

# **UKRAINE MAKSYMETZ FAMILY TOUR**

## **MAY 28<sup>th</sup> to June 12<sup>th</sup> 2011**

### ***Itinerary***

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#### ***DAY 1***

Departure day.

Connecting flights to Toronto Pearson Airport for overnight Transatlantic flight to Europe.

#### ***DAY 2***

Morning arrival in Europe and connecting flight to **KYIV**. Capital of Ukraine, Kyiv has been standing on steep hills overlooking the Dnieper River for more than 1500 years. After a long flight, one can choose to rest and relax - or get acquainted with the city. Start with a walk along ***Khreshchatyk***, Kyiv's main boulevard, and now famous ***Maidan***, where the Orange Revolution took place.

#### ***DAY 3 & 4***

In the next two days, visit the major sites of the medieval original parts of the city. Included are such highlights as the Baroque-style ***St. Andrew Church*** which stands on ***Andreyevsky Hill***, the ***11th Century Golden Gates*** and ***Podol***, the historical downtown section. Visit also ***Pecherska Lavra*** (the Monastery of the Caves) - an active monastery since medieval times - and the most important historical site in Kyiv. This vast complex has many valuable specimens of the 11-12th and 17-18th Century architecture and art. Containing many churches, catacombs and museums, including the ***Museum of National Treasure***, the ***Lavra*** is a UNESCO Heritage Site - as is the important landmark, ***St. Sophia's Cathedral***. It was dedicated in 1031 to Yaroslav the Wise and it is here that the country's earliest historical chronicles were written. Time permitting, cruise to ***Kaniv*** to visit the monument to ***Taras Shevchenko***, Ukraine's greatest poet, located in a beautiful setting overlooking the Dnipro.

#### ***DAY 5 & 6***

Morning departure for a full-day trip through the countryside to **KAMYANETS-PODILSKY**, one of the oldest cities in Ukraine. Arrival will be in time for dinner. Take an evening stroll in this pedestrian -friendly city. The following day will be spent visiting the ***11-16th Century Fortress***, a monument of military fortifications of the feudal era. The ***City Gate***, ***Ruska Gate***, and ***Polish Gate***, from the 16-17<sup>th</sup> Century are parts of the mighty defensive system that protected the entrances to the city by complex hydrotechnical structures. The ***Elevation of the Holy Cross Church*** (17th-18th C) is a unique monument of the Podillian School of wood architecture.

#### ***DAY 7***

After breakfast, travel to ***Khotyn Fortress*** (12-16thC), situated on the slopes of the Dniester River at the crossroads of several trading routes. Many battles were fought below the fortress walls. One of the greatest victories was in 1621 when the Slavic forces defeated the 150,000 -strong Turkish army- then considered unvanquishable. Continue the drive through the beautiful ***Podillia*** countryside and arrive in **KOLOMYIA** - the main center for the Carpathian part of our tour.

#### ***DAY 8***

**KOLOMYIA**, first mentioned in the chronicles in 1240, is situated on the left bank of the River Prut. Visit the unique ***Pysanka Museum*** as well as the ***Hutsul*** and ***Pokuttia Museum of Folk Art***. Since the city is famous for its master-ceramicists and woodcarvers, you will be overwhelmed with the beautiful folk art, antiques, embroidery fabrics and glorious pysanky available in the gift shops.

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**DAY 9**

A short drive today to **YAREMCHE**, one of the major centers of the Hutsul region. Enjoy the mountain scenery of *Bukavel*, a lunch in the *Hutsulshchyna restaurant*, built in the Hutsul style, located on the edge of the River Prut. Cross the footbridge to visit the *folk art bazaar*. The city offers some of the finest examples of wooden Hutsul architecture.

**DAY 10**

Drive south today to **KOSIV**, another Hutsul crafts center, located in the pine woods of the *Carpathian Mountains*. Visit the *Kosiv Museum*, the *College of Folk Art* and the *Kombinat*, the artists' co-operative, where you can observe the creation of Hutsul ceramics and folk art objects, including woodcarving, embroideries, and rugs - available for purchase as well.

**DAY 11**

Leave today for **LVIV**, the capital of Western Ukraine with an enroute stop in *Ivano-Frankivsk* for a walking tour of another city with an ancient history. Some fine jewelry and book shops for browsing or admire the amazing architecture while enjoying an outdoor café. On to **LVIV** with its medieval center which just celebrated its 750th birthday and is designated a UNESCO Heritage Site.

**DAY 12 & 13**

**LVIV** - Visit the *Ethnographic Museum* and the *National Museum of Art* which has a spectacular collection of icons. There will be walking tours and visits to the famous churches, museums, galleries and shops, and especially the *Vernisage*, an outdoor market near the *Opera House*, for antique embroidered shirts, korali (coral) amber, weaving, paintings and other souvenir items to bring home.

**DAY 14**

**PERVYATYCHI** - The visit to our ancestral village will include a visit to the local church and the cemetery for the blessing of the new headstone for our great-grandfather, Ivan Maksymetz. A special *reunion celebration* will be arranged for this historic visit and meeting with our family in Ukraine.

**DAY 15**

**LVIV** - On the final day, visit *Shevchenkivskiy Hai* - the very extensive outdoor architectural village museum that will provide many photographic opportunities and interesting hours of wandering and exploring. On our return to Lviv, climb to *Vysokyi Zamok* (the High Fortress) for a panoramic view of the city. A *Gala Farewell Dinner* in the evening.

**DAY 16**

Departure for Lviv Airport to begin the journey home to Canada.

Approximate Cost: \$4500- \$5000

Today's estimate for High Season

16 days total with travel time

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For periodic trip updates check:

**www.maksymetz.com**

Map 1  
2011 Maksymetz Family Reunion - Trip to Ukraine



Map 2  
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