

AMERICAN MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY 



THE CULTURAL HISTORY & ARCHAEOLOGY OF
UKRAINE

JULY 9 - 23, 2004



Dear Museum Traveler,

Study Leader

DR. JENNIFER DICKINSON is an Assistant Professor of Anthropology at the University of Vermont, where she teaches courses in linguistic and cultural anthropology. Dr. Dickinson has conducted research in the former Soviet Union since 1991, and has traveled extensively in Russia, the Baltic States, Belarus, and Ukraine. Her work explores the links between everyday language use and economic and social change in Eastern Europe, particularly in rural areas. She currently works in Ukraine, focusing on the southwestern Zakarpattja region, where she has done anthropological research since 1995, in addition to other regions of the country. Her most recent project considers the social effects of changes in Ukrainian advertising since the Soviet period. Her lectures emphasize ongoing changes in the language, culture, economy, and society of Ukraine and consider how these changes are related to the country's rich history.

What to Expect

In order to reap the full rewards of travel to Ukraine, visitors should travel with a spirit of adventure, flexibility, and a sense of humor. Throughout our stay we overnight at comfortable Western style hotels. The tourism infrastructure in Ukraine has improved dramatically, however, we may still encounter problems with bureaucratic service, road conditions, unpaved sidewalks, uneven surfaces and steps, and availability of public restrooms. Due to the nature of travel in Ukraine, our itinerary is always subject to change. However, we will do our best to inform you in advance of any changes.

I am excited to unveil Discovery Tour's first ever journey to Ukraine—a land of rare antiquities, tranquil natural beauty, and a fascinating and complex cultural and political history. Step back in time with us to the site of the Greek colony of Chersonese, founded 2,000 years ago, and inhabited successively by Romans, Byzantines, and the Eastern Slavic Rus, and enjoy unparalleled access to this famous Crimean site, widely regarded as the most important archaeological site in the Black Sea region. We explore the rolling Carpathian Mountains and bask on the Crimean Peninsula, the vacation spot of the tsars. We relive the signing of the Yalta Treaty at Livadiya Palace, where Roosevelt, Churchill, and Stalin met to decide the fate of Europe following World War II. We also meet with ambassadors and other heads-of-state to discuss regional current events and politics.

We begin our fascinating exploration in the charming capital city of Kiev, walking through the thousand-year-old Golden Gates of Kiev; exploring the Kievan Cave Monastery, where the histories of the Slavs were kept for centuries; and sipping champagne in the ancient grotto under the Odessa Art Museum. We continue to Lviv, which, having escaped the urban devastation of World War II, is a living museum of Western architecture. We begin our tour in Old Town, a UNESCO World Heritage site and still the best-preserved urban square in Ukraine. We then travel to the town of Olesko and explore Olesko Castle, built on the site of an earlier thirteenth century fortress which was destroyed in Tatar attacks. We next journey to the Black Sea city of Odessa and explore the legendary catacombs found underneath the city.

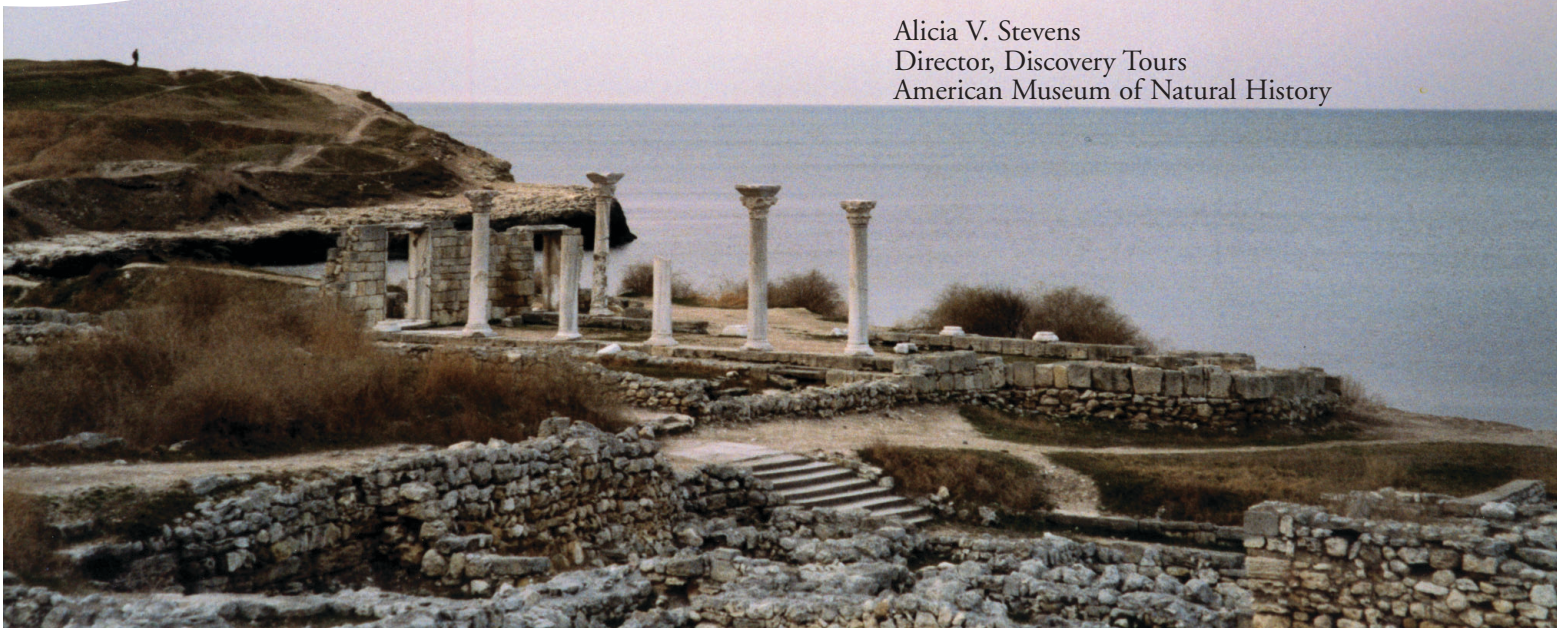
A highlight of our journey is our exploration of the ancient city of Chersonesos. Once a Greek colony, a Byzantine city, and Christianity's entry point into Russia, Chersonesos is now an open-air museum. The site is dominated by Byzantine columns and has the only known Greek theater in the Black Sea region. In 1996 it became the first National Preserve site in Ukraine.

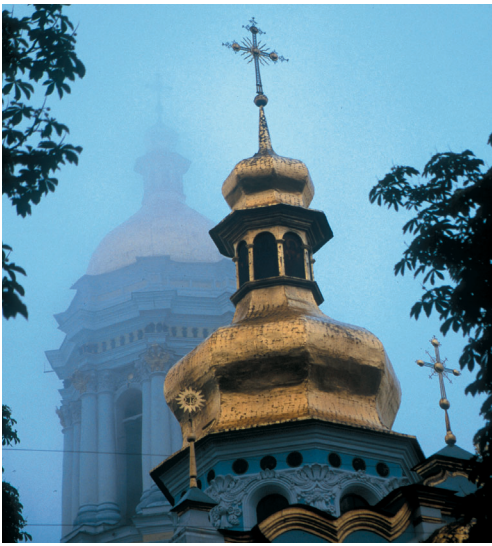
We end our intriguing journey at the medieval town of Livadia. This charming Black Sea city became famous in 1910, when Tsar Nicholas II had a magnificent Italian renaissance-style palace built on a cliff overlooking the Black Sea as a quiet and tranquil refuge for the imperial family.

I hope you will join us on this very special inaugural program.

Warm regards,

Alicia V. Stevens
Director, Discovery Tours
American Museum of Natural History





Friday, July 9
Depart U.S.

We depart from New York bound for Kiev, the capital of Ukraine, via Frankfurt. (Meals Aloft)

Saturday, July 10
Arrive Kiev

We arrive in Kiev and drive into the heart of the city to the five-star Premier Palace Hotel. Tonight we enjoy a welcome dinner. Premier Palace Hotel (Meals Aloft; D)

Sunday, July 11
Kiev

Kiev is the capital and the mother city of Ukraine. Founded in the fifth century, Kiev

has survived Mongol invasions, devastating fires, communist urban planning, and the massive destruction of World War II. Today we visit many of the city's fascinating sites, including St. Sophia's Cathedral, an incredible example of Slavic Byzantine architecture; St. Andrew's Cathedral, with its distinctive blue domes; and Andreevsky Uzviz, a charming area lined with galleries, shops, restaurants, and cafes. We then visit the Chernobyl Museum, where exhibits document the worst nuclear disaster in history. This evening we attend an evening performance at the National Organ Hall or a night at the Kiev Opera. Premier Palace Hotel (B,L,D)

Monday, July 12
Kiev

Today's explorations bring us to Kiev-Pecherskaya Lavra, or the Monastery of the Caves. Founded by monks as a hermit's enclave, the monastery grew to become a magnificent collection of gold-domed churches, underground labyrinths lined with mummified monks, and elegant monastic buildings turned into museums, one of which is packed with Scythian gold. Afterward we visit the Folk Museum. Spread across scenic rolling hills, this open-air museum boasts an excellent collection of seventeenth- to twentieth-century wooden cottages, churches, farmsteads, and windmills, many with beautiful gardens and interior furnishings. The museum is divided into seven small villages representing regional traditions. We return to the hotel for dinner and a Ukrainian folk performance. Premier Palace Hotel (B,L,D)

Tuesday, July 13
Kiev/Lviv

This morning we visit the National Science Museum complex, which is comprised of four separate museums that explore the disciplines of archaeology, geology, botany, and zoology. The afternoon is set aside for meetings with local officials and scientists. Early this evening we fly to Lviv, a living museum of Western architecture from the Gothic to the present. Grand Hotel (B,L,D)

Wednesday, July 14
Lviv

We begin our exploration of Lviv in Old Town. Designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site, Old Town was once the center of Lviv and is still the best preserved urban square in Ukraine. At its heart is the nineteenth-century town hall, which is flanked by magnificent, old buildings with ornate relief carvings. We con-

tinue to the Ukrainian National Museum to examine one of the country's largest collections of ecclesiastical art. Then, during a visit to the Museum of Folk Architecture and Life, we learn about folk traditions from around the country. Schedules permitting, we spend the evening at the Lviv Opera. Grand Hotel (B,L,D)

Thursday, July 15
Lviv/Olesko

After breakfast we drive to the town of Olesko, home to Olesko Castle. Built by a Halych Prince, the castle was the scene of successive medieval battles and was destroyed by the Tatars in the fifteenth century. The Radzivil family, influential Polish magnates richer than their kings, re-built the castle, which somehow escaped Soviet neglect. Lovely formal gardens spread around the foot of the castle, with ponds marking the old moat. Hotel Londonskaya (B,L,D)

Friday, July 16
Lviv/Odessa

Today we drive to the airport for our flight to Odessa. Regarded as the cultural center of Ukraine, Odessa draws writers, artists, and performers to its salons, educational institutions, and theaters, as well as to its warm Black Sea beaches. We arrive in the late afternoon. Hotel Londonskaya (B,L,D)





*Saturday,
July 17*
Odessa

After breakfast we visit the elaborate Viennese-designed Odessa Opera and Ballet Theatre, one of the most beautiful opera houses in Europe. Earning its reputation as a cultural center, Odessa has produced some of the world's finest classical performers and boasts a history of classical education and refinement. We then stop at the Potemkin Steps. Built in 1837 as a monument to

Duke de Richelieu, this is the best place to view Odessa's busy harbor and waterfront. This afternoon we explore the legendary catacombs found underneath the city and its suburbs. It is said that the catacombs were used by the city's "invisible people"—thieves, gangsters, and others hiding from the authorities— as well as by the partisans during World War II. **Hotel Londonskaya (B,L,D)**

Sunday, July 18
Odessa/Yalta

Today we depart Odessa by private coach, and make our way along the Black Sea coast to Yalta. Yalta has been regarded as the Black Sea's finest resort area since Tsar Alexander II chose this region for his summer residence. Arriving in Yalta we check into our beachfront hotel and meet in the evening for a wine tasting and dinner. **Hotel Oreanda (B,L,D)**



Monday, July 19
**Yalta/Sevastopol/
Chersonesos/Yalta**

Today we drive to Sevastopol, the focus of the Crimean War in 1854, and current home of Russia's Black Sea Fleet. We visit Malakhov Hill, the command post for the first defense, viewing the restored fortifications and the Eternal Flame honoring naval heroes. Following lunch we visit the ancient city of Chersonesos. Chersonesos comprises one of the most complete and coherent records of Hellenistic, Roman, and Byzantine civilizations. No other Byzantine city in the world has survived as completely with houses, public buildings, churches, and cemeteries remaining virtually undisturbed for centuries, causing some to regard it as the Ukrainian Pompeii. Dominated by Byzantine columns, Chersonesos has the only known Greek theater in the Black Sea region. We return to Yalta for dinner. **Hotel Oreanda (B,L,D)**

Tuesday, July 20
Yalta

The medieval town of Livadia, outside of Yalta, is our destination this morning. In 1910, Tsar Nicholas II built a magnificent Italian Renaissance-style palace from Crimean white limestone on a cliff overlooking the Black Sea. Surrounded by manicured lawns and gardens with vast sea views, Livadia Palace became a tranquil refuge for the imperial family. The palace gained international recognition in 1945 as the setting of the Yalta Conference, where Roosevelt, Churchill, and Stalin met to discuss the fate of Europe at the end of World War II. Today the palace hosts exhibits on both the imperial family and the Yalta Conference. This afternoon we enjoy Crimean wine tasting at the Massandra Winery before dinner. **Hotel Oreanda (B,L,D)**

Wednesday, July 21
Yalta/Bakhchysaray

This morning we explore the Tatars' history in Crimea during our visit to Bakhchysaray. This small city was the capital of the Crimean Khanate until 1783 when the Russian Empire annexed the area. We focus our time on the Palace of the Khans, or Han Saray, and the site of the 500-year-old Zyndzhyrly Madrassah. Originally built in the sixteenth century as a residence



of the Khans and an administrative center, Han Saray soon grew into a large complex of Ottoman-style buildings and courtyards. Before returning to Yalta, we visit the Mosque of Tokhtala-Dzhama, with its sixteen-sided minaret and the Uspensky Cave Monastery, a series of shallow caves carved from a rock face, founded by Byzantine monks in the eighth or ninth century. **Hotel Oreanda (B,L,D)**

Thursday, July 22
Yalta/Simferopol/Kiev

This morning we drive to Simferopol to catch our flight back to Kiev. We arrive in Kiev and transfer to the Premier Place Hotel for our last night in Ukraine. This evening we enjoy a farewell dinner at a local restaurant, toasting our successful journey. **Premier Place Hotel (B,L,D)**

Friday, July 23
Depart Kiev

After breakfast we have some free time for individual exploration of Kiev. At midday we drive to the airport for our departure flight. We arrive back in New York the same day. **(B; Meals Aloft)**



Program Rates:

Land Only, double occupancy.....	\$6,950 per person
Land/Air Package, double occupancy.....	\$X,xxx per person
Single Supplement.....	\$1,220 per person

Program Rates for Land/Air Include:

- Round-trip coach airfare from New York to Kiev
- Accommodations as indicated in itinerary
- Meals as indicated in the itinerary
- Comprehensive educational program including lectures and discussions by American Museum of Natural History study leader, professional on-site guides, and local experts
- All land transportation and flights within Ukraine
- All excursions and entrance fees
- Complete packet of pre-departure materials including suggested reading list and luggage tags
- Airport and hotel taxes, baggage handling whenever possible, and group transfers, gratuities to porters, escorts, drivers, and local guides
- Medical insurance coverage up to \$2,500 and emergency evacuation insurance up to \$50,000, except for foreign residents traveling within their own country

Rates Do Not Include:

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Note: Air schedule and itinerary are subject to change.



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The enclosed deposit of \$ _____ (\$1,000 per person), payable by: check, payable to the American Museum of Natural History

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Cultural History & Archaeology of Ukraine

July 9–23, 2004

Terms and Conditions

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