**A few words about the guide**

Any prices referenced are based on pricing as of March 2008. Information contained in this guide is based on the best of currently available information.

It assumes a somewhat basic familiarity with the Cyrillic alphabet.

Addresses are listed in the local language under the assumption that you may show them to a local resident or taxi driver, if you are not comfortable in the local language.

The closest bus stops for a particular address are found in parentheses after the address. We also try to describe locations using directions from local landmarks.

Preparation of this guide was a city-wide collaborative volunteer effort involving Poltava students, university teachers, the Poltava Department of Tourism, and the local committee on tourism development. Efforts to produce this guide were inspired by a common passion about Poltava and the common desire to introduce our fine city to those who live outside the city limits. We also hope to make it more accessible to non-native speakers.
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Discover Poltava!

**Location:** Eastern Central Ukraine, on the banks of the Vorskla River – left tributary of the Dnipro River

**Governmental Designation:** Administrative Center of the Poltava Oblast (province)

**Population:** 325,000

**Local Language:** Poltava is a city where Eastern and Western Ukrainian cultures intersect. Both Ukrainian and Russian are freely spoken and understood here.

**Educational Institutions:** The city of Poltava boasts 3 universities, multiple institutes of higher education, 2 academies, 2 boarding schools, 3 lyceums, and 38 primary and secondary schools.

Welcome to Poltava! We would like to thank you for the opportunity to introduce you to the many wonderful, interesting and perhaps surprising things Poltava has to offer.

Internationally the Poltava Region is probably best known as the site of the Poltava Battle, the decisive battle concluding the twenty-one year Northern War, in which the forces of Peter the Great (known in these parts as Peter I) crushed the armies of Sweden’s King Charles XII, effectively establishing Russia as the dominant country in this area of the world. It is also the site of ancient civilizations dating as far back as 1100BC.

The Poltava Oblast can also claim credit for significant contributions to world literature. Nikolai Gogol (the “father of Russian literature”), was born not far from Poltava, within the Poltava Oblast, in Veliky Sorochintsi. This village is now home to Ukraine’s largest annual fair, the Sorochintsi Fair, held in mid-August. The fair attracts international tourists, Ukrainians from throughout the country and dignitaries from over 20 foreign delegations.

All who live here are aware of Poltava’s rich history of Ukrainian culture and lore. A little known but significant contribution to the world’s scientific establishment in the area of space exploration was made by Poltavite Yuri Kondratyk, who’s published work in mathematics helped launch both the Soviet and American Space Programs. Mr. Kondratyk was also a significant contributor and supporter of the Soviet aviation program. There are also several significant artists of international renown that lived in the Poltava area with works displayed in such museums as the Louvre in Paris.

Local Poltavites take pride in Poltava’s significant role as the birthplace of the modern Ukrainian language. Poltavan author, Ivan Petrovich Kotlyarvesky, was the first to publish in the modern Ukrainian vernacular.

Poltava has ranked in the top of Ukrainian Oblast capitals in terms of quality of life. Poltava remains one of the most beautiful and ecologically safe cities in Ukraine. Locally Poltava is described as a big village due to the possibility of seeing familiar friendly faces at every outing. Local pride in the community is noticeably reflected in the city’s overall cleanliness and enthusiasm with which locals boast of the city’s contributions in so many spheres of life. They may even point out that Poltava continues to contribute to the nation’s and world’s artistic tapestry as Ukraine’s 2007 Eurovision contestant (who placed 2nd), Verka Serduchka, is also a Poltava native.

While geographically located in eastern Ukraine, symbolically and culturally, it is in the center of the best of what Ukraine has to offer. Known today as “Little St. Petersburg” and “the Lviv of the east”, Poltava’s historical reputation is that of the “soul” and “cultural center” of Ukraine. That it is often said to be symbolic of “all things Ukrai-
nian” makes it an essential stop on any traveler’s itinerary who wants to claim to have had an authentic Ukrainian experience.

Modern day Poltava continues to amaze, and it is exciting to watch its steady and forward transition into a modern European city. The city’s beautiful architecture and environment make it an ideal place to rest while soaking up its historical significance.

How to get here

Poltava is strategically located on the main highway connecting the current capital (Kyiv) with the former capital (Kharkiv). It is 130 km (78 miles) west of Kharkiv and 330 km (198 miles) east of Kyiv.

There are 4-hour express trains to and from Kyiv (Poltava Kyivska Station) and over 10, 3 ½-hour, daily direct trains to/from Kharkiv (Poltava Pivdenna Station). Since Poltava is an Oblast capital, there is convenient transportation to and from all other Oblast centers in Ukraine (e.g. Odesa is an easy overnight train). The nearest airport is in Kharkiv.

To get to the center from either train station take trolleybus #1 which travels between the two train stations through the center of town. Or take any ground transportation that indicates on the front window that it is traveling to the center (Центр) (or ask the driver or someone nearby “do tsentr?” which means “to the Center?”).

Poltava’s main bus station (Avtovoksal) and the smaller, more centrally located Shevchenko station (Shevchenko Avtostansia) handle all the bus traffic in and out of Poltava. Buses to smaller outlying towns (such as Dykanka, Opishnya or Velikiy Sorochintsi) operate out of the Shevchenko station. Buses to larger and more distant cities and other countries operate out of the main bus station (Avtovoksal). The Avtovoksal is located at the Avtovoksal bus stop, on the #20 circular (Kiltsevee) bus line (15 stops from the center if you catch the bus in front of the Kotyarevsky Theater).

Public transportation (buses, trolley buses and mashrutkas) operate from 6am to 10pm with the occasional mashrutka running until midnight. Most transportation around Poltava operates along set routes continuously without set schedules. At the time of this writing, a single ticket on a bus or mashrutka will cost you 1 hryvnia, 25 kopeks, while buses and trolleybuses cost slightly less. An average taxi ride from either of the train stations to the center will run from 11-20 hryvnia ($3-$4). Poltava public transportation costs are some of the cheapest in Ukraine amongst Oblast capitals.

Significant buses include: #20 Kiltsevee, a circular bus route through the city and the center of town. On this route you will find the City Center and The Poltava University of Consumer Cooperatives in Ukraine. It will stop a 5 minute walk from the Poltava-Kyivska train station, Ekvator Complex (shopping/indoor skating/bowling with electronic scoring), the Avtovoksal, Hanuma restaurant (serving Central Asian Cuisine), the Almaz Hotel, the Dykanka restaurant, the Konkord Shopping Center, and the Poltava Bazaar and market.

Historical highlights

Poltava has always been an important center because of its strategic location on a high bluff overlooking a vast plain on the Vorskla River. Poltava’s history is truly ancient. Based on archeological discoveries, some argue the city was founded in 899. Yet the present name of the city is traditionally connected to the settlement Ltava which was first mentioned in the Hypatian
Chronicle written in 1174.

Although Poltava, the city's exact age is in question, the settlement is indeed an old one, as archeologists have unearthed Paleolithic dwellings as well as Scythian remains (700-900 BC) within the city limits.

Archeologists exploring the hills along the Vorskla, have put Poltava's history as far back as 1100 BC.

Timeline:

- 1174: Mentioned in the Hypatian Chronicle, Ltava Settlement
- 1240: Tatar occupation
- Second half of the 14th century: possession of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania (The Kingdom of Lithuania).
- 1569: Taken over by the Poles
- 1648: Captured by the Ruthenian-Polish magnate Jeremi Wiśniowiecki (1612-51), Cossacks begin the liberation movement.
- 1648 to 1782: Poltava developed into the base of a distinguished regiment of the Ukrainian Cossacks. This regiment was allied with the Zporozhian Sich (fortress) during the Cossack-Polish War along with other segments of the Ukrainian populace.
- From 1654 on: Hetman state was nominally a vassal of Moscow. The political relationship between the two countries was renegotiated with the election of each new hetman, which led to the steady erosion of the Hetmanate's sovereignty.
- 1663: Hetman state in right-bank (western Ukraine) came under Polish domination, left bank under Muscovite control. This was followed by a period of civil war as various left- and right-bank Cossack hetmans, backed by their respective supporters, attempted to re-establish a unitary state. Despite these efforts the partition of the Hetmanate was confirmed by the Muscovite-Polish Treaty of Andrusovo (1667) and the Eternal Peace of 1686.
- 1667: Poltava became part of the Russian Empire.
- 1700: Right bank Cossacks abolished by Poland; only the left (eastern Ukraine) bank Cossacks remained.
- 1709 (July 8th): The city was in the center of the Northern War between the Muscovites and the Swedes. The famous Battle of Poltava, which took place on the city's northern border which was primarily fought in the month of June, 1709. Russia was the victor. Peter the Great crushed the Swedish army as well as the Cossacks who had allied with the Swedes. Mazepa (see box) had since allied himself with Sweden in the hopes of gaining independence for Ukraine.
- Tsar Peter the Great, commanding 45,000 troops, defeated a Swedish army of 29,000 troops led by Field Marshal Carl Gustaf Rehnsköld (who had taken over the command of the army after the wounding of the Swedish King Charles XII on June 17). The battle was decisive in that with Russia's victory, Russia replaced Sweden as the dominant regional power.
- 1700s: Russia's increasing political control of the Hetman state precluded the independent development of its administrative, financial, and judicial institutions.
- 1762–96: Ukrainian autonomy was progressively destroyed during the reign of Catherine II.
- 1764: After several attempts, the office of hetman was finally abolished by the Russian government, and the functions were assumed by the Little Russian Collegium.
- 1770: The Poltava (Slovenian) seminary was established revitalizing the city's cultural life. The first bookstore was also opened in Poltava in this time.
- 1775: The city was incorporated as an administrative center into the Novgorodisk (new Russian) gubernia (country) and in 1802 it became the center of Poltava gubernia.
- 1782: Cossack regiments replaced by vice-regencies, and Russian political and administrative institutions and practices replaced the unique institutions of the Hetmanate. At the same time the social structure of the state was recast: serfdom was introduced, the Cossacks lost what remained of their special status, and the Cossack starshyna was at least partially integrated into the Russian nobility. Poltava was then ruled by Russian commandants and regiment administration.
The Central Post Office is one of the large buildings surrounding the central park. It is located to the right of the Kotlyaresvky Theater, to the south of the Monument of Glory (“the eagle”).

The local phone code for Poltava is: +380 532

### Internet Centers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Максимум Інтернет</th>
<th>Октябрьская 46 Phone 56-14-86</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Internet Center “Maximum” is located halfway between the Poltava University of Consumer Cooperatives and the Center on the northern section of Zhovtneva street. Reliable printer and Xerox available. Also due to its proximity to the University, some English IS usually spoken.</td>
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<tr>
<th>Котлярик Інтернет</th>
<th>Фрунзе 115 NO Phone</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>“Kotlyarik” internet center is located on the second floor of the Kotlyarevsky Theater building at the city center</td>
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<tr>
<th>Матрікс Інтернет</th>
<th>Гоголя 22 NO Phone</th>
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<tr>
<td>Internet center “Matrix is located The Kolos Movie Theater building. “Private internet rooms, snack bar and air conditioned in the summer.</td>
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<tr>
<th>Ентер Інтернет</th>
<th>Леніна 8 Phone 56-54-38</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Internet Center “Enter” (look for the small green awning) across the street from Street Pizza on Lenina. Friendly staff and reliable printer.</td>
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**Currency exchange/ATMs (bankomats):** ATMs are easily found throughout the city center, look for the following internationally owned banks: ProCredit, Privat, Aval
Toilets: For the elderly and disabled, western-style toilets can be found at most nicer restaurants and in the City Center at Obolon restaurant, Tsum Department Store, and Botanik Café. There is also public Turkish toilets located in the Gold City underground shopping center.

Будинок Книги (Book/Map Store) Шевченка 29
Теле 612-676

Вавилон Vavilon (Babylon), English-language, Tourist Agency: Шевченка 27
8 (0532) 50-08-50, 8 050 6380394
E-mail: vavilontur@utel.net.ua

Located at the intersection of Frunze and Shevchenko streets, on the second level of the building located diagonally from the Old Clock (Poltava’s Big Ben) and across from Eko Market near the Poltava Bazaar (look for the blue and white sign). Its friendly professional owner Yulia speaks fluent English and can help you locate tourist attractions, make hotel and restaurant reservations, make sightseeing recommendations, book transportation for custom tours, help identify translators, book flights and transportation and summer tours to surrounding countries and Crimea.

This central area of Poltava used to be the location of the city fortress. In 1840, it was turned into memorial park gardens are covered in glorious flowers from spring through fall.

Any tour of the center should start at the Monument of Glory (natives refer to it as “the Eagle”) commemorating the victory of the Russians over the Swedes at the battle of Poltava in 1709.

After Poltava passed to the Russian Empire in the 19th century, the fortress in the city center was destroyed and replaced with the current architecture. The influence of Tsar Peter the First (Peter the Great) is evident in the surrounding architecture. It was Peter I’s intention to make Poltava into a “little St. Petersburg”, so taken was he by Russia’s stunning victory in the Battle of Poltava. If you have had the chance to visit St. Petersburg, reputedly one of the most beautiful cities in the world, you may notice Poltava’s resemblance to St. Petersburg’s Palace Square.

It has been said that the radial design of the city center was also an advantage for the defense of the city. The white-columned buildings surrounding the city center were built in the style of Russian Classicism of the XIXth century. These buildings include the city administration center (with the Ukrainian flag on top), an art school, a cinema named after I. P. Kotlyarevsky, the central post office and others.

City administration building was originally built in the 1800s, which were restored in the 1950s and 60s after being severely damaged in the Second World War. The city administration building was always a government building. The movie theater was the building of the Nobility Assembly. The central post office, located just to the right of the theater, built in 1810, was the location of the first provincial congress of the Soviets of Working Peoples Deputies on
April 30 1917. The present art school used to be a school for Noble Young Ladies. The building on the far side was a Military School (built in 1841).

To the left of the cinema/casino, connecting Poltava’s main commercial area to Corpusny park, exists a glass covered underground shopping mall, where you can find city souvenirs, restaurants, beauty salons, various shops, reasonably priced digital photo development and, according to local reputation, the best ice cream in town. Directly behind the glass covered underground center, you will find the pedestrian section of Zhevneva/Oktoberskaya street featuring many of Poltava’s most interesting sights.

Friendship of Nations Rotunda. Also known as the “White Rotunda”, it is located a 25-minute walk from the city center. You can find it by following Zhovtneva Street to the end, past the pedestrian district. It was built in 1909 in honor of the 200th anniversary of the Battle of Poltava.

The White Rotunda is located in the area of Soborny Maydan (Cathedral Square). Here, you will also find a beautiful panoramic view of the city, the Ivanova Hora restaurant overlooking the bluff, the Monument to Poltava Halushky and the reconstructed St. Assumption Church, which was built in 17th century and destroyed in 1934 (See section on Poltava’s Religious Sites)

Near the Rotunda you will find the monument to Poltava Halushky (dumplings). Monument to Poltava Halushky: erected on April 1st, (“the day of laughter” in Ukraine) 2006. The date is also Gogol’s birthday, who made Poltava halushky famous by writing about it in his stories about the region. Tourists and wedding parties enjoy having photos taken sitting on the dumplings or in the spoon.

This monument was created in 1995 by Baturin and Bilius in memory of the Cossacks Regiment that defended Poltava. The monument overlooks the northeastern corner of Zhovnevy Park.
and is located adjacent to and north of the park located in front of the Regional Museum.

The Poltava statue of Shevchenko can be found in Petrovsky Park, facing the Poltava Regional Museum. It is unique in that it was built by Kavalieridze in the cubist style in 1926. (Taras Hryhorovych Shevchenko, the great Ukrainian poet, artist and thinker of the XIX century, considered by many to be the most outstanding person of Ukraine, a great fighter for independence. Many believe that without Shevchenko an independent Ukraine might not exist today)

Statue of Nikolai Gogol is located at the intersection of Gogolya and Lenina streets

The monument of Glory (in a park one block south of the Konkord Shopping Center on the same side of Frunze street):

The Poltavaska region is particularly rich in Ukrainian culture. Taras Shevchenko lived here from 1843 to 1846. Nikolai Gogol, who is usually considered to be one of the great Russian writers, was born Mykola Hohol (1809-52) in the village of Velyki Sorochyntsi in the Mirhorod district of the Poltava Oblast. Gogol was an ethnic Ukrainian who wrote on Ukrainian themes and subjects but worked in the Russian language in order to be published and recognized. Alexander Pushkin (1799-1837), wrote a poem entitled “Poltava” with the battle as its theme in 1829.

Sorochyntsi Fair: Ukraine’s largest fair is held every mid-August in the village of Velyki Sorochyntsi near Poltava in the Mirhorod district of the Poltava Oblast. During the 4 days of the fair, regular buses (every half hour or so) and other transportation run to the fair from surrounding villages and the bus stations in Poltava. The fair

Summer festivals and events
was held multiple times a year while Ukraine was under Russian control, and has been held annually since its revival after Ukrainian independence. By a Presidential Decree of August 18, 1999, the fair has been designated as Ukraine’s National Trade Fair. The fair is a showcase for traditional handicrafts, made by skilled and master craftsmen, as well as theatrical performers who re-enact scenes of village life from famous Ukrainians stories. The historic Sorochintsy Fair features a number of Russian works of literature and music, including Gogol’s short story “The Fair at Sorochintsy” and “The Fair at Sorochintsi”, an opera by Modest Mussorgsky. (source: Wikipedia)

Mazepafest: A summer rock band festival is held in Poltava with some regularity (not necessarily every year), usually in late summer/autumn. If in town during this time, ask around and see if it’s going on.

Day of Poltava: Held every September 23rd, this is a celebration of the city. Watch for small celebrations throughout the city and try to get tickets to the evenings gala performance in the Vorskla stadium, featuring nonstop concerts, dance performances, and ceremonial presentations ending in fireworks.

The Feast of the Holy Trinity: Every mid-June, the floors of the churches are strewn with leaves, grasses and wild flowers and the door ways are hung with leaves. Watch for residents to also decorate their homes with leaves during this time.

The Eve of Ivana Kupala: A uniquely Russian and Ukrainian holiday held every July 6th. It is a celebration of the water and fire elements connected to the Summer Solstice. Held near bodies of water, youths don wreaths, build fires and jump over them, individually or with a loved one, based on ancient Pagan fertility rites. Girls can learn their fortunes by watching the direction their wreaths flow when placed on the water and wealth will come to anyone who finds a fern flower during the ceremony. A great warm weather evening based on Ukrainian traditions and prophesy.

With the exception of the Poltava Battle Museum, all of Poltava’s most significant museums can be found within walking distance of the City Center. Ticket prices range from 1-5 hryvnia. Most museums are closed on Sundays and Mondays.

Note: A new Cossack museum is being planned, on the grounds of the Poltava Battle Museum, as well as a statue of Ivan Mazepa, to be completed by 2009.

Poltava Battle Museum
Address: Swedish Grave, 32. Tel. (0532) 527427

The Museum is located on what was the battleground of the Poltava Battle during the period of the Great Northern War between Sweden and Russia (1700-1721). This was the decisive battle and the turning point of the Great Northern War that established Russia as a major power in Europe and solidified its dominance over Ukraine. Peter the Great started this war to gain access to the Baltic Sea. The turning point in the war was the Battle of Poltava in 1709. From early April to June 27, 1709, the Poltava Battle was fought, and the result greatly affected the balance of power in Europe. At the conclusion of the Poltava Battle, Sweden’s control of Europe had ended. Russia had defeated its old enemy and powerful neighbor. (For more detail, please see “Historical Highlights” section).

The museum of the Poltava Battle and the complex of monuments surrounding it were designated a historical–cultural zone with a territory of 771.5 hectares. The territory includes the monastery, 4 ancient settlements and more than 30 barrows which have been dated to 1000 B.C.

Today, the Poltava Battle Museum is a place of great historical value. It is the only place in Ukraine which belongs to the National Organization of Military Historic Museums. It has been designated a UNESCO heritage site and is located on several global tourist routes.

The Poltava Battle site contains several monuments, donated by both Russia and Sweden, recognizing the sacrifices made by both sides. Additionally, you will find Sampsonivska Church, Spaskaya church (see below), and a monastery. The 9-room museum contains many ancient items salvaged from the Battle: guns, medals, pictures, portraits, flags, books, maps, diplomas and other historical documents from the first
part of the XVIII century. **Signs for the exhibits have been translated into English and are scheduled to be posted by spring 2008.**

Spasskaya Church (across from the Poltava Battle Museum) was built on the land where the Battle of Poltava took place. It is one of the few original churches to survive. The bell tower was destroyed in the 1930s. Legend has it that Peter the Great prayed in it after the battle. There is a monument and mass grave for the Russian soldiers that died in the battle directly behind it.

**Poltava Key Players: Peter the Great**

Peter the Great, or Peter I as he is called in Russia and Ukraine, personally took part in the Battle of Poltava. It is an interesting and little known fact that he went into the battle with only the rank of colonel in an infantry division even though he was tsar of all Russia. He did in fact command his army in the battle. He was a remarkable man by any standards and a genius. Despite his height at 6 feet 8 inches tall, he enjoyed trying to go incognito, which was not an easy feat. One of the things he liked to do was to turn his coat inside out and ride through his troops. At that time the uniforms were in two tones. His coat is in the Poltava Battle Museum.

**Poltava Regional Museum (Also called the Poltava Museum of Local Lore)**

It is Poltava's (and one of Ukraine's) largest museums telling the story of Poltava going back through the ages with exhibits covering culture, costumes, the region's famous embroidery and ceramics, wildlife, nature, agriculture, geography and industry. You will also find impressive dioramas.

The museum is housed in the old city council building and is built in the Ukrainian Modern style. The façade features medallions with the crests of the various districts of the Poltava Oblast (region). Another feature of the building is the use of decorative ceramic columns, ceramic tiles as well as painted floral pattern. There are stunning examples of the original Majolica tiles on the side of the building which were not damaged during the Great Patriotic War (World War II). The inside of the museum is equally ornate.

The original building was built in 1902-1908. It was restored in 1964. The architect was Vasyliv Krichevsky. He still has family living in the USA.

**Poltava Art Museum**

Adjacent to the Gallery hotel on Frunze street, you will find the Poltava Art Museum with a diverse collection of art ranging from oil paintings, lithographs, religious icons, portraits of European Royalty (British, Polish), landscapes, seascapes, paintings of Egypt, and sculptures.

Much of the museums works of art were stolen during the German occupation and later recovered. Inside you can find one of the rare works of Peeters Flanders (1612). The Metropolitan Museum of Art owns another. Other works of interest include a portrait of Pushkin's wife. Of the many paintings which are culturally significant, look for a large picture showing birds attacking a crow which has decorated himself with a peacock feather, symbolizing the point that an individual should know his place.

**Air and Space Museum**

Address: пр.Першотравненевий, 16,

Phone: (0532) 7-37-74

Across from the monument (look for the lion) at the northwest corner entrance to Victory park (Park Peremooh), you will find a small but interesting museum dedicated to and named after the work of Yuri Vasiiyovych Kondratyk. It is the only museum in Ukraine presenting the history of aviation and astronautics. It includes information on Soviet collaborations with the
U.S. Air Force during the war, a model of the first Sputnik satellite and the original cockpits of early Soviet spacecrafts. It was Mr. Kondratyuk’s published scientific work that provided the mathematical foundation for launching vehicles into space, and was used in both the Soviet and American space programs. A guide is available.

**Kotlyarevsky House Museum**
(heomestead of Ivan Petrovich Kotlyarevsky, 1769-1838)
*Address: пр.Перштровневий, 18*
*Phone: (05322) 74160*

In the 18th century, the Ukrainian language was only spoken by peasants and petty bourgeois. Scholarly and fine literature was written in Old Slavonic or Latin. The imperial authorities wanted to eliminate the Ukrainian language altogether. Ivan Kotlyarevsky wrote an epic poem, a burlesque, on Ukrainian life based on Virgil’s Aeneid. When he read it to his friends they prevailed upon him to publish it. He did a shortened version and it was an immediate success. The book “Eneyida”, turned out to be the first work published in the vernacular Ukraine and has become a Ukrainian classic. He continued to write and also wrote plays among them “Natalka- Poltavka,” which is still performed in the Ukrainian National Theater. His witty works continue to make people laugh two centuries later.

The museum which was opened on September 28, 1952, contains more than 900 exhibits, including manuscripts of Kotlarevsky, his personal belongings, and a big library of his writings. The Kotlarevsky House Museum is a reconstruction of his home and furnishings, based on a drawing by Shevchenko, This is where he lived and created his most significant works. All the flowers are representative of the period in which he lived here.

The museum is located on Ivan’s Hill about 200 meters from the Rotunda, behind the Cathedral bell tower. A statue of Kotlyarevsky can also be found at the intersection of Kotlyarevsky and Lenina streets, and his grave is a 10 minute walk south of the Monument to Soldier’s Glory on Frunze street.

**Korolenko House Museum**
(adjacent to Park Peremoho – Victory Park)
*Address: вул.Короленка, 1 (the writers grave is directly across from the Ferris Wheel)*
*Phone: (05322) 72200, 79282*

In 1890, Korolenko moved to Poltava. He lived in this house with his family, and was buried near it. After his death in 1928, his family with the help of historians, prepared an exhibition “Korolenko’s Life”. This provided the basis for the museum. The leader who organized this exhibit was his daughter Sophia. The complex consists of: a memorial garden, the exhibition hall, the grave and the monument to the writer. The museum contains hundreds of exhibits are represented in the museum. Among them: his furnishings, signatures of famous writers, books and magazines from Korolenko’s own library.

Ivan’s Hill, where the White Rotunda and the restaurant Ivanova Hora (translation “Ivan’s hill”) are located, is named in Kotlyarevsky’s honor.

**Vladimir Galaktionovich Korolenko**, 1853 (Zhytomyr)-1921 (Poltava), world renowned author, democrat, humanist, and revolutionary activist condensed from IMDb

Korolenko published his first stories in 1879, calling for social justice in the Russian Empire. In 1881 he refused to pledge his loyalty to the new Russian Tsar Alexander III and was sentenced to exile in Siberia. His impressions of his life in exile and in several provincial cities provided him with rich material for his writings. His story “Makar’s Dream” (1885), translated into English, brought him international recognition. His masterpiece novel, “The Blind Musician” (1886), also published in English, made him an internationally renowned writer. During a trip to the U.S. in 1893 for the Chicago World Exhibition, he met recent Russian immigrants, who gave him materials for his short novel “Without a Language”, a story of an uneducated Ukrainian peasant, who struggles in America without being able to speak a single word in English.

Kolorenko was also an active human rights activist, fighting on behalf of Jewish people and against some of the methods employed by the new Communist regime.
Today it is a “monastery for women”. Nuns were able to survive the Revolution more easily because they were more easily taken into homes and protected.

The monastery served as the headquarters of Charles the XII of Sweden during the battle of Poltava.

After the battle, Peter the Great (Peter I) visited the monastery and wanted to have it moved next to where he ordered Spasskaya church to be built. Fortunately for the monastery, Peter died before anything was done.

The monastery was also visited by Catherine the Great (Catherine II) during her pilgrimage through Ukraine on her way back from Yalta. She stopped at the monastery and was audience to a re-enactment which was produced for her entertainment.

During the Revolution many of its buildings were destroyed and the ones that remained were used in a variety of ways, including a school for the mentally handicapped, a hostel, and a school for railroad workers.

The monastery today has approximately 25 nuns.

The original bell tower was built in 1786. Catherine the Great was so impressed with the effort that had been made to make her comfortable during her time in Poltava that she gave the monastery a seven ton bell. When it rang, it could be heard for 100 km. The bell was destroyed by the Bolsheviks. However, the tower was saved because it served as a good look-out point.

Relatives of both Pushkin and Gogol are buried in the two flower gardens between the churches.

Many people who are famous in Russian history have visited the monastery. One of particular interest is General Kutusov the one-eyed general who defeated Napoleon in 1812.

The monastery has a tunnel that runs for 30 km to the village of Dikanka.

The Church of our Savior

This 300 year old church is a jewel. It is not only the oldest church in Poltava but it is also the oldest building in the city.

The oldest Icons are the ones in the front of the

Reminder: In Ukrainian Orthodox Churches, women must have their heads covered while men must remove their hats. The wearing of shorts is prohibited.

The domes of Krestovozdvizhensky (Monastery of the Exaltation of the Cross)

Although located just a short distance from the City Center (approximately 3km), there presently exists no direct means of public transportation to get there. A taxi is recommended.

This is one of the most important monasteries in Ukraine. It is historical interest as an example of Ukrainian Baroque architecture and is only one of two in the country with seven domes (cupolas), rather than the traditional five (the other is St. Michael’s Monastery in Kyiv). It was originally built in 1650 and was a monastery for monks (монах) until 1923. During the Revolution the monks were killed or sent to a GULAG.
church near the ceiling.

The church was saved during the Russian Revolution except for the bell tower which was destroyed by the Bolsheviks. A new bell tower was constructed in 2005.

Peter the Great of Russia worshiped here during the battle of Poltava.

Notice that the church is entirely made of wood. A shell was constructed around it to protect it from the elements. It has a walking space around it so the frame does not interfere with building. This space is not open to the public.

On the left hand side of the church is an Icon of the Virgin Mary and the Christ child. It was given to the church by the Greek monastery Afonskiy to commemorate the 200th anniversary of the battle of Poltava.

The church survived the Russian Revolution not because of its religious significance, but because of its historical and architectural value. There were 26 churches in Poltava before the 1930s including ones connected with the monastery and schools. Only 3 survived, plus 2 bell towers.

Uspensky Cathedral

During the 17th century, the Poltava city center was located within the Poltava Cossack Fortress. The central building was the Uspensky Cathedral. This cathedral was destroyed by the Bolsheviks in 1934 and was just rebuilt in 2004.

The Cathedral was the main building of the Poltava fortress and was originally wooden. The bell tower was erected in 1801 as part of a religious complex. Because it was built by the Cossacks it did not follow the strict Russian regulations that dictated how churches were to be built.

The tower was saved through the effort of several people who risked losing their jobs by having it registered in the Register of Buildings of Architectural Importance. It was also temporarily considered as a potential base for a statue of Stalin since it was the highest point in Poltava. For reasons unknown, that did not come to pass.

Its strategic location on the bluff overlooking the valley also helped to save it. With its cross removed, it served as a look out post.

The priest who lived in the bell tower at the time saved all of the original icons. He carefully covered them with bricks. No one knew about them until they were rediscovered when some construction was done years later.

The church has 17th and 18th century Icons unfortunately not in very good condition. There are also some primitive ones. The icons were originally gifts from museums and private sources.

Jewish Poltava

Poltava once had a sizeable Jewish population. Amongst the cobble stones of the street a little way up from Tsum Department store, are stones made from a Jewish grave head stones. If you stop at the Gogol Theater and turn down Gogol Street you will find the Philharmony. This building was originally Poltava’s largest synagogue. At one time everyone who lived on this street was Jewish.

The present Jewish Orthodox Rabbi has his office in the back of the building.

Go to the end of the street past the Philharmony and turn right. Stop at the beautiful little building that used to be a synagogue. Note the stones in front with the stars, the beautiful details on the building, including the gallery with the stars, and the marble columns with brass inlay. During the Soviet Union 14 families lived in the building. There are still apartments in it. There are efforts underway by the Jewish congregation to buy the building and turn it once again into a synagogue.

10 Parks
Poltava is a city with numerous beautiful parks and fountains. Its most significant and largest park is Victory Park (Park Peremoho), located on the southeast side of the City Center area.

Located on the banks of the Vorksla River you will find gardens, an amusement park, an outdoor amphitheater, a large beautiful fountain, a skateboard park, a skating rink, hiking trails, cafes and restaurants. Adjacent to the park is the Korolenko Homestead Museum, a museum housing Kotlarevsky’s works, and the Air and Space Museum.
11 Accommodation

City Center:

Готель “Галерея” (Gallery)
Hotel and Restaurant
address: вул. Фрунзе, 7
reservations: +38 (0532) 561-666, +38 (0532) 561-697, fax: +38 (0532) 563-121
E-mail: sbipol@kot.poltava.ua
Web: http://www.hotel.poltava.ua/
Poltava’s most convenient and comfortable hotel, offering spacious rooms and an elevator. Adjacent to Poltava’s art museum. Rooms starting at 370hryv.

Готель “Палаццо” (Palazzo)
Hotel and Restaurant
address: вул. Гоголя, 33
reservations: +38 (0532) 611-205, fax: +38 (0532) 611-208
Restaurant: +38 (0532) 610-850
Web: http://www.palazzo.com.ua/
One of Poltava’s finest hotels and restaurants (European and Japanese menu) located conveniently in the City Center. Satellite TV, wi-fi, and sauna (see listing under restaurants). Rooms starting at 350hryv.

Готель “Україна” (Hotel Ukraine)
address: вул. Жовтнева, 41а
Renovated in 1997, just three blocks from the Monument of Glory. Visa/MC. Rates from 56 to 216hryv.

Готель “Київ” (Hotel Kyiv)
address: вул. Сінна, 2/49
Recently renovated interior, from 58 to 386hryv. It is located just 4 blocks from the City Center, north on Zhovtneva street. Visa/MC.

Україна Люкс (Ukraine Lux)
address: Яценка, 8а
reservations: 2-15-01, 264-432
Friendly and professional staff. Great location for

Vorskla stadium and PUCCU university events. Easy walking distance to the center.

Convenient to the South (Pivdenna) Train Station:

“Турист” (Tourist), Hotel Tourist Complex,
address: вул. Миру, 12 (Поділ)
reservations: +38 (0532) 572-577, +38 (0532) 572-761
Cash only.

Café-Bar: +38 (0532) 278-879, +38 (0532) 278-923
E-mail: turist@pi.net.ua
Web: turist-poltava.pi.net.ua
Located just 350m from the Poltava-Pivdenna Train station. Affordable rates and easy access to a beach on the Vorskla river.

Ривьера (Riviera), Hotel and Restaurant
address: г. Полтава, пер. Рыбальский, 16 (Левада)
(0532) 57-23-44, 57-02-61
24 hour reception, restaurant hours:12-23.
European menu and banquet hall (30 persons) available.

Almazny Region:

Готель “Алмаз” (Almaz) Hotel and Restaurant
address: вул. Київське Шосе, 60, 3 blocks from bus stop “23 Veresnya” on the #20 bus route.
reservations: +38 (0532) 631-880, fax: +38 (0532) 632-330
E-mail: slalmaz@kot.poltava.ua
Located next to bazaar and the popular Hanuma Central Asian Restaurant.

Мотель “Полтава” (Motel Poltava) and conference hall.
address: 4 km from the historical center of town, on the Kyiv-Kharkiv Highway that runs southwest of the city. Bus stop “Motel” on bus route #20.
Cash only.
Eating out

Elegant/Upscale:

Restaurant “Зефирь”(Zefir)
Address: вул.Жовтнева,24
Phone: (0532)612-696, 612-697
Clearly one of Poltava’s finest high class restaurants with European-style service and menu. Popular with locals who appreciate fine dining. Reservations recommended.

Палаццо (Palazzo), Hotel and Restaurant complex, Address: вул. Гоголя, 33 (Центр)
Phone: (0532)611-205, (0532)610-850, (0532)611-208
24-hour reception,
Open: 10:00 to 23:00
www.palazzo.com.ua
Poltava City Center within Pallazzo hotel complex. Full international menu (European and Japanese cuisine) accompanied by European service and atmosphere. Wide variety of imported wines.

Restaurant “Ретро”(Retro)
Address: вул.Комсомольська,30
Phone: (0532)563-180
Phone: Classy dining experience in the heart of Poltava’s City Center, across from the Local Library.
Great food and service.

Иванова гора (Ivanova Hora), ресторан
Address: вул.Соборная площадь, 2 (Центр)
Phone: (0532) 56-00-03, 56-47-17, 70-52-27
One of Poltava’s local “hot spots”. Popular with visiting artists and dignitaries. Beautiful panoramic view of the city from Ivan’s hill.

Casual Dining/Quick Eats:

Енеїда (Eneyida), cafe
Address: вул.Жовтнева, 29а (Центр)
Phone: 8(05322) 2-14-98
Open: 8 to 23
Bar, fast-food, pizzeria, pancakes and pastry shop. Friday and Saturday DJ disco starting at 21:00,

Ботанік (Botanik) cafe
Address: вул.Ленина, 2
Ukrainian style deli, quick food and popular with the locals, speed depends on the length of the line.
Note: The Tsum Department Store offers an affordable first-level cafeteria and the Konkord Shopping Center has a third-level foodcourt.

Pizza:

Obolon (Оболонь)
City Center (intersection of the pedestrian street and the Gold City underground shopping complex).

Chilentanos (Челентано)
Fresh tasting, Italian –style pizza, Chilentanos is the newest pizza addition to the City Center, located across from the back of the Gogol Theater on Lenina. A favorite amongst Ukrainians and ex-pats.

Street Pizza (Стрит Пицца)
Address: вул. Леніна, 7 (Центр)
Phone: (0532) 7-22-90
Open: 10 to 23
Authentic Italian pizza.

Chipollo (Чиполло)
Address: вул. Леніна, 16 (Центр)
Phone: (0532) 2-28-24
Open: 10 to 23
Pizza, salads, beer and cocktails, ice cream.

Traditional Ukrainian:

Dykanka (Диканька)
Address: вул. Грушевського, 26 (Мотель)
Phone: (0532) 633-555

Hotorok (Хуторок)
Address: вул.Ленина, 118
Phone: (0532) 57-07-53
Not far from the Pivdenna train station, Hotorok offers a full selection of Ukraine’s most famous

European and Mexican cuisine as well as Ukrainian home-cooking. Full bar selection. Comfortable atmosphere and professional personnel. Catering and meeting-rooms available.
Restaurants in Poltava:

Dishes, including Poltava's halushky dumplings. The atmosphere is Ukrainian folk style.

**Ethnic:**

- **Antalya (Антапия), Turkish**
  - Address: вул.Гоголя, 32 (Центр)
  - Phone: (0532) 509-906
  - Open: 11 to 23

- **Chinese Kitchen (Китайская кухня), Chinese**
  - Address: вул.Леніна, 7 (Центр)
  - Phone: (0532) 56-54-25
  - Open: 11 to 23

- **Mimino (Мимино), Georgian**
  - Address: вул. М.Бірюзова, 15 (Зигіна)
  - Phone: (0532) 7-50-12
  - Open: 12 to 23

**Bakery:**

- **Korovai Bakery (Коровай)**
  - Address: вул.Жовтнева, 20
  - Phone: (0532) 7-05-68
  - Best known for its pampushki make fresh several times daily.

**Coffee/Tea/Desserts:**

- **Coffee House (Дом кофе)**
  - Address: вул.Жовтнева, 32

- **Perfect Coffee**
  - Address: вул.Жовтнева, 50
  - Phone: 8(532)56-25-45
  - Open: 9 to 22
  - Classic décor, fine woodwork, classical music, fine desserts (full selection, not always available)

- **Blues (Блюз)**
  - Address: вул. Леніна, 16 (Центр)
  - Phone: (0532) 7-24-65
  - Open: 10 to 22
  - Pastries, teas, coffee and ice cream.

- **Cavalier (Кавалер)**
  - Address: вул.Гоголя, 19 (Центр)
  - Phone: (0532) 61-22-66
  - Open: 10 to 22
  - Visitors can relax in front of a fire listening to live music. Also possible to play in billiards. Cavalier is located in the City Center across Gogolya street directly opposite the Gogol theater. Facilities are available for banquets, celebrations and corporate evening-parties.

- **Tea Club (Чайный Клуб)**
  - Address: пр.Першотравневий 8/1
  - Phone: (0532) 69-17-51
  - Open: 8 to 22
  - Extensive selection of tea with accompaniments such as chocolate fondue.

**Restaurants offering breakfast:**

- Pallazzo and Gallery Hotels

**Restaurants in Poltava with English language menus:**

- Hotel Gallery, Hotel Palazzo, Dykanka, Hotorok (not far from Hotel Tourist), Restaurant in Furchet Grocery Store (first level of the Konkord Shopping Center), Mimino, Zefir, Retro

**Theaters/Concert Halls:**

- **Gogol Theater (Театр Гоголя)**
  - Address: corner of Gogolya and Zhovtneva street
  - Phone: 67279566
  - Box Office: located just inside and to the right as you enter the theater.
  - Performances that encompass international dance companies, musicals and dramas. The aged elegance of this theater is sure to charm.

- **Lystopad (Палац дозвілля “Листопад”)**
  - Address: вул.Жовтнева, 58
  - Phone: (0532) 7-50-19
  - Ticket office: 10 to 19
  - Concert and performance hall, international musical and dance performances.

- **Puppet Theater (Ляльковий театр)**
  - Regional puppet theatre, where are always little Poltavites and city visitors.

- **Split Casino/restaurant/dance club (казино “Спліт”)**
  - Address: вул.Гоголя, 22 (Центр)
  - Phone: (0532) 50-80-03
  - Open: 0-24
  - Cuisine: European
  - An elegant restaurant, nightclub and gaming complex located in the City Center. Perfect for business meetings.

**Ekvator shopping complex (Екватор)**

- Address: вул. Ковпака, 24
- Offers bowling alley and skating-rink

**Movie Theatres:**

- Kotlyarevs’ky Movie Theater (Кінотеатр)
**Kotlyarevsky (Котляревського)**
Address: вул. Жовтнева, 31
Phone: (5322)7-51-74
Screens: 1
Ticket cost: 10-15 hryvnyas
Bus stop: Corpusny Park
Web-site: www.cinemalife.poltava.ua
Located on the periphery of the round central park, it is in the white building between the Post Office and the city Administration.

**Konkord-Kino Movie Theater (Конкорд-кіно)**
Address: вул. Фрунзе, 60a
Phone: +380(5322)2-99-02
Screens: 3
Ticket cost: 15-20 hryvnyas
Bus stop: 27 shkola
Web-site: www.cinema.dp.ua/pl
Konkord-Kino is the best movie theater in Poltava. Situated in the shopping complex “Konkord” and famous for its good service and comfortable seating!

**Kolos Movie Theater (Колос)**
Address: вул. Гоголя, 22
Phone: (532) 56-55-94
Screens: 2
Bus stop: Corpusny Park
Web-site: www.kino.poltava.ua

**Dance Clubs:**

**Chestnut Alley (Каштанова Алея)**
Address: вул.Жовтнева, 58а
Located in the restaurant adjacent to the Lystopad theater.
Phone: 50-54-57, 56-21-12
Open: 12:00-2:00
Poltava’s most elite dance club. Dance the night away in this contemporary atmosphere after enjoying a European style dinner and service in this nightclubs restaurant. Cover charge.

**Show Hall (Шоу Хол)**
Address: вул.Гоголя, 22 (Центр), in the movie theater Kolos
Phone: (0532) 50-80-03
One of the most popular and elite Poltava clubs, located in an affluent area of Poltava. Comfortable dance hall, modern musical and light equipment, popular shows-programs, laser show and attentive wait-staff. Rich and varied choice of drinks (more than 150 varieties to choose from) from classic to exotic. Cover charge. Banquet Hall available.

**Eneyida**
Address: вул.Жовтнева, 29а (Центр)

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**Adjacent to Corpusny park (look for the glass dome) in the Gold-City (Злато місто) Complex**
Phone: (05322) 2-14-98
Open: 8 to 23
Two bars, Disco on Fridays and Saturdays from 11pm. The best DJs in Poltava. Furshet banquet. Corporate evening parties.

**Robin Hood**
Address: Ленина, 13 (Центр)
Phone: (0532) 705-44
Open: 12 to the last client

**Spider (Спайдер)**
Address: вул.Грушевского, 4 (Мotel)
Phone: (0532) 508-563
Open: 20 to 4
Frequented predominantly by University students. Themed events. Cover charge.

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**Shopping**

**Ukrainian Souvenir (Український Сувенір)**
Open: 10 to 20
Phone: (0532) 50-00-27
Address: Комсомольська, 19a
Located just one block north, off Zhovtneva Street

**Tsum (ЦУМ)**
Address: вул.Жовтнева, 28/13
Open: 9 to 20
Central department store located on the pedestrian section of Zhovtneva street. Carries a full assortment of goods. First floor deli. Western style toilets.

**Konkord (Konkord Shopping Complex)**
Address: вул.Фрунзе, 60a (Bus stop “27 Школа” on the #20 bus route)
Nightclub, movie theaters, food court, Furshet Gourmet Food Store.

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14 **Day trips from Poltava**

**Dykanka:** Visit the historic town of Nikolai Gogol’s story “An Evening in a Village Near Dykanka”. Every spring (beginning of May), when the lilacs are in full bloom, tourists flock to enjoy the lovely smells and walking paths of...
Dykanka’s famous 2-hectare lilac grove. Located 30km straight north of Poltava on the. Buses available from the Shevchenko bus station.

Downhill skiing in Stasi: If you have access to skis, despite an obvious lack of varied landscape, in a bit of an optical illusion, downhill skiing can be found in Staci, located just 15-20 minutes north of Poltava, 7 km south of Dykanka on the back side of the village on the natural boundary of Korchak where the land dips into a gully. The name of the operation is named Butovskogo. There is an intermediate hill with 2 lifts.

**Opishnya:** Ukraine’s pottery capital. Opishnya pottery is famous worldwide and there are a few old masters still living and working in Opishnya. There is a small worthwhile ceramics museum located here exhibiting the same Opishnya pottery also displayed in museums in Western Europe.

**Myrhorod:** One of Ukraine’s significant resort towns. Visit Mirhorod “the city of peace” and participate in its many spa treatments and enjoy its fine restaurants.

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- Technological University
- Pedagogical University
- Institute of Economics and Law
- School #29
- Office of the Deputy Mayor
- Poltava Department of Tourism & Leisure
- Poltava committee on Tourism Development

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