

Pauwels Travel Bureau
95 Dalhousie Street, Brantford, Ontario N3T 2J1
Tel. 519-753-2695 / 519-756-4900 - Fax 519-753-6376
tours@pauwelstravel.com – www.pauwelstravel.com



Ancient view of Kiev

**“THE ANCIENT AMBER ROAD”:
UKRAINE FROM KIEV VIA THE CRIMEA TO ODESSA**

15 days, Thursday, September 9, to Thursday, September 23, 2010

Tour price, based on double occupancy:

Including return airfare from Toronto: \$3,895 – “Land only”: \$2,895 - Single room supplement: \$575

PROPOSED ITINERARY:

Day 1 - Thursday, September 9:

Early evening departure from Toronto to Vienna with Austrian Airlines. Dinner and a light breakfast will be served on board.

Day 2 - Friday, September 10:

Morning arrival in Vienna, and connecting flight to **Kiev** (or Kyiv), Ukraine, arriving around 1:30 PM. Immediate transfer to the modern and very comfortable 3-star (superior tourist class) Hotel Ukraina (www.mercure.com/gb/hotel-3390-mercure-gdansk-hevelius/index.shtml). Free time to settle in and relax after your overnight flight. Welcome dinner in the restaurant of our hotel.

Day 3 - Saturday, September 11:

City tour of the Ukrainian capital, situated on the banks of the mighty Dniepr River, featuring sights such as Hagia Sophia, the oldest cathedral in the country and a UNESCO World Heritage site; Independence Square; the Golden Gate, a historic gateway in the ancient city's walls; St. Andrew's Church, designed by Rastrelli, the famous architect who built the world Winter Palace in St. Petersburg;

St Michael's Monastery; the monuments to Yaroslav the Wise, Princess Olga, and Prince Vladimir, who converted the land to Christianity. Also visits to the Pechersk Lavra Monastery (a.k.a. Kiev Monastery of the Caves), founded in 1015 and one of the most sacred places of Orthodox Christianity, and to the Museum of Historical Treasures, with a section featuring the gold treasures of the Scythians, a mysterious people who inhabited Ukraine in Antiquity and associated by the Greeks with the mythical female warriors, the Amazons. Dinner in the hotel.



< *Monument to the founders of Kiev*

Day 4 - Sunday, September 12:

Morning visit to the Memorial at **Babi Yar**, where Jewish men, women, and children were executed by the Nazis, and the World War II museum, known as the Museum of the Great Patriotic War. Lunch in a typical restaurant, followed by free time to shop or explore the city on your own.

This evening, opportunity to enjoy a classical music concert (optional).

Day 5 - Monday, September 13:

(Kiev-Poltava-Charkiv/Kharkov: 460 km)

Departure from Kiev after breakfast. We motor east to the historical city of **Poltava**, where Czar Peter the Great defeated a Swedish army in 1709, a victory that marked the rise of Russia as a great power. Free time for lunch in the old town, featuring a cast iron column commemorating this victory, the 17th-century wooden Church of the Saviour, and the domed Cathedral of the Exaltation of the Cross, a superb monument of Cossack-style Baroque, dating back to approximately 1700. In the afternoon we continue to **Kharkov** (Kharkiv), originally a Cossack settlement, the former capital of Soviet Ukraine, and now the country's second largest city and major cultural and industrial centre. Dinner and overnight in the centrally located 4-star Aurora, said to be the best hotel in the city (www.hotel-aurora.com.ua).

Day 6 - Tuesday, September 14:

Morning tour of Kharkov, whose major attractions include the *Derzhprom* or "State Industry Building," an architectural showcase project of the Soviet era; Freedom Square, one of the world's largest city squares; the Monument to Taras Shevchenko, Ukraine's most famous and popular poet, regarded as the founder of modern Ukrainian literature; and an impressive collection of Orthodox churches. Lunch in a typical restaurant. In the evening we attend a traditional puppet show or other cultural performance.

Day 7 - Wednesday, September 15:

(Kharkov – Zaporizhia: 275 km.)

Early departure for **Dnipropetrovsk**, in the Soviet era, a vital industrial and military centre and therefore a "closed city." Visit to the fine local History Museum, featuring mementoes of the many ethnic groups and cultures that have inhabited the fertile Dniepr River Valley and the Pontic Steppes to the north of the Black Sea since Antiquity, including Scythians, Cimmerians, Sarmatians, Cumans, Kipchaks, Tatars of the Golden Horde, etc. Continuing south through the valley of the mighty Dniepr, known to the Ancient Greeks as *Borysthenes*, the "river from the north," we reach the city of **Zaporizhia**. Visit to **Khortytsia Island**, featuring a unique flora and fauna, including high rocks as well as a flat steppe landscape with lakes and streams. This island is associated with German Mennonite settlers and above all with the Zaporizhian Cossacks, who controlled a state of their own in this area from the 15th to the 18th century and had a fortress known as the *Sich*, on this island. Visit to the Cossack Museum and, conditions permitting, demonstration of Cossack horsemanship! Dinner and overnight in the 4-star Hotel Inturist. (www.intourist.com.ua/hotel_en.htm).



The Cossacks' "Sich" on Khortytsia Island

Day 8 - Thursday, September 16:

(Zaporizza – Yalta: 440 km.)

Morning visit to the Stone Tomb Museum (Kamyana Mohyla), an important archaeological site in the Molochna River Valley, a mound of the famous Kurgan-type, typical of the Pontic-Caspian steppes, featuring caves with fascinating prehistoric petroglyphs; this site has been proposed for UNESCO recognition as a World Heritage Site. Then we motor south, cross into the Crimean Peninsula, and arrive in late afternoon at the seaside resort of **Yalta**. Dinner and overnight in the 4-star Hotel Levant, overlooking its own private beach and the waters of the Black Sea (www.crimee.com/levant.html).

Day 9 - Friday, September 17:

Sightseeing tour of Yalta, formerly the favourite resort of the Russian and Ukrainian elites, who constructed palatial homes here. We visit the magnificent Alexander Nevsky Cathedral, Anton Chekhov's house and museum, and of course Livadia Palace, summer home of Tsar Nicholas II and venue of the 1945 Yalta Conference, during which Churchill, Stalin, and Roosevelt carved Europe into spheres of influence. Dinner in the hotel or in a typical restaurant.



< *Crimean Coastal scenery*

Livadia Palace



Day 10 - Saturday, September 18:

Today we enjoy a trip by boat to “Swallow’s Nest,” an amazing castle built on top of a cliff, as well as a cable car ride to the top of Ai-Petri, the most beautiful peak in the Crimean mountains. Return to Yalta and free time to shop or enjoying the resort on your own. Dinner in the hotel or in a typical restaurant.

Day 11 - Sunday, September 19:

(Yalta-Sebastopol-Yalta: 120 km)

Departure from Yalta after breakfast. We drive to **Sebastopol**, situated at 65 km from Yalta, where we enjoy a boat ride in the bay and visit sites associated with the Crimean War of 1864-1865. We also explore the “Ukrainian Pompeii,” the ruins of the ancient town of **Chersonesos**, founded approximately

2,500 years ago by Greek settlers on the shores of the Black Sea. It was from such colonies that amber and other products of the north, arriving from the Baltic Sea and other boreal regions, were transported to Greece and as far away as Egypt. The legend of Jason and the Argonauts was a literary echo of the activities of the Greeks in the Crimea and elsewhere on the shores of the Black Sea. On the way to, or back from Sebastopol, we also stop briefly in **Balaklava**, a former Soviet submarine base and a town that witnessed the “Charge of the Light Brigade” of 25 October 1854, during the Crimean War, subject of a famous poem by Tennyson.



Ruins of Chersonesos, the “Ukrainian Pompeii.”

Day 12 - Monday, September 20:

(Yalta-Kherson: 380 km.)

After an early breakfast, we leave Yalta and head for the interior of the Crimea. Visit to the “cave city” of **Çufut Qale**, “Jewish Fortress,” a stronghold of the Crimean Karaites, ethnic Turkic adherents of the Eastern European, Karaite variety of Judaism. On to the palace of the rulers of the Crimean Khanate in **Bakhchisaray**. Like the Alhambra in Granada and the Topkapi Palace in Istanbul, this palace, scheduled for inclusion in the UNESCO World Heritage List, is one of the great monuments of Islamic Civilization in Europe; the town itself was the political and cultural centre of the Crimean Tatars, who were deported from here to Central Asia by Stalin during the Second World War. Lunch in a Tatar restaurant. In the afternoon we leave the Crimea and drive through a typical steppe landscape to **Kherson**, an important seaport located on the Dniepr and the Black Sea. Dinner and overnight in the 3-star Hotel Fregat (www.hotelfregat.com).

Day 13 - Tuesday, September 21:

(Kherson–Odessa: 200 km.)

After breakfast we motor to **Odessa**, arriving around noon in this famous Black Sea port, founded by Empress Catherine the Great in 1794, and the most important port of trade and naval base of the former Soviet Union, featuring a Mediterranean style of architecture revealing French and Italian influence. After the lunch break, tour of the historic city centre and the port, another UNESCO World Heritage Site. Highlights will include the National Academic Theater of Opera and Ballet, the Potemkin Stairs (made famous by being featured in Eisenstein’s 1925 movie, ‘Battleship Potemkin’), city hall and the monument to Pushkin, pedestrian Derybasivska Street, Arcadia Beach, and the famous Catacombs, an underground labyrinth stretching the expanse of the city. Dinner and overnight in the recently renovated wing of the centrally located 4-star Hotel Chernoe More ([www.world-hotel-reservations.com/Best Eastern Chernoye More en](http://www.world-hotel-reservations.com/Best_Eastern_Chernoye_More_en)).



< *The Odessa Opera*

The Potemkin Stairs:



Day 14 - Wednesday, September 22:

Excursion via a scenic drive along the sea and the delta of the Dniestr River to **Belgorod-Dnestrovskiy**, founded by the Ancient Greeks, and one of the oldest cities in Europe. The great attraction here is the huge medieval fortress, strategically located on a hill overlooking the mouth of the Dniester River. Return to Odessa and final dinner in a local restaurant.

Day 15 - Thursday, September 23:

Transfer to the airport in time for the early morning departure of Austrian Airlines flight to Vienna and connection to Toronto, arriving around 3PM.

Tour price, based on double occupancy:

Including return airfare from Toronto: \$3,895 – “Land only”: \$2,895

Single room supplement: \$575

Included in the price:

- Return airfare;
- Accommodation (based on double occupancy) in a combination of first-class/4-star, and superior tourist-class/3-star hotels; the single room supplement is \$575;
- Sightseeing and visits as shown in the itinerary;
- Transportation by private coach;
- Breakfast and dinner (or full lunch) daily;

Not included:

- *****The usual combination of airport taxes, security fees, and fuel surcharges, presently (March 2010) totaling approximately \$400, but subject to change;**
- Wine, beer, mineral water and similar beverages with dinners;
- All items of a personal nature;
- Ukrainian visa;
- A gratuity for the coach driver and local guide(s), total of approximately \$50;
- Travel Insurance, available as follows:

Deluxe Package Insurance:

Up to age 59: \$258.12
Ages 60 to 64: \$316.44
Ages 65 to 69: \$380.16
Ages 70 to 74: \$509.76
Ages 75 to 79: Call for rates

Non Medical Insurance:

Up to age 59: \$220.32
Ages 60 to 64: \$249.48
Ages 65 to 69: \$280.80
Ages 70 to 74: \$319.68
Ages 75 to 79: Call for rates

With single supplement:

Deluxe Package Insurance:

Up to age 59: \$284.04
Ages 60 to 64: \$348.84
Ages 65 to 69: \$419.04
Ages 70 to 74: \$555.12
Ages 75 to 79: Call for rates

Non Medical Insurance:

Up to age 59: \$246.24
Ages 60 to 64: \$281.88
Ages 65 to 69: \$319.68
Ages 70 to 74: \$365.04
Ages 75 to 79: Call for rates

PAUWELS TRAVEL BUREAU LTD.
95 Dalhousie Street, Brantford, Ontario N3T 2J1
Tel: 519-753-2695 / 519-756-4900 Fax: 519-753-6376 Email: tours@pauwelstravel.com
Ont. Reg. #1034992

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

RESERVATIONS AND DEPOSITS:

Reservations should be made as early as possible to ensure the departure of your choice. A deposit of \$750.00 is required at the time of registration. Your reservation is confirmed upon receipt of your deposit and application form. No reservations will be accepted without a signed application form.

REFUND OF UNUSED ARRANGEMENTS:

Because the rates of Pauwels Travel Bureau Ltd. are based on group participation, no refund can be made for any tour accommodation or tour service or tour feature not taken. If cancellation occurs while the tour is in progress, no refund can be made for the tour portion not taken. We strongly suggest that to allow for any unexpected contingencies, you purchase the all-inclusive insurance.

CANCELLATION POLICY:

Refund of deposit is made in full if cancellation is received in writing by Pauwels Travel Bureau Ltd. more than 90 days prior of the departure date of the tour less a \$500.00 non refundable administrative fee per person. For cancellation received in writing 90 days prior or less the following cancellation charges apply:

90 days to 46 days before departure:	25% of tour cost
45 to 15 days before departure:	50% of tour cost
within 14 days prior to departure:	100% of tour cost

RESPONSIBILITY:

Pauwels Travel Bureau Ltd. reserves the right without notice, to withdraw any part or all of the tour. Factors such as airline schedule changes, hotel overbookings, inclement weather, etc. may necessitate changes in the itinerary as outlined. There may also be other circumstances in which changes become necessary or advisable. Any savings realized by these changes will be passed on to the passengers, any resultant expenses shall be borne by the passenger. Pauwels Travel Bureau Ltd. acts only as an agent in securing hotel, transportation and other travel services and in no event shall be held responsible for the failure by any person or company to render any transportation, lodging or other travel service to be provided on the tour. All hotel, transportation and other travel services are provided to tour members subject to all the terms and conditions under which they are offered to the public generally. The acceptance of the initial service to be provided under the tour shall be considered an acceptance by the tour member of those conditions. Pauwels Travel Bureau Ltd. also reserves the right to decline, to accept or retain any person as a member of the tour, in which case equitable refund will be made at the discretion of the tour operators.

AIR TRANSPORTATION:

Transatlantic economy flight by scheduled IATA carrier(s). All fares are subject to specific rules and regulations, to changes and to government approval. Deviations from the group flights are possible but subject to higher rates.

APPLICATION FORM

Please book ____ seat (s) on the "Ancient Amber Road" tour of September 9 - 23, 2010

Enclosed is my/our deposit of _____ (\$750 per person, *plus* insurance premium if taken.) Deposit and insurance premium, if taken, are due with registration. You will be invoiced for the balance approximately 45 days prior to departure.

WE REQUIRE A COPY OF YOUR PASSPORT (INFORMATION PAGES ONLY) TO BE SENT WITH YOUR APPLICATION FORM AT TIME OF REGISTRATION.

Name as on passport. Indicate the appropriate title before each name (Mr., Mrs., Miss, Dr., Ms.)

NAME(S): _____

If applicable, give your commonly used first name as you would like it to appear on your name tag: (e.g. "Liz" for "Mary Elizabeth") _____

ADDRESS: _____

Postal Code: _____

PHONE: (Residence) _____ (Business) _____ (Fax/Email) _____

If traveling alone, please indicate your willingness to share accommodations: YES _____ NO _____

SINGLE ROOM REQUIRED: _____

(We will try to find a roommate for those willing to share, but cannot guarantee success in doing so. For single travelers we are not able to match, the single supplement will apply.)

SPECIAL REQUESTS: (Dietary, wheelchair assistance, frequent flyer number, twin beds, etc.): Please list here so we can do our best to assist you:

I/we agree to the "terms and conditions" attached to the program. _____

Insurance, I/we accept:

All-inclusive Package _____ Non-medical Package _____ Decline Insurance _____

Signature (s) _____

If purchasing travel insurance, we require your date of birth:

Name: _____ Date of Birth _____

Name: _____ Date of Birth _____

PAYMENT:

Cheque payable to Pauwels Travel Visa Mastercard American Express

Amount Paid: _____

Card Number: _____ Expiry: _____ Security: _____

Signature: _____

Please forward this completed form, copy of passport and payment to:

PAUWELS TRAVEL BUREAU LTD.
95 Dalhousie Street, Brantford, Ontario N3T 2J1
Tel: 519-753-2695 / 519-756-4900 - Fax: 519-753-6376