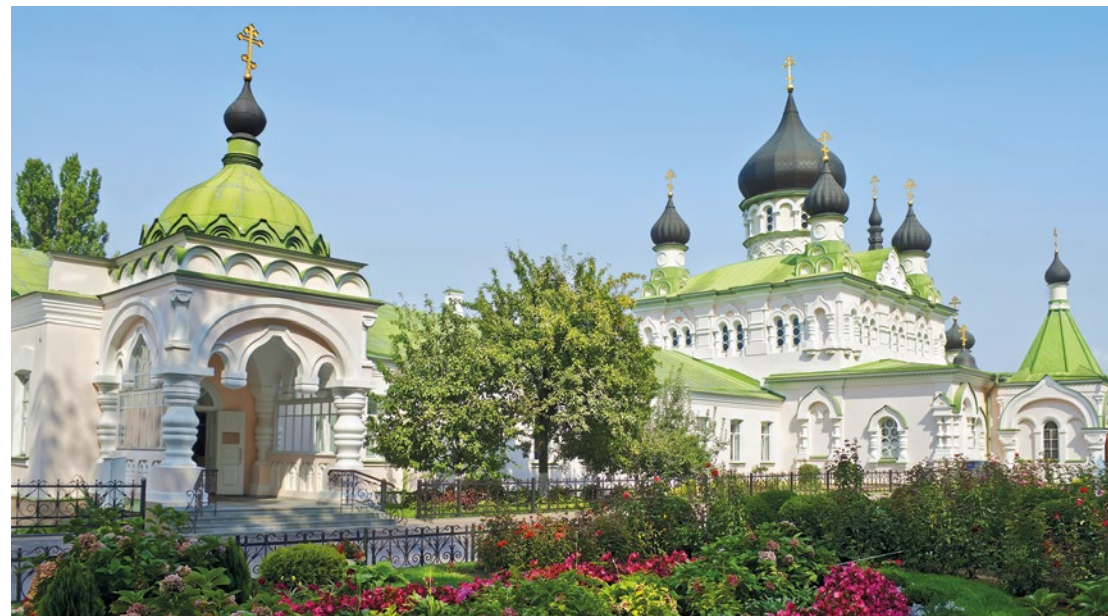
The temple built from the plans of Kyiv architect Vladimir Nikolayev includes the aisle of Archangel Michael and the aisle of St. Agapit Pechersky. In the garden, to the east of the temple, there is the tomb of the nun Anastasia, and further to the south – the Cathedral of prelate St. Nicholas the Wonderworker including the aisle of St. Sergius of Radonezh (left) and the aisle of all Saints (right). The underground level contains a separate church – The Church of the Icon of the Mother of God – “The life-bearing spring”. A. A.



50.458476  
30.493642



15 Behterevsky Lane  
Lukianivska 





71

The first and only Ukrainian church located in the middle of the Dnieper



## Church on the Water


St. Nicholas Church the Wonderworker on the water, a.k.a. Church of St. Nicholas on the water, Floating Church of Nicholas, the Kyiv Cathedral of St. Nicholas the Wonderworker, and officially the Cathedral of St. Nicholas is an Orthodox church in Kyiv, 23 meters high, built on a circular base slab with sheet piling. The 15-meter footbridge connects the river bank with the cathedral. The building is built in Ukrainian neo-Baroque style; cross-shaped, with one octagonal dome. The facade is decorated with sculptural pediments and has cross-shaped windows on its four sides. The church holds no more than 50 people inside and a similar number on the platform in front. Interestingly, the form of the cathedral resembles a chestnut tree in full bloom.

In the early part of the 20<sup>th</sup> century there was also a chapel of St. Nicholas in the pseudo-Russian style on the Kyiv river pier, but in the 1930s the Bolsheviks destroyed it. The construction of the modern church began on St. Nicholas Day, December 19, 2003. The consecration was performed on July 7, 2004, on the Feast of the Nativity of St. John the Baptist, by Metropolitan of Kyiv and All Ukraine Vladimir (Sabodan). The church has a Saint Nicholas icon more than 200 years old.

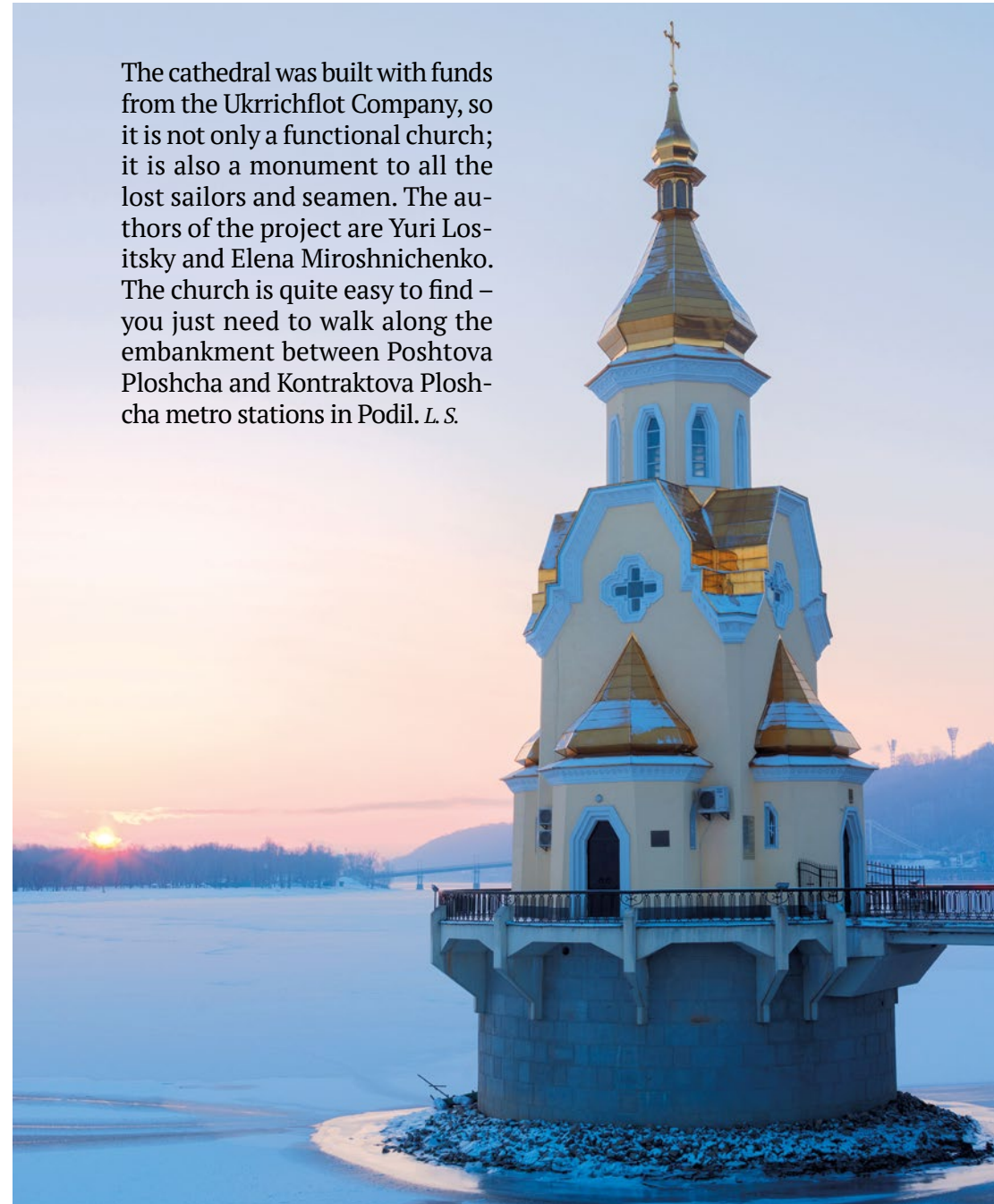


50.464655  
30.526087



Naberezhno-Khreshchatytska St.  
Kontraktova Ploshcha 

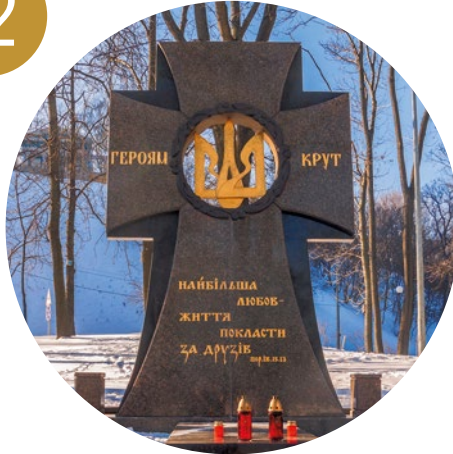
The cathedral was built with funds from the Ukrzichflot Company, so it is not only a functional church; it is also a monument to all the lost sailors and seamen. The authors of the project are Yuri Lositsky and Elena Miroshnichenko. The church is quite easy to find – you just need to walk along the embankment between Poshtova Ploshcha and Kontraktova Ploshcha metro stations in Podil. *L. S.*





72

Ancient graveyard  
on the Dnieper slopes  
turned into a park



## The Askold Tomb


This historic tomb, known as Askold's Grave, takes its name from legendary Prince Askold, who was killed close to here by Prince Oleg in 882. According to legend this is where he was buried. In olden times, a tribe of Ugrs – who would later found their own state of Hungary – passed by Askold's Grave. Since then this place has had the alternative name “Ugric”.

Before 1809, there was a small wooden church here, but then it was replaced by a stone church – architect Andrey Melensky. Then, the cemetery for aristocrats appeared as the burial place for the great and the good of Kyiv. It was beautiful and well-kept but only until 1930 when the Soviets, with their typical distaste for religion, converted the church into a park pavilion with a restaurant. And the cemetery became terraced paths that overlooked the Dnieper. Now the church has been restored to its original form and purpose. Many Kyivans and tourists like to take a walk through this scenic area, never guessing how it looked and for what it was used 100 years ago. Askold's grave is a favourite subject of artists and is often a topic for poets and composers. А. А.



50.443895  
30.551351



1 Parkova Road  
Arsenalna, Dnipro 





73

Roman Catholic Church –  
Planetarium – Library



# St. Alexander's Church


In 1814, representatives of the Polish community appealed to Emperor Alexander I for permission to erect a stone church to celebrate Russia's victory in the Patriotic War and in honor of himself, Tsar Alexander. The Tsar granted the petition on condition that the church would bear the name of his Patron-Saint Alexander. The designated site was where a previous church had burned down. Thus, St. Alexander Roman Catholic Church was founded in 1817. During its construction the architects and designers changed in rapid succession: Andrey Melensky, Piler, Stanzani, and Vikenty Beretti and others. Architect Franz Mekhovich finally completed the construction in 1842.

From 1937 a worker's hostel was housed in the defunct Church. In 1952, a planetarium and a library were located there. In 1990, the building was given back to the Catholic community of Kyiv. And the re-consecrated church was restored to its original appearance. Its current address: 17 Kostolna (formerly Chelyuskintsev) Street. A.A.



50.453179  
30.525068



17 Kostolna St.  
Maidan Nezalezhnosti 

There are three words written in Polish on the Alexander Church cross: "Hope. Faith. Love"





74

Catholic Church turned into  
a hall of organ music



# St. Nicholas Church


At the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, about 40,000 Catholics were in Kyiv. And the existing Roman Catholic church – St. Alexander's in the old city – only had a maximum capacity of 1,000. Obviously, a bigger church was needed. Leonard Yankovsky headed the committee for the construction. The designer was Stanislav Volovsky, who was still studying at St. Petersburg Institute of civil engineers. The experienced architect Vladislav Gorodetsky was commissioned to oversee his draft design. Gorodetsky also in overall charge of the construction. The finished church was very impressive and came to be regarded a true architectural masterpiece.

It dominated this then undeveloped part of Kyiv visible from every direction. The church was consecrated in December 6, 1909. In the early 1930s, the Church was closed for public liturgies. Since 1980 it has been functioning as a concert hall for organ music. Currently, mass is held on Sundays and on public holidays. A. A.



50.426786  
30.517178



75 V. Vasylkivska St.  
Olimpiiska, Palats "Ukrayina" 





75

The Evangelical Lutheran  
Church of St. Catherine,  
Church of the German  
colony in Kyiv



## Lutheran Church


In the 18<sup>th</sup> century there were few Germans in Kyiv and religious services for this small group were held in the house of the Kyiv pharmacist George Bunge. But as numbers grew the house could not accommodate them all. So they built the modest wooden church of St. Catherine in Podil. This was destroyed in a devastating fire in 1811, but a few years later, another wooden church was built. The church that stands here now, the Lutheran Evangelical Church of St. Catherine, was built according to the plan of architect Ivan Strom and under the guidance of Paul Schleifer in 1855-1857.

The building was designed in Romanesque style with simple Gothic elements. The Historian of Kyiv, Nikolay Zakrevskiy, wrote: "The church in Gothic style is noted for its grace, serenity, and excellent acoustics. The preacher's words can be heard clearly and distinctly in its farthest corners". Soviet distaste for all things religious saw the church closed down and a group of militant atheists took over its premises. After that it was used as an ordinary warehouse. And later as a department of Folk Architecture and Folkways of Ukraine with its administration. Nowadays (since 1998), the building is used for its original designated purpose. It is a church one again. A. A.



50.443824  
30.526198



22 Luterska St.  
Khreshchatyk 

INTERESTING KYIV • TOP120





76

Unique church  
of the Tatar Jews



## Karaite Kenesa


The unique Karaite kenesa appeared in Kyiv in 1902. The man behind the project was talented and popular city architect Vladislav Gorodetsky. He worked together with his regular partner, the sculptor Elio Sala, who executed the decoration and finishing in masterful style. The building was built in Mauritanian style for the use of the small Karaite community. The Kogens who manufactured tobacco and cigarettes in large quantities were the “tobacco kings” and the most influential family. This tobacco business turned them into multimillionaires. It was the Kogens who gave money to build this house of prayer. After the events of 1917, the kenesa lost its religious status. At various times it was a puppet theatre, the “Zarya” cinema, and the Republican Actor’s House. Unfortunately, the Soviet authorities did not treat this beautiful building well.

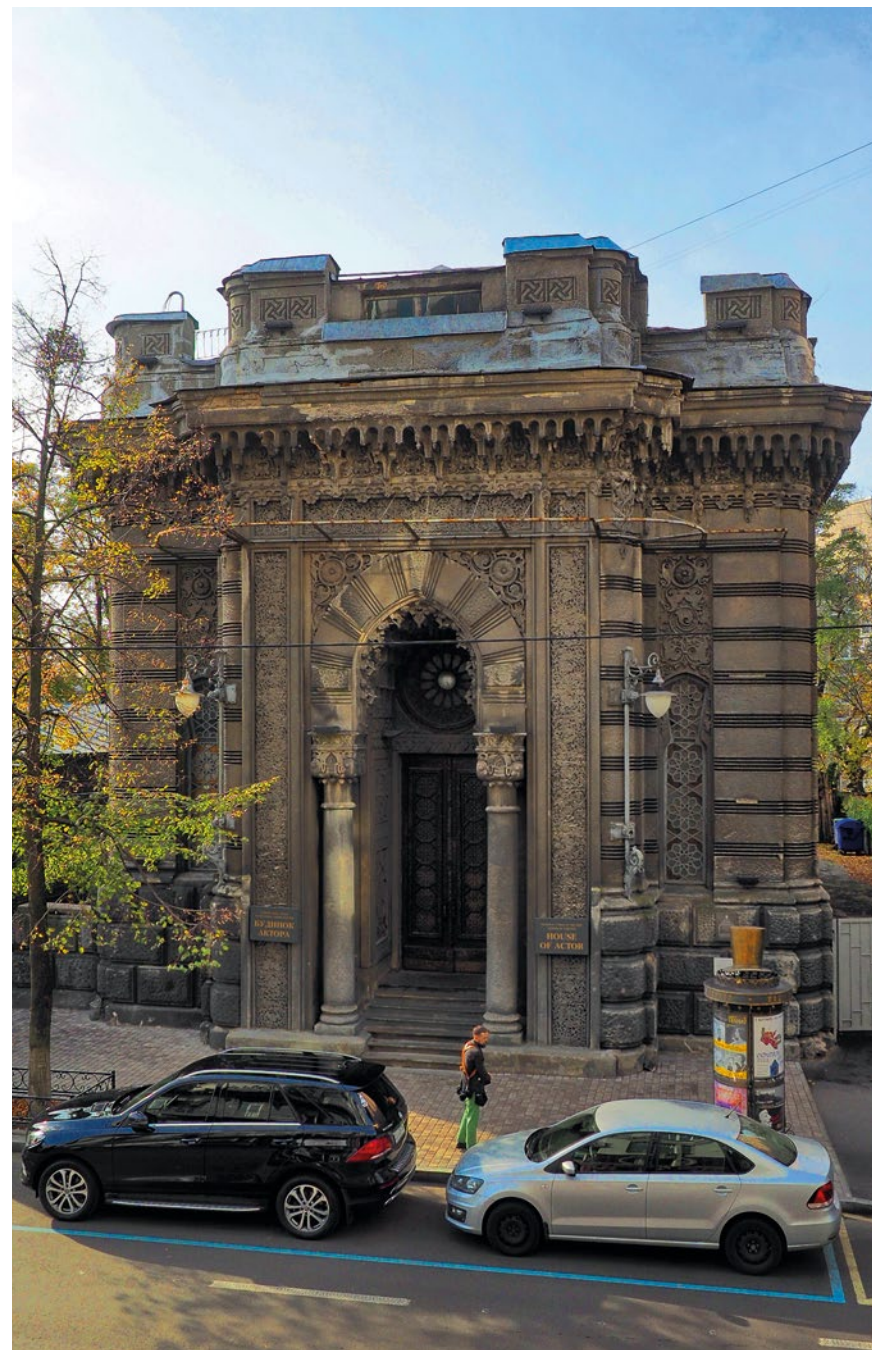
The splendid Moresque hipped roof, the elegant railings, the tracery gates, and the interior stucco-work all disappeared. Nevertheless, it is difficult to imagine today’s Kyiv without what remains of this building. A. A.



50.449872  
30.510958



7 Yaroslaviv val St.  
Zoloti Vorota 





77

INTERESTING KYIV • TOP120

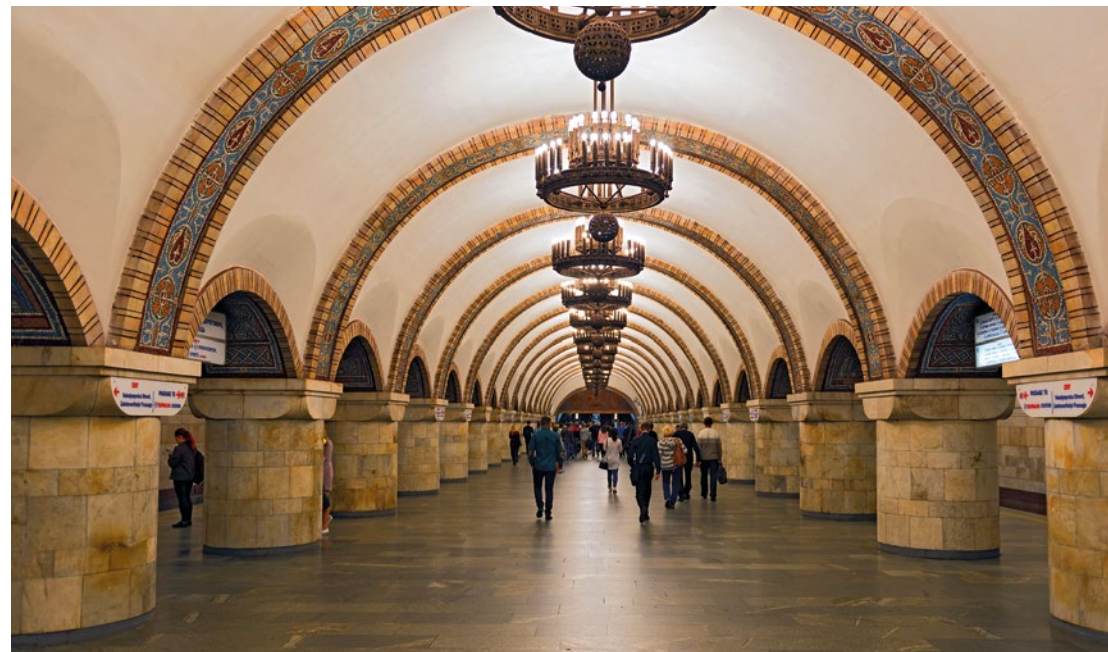
One of the most beautiful  
metro systems in Europe



## Kyiv Metro

The decision to build the Kyiv metro was made back in 1936 but the preparatory work was abruptly halted with the advent of war, in 1941. Although much of Kyiv was bombed to ruins after WWII, the postwar reconstruction plan, included the Kyiv metro. Although the resolution to build the Kyiv metro was passed by the Soviet government in February 1945, construction only began in August 1949. It was decided that Kyiv would have three main lines: Svyatoshyno-Brovary, Syretsko-Pecherska and Kurenivsko-Krasnoarmiyska (now – Obolonsko-Teremkivska). The first connection between stations was made between Dnipro and Arsenalna in December 1951, while the last was between Vokzalna and Universytet stations in May 1959. The first 7 stations were in Stalin style – i.e. with plenty of Communist symbols – blended with traditional Ukrainian motifs. The first stations were very colorful and richly decorated. Three different types of granite were used, as well as marble and majolica and other ornamental stones. Khreshchatyk station was particularly beautiful faced in yellow-pink marble and decorated with majolica decorated pillars in Ukrainian national style. Bright and vibrant colours dominated – red, orange, bright yellow and gold. In 1986, the station became a local heritage site. Golden Gate station made it into the

top 22 most beautiful metro stations in Europe (as the Daily Telegraph reported in 2012). Today, Kyiv metro system is represented by three lines, with both above ground and underground sections, and comprises 52 stations. You can pay for a metro ride with a token (one token = one ride) and costs UAH 8.00 (as of August, 2018) which you buy at the cash desk counters. Alternatively, there are also special ticket vending machines at some stations. Here you can purchase a “contactless card” which can be loaded with money – enough for up to 50 journeys – and which allows you to reduce the single ride cost to UAH 6.5. It is also possible to purchase a monthly pass for unlimited rides. *V.U.*



Wikipedia





Environmentally friendly and  
convenient road transport



## Trolleybus

The trolleybus, as well as the tram, has always been a favorite of Kyiv residents. Many like it even more than the tram for its environmental friendliness and almost complete absence of noise. Today in Kyiv there are 45 day and 4 night routes, which are serviced by four trolleybus depots and almost six hundred cars. The fare for 2018 is 8 hryvnia (approximately 28 cents). The history of the Kyiv trolleybus began in November 1935. But until the 1950s, it was seen as more exotic than other forms of transport. In 1937, there were 393 trams but only 17 trolleybuses in operation. But after the war, the trolleybus fleet was expanded and updated, and the number and length of routes significantly increased. So the trolleybus took over as the dominant form of transport. In 1966, the world's first trolleybus "train" (consisting of two trolleybuses) was introduced according to the model proposed by Kyiv inventor Vladimir Veklich. Until the 1990s, the Kyiv trolleybus fleet consisted mainly of various models of Czech Škodas (9T, 14T and others). Currently, Škoda can still be seen on Kyiv routes, but most of the trolleybus fleet are now Ukrainian "Kyiv-12" and its variants developed at the Antonov Design Bureau in the early 1990s. These were manufactured by the Aviant Kyiv factory until 2006. More modern low-floor LAZ and "Bohdan" trolleybuses are now produced there. *v. u.*





Oldest urban transport  
vehicle in Kyiv



## Tram

The first electric tramcars appeared in May 1892. This was the first electric tramway in the former Russian Empire and the third in Europe. The first horse-drawn tram was tried 1891, but a pair of horses were not enough to pull the tram up the Bohdan Khmelnytsky Street hill. An attempt to solve this problem by doubling the horsepower to four was not successful. Next came a steam powered tramcar which only remained in service until 1895 as it was very noisy, scared horses and the population, and polluted the air. Between 1911 and 1941, several types of petrol tram were in operation, but after the war they did not return. The hilly terrain of Kyiv with its steep ascents and descents made tram operation difficult especially in bad weather. Finally, the electric tram provided the perfect solution and in 1975, the USSR's first light rail, or fast tram started running. The long routes, which connected the right and left banks of the Dnieper, and downtown to Pushcha-Voditsa parkland were especially popular with Kyivans. Moreover, the tram was the cheapest way to get around. A single ride without time limits cost only 3 kopecks (5 cents). There were even fans of the round trip which lasted for hours on end. In the 2000s, the number of tram routes was sharply decreased, and the routes were divided among several other forms of transport – buses, minibuses and trolleybuses. The rolling stock has not changed much since the 1960s. Various Czech-made Tatra passenger cars, are mainly used. The Tatra T3 is most common which were

produced between 1960 and 1999. These are the distinctive red-and-yellow cars, which merrily rumble along the city's street. The tram ride fare is equal to that of buses and trolley buses, and in the autumn of 2018, a ride cost 8 UAH (\$0.35). There are conductors or ticket inspectors in most trams. They sell and punch your ticket or passengers will punch their tickets themselves when boarding the tram. *V. U.*





80

Fastest and most romantic  
way to reach Vladimirska  
Hill from Podil



## Funicular

This public service began in May 8, 1905. The primary purpose of the Mikhailovsky funicular was to provide passenger transport between the Upper city and Podil.

Many people saw the funicular as a fun experience, riding up and down several times in succession. Here at the bottom station were the first turnstiles in Kyiv, tall gilt framed mirrors and public toilets. The top and bottom stations were linked by telephone. In the summer of 1928, there was an accident. While replacing a cable, a car at the top ran away and crashed into its “brother”. No-one was hurt but both cable cars were completely destroyed. The Dombal Kyiv works built new replacement cars which were more comfortable and stylish. In 1929 the funicular railway was extended to Poshtova (Post) Square. In 1958 the original mechanisms in the engine house were brought up to date. The last major overhaul with full renovation of the cable cars took place in the early 1980<sup>s</sup>. A. A.



50.45677  
30.52269



3 Sagaidachny St.

Poshtova Ploshcha



INTERESTING KYIV • TOP120





81

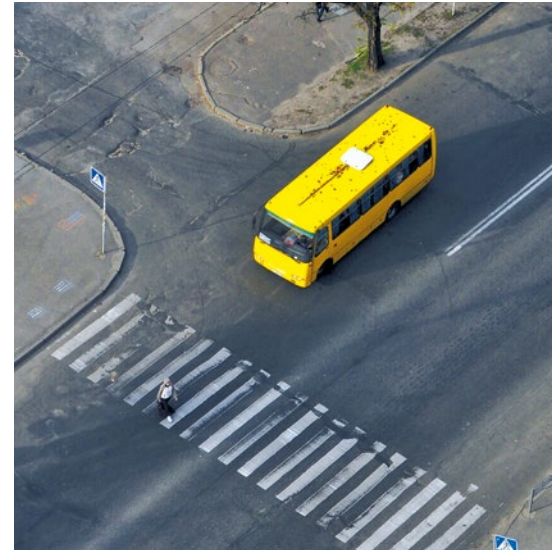
One of most popular forms  
of public transport



## Marshrutka

Fixed route taxi-buses, which citizens call “marshrutka”, appeared in Kyiv in the 1960s but in Soviet times they were considered rather extravagant. The fare was 15 kopecks (\$0.25), which was 3-5 times more expensive than other means of public transport. By the late 1980s, they were still not very popular, but ten years later, due to the cancellation or shortening of tram and trolleybus routes, their usage boomed. Today, on the streets of Kyiv, the yellow Bohdan buses are the most common. They compete with second hand minibuses brought from abroad. Some marshrutkas are even converted from trucks — windows are cut and seats installed, which is contrary to safety standards. The city authorities do not approve! There are 154 legal routes and around a dozen that are illegal. The fare varies depending on public transport fares and the length of the route. As of now, the autumn of 2018, the cost is from 6 to 10 UAH (\$0.25-0.40) per trip. There is a category of so-called “beneficiaries” who are entitled to free travel. A driver takes one preferential passenger for one ride. Drivers have travel tickets which they are supposed to hand out to passengers, but this hardly ever happens. In most minibuses there is no conductor; you pay the driver. In the rush hour, the taxi-buses are very crowded, with as many passengers as possible squashed inside through all the doors at once, and payment is made “on trust.” From back of the bus money is passed from

hand to hand to the driver and change goes back the same way. If a passenger gets off without waiting for the change, then it “travels” back to the driver. It is not usual to find cheating in minibuses, although in a crowded bus and especially in the evening rush, it is not recommended to transfer large notes and “tempt” strangers. The driver’s cabin of an average bus is a tiny house. Here, depending on personal preferences, you can see icons, soft toys, posters and rugs; money boxes; plastic flowers and garlands. At New Year the driver usually decorates his “house” with Christmas toys. V. U.





82

Main department store  
of the Soviet Kyiv;  
now with a new "content"



## TsUM

Located on two former kreshchatyk plots previously belonging to the film magnate Anton Shantser (Khreshchatyk, 42) and Amalie Shedel (Khreshchatyk, 44/2) – the seven-story TsUM was built in 1937-1938 by Moscow architects Friedman and Metzoyan in the American style. This architectural form was called both classical rationalism and constructivism and was unusual in the old USSR. It is unlike any other buildings in the main street of the capital: red polished granite, glass bay windows, and turrets on top. TsUM fortunately survived the war and stood among the post-war development as an old-timer, reminding people of the peaceful routine of life before the war – the people regarded TsUM with fondness.

The building also survived several reconstructions and renovations the last and most comprehensive being for four years, from 2014 to 2016. It was completely transformed inside, but retained its original facade to maintain this key building's cultural heritage. With its six trading floors, a new rooftop restaurant and outside terrace, today's modern TsUM is commercially relevant and yet, at the same time, an historic reminder of times past. *V. U.*



50.445036  
30.520636



2B Khmelnytsky St.

Teatralna 

INTERESTING KYIV • TOP120





83

The most famous  
market in the capital



# Bessarabsky Market

The ceremonial opening of this large indoor market took place on July 3, 1912. The market took its name from Bessarabska Square where it is located. It is ideally situated: the central street of the capital, Khreshchatyk, stretches from European Square through Maidan and on to Bessarabska Square. Not a long way, but enough to prepare your mental shopping list! Bessarabska Square is a strange and unusual place: as far back as the 19<sup>th</sup> century there was the well-known “Water Pipe” here, descending steeply down to Velyka Vasylkivska Street. During heavy rains riders and their horses could be washed away in the flood. Sculptor Mikhail Mikeshin dreamed of building a monument to Khmelnytsky opposite it, but it would have looked as if the hetman was pointing his mace directly at a popular pub. So it did not work out for Khmelnytsky. Instead, one of two Kyiv demonstration gallows was set up here in WWI and WWII, and a monument to Lenin was later erected but then later demolished. Funds for the market’s construction were provided for in the will of the sugar magnate, philanthropist and benefactor Lazar Brodskyi. The second floor was intended to be a public library funded by revenues from the market, but the First World War and then the revolution ended that idea. Never-



theless, the building was a great success. The project was developed by Polish architect Henry Julian Gai, who had experience of designing a covered market in Warsaw, and Kyiv architect Mikhail Bobrusov, who traveled specially to Europe to study such markets. Due to his efforts, a huge dome of glass and metal, similar to the heavenly vault of a temple or the shape of a fantastic ship, was erected over Bessarabka. The market facade is decorated with sculptural freizes – “The Peasant with the oxen”; “The Milkwoman” as well as the Bull’s Heads, flying geese on the iron gates and many panel paintings on the interior walls. One of the most beautiful is “Fish in the fishing nets” near the ornate street light. Decorative ceramics and figured brick built into the walls create a pleasing blend of the old and the new. The market was designed to be multifunctional: with rooms for cafes, shops, and administrative offices all around the perimeter. The stalls in the huge trading hall are perpetually piled up with meat, fish, lard, fruits, vegetables, honey products and flowers. *V.U.*



50.442457  
30.520728



Bessarabska Sq.

Teatralna  Ploshcha Lva Tolstoho 



84

The underground trading kingdom in downtown Kyiv





# Metrograd

Metrograd shopping mall is commonly referred to as The Underground City, and for good reason. Before 2001, between Lva Tolstogo Square, Bessarabka Square and Khreshchatyk, there were long underground cross-walks which were later reconstructed. That is how the largest modern two-level shopping mall in Ukraine appeared. It covers 25,000 m<sup>2</sup> and has 23 entrances and exits located in the busiest places of the downtown. Being new to this place, it is very easy to get lost here, even if you pay attention to multiple directional signs, and when you come out of the mall, it is not unusual to have no idea where you are.

Metrograd is a long, wide corridor with many original shops. For your shopping convenience, shops of a similar nature are grouped together into one of the 13 so called “Quarters”. So you will find gifts (in New Passway), clothing and footwear, kids’ stuff, sports, services, home goods, furniture, books, appliances, boutiques, entertainment and restaurants. Quarters 12 and 13 are best described as miscellaneous. You can easily find any shop you need and its location on the Metrograd official site. There are no big stores in Metrograd, only small shops, but many of them sell high



Bessarabs'ka square

Teatralna  Ploshcha Lva Tolstoho 

INTERESTING KYIV • TOP120

quality goods and provide many useful services. Kyivans prefer to walk around Metrograd in winter, where they find here a cozy shelter from bad weather. Not long ago the shopping mall was renovated, and now it is decorated with traditional Ukrainian designs and every quarter has its own key color. *L. S.*





85

Petrivka-Pochayna and the  
largest book market in Kyiv



## Petrivka

Petrivka is part of Podil located near the North Bridge and Pochayna metro station (before 2018, Petrivka station). This very place is deemed to be the source of the legendary Pochayna River where Prince Vladimir (Great) baptized the people of Kyiv and later the entire population of Kyivan Rus. Nearby there is a city train station and buses and taxibuses shuttle to different parts of the city and its suburbs from the metro station.

Yet, Petrivka-Pochayna is mostly known for its huge book market “Petrivka”, with the eponymously-named Clothing market located next to it. Officially it opened in March 1997 and has been the favourite place of Kyiv’s book lovers ever since. You can buy everything at Petrivka: from writing pads and notebooks for schoolchildren, various textbooks and literature of any kind, to rare editions. They trade here in music CDs, movies and games, miniatures, records, sewing and knitting kits, art tools, paints and brushes, pens, markers... you name it, Petrivka has it. Haggling and bargaining is part of the game until you have secured that handsome gift for yourself or your loved one. If you cannot find the thing you want, the sellers will happily go on a search. They will give you their business cards to call about it

later. It is better to go to the market in the afternoon on weekdays, or around midday on Saturdays and Sundays, when almost all outlets are open. The book market is closed on Mondays. *v.u.*



50.485359  
30.497459



23 Verbova St.  
Pochaina 



Mini-shops on every street corner where you can buy coffee, ice cream, newspapers or exchange currency



## Kiosks

Kiosks, with their official name “small architectural forms” (abbreviation “SAF”) can be found at virtually every street corner. This is the most democratic kind of retail outlet offering hot coffee, clothes, books, accessories, cosmetics and perfumes, and much more. You can enjoy fast local food usually shawarma or pancakes with stuffing. They appeared on the streets in the late 1980s. Then the palatki served as 24-hour convenience stores. In just one small SAF one could buy Coca-Cola, alcohol, cigarettes, contraceptives, sweets, crisps, and also absolutely unexpected things – from jeans and flashlights to detective stories and audio cassettes. Those popular shops were most often located in former “Soyuzpechat” – magazine and newspaper shops. After gaining independence and the transition to a free market, there was an SAF boom. Palatki sprang up anywhere and everywhere. Most of them are prefabricated plastic structures without foundations, in which there are no amenities other than electric lighting. Despite the efforts of the authorities, a huge number of kiosks in the capital are set up illegally – today there are more than 2,500. The simplicity of the design allows them to be quickly transported from place to place. They are installed near houses, on lawns, at bus stops, near large stores. Until recently, they flooded the underground, but for safety reasons they have now been removed. And from now on, all legal kiosks will be marked with special holograms. *V.U.*





87

Main railway station and  
architectural monument




# Main Railway Station

Back in 1925, the Soviet government made the decision to modernize Kyiv's main station, and on 7 November 1927, the construction work began based on the plans developed by Professor of Architecture Alexander Verbitsky and architect Pavel Alyoshin. Both of these famous architects built a number of iconic Kyiv buildings before the revolution of 1917. Fortunately, they escaped Stalin's repression and continued to work for many years after WWI. It is thanks to their talent that the Kyiv Railway Station looks so striking and unusual. The building was to be built in Ukrainian baroque style with elements of rational constructivism. The work lasted many years, and it was only in 1932 that the railway station opened for passengers. Its construction cost 13 million rubles. During their retreat from Kyiv in 1943, the Nazis tried to blow up this building, laying a powerful TNT charge in its basement. Though the facade crumpled, the strong internal structure survived, suffering minor damage from a small fire. In 1945-1949, the station building was restored under the supervision of architect Georgy Domashenko. In 1950-1960<sup>s</sup>, underground passages were built that connected all the platforms. Later a gallery above the tracks was added, roofs above the platforms for protection from rain and

50.440531  
30.489619



1 Vokzalna Sq.  
Vokzalna 

INTERESTING KYIV • TOP120



snow, and the main building refurbished. Today, Kyiv central Railway Station is not only an historic, architectural monument, but also a up to date, modern station with all the facilities for efficiently servicing passengers and their meeters and greeters. Recently the Southern suburban terminal has become an integral part of the main Railway Station. The Kyiv railway junction is one of the largest in Europe. *V.U.*





88

One of most distinctive  
river ports in Ukraine



## River Port & Quay

One of the main attractions of the Ukrainian capital is the Dnieper River and the city sits on both banks. In Soviet days, departmental recreation centers and camping-type sanatoriums, formerly just called “houses”, were built along the river giving parts of the city a resort atmosphere. Many generations of citizens from virtually all of the Soviet Union came to relax there, often traveling on the small ships that shuttle up and down the Dnieper. The second Dnieper attraction was boat sightseeing tours: short (2-3 hours) and long (from Kyiv to Kaniv, Zaporizhia and all the way to the Black Sea). Boating is very popular with Kyivans: they like to celebrate wedding, anniversaries, graduations, birthdays and other festive events on the water. The river passenger terminal in Podil district has been operating for many decades. In the 1930s, the Ukrainian SSR government decided to build the biggest river passenger transport complex in the USSR. But World War II halted progress. It was only in 1961, that the modern river port was inaugurated. It was designed by Ukrainian architects Vadim Gopkalo, Vadim Ladnyi and Grigoriy Slutskyi. It was pragmatic and practical but still aesthetically pleasing in design resembling a cruise ship in outline. Radio and tele-communications, alarm systems and equipment to monitor river traffic were installed in the

captain's bridge in a round turret atop a tall mast. Various administrative and maintenance units were located in other parts. The project authors accommodated everything, including, the ability to handle many passengers, so the river port became one of the largest in the country. For passenger convenience, the riverside complex had large waiting rooms, a ticket hall, an hotel, a restaurant, a post office, and left luggage lockers.

Architecturally, it matched the Poshtova (Postal) Square buildings. From the quayside, it has four stories but on the Square side, just two. Much attention was also paid to the appearance of the surrounding area. The embankment and many piers were renovated. In its heyday this transport complex served thousands of passengers every week. But times change, river passengers diminished and now the river port building is in process of being transformed into a new riverside hotel. A. A., V. U.



50.458975  
30.526705



3 Poshtova Square

Poshtova Ploshcha





89

"The train travels  
from Yablun'ka (Apple Tree)  
station to Vyshen'ka  
(Cherry Tree) station!"



## Children's Railway

The miniature South Western Railway (Kyiv Children's Railway) is a real narrow-gauge railway with two little stations at the opposite sides of a big circle, helped by teenagers. It consists of two rings – small and large. On the large ring there is a viaduct over a ravine with a height of 19.6 m and length of 100 m. The length of the railroad is 2.8 km. Kyiv Children's Railway was opened on August 2, 1953 in Syretskyi Park. The trains (Tu-7 and an old German Gr-336) run between two stations: "Vyshen'ka" and "Yablun'ka". The track is equipped with semi-automatic lock, trains, stations, locomotive radio and 13 railroad semaphore signals. Everything is real here – just smaller! It is also the home of the Young Railwayman School, where children are given an introduction to the rail industry. Young drivers will find everything necessary for future railway professionals to learn the job! Thanks to the work on this miniature railway, a lot of students continue railway studies and end up working on the real thing. The railway is open from May until the end of August in Syretskyi Park (from 10:30 to 17:20). You can find this park on Shamryla Street, 4. The nearest metro stations: Dorohozhychi and Beresteiska. To board the train you need to buy tickets; children under six can travel free.



50.467363  
30.434673



4 Tymofiya Shamryla St.

Beresteiska  Dorohozhychi 

INTERESTING KYIV • TOP120



What can be more fun than to take a tiny train where all the crew are the same age as you? This railway connects 2 stations – Cherry and Apple – in one of Kyiv's parks and has worked every summer for the last 63 years. The railway for kids in Kyiv is a great way to give your child a surprise! *L. S.*






90

Single pier  
suspension bridge

# North Bridge

This piece of engineering is not only a handsome ornament to present day Kyiv, but also a unique European technical achievement. With the development of the city and building construction on the rapid development of the Dnieper's left bank it was obvious that a substantial bridge was needed. The go ahead came in 1966. It took five years to develop and finish the plans, which were finally approved by the USSR Council of Ministers in Moscow. The working title "North Bridge" was initially changed to "People's Friendship Bridge" and then eventually "Moscow Bridge". Construction of this complicated structure was carried out between 1971 to 1976 and involved specialist skills from Kyiv, Voronezh, Hartsyz, and many other cities. Its length is 816 m, width – 32 m, and the cable pylon height – 116 m. The bridge is decorated with the Kyiv city emblem of the Soviet era. Initially it was intended to place here figures of the legendary city founders Kyi, Schek, Khoriv and Lybid' but this plan came to nought. The span supported by steel cables is 300 m. Next door, there is another 732-meter bridge over the Dnieper tributary Desenka. Architect Anatoly Dobrovolskyi and engineer Georgy Fux were awarded prizes from the Council of Ministers for this achievement.

50.492821  
30.543281North Bridge  
Pochaina 

INTERESTING KYIV • TOP120



North Bridge is an important traffic artery for Kyiv, as it the shortest way to the densely populated Obolon' and Troyeschyna neighborhoods along with Voskresenka. In the last decade, the bridge has been singled out by thrill-seeking climbers who cause a lot of trouble for operating officials. In February 2018, as part of an independent Ukraine's move away from communist times, Moscow Bridge was renamed "North Bridge". A. A.





91

First Metro bridge  
over the river



## Metro Bridge

The ceremonial opening took place on 5 November 1965. Chief project engineer Georgy Fux had proposed a new and bold solution. It was the world's first bridge with a reinforced concrete arch-cantilever with dry joints. The bridge also performs another important function: it provides a traffic route to link the right bank of Kyiv with the Hydropark, Rusanivka, Voskresenka, Darnytsa, Livoberezhnyi and Lisovi neighborhoods. The decision to build this bridge was taken right after the end of the Nazi occupation of Kyiv in 1943. However, lack of funds, meant this venture, as well as the construction of Kyiv metro network, was postponed for a long time.

Bridges had been built in this area before. In 1853, Kyivans got their first permanent stone bridge – Nicolas Chain Bridge. It was destroyed in 1920 by the retreating Poles. In 1925, a new bridge that got the name of Evgen Bosch was built on its footings. But its fate was sealed when it was blown up by Red Army soldiers when retreating from Kyiv in 1941. Afterwards, it was decided the pillars were too badly damaged, and a new bridge was built a few meters from the old one. The highway continues on over the 392-meter long Rusanivskyi bridge. A. A.

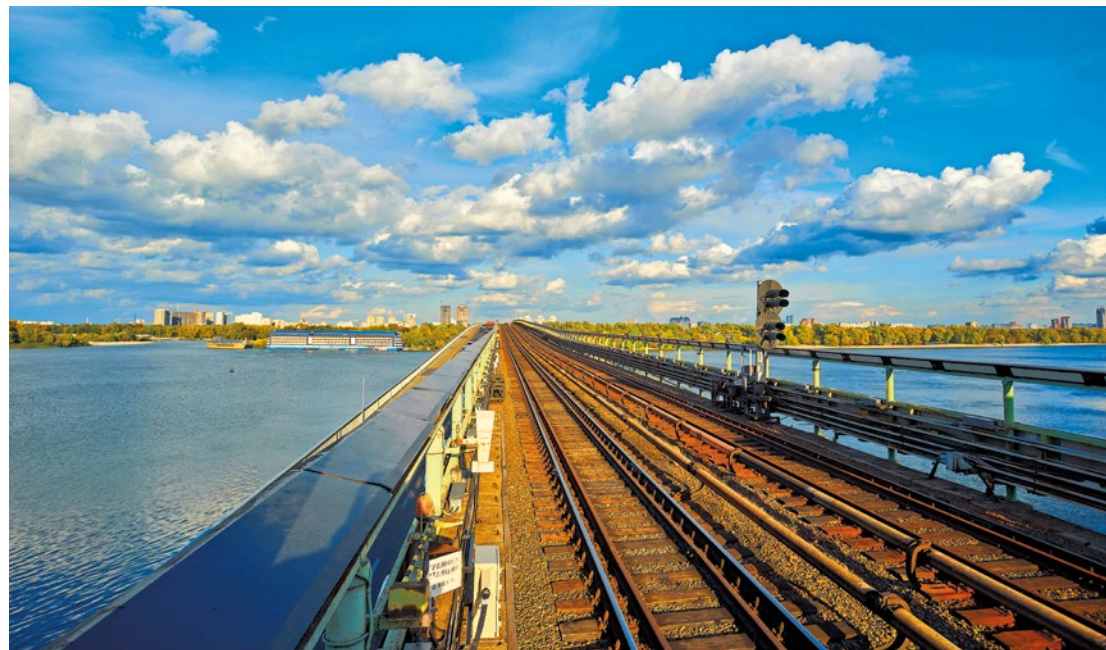


50.442742  
30.564478



Metro Bridge  
Dnipro 

INTERESTING KYIV • TOP 120





92

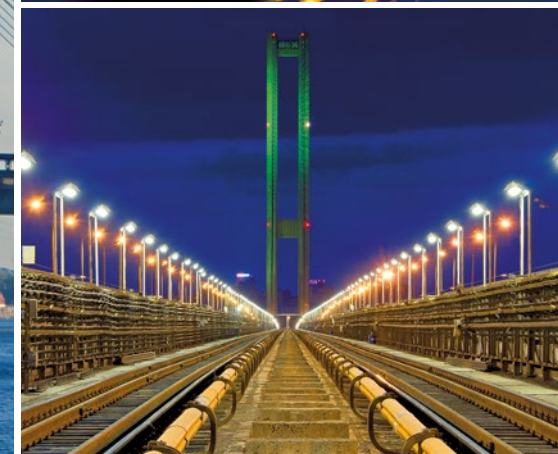
Highest cable-stayed  
bridge in Ukraine



## Southern Bridge

This impressive construction is one of the newest bridges in Kyiv. Building began in 1983 to solve an urban traffic problem. The Kharkiv residential development was growing ever larger and road connections from the city to Boryspil International Airport also left much to be desired. The construction of the Syretsko-Pechersk metro extension was carried out at the same time and the tracks were laid alongside the highway and over the bridge. Alexey Gavrilov was the chief architect of the project. Although the Ukrainian Soviet government turned down many interesting architectural solutions as being too expensive, the bridge they did build is a handsome edifice. Initially an elevator was planned to allow access to an observation tower at the top but again, costs did not permit. At the time of its opening, this bridge was state of the art in the USSR; and Vladimir Scherbitsky, the First Secretary of the Central Committee of the Ukrainian Communist party, called this project the “Pride of Ukraine”. The technical calculations were handled by engineer Georgy Fux, the brains behind many bridges in Ukraine. The bridge was opened to road traffic on 30 December 1990, and two years later, the metro cars began running across on the lower deck. The Southern Bridge is 1,256 m long and 41 m wide. The height of the sup-

porting pylons – 120 m. The bridge cost 112 million Soviet rubles. It became a major transport artery of the capital of Ukraine, with a total length of over three kilometers. The authors of this project were awarded with the USSR State Prize. A. A.



50.395666  
30.576032



Southern Bridge  
Slavutych 



93

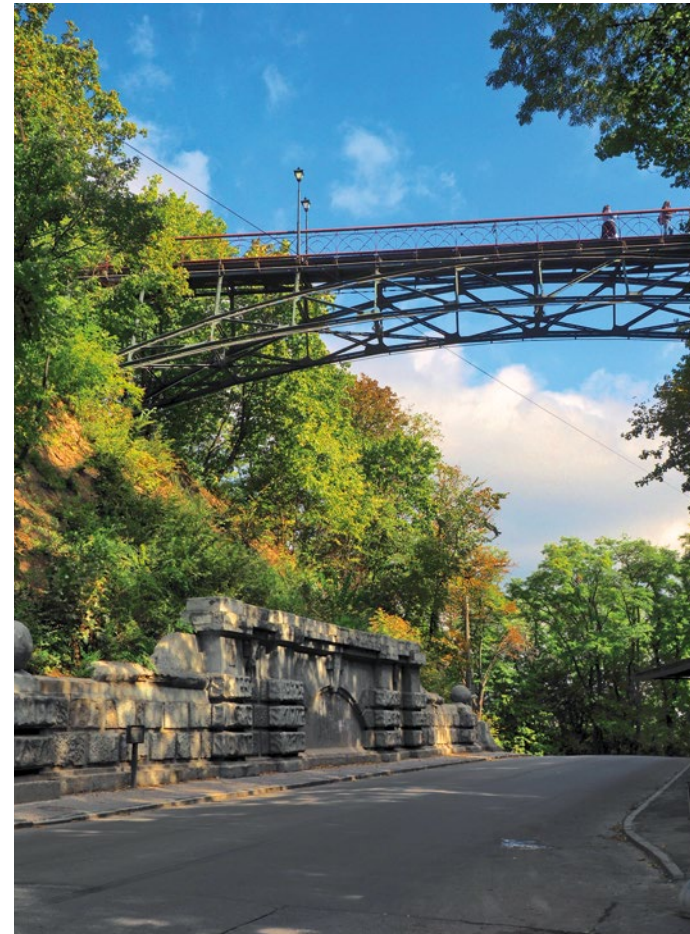
The Suicide Bridge.  
A symbol of requited love



## Park Bridge

Lovers from all countries have a tradition to place symbols of love – padlocks and ribbons – on certain bridges. Kyivans also have their Love Bridge, the Park bridge, a romantic place with beautiful views. This small pedestrian bridge is in Kyiv centre and has several names: Park Bridge, Devil's Bridge, Bridge of Kisses, Love Bridge and Small Paton's Bridge. The official name is Parkovi (Park) Bridge. The bridge of welded steel was built in 1910 on Peter's alley connecting Khreshchatyi and Mariinskyi parks. During the revolution of 1917 it was badly damaged but later repaired and restored. During WWII the bridge miraculously survived while much of Kyiv did not. In 1983, the original construction was replaced with the steel bridge made to the design of Professor Paton. The bridge is an attraction for lovelorn teenage girls and young couples. The loving couple bring a padlock, lock it and throw the key from the bridge, hoping that their love will last forever. Sometimes they write the name of their beloved on it and hang the lock, or a heart in a locket, from the bridge railings. There is also a belief that the one who you kiss here will remember you for all of their lives. Judging by the number of locks you see, Kyiv really is a city of romantics. But it has a darker side. Sadly many broken hearted individuals have committed sui-

cide by jumping to their deaths and so it is also known as Chortov (Devil) Bridge. The statue of "Luigi and Mokrin", one of the most moving monuments of Kyiv, was installed near the bridge in May 2013. It is dedicated to a real story of love that started back in 1943, when the Italian POW soldier Luigi Peduto and Ukrainian Mokrin Yurzuk first met in an Austrian POW camp and were together for two years. After the defeat of Germany they were separated and did not meet again for 60 years. Only in 2004 did they meet again and embrace each other. It is this touching embrace that we see. Soon Luigi proposed Mokrin and she accepted. Now they are parted by death. But in bronze, by Park Bridge, they are together for ever. V. U.



50.452222  
30.534335



Petrivs'ka Alley  
Maidan Nezalezhnosti 



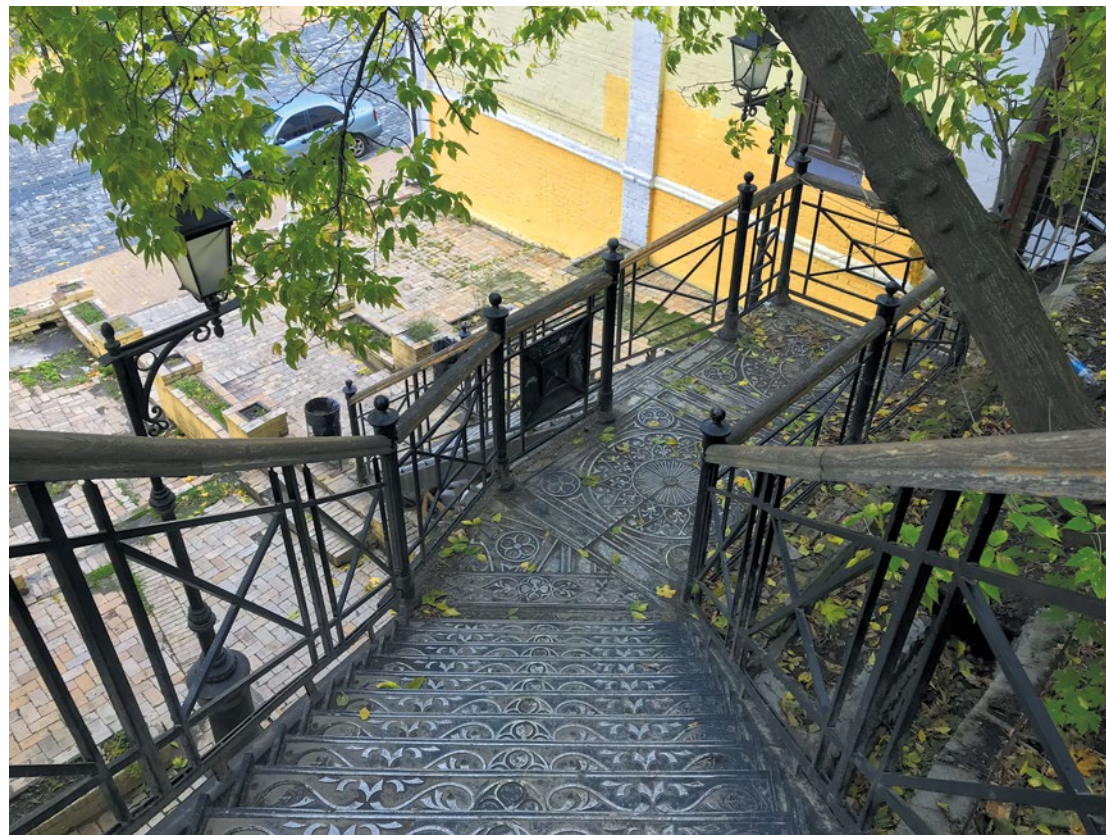
Main terrain feature  
of Kyiv is lots of hills



## Hills & Steps

Kyiv was built on seven main hills called “the mounts” by locals. Three were named after the legendary founders of the city, Kyi, Schek and Khoryv. You will also find StaroKyivska Hill with the “castle” of Kyiv princes, Schekavitsa and Khorevitsa, on top. There are thirteen Lysye Hory (Bald Hills), including that of the “witches Sabbath” Vetryanye (Wind) Hill. Others include Andreevskaya, Bagrinova, Baikova, Batyeva, Vladimirska, Yurkovitsa, and Vozdykhalnitsa. Each are separated by steep banks and deep ravines. On the one hand, it helped Kyiv’s ancestors to defend the city. On the other, the dramatic changes in height meant that, until the first half of the 18<sup>th</sup> century, Kyiv remained divided into three almost completely separated districts: Podil, Pechersk and Old Town. Only by the 1830s, as a result of extensive re-landscaping, were the hills levelled and the ravines filled in and turned into streets. However, many hills are still very steep and some of them have long flights of steps – Shelkovichnaya, Franko, Honchara and the by-street Kosohirny for instance. These stairways are an integral part of Kyiv’s architecture. The cast-iron staircase leading to St. Andrew’s Church and Castle Hill are renowned for their beauty; as well as the bricked Swiss alley-stairs, cascading down Vladimir Hill. The long stairs to the monument of Magdeburg Law and those from Peoples’ Friendship Arch to Pedestrian Bridge are popular with romantic couples who can meander along for miles and miles. The

Dnieper slopes near the Park of Eternal Glory and Peter’s Parkways are equipped with flights of steps at regular intervals. Granite steps behind the retaining wall run up from Khreshchatyk to the House of Friendship. Small stairways – from the old wooden type to the modern, decorated with mosaics and various graffiti – hide behind the facades of houses, connect the streets, and cut across roads creating shorter distances. Sometimes, they just lead to nowhere, their original purpose having now been lost. The narrow steep streets and mysterious stairways are interesting to visitors who wish to take in Kyiv’s full atmosphere. But it is as well to remember that in bad weather, when it is muddy and, especially when it is icy, many of these streets become almost impassable for people. Let alone for cars. As for roller skaters, skateboarders and cyclists, they should be exceptionally careful in all weathers. *V. U.*





95

"Kyiv Shlisselburg".  
Prison Museum



# Pechersk Fortress

"Kyiv Shlisselburg" is the name our ancestors gave to this grim place in Pechersk, now a museum. And they had every reason for that. In 1844, another hospital fortification was added to the Kyiv military fortress. This was known as the "oblique" redoubt, as the flanking fire from it was at an angle, thus protecting the rest of the fort. In 1860, the "oblique" acquired a new function as the prison dungeons for political offenders. Their conditions of detention were extremely harsh. There was also a black "death coach" that took the prisoners to their execution – it survives to this day. The redoubt walls remember the well-known prisoners and dozens of common people who were shot. The redoubt was impregnable not only to the enemy outside. For those in the prison cells, there was no chance of escape. When the Soviets came to power, the Kyiv garrison guardhouse was located here, but then later it became a research and educational institution. In 1930, Museum of the 1905 Revolution was founded here and in 1971, the displays were expanded and the specific exhibits about the history of the Kyiv fortress and its notorious prisoners were added. The stone building with adjacent areas have undergone major reconstruction and today it attracts many tourists. A. A.



50.432698  
30.529604



24 Hospitalna St.  
Palats Sportu



INTERESTING KYIV • TOP120





96

The country's main TV tower  
and the world's tallest  
welded tower




## The TV Tower

In November 1951, a complex of television studios that afforded a high-definition television image was built on Khreshchatyk of Kyiv. A 180-meter-high TV tower was erected at the same time (it was later dismantled). In 1968-1973, a new tower with a height of 385 meters was built in its place in Syrets neighborhood. The present-day television complex was erected nearby, and its main building was popularly dubbed as Pencil due to its original architectural design. The mass of Kyiv's TV tower is rather impressive – 2,700 tons. Its structure is unique since it was welded, and therefore it is the tallest structure of its kind in the world. It contains not a single bolt and rivet. The TV tower was built by so-called top-down construction method, i.e., without cranes and helicopters. First, the finial was mounted; then, the powerful jacks lifted the already assembled components of the structure; yet another tier was built, and everything came around again. And finally, the tower bearings (“legs”) were installed in a vertical position, and the construction was completed. The experienced welders and fitters performed all works under the supervision of specialists from Paton electric welding institute of Ukrainian SSR Academy of Science.



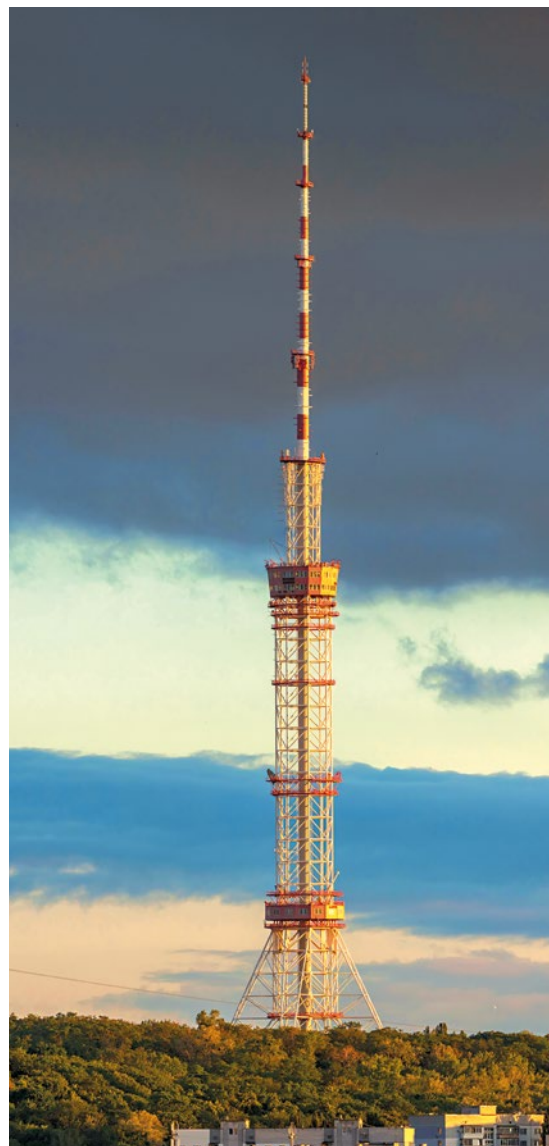
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30.452861



10 Dorogozhytska St.  
Dorohozhychi 

INTERESTING KYIV • TOP120

The Kyiv TV tower, one of the highest in the world (ranked 8<sup>th</sup>), is capable of withstanding enormous wind loads and powerful earthquakes. The tower can be seen from many parts of this great city and became one of its symbols. A. A.





97

The second city  
under your feet



## The Kyiv Dungeons

Kyiv is not just majestic churches, chestnut trees, green hills, and steep slopes. There is a hidden Kyiv beneath your feet – a whole network of tunnels under the city. Down here is the sewage system and rivers and caves hidden in concrete, plus the secret “Stalin Metro” and indeed, the metro itself. The most famous dungeons are the Nearby and Far-off Caves of Kyiv Pechersk Lavra, where 79 tombs of saints and monks still survive. It is believed that these underground catacombs appeared much earlier than the monastery itself which was founded in 1051 under Yaroslav the Wise. According to an alternative story, Lavra’s history began in 1057, when the monk Antony settled in a nearby cave on the hill. His followers came to the Dnieper soon after and enlarged the underground cloister. The total length of the underground corridors is 293 m, containing 49 holy relics. According to legend, the spirits of the saints sometimes wander through the maze of winding corridors. Some remnants of the Tsarist-era underground passages are also preserved in Kyiv. One such passage starts from the Green Theater, and extends to the bank of the Dnieper. Under the river itself there are supposedly two tunnels: Northern (Obolon’-Vigurovshyna) and Southern (Zhukov Island-Osokorki). Their construction started before the WWII, but after the outbreak of hostilities work was halted. They say, however, that the tunnels were finished in perfect secrecy, and now they are part of Kyiv’s defense system. The most visited underground feature of the capital city is, of course,

the Kyiv metro. Still, there are places passengers never see – passageways between stations, reserve lines, secret tunnels, and “ghost stations”. The drainage-tunnel system (DTS), subterranean rivers and streams, and sewer collectors are most favored by explorers. DTS are the pipes laid on the slopes of mountains and hills to drain groundwater. They are a system of vertical wells and horizontal culverts, through which the water flows. Subterranean rivers and streams are very numerous in Kyiv; the oldest ones – Clov, Glybochytsa, Skomorokh, and the most famous river, partially run underground – Lybid’. On Lysa Hora (Bald Mount) there is a mysterious Cave of Five, named so by the number of its exits. Nobody really knows who built it and why; unfortunately, it’s not possible to go to this interesting place without mountaineering equipment! Lysa Hora is known as one of the most mysterious places in Kyiv. Numerous legends and scary stories are told about events, which took place here in different periods of history. Lysa Hora is believed to be a cursed place. Thus, it attracts people interested in occultism, magic and the esoteric. According to city legends, the witches hold their Sabbath here every year at night of 30<sup>th</sup> April. They fly to Lysa Hora on their magic brooms and gather a special plant – centaury, which grows there, in order to use it for their re-incarnation rituals. The witches dance and tell each other about the evil deeds, which they have carried out during the past year. Those who love mystical stories and have strong nerves are welcome to visit this brooding, enigmatic place, located near Vydubychi metro station in Kyiv. *L. S.*





98

Central stadium of the capital; arena of major sporting events



# Olympic Stadium

This grand building project has history. As far back as 1923, “Red Stadium” was opened here; it was a primitive facility and did not even meet basic standards. Construction of the new stadium began in 1936 when Mikhail Grechyna was appointed as architect. The opening of this new stadium with 50,000 capacity was scheduled for June 22, 1941. Unfortunately this is the date history textbooks record as the outbreak of the war between the USSR and Germany. So it would be another seven years before the stadium actually opened. At different times the stadium bore the name of the Stalin Republican, Nikita Khrushchev, Kyiv Central, and Republican... and since 1996 this sports facility has the proud name of the Olympic National Sports Complex (NSC). The second terrace to increase seat numbers to 100,000 was built in 1968 when the stadium became the largest in Europe. In 1980, football matches of the USSR Olympic games took place here. In 2010 the original stadium was demolished and replaced by a new 70,000 seater stadium for the 2012 European Football Championships which Ukraine shared with Poland. This new stadium has a VIP lounge, state of the art facilities for commentators and media and special provision for people with disabilities. *v. u.*

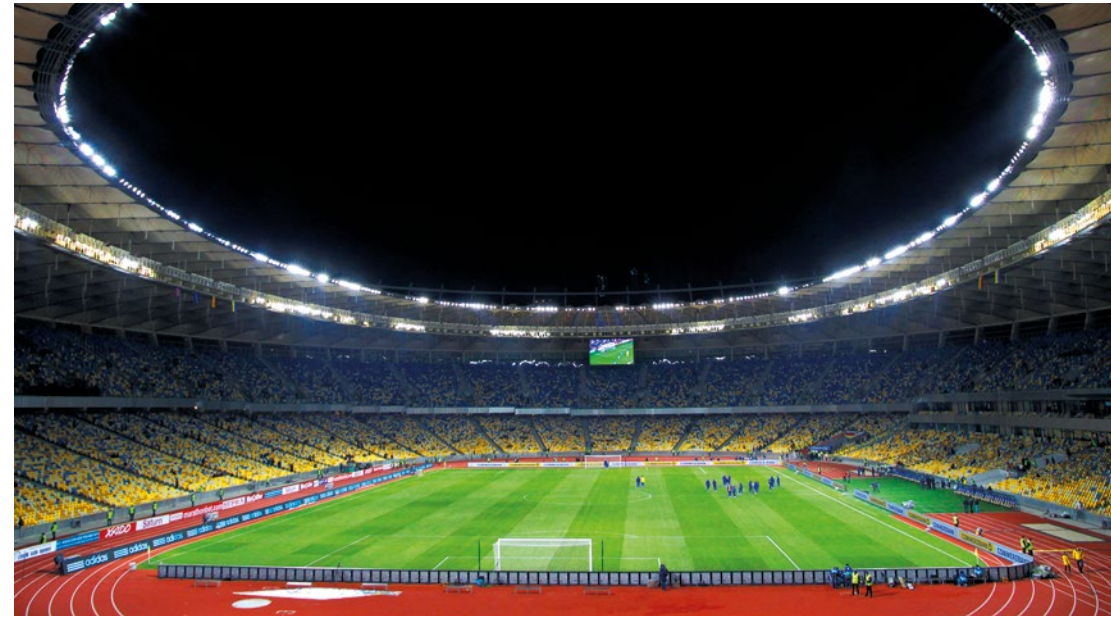


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30.516221



55 V. Vasylkivska St.  
Olimpiiska 

INTERESTING KYIV • TOP 120





99

Stadium of Ukrainian  
football glory




# Dynamo Stadium

Dynamo stadium was built in 1934-36 (architects V. Osmak and V. Bespalov) on the site of the former Chateau de Fleur Park and athletics track. The main entrance designed as a concave colonnade flanked by two pillars (architect N. Manucharova and V. Polishchuk) was added a little later. The stadium was originally named after the then all-powerful head of Ukrainian NKVD Vsevolod Balitsky. Six months later he was shot dead. A replacement was urgently needed and the authorities opted for Nikolai Yezhov, the head of the NKVD of the entire USSR. But, he was arrested in 1939 and shot in 1940. The local government did not go down this route again and for a long time after the stadium stayed as just the Dynamo stadium. Many, many years later it was given the name of the famous football coach Valery Lobanovsky. The stadium restaurant, designed by I. Karakis in 1934 is a listed building, – one of the rare surviving showpieces of Ukrainian constructivism. It is still with us today albeit with an altered interior. In 1955-56, the stadium was reconstructed. Under the west wing of stands a two-storied pavilion with a winter pool, a swimming hall and a 50-meter shooting gallery was added. In 1967, the first two heated open air swimming pools in Kyiv were built. One was intended for high-board diving and was there-



50.450711  
30.530257



3 Hrushevsky St.  
Maidan Nezalezhnosti 

INTERESTING KYIV • TOP120



fore much deeper and quite small. The second was used by swimmers and water polo players. The stands around the pool could accommodate 2,000 spectators. Ten years later, in 1977-80, the stadium was once again reconstructed before the Olympic Games and four 45-meter floodlight towers were installed. Near the stadium, at the entrance to Mariinskyi Park, there are monuments to the Dynamo Kyiv footballers who died during World War II, and to Valery Lobanovsky, who is one of the top ten greatest football managers of all time as ranked by World Soccer. And in 2017, UEFA also included him in the top ten of the greatest football managers in Europe. *V. U.*





100

The ski resort  
you can reach by metro



## Protasiv Yar

Protasiv Yar is an historic area located in Solomenskyi and partly in the Holosiivskyi district of Kyiv. It stretches down the southeastern slope of mount Batyi. The unique ski resort with 0.8 km of slopes available for skiing and snowboarding opened in 1998. You can get there from Olimpiiska metro station by taxi-buses No. 495 and 450 or trolleybus No. 40. The ski complex Protasiv Yar is a corner of the Carpathians in the capital city: the training base for Olympic teams of Ukraine in Alpine skiing and snowboarding, and venue for all-Ukrainian and international competitions. There is also a training center for children and youth sports schools and the complex hosts the city and regional events in skiing and snowboarding as well. Protasiv Yar has four ski trails of different complexity: 150 m – a training route for children; 275 m – a route for beginners; 320 m – for athletes and experienced amateurs (certified by International Federation of Alpine Skiing); 500 m – a route for experts who wish to become even more expert. There are two lifts: a one person for the 275-m trail and a two person for the 320-m trail. However, anyone can feel thoroughly relaxed here in winter – go sledding, participate in thematic contests and drink hot chocolate in good company.



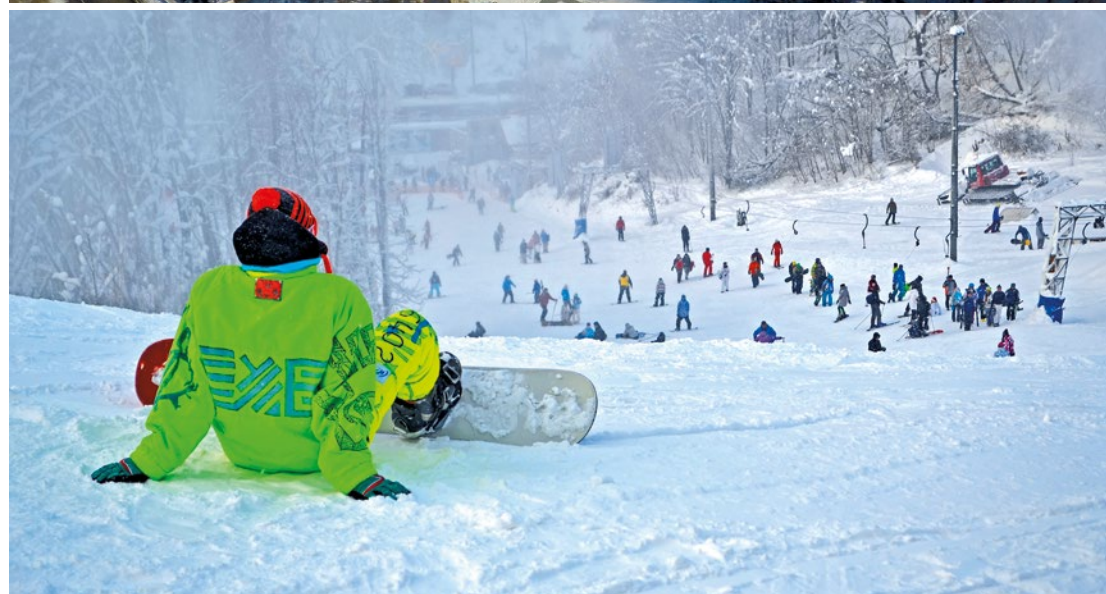
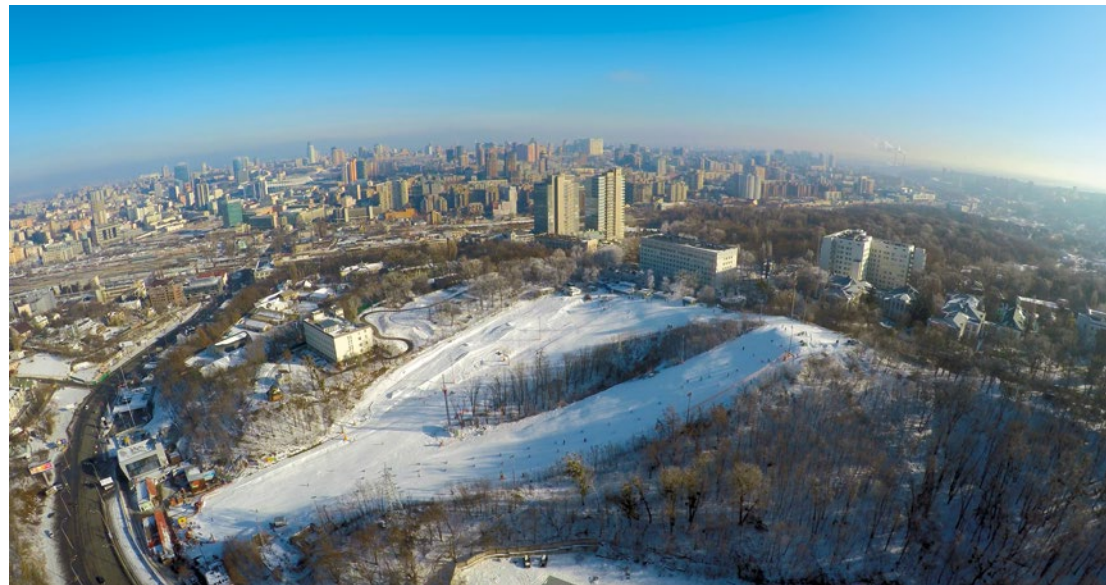
50.424039  
30.498824



23-A Protasiv Yar St.  
Olimpiiska 

INTERESTING KYIV • TOP120

Near Protasiv Yar one can visit two other attractions – Baykove cemetery and the legendary abandoned laboratory, in which military scientists reportedly tried – and failed – to create super-soldiers! *L. S.*





101

An iconic place  
for city cyclists



# The Racing Circle

This unique sports facility located a 15-minute walk from Golden Gate metro station was completely derelict until 2017. Today, it is open once more for amateurs and professionals alike. The first Kyiv cycle track – the cyclodrome – was opened in 1899 and there the Kyiv Cyclists' Society ran its first races. A second cyclodrome was built in 1913 on the site of Afanasivskiy Yar on the initiative of Kyivan Ivan Belenko. The track belonged to Avangard sports society and close to the track they set up a workshop for the rental and repair of bicycles, motorcycles and cars. Later, the beautiful Polar Star summer theater complete with an orchestra appeared. The cycle track had several renovations and rebuilding: in 1939 – first renovation; in 1967 – major reconstruction with complete renewal of concrete surface on the track; in 1987-1989 – second reconstruction, when the concrete-based track was coated with Siberian larch wood; and last renovation of 1991, when the worn wooden surface was replaced. In 1998, the Kyiv cycle track, as one of the oldest in Europe, was recognized as an historical and architectural monument. The future seemed bright but ... In August 2007, the cycle track was stripped of its national status, and in 2009 it was partially demolished and built over with high-rise apartment houses. The situation



50.4485841  
30.5059557



15 Lypynskogo St.

Universytet  Zoloti Vorota 

INTERESTING KYIV • TOP120



improved in 2014, when the cycle track became partly usable. Two years later, the third major reconstruction with a track extension to 286 meters began and this was completed in the spring of 2017. The ceremonial opening of the renovated cycle track took place on 21 May. *L. S.*





102

This unique open air gym is recognized as Europe's toughest and most rigorous fitness challenge



## Kachalka

This area of free gym equipment near Hydropark metro station marked its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2016. Its key feature and trademark are “home made” fitness machines improvised from various materials. Kachalka is located near the beach and Venetian bridge. You can find it literally by ear – its persistent metallic clanging reverberates through the entire neighborhood. The history of this place began with Professor Yuri Cook, a research scientist (math) at the Cybernetics Institute and a hardcore sports enthusiast. One day, he and his friends built the first simple chinning bar; a crossbar between two poplars under the bridge. Kachalka was gradually developed and in 1972 evolved into athletics field. It is popular with male and female visitors, young people, ordinary office workers, passers-by, and, of course, athletes. Of these, there are old-timers who have been visiting this sport ground for more than 30 years. As for the gym equipment and exercise machines, they are more like props from fantasy/steampunk movies – weird and wonderful structures made from motor tires, tank tracks, ship chains and other bizarre items. Kachalka is completely free, but many visitors voluntarily make donations for a 24-hour guard, electric power (the facility works in winter, when it gets dark very early), water, metal and the work of welders who



50.450075  
30.575366



Hidropark

Hidropark 

INTERESTING KYIV • TOP120



maintain and install existing and new equipment Kachalka became internationally known after football's Euro 2012, when foreign journalists published numerous articles featuring these tough Kyiv exercise machines and eventually a photo book was released. Today, there are more than 200 machines – horizontal bars, swinging and climbing ropes, a table tennis table and even a boxing ring. After Maidan-2014, the facility was given a makeover with bright coloured paints. *L. S.*





103

Huge wildlife park  
(actually, the forest) with  
lakes in the city area




# Holosiivskyi Park

Holosiivskyi national nature park (NNP) covers roughly 11,000 ha of Kyiv city land. It was opened in February of 2007, but the land was reserved much earlier in February 1994. The park is divided into several zones, the largest one being that in the Holosiivskyi district of Kyiv. The northern part (Holosiivskyi Forest and Maksim Rylsky Park) is bounded by Holosiivskyi Prospekt, Stolichne Highway and Zabolotnogo Street. The southern part (Lesniki tract and Koncha-Zaspa) – by Stolychnyi and Dnipropetrovsk Highways and the administrative boundary of Kyiv. Belychanskyi forest occupies the western part of Svyatoshynskyi and Podilskyi districts. The Holosiivskyi Forest and Maxim Rylsky Park gardens are the most popular. They are greenest and shadiest spots in the city; Orekhovatskyi, Didorovskyi and Kytaevskyi brooks glide through the valleys, with the cascade of ponds (Orekhovatskyi, Didorovskyi, Kytaevskyi) all around. The broad-leaved forests are home to many rare and endangered animals: ermine, otter, badger, and midyanka (smooth snake) among them. Locals say that sometimes you may have rare sightings of foxes, hares and even wild boars. However, walking along the aisles and paths of the well-maintained M. Rylsky Park, you will mainly meet curious red squirrels, which fearlessly

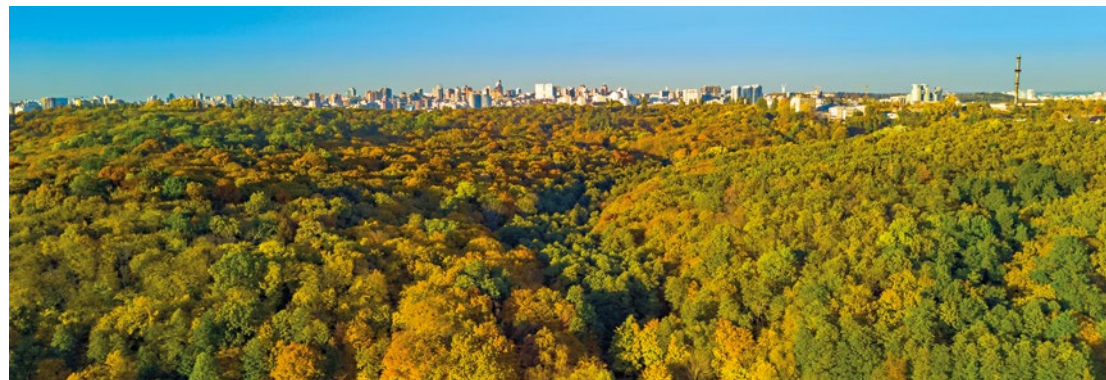


50.390809  
30.501325



94 Holosiivskyi Avenue  
Holosiivska 

INTERESTING KYIV • TOP120



demand treats from visitors. You can also feed tit-warblers or ducks in the lakes, watch the marvelous seagulls hovering in the sky and listen to the chanting of birds hidden deep in the foliage. The park is beautiful at any time of year: you can take a walk here, or ride a bike, or even a boat on the lakes. By the way, one of its entrances is easily accessible from Holosiivska metro station. But to get to the central entrance, with the monument to the famous poet, publicist and translator Maxim Rylsky, you will have to travel up the Holosiivskyi Prospekt. The park is free to enter. *V. U.*





104

Great place to walk  
and cycle


## Feofaniya

Between Holosiyiv, Pyrohiv and Teremki lies another historic place in Kyiv – the Feofania skete (desert), where the wilderness bestowed by the holy Creator blends harmoniously with the work of humans. Historian Nikolay Sementovsky, who visited this holy place back in 1864, enthusiastically wrote: “Feofania skete has made a most pleasing and holy impression on my soul, unknown to it before, though I have traveled across almost the entire European part of Russia, and other parts of Europe, and visited all the places famous for their beauty. I wish the Kyivans, who are fond of the sketes, to visit Feofaniya as well. I’m pretty sure that this will impress upon their souls in exactly the same way as it has on mine”. In 1471, this land was first mentioned as Lazarevshina (named after the monk who kept bee-hives in this area). In 1803, when suffragan bishop Feofan Shiyarov settled here, the area acquired its present name. St. Panteleimon church, the main building of the monastery within St. Michael’s Golden-Domed Cathedral, was consecrated in 1912. It towered majestically above the other churches amidst ancient trees, lakes and meadows. But then times changed. In 1920, Soviet authorities organized a state-owned farm here and a decade later drove the monks out to convert the old church buildings into state hospitals and clinics.

Also an observatory and a field laboratory of the USSR’s Institute of Botany. The new occupants gradually removed the church domes, destroyed their interiors, and let the park area become ruined. After World War II, the Institute of Mechanics of the USSR’s Academy of Sciences carried out explosive experiments with in the dilapidated cathedral. Only when Ukraine gained its independence did Feofaniya began to revive. In 1990, the vandalized church building was given back to the Church. Inside the church premises were full of random steel armatures and ugly pipes of all sizes. Numerous wrecked laboratories were rubbish tips. The mosaic floor was ruined by the railroad tracks that had been laid across it. For renovation, the Academy of Sciences of Ukraine provided funds only sufficient for clearing the debris. In 1990, they managed to rip out the partition walls, and in 1991 – to restore the domes. To seamlessly repair the holes caused by mine and shell explosions, they needed old bricks of an 18-sided shape. Today’s bricks cannot be manufactured in this way, so they were cut by hand. Three years later, the skete of the Holy Protection Convent was established in Feofaniya. The builders revived the churches, the artists restored their beauty, and the diligent nuns grew flowers and vegetables. Nowadays, the monastery is in perfect harmony neighborliness with this nationally important park. A.A.

50.34179  
30.485853

32 Academic Lebedev St.

Teremky 



105

## Open-Air Museum of Folk Architecture and Folkways of Ukraine



# Pyrohiv

In 1976, in the picturesque Pyrohiv village neighborhood, the Open-Air Museum of Folk Architecture and Folk traditions of Ukraine was founded. This is a unique collection of folk architecture and artifacts of our ancestor's daily life. Spread over 120 ha, there are more than 150 examples of Ukrainian village buildings from 16<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup>. Residential and farm buildings, churches, rural school building, mills, and apiaries. The sectors of the museum are laid out in such a way that a viewer can visit the regions of Central Naddneprianschina, Poltava, Slobozhanschina, Polesie and Podilje, the Crimea and the Carpathians, as if they were next to each other. It makes for a strong and memorable experience, all set in a countryside landscape. Step into a time machine and travel back to the past. Highlights of Pyrohiv is that you are greeted by museum keepers in national costume, and in the taverns you can taste the traditional cuisine of the various regions. Festivals celebrating the customs and habits of different tribes and various traditional competitions and contests are often held here. Every visitor is guaranteed a unique day out that will linger long in the memory. The festive atmosphere does not detract from the fact that the museum is a scientific institute of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine. After all, you do not create such an

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accurate reflection of times past without thorough research and the applied science of history. The Open-Air Museum of Folk Architecture and Folkways of Ukraine is beautiful in any season, and the original and unique culture of our people is a spectacular delight. A. A.



50.353311  
30.504005



Akademika Tronka St.  
Teremky 



## Ancient pagan temples and the location of Kyiv witches' Sabbath



# Lysa Hora

The hill acquired its evil reputation early in Kyiv's history. Here, Grand Prince Vladimir personally dealt with the pagans unwanted by his new faith who persisted with their unholy rituals after the Baptism of Russia. Time passed and Lysa Hora came under the influence of Orthodox Christians. The monks of Pechersk monastery set up an apiary with bee hives here. In those times, thick and impenetrable forests surrounded the hill, and caves were dug into the hill sides. In 1240 Batu Khan overran Kyiv and buried the dead in a huge mass grave. Legend has it that witches from all over the world gathered here for their annual Sabbath, and that it was also a meeting place for sorcerers and healers, where they came to exchange news and discuss their mysterious secrets. In the 19<sup>th</sup> century, this land was seized by the military. In 1872, following the plan of General Eduard Tottleben, they began to cut down the centuries old forest around the hill and dismantle the neighboring bourgeois estates. On the hill itself, Tottleben's men began the construction of the large Lysogorsky fort. In the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, a military prison was established here, and executed state criminals were buried nearby after being either shot or hung. The well-known terrorist Dmitry Bogrov, who mortally wounded the secretary of state Peter Stolypin in the Kyiv Opera House, was

among them. His body was thrown into a pit that was first covered with planks, then burnt to the ground. Finally, a company of soldiers marched over his grave as a final insult. In 1930, a secret military factory was set up on Lysa Hora, and during Kyiv's occupation in 1941-1943 the Germans used it for repairing their tanks and artillery. The occupiers were forced out by the Soviet missile units, and later, the radio tower with finders and devices for jamming enemy transmissions was erected. In 1982, this area was granted the status of monument of local importance, and it became a nature park. You can often meet here today's followers of pagan rituals. And ordinary walkers just like you! A. A.



50.394400  
30.548600



Saperno-Slobidska St.

Demiivska  Vydubychi 



107

Old Kyivian cottages,  
holiday camps and  
coniferous forests



# Pushcha-Vodytsia

Pushcha-Vodytsia is traditionally one of the most popular leisure areas for Kyivans. This nature park located on the city's north-western edge used to be an urban-type settlement, which was transferred to Kyiv city as part of Obolonskyi district in 2001. Here you can hear the rustle of centuries-old coniferous forests and murmurs of beautiful lakes and streams, relax on the sandy beaches, or rent boats and catamarans. The etymology of "Pushcha-Vodytsia" is interesting: the name was combined from two Slavic words, pushcha, which means "dense forest" and Vodytsia, the name of a nearby river (no longer in existence). In the 11<sup>th</sup> century, it was the favorite hunting spot of Kyiv's princes. In 1724, Peter I established a reserve to protect the unique coniferous forests. In the 1890s, the Pushcha-Vodytsia cottage settlement was founded, which immediately became a pilgrim retreat for Kyivans. Its beauty attracted not only ordinary people but many writers, artists and historic personalities. Pushcha was visited by Tsar Peter I, Empress Catherine II, Nikolai Gogol, Taras Shevchenko and even Leo Tolstoy. Located within a dense forest and away from the urban Kyiv, it is known for a number of recreational facilities. Children's camps, sanatoriums and health clinics. Despite lots and lots of holidaymakers in the summertime, Push-



50.535283  
30.354848



21 Fedora Maksymenka St.  
Akademmistechko 

INTERESTING KYIV • TOP120



cha remains an amazingly quiet and peaceful place. With its clean air and serenity Puscha-Vodytsia is a perfect place to withdraw from the hectic pace of city life and calm both mind and body. Even the pathway to this unique place adjusts you to its romantic and relaxing pace. The tram line connecting Pushcha with the central Kyiv district of Podil passes through green forests and is more than 100 years old. An excellent place for a picnic, skiing, or a quiet walk. *L. S.*





108

The Museum of presidential corruption and a marvel of the art of gardening



## Mezhyhirya

Mezhyhirya is the former residence of Ukraine's ex-president Victor Yanukovich. After Yanukovich fled to Russia during the Maidan-2014, this 140-ha estate became a national nature park. It is located in Novi Petrivtsi village, Vyshgorod rayon of Kyiv region. The complex is surrounded by a 5-meter perimeter fence. There is a yacht pier, a floating landing, an equestrian club, a rare-breed dog kennel, a shooting gallery, a tennis court and other entertainment and leisure facilities, hunting grounds and a zoo, and several residential buildings. Mezhyhirya has become a symbol of presidential theft and even a Museum of Corruption. In the past, the land of the Mezhyhirya residence was home to a monastery which was completely demolished in 1935 – only one well remains. Fortunately, all the buildings of the monastery complex were photographed before demolition. Also, hand-written books were discovered under the ground. They are thought to be part of the lost library of Yaroslav the Wise. At that time, the capital of Ukrainian Soviet Social Republic and Mezhyhirya became a state-run residence for political and military leaders. In Soviet times, it was the residence of Nikita Khrushchev and many other statesmen of the Soviet Union.



50.614758  
30.473969



Mezhyhirya Residence  
Novi Petrivtsi

INTERESTING KYIV • TOP120



Now SPE Mezhygorye is open to all comers. The entrance fee is modest. You can get from Kyiv center by taxi, tour bus or shuttle van No. 902, departing from Heroiv Dnipra metro station. The park is amazingly beautiful. It is very difficult to walk around the whole territory in one day, so visitors are advised to rent bicycles or book a tour in a small open car. You will see a man-made lake fed by water from ten artesian wells. Near the main feature of the residence, the club-house (also known as object Honka, after the Finnish company Honka), there is an observation deck which offers a panoramic view-point overlooking the Kyiv reservoir, or the Kyiv Sea, as it is called in Ukraine. Going downhill you will get to the embankment, so enjoyable for walks in a cool breeze to the sound of gentle rippling waves. As mentioned before, the residence has a zoo with many exotic animals (kangaroo, Australian emu, American nandoo, peacocks, pheasants, Australian geese, earthen hare and many others) that you can feed and pat. In June 2015, a summer camp for children was opened in Mezhyhirya. For more details and current prices, visit its official website. *L. S.*





109

Man-made sea  
not far from the capital



## Kyiv Sea & HPP

This unique complex began in 1964, with the construction of a huge dam and enormous reservoir to increase electricity generation for all of the country. This large hydro system comprises the HPP (Hydro Power Production) building, the overflow diversion dam, the single-chamber lock for boats, and connecting highway. The Soviet Union's first water storage plant, a few kilometers away, is also part of this system. Villages, churches, pastures, meadows and cemeteries, now underwater were submerged when this vast reservoir was filled. It almost reaches the Belarus border and spreads across both the Kyiv and Chernigov regions. A large part of the Kyiv Sea is located in the Chernobyl exclusion zone. Three rivers of the Dnieper basin – Prypyat, Uzh (Natrix) and Teterev (Grouse) – flow into the Kyiv Sea. This reservoir is the most recent of the Dnieper cascade hydropower plants that include six similar facilities. Its maximum width is 12 km, average depth – 4 m, maximum depth – 14.5 m. The total area is 922 km<sup>2</sup>. The reservoir is used for hydropower generation, water transport, water supply and fish farming. Kyivans, however, almost at once saw as another sea just a short distance from the capital. It is customary to spend overnight weekends here sailing, fishing and picnicking with family and friends. A. A.



50.589351  
30.507927



Naberezhna St., Vyshgorod, Kyiv region  
Heroiv Dnipro 

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## The Kyiv Fortified Region. The "Mannerheim Defensive Line" of Kyiv



# KyUR

After the end of World War I, a rush to fortify seized all of Europe, including the Soviet Union. Given the advent of long-range, large-caliber guns, tanks and aircraft, the European states started actively preparing for and defending against war in new ways. The best strategic direction for defense was to build fortified regions or defensive lines. The famous Maginot Line was constructed in France, Finland was erecting the Mannerheim Line, and Soviet Union was also strengthening its western borders. In mid-1930s the USSR had 13 fortified regions with several dozen fortified areas, known as the Stalin Line. It ran from the Baltic Sea to the Black Sea and consisted of more than 3,000 separate forts, machine gun and antitank positions, as well as observation and command posts. The reinforced-concrete pillboxes (in Ukrainian – DOT), 500-600 meters apart, enabled joined up radius' of fire. The largest fortified region (ukreprayon) was built in Kyiv in 1928-1937. It included a defensive line 6 m deep, with a total length of 85 km. Concrete DOTs were combined into fire zones that formed 14 battalion area with connecting roads and river gates that could, if necessary, flood the land. DOTs became the main structures of KyUR – from single story reinforced concrete buildings to two story blockhouses that could hold out without re-supply of

food and munitions for 7-10 days. This grand project was carried out in the strictest secrecy, without the involvement of local people. Hundreds of decoys were also built. Construction work at the KyUR then suddenly stopped for several years and all documentation was destroyed. Then in the late 1930s, an inspection commission found the fortifications overgrown and ineffective: out of 257 facilities, only 5 were combat ready. Most pillboxes could not provide radius fire, the distances between firing points were too far, and the 15 km distance of the fortifications from Kyiv, made bomb attacks on the capital a threat. Restoration of the KyUR, including the re-equipping and arming of the pillboxes and construction of more field fortifications, began on June 24, 1941. For these tasks, the whole population of Kyiv was mobilized and 200,000 workers were involved by the final days of construction. However the defenses were not complete and not fully manned when the first battle occurred on July 11, 1941 and they were swept aside by experienced, well-trained and well-equipped German forces. The order to withdraw the troops was given too late, and more than 600 thousand soldiers of 5<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup> and 37<sup>th</sup> armies protecting Kyiv were trapped. It was the largest entrapment in the history of war. But the KyUR still heroically defended the capital and battles along and within the Kyiv Fortified Region lasted for 72 days. The story of "Iron DOT" No. 131 is well known. The soldiers did not surrender and resisted fiercely even when their section of the frontline became totally isolated. Eventually, German flame throwing tanks burned them alive in their bunkers. On July 12, 1941 garrison DOT No. 402 brought the advance of German troops from the south to a grinding halt. And there are many such heroic stories. Nowadays, enthusiasts have renovated surviving structures and re-tell the history of the defenders. They arrange re-enactments of the battles and guided excursions. They keep alive the memory of those who were unflinching in performing their duty during the terrifying years of World War II. *V. U.*





111

Mr. Helicopter and  
Kyiv resident



# Igor Sikorsky

One name is synonymous with helicopter development more than any other Igor Sikorsky (1889-1972). Often regarded as the father of the helicopter, Sikorsky was an incredibly talented and versatile aeronautical engineer who first established himself as one of the world's greatest designers of fixed wing aircraft before he built a successful helicopter. Born in Kyiv, a youthful Igor Sikorsky showed a strong interest in experimenting with model flying machines. When he was 12 years old, he made a small rubber-powered helicopter that could rise into the air. After studying engineering in Paris and St. Petersburg, Sikorsky finished his studies at the Polytechnic Institute in Kyiv that now bears his name. While on vacation with his father in the Bavarian Alps in 1908, he saw his first pictures of the aeroplanes the Wright brothers had designed. It was this experience that set Igor Sikorsky on his lifelong career in aeronautical engineering. Returning to Kyiv, he began construction of a helicopter but after a couple of tries in 1909 and 1910, he abandoned the idea because the technology just was not there at the time. For the next decade, he worked on fixed-wing planes in Russia and became known internationally in 1913 when he designed and flew the first four-engine airplane later converted for use as a

World War I bomber. His airplanes and biplanes twice won military aircraft competitions and by 1917 he had become a national hero. The Russian Revolution, however, did not spare even the heroes, and in 1919 Sikorsky had to emigrate to the USA, where he founded the Sikorsky Aero Engineering Corporation. His first American design was the S-29A which, at the time, was the largest airplane ever constructed in America. The S-29A flew successfully in 1924, followed by other aircraft including a number of flying boats and the first international aircraft capable of flying to Central and South America. Eventually, Sikorsky's planes would cross both the Atlantic and Pacific oceans. But Igor Sikorsky never gave up on building a successful helicopter and by 1939 Sikorsky's VS-300 was ready to make its first flight. In 1941, Sikorsky Aircraft got its first contract from the U.S. Army Air Corps for an observation helicopter that became known for life-saving missions in military and civil emergencies. Sikorsky was most proud of his helicopter that could rescue and bring aid. Igor Sikorsky was recognized with countless honors and awards during the course of his life, such as the National Medal of Science, the Wright Brothers Memorial Trophy, induction into the International Aerospace Hall of Fame and the Aviation Hall of Fame. The famous Sikorsky hat (fedora) is preserved in Igor Sikorsky's office at the Smithsonian Institution (USA); a Kyiv airport (Zhulyany) bears his name; and the Sikorsky Monument (architect Nikolay Oliynyk) was opened near the KPI in 2008. *V. U.*



Wikipedia





112

Author of the Black Square,  
who made a revolution  
in the visual arts  
of the 20<sup>th</sup> century



## Kazimir Malevich

The “Black Square” makes most viewers raise their eyebrows in astonishment rather than admiration. But one should not take this picture as a painterly masterpiece; it is more of an artistic gesture, a manifesto, a comment. The “Square” cannot be divorced from the context of the society which provoked it. Kazimir Malevich (1879-1935) was born in Kyiv into a Polish family and was baptized in St. Alexander Roman Catholic Church. He studied painting at the Kyiv School of Art under Nikolai Pymonenko in the Alexander Murashko studio; famous at the turn of the century. Malevich began as a classical painter. However, the new century, with its rapid technological advances and a clear signs of imminent apocalypse, caused a revolution not only in painting, but also in other artistic fields. Creative artists were looking for new and novel means of expression, arguing that the old ways were not suitable for depicting the future. Amongst the avant-garde, new directions and philosophical trends emerged; and Kazimir Malevich founded one of them – suprematism. Later, he moved to Moscow working as an artist-designer in the opera house and illustrator of selected futuristic poems. In 1915, he created the “Black Square”, in which he advocated the supremacy of pure geometric form over representation,

desiring to “free art from the dead weight of the real world”, as he put it himself, and to free the paint from its secondary role. The iconic “Square” was followed by his many other suprematist works that had a huge impact on artists worldwide. Suprematism became one of the main fields of Russian avant-garde and spread widely throughout artistic communities. After the revolution, Malevich became a leader of a group called UNOVIS. This, the “Affirmers of New Art” was enthusiastically welcomed in the first decade of Soviet power but later, like the poet Mayakovsky, was condemned and persecuted after the 1930s. In the 1920s, Malevich often came to Kyiv; where he painted the walls of the hall in the Kyiv Academy of Sciences. Through 1927-1930, already famous worldwide, he taught painting at the Kyiv Art Institute. His last exhibition while he was alive was also held in Kyiv. In May 2008, not far from the place where the artist was born and raised and parallel to the street named after him, a cube-shaped monument (architect Antonyuk) was unveiled. Made of white aluminum frames with the inscription Kazimir Malevich, the cube stands on black tiles, symbolizing his famous picture. V. U.



Wikipedia





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Dancer extraordinaire  
of all time



## Serge Lifar

Born in Kyiv in 1905, Serge Lifar discovered ballet in 1920 when he wandered into the studio of Bronislava Nijinska, the choreographer and ballet mistress at the Kyiv Opera. He studied with her until leaving for Paris in 1923. He joined les Ballets Russes in 1923 and soon became a favorite of Serge Diaghilev. Lifar performed with Serge Diaghilev's troupe from 1923 through 1929, when the company disbanded. However, the greater part of Lifar's career (from 1929 to 1945 and from 1947 to 1958) was at the Paris Opera where he was invited as a dancer and ballet master and eventually became director. His greatest achievements as a dancer in Diaghilev's troupe were in Balanchine's Apollo and The Prodigal Son. He also performed in Giselle, L'Après-midi d'un faune, and Gaite Parisienne, but it was the ballet Icarus (1935) that really made his reputation as a choreographer, along with many other memorable works, including Suite en Blanc (1943). Accused of collaboration during World War II, Serge Lifar left Paris in 1945 to form the Nouveau Ballet de Monte Carlo. During the war years, Lifar was often photographed with German officers. Although he was cleared of the collaboration charges, for a time his performances were boycotted. On 5 December 1956, he made his farewell to the national ballet

scene by dancing Giselle with Yvette Chauviré. After that he choreographed or staged ballets for various European companies. In addition to his seemingly inexhaustible energy for dance projects, Serge Lifar founded the University of the Dance and became a professor who wrote over 25 theory of dance books. He was an avid collector of paintings and books. He acquired a priceless archive of Diaghilev, which he added to all his life but was forced to sell part of this collection in his old age. In 1961, he was able to enjoy a reunion with his homeland: he revisited Kyiv, the city of his birth, which he had left 40 years before. After his death, 8,177 unique books and documents were donated to Ukraine by Countess Lilian Alefeld. The collection is stored in Kyiv, in the art literature section at Lesia Ukrainka public library. *L.S.*



Wikipedia





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Brilliant bridge-builder  
and architect of all-welded  
constructions



## Evgeny Paton

Evgeny Paton (1870-1953) was born in Nice (France) in the family of a retired Ukrainian Guards officer. He studied at the Dresden Technical University and at the Petersburg Institute of Railroads. Paton was a professor at the Kyiv Polytechnic Institute from 1904 through 1938. In 1929, he founded the school of metal welding. He devised a new high speed method of gas welding that influenced many sectors of metallurgy. Paton carried out research on the fundamentals of welding, as well as developing strength and reliability studies of welded structures, and he suggested methods for restoring damaged bridges. Also, Paton formulated the basics of submerged-arc welding technology. In bridge building, Paton came up with the revolutionary and innovative idea of the all welded structure instead of the traditional riveted design. Rejected at first, this technique was to have a global impact. Using Paton's method, construction of the bridge across the Dnieper in Kyiv began in early June 1941 but was completed only in 1953, because of the war. This most famous bridge, a wonderful example of the metallurgical art, is now known as the Paton Bridge. This prominent scholar and bridge-builder designed or co-designed over one hundred bridges. Also, Evgeny Paton became equally famous as the founder of the

world's first specialized Electric Welding Research Institute that now also bears his name. Paton's new methods of electric welding helped create a new generation of welded structures. During World War II, T-34 tank production was significantly increased due to Paton's inventions. After the World War II his techniques were successfully used in the building industry. Paton was given many of the highest scientific awards and prizes of the Soviet era. The Paton Electric Welding Institute is now the largest center of welding science. Its researchers have successfully solved the problems of welding in outer space and advances in this field have had a stimulating influence both on space exploration, and the scientific and technical progress of Ukraine. His son Boris Paton continued his father's work and also became a world-renowned scholar, becoming Head of the Ukrainian Academy of Sciences. *V. U.*



Wikipedia





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World-renowned  
heavyweight boxers-Kyivans



## Klitschko Brothers

Vitali (born 1971) and Wladimir Klitschko (born 1976) are world heavyweight boxing champions. The two of them managed to collect every version of championship belts: WBC, WBO, WBA, IBO, IBF and also The Ring magazine belt. Vitali Klitschko is also a six-time world champion kickboxer as recognised by various organisations (four times among professionals and twice among amateurs). He is a member of the International boxing hall of Fame (IBHOF) as well as the winner of the Laureus World Sports Award “Comeback of the year” for the fight with Samuel Peter. Wladimir Klitschko won the Super-Heavyweight gold medal in the 1996 Olympic games. The brothers were the first heavyweight champions of all the former USSR countries. Having broken the world record in defeating 21 opponents in 26 bouts, Wladimir surpassed the achievements of the legendary boxer Joe Louis. He held the World Champion title for 12 years, which is the longest period in the history of heavyweight boxing. He ranks 15<sup>th</sup> in the best heavyweights in history table and first position in the list of the best European boxers of all time. This is just a brief excerpt from the list of their awards, records and achievements. You can acquaint with the Klitschko brothers’ achievements in the Klitschko museum. *v. u.*



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30.519865



Klitschko Museum, NSC “Olimpiyskiy”.  
55 Vasylykivska St.  
Olimpiiska

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In 2014  
Vitali Klitschko  
was elected  
Mayor of Kyiv





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The most sought after  
painter of contemporary  
Ukraine



# Eugenia Gapchinska

Eugenia Gapchinska is perhaps today's most popular Ukrainian artist and is a talented illustrator of children's books. The original style of her work is immediately recognizable – chubby angels, angel-like children, princes and princesses painted in delicate pastel colors in a charming, naive manner – all her art-works are full of light and kindness. Eugenia Gapchinska was born in Kharkiv, Ukraine, in 1974. At the age of 13, she became a student of Kharkiv Art College. She pursued her internship at the Academy of Fine Arts in Nuremberg (Germany). In 2000, Eugenia moved with her husband to Kyiv where she was faced with poverty and discouragement, like so many struggling artists. But in 2001, Eugenia began painting in the style which made her famous not only in Ukraine but throughout the world. Every year she organises a half dozen new exhibitions in Ukraine, Russia, France, Belgium, England, the Netherlands, and has her own galleries (known as Galleries of Happiness) in Ukraine and Russia. In 2012, the GAPCHINSKA brand was established and the images of her sweet, sincere characters now appear on calendars, tote bags, pillows, dishware, etc. Today a wide range of GAPCHINSKA products is sold in Ukraine, Russia, Finland, Chile and other countries. The stories with the cute charac-

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ters can be seen as home decoration, stationery, chocolate, calendars, souvenirs, handbags, jewelry, and more recently – in clothes and shoes. In 2008, the Ukrainian postal service issued a series of 12 stamps picturing zodiac signs painted by Eugenia Gapchinska. She calls herself the Supplier of Happiness No. 1, and indeed, all her characters radiate goodness and bring out lots of positive emotions. L.S.



50.453197  
30.522194



Halereya Hapchyns'koyi. 16 Mykhailivs'ka St.  
Maidan Nezalezhnosti 



117

The most famous  
fast food in Kyiv



## Kyivska Perepichka

In February 1981, on the corner of Khreshchatyk and Bohdana Khmelnytskoho Street, 3A (formerly Lenin Street), a small pastry stall opened to sell simple hot fast food – sausage rolls. Within less than a year Perepichka won the hearts (and stomachs) of Kyivans and visitors to the capital of all ages and all classes: pupils, students, the old, the rich and the not so rich. Today, the stall is open from 9 a.m. until 9 p.m., and there is always a queue of impatient customers. In addition to the stall's specialty, you can buy tea, coffee, water and soft drinks here. Experts say that this love for Perepichka pretty much stems from the aroma: the scent of hot, fried dough is incredibly tempting and lures customers from far away. But the saleswomen believe that the real reason is the special talent of the chef. A sausage roll on average weighs 150-200 grams, 75% of it being the fried dough. But despite its delicious taste, value and nourishment, nutritionists recommend cutting back the consumption of this fast food. Perepichka foods are very high in calories and contain potentially harmful ingredients because they are fried in oil. The Kyivska Perepichka stalls can be found all over the city. Near Minska and Pochayna metro stations, on Kurenevsky market, etc. But these newer establishments have little in common with the original stall on the corner of



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30.520029



3 Bohdana Khmelnytskoho St.

Teatralna 

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Bohdana Khmelnytskoho Street and Khreshchatyk. Though Perepichka has no Facebook page, its brand awareness is widespread throughout the capital city and far beyond. *L.S.*





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Chain of self-catering restaurants of Ukrainian cuisine where you can enjoy hearty and cheap meals



## Puzata Hata

Today, it is one of most popular restaurant chains of Ukrainian cuisine found in Kyiv and other major cities. The brand was founded in 2003 based on affordable prices, national recipes, and a great choice of simple, good quality dishes. These restaurants offer mouth-watering meals that cater to every taste – from borsch and solyanka to dumplings with various fillings, cabbage rolls and potato fritters with sour cream; pancakes, cheese cakes, cutlets, pot-roasts, sausages; as well as baked puddings, pastries, jellies and other desserts from their own mini-bakeshops, and much more. As this eatery is very popular with Kyiv locals and visitors to Kyiv, it may get busy at times, especially during lunch hour or during holidays. The queues clearly indicate that the food is tasty here.

Puzata Hata has a very homey atmosphere. This is domestic Ukrainian fast food at its best. Conveniently placed in many locations, most restaurants have conservatories. The one located at Kontraktova Square in Podil has a fountain in a nice gallery on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor. A perfect place either for food on the go or a more leisurely meal as you wander around the city. *V. U.*



50.4627065  
30.5190815



2/1 Kontraktova Square  
Kontraktova Ploshcha





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The inventor of Chicken Kyiv  
is not clear cut



## Chicken Kyiv

But it is another culinary legend that ranks alongside Kyiv torte and its origins are shrouded in similar rumours. They say, in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, at the Kyiv restaurant, this “cutlet of poultry” (*côtelette de volaille*) was recreated to leave a wing bone so that the cutlet could be eaten with the fingers. This unusual dish was quickly appreciated throughout the Russian Empire where it was at that time, referred to as the cutlet Kyiv-style. An alternative story is that in the 1930s, one Kyiv chef dared to make cutlets for the party grandees that were filled with butter and also deep fried. The dish tickled the palates of the party bosses, who from then on, decided to make it a kind of visiting card of Kyiv. And so the cutlet began to be served in the Intourist hotel chains to foreign tourists. There is also a third version. The cutlet Kyiv-style was first cooked in the capital city in 1918. It was not particularly popular until a Ukrainian delegation returning home from Germany dined on the cutlet Kyiv-style as the principal meal. So, the origins of Chicken Kyiv are disputed to this day.

The French claim its authorship as the cutlet “à la Kyiv” was made in “de volaille” style. Russians believe it is their invention, and after all, Kyiv was

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part of the Russian Empire at the time. Americans attribute this dish to themselves, arguing that the name “Kyiv-style” arrived with Ukrainian emigrants who often ordered such food. In English, the dish is known as Chicken Kyiv, i.e. Chicken Kyiv-style. Kyivans do not participate in these discussions and prefer just to eat it. Now the cutlets are served in Kyiv everywhere – in cheap cafes and in high class restaurants. Its recipe varies slightly depending on chef’s preferences and skill, but one thing remains unchanged: the distinctive taste of tender chicken meat au gratin, stuffed with soft butter and greens. And it is virtually impossible to find a Kyiv restaurant where Chicken Kyiv is not on the menu. *L.S.*



Wikipedia





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The confectionery  
star of Kyiv



## Kyiv Torte

Kyiv torte is another famous Ukrainian product. Nearly every visitor to Kyiv has a duty to taste this delicious confection. Its history is shrouded in legends. It is well known that the first Kyiv torte was baked in 1956 at the Karl Marx confectionary factory (today the Roshen factory). One legend has it that the cake was invented by accident, as a result of a mistake made by factory bakers. They forgot to put the necessary amount of egg-white for the meringue in the fridge. To hide this mistake, the head baker Konstantin Petrenko decided to make a cake with the ingredients he had. What emerged was a unique torte with crispy layers of meringue and delicate cream. The official version says that Kyiv torte was, yes, invented in 1956. But a patent for the unusual recipe was only granted in 1973, not to Konstantine Petrenko, but to Galina Fastovets-Kalinovskaya and Anna Kurilo. It took their skills to develop Kyiv torte to its full potential; the torte you sample today. This is a cake consisting of different layers – two crunchy and nutty meringues with butter-cream between them. The topping is decorated with multi-colored butter-cream flowers and chestnut leaves, and the sides – with hazelnut coating. By the way, the decoration on a Kyiv torte is patented and in this way the confection is protected against impostors. And to this day the recipe of the torte is a closely guarded secret. *L. S.*

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# General Information



## Location

The city of Kyiv is located in the north central part of the country on both banks of the Dnieper, bordering two biomes – woodland and forest steppe. Much of Kyiv, the historical part of the city, sits on several hills and reaches 179 meters above sea level at its highest point, while the lower and much newer development area lies on the flat left bank.

## History

In 1982, Kyiv solemnized the milestone date, the 1500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its foundation (#4). However, this founding date did not come from historical sources, but from the decision of authorities. Scholars believe that the city is, in fact, much older. It was founded as a fortified place of the Polyan tribe; in the 9<sup>th</sup> century it became the capital of Kyivan Rus and retained its political role and cultural importance until the early 13<sup>th</sup> century. In 988, the introduction of Christianity to Kyiv by Prince Vladimir (#55) enhanced its sig-

## Name

According to the most popular legend and the 12<sup>th</sup>-century chronicle "Povest Vremennykh let" ("Tale of Bygone Years"), Kyiv was founded by three brothers, Kyi, Shchek, and Khoryv, and their sister Lybid' (#2). Each established his own settlement on a hill, and these settlements became the town of Kyiv, named for the eldest brother, Kyi; a small stream nearby was named for their sister Lybid' (now it largely flows in a subterranean labyrinth of sewer tunnels). Kyiv or Kiev? Although Kiev is most commonly used English name for the city, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine recommends the form Kyiv, based on Ukrainian orthography and pronunciation.

nificance as the spiritual center of orthodox Rus, and Vladimir and his mother Olga (#58) were bestowed the title "Equal to the Apostles". Kyiv reached its golden age in the middle of the 11<sup>th</sup> century under Vladimir's son Yaroslav the Wise. The main Christian monuments of Kyiv, Kyiv Pechersk Lavra (#63) and St. Sophia Cathedral (#64), were built in that period. In 1240, the Mongol-Tatar forces led by Batu Khan captured and burned down Kyiv, an event that was followed by a prolonged period of decline. But even



after Mongol destruction, Kyiv was formally considered the major throne of Kyiv Rus. About a century later, Kyiv and its surrounding areas were incorporated into the Grand Duchy of Lithuania; and from the mid-16<sup>th</sup> to the mid-17<sup>th</sup> centuries – into the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth. In 1654, after the victory of Hetman Bohdan Khmelnytsky (#56) over the Polish Crown troops and Pereyaslav Rada, the treaty of alliance was signed with Tsardom of Russia. It remained the capital of the Kyiv province within the Russian Empire till the February Revolution of 1917. In the late 19<sup>th</sup> – the early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries the city experienced a short period of economic take-off: building boom, large population increase and

industrial and cultural explosion. Landmarks of that modern period include most of notable architectural monuments that give a unique appearance to the city. This golden age in the Kyiv's history was interrupted by the World War I and the October Revolution. In November 1917, the Central Rada, a revolutionary parliament, declared the Ukrainian People's Republic with its capital in Kyiv. After the victory of the Bolsheviks, Kyiv temporarily lost its status as a capital and regained it again in 1934 as the capital of the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic within the USSR. During the World War II (from 1941 to 1943), Kyiv was occupied by Germans. Pages of its heroic





## INTERESTING KYIV

defense (#110) and no less epic liberation of Kyiv are forever written in its history. For Kyiv's role in the war, the city was honored with the title of Hero-City in 1965. During the war the downtown Kyiv, and especially its main street Khreshchatyk (#7), was almost completely destroyed and rebuilt again in the late 1940s - early 1950s. After the collapse of the Soviet Union, on August 24,

1991, Ukraine declared its independence and Kyiv again became the capital of a sovereign state. The main events in the new history of Ukraine are undoubtedly the Orange Revolution (November 2004 - January 2005) with its mass peaceful protests and rallies, the largest of which was the Kyiv Maidan; as well as the "Euromaidan" of 2013-2014, which ended up in clashes, a political crisis and a change of power.

## Population

The population of the Kyiv metropolitan area, which includes the city itself, its satellite settlements and nearest rural areas within two-hour accessibility, ranges from 5.4 to 7.2 million people, by various estimates; but herewith the actual urban population is from 2.9 to 3.3 million people.

## Climate

Kyiv sits on seven hills, which has a significant impact on air temperature and wind movement in the city. Winter is long but relatively mild and fairly snowy. The summer season is prolonged and great for holidays. The average annual sunshine duration is about 43-45%. Humidity is above average. It is always a few degrees warmer in downtown than in uptown, and the temperature in Kyiv is several degrees higher than in neighboring cities located in the same climatic zone. In recent years, because of global climate change, heat in

## Transport

Visitors to the city can use a wide variety of urban transport vehicles, ranging from rental cars or taxis to public transit: trolleybuses (#78), trams (#79), buses, minibuses (#81), as well as the metro (#77). The fare in public transport in 2018 was unified and amounts to 8 UAH (~\$0.30 at the end-2018).

the summertime is commonly observed, and in 2010 and 2012, it reached a recorded maximum of 36 °C, which is anomalous for this area. A feature of the Kyiv climate due to low temperature and high humidity is ice-covered ground and icing, which are inconvenient for cars and pedestrians on the steep relief of the city. The best time to visit Kyiv is the end of April - early May (#6), when the lilac and chestnut blossom time comes, and the average air temperature is most comfortable, about 22-25 °C.

Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Year
DM °C	-3.5	-3	1.8	9.3	15.5	18.5	20.5	19.7	14.2	8.4	1.9	-2.3	8.4
AP mm	36	39	37	46	57	82	71	60	57	41	50	45	621
ARH %	83	80	74	64	62	67	68	67	74	77	85	86	74

DM °C - Daily mean °C / AP mm - Average precipitation mm / ARH % - Average relative humidity (%)

## GENERAL INFORMATION

## Tourism

Rich in history and beautiful architecture, Kyiv is attractive to tourists; and its sacred sites, which include the Kyiv Pechersk Lavra (#63), also attract pilgrims from all over the world. Many monuments of classical antiquity have survived to our days and are carefully preserved, while the modern centers of culture and art are rapidly expanding; examples include Mystetsky Arsenal (#41) and PinchukArtCentre (#42). Kyiv with its wealth of parks, forest-parks, garden squares and resort-sanatorium areas is known as a green city. Countless lakes and small rivers, as well as the Dnieper with its central beaches, make the capital of Ukraine both a unique megacity with an ancient history and a popular leisure area.

## Language

Most residents of Kyiv are fluent in two languages, Russian and Ukrainian. Over the years of independence, the situation has come about that the younger generation increasingly uses the Ukrainian language in everyday life, while the older generation prefers speaking Russian. One can often observe interlocutors, who talk to each other in different languages (Russian and Ukrainian) with perfect mutual understanding. Also, both languages are often used in conversation. There is also a so-called "surzhyk", mixed colloquial, a product of long bilingualism, which absorbed words and expressions from Ukrainian and Russian.

## Currency

The national currency of Ukraine is the hryvnia (code UAH). One hryvnia is subdivided into 100 kopecks. Today, the banknotes are issued in denominations of 1, 2, 5, 10, 20, 50, 100, 200 and 500 hryvnias, and coins - in denominations of 1, 2, 5, 10, 25 and 50 kopecks, as well as 1 and 2 hryvnias. You can exchange euros, dollars and rubles practically "at every street corner": there is an exchange office almost in every street and every supermarket of Kyiv.



## How to get there

Kyiv is served by two international airports, Boryspil International Airport (situated around 30 km east of the city center) and Kyiv International Airport, or Zhuliany (located within the city limits), and by the railway station (#87). Of course, you can get to Kyiv by bus or car: Ukraine borders Poland, Slovakia, Hungary and Romania to the west. Distance to Kyiv from some European capitals (by road): Rome - 2452 km, Paris - 2402 km, London - 2399 km, Prague - 1397 km, Berlin - 1337 km, Budapest - 1118 km, Warsaw - 788 km. Traveling by car, you need to consider the border crossing procedure, which might take several hours at the border checkpoint, and the quality of roads, which often leaves much to be desired. Which is why, many people prefer to arrive in Kyiv by plane or by train.



# KYIV



CENTRE



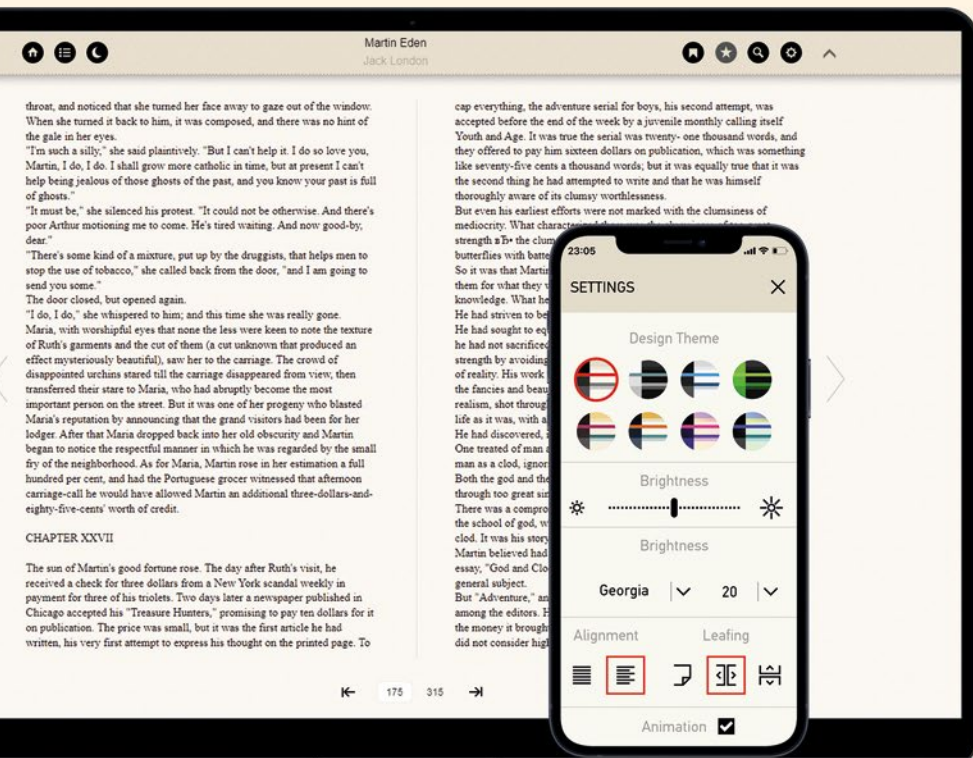
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