



## CITY AND COUNTRY TRIPS TO ODESSA / UKRAINE “A UNIQUE EXPERIENCE”

IMPORTANT: price explanation: please be informed that the far majority of city trips offer only air transport and hotel; Odessa Trips offers an all-inclusive trip.

### Introduction

- Fabulous cultural and relaxing trips to the most mysterious city at the Black Sea and in Ukraine;
- The tropical climate makes this sea resort unique and its history and French atmosphere are everywhere;
- The old trading city is more alive and inspiring than ever before;
- The ideal place for entertainment amidst its boulevards and colourful population.

First Entertainment Ltd, a subsidiary of the Dutch holding company United Travels for Ukraine bv, organizes trips from 5 days till 8 days (and for longer periods, please, contact us), guided by a highly professional team from Kiev and Odessa. The Odessa staff consists of 5 dedicated members who all bring their specific qualities to make Odessa Trips to the success it is now. Knowledge of the city and the region and knowledge of Ukrainian politics and way of life all contribute to understanding the local sphere and the uniqueness of the city. Our hosts make sure everything is well organized and during the whole trip they will be available to make the trip go very smoothly and according to your wishes. No better way to enjoy the local sphere and to meet the real city.

The trips include the major landmarks of Odessa and many other places that are known only to people that have Odessa as their home town. Odessa is as well a very popular beach resort with its long sandy beaches and palm trees and is famous for its beach night life at Arcadia boulevard under the bright and starry skies.

The program of the trip is very flexible and can be made for 100% up to individual wishes. Everything is arranged and communicated, which makes the trip very comfortable and easy going. Everything (except food and drinks) is included in the price. A first class transport and a 4 star hotel. The hotel may be chosen by our guests as there is a wide variety of hotels in Odessa and after the preference is given to us we will select a few options of hotels that will be according to the wishes of our clients. In the application form there is a small list to express the preferences for hotel choice.

As there is maximal flexibility the price per person or per group is not fixed.

Odessa Trips is one of the first organizations to make a city trip to Odessa possible and this makes it a unique and a brand new, life time experience.

The trips are in principle organized from April till November but they can be made the whole year round.

Odessa Trips organizes different sorts of trips for individuals and all sorts of groups up to in principle 8 persons (and on special request up to 30 persons) and start of the trip will be at Odessa airport. We offer:

- Culture oriented trips for individuals and groups;
- Leisure and relaxing trips for individuals and groups;
- Dedicated trips for companies (yearly company trip, celebration, post - student trips, etc).

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## Odessa

The city of Odessa is known to every one and at the same time unknown to practically anyone. It is known for its history, its strategic position at the shores of the Black Sea, its sub tropical climate, its unique city centre with so many influences from the past, its gentle and beautiful people, its trading mentality and its uniqueness.

But Odessa was a part of the Soviet Union for around seventy years and became somewhat isolated. People needed a specific reason to travel there as the capital Kiev took very much the centre position.

Now travelling to Odessa is easy and it becomes the highest time to enjoy the many characteristics of Odessa. We mention just a few here and of course full and detailed information can be supplied as well.

Situated at the Black Sea it is no wonder that Odessa has a turbulent past. Although the city is relatively young, many people, just to name Russians, Turks, Greeks, Cossacks and the French have occupied and influenced the city and have left their presence. That makes the city so interesting.

When we think of Odessa we get a romantic and mysterious feeling. We want to know more about this place. It is certainly not a metropolis but it has the grandeur of a big city. Still everything is reachable and easy to be overseen. Is it because of the famous novel «Odessa File» by Frederick Forsyth, is it because of the Potemkin stairs in the great Russian movie: «Battleship Potemkin» directed by Sergei Eisenstein? Or is it because so many cultural influences mix in Odessa and make it a melting place of excitement and real life.

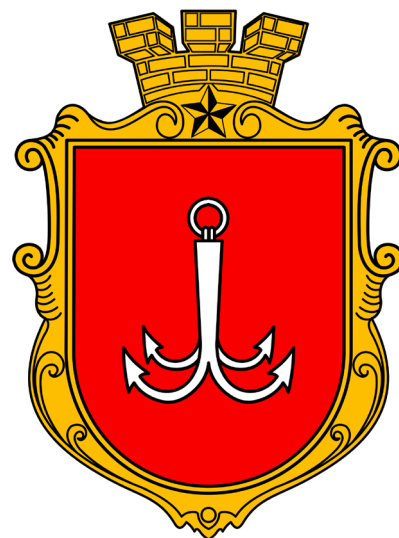
It can only partly be understood by words, it has to be felt in real. Odessa excites you and amazes you. See and feel it by yourself.

Odessa has become a city of freedom where the population differs from all other cities in the former Soviet Union. One can feel its trading mentality, its optimism and belief in life throughout the city. The European atmosphere of the beginning of the 20th century makes it a cosy and friendly place. Being a city where not long ago in every café there was a piano player who played in several cafes on one evening, to be replaced by an other one; still in Odessa music is everywhere and beach and city entertainment knows no closing time.

It is , in general, not so easy to find a place that is very attractive to both young and elderly people, Odessa is the perfect example.

One of the major attractions of Odessa is its climate. A typical subtropical climate invites you to visit the beaches. Long stretched beaches of sand with beach cafes and discotheques make life there very entertaining.

It is often called the French Riviera of Eastern Europe and once visited, it will be never forgotten.



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## Ukraine

Ukraine was a part of the Soviet Union for decades and together with Russia formed the core countries of this communist conglomerate. In 1991 it declared itself an independent nation again.

Again, as during many centuries Ukraine was a part of Russia, Poland, Hungary or Romania. This itself explains the turbulent history of the country. It is an old country whereby it is noticeable that in fact Kiev created Russia.

It is a large country (the size of France) with around 42.000.000 inhabitants. It is well known for its agricultural power and the “black earth” is known to everyone and stands for its fertile soil.

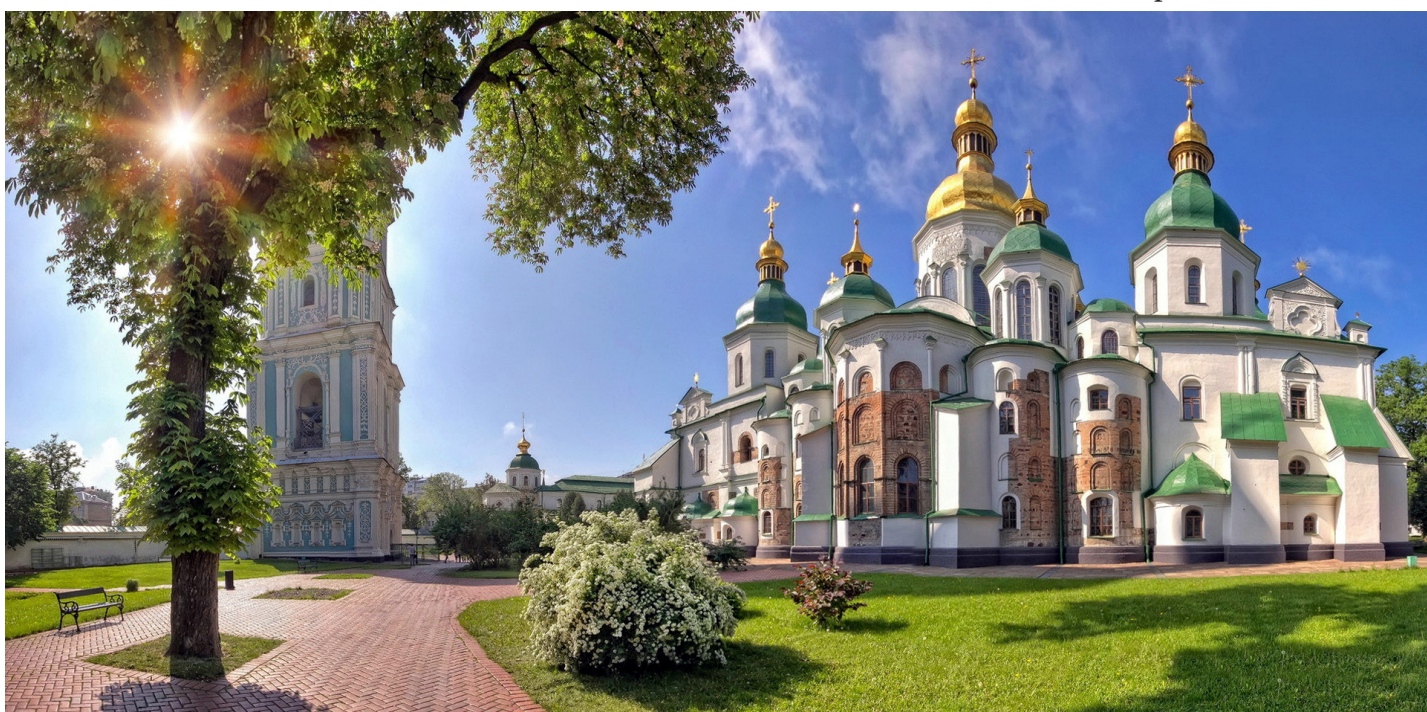
Next to its major agricultural production (e.g. grains, sunflowers) Ukraine was during the Soviet time an important industrial country and cities as Donetsk, Mariupol, Dnepropetrovsk, Zaporozhye played a very important role in the industrial production of the Soviet Union. And still it is an enormous industrial power, in spite of a lot of outdated plants and in spite of the separatists uproar.

The cities of Ukraine are famous for its beauty and its culture, especially Kiev, Odessa, Kharkov and L'viv. Ukraine is dominated by the river Dnepr that cuts the country in the length in two parts. Ukraine borders in the south to the Black Sea, in the east to Russia, in the north to Russia and in the west to Poland and Romania, with the Carpathians as a popular mountain area.

Positive developments are the growth of tourism, the growth of airline connections, the fast increasing of investments by China and the development of Ukraine into a major IT country.

Politically Ukraine has been very unstable since its independency which has led to problems in all fields and this has set Ukraine economically back to still a low level of welfare and development. Hopefully with the growing influence of Europe this will change for better at last. The people in Ukraine are a strong selling point: friendly, helpful, hospitable. A real pleasure. The country is safe for travelling and staying.

Saint Sophia's Cathedral, Kiev



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The present situation in the vast majority of Ukrainian territory is stable now. The South Eastern part of the country is still the centre of unrest and still is a potentially explosive area. It is not likely that this part of Ukraine will be brought back in the situation from before the independency fights. But it is very possible that a situation will be achieved whereby a certain form of independency will satisfy the parties involved, on condition that Russia is not using this area as a political weapon.

The country is regaining confidence and more and more Western organizations are coming back or starting, be it on a much lower level than before. Only time and political peace will stimulate this process further. The country is more and more managed by younger generations and they look hopefully to the future in a more balanced way than the older generations.

The future of Ukraine depends for an important part on the political developments in Eastern Europe and especially with Russia. Ukraine will have to find a way to balance in between the European Community and Russia. A difficult task that undoubtedly will not be easy, but will be necessary.



## Trip and transport

The trip starts at Odessa International Airport.

The concept of Odessa Trips is that we fully take care of our guests but with preserving all possible freedom and flexibility. We will meet you at the airport and luxury transport will take you to the 4 star hotel. The hotel choice can be made by you and if you leave the choice to us we will select an hotel in the old city in a quiet street so that you can enjoy the atmosphere of Odessa to the maximum. During the whole trip there will be private transport available to take you to many places in the city but also to interesting places in the region.

The program is in principle a mixture between visiting landmarks, traditional places, museums and the lovely beaches with their lively atmosphere. To a high extent your preferences dictate the program.

Odessa Trips has its own hosts, guides and experts who have all necessary experience and knowledge to give you a perfect impression what Odessa is with its many cultures and peculiarities. Practically all costs during the stay are included in the price; except lunch and dinner and drinks but we have the honor to invite you for a traditional dinner during one evening. Experience learns that our guests spend around euro 150,- on food and drinks during 5 days).

The management team and guides of Odessa Trips are at all time available and ready to advise and help you at all time. This you will really experience as something unique.



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## Staff / Organization

United Travels for Ukraine bv, a Dutch holding company, works in Ukraine through its 100% subsidiary named First Entertainment ltd. The business group is active in Ukraine for more than 20 years, especially in car rental ( United International Car Rentals ), equipment rental ( First Equipment Rental ) and apartment rental and music entertainment.

We are proud to introduce you our team to facilitate and organize your trip in the best possible way. In a country like Ukraine it is a necessity to have a perfect team and we have it.

Your hosts:

**Ksenia Babkevich:** aver all responsibility for the trips and responsible for bookings and sales;

**Ilona Safronova:** responsible for all logistic matters of the trips and organizes Kiev Trips;

**Tatyana Duchenko:** co – organizing Kiev Trips and responsible for financial control;

Your Kiev guides and experts

**Katya Fursa:** Katya has studied history at the university of Odessa and has later directed herself towards architecture. She is born and raised in Odessa and a true expert in architectural history;

**Prof. Dr. Igor Babich:** Igor is a true phenomenon as his knowledge of cultural and geographical positions of Ukrainian cities together with the political influences through the ages is outstanding. And he loves to discuss it. We are proud to have him aboard.



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## For whom?

Odessa is a city with many possibilities, and combinations are very easy to make. Odessa Trips offers culture, beach and leisure oriented trips and trips that focus on the sea, the region and on entertainment, during the day and during the night.

Our flexibility gives us the opportunity to use modules whereby in addition to the standard program individual wishes can be added.



## We offer 5 variations:

- Group trips; In principle up to 8 persons. This variation is designed for a group of people that are making a trip together out of many reasons like sports club, friends, post graduate student club and many more variants. In principle for groups from 4 persons up to 8 persons (for bigger groups, please contact us for special arrangements). Focus is on cultural and historic combinations with entertainment whereby Odessa Trips suggests a program whereby of course all changes are possible.
- Individual or small groups trips; up to 4 persons; with a focus on cultural or historic items whereby Odessa Trips suggests a program whereby of course all changes are possible.
  - Company trips; for instance for \*yearly\* team building purposes or a anniversary of the company or any other good reason. We have special facilities for company sessions, for restaurant visits in separated parts and for organizing all kind of private live music or speakers covering many subjects. The trip can be focused on cultural and historic items or as well on leisure or entertainment. Fully flexible in number of days.
  - Entertainment trips; we offer trips with a strong focus on the dynamic mentality of Odessa at present and in the past, on the famous night life, on the lovely beaches; This variation is suitable for group trips and company trips; fully flexible in number of days.
- Participation trips; Unique in its sort Odessa Trips offers trips whereby our guests will have a vivid participation, either in the form of painting the beauty of Odessa under professional guidance or either in the form of becoming part of the Jewish music culture. Please read in detail on the page «Participation Trips».

## Possible program items:

We hereby give you all possibilities to visit. In principle each item takes a morning, afternoon or evening. You are free to select your program or to make changes in the 5 day program we offer you.

| Items   |
|---|
| 1. Visit to the famous French oriented city centre                                  |
| 2. Visit to the world famous opera house of Odessa                                  |
| 3. Visit the well-known Potemkin stairs   |
| 4. Visit to the Arcadia area with its entertainment                                 |
| 5. Boat trip on the Black Sea   |
| 6. Privoz market; East European most eccentric market                               |
| 7. The church and monastery tour  |
| 8. Odessa gangster town, its decisive role before the Russian revolution            |
| 9. Belgorod-Dniester fortress (70 km from Odessa);                                  |
| 10. Winery. Famous Shabo winery 70 km from Odessa;                                  |
| 11. Famous writers who lived in Odessa: Tolstoy ( birth house) and Pushkin (museum) |
| 12. Visit to the museum of Western arts   |
| 13. Live music evening tour through Odessa  |
| 14. Visit to the Shustov Cognac museum  |
| 15. Fishing on the Black Sea  |
| 16. The beaches and boulevards  |
| 17. The Arcadia night life  |
| 18. Understand Odessa politics  |
| 19. Catacombes of Odessa  |
| 20. Interesting cities and villages   |
| 21. St. Panteleymon monastery   |
| 22. Dacha Restaurant  |

Of course there can be as much free time reserved as desired.

Arrival and departure days are included in the total number of days.



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## Prices

As there is maximum flexibility in the program we offer, the prices for the trip can vary. Please use our personal contacts to get the exact prices for your trip.

For our 5 days selected program the total price for the trip will probably be per person between euro 700,- and Euro 1.000,- This depends of course very much of the choice of the hotel and the number and sort of activities chosen by the participants.

Number of participants:

- traveling alone or with groups over 8 persons, please contact us about pricing.

Not included:

- airplane fares are not included ( Odessa Trips with pleasure books your flight)
- insurance is not included
- food and drinks are not included

Included:

- hotel ( 4 star) including breakfast
- transport in private luxury car with driver ( cars can also be rented by our participants without driver)
- entrances to all offered trips
- guides from Odessa Trips and on the different trips we offer.
- one traditional dinner

Prices can differ because of special wishes and because of other factors ( for instance driver or not)



## Contacts

For more and full information and for making the trip exclusive and according to your special wishes, please contact us (e-mail: **booking@odessa-trips.com** or telephone: **+38 044 492 32 66**)

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