

Wonderful world of Podnistrovya

5-day combined tour around Podnistrovya (water-speleo-walking-excursion)

We suggest you an unusual fascinating trip to the world of unique Ukrainian nature. Going for the suggested tour will take you back through the several centuries while visiting the famous fortresses of Khotyn and Kamyanets-Podilsky, or not that famous but definitely worth visiting fortresses in Rakovets, Okopy, Skala-Podilska.

We'll plunge into the history of the Earth for hundreds of years while surveying the geological exfoliation of Dnistrovsky canyon during the tourist trip. Some landscapes will remind you the Bible stories about paradise and you will be able to see with your own eyes what is presented in pictures. There was definitely a reason why monks-hermits settled here.

Among these wonderful landscapes, face to face with the nature or together with your friends or family you will have a perfect chance to forget, at least for some time, the gallop of everyday life, get rid of the psychological tiredness which has already reached every cell of your body, enjoy nature esthetically and saturate yourself with impressions emotionally, learn something new and unknown before and get positive energy for the whole year.

Test your spirit and strength of mind, besides you don't even imagine what you can miss!

The route is technically uncomplicated and does not demand any special training that is why we advise it to different categories of people: **young and older people, families with children, personnel of firms and organizations etc.**

Season: May – October

Program

Day 1



Meeting the group in Ternopil. Journey to the Dnister river.

Rukomysh (a travertine rock with the cave church of St. Onuphrius, the Stations of the Cross, St. Onuphrius figure performed by the outstanding sculptor Pinsel).

Buchach - the historic-architectural complex of a town: the 14th-century castle, the 18th-century City Hall (Ratusha) and the Monastery of Fathers Vasylian, the 17th-century St. Nicholas Church, Assumption Cathedral, the Church of Exaltation (Khrestovozdvizhenska) and Pokrovska Church.

Visiting the ruins of a castle in **Zoloty Potik**.

Arrival to Vozyliv. Safety techniques instruction, training in floating.

Beginning of the water part of the tour.

Visiting the **"Paradise nook"** – hermit's cave hidden in the forest which you can reach only having gone under a small waterfall that flows on a thick layer of moss.

Lunch.

Visiting the ruins of the 17th-century Rakovets fortress and a cave.

Arrival to the camp. Dinner from "bonfire".

Day 2



Breakfast.

Continuation of the floating along the beautiful canyon of the Dnister river.

Admiring the marvelous landscapes, the picturesque banks, the unique travertine rocks and geological strata, caves and grottos, hermits' cave located above the river, historic-cultural monuments; waterfalls (the so-called "Girl's tears") and ravines ("Chervone", "Khmelivska wall" and others) with the rare plants.

Lunch.

Placing of a tent camp. Dinner from "bonfire".

Day 3



Breakfast.

Continuation of the water trip to the Ustechko village.

Finishing the floating. Lunch.

Journey to **Chervonohorod** – a pearl of Podillya – the annalistic territory where in a deep canyon you will see the biggest and the most beautiful 16m-high waterfall of Podillya on the Dzhuryn river and the fortress' ruins.

Journey to **Kasperivtsi**. On the way – admiring the canyon of the river Tula with the huge stone lumps along the banks and over the houses.

Arrival to the camp. Dinner. Having a rest and fishing.

Day 4



Breakfast.

Walking in the canyon of the Seret river (18km) – on the territory of the Kasperivtsi Landscape Reserve. The relatively wild nature, silence and remoteness from the roads make this location very attractive. A path

along the bank of the canyon goes up and down, that gives an opportunity to perceive the whole beauty of this territory. The famous archeological monuments are also situated here. On the way you will see the lime caves, the so called “stone mushrooms” or “kasperivski sphinxes” – the peculiar kinds of weathering. Lunch (in a beautiful panoramic place over the valley of the river with the 9th-century cave church and a sacrificial stone nearby).

Continuation of walking to Bilche-Zolote.

Verteba cave – one of the unique monuments of Trypillian culture, the first underground museum in Ukraine set up at the natural underground environment with the great archaeological collection of Trypillian culture (the diorama with dishes and sculptures representing Trypillians everyday life).

Transfer to Skala-Podilska for overnight.

Accommodation. Dinner.

Day 5



Breakfast.

Visiting the **Kryshtaleva cave** (Cave of the Crystal) – the geological monument of the national importance, labyrinth karst cave with the total length of passages of 22 km. Visiting the ruins of a castle at St. Trinity Trenches (Okopy).

Admiring the canyons of the Dnister and Zbruch rivers.

Khotyn – the 13th-century Khotyn fortress – an impressive massive fort overlooking the Dnister river, which has seen a lot of famous historical figures (Bayda Vyshnevetsky – the founder of Zaporizhska Sich, the legendary hetmans Petro Sahaydachny and Bohdan Khmelnytsky). This fortress is preferred by filmmakers above all Ukrainian castles (a fortress can be called a real movie star).

Lunch.

Kamyanets-Podilsky. “A flower on the stone” – this is how this town is called in a literature. Being located not far away from the borders of different countries, the town has been a cornerstone and a symbol of strength during many centuries. The modern Kamyanets-Podilsky has a lot of historical monuments. The main attraction is a majestic stone fortress, built on a rocky island near the Smotrych river with numerous fortifications and intricate architectural decorations, which dates back to the beginning of the 12th century; the Furrier’s and Potter’s towers, Russian and Polish gates, the Castle bridge; the Complex of the of Old city – the City Hall, Rynok square, an Armenian well, St. Peter’s and Paul’s Cathedral, the Dominican monastery.

End of the program. Leaving Kamyanets-Podilsky.

*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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