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[Lublin's Partner and Friend Cities](#)<https://lublin.eu/en/lublin/international-relations/lublins-partner-cities/kharkiv,10740,w.html>Name: **Kharkiv**Signing a contract: **21.05.2022r.**

Kharkiv is currently the second largest city in Ukraine only 40 km from the Russian border. Kharkiv, at first, used to be the capital of the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic. However, in 1934, the capital was moved to Kiev. In April 1940, Kharkiv witnessed a mass execution of Polish Army officers. This is considered to be a part of the Katyn massacre.

Kharkiv is Ukraine's large industrial centre. Businesses operating in high-tech, electrotechnical, transport, agriculture, machinery and apparatus engineering, as well as electronics and aviation industry, are primarily Kharkiv's production output. The city is also a **major railway, road and air hub**.

Kharkiv is a **typical industrial city**. Socialist Realism dominates in Kharkiv's landscape, although tourists may find some places of interest.

Freedom Square, frequently referred to as 'the light bulb', is at the heart of the city. Not only is it famed for its size (9th biggest in the world and 3rd biggest in Europe) but also for its shape. The square resembles an oblong drop of water.

Just opposite the square, stands the most recognisable landmark building in the cityscape – **Derzhprom** (Palace of Industry). It is the first Soviet skyscraper, an example of USSR architecture of the 1920s and 1930s. A monument to Lenin is right nearby. Premises of **Vasyl Karazin Kharkiv National University**, are also located on the Freedom Square. Józef Piłsudski failed to graduate in Medicine at this very University. In the 19th century, Polish students accounted for a significant percentage of all the students' community. Kharkiv is Ukraine's students capital as 17 universities and 9 academies operate in the city.

Fans of the **USSR era architecture and style** will find many places of interest for themselves. Also street-art and Socialist Realism street symbols are there for them. Many eye-catching mosaics can be found in Kharkiv's housing estates. It is also worth visiting few Metro stations and look for bygone Soviet symbolism. Red Line 1 (Kholodnohirsko-Zavodska) is particularly impressive.

On top of that, historic sacral buildings are worth seeing in Kharkiv. **St Pokrovskiy Monastery** is your first must-see stop on your sacral route. Dormition **Cathedral in Cossack Baroque** style is equally breathtaking. Its unique tower is one of the city symbols and also a popular orientation landmark. Protection of the Mother of God Monastery with its distinctive domes or the Annunciation Cathedral are another stops on your list. Why? It is the only Orthodox church world-wide erected in the Byzantine style.

Shevchenko Park is the greenest area in Kharkiv. It is very popular with residents wishing to take a refreshing stroll. An arched Mirror Stream fountain, erected in 1947, also appeals to residents. There are six theatres in the city as well as many culture centres.

Want to wine and dine? Here is what we recommend. A popular **Ukrainian 'fast food'**, i.e. rolls of dough, doughnut-like, called pirożki or bilasze. They are widely available on the street stalls, served with a selection of spicy or sweet filling. Eastern Ukrainian cuisine is also all about blini (pan-sized yeast leavened thick pancakes).



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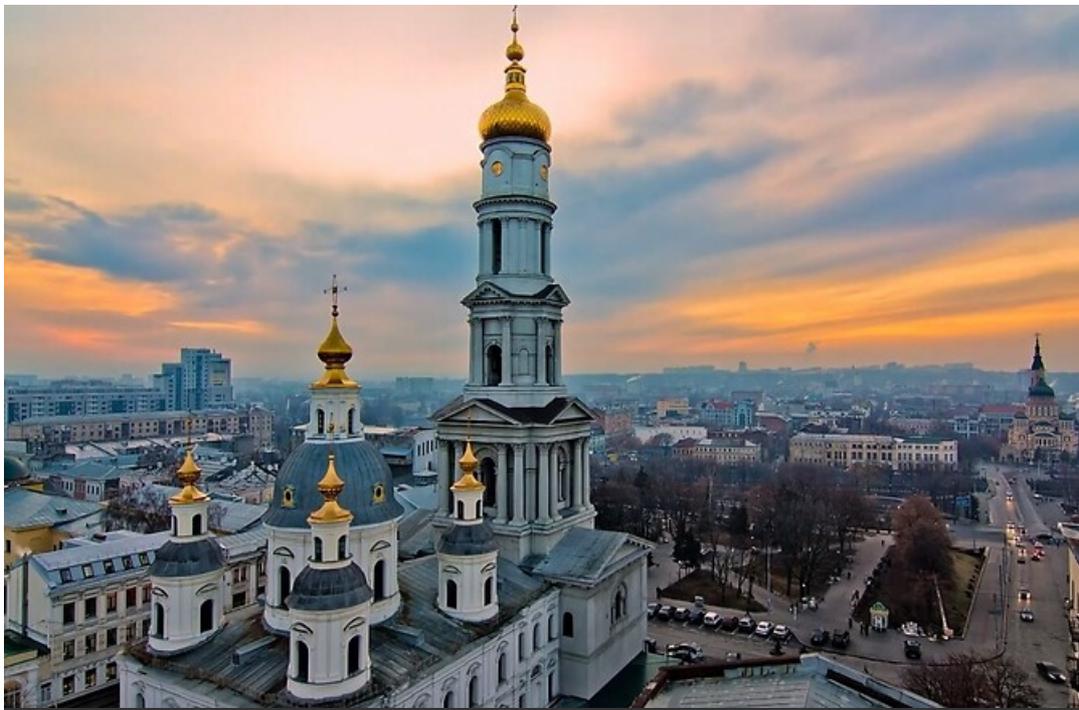
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