

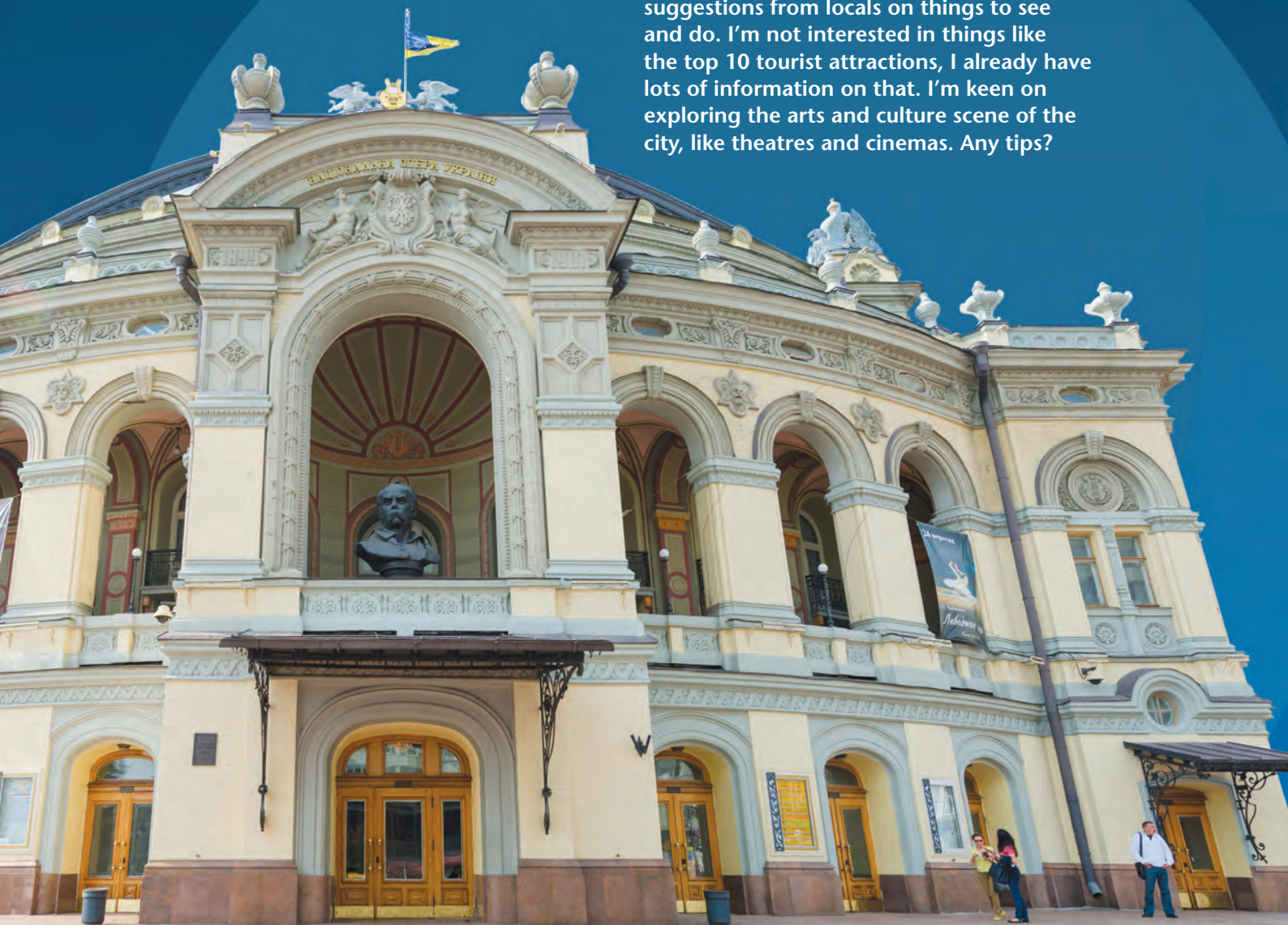


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Culture in Kyiv

Ukraine Arts Forum

Hi everyone! I'm Oliver. I'm 15 years old and I live in Brighton, England. I'll be in Kyiv for two weeks next month and I'd like some suggestions from locals on things to see and do. I'm not interested in things like the top 10 tourist attractions, I already have lots of information on that. I'm keen on exploring the arts and culture scene of the city, like theatres and cinemas. Any tips?



- 1 Do you like going to the opera or seeing a classic ballet performance? Why/Why not? Tell the class.

Reading

- 2 Look at the pictures on pp. 34-37. Where can you see quality performances in Kyiv? What sort of films can you see at the different cinemas? Read to find out.



Oliver, Kyiv has over 50 theatres so you won't run out of choice of high quality performances. I recently went to **The National Opera House of Ukraine** and saw a moving performance of the ballet Swan Lake. I'd never been to the Opera House before and I was amazed by the experience. The Opera House has a classic, elegant beauty both on the exterior and the interior of the building. It's one of the oldest theatres in the country – I believe it's over a century old – but it's well maintained.

At the Opera House you'll enjoy classical masterpieces in Ukrainian, Italian and other languages, with subtitles over the stage. Don't miss out on the experience! If you want a front row seat, though, make sure you book ahead and get your tickets online.

Sonia, 15



You're right, Sonia. Whether it's opera, classic ballet or a more contemporary performance, there's always a show on in Kyiv and at affordable ticket prices too! My family and I went to a rather different kind of theatre last week. We visited **The Theatre of Plastic Drama on Pechersk**. This is a very unusual theatre, as the performers don't talk! We sat through an entire performance during which a full cast of very energetic actors put on a whole play using pantomime, dance and music to tell the story. What an extraordinary experience!

Svitlana, 14



I'll agree with Svitlana about tickets being affordable. In the last month, I've been to the **Kiev National Academic Theatre of Operetta** twice. I saw *Sorochynskyi Fair* and *Gypsy Baron* and I didn't spend more than 150 hryvnias for each ticket. Tickets there range from 50 to 250 hryvnias. I always have a great time when I go there. There's lively music, a live orchestra, excellent performances and impressive costumes. It's Ukraine at its best! Along with famous Ukrainian musicals, they stage world classical shows such as *Silva*, *Maritsa*, *Bayadera* and others. Unfortunately, all shows are in Ukrainian, without English subtitles.

Serhii, 17



These are all fantastic suggestions for high quality performances but if you want to watch a film you should definitely go to the **Blockbuster Entertainment Centre** in the Petrovka district. On the ground floor there's a big entertainment centre where people of all ages can have fun. Among the many places to visit are a bowling centre, a roller rink and a rope park. You can also get something to eat at one of the many fast food or sit-down restaurants. On the top floor are the cinemas. Blockbuster has the only IMAX screens in Kyiv. Trust me, you can spend a whole day there and not be bored for a second!

Vlad, 14



Another impressive cinema in Kyiv is **The Florence Theatre**. That's where I'd take you if you were my guest! It was named in honour of the twin-city of Kyiv, the famous Italian city of Florence.

Originally, The Florence Theatre used to have four halls: Florence Hall, Radosin Hall, Retro Hall and Chipollino Hall, which was designed especially for children. After repairs, the interior was changed and today visitors can enjoy the same four halls but with a different design. The halls also host presentations and special events for children. What is truly awesome about the Florence, though, is its beautiful foyer. It has a dome-shaped ceiling made of glass and a fountain. You simply must visit it!

Dasha, 16



Blockbuster is a really cool place to hang out, I agree. But if you want to enjoy a different cinematic experience you must go to **Cinema Kyiv**. This is conveniently located in the centre of the city. The cinema is housed in a beautiful building with classic architecture. Every time I go there, I just marvel at the atmosphere of the place. I love the big, stylish, old-fashioned lamps that are all around the building. Cinema Kyiv doesn't just show the latest, mainstream films. You can also see classic films of the past or you may even come across one of the various film festivals the cinema organises. It's also one of the cinemas in Kyiv where films are shown in their original language – English, French etc – with Ukrainian subtitles.

Veronika, 16

CHECK THESE WORDS!

keen, moving, elegant, exterior, interior, well maintained, masterpiece, subtitles, entire, pantomime, extraordinary, range, lively, in honour of, awesome, foyer, dome-shaped, fountain, cinematic, conveniently located, house, marvel, mainstream

3 Read the text again and mark the statements T (true) or F (false). Correct the false statements.

- 1 The National Opera House of Ukraine is in a beautiful building which is in bad condition.
- 2 Svitlana enjoyed the show at The Theatre of Plastic Drama.
- 3 There are performances specifically for English-speaking audiences at the Kiev National Academic Theatre of Operetta.
- 4 The Blockbuster Entertainment Centre spreads on two levels.
- 5 Cinema Kyiv shows new as well as old films.
- 6 Dasha is impressed by the different halls of The Florence Theatre.

Vocabulary

4 Fill in: *extraordinary, conveniently located, mainstream, range, cinematic, marvel.*

- 1 The cinema shows all the latest films as well as old classics.
- 2 The theatre is in the centre of the city.
- 3 We couldn't help but at the beautiful interior of the building.
- 4 The actors put on a(n) performance.
- 5 Ticket prices according to which row the seats are in.
- 6 The hi-tech sound system and the huge IMAX screen offer a unique experience.

Speaking & Writing

5 Work in pairs. Imagine you are Oliver and you have just returned from Kyiv, where you visited two of the venues presented in the text. Your partner is asking you questions about your experience. Use the information from the text to prepare questions and answers and then act out your dialogue in front of the class.

- A: *Did you do anything interesting in Kyiv?*
- B: *Yes! I went to the theatre and I also saw a film at the cinema.*
- A: *Where did you go? etc*

6 Write a short paragraph about your favourite theatre or cinema.