

# Belarus, Ukraine & Moldova

AN IN-DEPTH STUDY OF THREE UNSUNG COUNTRIES

## SMALL GROUP TOUR



### 16 Days

2 departures in 2010  
May 16-31 • August 15-30

#### Land Tour Cost

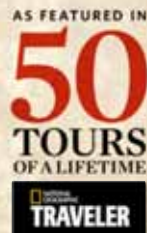
5-16 travelers \$7,195\*\*  
Single Supplement \$1,395

\*\*Land tour cost includes internal flight costs which are subject to change; see the Descriptive Daily Itinerary for details.

**Stay a little longer...** Combine with Kaliningrad & the Baltics, page 66, or visit the Trans-Dniester region as a post-tour.

#### MIR Signature Features

- Enter Chekhov's circle of friends at his house museum in Yalta
- Explore the partisan caves in Odessa
- Taste the deep red wines of Moldova



*Kiev's Caves Monastery, Pecherskaya Lavra*

Traverse a little-known region that has changed hands from its earliest history. Belarus, Ukraine and Moldova are three of the least-frequented and least familiar countries in Europe. Time slowed drastically here after the devastation of World War II, but these beautiful countries are emerging from the shadows.



*Ukrainian folk costume*

**Days 1-3: Minsk, Brest** Begin in Minsk, capital of Belarus. Nearly half of Minsk's population perished during World War II, and the post-war recovery process emphasized Stalinist apartment blocks and factories. In Brest, admire the massive stone Brest Fortress, built by Czar Nicholas I in the mid-1800s and nominated to the UNESCO World Heritage List in 2004. Belarus today is a fascinating glimpse into the socialist past.

**Days 4-5: Lviv** Crossing the Ukrainian border, arrive in Lviv, founded in the 13th century. Wander its UNESCO-listed Old Town Square, surrounded by 16th-18th century merchant dwellings.

**Days 6-7: Simferopol, Yalta** On the sunny Black Sea coast, visit Yalta, the lush Crimean resort where luminaries like Pushkin and Chekhov summered. At the seaside Livadia Palace, trace the steps of Churchill, Roosevelt and Stalin, who decided the fate of post-war Europe here.

**Days 8-11: Kiev** Fly over the rich farmland once known as the "breadbasket of the Soviet Union" to the capital, Kiev. Visit some of Ukraine's most important sites, including St. Sophia Cathedral and the Caves Monastery. Stroll and shop on the cobbled descent down Andreevsky Street, filled with galleries, shops, cafes and artists' studios.

**Days 12-13: Odessa** Drop in to Odessa, renowned international seaport for hundreds of years, and climb its famous and much-filmed Potemkin Steps.

**Days 14-16: Chisinau** Next is Chisinau, capital of Moldova, still struggling to position itself in the post-Soviet world. Explore its ancient monasteries and small villages and sample its deep red wines.

Embark on an optional post-tour day trip to the Trans-Dniester region, a narrow strip of land bordering Ukraine where separatists have declared a disputed independence.

