



Important Information for UK citizens visiting Ukraine

A business visitors survival guide

Passports/visas

Visas for British Citizens to Visit Ukraine

Citizens of the European Union, Switzerland, Liechtenstein, Japan, and USA do not need Ukrainian visas to enter and transit Ukraine, if the term of their stay in Ukraine does not exceed 90 days. An exception from this rule is for those who arrive to Ukraine to take permanent employment, for a permanent residence, to join their family, to work in diplomatic service or to study.

However, there is a recently introduced change to this rule stipulating that the overall duration of stay in Ukraine can not exceed 90 calendar days per 180 calendar days from the arrival date. If a Ukrainian visa is still required, it should be obtained prior to travel from the Ukrainian Embassy in London.

Embassy of Ukraine
Consular/Visa Section
78 Kensington Park Road
London W11 2PL
Tel: +44 (0)20 7243 8923 (3-5pm only), 090 6550 8955 (information line)
Fax: +44 (0)20 7727 3567
Web: www.ukremb.org.uk

or
Consulate General of Ukraine in Edinburgh
8 Windsor Street
Edinburgh EH7 5JR
Tel: +44 (0)131 5560023
Fax: +44 (0)131 557 3460
Email: edinburgh@consulateukr.co.uk

Passports must be valid for one month beyond departure date. Opening hours are Monday to Friday, 9.30am to 12.00pm. Applications for business visas should be accompanied by a valid passport, completed visa application form, two photographs and the correct fee. Business visitors are advised to contact the Embassy of Ukraine to confirm the latest requirements.

Travel Routes to Ukraine

The main international airport in Kyiv is [Boryspil](#), located 38 km east of the city. From the UK, British Airways from London Heathrow, and Ukraine International Airlines from London Gatwick and Heathrow, operate non-stop flights to Kyiv - flying time is 3.5 hours. Connecting flights to Kyiv are available from the UK via Amsterdam, Paris, Frankfurt, Vienna (also to Dnipropetrovsk, Kharkiv and Odessa), and Zurich.

Specialist Travel Agents

[Bob Sopel Ukrainian Travel](#)

Lancs

Tel: +44 (0)161 652 5050

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Email: info@ukraine.co.uk

Chapman Freeborn

5 Hobart Place

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[Intourist Travel Ltd](#)

London

Tel: +44 (0)20 7538 8600

Fax: +44 (0)20 7538 5967

Email: info@intourist.co.uk

How to get to and from the Airport

It is advisable to arrange a transfer to/from your place of stay in advance. A taxi ordered by your hotel can cost up to \$80, or \$40-50 if you hire a private taxi in the airport. A shuttle bus operates on a fixed route to the railway station for UAH 25 (\$5). Journey time is about 40 minutes by car and one hour by bus.

Travelling in Ukraine

Within Kyiv, taxis are readily available, although the fare should be agreed in advance. Fares vary from UAH 20 within the central area. Metro and tram services are very cheap and available in the city, though we would still recommend using a taxi service.

The Ukrainian rail network, although slow, links the major cities. Express trains link Kyiv with Kharkiv, Dnipropetrovsk, and Lviv (plus there is an express train to Moscow). Travelling by train can be an alternative when flights are delayed because of bad weather conditions, especially in winter.

In comparison with the UK roads are in poor condition. Car hire is available (alcohol tolerance is zero), but many western visitors hire a car with a driver. A bus service operates from Kyiv to all Ukrainian cities.

Hours of business

Businesses, banks and government offices work Monday to Friday, usually from 9.00am to 6.00pm (lunch break from 1.00pm to 2.00pm).

Shops are open from Monday to Saturday from 9.00am/10.00am to 7.00pm, or even later. Many shops work short hours on Sundays as well. There are many new shopping malls in Kyiv (Globus, Karavan, Ukraina, Gorodok, Mandarin Plaza, Alta Centre) that work long hours all week long.

Business etiquette

English speakers still regularly refer to the country as “the Ukraine”. This is insensitive and seen as referring to Ukraine as part of a larger nation. Ukraine is not Russia; do not risk insulting your contacts by implying that the two are either interchangeable or identical.

In correspondence a higher response rate can be achieved when initial contacts are pursued in Russian or Ukrainian rather than in English. It is not yet customary to send thank you letters or acknowledge nil interest. If correspondence reveals positive interest, a visit to the country is recommended, as personal contacts are very important here. Hiring an interpreter for meetings is recommended.

In many key positions you will still find people who grew up with the old administrative style and bureaucracy. Older directors/administrators can be very sceptical of new ideas and approaches. To convince them can be a hard job. Business questions are best discussed in face-to-face meetings.

It is difficult to arrange meetings a long time in advance - they should be confirmed a few days before. It is important to be on time for meetings and appointments, but you should not be surprised if your host is late.

You should be dressed smartly. You may be surprised by the very high standards of dress adopted by Ukrainian business people, both for men and women. First impressions count in Ukraine.

It is advisable to hire an interpreter for meetings.

Shake hands when being introduced or introducing yourself.

When shaking hands, remove your gloves. It is considered bad luck to shake hands across the threshold of a door.

Have business cards ready to exchange (Ukrainian or Russian on one side is advisable).

Additional information

Hotels

There are a handful of hotels of a western standard.

Radisson SAS hotel, the first international chain, was opened in September 2005 in Kyiv. Another one, Hyatt Regency Kiev - Saint Sophia, was opened in September 2007. Prices in three star hotels in Kyiv start at around \$100-120 per night, in four star hotels - \$180-200 (Radisson prices start from 300 Euro per night). Five star hotels are expensive (there are 3 in Kyiv) - Premier-Palace – prices start from \$416, Opera hotel – 304 Euro, Hyatt – 410 Euro, Dnipro, Rus (both 4 star), Vozdvyzhensky and Impressa (3 star) hotels are popular with western visitors. Credit cards are accepted.

Other hotels in Ukraine are listed on www.all-hotels.com.ua or www.kiev.info .

Self-serviced flats are also available and are adequate for longer stays, cost starts at around \$80-100 per day; airport transfer for an additional fee can be arranged. For Kyiv they can be found on www.hotelsonya.kiev.ua, www.kievhotel-service.kiev.ua, www.accommodation.kiev.ua or www.kievapartments.com.ua.

Restaurants

In Kyiv there is a good choice of restaurants and bars, in which food, hygiene and service are of western standards. Vegetarianism is not widespread.

Electricity Supply

220v AC 50Hz. Plugs are round 2 pin.

Business Support Services provided by the BBCU

The BBCU provides support services for UK citizens visiting Ukraine for business purposes.

Below is an example of the support services available with fees indicated where applicable:

Airport to City Centre Transfers

Standard Car €35 (7am - 9pm) each way

Minibus (16 passengers) - €240 each way

Coach (52 passengers) - €300 each way

Luxury Mercedes - €200 each way

Bus/Coach Hire Around Kyiv

Minibus €60 per hour or €300 for 6 hours

Coach €80 per hour or €450 for 6 hours

Kyiv (Boryspil Airport) VIP Service

€200 each way

Kyiv City Sightseeing Tours

English speaking experienced lady guide - €300 for 6 hours

Interpreter/Translator Services

Business €40 per hour or €200 for 6 hours.

For further information

administrator@bbcua.com.ua