



Name Surname

Professor's Name

Course

Date

Traveling to Western Ukraine

If you have ever been outside a noisy megapolis, you know the bliss of truly enjoying nature for the first time. But, sometimes, the contrast is so strong that new surroundings catch you off guard. In such rare moments, a person's main goal is to embrace the beauty of mother nature.

My first time connecting with the countryside happened right after school graduation. As a reward for good grades, my family traveled across Western Ukraine, visiting multiple cities. June was cold and rainy, but no heat waves. So we packed warm clothes and swimsuits in the car and started the journey.

The first major destination point we reached was Kamianets-Podilskyi, with its monumental fortress. Although the city appeared quite modern, historical places like this constantly reminded me that I was no longer among the usual glass and concrete. Instead, stepping on the ancient pavement was like traveling in a time machine to medieval times. Besides, the landscapes with distant mountains looked eye-catching to me, who had seen only skyscrapers before.

The next stop was Lviv, the pearl of Western Ukraine. Indeed, the mood was special and completely different from Kyiv. As soon as I got to the streets of Lviv, I felt coziness. Classic architecture and countless coffee and chocolate shops appeared welcoming tourists.



Upon visiting Lviv, our small group ended up in a beautiful town called Chernivtsi. This place had a similar atmosphere to Lviv, just like all other Western Ukrainian cities. However, new landmarks and views still had a special place in my heart. The famous local university and cathedral looked stunning. Overall, I felt like I was in a historical movie with an outstanding amount of ancient statues and greenery.

Finally, we reached the most important point of our destination, which was the range of the Carpathian Mountains. They teasingly appeared on the horizon throughout our journey, but seeing them in person was almost a spiritual experience. Dark-green forests that covered the mountains hid countless waterfalls, lakes, and flower meadows. With numerous tiny villages at the foot of the mountains, the whole scene looked like an edited computer wallpaper in reality. The views suddenly reminded me of Washington DC, especially how it looked in the Twilight movies.

I genuinely thought we had seen it all until we reached the top of the range. Then, there was the mountain plateau with the most spectacular view I have ever seen in my entire life! As far as I could see, there were mountains of all shades of green, from light green to dark teal. Surprisingly, a swing above the abyss was on the cliff's edge, where we stopped. Sitting there, looking at the untouched, divine nature, I felt my heart almost hurt from the surrounding beauty. The long way there was worth it.

Eventually, we had to return home to the big city that never sleeps. It has its charm, but the journey to nature was something else. I still remember the mountains in my heart, and I hope to return there someday.