

7 legends of the Transcarpathian region

Biking tour around Transcarpathia (9 days)

Type: Guided

Region: Transcarpathian region (Western Ukraine)

Format: comfort

Level: amateur

Duration: 9 days

Distance: 22 miles/day average

Price: 610 euro/person

Start city: Kyiv

End city: Kyiv

Transcarpathia is a region where a great number of the attractive tourist sites are concentrated on the territory which is actually not so big. Among them are the castles, palaces and monasteries, picturesque mountains, lakes and waterfalls. This is the place where the natural diversity and pleasant climate are combined with the great mix of cultures, languages and traditions. No traveler will remain indifferent to the melodic Transcarpathian dialect and frank and smiling people. They have got the real character and charisma that is why this land is proudly called Transcarpathia by locals. And most importantly, you can visit the tasting halls and learn about wine and cheese making techniques as well as the national traditions here.

Day 1



Meeting at the airport in Kyiv.

Taking a night train to Uzhhorod. Transfer to the place of starting a biking trip.

**Spending one more day sightseeing in Kyiv before going for a biking trip (optionally).*

Day 2



We arrive to Volovets, take our bikes and head to Pylpets where the hospitable hosts are waiting for us. Then we enjoy our lunch that includes traditional dishes of the Carpathian cuisine and go for a walk to Shypit waterfall. This waterfall is considered to be one of the most beautiful in the Carpathian Mountains. And mountain meadow Borzhava rising over the waterfall is the traditional grazing place where the shepherds spend their whole summer preparing delicious cheese (brynza and vurdu).

Legend of the day (about love)

Transcarpathian land is very rich in legends about love. Here is the lake made from the tears of the Count's daughter, here is the rock from which a loving couple rushed putting their arms round each other and here is the waterfall that appeared in the place of their death. Most legends are about unhappy love but there a few happy as well. There is a "woman's stone" for girls (if you touch it you'll marry soon), for boys – if you want a girl to fall in love with you find an edelweiss and give it to her and for a couple – whisper near Shypit waterfall about your love and it will last forever.

Day 3



It's not possible to visit Carpathians without hiking! So we devote this day to a walking trip around Borzhava ridge. Up to the height of 1200m here is the beech wood and higher you will see the alpine meadows. The woods are full of wild strawberries, blueberries and raspberries. And the breathtaking panoramic views of the surrounding area are waiting for you on the top.

Legend of the day (about mountains appearance)

The Carpathian inhabitants with their strong spirit have a great number of legends about the release from enemies and oppressors. One of them says that simple guy Carpo hid the first ruler of this land giant Sylun underground. And all the attempts of the latter to break the earth crust and set himself free ended up in the appearance of a new mountain. This is how the Carpathians appeared that were named in honor of liberator Carp.

Day 4



Today we have to overcome Mezhyhirsky pass that is a kind of farewell with the Carpathian Mountains and a descent to the flat lands of Transcarpathia. The former border zone of the three states – Poland, Romania and Czech-Slovak Republic – has preserved its authenticity and uniqueness. In the center of Kolochava village you will see a beautiful wooden church (wooden architecture is the calling card of Transcarpathia). Three museums of the village – “Narrow-gauge line”, open-air museum “Old village” and complex “Old school” are attributed to the best museums of Ukraine. The museums' exhibits reflect the everyday life of local people.

Day 5



Leaving from Kolochava we pass Vilshanske reservoir, water of which had buried historic village Vilshany. A huge 40m-high dam and wild nature of the surroundings create unforgettable atmosphere of peace. And another miracle is waiting for us ahead – Nyzhnie Selyshche village. Annually in July this neat and cozy village invites guests to the rural music and ethnical festival. Here we visit a creamery where everything is prepared according to the Swiss recipes and techniques. You will never forget the smell and taste of this cheese! And in the evening those who would like to learn traditional dancing we'll have a master-class with the instructors to the music of local ethno-band “Hudaky”.

Day 6



This day will be full of completely different impressions. First of all we visit Iza – a village of the traditional craft (basket weaving). Near the village we will drop to the deer farm – a great opportunity to see and feed these cute animals. Then in case the trip takes place in May we will visit the “Narcissi valley” – a reserve where countless number of the wild narcissi is growing. Similar areas but smaller are preserved in not so many places (Alps, Romania, some Balkan countries). Passing Hust we won’t miss a chance to see the 14th-century Roman-Catholic church. Our day is ended in Vynohradiv. Here we go up to the romantic ruins of the castle, situated on Black mountain rising above the town. We also visit well preserved Pereni palace.

Legend of the day (about courage)

One poor but very talented potter Ivanko created a beautiful vase on which narcissi seemed to bloom. He made bold to give it to beautiful princess of Rus. The girl immediately fell in love with him. But her father-prince was very angry with such insolence, took the vase and threw it from the mountain to the valley. The vase broke into thousands of pieces. And in the morning everybody saw that the valley was full of the narcissi which now you can admire in the beginning of May.

Day 7



Today we will ride our bikes along the banks of the Tysa river and the border with Hungary, influence of which is noticed everywhere. Different names of towns and streets are written in both languages (Ukrainian and Hungarian), here you may also hear Hungarian dialect. Almost in every village we will see the unique wooden temples. And Berehovo will meet us as the most awaited guests. Excursion, swimming at the thermal swimming pool and finally the welcome dinner with tasting of home-made wine as Transcarpathia has always been known as the land of wine-making.

Legend of the day (about treasure)

There is no nation that doesn’t have legends about numerous treasures. The most popular local one is about gold of Carpathian Robin Hood – Oleksa Dovbush. But there is also one more. Once shepherd Sas brought his flock to the banks of the river. There a flock of another owner was already pasturing and bulls started to fight. Sas’s bull won and in the battlefield where bulls pawed the land the shepherd found a treasure – a pot with golden coins. So Sas built a church there and now Berehove village is situated here.

Day 8



The last port of call for us is Mukacheve. The city's Castle Hill seems to pop up like a fairy-tale fantasy from the surrounding flat plain and its refurbished centre reinforces the picture-book impression with cobblestones and pastel-colored neoclassical facades. We won't miss a chance to visit this 14th-century Palanok Castle with some interesting exhibits.

End of the program. Returning to Uzhhorod.

Legend of the day (castle legend)

Every decent castle must have its legend. And in a well of Palanok castle a devil howls every night. It was very difficult to dig a well in the solid rock on which castle stands. Once a prince said that he was ready to give his soul away for water. A devil appeared and asked the prince to give him five bags of gold. And in the morning the castle got a well with clear water. The prince decided to cheat the devil and gave him only five small bags with one coin in each. Offended devil jumped into the well and water disappeared.

Day 9

Arrival to Kyiv. Free time. Transfer to the airport.

*The organizer is entitled to the right to make the slight changes to the program without changing the general content of a trip.



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