CRUISE KIEV – ISTANBUL

Join us on a unique cruise down the Dnepr River through Ukraine, the largest country in Europe after Russia. You will experience lovable Kiev, the sea port of Odessa, the Crimean Peninsula coastline with its fascinating landscapes, and the World Heritage site of Nessebar in Bulgaria. The cruise ends with an exciting stay in lively Istanbul. A fascinating voyage seasoned with cultural touches on board as well as ashore, while a friendly crew is ready to make this journey an unforgettable one.

Kiev: Very energetic capital and a population of 5 million people. According to legend founded by four siblings; the eldest Ky gave the city its name

Dnepr: The longest and most impressive of the four rivers that flow Ukraine; 2 200 km of which 980 km run through Ukraine.

Crimea: Breathtaking landscapes; rock formations, cave cities, mountains and limestone plateaus.

Yalta: Exclusive resort founded in the 19th century and situated on the shore of the Yalta Bay. Highly appreciated by Russian holiday makers.

Odessa: Founded late 18th century by Catherine the Great. Charming and “upper-class” town and Ukraine’s biggest commercial sea port and known for the famous “Potemkin Steps.”

Istanbul: Where East meets West at the Bosphorus. Historical sites and stunning palaces are in abundance here.

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Trip plan:

Day 1: Arrival in Kiev and transfer to “Marshal Koshevoy” ship. Embarkation and registration in outside cabins

Day 2: Half-day city tour of Kiev including some of the most famous buildings, squares and sites – the Independence Square, Golden Gate, the Opera Theatre, Shevchenko Boulevard, Pochtovaya Square and entrance to the St. Sophia’s Cathedral. Departure at 18.00 h

Day 3: On board M/S “Marshal Koshevoy”.

Day 4: Arrival in Zaporozhye in the morning at 9.00 h and half-day city tour including Lenin Avenue, October Square, Festival Square, Lenin Square. Continuation to Khortitsia Island – the largest on the Dnepr River and a historical place related to the Cossacks history. Visit of the Museum of Cossacks and its exhibitions. Departure at 17.00 h.

Day 5: Arrival in Kherson at 9.00 h and excursion to “Fisherman’s Island”: From “Taras Shevchenko,” you will board a smaller twin deck motor ship. During the one hour boat ride, you will pass “Plavni” – a specific complex with different types of flora and fauna, the place is also being called “Green Venice.” After the boat ride, you arrive in Belogrudny Island (Fisherman’s Island). After a visit of one of the local houses and stop at the souvenir market, return to “Marshal Koshevoy” by the motor boat. Departure at 13.00 h.

Day 6: Arrival in Sevastopol at 9.00 h. Half-day city tour of Sevastopol with the trade port, St. Vladimir Cathedral, Nahimov Square, World War II Memorial, Primorsky Street and visit of the Panorama Museum. In the afternoon you may visit Bakhchisarai (optional), former capital of Crimean Khanate with the Khan Palace, built in the end of XVI century. On the territory of the palace, you will see the mosque, the harem territory and the famous fountain “Tears Fountain.” Departure at midnight.

Day 7: Arrival in Yalta at 7.00 h. Half-day city tour with a stop at the viewpoint to the famous “Swallow’s Nest,” a Gothic-style building resembling a small castle, which was built on the edge on a huge overhanging cliff of Cape Ai-Todor. We will visit Livadia Palace – Nicolas II Summer palace, which he used only for four summers before his arrest during the October Revolution in 1917. The palace was the place for the well-known Yalta Summit between Roosevelt, Churchill and Stalin in February 1945 during World War II.

Day 8: Day at leisure in Yalta. A tour to Alupka Palace can be arranged (optional). Departure at 14.00 h.

Day 9: Arrival in Odessa at 10.00 h. Half-day city tour of Odessa including the Marine Passenger Terminal, Suvorov Street, the Shah Palace, Teshchin Bridge, Primorsky Boulevard, Potemkin Staircase, the Opera Theatre, the French Boulevard, the Greek Street and Shevchenko Park.
Day 10: Day at your disposal in Odessa. Departure in the evening at 20.00 h.

Day 11: At 9.00 h arrival in Sulina, Romania. Boat trip along the delta of Danube. Departure at 14.00 h.

Day 12: Arrival to Nessebar at 10.00 h and half-day walking tour of the town. Nessebar is best known for the Old Town of the Peninsula. The largest number and best known buildings date from 11th to 14th century. Besides well-preserved churches, one can see the remains of fortress walls, Roman and Greek street pavements, administrative and other buildings. Return to ship and dinner on board “Marshal Koshevoy”.

Day 13: Early breakfast on the ship, disembarkation and travel by bus to Istanbul (about 6 hours). There will be lunch along the trip either as a package or in a local restaurant. Arrival in Istanbul and check-in at a 4-star hotel in downtown Istanbul.

Day 14: A whole day city tour of Istanbul: the Hippodrome, the oldest prison for women in the world, with entrance to the Blue Mosque, St. Sophia Museum and the Topkapi Palace. Time at leisure in the Egyptian Bazaar. Dinner at the hotel and afterwards there is an optional night tour of Istanbul.

Day 15: Check-out from the hotel and transfer to Ataturk Airport (Istanbul).

Accommodation:
M/S Marshal Koshevoy, built in 1988 year in Germany and completely renovated in 2007, is one of the best cruise ships that sail along Dnepr and the Black Sea. All 140 cabins are equipped with air-conditioner, refrigerator, shower and toilet. Suite cabins on boat deck are equipped with bath tubs. Public areas and amenities aboard include sauna, hairdressing salon, first-aid post, souvenir shop, two elegant restaurants and two bars. It is not recommended to drink water from the tap. Bottled water is available in the restaurants, the bars or can be bought in the cities.

Istanbul: 4-star hotel in the central area of Istanbul.

Arrival to Ukraine:
When you arrive to Ukraine you have to fill in an Immigration Card in two copies, where the following data are to be written: name, nationality, passport number, accommodation in Ukraine and inviting company. One copy is kept by the border officers; the second is to be presented when leaving the country.

Tour difficulty:
A, easy, though the ship is not designed for people with severe mobility restrictions or wheelchair dependent passengers. Most shore excursions involve some walking and some excursions are walking tours only.

Temperatures:
Expected temperatures: Ukraine 22° C – 27° C during the day and 12° C – 15° C at night. Istanbul 23° C – 32° C during the day and 10° C – 17° C at night.
Dress:
We recommend that you take comfortable and practical clothing, light cotton garments for hot days and warm woollens for cooler weather. Smart/casual attire is recommended for the Captain’s Dinner. In the Blue Mosque in Istanbul your arms and legs should be covered. It is possible to borrow scarves at the entrance for free.

Currency:
On board the ship you can pay in cash with the national Ukrainian currency Hrivna, Euro and USD. Visa and Master Card can also be used. There isn’t any bank automat on board and it is not possible to exchange money on the ship. However that can be done in the cities along the sail.
Sulina: Romanian Lei
Nessebar: Bulgarian Lev, Euro. In the rest of Bulgaria you can use only Bulgarian Lev.
Istanbul: Turkish Lyre, Euro, Visa and Master Card.

The price includes:
12 nights on board M/S “Marshal Koshevoy” in outside 2-berth cabin, 2 nights in a 4-star hotel in Istanbul, full-board (breakfast, lunch and dinner) from dinner day 1 to breakfast day 15, transfers airport – ship – airport, all transportation during excursions and coach tour to Istanbul, guided tours of every town at call with English speaking local guides, entrances as mentioned in the program and entertainment on board: Captains Welcome Cocktail Reception, Gala Farewell Dinner on board, Slavonic Wedding Ceremony, Ukrainian language and song classes, aerobics and tour of ships’ bridge.

The price does not include:
Flight tickets, optional tours, drinks onboard, tips and other personal expenses, eventually visa - please check whether you need a visa for any of the countries along the way.

Optional tours and prices per person:
The optional tours should be ordered and paid onboard in cash or with credit card. Prices and tours can be changed.

Kiev:
Kievo - Pecherskaya Lavra Reserve, founded in 11th c., located on 24 HA area and including 102 buildings (mostly churches), most famous of which is the cave monastery. Euro 30,-

Zaporozhye:
Cossack Folklore Show in old Cossack country estate with a ground for horse show. Euro 25,-

Odessa:
Visit in Art Gallery, Euro 32,-

Odessa different cultures – within this tour you will have the opportunity to visit various religious places as the Catholic Cathedral, Transfiguration Cathedral, the Arabic Cultural Center, and the Synagogue etc. EUR 25,-
Private concert including champagne and snacks in Count Tolstoy’s Palace (with an excursion through the palace). Euro 50,-

Evening performance at Odessa National Academic Theater of Opera and Ballet, EURO 50,-

Excursion to Shabo Village – ancient cellars of 10 000 m², located on 3 levels. Wine tasting is included. Euro 60,-

Sevastopol:
Bus trip to Bakhchisarai. Euro 38,-

Concert of the Ensemble of the Black Sea Fleet. Euro 35,-

Yalta:
Visit of Alupka Palace, also known as Vorontsov’s Palace, designed by English architects in 1828 with a beautiful park. The tour is combined with a wine tasting ceremony. Euro 40,-

Visit of Botanical Gardens of Nikita, comprising more than 18 000 plant species. Euro 30,-

Nessebar:
Bulgarian Village – a drive to a small rural village with a visit to the charming local Orthodox church and a Bulgarian home. Euro 30,-

Wine Tasting – visit to an ethnographical complex and its wine cellar for tasting specially selected wines and cheese. Euro 36,-

Istanbul:
Evening private boat trip on the Bosporus. Euro 32,-

Whirling Dervishes Show. Euro 30,-