

10 Facts you should know about the Ukraine

- 1) Ukraine is called ''**The bread basket of Europe**'' .The country's fertile (fruchtbar/fertile) black soil (Boden/suolo=terra) was responsible for producing more than a quarter of the Soviet Union's grain, vegetables, milk and meat.
- 2) **Russians** are the second largest ethnic group in the Ukraine.
- 3) The currency (bank notes and coins) are called **hryvnya**. In medieval times this was the currency used by **Kievan Rus**, the kingdom that is considered to be the birthplace of modern Russia. It has been the currency of modern Ukraine since September 1996
- 4) Ukraine's **Chornobyl power plant** became the site of one of the world's worst nuclear disasters when a reactor exploded there in 1986. To limit the impact of the catastrophe, a special "exclusion zone" of 30 kilometers has been in place around the plant ever since.
- 5) Ukraine has a great amount of **iron** and other minerals for the production of metal.
- 6) A famous traditional song is "**Oi Khodyt Son Kolo Vikon**" ("A Dream Passes by the Windows").
- 7) **Kyiv's Arsenalaya subway station** is the deepest subway station (105.5 meters) in the world.
- 8) Ukrainians are extremely **superstitious** (abergläubisch/superstiziosi). If you do something that they believe can be bad for you such as sitting on stone steps, someone will tell you that you should not do it.
- 9) Ukrainians are extremely **generous** and **hospitable**. All social occasions include food. Visitors are always offered something to eat as well as a beverage. It is considered the height of rudeness to eat in front of another person and not offer them something.
- 10) The typical greeting is a warm, firm handshake, maintaining direct eye contact, and repeating your name.