



Desna Ukrainian Dance School

Ukraine Trip Summary - 2018

Led by Lesia Harhaj & Halyna Polischuk accompanied by Adriana Wasylyk the Desna School went on their first International Tour to Ukraine! This tour arranged with [Піпим АРТ](#) allowed 11 students of Desna School of Ukrainian Dance and their parents travelled to Ukraine on July 11, 2018 for a two-week adventure exploring three regions of Ukraine: Kiev, Lviv and Karpaty. The purpose of the trip was for the students to explore their cultural roots and deepen their understanding of what it means to be of Ukrainian descent, as well as learn new techniques from Ukrainian dance instructors and have the opportunity to perform for a Ukrainian audience.

On July 13, 2018, Desna School students were able to visit the Virsky Dance Ensemble, and watch the dancers rehearse in Kiev. While staying in Slavske, in the Karpaty region, from July 15 to 21, 2018, they had dance workshops with a former Virsky dancer (name) and experienced how students in Ukraine learn to dance. There was a Ukrainian children's summer camp on the same site that the Desna students were staying. The Ukrainian and Canadian children participated in camp activities together and were able to get to know one another. On July 21, 2018, Desna students performed at the Colourful Karpaty festival in Slavske.

At the various destinations, the participants explored many landmarks in Kiev, like the Lavra and the Golden Gate. In Kolomija, the group visited the famous Pysanky Museum. When in Chernivitsi, the students and their families visited the iconic university campus and received a tour. In Uzerhod, students and their families were able to see historic districts as well as visit an outdoor museum of buildings found throughout Ukraine during its history and present day. While staying in Slavske, the children had the opportunity to learn to cook traditional dishes and make pysanky. The group also went up the Trostyan Mountain and visited a nearby museum to learn about Ukrainian military history hosted by the Mayor of Slavske (name). In Lviv, the group stayed in the centre of the city and saw sights like the Market Square, the High Castle, Lviv Opera House, and St. George Cathedral.

This trip to Ukraine was a very successful endeavor. Desna students had many opportunities to learn and improve their Ukrainian dance skills and interact with their Ukrainian peers. The whole group had an unforgettable experience exploring Ukraine and absorbing all the country has to offer!