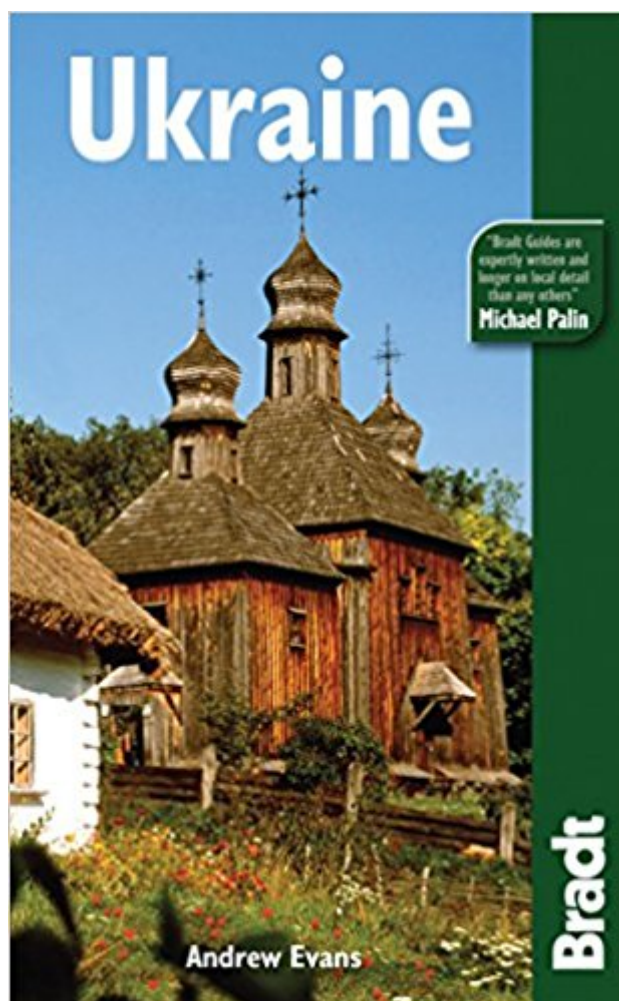




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Ukraine, 3rd (Bradt Travel Guide Ukraine)



Synopsis

Ukraine is something of an enigma for the visitor. The largest country in Europe, it remains one of the least visited, yet it has retained the rustic beauty of old-world eastern Europe, and its place names are heavy with historical significance: Kiev, Crimea, Sevastopol, Odessa, Chernobyl. This fully updated third edition of Bradt's Ukraine guide keeps visitors up to speed with this rapidly evolving country. Covering everything from the best places for borsch to the best walks along the Black Sea; alongside an in-depth exploration of Ukraine's history, culture and natural beauty; this is the most comprehensive and practical guide available to a destination as yet undiscovered by the tourist crowds.

Book Information

Series: Bradt Travel Guide Ukraine

Paperback: 464 pages

Publisher: Bradt Travel Guides; Third edition (May 18, 2010)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1841623113

ISBN-13: 978-1841623115

Product Dimensions: 8.4 x 5.3 x 1 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.1 pounds

Average Customer Review: 3.8 out of 5 stars 28 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #2,434,113 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #95 in [Books > Travel > Europe > Belarus & Ukraine > General](#) #3485 in [Books > Travel > Europe > General](#)

Customer Reviews

'The small publisher whose engaging, well-written and highly detailed guides to exotic places continue to set a benchmark for quality.' Wanderlust 'A comprehensive guide to the country.' TNT Magazine 'Has a good section on Crimea.' Sophie Bultler, The Sunday Telegraph

Ukraine is something of an enigma for the visitor. The largest country in Europe, it remains one of the least visited, yet it has retained the rustic beauty of old-world eastern Europe, and its place names are heavy with historical significance: Kiev, Crimea, Sevastopol, Odessa, Chernobyl. Meander south along the Dnepr River from the golden domes of Kiev to the Black Sea, or head west across expansive wheatfields to the mystical Carpathian Mountains. No matter where you go, author Andrew Evans combines comprehensive practical information with a personal

understanding of the country and its people. Inside you will find information on: Kiev: birthplace of Slavic civilization; getting around, including rail travel and a cruising guide; the Crimea; churches, monasteries, and sacred sites; short walks and long-distance treks; essential words and phrases in Ukrainian and Russian. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Before taking a recently-completed trip to Ukraine, I bought the Bradt Guide to Ukraine, not realizing until way too late that it was the 2007 edition. My friend bought the 2010 edition. In one very important area--toilets, public and otherwise--both our versions were severely out-of-date and caused a great deal of nervousness before we left which we could have been totally spared. In fact, in every hotel, restaurant and public place we visited, the restroom facilities we used were 100% clean and in many cases the standard exceeded those in some public places in the US. Furthermore and even more to the point, in complete contradiction to what was mentioned in the guide, not once in our two-week tour that covered Lviv, Kiev and Odessa, did we find a toilet where we needed to stand on metal footprints and squat. While I admit this is a small part of a very large book, I believe nobody will deny the importance of this information being correct. A note about threats, theft, etc. While it is true we stuck largely to the centers of the major cities and did not venture off the beaten track except in a car or with a guide, nothing was stolen from our rooms (which usually had a safe) and at no time did we feel threatened or in danger of any kind any more than we do while walking around in New York or London. So although these versions do contain a great deal of important information, I must question whether their age should be marked in some very prominent way, if not discontinued, as the outdated information can be extremely misleading in very important ways.

I absolutely love this book! I bought it and a copy of the Lonely Planet tour book to plan my two week trip to the Ukraine this summer. I haven't touched the Lonely Planet book since I started reading this one. This book is far more comprehensive than the Lonely Planet book, and I can't imagine planning my trip without it. It has so much information, and not just about sites to see. It has lots of information about the history and culture of the Ukraine, which is equally important to know when planning a trip abroad. The only drawback to this series is that they don't have a lot of books, when I looked for a book for Poland (also a part of my trip this summer), they didn't have one. Most of their books are about places that are off the beaten path.

Want proof that Bradt's got Ukraine figured out? Look at the relative absence of other travel guides

for this fascinating country. Lonely Planet does one, but then again, they'd probably publish a guide to the Moon. Rough Guides, Fodor, Frommer, Cadogan, Footprint... nada. Bradt's got the market on Ukraine, and there's a reason for that: This guide is really good. It is a travel guide in the truest sense of the word. There's a definite emphasis on pragmatic travel information, at the slight expense of cultural and historical context that some readers particularly enjoy. It's not a text-rich cultural guide, a la Rough Guides, but a directory of good places to spend your time and money. The best part? It's accurate and authentic. You have the locals in your hand with this book, and you're armed with the kind of information that will make your visit to Ukraine rich, rewarding and real. The book leaves most of the historic context for you to discover on your own, but it points you in the right direction so you're not overwhelmed. There's a 100-page introduction to the country that is particularly good. The authors have written this section as something of a "culture shock" essay intended to give you the real, irreverent portrait of the country, with plenty of concise information that makes you feel like you're ready to relocate to Ukraine. They've painted the picture perfectly. The truly startling city of Lviv, former capital of Polish Galicia, gets special treatment, and should be on every itinerary in Ukraine. Visitors from crystal-clear Scandinavia or baroque central Europe may wonder what all the Lviv hype is about. Here's the thing: It's not just about frilly architecture. It's about recognizing that Lviv was once an enormously diverse, poly-ethnic, Austro-Hungarian frontier town, and it's essentially intact. Prague may be cleaner, but it's also more homogeneous. Lviv's position on the margins, rather than in the center of everything, is the source of its intrigue. Go there. There's more to this difficult country than Kiev and Chernobyl. Get out and see the places preserved in a pre-communist time warp (such as Lviv) before the word gets out and they become another stop on the expensive Prague, Krakow, Budapest, Vienna tour.

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