THE CULTURAL HISTORY & ARCHAEOLOGY OF UKRAINE
JULY 9 - 23, 2004
Dear Museum Traveler,

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 Kievo-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 mumified 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-

Thursday, July 15
Lviv/Oleske
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 Radzivill 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 Richelie, 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-Dzhamia, 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.
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:
• Medical immunizations
• Passport and visa fees
• Baggage/cancellation insurance
• Excess baggage charges
• Meals not specified as included
• Video and photography fees
• Alcoholic beverages and soft drinks
• Laundry, telephone calls and faxes, room service, and other items of a personal nature

Note: Air schedule and itinerary are subject to change.

Reservation Form
Please reserve_____place(s) on the American Museum of Natural History's Cultural History & Archaeology of Ukraine
The enclosed deposit of $___________ ($1,000 per person), payable by: ❐ check, payable to the American Museum of Natural History
❑ Visa ❐ MasterCard ❐ American Express ❐ Discover Card
Account #:_________________________ Exp Date _______________
should be sent with this form to: American Museum of Natural History
Discovery Tours
Central Park West at 79th Street
New York, NY 10024-5192

Name ___________________________________________ Date of Birth___________
Name ___________________________________________ Date of Birth___________
Address___________________________________________________________________
(If using a P.O. box, please indicate a street address for UPS shipments.)
City/State/Zip _____________________________________________________________
Home Phone_______________________ Work Phone _____________________________
Fax _____________________ E-mail ________________________

Please note preference of accommodation:
❑ We would like double accommodations.
❑ I would like to have single accommodations.
❑ I plan to share accommodations with_________________________________________
❑ I would like to know about possible roommates. ❐ Smoker ❐ Non-Smoker
❑ I would like information on airfare. ❐ Business-Class Upgrade
❑ I would like to depart from_________________________________________(Originating city).

For More Information, Please call 800-462-8687 or 212-769-5700; visit www.discoverytours.org

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

For more information, please call 800-462-8687 or 212-769-5700, fax 212-769-5755, visit www.discoverytours.org
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