

AN **ESSENTIAL FILM GROUP** COMPANY

SARKE STUDIO



PRODUCTION BOOK

UKRAINE



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SARKE STUDIO

A part of ESSENTIAL FILM GROUP, Sarke Studio is an international film production company operating for over two decades, developing, financing, producing, and providing production services globally.

Our portfolio includes over 30 international features, series, shorts, 800+ commercials, and music videos with various budget scales spreading over 10 territories such as the US, UK, China, India and Australia.

Our international team of experienced film producers, financiers, line producers, production managers, and director assistants, is ready to turn your ideas into stunning visual content with a strong global appeal.

From the majestic Caucasus Mountains and the splendid oil shelves of the Caspian Sea to the boundless plains of Ukraine lies an unexploited world of vast opportunities combined into one unique film set, we call - **The Playground**.

WHY UKRAINE

Ukraine is the largest country right in the center of Europe. Boundless plains, architectural diversity, more than 27,000,000 acres of forests, 71,000 rivers, 20,000 lakes, 15,000 miles of railways with unique carriages, 30,000 churches and parishes, 5,000 historic castles, monasteries, palaces, mosques and synagogues, 300 miles of beaches and resorts, and the only sandy desert in Europe, all combined with wide infrastructure, cost-effective shooting facilities and equipment, experienced English-speaking crews, liberal legislation and latest Cash Rebate incentives, create a professional and unique production marketplace offering flexible and cost-effective conditions for the filmmakers globally.

FACTS AND FIGURES

CAPITAL: Kyiv

AREA: 600,000 sq. kilometers (231,660 sq. miles)

POPULATION: 42 000 000

OFFICIAL LANGUAGE: Ukrainian

CURRENCY: Hryvna (UAH)

GDP: USD 130 Billion

ASSOCIATION AGREEMENT with the EU

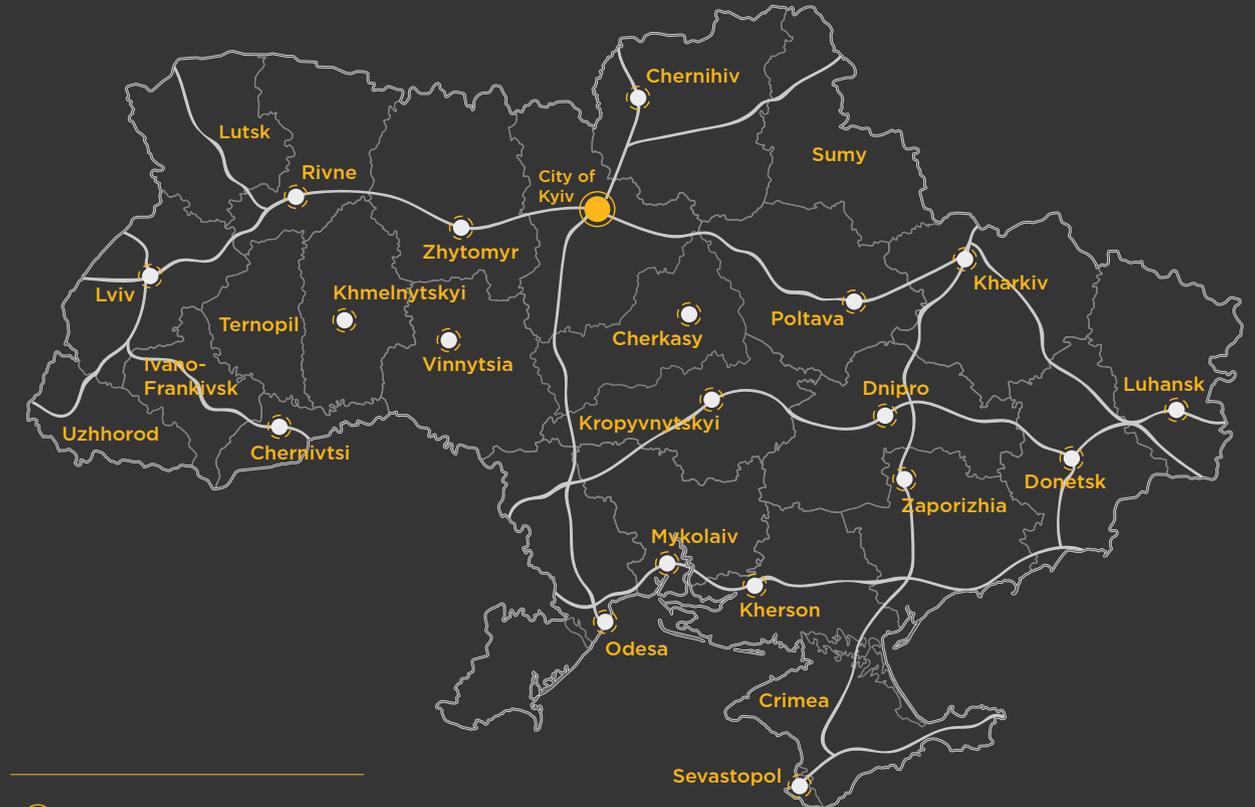
VISA-FREE travel to EU Countries

CLIMATE:

- Summer average temperature: 25/15 (°C) or 77/59 (°F) High/Low
- Winter average temperature: 0/-5 (°C) or 32/23 (°F) High/Low

DAYLIGHT:

- Summer average daylight: 15h
- Winter average daylight: 9h



- - National Capital
- - Regional Center
- - Main Road
- - International Boundary
- - Regions

FILM INCENTIVE

**25%+5% Cash Rebate for qualified costs in Ukraine.
4.5% and 10% for the foreign talent fees paid in Ukraine.**

What are the qualified costs?

Qualified costs mean the expenditures of the film production in Ukraine including salaries, fees, works, services, etc. but excluding negotiation costs, amortization, interest on loans, travel expenses abroad, and other expenses which are not directly related to the net cost of the film. The cash rebate payment is carried out by the Ukrainian State Film Agency through an Ukrainian producer.

All cash rebate procedures, as well as all other relations and communication with the State authorities should be handled through an Ukrainian production company having contractual relationships with a beneficiary foreign entity.

Cash rebate is applicable for the following audiovisual works:

<i>Productions Eligible For Cash Rebate</i>	<i>Min Local Spend</i>	<i>Min Duration</i>
<i>Full-length feature, animated feature</i>	\$321,000	74min
<i>TV film</i>	\$90,000	74min
<i>TV (animation) series</i>	\$270,000	40min
<i>Documentary films</i>	\$56,000	52min
<i>Advertising and music videos</i>	\$154,000	20sec

Provided amounts are for reference only, all the limits are set in local currency.

The amount of eligible qualified costs per category is subject to change due to the currency exchange rate fluctuations and changes of the minimum official salary rate in Ukraine, on which the calculations are based on.

The producer may apply for a cash rebate within a year from completion of film production.

It can take USFA up to 60 days from the cash rebate application to the moment of payment of the relevant funds onto the Ukrainian production company bank account. Further, the funds must be transferred to the beneficiary foreign entity.

Any audiovisual work must also pass the Cultural Test, which consists of the production and creative criteria. The cultural criteria has a maximum of 16 points while the production criteria has a maximum of 26 points. To pass the test, a projects has to collect at least 2 points based on cultural criteria and 18 points based on production criteria.

It will take up to 40 days for the USFA's Council to consider the application and make a relevant decision on whether or not the cultural test is passed by a film project.

Rebate eligibility is subject of completion and release of the content produced.

FILM INSTITUTIONS

INDUSTRY

Ukraine is a professional production marketplace that can offer liberal legislation, low prices, variety of locations – all of this creating beneficial conditions for the foreign filmmakers in Ukraine.

INSTITUTIONS

UKRAINIAN STATE FILM AGENCY
10 Lavrska Street, Kyiv, Ukraine 01010
+38 044 280 27 18
info@dergkino.gov.ua
dergkino.gov.ua

Ukrainian State Film Agency (USFA) is a central executive body of the government to implement the state policy on cinematography including film production, distribution and promotion of Ukrainian cinema domestically and abroad. It is guided by the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine through the Ministry of Culture.

The USFA serves as an administrative arm of the state financial support system with the funds provided from the State Budget of Ukraine, and is governed by the existing legislation including the Law of Ukraine “On State Support to Cinematography in Ukraine” adopted in 2017, as well as the European Convention on Cinematographic Co-Production, and Film Co-Production Treaties concluded between Ukraine and other countries.

Annually, the USFA organizes the two-level (application and pitch) competition for the film projects, national and co-production (incl. minority scheme).

UKRAINIAN CULTURAL FOUNDATION
10-12 Lavrska Street, Kyiv, Ukraine 01010
+38 044 504 22 66
info@ucf.in.ua
ucf.in.ua

The Ukrainian Cultural Foundation (UFC) is a state-owned institution with the aim to facilitate the development of culture and arts in Ukraine, to provide a favorable environment for the development of the intellectual and spiritual potential of individuals and society, for wide access by the citizens to national cultural heritage, and to support cultural diversity and integration of the Ukrainian culture into the world.

MINISTRY OF CULTURE OF UKRAINE
19 Ivan Franko Str. Kyiv, Ukraine, 01601
+38 044 235-23-78
info@mincult.gov.ua

The Ministry of Culture aims to promote Ukrainian film production services and provides an opportunity for any international production team to get proper help from the film commissions network in Ukraine.

Ukraine is a full-fledged member of EURIMAGES.

TREATIES

- Cinematographic Co-production Agreement between the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine and the Government of the French Republic (adopted in Ukraine in 2012)
- Agreement on film co-production and cooperation between the Government of the State of Israel and the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine (adopted in Ukraine in 2017)

The USFA works on signing similar treaties with the governments of Canada, China, India and Argentina. The Council of Europe's revised Convention on Cinematographic Co-Production, which entered into force in 2017, is also under consideration for ratification in Ukraine.

INDUSTRY RESOURCES

- Highly qualified staff with experience in immense projects.
- Oscar-awarded company Filmotechnic is based in Kyiv.
- Biggest rental houses in Europe work 24/7. There is a high level of other equipment and special transport available.
- Our experienced costume designers and supervisors, artists, cutting and sewing experts, craftsmen of embroidery, leather, props and amours, makers of footwear and headwear, clothes aging and texturing workshop specialists are the best in their fields.
- More than 200 English-speaking crews.
- Incredible team of professional stuntmen, with a rich portfolio of an international coproductions.
- Ukrainian Film engineer and inventor Anatoly Kokush was awarded two Oscars in 2006, for "the concept and development of the Russian-Arm gyrostabilized camera crane & the flight head", and "the concept and development of the cascade series of motion picture cranes".

Ukrainian film crews are not unionized, but well organized, flexible, and have a strong, diligent work ethic. The industry is very creative and budget-conscious. A workday is usually 12 hours, with overtime calculated proportionally and minimum turnaround is 12 hours.

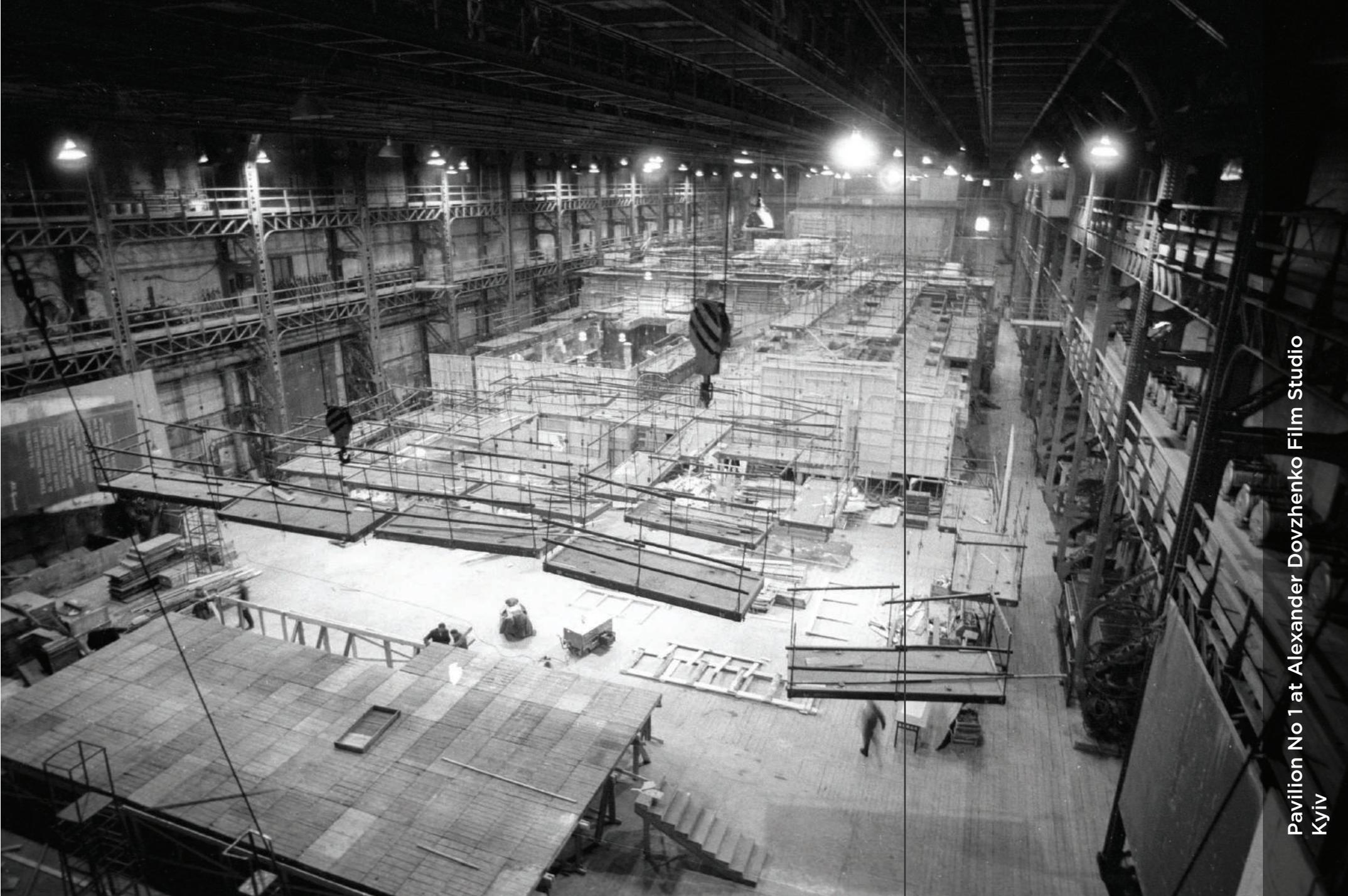
FILM FUNDS

Through our partner network of private investors, lenders, and the banking sector we design and offer the most effective financial schemes, from development funding to advance financing of the aggregated incentives and special deals for postproduction.

We also partner and provide assistance with applications for State support funding that could be granted based on the following criteria:

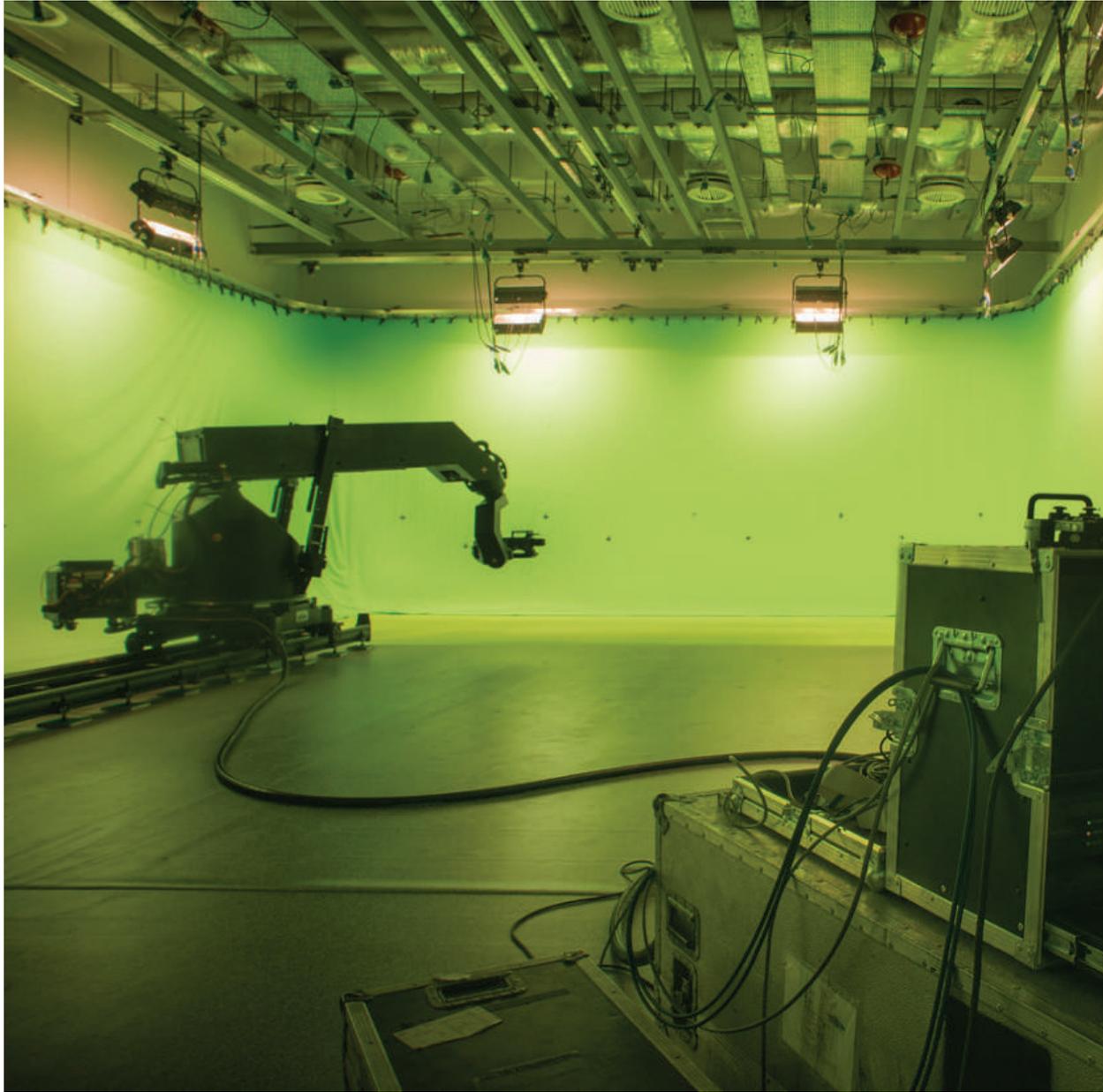
- For educational films, documentaries and children's films - up to 100% to be provided by or through a leading producer (IP rights to stay with an applicant).
- For fiction feature films - up to 80%, with 20% to be provided by or through a leading producer (IP rights to stay with an applicant).
- For TV films and series - up to 50%, with another 50% to be provided by or through a leading producer (IP rights to stay with an applicant).

The application for State support should be submitted only by a Ukrainian producer. International co-productions in Ukraine are regulated by the Law of Ukraine "About state support of cinematography in Ukraine", rules of the European Convention on Cinematographic Co- Production, bilateral treaties and other related legislation.



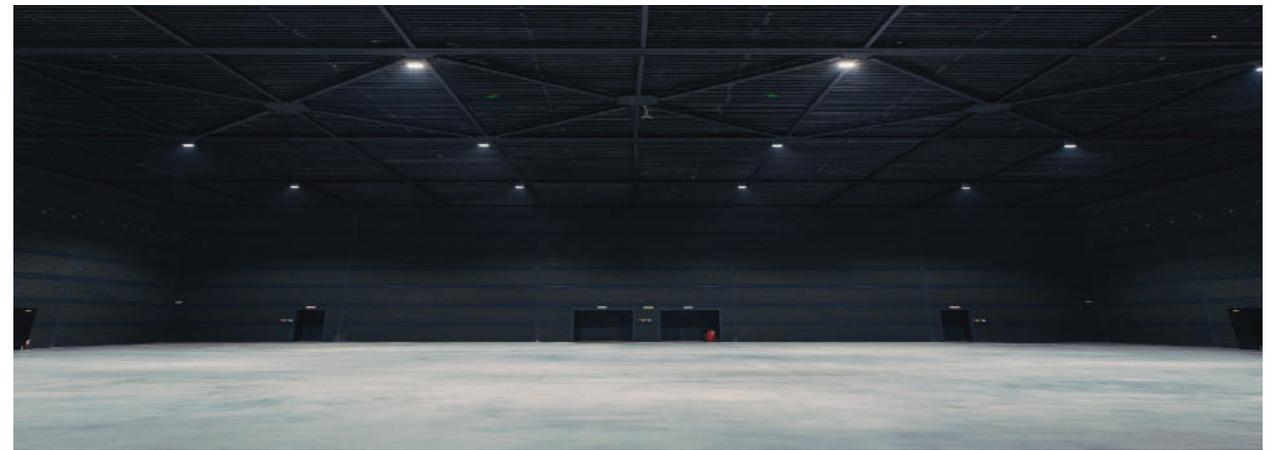
Pavilion No 1 at Alexander Dovzhenko Film Studio
Kyiv

STAGES



Ukraine boasts ex-Soviet and modern-built studios. From Dovzhenko Studio opened in 1928 to the modern Film UA Studio - Ukraine offers more than 25 fully equipped sound stages ranging from 3,200 to 32,000 sq. ft. and backlots. Overall more than 160,000 sq. ft. of stage space is available.

In addition, modern world-class complexes for exhibitions, forums, congresses, presentations and artistic shows offer over 800,000 sq. ft. of space with some extra large pavilions also suitable for film and video productions.





Lighthouse on the Kyiv Reservoir
Vyshgorod

LOCATIONS



Ukrainian plains consist of three main zones: mixed forests, forest-steppe and steppe occupying 95% of inland territory, mountains – 5%. Climate is moderate, with four seasons within a year



Ukraine's climate is generally dry and continental, although the southern regions are more Mediterranean. Winter is snowy, while summer is hot and sunny.





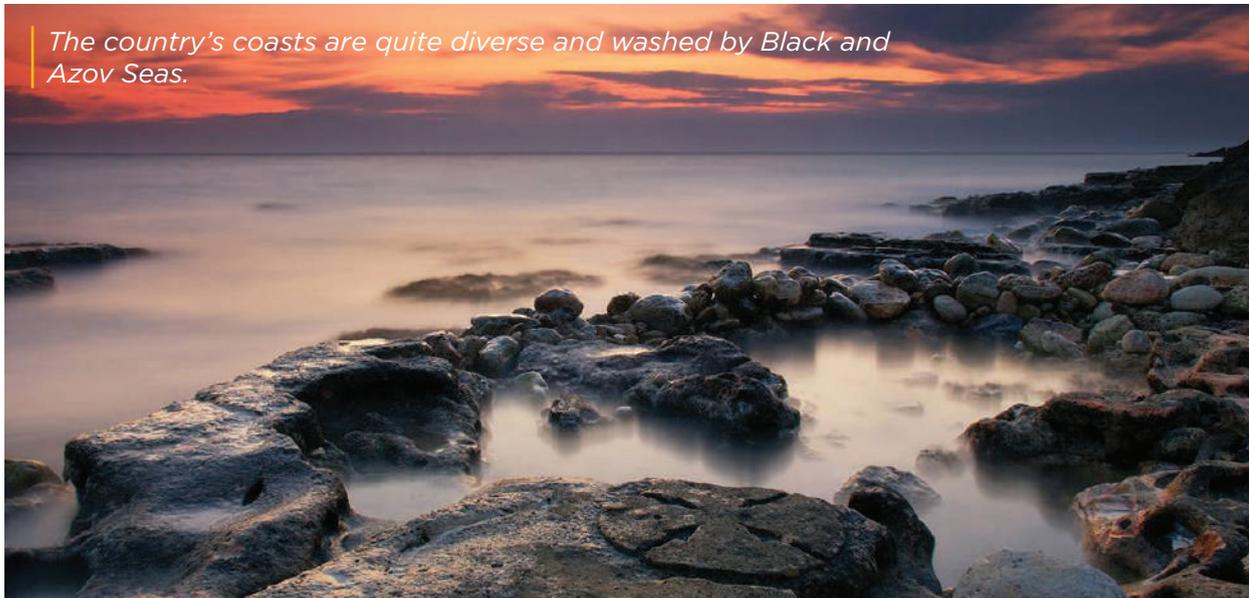
LANDSCAPES

Salty Estuary
Novotroitske

Variety of Ukrainian landscapes and a wide natural zoning could offer any possible landscape for the exterior shootings.



The country's coasts are quite diverse and washed by Black and Azov Seas.



Landscapes of Carpathian and Crimean Mountains differ from small hills with foliose and coniferous forests to the crags and snow-covered hills.





*Sands, places of pebble, cliffs,
shallow waters and lagoons.*



Floral world of Ukraine represented by forest, forest-steppe and steppe zone replicates many of the European landscapes – from Scandinavia to Mediterranean islands.



The beauty of the diversified nature of the largest country in Europe speaks for itself.



CITIES

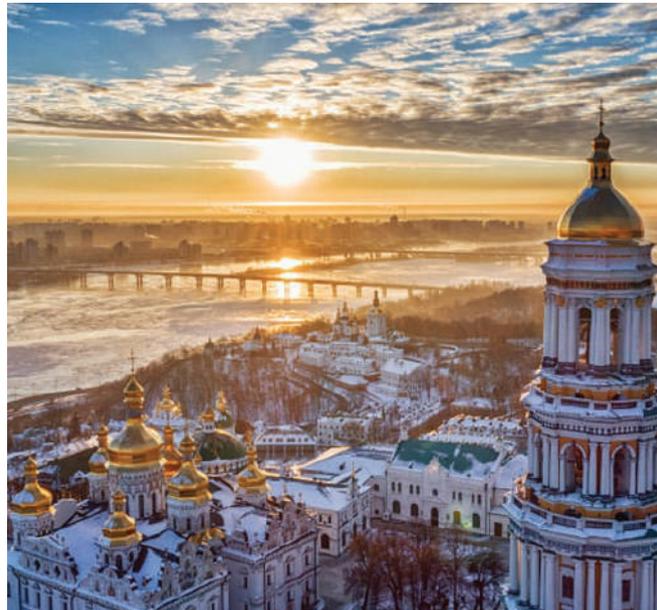
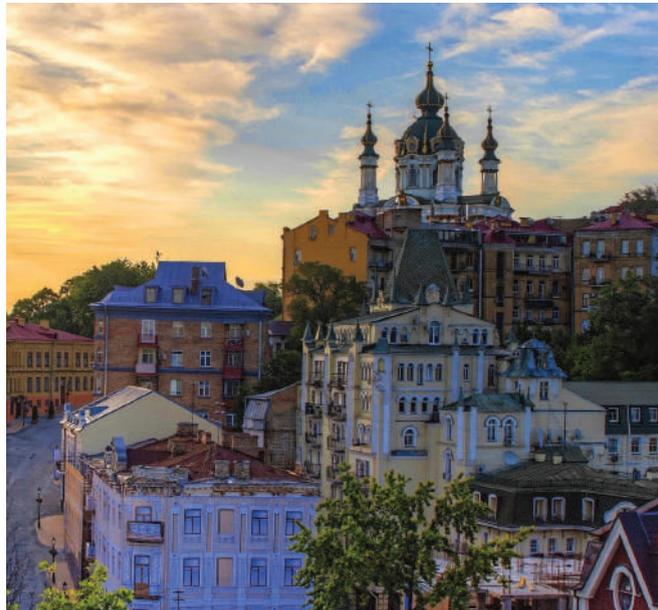
City of Kyiv
Capital of Ukraine



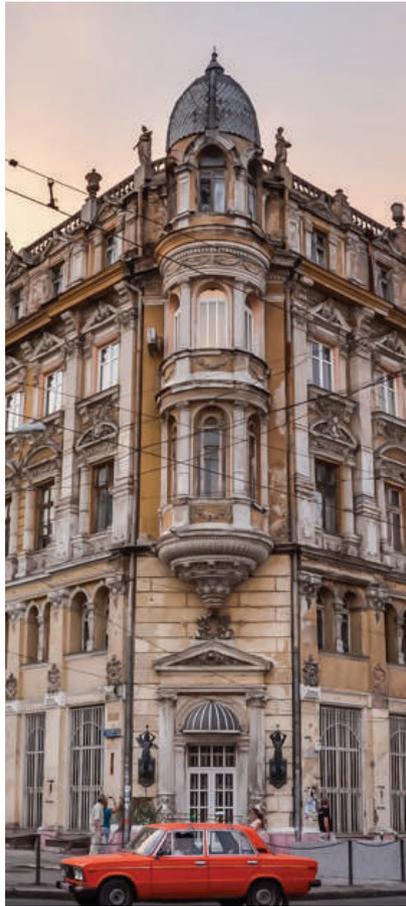
Kyiv is the capital and the largest city of Ukraine located on the Dnieper River, in the north of the central part of the country.



Kyiv is the largest cultural, political, social, economic, scientific, and religious centre of Ukraine.



Odesa is the second largest city in Ukraine located on the coast of the Black Sea. It is lined with beaches and breathtaking landscapes. Its historical architecture is rather Mediterranean being heavily influenced by French and Italian styles. Some buildings represent a mixture of different styles, including Art Nouveau, Renaissance and Classicism.

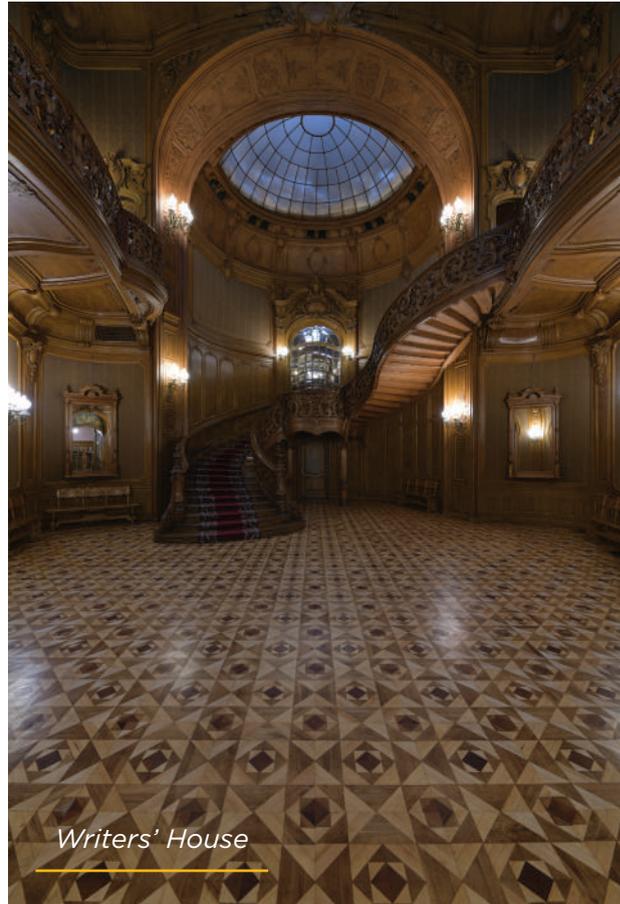


Potemkin Stairs

Lviv Central Station



Old Town Square



Writers' House

Lviv is the largest city and main cultural center of Western Ukraine.





ARCHITECTURE

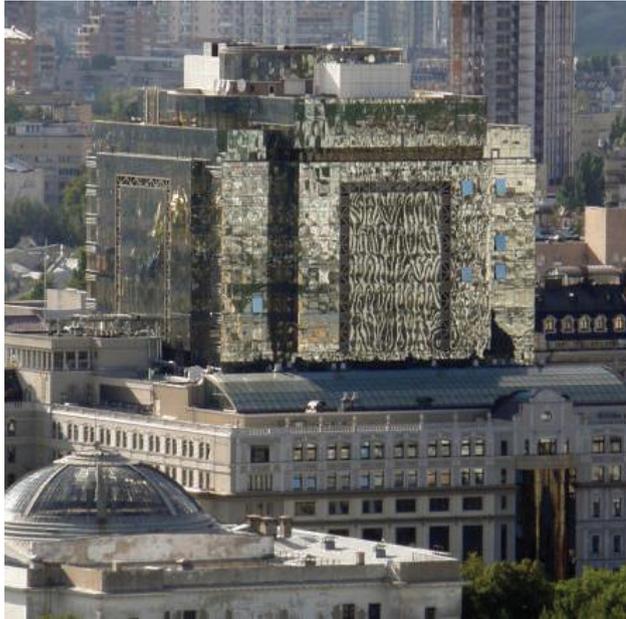
The National Bank of Ukraine
Kyiv



The hotel "Big Moscow" was built in the early 20th century Odesa, in a beautiful Art Nouveau style. After the collapse of the Soviet Union the building began to deteriorate. It was reconstructed to match the modern standards in 2006.



House with Chimaeras is an Art Nouveau building located in the historic Lypky neighborhood of Kyiv. The street in front of the building is closed off to all automobile traffic.



“Leonardo” is the modern A-class business center located in the very center of the business life of Kiev. The complex contains two units being 7 and 17-floor buildings and fitted with a 7-floor underground parking lot. The basic façade part is almost entirely glazed, keeping up with the modern trends of the business center design concept.

UNIT.City is Ukraine’s first and largest innovation park. The place where matchless infrastructure and an all-inclusive ecosystem enable high technology, innovative and creative businesses to happen and flourish.



Tourist Hotel in Kyiv is a three-star 27-story hotel, the tallest hotel in Ukraine. The facade of the hotel is covered with vertical aluminium shutters. The architects also created a contrast of colours of the white high-rise part and dark brown ceramic tiles at the bottom of the building.



The Multifunctional Complex “Gulliver” is a 35-story mixed-use building in Kyiv. It is the second highest building and the highest office building in the country.



Mariinsky Palace

Mariinsky Palace is the official ceremonial residence of the President of Ukraine in Kyiv and adjoins the neo-classical building of the Verkhovna Rada (parliament) of Ukraine. It is a Baroque palace on the hilly bank of the Dnipro River.



Chernivtsi University

Chernivtsi University is a public university in the City of Chernivtsi in Western Ukraine. One of the leading Ukrainian institutions for higher education. The university is a UNESCO World Heritage Site since 2011.

Pidhirtsi Castle

Pidhirtsi Castle is a residential castle-fortress located in the village of Pidhirtsi, western Ukraine. It is regarded as one of the most valuable palace-garden complexes and is part of the Lviv National Art Gallery.

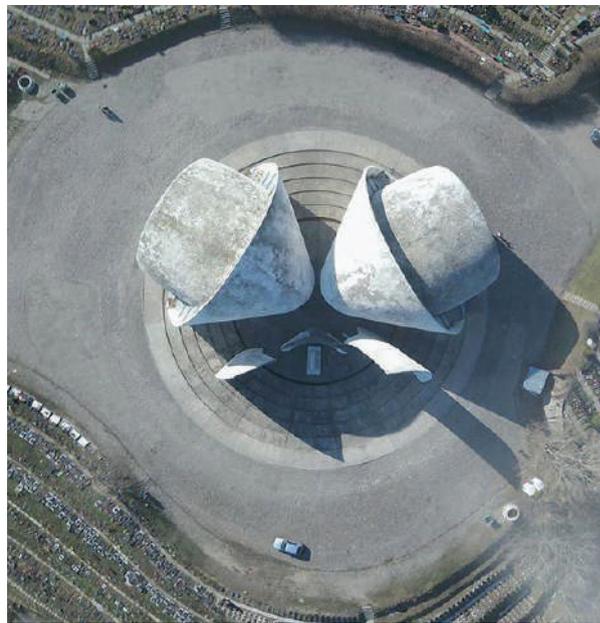


Khotyn Fortress

Khotyn Fortress is a fortification complex located on the right bank of the Dniester River in Khotyn. Number of movies were filmed here, usually used to double various French and English castles, including La Rochelle.



The history of Soviet architecture is closely linked to the process of the rise and fall of the early socialist states. By overcoming the “leftish” cultural deviations of the period of early proletarian “siege of the sky”, Soviet architecture generated more genuinely socialist concepts of urban development, while bourgeois architectural modernism was given a determined battle. Ukraine has a rich Soviet architectural heritage including buildings and industrial sites.



As a former Soviet country, Ukraine is definitely a country to discover - The 20th-century buildings are impossible to bypass, as they constitute the major venues and establishments of the Ukrainian cities. Constructivist style with prevailing elements of classical forms: monumental and symmetrical, made of cold grey concrete, sometimes red granite, and ceramics. Such decoration is typical for 20th-century Ukrainian buildings and brutalist design is a mixture of avant-garde artistic vision, with a complicated technical process.



**HARD TO ACCESS
LOCATIONS**

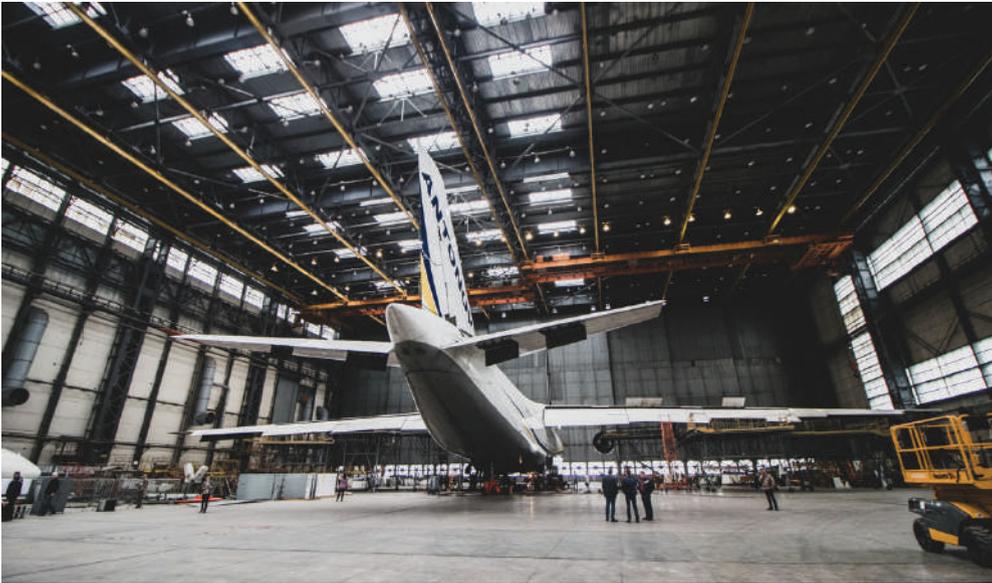
Narrow Gauge
Mlynok



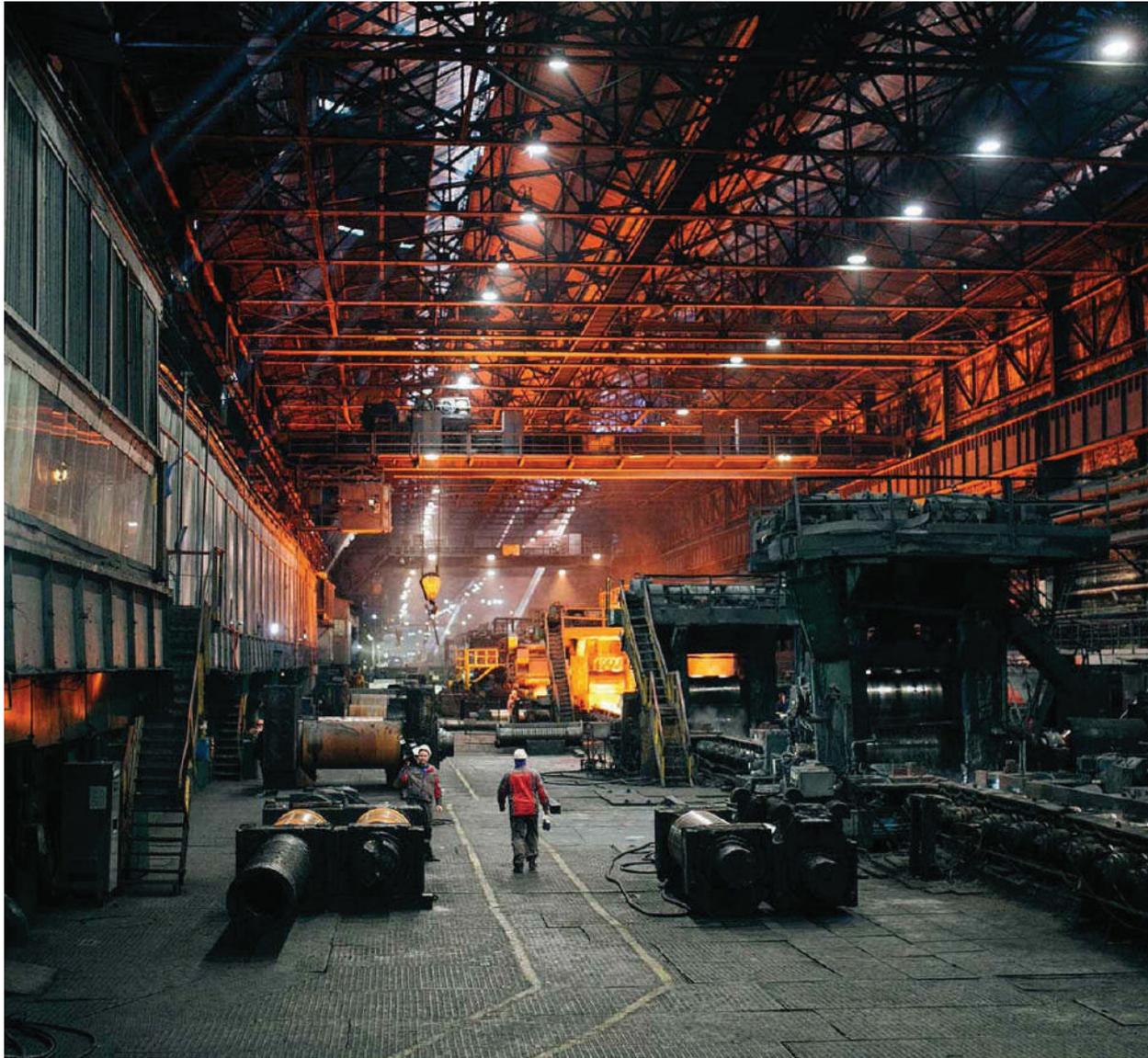
*Pamir Radar Station
Carpathians*



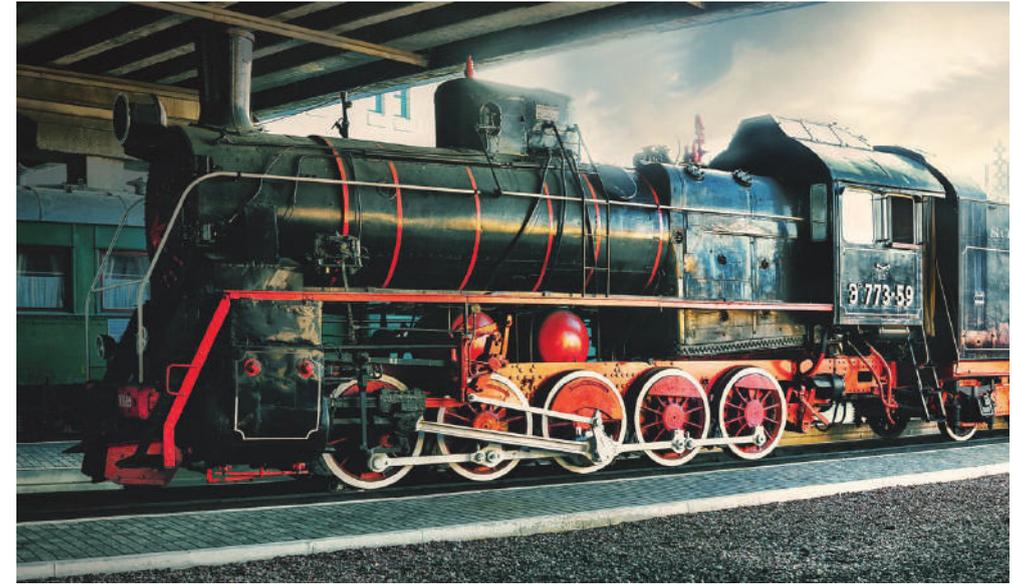
*Olympic Stadium
Kyiv*



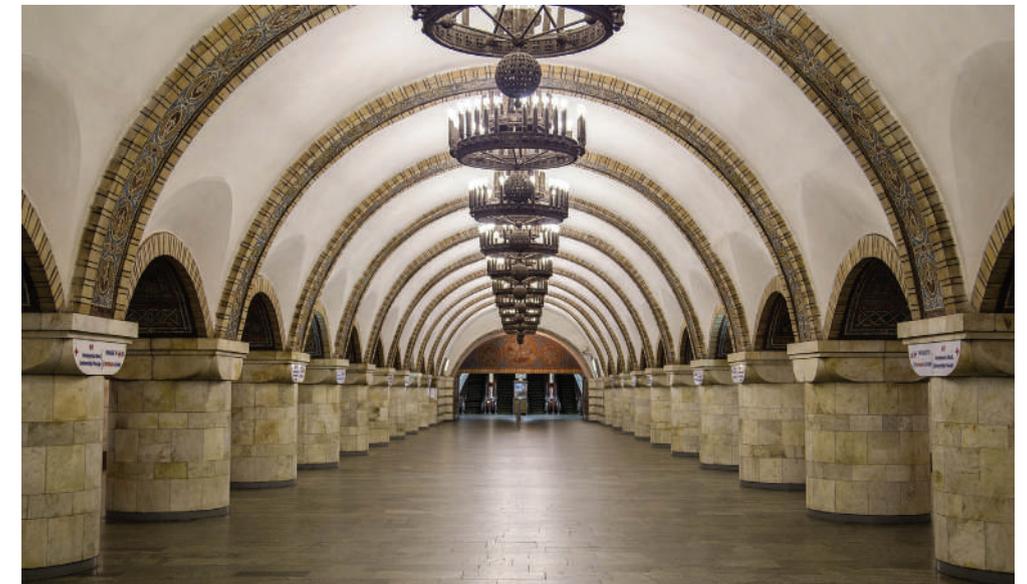
*Antonov Plant
Kyiv*



*Metallurgical plant
Dnipro*



*Old train station
Lviv*



*Zoloti Vorota Station
Kyiv*



City of Pripyat, Chernobyl



Bus Cemetery, Kyiv



*Tank cemetery
Outskirts of Kyiv*



*State Aviation
Museum
Kyiv*

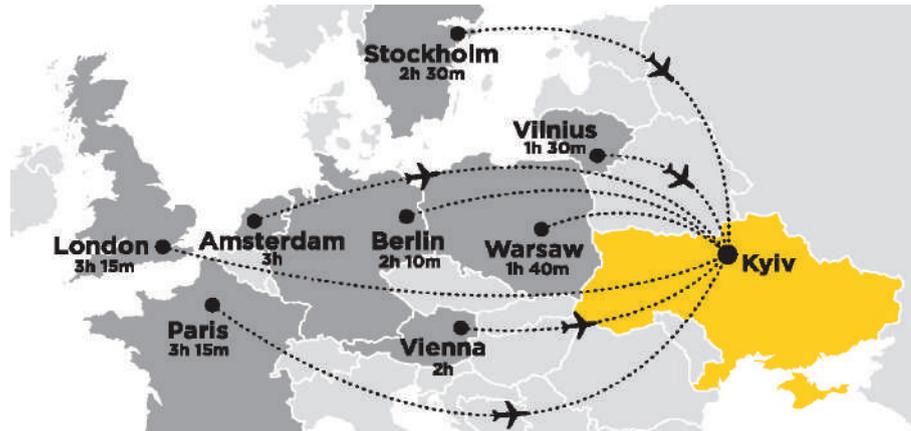
VISAS & PERMITS

Ukraine is visa-free for more than 60 countries and only one week is required to get visa for other, non-exempt countries.

A work permit for international film crews is not required. Shooting permission of any roads, bridges, underground and other State-owned facilities in Ukraine is extremely easy and can usually be obtained within a few days. Filming on military bases, airports, and plants much more accessible compared to other destinations.

TRANSPORTATION

There are over 20 airports in Ukraine. Kyiv Boryspil Airport (KBP) is main international airport and serves over 8 million passengers every year. Aside from facilitating regular passenger flights, it is one of the busiest business and cargo aviation hubs in Europe. More than 40 international airlines operate in Ukraine.



Main roads are mainly of a good standard. Ukraine is a large country so travel between major cities is best done by air.

CUSTOMS & TAXES

The law of Ukraine “On the Procedure of Settlements of the Taxpayer’s Obligations towards the Budget and State Purpose Funds” sets up the general rules and procedures for payment of taxes and other mandatory payments to the budget as well as procedures for declaring respective tax liabilities.

In July 2020, soon after the Cash Rebate law, Ukrainian Parliament adopted a new law aimed at further promoting film production in Ukraine by granting the following tax incentives to both local and foreign film producers:

- Funds received by a local producer as a cash rebate to be transferred to a foreign producer will be exempted from corporate income tax in Ukraine;
- Film production services rendered by a Ukrainian producer to a foreign producer will not be subject to VAT in Ukraine;

Ukraine has Double Taxation Avoidance Treaties with 75 countries.

From June 2020 a new edition of the Customs Tariffs of Ukraine is in force, which is based on the Harmonised Commodity Description and Coding System 2017 and the Combined Nomenclature of the European Union.

Ukraine recently introduced the “Single Window” electronic data exchange system that allows customs authorities to automatically exchange information about the goods entering Ukraine, simplifying customs procedures and reducing the time for clearance.

ACCOMMODATION



Ukraine, as a destination to explore, has been attracting curious travelers increasingly. Exclusive locations, picturesque surroundings, and A-class hotel services are unrivaled attributes for Ukraine travel experience.

Top international brand hotels are presented in Ukraine, such as: Hilton, Hyatt Regency, Fairmont, Radisson, Rixos, Mercure, Astoria, all providing exclusive discounts for our clients.



DINING



The geographical and climate conditions reflected in rich and fertile soils, have influenced the complexity of Ukrainian dishes which are generously flavored, often with garlic as the main seasoning. Despite the contradictory taste mix, most flavors come together in a surprisingly harmonious blend. Different regions of the country have unique culinary highlights or cooking methods for their own traditional dishes.

Ukraine is also famous for its snacks used with Horilka, the national Ukrainian strong spirit drink, that often comes in a variety of flavors including herbs, spices, and different kinds of fruit.

ENTERTAINMENT



Kazantip Festival



Heaven Night Club

A creative wave has swept over the city, embodied by urban art, vintage cafes and 24-hour parties. Ukraine offers variety of entertainment from cultural festivals to modern nightlife.



*Itaka Beach Club
Odessa*

There are lots of musical events in the Ukrainian lineup, along with grand parades with numerous activities and a huge street carnivals.



Nightclub Lift

The country offers world famous brands, new collections and 1.4 million sq. ft. of shopping place.



Ukrainian Folk



*Shopping Mall
Ocean Plaza*

OUR PORTFOLIO

Includes number of notable UK, US, French, Indian and Chinese award winning projects:



The Search

Shooting Days: 90
Company: La Petite Reine / Wild Bunch / Warner Bros.(France)
Director: Michel Hazanavicius



The Mask

Shooting days: 50 (2 Units)
Company: Beijing Shanmu Film & TV Cultural Media / Little Cheetah Media (China)
Director: Bowen Han



Inside Edge - Season 2

Shooting Days: 14
Company: Amazon Prime (India)
Director: Akash Bhatia



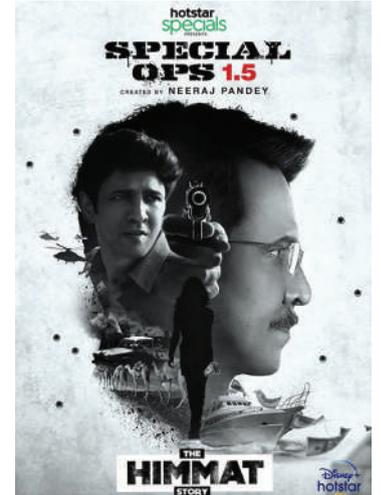
The Legacy of Lies

Shooting Days: 30
Company: Legacy Films, Toy Cinema, AB Story Production
Director: Adrian Bol



Sye Raa Narasimha Reddy

Shooting Days: 32
Company: Konidela Production (India)
Director: Surrender Reddy



Special Ops 1.5: The Himmat Story

Shooting Days: 12
Company: Disney+ Hotstar (India)
Creator: Neeraj Pandey



The Lady of Heaven

Shooting days: 51
Company: Enlightened Kingdom (UK)
Director: Eli King



Darklight

Shooting Days: 24
Company: Zee Studios International Seahorse Filmhouse (USA)
Director: Padraig Reynolds

**ESSENTIAL FILM
PRODUCTIONS**

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