



Ukraine

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Best Places to Eat

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- ➔ Arbequina (p415)
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Best Places to Stay

- ➔ Sunflower B&B (p415)
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- ➔ Dream House Hostel (p414)

Why Go?

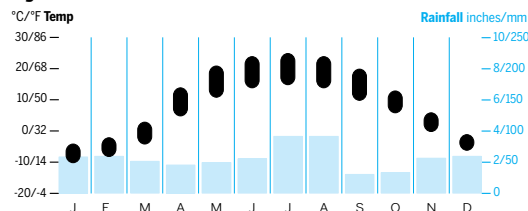
Big, diverse and largely undiscovered, Ukraine (Україна) is one of Europe's last genuine travel frontiers, a poor nation rich in colour-splashed tradition, off-the-map travel experiences and warm-hearted people. And with the country hitting the headlines recently for all the wrong reasons, those locals are perhaps happier than ever to see foreign visitors.

'Ukraine' means 'land on the edge', an apt title for this slab of Eurasia in many ways. This is the Slavic hinterland on Europe's periphery, just over two decades into a very troubled independence and dogged by conflict with neighbouring Russia. But it's a country whose peoples can pull together when need arises, as the recent Maidan Revolution and nationwide war effort has shown.

Most visitors head for the eclectic capital Kyiv, but architecturally rich Lviv is Ukraine's true big hope for tourism and both are well away from the conflict zones. However, while Russia continues to occupy Crimea, beach fun is off for the foreseeable future.

When to Go

Kyiv



Jan Party on New Year's Eve then repent at an Orthodox Christmas service a week later.

May A great time to visit Kyiv when its countless horse chestnut trees are in blossom.

Aug Sip Ukraine's best coffee in one of Lviv's many outdoor cafes.

Ukraine Highlights

1 Inspect Kyiv's collection of mummified monks by candlelight at **Kyievo-Pecherska Lavra** (p414).

2 Make an ascent of **Andriivsky Uzviz** (p414), Kyiv's most atmospheric street.

3 Do a spot of cobble-surfing in **Lviv's** (p418) historical centre, packed with churches, museums and eccentric restaurants.

4 Take a stroll through the island town of **Kamyanets-Podilsky** (p1183) to its photogenic fortress.

