

## Simferopol

### Overview

The city of Simferopol is situated in the southern-central region of the Ukraine and is the capital of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea. The city is home to over 400,000 people and is the cultural and educational centre of Crimea. Visitors are attracted to Simferopol for its rich history and variety of goods produced from its many industries such as wine and tobacco.

Historical monuments, such as the Vorontsov Palace, are surrounded by Simferopol's picturesque parks along the bank of the Salhir River. There is plenty to do around the city in both the summer and winter months, while the city's theatres and museums give visitors a great insight into both its history and culture. Shopaholics will be drawn to the town of Silpo where the main shopping centre is located, with many ATM machines added for your convenience.

Accommodation is varied to suit most preferences; be they low budget, luxurious, traditional or modern. There is a short supply of hotels, although there are many Bed and Breakfasts located around the city. Visitors wanting to embrace Simferopol's culture can enjoy a stay at the highly recommended Ukraina Hotel, situated in a prime location for seeing the city's historic sites and daytrips. The Hotel Moskva is situated in a beautiful location where visitors can enjoy picturesque walks along the river into the town centre and offers all the amenities to suit local tastes.

Simferopol's authentic cuisine is one not to be missed when in the city. Those who enjoy Indian or Spanish dishes will love the infamous 'Plov' dish (rice), costing around 7 UAH. As well as this, Simferopol's cuisine offers traditional dishes such as Shashlik (charcoaled meat on skewers), Lagman (a local noodle soup) and the local's favourite – Borsh (a vegetable soup). All this can be accompanied with an authentic Crimean wine which is best to be purchased from a supermarket, as well as a Ukrainian vodka such as 'hortitsa'.

The climate in Simferopol reaches both extremes. Cold, chilly winters see temperatures fall to -25C while the summer months reach as high as +40-45C and so sun cream and drinking water is essential! This oceanic climate makes Simferopol a great place to visit all year round as there are always activities taking place to suit the cities climate such as skiing in the winter and horse riding in the parks during the summer months.

The official currency in the city is the Hrivna (pronounced Grivna). Conveniently, there are ATM and bank machines situated all around town, with debit and credit cards accepted everywhere except for rural areas and markets where cash is preferred.