



Eastern Ukraine

Східна Україна

POP 19.6 MILLION

Includes ➔

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Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Stargorod (p212)
- ➔ Fishcafe (p224)
- ➔ Yuzovskaya Pivovarnya (p215)
- ➔ Café Myshi Blyakhera (p221)
- ➔ Sto Dorih (p208)

Best Places to Stay

- ➔ Liverpool Art Hotel (p215)
- ➔ Hotel 19 (p211)
- ➔ Hotel Cosmopolit (p211)
- ➔ Menorah Hostel (p221)

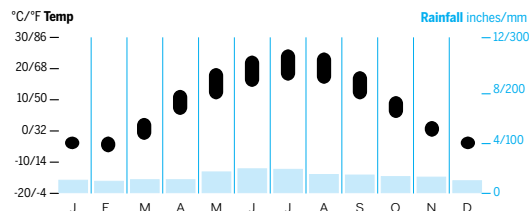
Why Go?

In many ways a continent away from the folkloric west of Ukraine, the territory east of the Dnipro is often dismissed as ‘not Ukrainian enough’. But from an economic and political point of view this vast region is the country’s power source. The industrial metropolises of the east have sent more than their share of presidents and prime ministers to Kyiv as well as providing both leaders of the 2004 Orange Revolution. It’s also spawned most of the country’s billionaires, who, when the region’s mines and steel works were up for grabs in the 1990s, did much grabbing.

But Ukraine’s east isn’t all about slag heaps, oligarchs and high-ranking kleptocrats. It also includes places that are key to understanding Ukraine, such as the Zaporizhska Sich, Gogol’s Poltava region and Unesco-listed Chernihiv. Even Ukraine’s second city Kharkiv has its moments, as do dynamic Dnipropetrovsk and Donetsk, the latter possessing Eastern Europe’s finest football stadium.

When to Go

Kharkiv



May The region is aflame with blooming lilacs and fruit trees.

Jul The heat builds in the eastern countryside. Pumpkins ripen and sunflowers bloom.

Aug Shop at the annual Sorochnyska farmers’ fair, made famous by local writer Gogol.

Chernihiv

☑ 0462 / POP 296,000

Modestly receding into provincial obscurity for the past millennium, Chernihiv, Ukraine's most northerly city, was once a Kyivan Rus (the first eastern Slavic state)

Чернігів

heavyweight frequented by 11th-century royalty. The residue of those glory days is a tight cluster of churches on a green bluff in the city's historical core, now a Unesco-listed site and one of the highlights of Polissya. Otherwise, this northern outpost is laced with a slow, provincial charm, the inert



Eastern Ukraine Highlights

- 1 Dip in and out of ancient churches and monasteries in sleepy **Chernihiv** (p202).
- 2 Go full circle in pursuit of Ukrainian literary heritage on the **Gogol Circuit** (p206).
- 3 Don your widest trousers and grow a ponytail to visit the Cossacks on Khortytsya Island in **Zaporizhzhya** (p223).
- 4 Play football in the **Soledar salt mine** (p219), 300m underground.
- 5 Visit the pretty cave monastery burrowed into dazzling chalk cliff at **Sviatohirsk** (p218).
- 6 Sleep, eat and dance at the Beatles-themed alternative universe of Liverpool in **Donetsk** (p217).
- 7 Watch Shakhtar's home games at the technologically advanced Donbass Arena in **Donetsk** (p214).
- 8 Take Ukraine's fastest express train to the lively spa town of **Myrhorod** (p205).