



USEFUL INFORMATION ABOUT UKRAINE

1. SAFETY AND SECURITY

Ukraine is generally a safe and friendly country to travellers. However, don't show around big amounts of money or walk alone at night along dark lonely streets. You can easily become a victim of pocket thefts; so take care of your wallet and do not keep big amounts with you.

Victims of crime

If you are the victim of a crime abroad, you should contact the local police and the nearest embassy or consulate of your country.

Emergency and useful numbers

Police: 112

Ambulance: 112

Fire brigades: 112

Telephone number assistance: 09

The traffic

Road accidents are common in Ukraine, mainly due to poor roads, dangerous driving and non-enforcement of traffic laws. Be careful on the roads in Ukraine.

2. INSURANCE

Prior to your travels, make sure you have full insurance coverage during your stay in the country. Make sure your health insurance covers you for medical expenses abroad, including possible evacuation.

3. MONEY

The local currency is the Ukrainian Hryvnia (UAH), divided into 100 kopyok.

Money exchange

Foreign currency is officially not allowed as payment means but can be converted at banks, foreign exchange bureaus and in some shops and hotels. Most hard currencies can be exchanged; US dollars and Euros are the easiest. It is hard to get hryvnia outside Ukraine and travellers are advised to take good condition US dollars or Euro notes to change once there.

ATMs

ATMs are common in the cities and probably the best option overall.

Credit/debit cards

Credit and debit cards are more and more common in Ukraine but far from all restaurants and shops accept cards, especially in small towns it can be difficult to pay by cards. American Express, Diners Club, Master Card and Visa are most accepted cards. In many places you will be charged a percentage of the sale, if using credit card.

International transfers



Western Union and MoneyGram, the international money-transfer specialists, operate in Ukraine.

Travellers' cheques

Travellers' cheques are difficult and expensive to cash, but if necessary it is advised to take them in US Dollars or Euro.

4. VISAS

No visas are required for citizens of the United States, Canada, the EU countries, Norway, Switzerland, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Monaco, Andorra, San Marino, the Vatican, Japan and the Republic of Korea who may stay in Ukraine up to 3 months within 180 days. A valid passport is necessary. If the total period of stay in Ukraine exceeds 90 days within half a year entry visa to Ukraine is required. Students travelling with AMBergh are assisted with the visa procedure.

As visa regulations may change, always check the visa rules with the Ukrainian consulate/embassy in your country before travelling.

5. GETTING THERE AND AWAY

By plane

Most of Ukraine's big cities have international airports.

By train

You can get into Ukraine by train from any land-bordering neighbor. When coming from Western Europe there will be a wait at the border while the train's bogies are changed in order to adapt to a different rail gauge.

Bus

There are bus services to Ukraine from any land-bordering neighbor.

By car

To travel to Ukraine by car or motorcycle you need: your passport, your driving license and an international driving permit, the registration document on your car, third-party insurance valid in Ukraine.

By boat

The major part of sea connection is made via the Black sea ports of Odessa, Sevastopol and Yalta. Most ferries serve Istanbul, Turkey. There are also ferries from Bulgaria and Georgia.

6. TRANSPORTATION WITHIN UKRAINE

By Metro

Metro is available in Kiev, Kharkiv, and Dnipropetrovsk. Metro is the fastest and most reliable way of transportation. Metro is also a major sightseeing spot for tourists since metro stations have remarkable interiors that reflect modern decorative designs and historical periods of the country.

**By buses, trolley-buses and trams**

The city transport stops working after 24:00 and starts working after 6:00. If you're late, you can take a taxi.

By marshrutka (minibuses)

This kind of public transport is very popular. If you see an approaching shuttle just wave it down like a taxi. When you are near your stop you tell the driver where to stop. These minibuses not only travel within a certain town/city, but they also serve intercity routes.

By taxi

Taxi is comparatively cheap. There are numerous taxi services; orders are taken via phone. A taxi can be stopped right on the street simply by putting out your hand. Price is to be agreed upon beforehand.

By car

You find car rental agencies at airports and most major hotels.

By bus or coach

Ukraine has an extensive long-distance bus network and you can get anywhere taking a local or an intercity bus, the prices are reasonable.

By train

Train is a very reliable way to travel within Ukraine. Train tickets can be purchased at the railroad stations and offices, and in a few travel agencies. It is required to show passports of all individuals who will be travelling on bought tickets. The tickets are bookable within 42 days term prior to the departure date. Train tickets are not available earlier.

By airplane

The domestic air network is extensive and covers most major towns in Ukraine.

7. FOOD AND DRINKS

Food

Most Ukrainian meals start with a soup. Soups have always played an important role in the Ukrainian meal. There is a great variety of soups such as shchi (cabbage soup), borsch (beetroot soup), ukha (fish soup), solyanka (soup based on meat broth), okroshka (cold soup based on kvass) and many others. A very popular dish is Vareniki, which is stuffed dumplings, Kotlety (meatballs), Shashlyk (a form of Shish kebab) are also very popular. Other popular meals are Pirozhki (pirogue, pie), which are filled with one of many different fillings, and Blini (pancakes). Cabbage, potatoes, and vegetables are common in Ukraine. Pickling cabbage, cucumbers and other greens in brine is used to preserve vegetables for winter use. These are sources of vitamins during periods when fresh fruit and vegetables are traditionally not available.

Water and drinks

Tap water is not safe to drink throughout Ukraine.



8. BUSINESS HOURS

Throughout the year, apart from holidays, businesses are generally open at the following hours:

Offices: Mondays to Fridays: 09:00 - 18:00 (with a one hour break at noon)

Banks: Mondays to Fridays: 09:00 –18:00

Stores: Mondays to Saturdays: 10:00 - 19:00

In many cities, the stores are open also evenings and on Sundays.

Public holidays

01 January (New Year Holiday)

07 January (Orthodox Xmas)

08 March (International Women's Day)

24 April (Orthodox Easter)

01 May (Labour Days)

09 May (Victory Day)

08 June (Orthodox Pentecost)

28 June (Constitution Day)

24 August (Ukrainian Independence Day)

9. ELECTRICITY

Electricity in Ukraine is 220 Volts, 50 Hertz. Most of the sockets are standard European-size for double round-pin plugs.

10. TIME

Local time is GMT+2.

11. INTERNET

Internet access is easy to find. Most cities, both large and smaller towns, have plenty of internet cafés. An increasing number of cafes, restaurants, and hotels provide wireless internet access.

12. TELEPHONE/MOBILE

The international dealing code for Ukraine is +380. It is possible to purchase mobile phone lines for the duration of your stay.

13. CLOTHING

There is no special dress code. Bring warm clothes winter time.

14. WOMEN TRAVELLING ALONE

In Ukraine, a woman travelling alone is generally safe.



15. HEALTH

Medical facilities outside the cities can be basic and in case of emergency you are advised to seek treatment in a city. You should ensure that your medical insurance covers the cost of local hospitalisation and medical repatriation to your country of residence.

For information on vaccinations, make sure to check with the health authorities in your country prior to departure.