

Ukraine



Geography: Ukraine is situated in the south-eastern part of Central Europe and has its own territory, government, national emblem, flag and anthem. It borders on Russia, Byelorussia, Moldova, Slovakia, Romania, Hungary and Poland on land and Russia, Georgia, Bulgaria, Romania and Turkey on sea. The territory of Ukraine is mostly a level, treeless plain, calls "steppe". There are the Crimean Mountains in the Crimean peninsula and the Carpathians in the west, but they are not very high. Mixed forests of pine and fir-trees, beeches, limes, oaks and elms cover the mountains, but the thickest woods can still be found in the northern part of the republic. Kiev is the Capital. The Ukraine is seven hours ahead EST; four hours ahead GMT.

History: Ukraine was known as "Kievan Rus" up until the 16th century. Ukraine declared its independence from Russia on Jan. 28, 1918, and several years of warfare ensued with several groups. In 1920 Ukraine became a Soviet republic. In 1922, it became one of the founders of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics. In the 1930s, the Soviet government's enforcement of collectivization met with peasant resistance, which in turn prompted the confiscation of grain from Ukrainian farmers by Soviet authorities; the resulting



famine took an estimated 5 million lives. Ukraine was one of the most devastated Soviet republics after World War II. The Chernobyl disaster occurred on April 26, 1986. It is considered the worst nuclear power plant accident in History. The Act of Declaration of Independence of Ukraine was adopted by the Ukrainian parliament on August 24, 1991. The Act established Ukraine as an independent, democratic state. The Ukrainian economy stabilized by the end of 1990s. A new Constitution of Ukraine was adopted in 1996. The first Ukrainian astronaut entered space in 1997 making the Ukraine an active participant in scientific space exploration and remote sensing missions. Between 1991 and 2007, Ukraine launched six satellites and 101 launch vehicles, and continues to design spacecraft. In 2007, Ukraine won a joint bid with Poland to host the UEFA Euro 2012 football championship, the third-largest sporting event in the world after the FIFA World Cup and the Olympics. Experts and politicians

have noted that it will boost Ukrainian infrastructure development, tourism and overall investments into the country. Among the most significant developments that will take place in the process of preparation are the road infrastructure improvement, expanding hotel networks in at least six major cities, modernization of airports and construction of modern football stadiums.

Language: Ukrainian (українська мова) is a language of the East Slavic subgroup of the Slavic languages. Written Ukrainian uses a Cyrillic alphabet. The language shares some vocabulary with the languages of the neighboring Slavic nations, most notably with Polish, Slovak, Serbian and Russian. While the official state language of Ukraine is Ukrainian, the preferred spoken language in most cities of southern, eastern, and northern Ukraine is Russian.

The Climate: The climate of the country is moderate. Winter is rather mild, with no severe frosts but with regular snowfalls everywhere except the south. The rivers and lakes freeze in winter. Summer is quite hot and dry, with occasional showers and thunderstorms.

Cuisine: Ukrainian cuisine includes soups, stews, sausages, smoked meats and rye bread. Beef, lamb, pork, poultry and fish dishes are eaten with vegetables and salads. Borscht, a thick vegetable and meat soup, and stuffed cabbage are favorite recipes. Salo, salted pig's fat, is a traditional food which can be used in a variety of ways. Dumplings are a Ukrainian specialty and have many fillings such as potatoes, meat, cottage cheese and berries. Popular desserts are pancakes, cakes and fruit. Honey is used as a sweetener and dairy products, such as cream, cottage cheese and eggs are part of the Ukrainian diet.

Children Available: All children available for adoption are in orphanages. Only children 14 months and older are permitted to be adopted from Ukraine. However, mostly pre-school and older children are available. In general, families hoping to adopt a girl should plan on her being at least 2 years old. Families seeking to adopt a boy can most likely select a younger child. Siblings are sometimes available.

Eligibility Requirements: The Ukrainian government places few restrictions as to who can adopt. There cannot be more than a 45-year age difference between the adoptive parent and the child. Therefore, there are special restrictions on the age of a child that can be adopted by families with a spouse over 45. Ukrainian law does not permit singles to adopt.

Travel: Two brief trips.

More Information: Contact Adoption STAR. Toll Free: 1-866-691-3300 or 716-639-3900

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