



The Carpathians

Карпати

POP 3.5 MILLION

Includes ➔

Ivano-Frankivsk	124
Carpathian National Nature Park & Around	127
Yaremche	128
Bukovel	130
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Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Reflection (p139)
- ➔ Manufactura (p125)
- ➔ Cafe-Muzey Pid Zamkom (p142)
- ➔ Beer Club 10 (p125)

Best Places to Stay

- ➔ On the Corner (p131)
- ➔ Smerekova Hata (p135)
- ➔ Good Morning B&B (p131)
- ➔ Pid Templem (p125)

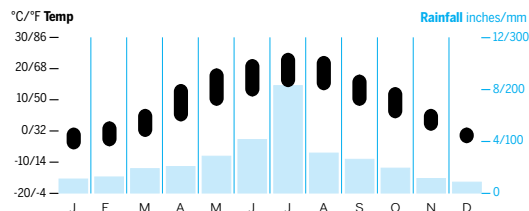
Why Go?

Clipping the country's southwest corner, the Carpathian arc has endowed Ukraine with a crinkled region of forested hills and fast-flowing rivers that feel a continent away from the flatness of the steppe. This is the land of the Hutsuls, whose colourful folk culture is laced through thin villages stretching languidly along wide valley floors. It's also rural Ukraine at its best, where tiered wooden churches dot hillsides, horse-drawn carts clip-clop along potholed roads, *babushkas* shoo geese, and *marshrutka* (fixed-route minibus) passengers cross themselves as they whizz past roadside chapels.

The 'Hutsulshchyna' may be Ukraine's epicentre of rural folk culture, but this is also a leading holiday spot. The local peaks have been a long-term hit with Ukrainian hikers and skiers; the Carpathian National Nature Park, the country's biggest, lies in this region; and within the park's boundaries rises Mt Hoverla – Ukraine's highest peak at 2061m. It's also home to Bukovel, Ukraine's glitziest ski resort.

When to Go

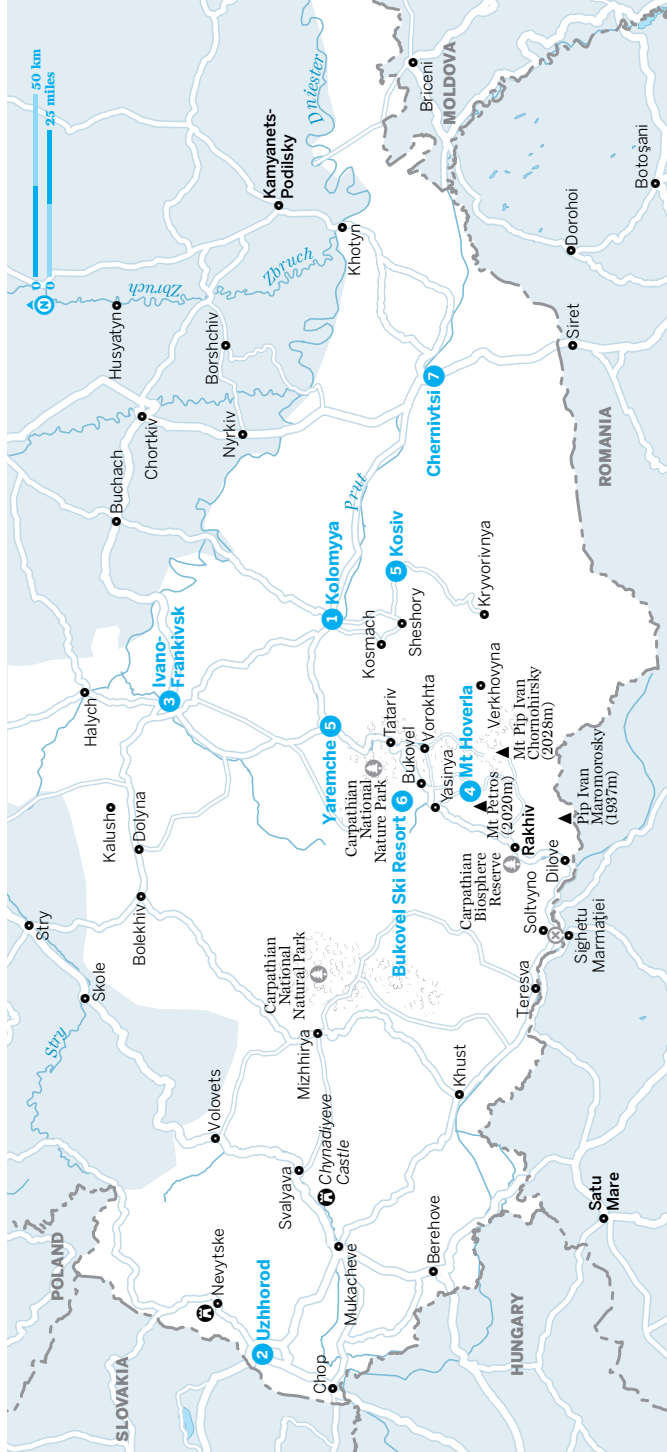
Ivano-Frankivsk



Jul Picnic on flower-filled *polonyny* (summer pastures) as you listen to the tinkle of cow bells.

Sep–Nov Watch local vintners bringing in the grape harvest in the Transcarpathia region.

Dec Enjoy some hearty Hutsul après-ski during the Carpathian ski season.



The Carpathians Highlights

- 1** Set up base camp in **Kolomyia** (p131) to visit its museums and arrange hikes into the hills.
- 2** Soak up the easy-going atmosphere of cosmopolitan

Uzhhorod (p140), a border town with attitude on the frontier with Slovakia.

- 3** Wander the pastel-coloured heart of **Ivano-**

Frankivsk (p124), a pleasant gateway to the mountains.

- 4** Make an easy-going ascent of Ukraine's highest peak, **Mt Hoverla** (p127).
- 5** Bargain hard for Hutsul

souvenirs at markets in **Kosiv** (p133) and **Yaremche** (p128).

- 6** Snap on skis for a bit of downhill fun at ritzy **Bukovel Ski Resort** (p130).
- 7** Join Bukovyna's

student population at trippy **Chernivtsi University** (p136), one of Eastern Europe's most mind-boggling places of learning.