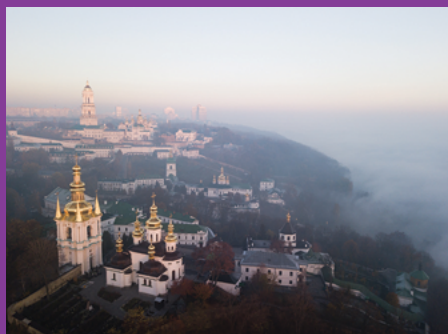


# CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE OF UKRAINE





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**Ukraine has been a member of UNESCO since May 12, 1954.** Our membership is strategically focused on promoting the expansion of international cooperation of scientific, educational and cultural institutions by ensuring their participation in the programme activities of the Organization.

Since the ratification of the Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage by the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine in 1988, Ukraine has been working closely with the UNESCO World Heritage Centre. We appreciate UNESCO's contribution to maintaining capacities of countries to preserve cultural and natural heritage and cooperate actively and fruitfully in this field, promoting our cultural traditions.

This cooperation is particularly crucial when it comes to the situation in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol, temporarily occupied by the Russian Federation. The cultural heritage in the peninsula was and will always remain an integral part of Ukrainian culture. While our scientists and specialists have lost access to protect our heritage, we strongly believe that UNESCO's support will help to ensure the protection of the universal value and authenticity of Ukrainian cultural properties from the damage caused by illegal actions of the Russian occupying authorities.

As of 2021, seven Ukrainian sites (six cultural and one natural) are on the UNESCO World Heritage List. Meanwhile, three elements of Ukrainian Culture feature on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity: Petrykivka decorative painting (added in 2013), Cossack's songs of Dnipropetrovsk Region (added in 2016) and the tradition of Kosiv painted ceramics (added in 2019). A number of biosphere reserves are also listed in the World Network of Biosphere Reserves, and several Ukrainian sites are on the UNESCO Tentative List. Two Ukrainian cities are members of the UNESCO Creative Cities Network; nationwide, there are dozens of UNESCO ASPNet schools and a number of UNESCO Chairs that take part in international educational projects.

Today UNESCO's mandate and actions are relevant as ever and Ukraine, as it was 75 years ago, continues to contribute to UNESCO's humanist missions of education, science and culture.

Emine DZHAPAROVA  
Chairperson of the National Commission of Ukraine for UNESCO,  
First Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine

During its 75-year cooperation with UNESCO, Ukraine has initiated many international programmes and projects, including the initiative to use the media as a tool to strengthen peace and to prevent propaganda that promotes war, violence and hatred between peoples. This initiative gave impetus to the development and adoption of the Declaration on Race and Racial Prejudice in 1978.

At the 27th session of the General Conference of UNESCO (1993), Ukraine also played a leading role in the development of a 'Culture of Peace Programme'. This initiative became the basis for strengthening UNESCO's activities in fulfilling its ethical mission and role towards shaping the psychology of a culture of peace and a climate of trust and tolerance. During the 29th session of the General Conference of UNESCO, Ukraine initiated an appeal to the United Nations to celebrate the International Year for the Protection, Preservation and Revival of Cultural Heritage. The 56th session of the UN General Assembly supported the initiative – the year 2002 was declared the International Year for the Protection of World Cultural Heritage.

Ukraine is honored to have been elected four times to the UNESCO governing body, the Executive Council.

It is worth pointing out that under the circumstances of Russian aggression against Ukraine, as well as the illegal occupation of the Crimean peninsula by the Russian Federation, one of Ukraine's priorities as a UNESCO member is to ensure effective monitoring of the situation in Crimea within UNESCO's spheres of competence. At the initiative of the Ukrainian delegation, the Executive Council constantly reviews this issue and adopted the decision 'Follow-up of the situation in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea, Ukraine', which confirms the territorial integrity of Ukraine and lays the legal

foundations for UNESCO monitoring in temporarily occupied Crimea. Among other achievements, Ukraine is an active contributor to the UNESCO Man and the Biosphere Programme. The MAB programme is an intergovernmental scientific programme that aims to establish a scientific basis for enhancing the relationship between people and their environments. It combines the natural and social sciences with a view to improving human livelihoods and safeguarding natural and managed ecosystems, thus promoting innovative approaches to economic development that are socially and culturally appropriate and environmentally sustainable.

As of 2021, three Ukrainian cities, Melitopol, Nikopol, Novoyavorivsk, pride themselves on being members of the UNESCO Global Network of Learning Cities. Two Ukrainian cities: Lviv (2015) and Odessa (2019) are likewise included to the Creative Cities Network in the field of literature.

Cooperation of national institutions with UNESCO is coordinated by the National Commission of Ukraine for UNESCO. The National Commission was established in accordance with the Decree of the President of Ukraine dated March 26, 1996. The activities of the National Commission are carried out in accordance with the sectoral distribution. The work of the sectors of the National Commission is coordinated by its Secretariat, which functions as a structural unit of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine.

**KYIV:  
SAINT-SOPHIA CATHEDRAL  
AND RELATED MONASTIC BUILDINGS,  
KYIV-PECHERSK LAVRA**

Both of these architectural complexes, located in the historic heart of Kyiv, were included in the UNESCO World Heritage List in 1994 and represent the cultural heritage of the Middle Ages and the early modern period.

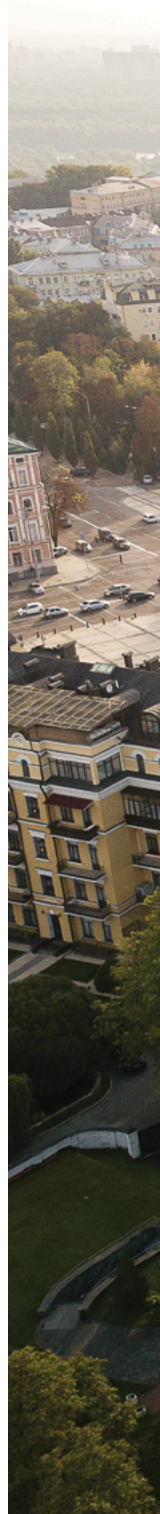


Modern-day research has established that the construction of Saint-Sophia Cathedral began in 1011, during the reign of Grand Prince of Kyiv Volodymyr Sviatoslavych, and was completed in 1018 during the reign of his son Yaroslav. The cathedral symbolised the establishment of Kyiv as the capital of the Christian state; until the 13th century it was the main place of worship in Kyivan Rus.

**The place:** Saint-Sophia Cathedral and its related monastic buildings combine features of the Byzantine and Ukrainian baroque styles. The architectural ensemble includes the Bell Tower, the Metropolitan's house, the refectory, the Zaborovskiy gate, the southern entrance tower, monastic cells for the cathedral elders, and lodgings for novice monks, surrounded by a wall.

**What makes it unique:** Saint-Sophia Cathedral is one of the major architectural monuments of the early 11th century; it influenced the design and decoration of churches in Kyivan Rus and, thereafter, across Eastern Europe. The cathedral captures the changes that occurred in the Byzantine architectural and artistic traditions, which took on a new meaning in the local context. The cathedral's ancient interior has been preserved, as has the largest ensemble of mosaics and frescoes of that period. The Virgin Oranta (a depiction of the Virgin Mary in prayer), which graces the cathedral's main altar, is the best-preserved image from the Kyivan Rus period.

**Today:** The 'Sofiia Kyivska' National Reserve is a museum complex encompassing dozens of architectural monuments. The pieces that are stored and exhibited here include archeological finds and works of decorative art.







Kyiv-Pechersk Lavra is a monastic complex of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church; it was mentioned in the church annals as long ago as 1051. The Lavra's spiritual and educational influence has helped to promote the Orthodox faith and culture throughout Kyivan Rus since the late 11th century.

**The place:** The Kyiv-Pechersk Lavra ensemble consists of several key landmarks: the Dormition Cathedral (11th to 20th-century), the Trinity Gate Church (12th-century), the Great Bell Tower (1731-1744), the Church of All Saints over the Economical Gate (1696-1698), the Refectory Church (1893-1895), the monastery's defensive walls and towers (late 17th to early 18th-century), the network of caves (11th to 18th century), the Church of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross (1700), and the Church of the Nativity of the Virgin (1696). The ancient church of the Saviour at Berestove (early 12th to 19th-century), located outside the walls of the Lavra, is also a part of the UNESCO World Heritage Site.

**What makes it unique:** The Kyiv-Pechersk Lavra is an architectural ensemble that has evolved over a period of almost a thousand years. In addition to the monastic buildings, there are two cave complexes that hold the relics of 127 Orthodox saints. For many centuries, the Lavra caves have been a place of pilgrimage for all Eastern Orthodox Christians. The buildings testify to the evolution of architectural styles and improvements in structural engineering. For a long time, from the 11th century until the early 20th century, the Kyiv-Pechersk Lavra was the most important Christian cultural, educational, and religious centre.

**Today:** Since 1926, the Kyiv-Pechersk Lavra and its architectural ensemble is under state governance and has the status of historical and cultural reserve. The site occupies an area of over 26 hectares, with 140 historical and cultural monuments. It is also home to several museums, with collections that include ancient manuscripts, icons, works of embroidery, and etchings. Services are still held at the Lavra: there are several functional churches, as well as the monastery and the Kyiv Theological Academy and Seminary.

## **LVIV – THE ENSEMBLE OF THE HISTORIC CENTRE**

The ensemble of the historic centre of Lviv includes the main part that covers Zamkova Hora (Castle Hill – tr.), the adjacent territories and the city centre, and St. Yura Cathedral on the Sviatoyurska Hora (St. Yurii Hill – tr.).

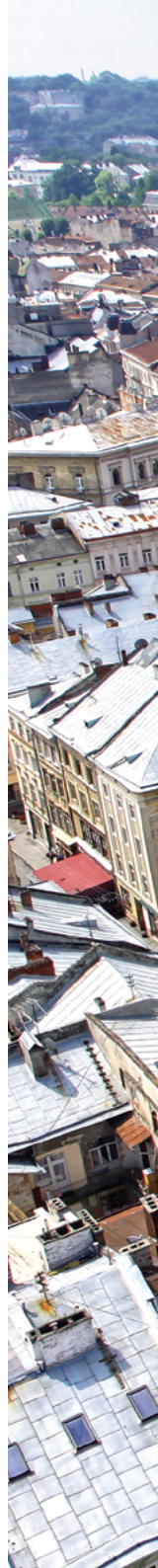


**Vysokyi Zamok** (High Castle – tr.) and **Pidzamche**, the district around Castle Hill, are the oldest parts of the city, nestled in the Lviv basin since the 5th century. The Pidzamche district borders the city centre, which began to develop in the 14th century and is a well-preserved example of Eastern European urban planning.

**The place:** Vysokyi Zamok and Pidzamche are made up of the Castle Hill, the remains of the 13th-century castle, and the system of streets and squares that took shape between the 13th and 17th centuries. The city centre includes monasteries and residential buildings from the Renaissance and Baroque eras, and parks – built on the sites of medieval fortifications – plus various other constructions from the past two centuries. Vysokyi Zamok is currently the highest point in the city, 413 metres above sea level.


**What makes it unique:** Vysokyi Zamok and Pidzamche have retained their original topography and historic buildings. The centre is a harmonious combination of places of worship, public buildings and dwellings, for the city's various ethnic communities.

**Today:** Poised on the top terrace of the Vysokyi Zamok park are the remains of the castle fortifications, a television tower, the offices of Lviv TV centre, and an artificial mound with an observation platform. On the lower terrace you can find the main walkway, a viewing deck, and a manmade grotto with lion sculptures. The highlights of the historic city centre include the Town Hall, Armenian Cathedral, Latin Cathedral, Dormition Church, Dominican Church, and Bernardine Monastery, plus numerous museums, cafes and restaurants.









**St. Yura Cathedral** is an architectural ensemble in the Baroque tradition, built on a hill southwest of the medieval city centre. The building of the cathedral was initiated by metropolitan Atanasii Sheptytskyi, and was supervised by the German architect Bernard Meretyń.

**The place:** The complex consists of St. Yura Cathedral, the Rococo residence of the metropolitan, the metropolitan's gardens, the bell tower – with the oldest bell in Ukraine, cast in 1341 – and a stone wall with two gates.

What makes it unique: The cathedral was the centre of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church, and remains Lviv's key Baroque architectural monument, where the cultural and architectural traditions of Eastern and Western Europe meet.

**Today:** St. Yura Cathedral is part of the Halychyna Metropolis in the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church. Regular church services are held in the cathedral; it also serves as a meeting place for various societies and a choir, and boasts a collection of holy relics and icons.

## **STRUVE GEODETIC ARC**



**Struve Geodetic Arc** is a chain of survey triangulations that was established over a 40-year period in the 19th century, by astronomer Friedrich Georg Wilhelm Struve. The arc stretches 2,820 kilometres and passes through ten European states, from the Barents Sea to the Black Sea (Estonia, Belarus, Finland, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, Moldova, Russia, Sweden, and Ukraine). Its southernmost point is located in Ukraine, on the bank of the river Danube, in the village of Stara Nekrasivka. It was included in the UNESCO World Heritage List in 2005.

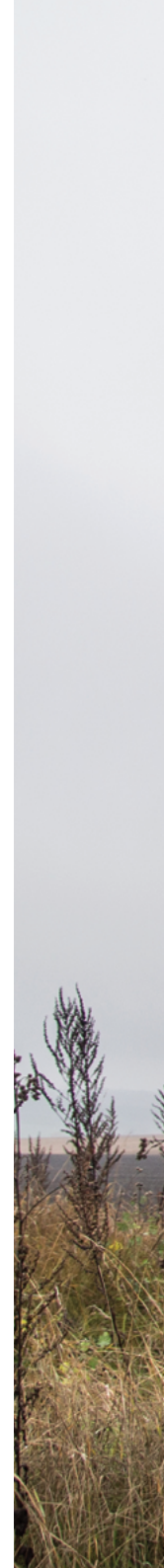
**The place:** There are 265 main station points on the chain, and 34 of the best-preserved ones are on UNESCO's World Heritage List. Four of them are in Ukraine: 'Katerynivka', 'Felshtyn' and 'Baranivka' in Khmelnytska oblast (Podillia), and 'Staronekrasivka' in Odeska oblast (Bessarabia).

**What makes it unique:** The arc's measurements of the 25th meridian made it possible to establish the size and shape of the planet almost exactly. The observations confirmed Newton's theory that the Earth is not a sphere, but a spheroid, which is also of exceptional global importance. These measurements were used by scientists until the end of the 20th century, when it became possible to fine-tune them using research carried out by satellites and computers. The latest measurements have shown that the error of Struve and his team was as little as 2 cm. Struve's geodetic arc has gained worldwide recognition in scientific circles, thanks to Struve's detailed and comprehensive analysis of the measurements, as well as the high accuracy of the work performed. Consequently, his work 'Arc du meridien de 25 ° 20 'entre le Danube et la mer glaciale mesure deruis 1816 jusqu'en 1856 etc.' is of great scientific value.

The unprecedented length and accuracy of the measurements earned the Struve Geodetic Arc a place among the world's largest astronomical and geodetic works.

**Today:** The main station points of the Struve arc are marked in various ways: with iron crosses, cairns, or obelisks. 'Katerynivka', 'Felshtyn' and 'Baranivka' are marked with granite boards engraved with the name of the point and its coordinates. Staronekrasivka point is marked with a quadrangular cast-iron obelisk on a stone pedestal.

In 2016, a commemorative coin was issued by the National Bank of Ukraine, dedicated to the 200th anniversary of the beginning of the astronomical and geodetic works on the Struve Geodetic Arc.





**RESIDENCE OF BUKOVINIAN  
AND DALMATIAN METROPOLITANS**

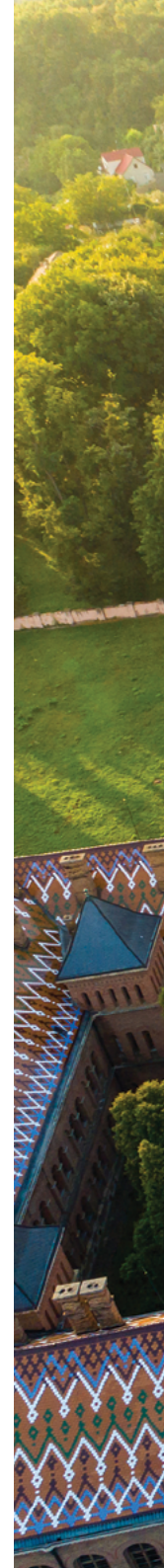


**The Residence of Bukovinian and Dalmatian Metropolitans** (currently Yuriy Fedkovych Chernivtsi National University) was declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2011.

This unique architectural ensemble in Chernivtsi, the centre of the Bukovinian Orthodox Metropolitanate, was dreamt up and brought to life by an Austrian architect with Czech roots, Joseph Hlavka.

**The place:** The Residence is made up of several monumental buildings: the Metropolitan's palace, the seminary, the monastery and the seminary church, with a garden and a landscaped park.

The Metropolitan's palace comprised residential, administrative and representative premises; the seminary housed the Greek Orthodox Theological Faculty of Chernivtsi University (on the ground floor), and theological seminary (on the first floor); the monastery included a deacon's school, an eparchial museum, and monastic cells.









**What makes it unique:** The Residence is the soul of Bukovyna (a historical region in western Ukraine), blending the styles and ethnic traditions of the peoples that inhabited the area and reflecting the policy of religious tolerance that existed in the Austro-Hungarian Empire.

The architectural ensemble is an example of 19th-century historicist architecture, and shows the social, economic and cultural influences on the development of urban planning.

**Today:** In the second half of the 20th century, parts of the residence were converted into the various departments of Chernivtsi University, which was founded in 1875.

Nowadays the Residence has a dual function: it is both a regional centre for education, science and spiritual values, and a UNESCO World Heritage Property. These days, visitors can join daily guided tours of the site, conducted in different languages.

# **WOODEN TSERKVAS OF THE CARPATHIANS IN POLAND AND UKRAINE**

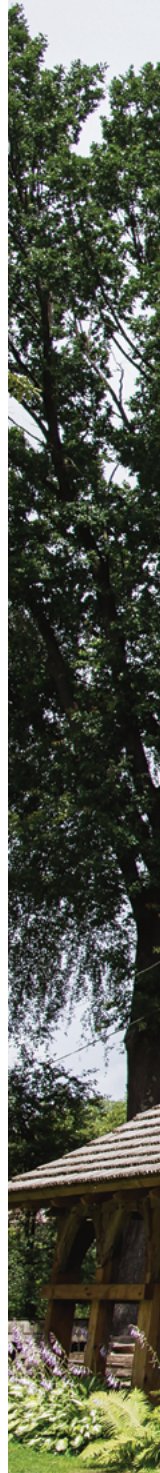


**The wooden tserkvas** (churches – tr.) in Poland and Ukraine, situated along the northern fringe of the Carpathians, were declared a joint Ukrainian and Polish item on the World Heritage List in 2013. They combine several local styles of wooden church architecture: Hutsul, Halych, Boiko, and Lemko. The architectural forms of the tserkvas, with their tripartite plans, pyramidal domes, cupolas and bell towers, conform to the requirements of Eastern liturgy while reflecting the cultural traditions of the local communities that developed separately due to the mountainous terrain.

**The place:** Of the 16 wooden churches on the list, eight are in Ukraine: St Michael's Cathedral in Uzhok; the Church of the Ascension in Yasinia, Zakarpattia region; the Church of the Nativity of the Virgin Mary in Nyzhnii Verbizh; the Church of the Holy Spirit in Rohatyn (Ivano-Frankivsk region); Holy Trinity Church in Zhovkva; the Descent of the Holy Spirit Church in Potelych; and the Cathedral of the Holy Virgin Mary in Matkiv, Lviv region.

**What makes it unique:** These are the best-preserved examples of wooden churches built in the traditional style, using the horizontal log technique. Bearing distinct features of both Carpathian architectural traditions and Orthodox church design, the tserkvas showcase their makers' exceptional carpentry skills: complex corner jointing, and ingenious structural solutions. Raised on wooden sills placed on stone foundations, with wooden shingles covering the roofs and walls, the tserkvas – with their associated graveyards and sometimes free-standing bell towers – are bounded by perimeter walls or fences and gates, surrounded by trees. Over the years, the wooden structures were repaired using traditional methods: thanks to these efforts, their authenticity has been preserved.

**Today:** The properties are considered to be authentic in terms of location and setting, use and function. 13 tserkvas are still used as churches, while the other three – Radruż, Rohatyn and Drohobych – are kept intact as museums. The artwork has a high degree of authenticity and the timber exterior roof and wall cladding (which requires replacement every 20-30 years) has, in most cases, been appropriately restored. Almost all the tserkvas retain their original doors and locks, with inscriptions on the lintels giving the dates of construction and names of the carpenters.





## **ANCIENT AND PRIMEVAL BEECH FORESTS OF THE CARPATHIANS AND OTHER REGIONS OF EUROPE**

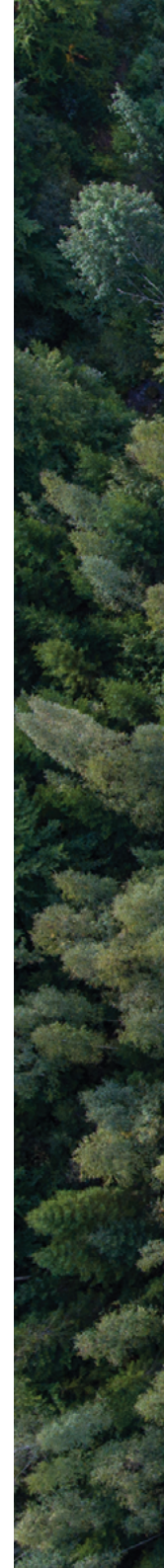
This natural world heritage site, which initially covered the Carpathian forest reserves on the territory of Zakarpattia in Ukraine and the Prešov region in Slovakia, was included in the UNESCO World Heritage List in 2007. In 2011, forested areas in Germany were added to the list, followed by areas in another 15 European countries in 2017 and 2021 (Albania, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czechia, France, Italy, North Macedonia, Poland, Romania, Slovenia, Spain, and Switzerland).



**The place:** Until 2017, the site included six areas of forest, protected by the Carpathian Biosphere Reserve and Uzhanskyi National Nature Park. Later additions include the National Nature Parks of Synevyr, Zacharovanyi Krai (Enchanted Land – tr.) and Podilski Tovtry, as well as the Gorgany and Roztochchia Nature Reserves.

**What makes it unique:** The primeval beech forests are an example of untouched ecosystems in the temperate zones. The success story of the beech tree began 12,000 years ago, at the end of the last glacial period. Back then, large sections of Europe were covered in a thick layer of ice. Remnants of beech forests had only survived in small pockets of Southern Europe. When the ice melted, the beech began to expand northwards from its isolated refuge areas in the South. This process is still ongoing today, even though the ice age is long gone. This phenomenon – the recolonisation of large sections of a continent by a single tree species, and the ongoing expansion of the European beech – is unique in the world. Primeval beech forests provide a valuable genetic pool for the European beech tree, and the best conditions for carrying out research into its evolution. 94 parts of the site (covering an area of 98,124.96 hectares) constitute an outstanding example of relatively undisturbed, complex temperate forests. They also exhibit a wide spectrum of comprehensive ecological patterns and processes of pure and mixed stands of European beech, across a variety of environmental conditions.

**Today:** These areas of forest span 18 European countries; more than 25% of them are in Ukraine. Among the forest sites on the Heritage List, this one is home to particularly unique flora and fauna, especially species that have adapted to live in caves. While the values of the site have so far been relatively well preserved, the external pressures are high in some parts. In some countries, logging has occurred in buffer zones and in some rare cases, on the territory of the site, representing a serious threat to its integrity. Climate change already poses a risk to some areas, and further impacts can be expected in the future, including changes to species composition and habitat shift. However, it should be noted that one element of the Outstanding Universal Value of the World Heritage site is the way it demonstrates the beech tree's ability to adapt to different ecological and climatic conditions within its range. It is expected that in most areas, natural processes will allow the trees to adapt to changing climatic conditions. Potential future changes will need to be monitored and documented in order to better understand these processes.





# **ANCIENT CITY OF TAURIC CHERSONESE AND ITS CHORA**



This site is all that is left of an ancient 'polis', or city state, surrounded by agricultural suburbs – the 'chora'. The remains can still be seen today in the southwestern part of Crimea, on the territory of the modern-day city of Sevastopol. Tauric Chersonese was a classic example of a Greek polis, with a democratic system of government.

**The place:** The site has two main parts: the ruins of the settlement of Chersonese, the ancient city founded at the end of the 5th century BC, and the Heracleian chora – agricultural lands that were divided into separate plots around Chersonese in the 4th century BC. The remains of the ancient city of Tauric Chersonese constitute one of the most prominent archaeological sites in Ukraine, representing the development of the three great civilizations of the ancient world. It was an important political and economic hub in northern Prychornomoria, and a cultural crossroads where the Greek, Roman and Byzantine empires interacted with the inhabitants of the lands north of the Black Sea. It played a key role in the spread of Christianity in Southeastern Europe. The traces of the city layout and the chora attest to the democratic organisation of land in Ancient Greek society.

**What makes it unique:** Tauric Chersonese is an exceptional example of the ensemble of a city designed in the 4th century BC under the Hippodamian Plan (the original grid plan, named after the Greek architect Hippodamus of Miletus – ed.). It remained almost unchanged until its decline in the 13th and 14th centuries. The remains of the city's fortifications, as well its urban quarters with residential and public buildings (dating back to the 4th century BC), are the largest monument of antiquity on the Black Sea and allow archaeologists to study ancient life in all its aspects. A unique feature of Tauric Chersonese is its chora, an ancient agricultural area that was the economic foundation of the city-state and has remained comparatively undamaged. Here you can see the remains of residential buildings, wine presses, tanks for salting fish, walls and roads separating the plots of land: the entire agricultural system of the ancient Greek settlement.







**Today:** At the time of the Russian occupation of Crimea in 2014, the Tauric Chersonese National Preserve boasted over 200,000 exhibits that were discovered during the excavations. These include the remains of the defensive walls, residential areas, baths, artisans' workshops, Christian churches, and a theatre.

Due to the military and commercial use of the site under Russian occupation, the world heritage site of Tauric Chersonese is threatened with destruction. One of the ancient chora plots was destroyed in 2015.

The Russian Federation also attempted to include Tauric Chersonese in its register of cultural heritage sites. UNESCO did not recognise the Russian jurisdiction of the object and officially ceased to cooperate with the museum-reserve for the duration of the temporary occupation of Crimea.

The Ukrainian authorities have numerous examples of gross violations of Ukrainian and international law (including UNESCO conventions) by the Russian occupation authorities: illegal archeological excavations, construction work and other illegal activities, which cause significant damage to Ukrainian cultural heritage sites in temporarily occupied Crimea.

Ukraine calls for the effective monitoring of the situation regarding the Ancient City of Tauric Chersonese and its Chora during the period of the Russian occupation of Crimea.

ANCIENT CITY OF TAURIC CHERSONESE AND ITS CHORA





The informational brochure 'Cultural and Natural Heritage of Ukraine' was developed by the Ukrainian Institute and Ukraïner in partnership with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine and The National Commission of Ukraine for UNESCO.

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