Cruise the Dnieper River and the Black Sea from Kiev to the Danube Delta

BUCHAREST • ODESSA • YALTA • KIEV

Sponsored by
Sweet Briar College Alumnae Association
and Virginia Museum of Fine Arts Foundation

JULY 2-15, 2008

Book by December 4, 2007
and save $400 per couple!

800-381-6131
www.alumnae.sbc.edu
Dear Sweet Briar Alumnae and Friends,

We invite you to travel with us to Romania and into the heart of Ukraine. Cruise across the storied Black Sea and along the magnificent Dnieper River aboard the MS Dnieper Princess. Join a group of like-minded people and see the indelible impressions that the historic events of the 20th century have left on Ukraine. Explore beautiful Bucharest, home to an impressive architectural assemblage. Sweet Briar alumnae and VMFA members are invited as guests of the Ambassador and Mrs. Nicholas F. Taubman to celebrate the Fourth of July at the Embassy of the United States in Bucharest. Jenny Taubman has served as a trustee of VMFA and the Art Museum of Western Virginia. Next, experience the natural wonder of the Danube Delta. In Odessa, enjoy a musical performance and some Ukrainian sparkling wine. Visit traditional fishing villages in the Dnieper Delta and experience famous Crimean resort towns. Conclude your journey in Kiev, one of Europe’s great capital cities.

This unique itinerary includes preferred access to popular attractions and specially arranged cultural experiences. You’ll be treated to perks not available to the independent traveler. An exclusive educational program has been expertly researched to enhance your understanding and deepen your appreciation of Ukrainian life. Your private excursions will be led by expert professional guides and you’ll enjoy the ideal balance of planned events and free time. Your cruise ship features friendly, attentive service and local cuisine, and you’ll find it an ideal way to travel yet stay settled at the same time.

This program promises an unforgettable experience at an unbeatable value! So, hurry! Space is limited for your ultimate comfort. Make your reservations today! For further information, please don’t hesitate to contact our travel coordinator in the Alumnae Office, Melissa Coffey ’98 (Tel: (800) 381-6131; fax: (434) 381-6132; e-mail: mcoffey@sbc.edu)

Sincerely,

Louise Swiecki Zingaro ’80
Executive Director of Alumnae Affairs
Sweet Briar College

800-381-6131   www.alumnae.sbc.edu

“The conviction of our Ukrainian nation is embedded in the pages of its history.”
Viktor Yushchenko, president of Ukraine, b. 1954

“I have not felt so much at home for a long time as I did when I ‘raised the hill’ and stood in Odessa for the first time.”
Mark Twain, American author, The Innocents Abroad: or, The New Pilgrims’ Progress, 1869

“This is a small country, a new country, but it is a country I love. ... Let me paint a few pictures, draw a few sketches as I have seen them, first with my eyes, then with my heart.”
Queen Marie of Romania, My Country, 1916
Steeped in tradition and history but driven by a vibrant modern spirit, Ukraine is rapidly forging a new identity within today's Europe. This venerable country is rich in monuments, churches and museums, but is also infused with a new energy as its economy expands, spreading the excitement of change. Cruise the Dnieper River through the heart of Ukraine aboard the MS Dnieper Princess as you admire cultural cities and beautiful countryside. Explore the magnificent capital of Kiev, learn about Cossack history in Zaporizhia, journey to Crimea, enjoy Odessa on the Black Sea and experience Bucharest in neighboring Romania. Second in size of all European countries only to Russia, Ukraine is located at the crossroads of Europe and Asia. Discover the storied heritage of this fascinating land!

EXCLUSIVE HIGHLIGHTS

- Admire stunning architecture in the Romanian capital of Bucharest.
- Explore the wonders of Ukraine aboard the exclusively chartered MS Dnieper Princess.
- Attend a performance at the Odessa Opera and Ballet Theater.
- In Crimea, discover seaside Sevastopol; Bakhchisarai, the city that inspired poet Alexander Pushkin; and the regal Black Sea resort of Yalta.
- Visit the small fishing villages of the Dnieper Delta.
- See a Cossack horse show and learn about Cossack culture in Zaporizhia.
- Explore Kiev and the fascinating Caves Monastery.
- Remember the victims of the World War II Babi Yar massacre during a visit to two memorials.
- Enjoy a customized educational program featuring local experts and historians.
**UNESCO**

This program features the UNESCO World Heritage site of St. Sophia Cathedral and Related Monastic Buildings, Kiev-Pechersk Lavra. World Heritage sites are designated based on universal scenic, historic, artistic or scientific value.

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**KIEV**

An amazing city of 3 million people, Kiev is the capital of Ukraine, which proclaimed its independence from the former Soviet Union in 1991. It is the hub of the country's cultural and political life. Despite suffering major damage during World War II, Kiev has preserved many of its architectural treasures. The city is home to a splendid collection of historic churches, including St. Sophia Cathedral, where the princes of Kiev were crowned; the Ukrainian Baroque church of St. Andrew in the Old Town; and the magnificent 19th-century Cathedral of St. Volodymyr. Kiev also has several memorials to honor the 34,000 Jewish victims of the September 1941 Babi Yar massacre.

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**CAVES MONASTERY**

Founded by St. Anthony of the Caves in the 11th century, this monastery built into hillside caverns was long supported by Kievan princes and nobles. Many folk tales and legends eventually arose about the miraculous construction of the main church. The monks translated and illuminated manuscripts and fashioned icons, mosaics and frescoes. In 1615, Kiev’s first printing press was established in this subterranean labyrinth. The caves shelter the mummified relics of many Ukrainian Orthodox monks and saints.

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**NOTE:**

The sequence of the destinations listed may not reflect that of your program. For specific information regarding your itinerary, please refer to the “Included Features” and “Itinerary” in this brochure.

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**On Nov. 23, 2004, nearly a million Ukrainian citizens turned Kiev’s Independence Square and its narrow brick streets into a sea of orange flags and ribbons.**

“*No!*” they shouted. “*We don’t want the government of Russian-speaking Victor Yanukovich! We want Viktor Yushchenko and democracy!*” The Orange Revolution was led by demonstrators who took to the streets to say, “*We want to be free and civilized, we want to be a part of Europe and the World.*” Two days later, the protesters vowed to stay camped in the square until reports of election fraud were examined. Overnight temperatures dropped below freezing. Yet, the climate inside the tent city in the heart of Kiev was warm. Mountains of clothes had been donated by Kievans, along with plenty of food, hot coffee and tea. Crowds vowed to disperse only when Yanukovich stepped down and a fair presidential election was held. After four days, the Ukrainian
Supreme Court nullified the election result until it could consider claims that the vote was rigged. On the fifth day, the Parliament declared the result invalid. By Dec. 23, the Supreme Court ordered a new election, and eventually, the outcome gleaned the peoples’ choice of Viktor Yushchenko. The Orange Revolution—the largest peaceful uprising in history—was accomplished with no violence and not a single shot fired, and the full transfer of power took less than three months.

ZAPORIZZHIA

Set in southern Ukraine, Zaporizhia is the historic homeland of the Cossacks. These fierce warriors gained infamy in the late 15th century by defending their country against the Crimean Tatars. Neither the Polish nor Turkish rulers were able to subjugate the Cossacks. In 1775, on orders from Empress Catherine II, the Russian army eventually conquered the Zaporizhian state, and the region was divided and distributed among Russian and Ukrainian landowners. To date, enduring legends of the fearless Cossack horsemen charging across the steppes remain a vibrant facet of the Ukrainian spirit and cultural identity.

KHerson & DnIEPER DELTA

The city of Kherson is located in the Dnieper River Delta. This fertile area is replete with gardens, vineyards and watermelon plantations, as well as steppes and a diverse array of wildlife. Small fishing villages dot the shoreline and perpetuate the region’s time-honored tradition of charming hospitality. Many still adhere to the old Ukrainian custom of greeting visitors with a song, a slice of bread and salt.

SEVASTOPOL

The naval fortress of Sevastopol is Ukraine’s largest fishing and commercial port. As home base to the esteemed Black Sea Fleet, it was charged with guarding Russia’s southern border during the Soviet era. With more than 1,800 monuments and memorials, the city is a veritable outdoor museum. Sevastopol’s favorable climate and ideal location just across from Yalta on the Crimean Peninsula have made it one of Eastern Europe’s most preferred tourist locales.

BAKHCHISARAI

The name Bakhchisarai translates to “Garden Palace.” Dating back to the early 16th century, the city was once the cultural capital of the Crimean Tatars. Now, it is known as the inspiration for The Fountain of Bakhchisarai, a poignant poem by Alexander Pushkin, founder of modern Russian literature. The well-preserved Old Town district, with its narrow winding streets, recalls an eventful medieval past. Khan’s Palace, an elegant 16th-century complex accentuated by slender minarets, represents Ukraine’s pinnacle of Crimean Tatar architecture.
Yalta

Located on the site of an ancient Greek colony, Yalta is nestled between forested mountains and the Black Sea. Yalta’s temperate climate nurtures a wealth of orchards and vineyards. The Russian elite favored this Crimean city as a holiday resort. Yalta also was the summer residence for many Russian and Soviet leaders, including the Romanov family and Joseph Stalin. In 1945, Franklin D. Roosevelt, Winston Churchill and Stalin met here to discuss the future of Europe and the post-war world.

Odessa

Empress Catherine II founded the Black Sea port of Odessa in 1794 to serve as a naval fortress and bolster the country’s southern border. In 1905, it was the site of a workers’ uprising supported by the crew of the Russian battleship Potemkin. This event was reenacted on the cascading Potemkin Steps in the famous film, Battleship Potemkin, and became one of cinema’s most famous scenes. The Soviet army, which liberated Odessa in 1944 after the city had suffered severe destruction, proclaimed it the Hero City. Today, Odessa is one of Ukraine’s most beloved cities.

Tulcea

Founded in the eighth century and incorporated into the Ottoman Empire in 1416, Tulcea, Romania, is set in the heart of the Danube Delta.

Bucharest

Romanians say that this city was named for its founder, a shepherd named Bucur, which means “joyful.” However, the city gained prominence when brutal Prince Vlad Tepes (aka Dracula) held court here in the mid-15th century. Despite the prince’s dark reputation, Bucharest developed into a beautiful city with tree-lined boulevards, French-influenced façades, Orthodox churches and numerous parks. The city’s architectural heritage is represented among 5,000 official historic buildings. The Palace of the Parliament—formerly President Ceausescu’s massive U.S. $10 billion Peoples’ House—is one of the largest buildings in the world. From the top of the Arch of Triumph, dedicated to Romanian soldiers who fought in World War I, take in a panoramic view of Bucharest. The city has many art galleries and museums; one of the most impressive museums, the National Museum of Art, is housed in the former Royal Palace.
 INCLUDED FEATURES

Accommodations
• Two nights in Bucharest, Romania, at the deluxe Athoniee Palace Hilton Bucharest.
• Eleven days, 10 nights aboard the exclusively chartered MS Dnieper Princess.

Meals
• An extensive meal program, including 12 breakfasts, 10 lunches and 11 dinners, plus appropriate in-flight meal service. Enjoy tea or coffee with all meals and wine with dinner.
• Special Welcome Reception aboard the MS Dnieper Princess.
• A special Farewell Reception, Dinner and folkloric show in Bucharest.

Your Exciting Travel Program:
(For full details please refer to the day-by-day itinerary.)
• Informative educational programs, presented by local experts, will enhance your insight into the region.
• All excursions:
  - Admire the stunning architectural diversity in Bucharest, including the Palace of the Parliament.
  - Experience living history in Odessa.
  - Travel the scenic route to Bakhchisarai.
  - Sail from Kherson to a traditional fishing village in the Dnieper River Delta.
  - Tour Zaporizhia and the Cossack Glory Museum, and attend an equestrian show.
  - See the Museum of Ukrainian Folk Architecture, Rural Life and Folk Art.
  - Explore Kiev and the Caves Monastery.
  - Experience the moving monuments at Babi Yar.
• Special Cultural Events:
  - Enjoy musical performances by the Ukrainian National Choir and the Black Sea Naval Fleet Ensemble. Attend a performance at the renowned Odessa Opera and Ballet Theater.

Many Included Extras
• Consultation services of a Passenger Service Representative prior to departure.
• Services of a professional Campus Director and expert English-speaking local guides throughout your stay.
• Detailed travel and destination information to assist you in your planning.
• Deluxe travel wallet.

The Dnieper River
Originating in Russia, the Dnieper flows 1,420 miles, including a course of 680 miles through Ukraine before emptying into the Black Sea. The Dnieper is the largest river in Ukraine and the third-largest river in Europe. In the fifth century B.C., Greek historian Herodotus praised this river, which he called the Borysthenes, in The Histories. "... [I]n my judgment, it is the most productive river, not merely in Scythia, but in the whole world, excepting only the Nile... . It has upon its banks the loveliest and most excellent pasturages for cattle; it contains abundance of the most delicious fish; its water is most pleasant to the taste... ." An important trade route in the Middle Ages, the Dnieper River still is an important route for both commercial shipping and passenger cruises. Several dams also are situated along the river and are a significant source of Ukraine’s electricity.
All AHI River Cruises feature:

- **First-class river cruise ships** providing all outward-facing accommodations; friendly, personalized service; and exclusively designed sailing itineraries.
- **Pleasant dining aboard ship** featuring one seating, local wines and expertly prepared specialties of the region.
- **Expert local guides** leading thoughtfully designed excursions to enrich your experience of the area.
- **A comprehensive, illustrated guide book** created exclusively for your program and describing the storied culture and history of the towns, villages and sites.
- **Speaker's Corner program** showcasing local lecturers who share their insights with you for a unique, in-depth learning experience.

MS Dnieper Princess

Unpack only once aboard the **MS Dnieper Princess**, your home throughout the entire cruise portion of your journey. Fully renovated in 2002, the ship is outfitted with the latest international safety and navigational equipment. Embark on a comfortable and relaxing exploration of Ukraine and the Dnieper River. Enjoy two restaurants that serve traditional Ukrainian dishes and international cuisine, two lounges and a beauty salon. Onboard entertainment options include Ukrainian language lessons and lectures on regional history, traditions and culture presented by local experts.

ATHENEE PALACE HILTON BUCHAREST

The deluxe Athenee Palace Hilton Bucharest is in the heart of the city. Enjoy Romanian and international cuisine in its five restaurants, relax in the pool or work out in the fitness center. Guest rooms feature satellite television, wireless Internet access, marble bathroom, hair dryer, terry robes, minibar, air conditioning and many other amenities.
Day One
Depart your gateway city for Bucharest, Romania, aboard Lufthansa or similar carrier. (Provided for Air Package participants only.)

Day Two
Upon arrival in Bucharest, transfer by motorcoach to the Athenee Palace Hilton Bucharest. (Transfer provided for Air Package participants only.) Gather for a Welcome Reception at the hotel.

Day Three
Excursion: Bucharest. A panoramic tour of Bucharest showcases the city's many romantic squares and eclectic mix of architectural styles. Visit the Palace of the Parliament, the world's second-largest office building.

Special Feature: Celebrate July Fourth by special invitation at the U.S. Embassy. Hosted by Ambassador and Mrs. Nicholas F. Taubman.

Tonight, enjoy dinner and a folkloric show.

Day Four
Transfer to Tulcea, Romania, where you will embark the MS Dnieper Princess. This evening, attend a festive Captain's Welcome Reception and Dinner aboard the ship.

Day Five
Educational Focus: Ukrainian History. Trace Ukraine's fascinating history from the 10th-century state of Kiev Rus to its interactions with the Mongols, the Cossacks, Poland, Austria and Russia.

Excursion: Odessa. Visit the historic sites of Odessa. See the grand Potemkin Steps and Shevchenko Park, overlooking the Black Sea. The park's monuments honor many, including fallen soldiers and sailors lost at sea.

Attend a performance of ballet or opera at the Odessa Opera and Ballet Theater.

Day Six
Independent Exploration: The morning is at leisure in Odessa to pursue individual interests. This afternoon, the ship departs for Sevastopol.

Educational Focus: Impact of Crimea. Learn about Crimea's role in world history.

Day Seven
Excursion: Yalta. Visit the Crimean resort town of Yalta. See Livadia Palace, the former summer residence of Russia's Romanov family and stately setting for the 1945 Yalta Conference.

Attend a concert by the Black Sea Naval Fleet Ensemble.

Day Eight
Excursion: Bakhchisarai and Northern Crimea. After touring Sevastopol, travel to Bakhchisarai. Its palace was the seat of the Giray Dynasty of the Crimean Khanate.

Day Nine
Excursion: The Dnieper River Delta. Explore Kherson in the Tavria region. Travel on a smaller boat to the delta. Visit a traditional fishing village and meet local residents in their homes.

Day Ten
Educational Focus: A Century of Change. Ukraine experienced polarizing changes during the 20th century. Learn about the Soviet seizure of Kiev, Ukraine's incorporation into the USSR, the famine of 1932-33 and independence received in 1991.

Educational Focus and Excursion: The Cossacks. In Zaporizhia, learn the story of the Cossacks, warrior horsemen who once dominated Ukraine. Visit the Cossack Glory Museum and attend an exciting Cossack horsemanship show.

Day Eleven
Educational Focus: Ukrainian Culture. Celebrate Ukrainian music and traditions with onboard music and dance performances. Enjoy menus featuring local specialties.

Day Twelve
Educational Focus: Contemporary Ukraine and the Orange Revolution. Discuss the evolution of present-day Ukraine and the extraordinary political movement, dubbed the Orange Revolution, that elevated Viktor Yushchenko to the presidency.

Excursion: Kiev. A panoramic city tour begins atop Vladimir Hill, where Prince Vladimir supervised the baptizing of all Kievans after establishing Christianity as the state religion of Kiev Rus in 988.

Excursion: Pirogovo. See authentic regional houses in the open-air Museum of Ukrainian Folk Architecture, Rural Life and Folk Art. This evening, enjoy a private performance of the Ukrainian National Choir.

Day Thirteen
Excursion: Caves Monastery. Explore the vast complex of caves and tunnels overlooking the Dnieper River Valley.

Excursion: Babi Yar. Visit a memorial to the Jewish victims of the September 1941 massacre. Also stop at the memorial honoring the Soviet victims of Nazi-occupied Kiev.

Gather for a folkloric show onboard, followed by a Farewell Reception and Dinner.

Day Fourteen
Transfer by motorcoach to the airport for the return flight to your gateway city. (Transfer and flight provided for Air Package participants only.)

NOTE: Itinerary is subject to change due to local conditions. Many excursions involve an element of walking as some of the finest attractions are not closely accessible by motorcoach.
Special Alumnae Prices

**LAND-ONLY PROGRAM**
*July 3-15, 2008*

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<th>After 12/04/07</th>
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VAT is an additional $115 per person.

*Prices quoted are per person, based on double occupancy (unless otherwise stated). A limited number of single accommodation cabins are available at $2,895. Port charges are included (when applicable).*

**AIRFARE PROGRAM**
*July 2-15, 2008*

For your convenience, AHI offers a flexible Air Package which features special airfares available only for purchase in conjunction with the Land-Only Program. Please call if you prefer a departure city not shown:

- Atlanta, GA $1,799
- Boston, MA $1,549
- Charlotte, NC $1,619
- Chicago, IL $1,789
- Dallas, TX $1,799
- Denver, CO $1,779
- Detroit, MI $1,729
- Houston, TX $1,699
- Los Angeles, CA $1,899
- Newark, NJ $1,449
- New York, NY $1,449
- Portland, OR $1,899
- San Francisco, CA $1,819
- Seattle, WA $1,829
- Washington, DC $1,759

We have also negotiated low add-on fares from many home cities to connect to your preferred departure city. We would be happy to quote the additional cost and book connecting flights for you. Our reservation form provides space for you to indicate your preferred departure city, and your home city for connecting flights, if needed.

**Air Package includes:**
- Scheduled jet service from North America to Bucharest, Romania, with a return from Kiev, Ukraine
- Domestic and foreign governmental airport/departure taxes and fees
- All fuel surcharges, taxes and security fees—no additional charges
- Motorcoach transfers between the airports, ship and hotel, including baggage handling at the piers
- Automatic $250,000 Flight Insurance for all passengers ticketed by AHI International, subject to policy terms

**NOTE:** AHI Travel reserves the right to select the air carrier and routing. Airfares are based on capacity-controlled contract, promotional or group fares. Airfares are guaranteed as long as the class of service inventory is available at the time of booking. Airline tickets issued by AHI may carry restrictive terms and conditions. Because of these restrictions, passengers may find that air tickets cannot be reissued/revalidated, exchanged for another carrier or routing, or upgraded in exchange for accrued frequent flyer mileage.
Reserve your Ukraine & Romania trip today!

Trip #:4-18197
For Office Use Only: B #: ______________________ Date: ______________________

Send to: ACA Ukraine & Romania
Sweet Briar College Alumnae Association
Box E
Sweet Briar, Va 24595
Phone: (434) 381-6131
Toll Free: (800) 381-6131

Please contact Melissa Coffey at (800) 381-6131 or Alumni Holidays® at (800) 323-7373 with questions regarding this tour.

Legal Name (as it appears on passport)

(1)

(2)

Title First Middle Last Class Year

Title First Middle Last Class Year

Street Address ____________________________________________________________

City _________________________________________________________________

State______________________________________ ZIP ______________

Home: (______) _____________ Office: (______) _____________

Phone:

E-mail: Yes, please e-mail me information about special travel opportunities.

Sharing with ___________________________ (Form sent separately)

Name(s) you would like on your name badge(s):

(1)

(2)

Enclosed is a deposit of ________ ($600 per person required)
to reserve ________ place(s).

Accept my check made payable to AHI International.

Charge my deposit to: □ MasterCard □ Visa

Card #: ____________________________ Exp: ________ / ________

(Signature as it appears on credit card)

I/we authorize you to make my/our reservations as follows:

Land only

Preferred departure city:

Request air from my/our home city of:____________________________

to connect with the flight listed above.

Cabin category desired: 1st choice_____________ 2nd choice__________

Request air in my/our home city of; to connect with the flight listed above.

Cabin category desired: 1st choice_____________ 2nd choice__________

I prefer single accommodations at an additional $995 (limited availability).

I request assistance in securing a roommate but will accept a single, if

one is available at this time, and pay the single supplement. Should a

roommate be found, I understand the supplement will no longer apply.

Reservations are subject to availability and processed on a first come, first

served basis. Reservations to be paid in full by April 18, 2008 (75 days prior
to departure). Reservations received after this date must be accompanied

by full payment. Final payment may be made by personal check,

MasterCard or Visa. Make checks payable to AHI International.

Need pre- or post-trip assistance?

If you are interested in making independent travel arrangements before and/or after

this program, please contact AHI International at 800-323-7373 no later than 60

days prior to departure and they will be happy to assist you with your reservations.

*Non-refundable service fee and additional air/land charges based on reservations apply.

California Seller of Travel Reg. No. 202827-70
Fta. St. Reg. No. S-50696, Iowa St. Reg. No. 530,
Nevada St. Reg. No. 2003-0257, Ohio St. Reg. No. 8889139,
Participating Airlines-All IATA and ARC member carriers.

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A W ORD ABOUT 
YOUR TOUR OPERATOR

Alumni Holidays® is the premier operator of deluxe travel programs sponsored by alumni associations. Their experienced, professional staff has offered the highest level of service in innovative travel programs since 1962.

In Alumni Holidays’ care, you can rely on:

• An exceptional travel value. It would be impossible for an independent traveler to arrange all these unique experiences, inclusions and services at a comparable price.

• Flexibility and customization. They will help you tailor your dream trip with add-ons and extensions, while free time during the trip allows you to pursue your own interests.

• Unique access to local sites. Take advantage of their 45 years of travel experience to gain preferred entrance to popular sites and to uncover the region’s hidden treasures.

• Safety and security. In a country where you might not know the language or culture, their professional staff is on hand to ease your way and get you any help you need.

• Full endorsement by USTOA. This professional association safeguards consumers’ deposits and payments with a $1 Million Traveler’s Assistance Program.