



# Central Ukraine

## Центральна Україна

POP 5.5 MILLION

### Includes ➔

Polissya .....	71
Zhytomyr .....	71
Berdychiv .....	73
Podillya .....	74
Uman .....	74
Vinnytsya .....	76
Around Vinnytsya ....	79
Kamyanets-Podilsky ..	79

### Best Places to Stay

- ➔ Reikartz Kamyanets-Podilsky (p83)
- ➔ Hotel 7 Days (p82)
- ➔ Reikartz Zhytomyr (p72)
- ➔ Hetman (p82)

### Best Museums

- ➔ Nuclear Missile Museum (p78)
- ➔ Korozyov Cosmonaut Museum (p72)
- ➔ Pirogov Museum (p76)
- ➔ Podillya Antiquities Museum (p81)

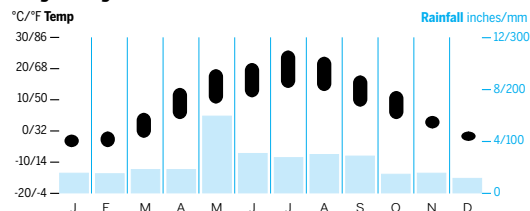
### Why Go?

Layered with dark fertile soil, Ukraine's breadbasket heartlands are split between forested Polissya to the north and the endless agricultural flatlands of Podillya to the south. Bucolic outdoor pleasures, some decidedly quirky museums and the show-stopping fortress town of Kamyanets-Podilsky are the odd mix of highlights provided by this often overlooked region.

Overlooked, that is, unless you are a Jewish pilgrim come to visit the tombs of Hasidic masters that dot the region. This was the birthplace of Hasidism and of the Jewish *shtetl* (village), both of which flourished within the Jewish Pale of Settlement, a demarcation line established by Catherine the Great in the 18th century to remove Jews from Russia and define the area they were allowed to inhabit. The Nazis obliterated practically every trace of Jewish culture here, with only the odd hauntingly abandoned Jewish cemetery remaining.

### When to Go

#### Zhytomyr



**Aug** Gaze in awe at central Ukraine's humungous sunflower fields in full bloom.

**Sep** Pick mushrooms and berries in the vast forests of Polissya.

**Oct** The most colourful time to visit Uman's romantic Sofiyivka Park.

## POLISSYA

The woody, river-sliced region radiating out of Kyiv in all directions is known as Polissya. The bulk of the region lies north of Kyiv, extending into Belarus, and sees none of the tourist traffic of southern and western Ukraine. Those who do make it here are usually campers, mountain bikers, rock climbers, mushroom pickers, canoeists and the odd hunter. If you don't fit one of those

categories, you might enjoy taking in Zhytomyr's Soviet-era small-town charm or exploring the rich Jewish history of Berdychiv, both west of Kyiv.

## Zhytomyr

Житомир

☎ 0412 / POP 277,900

Some 140km west of Kyiv, no other right-bank city evokes the Soviet Union more



## Central Ukraine Highlights

**1** Lay photographic siege to the medieval island town of **Kamyanets-Podilsky** (p79) and its dramatic fortress.

**2** Take a riverside seat in Zhytomyr to enjoy the aquatic light and sound show performed by the

**Roshen Fountain** (p76), Ukraine's most spectacular water feature.

**3** Get all spaced out at Zhytomyr's **Korolyov Cosmonaut Museum** (p72).

**4** Amble around Uman's painfully romantic **Sofiivka Park** (p74).

**5** Watch devout Jewish pilgrims revere deceased Hasidic masters in **Berdychiv** (p73), **Uman** (p74) and **Bratslav** (p79).

**6** Be careful what buttons you push at the **Nuclear Missile Museum** (p78).