

Belarus, Ukraine & Moldova

AN IN-DEPTH STUDY OF THREE UNSUNG COUNTRIES

SMALL GROUP TOUR



16 Days

Premier Series Land Tour

\$7,095 per person, double occupancy
Plus internal air \$600 (economy class, subject to change)
Single supplement \$1,495

Comprehensive tour inclusions listed on page 103

Group Size 5-16 travelers

2012 Land Tour Dates

May 13-28 • August 19-September 3

Stay a little longer... Combine with Kaliningrad & the Baltics, page 90, or visit Bulgaria & Romania, page 89.

MIR Signature Experiences

- Enjoy lunch with a family at a rural farmhouse in Belarus
- Enter Chekhov's circle of friends at his house museum in Yalta
- Explore the secret underground Partisan Caves in Odessa



Russian sailors on leave in Crimea

photo: Joanna Millick



Entrance to Kiev's Cave's Monastery

Traverse a little-known region that has changed hands from its earliest history. Belarus, Ukraine and Moldova are three of the least-frequented and least familiar countries in Europe. Time slowed drastically here after the devastation of World War II, but these beautiful countries are emerging from the shadows.

Days 1-3: Minsk, Brest Begin in Minsk, capital of Belarus, for a fascinating glimpse into the socialist past. At the Great Patriotic War Museum, remember the half of Minsk's population that perished during World War II. Visit an artist's studio for conversation and dessert and stop at the manor house of Polish and American hero (and friend of Thomas Jefferson) Tadeusz Kosciuszko. In Brest, admire the massive UNESCO-listed stone Brest Fortress, built by Czar Nicholas I in the mid-1800s.

Days 4-5: Lviv Crossing the Ukrainian border, arrive in Lviv, founded in the 13th century. Wander its lovely UNESCO-listed Old Town Square, surrounded by 16th-18th century merchant dwellings.

Days 6-8: Kiev Fly over the rich farmland once known as the "breadbasket of the Soviet Union" to the capital, Kiev. Visit some of Ukraine's most important sites, including St. Sophia Cathedral and the Caves Monastery. Stroll and shop on the cobbled descent down Andreevsky Street, filled with galleries, shops, cafes and artists' studios.

Days 9-11: Simferopol, Bakhchysaray, Sevastopol, Yalta Fly to Simferopol and drive to beautiful Yalta on the sunny Black Sea coast, where luminaries like Pushkin and Chekhov summered. En route, explore the remnants of the Crimean Khanate in Bakhchysaray. At seaside Livadia Palace, trace the steps of Churchill, Roosevelt and Stalin, who decided the fate of post-war Europe.

Days 12-13: Odessa Drop in to Odessa, climbing its much-filmed Potemkin Steps and exploring its Partisan Caves, where resistance fighters hid during WWII.

Days 14-16: Chisinau Next is Moldova's capital, Chisinau, a tree-lined city of only 600,000. Survey some of Moldova's ancient monasteries and sample some of the deep red wines the country is gaining a reputation for.

