



Steph's Quick Budget Fact Sheet

Ukraine - Kyiv

Quick Facts

- ✓ **Capital:** Kyiv
- ✓ **Language:** Ukrainian
- ✓ **Population:** ± 2,9 mln.
- ✓ **Sq km:** ± 839
- ✓ **Currency:** Hryvnia (₴)
- ✓ **Country code:** +380 (44)
- ✓ **Visa:** Some countries, [check here](#) - Caution: Not EU nor Schengen!
- ✓ **Emergency phone:** 102 (police), 103 (ambulance), 101 (fire), 104 (gas)
- ✓ **Vaccinations:** Hep-A, Hep-B, Covid-19



History Recap Over 1 Drink

9th century: Founding Kievan Rus (*1st major Eastern Slavonic state*).
 10th century: Rurik dynasty (*Prince Volodymyr*) → Orthodox Christianity. 1237-'40: Mongols (*Tatars*) invade. 1349-1430: Poland annexes chunks. '41: Crimea conquers most of south. 1648-'57: Uprising against Polish rule. '72-'95: Russian Rule. 19th century: Cultural reawakening Ukrainian culture. 1914-'18: WWI. '18: Declares independence. '21: Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic established when Russian Red Army conquers 2/3 of Ukraine. '32: Millions die in a man-made famine during (*Stalin: Holodomor*). '39: Western Ukraine annexed by the Soviet Union (*SU*) under Nazi-Soviet Pact. Until '45: WWII. '54: SU leader Khrushchev transfers Crimean Peninsula to Ukraine. '86: Chernobyl disaster. '91: Declares independence again. '90s: ± 250,000 Crimean Tatars return to Crimea after SU collapsed. '96: Democratic constitution: hryvnya. '04: Orange Revolution. '10: Parliament abandons Nato membership aspirations. '13: Maidan Revolution: 10,000s protesters against abandoned EU- agreement plans. Security forces kill 100+ peaceful protesters in Kyiv. '14: Russia annexes Crimea: Pro-Russian forces seize parts of Donetsk and Luhansk regions & shoot down aircraft (*killing all 298*). '17: Association agreement with EU.

Travel Seasons

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Spring												
Summer												
Autumn												
Winter												
Budget												

Altitude: 179m. Climate: Continental climate (Dfb).

Bucket List For Free

- ☺ **Free Sights:** Maidan Nezalezhnosti (Independence Square), Rodina Mat, Park Landscape Alley, Mariinsky Park, Sevchenko Park, Feofaniya Park, House with Chimeras, Golden Gate, People's Friendship Arch, Kyiv Founder's Monument, Botanical Garden, Babi Yar, Crematorium, Volodymyrska Hill (*paid funicular available*), Street Art, Holosiivsky Forest, Kitaevskaya Hermitage & [more](#).
- ☺ **Churches:** St. Michael's Monastery, Andreyevskiy Spusk (St. Andrew), St. Volodymyr, St. Nicholas, St. Cyril, Vydubychi Monastery.

Worth The Extra \$€¥

- 👉 **Sights / Museums:** [Holy Dormition Lavra](#), [St. Sophia](#), [Aviation Museum](#), [Pyrohovo Open Air Museum](#), [Micro-miniatures Museum](#), [National Museum of History of Ukraine in WWII](#), [Museum of the Toilette History](#), [Pinchuk Art Centre](#), [National Museum of Russian Art](#), [Water Museum](#), [National Art Museum](#), [Museum of Historical Treasures](#), [Victoria Museum](#), [Mariivsky Palace](#), [Planetarium](#), [National Museum of Medicine](#) & [more](#).
- 👉 **Day Trips / Activities :** [Chernobyl](#), Missile Force Base, [Art-Zavod Platforma](#), Cooking Class.

Budget Bites

⌘ **Big supermarkets:** Auchan, Silpo, MegaMarket, Novus, Welmart, Billa.

⌘ **Markets:** Bessarabsky, Lesnaya, Vladimirsky, Demiivsky, Petrovka, Kurenevskiy, Zhitny, Lukhyanovsky Market (“Rynok”).

⌘ **Local food:** Varenyky (*dumplings*), Borscht (*beet soup*), Salo (*pig fat*), Kasha (*buckwheat*), Chicken Kiev (*breaded stuffed chicken breast*), Deruny (*potato pancakes*), Golubtsi (*stuffed cabbage rolls*), Okroshka (*kefir soup*), Holodest (*meat jelly dish*), Syrniki (*cottage cheese small pancakes*), Sausages, Potato Salad, Pechenya (*roasted meat*), Nalisnyky / Mlyntsi (*stuffed pancakes*), Pyrih (*stuffed pie*), Pampushka (*yeasted buns*), Banosh (*corn porridge*), Koliva (*porridge*), Kutia (*sweet grain pudding*). Drink a Horilka (*spirit*).

⌘ **Go veg:** Going veg is rather complicated in Ukraine, but not so much in the capital Kyiv. “Accidentally” veg Ukrainian dishes are: Kasha, some veg-filled Varenyky, Borscht, Deruny, Syrniki and some Nalisnyky / Mlyntsi (*note that most contains cheese, egg and/or sour cream*). Every supermarket has vegan and vegetarian products and there are some veg-friendly restaurants: [Happy Cow - Kyiv](#).

Mama Said

⚠ Ukraine is generally safe, outside of the political unstable regions (*Donetsk / Luhansk / Crimea*). Kyiv is a capital city, so like everywhere else, take your general precautions.

⚠ Boycott zoos like the Kyiv Zoo, where animals are held in captivity.

⚠ Tap water is drinkable.

⚠ In Ukraine, homosexuality is unfortunately not widely approved. Abortion is legal during the first 12 weeks of pregnancy, but some reli fanatics try to reverse this progress.

Next?

➔ Within Ukraine: Chernobyl, Chernihiv, Lviv.

➔ International destinations close by: Moldova, Russia, Romania, Hungary, Slovakia, Poland, Belarus.

Sleep Cheap

❖ Accommodation in Ukraine is surprisingly affordable. [Booking.com](#) generally gives the best deals and allows you to organize by price.

❖ Go [Couchsurfing](#) / [house-sitting](#)! Check [WorkAway](#).

Festivals

⚙ White Nights: Culture, Jun

⚙ Atlas Weekend: Music, Jul.

⚙ Untold Festival: Music, Sep. *More festivals [here](#)*

Nights Best Spent

◆ **Nightlife areas:** Bessarabka, Khreschatyk Street, Parkovaya, Truhanov Ostrov, Podil

◆ **Theatres:** Taras Sevchenko National Opera and Ballet Theatre, National Philharmonic, Lesia Ukrainka Russian Drama Theatre, Ivan Franko National Academic Drama Theatre, Theatre of Operatta & [more](#).

Free-Riding?

■ I walked most things in Kyiv, but don't be mistaken: this city is very big. Whatever looks close on the map is most definitely not. Check distances in advance.

■ Cycling is possible, though not too common. There is a bike sharing system called [NextBike](#), with rates of UAH 30 per half hour and UAH 300 per day.

■ Public transport comes in metro, buses, trolleybuses, trams, and funiculars. Google Maps is pretty accurate. It's very cheap and tickets can be bought in the stations or on the vehicle itself and must be validated before usage. You pay for each ride, not for a certain time period. Alternatively, you can buy a [Kyiv Smart Card](#) for ease of usage. The penalty for traveling without a ticket is UAH 160. From Boryspil Airport, you can take the Skybus or train (*cheapest option*).

■ Taxis are famous tourist scams. It's better to use Uber or for longer distances: Blabla Car.

■ Airport: Boryspil National Airport & Zhuliany / Kyiv National Airport.

■ Hitch-hiking is rather uncommon, but people will pick you up. However, English is not widely spoken. Prepare for awkward silences.

The Earth Becomes My Throne