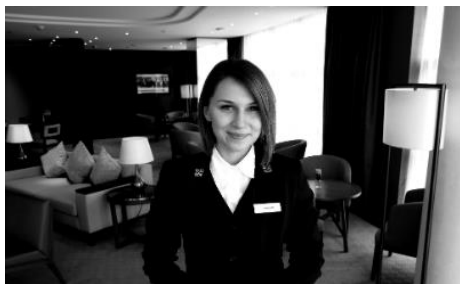




## Welcome to the one of the warmest and hospitable cities in the world – Kyiv!



“As concierge at Hilton Kyiv, it is my mission to promote and inform our people, Guests, students and even (hard to believe!) our colleagues from other cities, regions about our profession, an enthralling, exciting and interesting life of hotel Concierge. So that this person would fall in love with our profession, could estimate it’s quality and importance, and would also understand, that miracles do exist, and they do happen every day.”

Kyiv is famous for one peculiar feature - every person, visiting this city, becomes a Kyivan – neither by birth nor by registration in a passport, change of a place of residence. "Kyivan" means a person who has fallen in love with the city and will never let the memories of it go.

### LET'S START

I suggest continuing your walk along the city’s thoroughfare – Khreschatyk street. During the weekend, it turns into an endless feast. Bright, gaily decorated, illuminated with millions of bulbs from various light strings, it cheers its citizens and visitors.

It is better to start your walk around the city center with a short coffee break and tasting of old and famous Kyivska perepichka. This is a well-known Ukrainian hot-dog, which has become a capital’s visiting card. Kyivans and tourists of different ages love it for its changeless formula which has continued to rejoice us for more than 30 years. Nowadays, it sounds as a brand, but "Kyivska perepichka" appeared in 1981 with the opening of a small stand in the center of Kyiv, on Bohdan Khmelnytsky street. It is a just a deep-dried sausage in dough, which actually looks like food from university and school cafeterias. Instead of a napkin, sellers in blue aprons will give you cut pieces of



unbleached paper. No one can explain the secret of this simple and not really healthy food.



The opening hours of the kiosk are 9am - 9pm. The menu includes not only perepichka, but also juice, tea, coffee, fizzy drinks and sparkling water at a reasonable price.

After Khreschatyk you need to stroll up Sofiivska Square, which takes its name from the Saint Sophia Cathedral, built in 1037. This Orthodox temple is considered to be a masterpiece of the architectural art. It comprises the rich cultural heritage of Kyivan Rus, starting from landmarks and sculptures to masterpieces of graphic and jeweler's art.

If you have been to Kyiv without visiting the Andriivskyi Descent, it is the same as standing in front of the Eiffel Tower with your eyes closed. The Andriivskyi Descent is a street-museum, representing 720 meters of sightseeing spots of different dimension. At present, souvenir stalls and artists with their works stretch along all its length. You may throw a walk around all these things, observe and enjoy them, and if you want, even buy them. The Andriivskyi Descent is one of the most mysterious, enigmatic and even frightful places in Kyiv. It was dug between Uzdykhalnytsia and Zamkova Mountains which used to be a place of witches' sabbath. This city takes mystery easily, even capital's legends and myths never contented kind fairies.



The presence of witches in the city never worried anybody. It only mattered if your neighbor was a witch or not, and to find it out the Kyivans went to a coffin maker, bought a board for the coffin, took out a knot and watched the neighboring plot through it. At that point, everything became clear.

Sunflecks are playing beautifully on the domes of Kyiv's ancient temple – the Church of St. Andrew Protocletos (St. Andrew's Church). The temple is

overlooking the Podil on the right bank of the Dnipro river. The ancient



legend tells us that during his travel from Korsun along Dnipro in the first century BC, the Apostle Saint Andrew, Protocletos, had built a Cross on the place where this magnificent temple was constructed a thousand and a half years later, and had claimed that this was the place of God's

grace and the great city was to be founded there. The sanctuaries of the Saint Andrew's Church comprise holy relics of Saint Andrew and brilliantly executed the New Testament, presented by the Emperor. At present, the church functions, ceremonies of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church (Kyiv Patriarchy) are held daily.

The Ukrainian capital also has its Sweet zest – a well-known Kyiv cake. The story of its birth is rather interesting. In 1956, workers of the Karl Marx confectionery factory (at present Roshen) as usual prepared egg whites for a cake, however, forgot to put them into a fridge. To hide the negligence of colleagues the next shift decided to prepare the cake from these ingredients. Konstantyn Petrenko, then the head of the cake department, could not even imagine that crunchy cakes from harden foam would be named Kyiv cake and it would become one of the national symbols. Since then, Konstantyn Petrenko is considered to be an author of Kyiv cake's recipe. Its formula is strictly confidential even nowadays.



Let all the rest of the world wait for the end of your trip and does not disturb you. You have so much to be visited. Gaze, run, or even get taken aback while watching and breathing in new experience...? Kyiv is the city for the soul. The city for every soul. It is easy to get into the swing of the things here. The city is really easy. And the people are rather easy-going and open. The citizens of the megalopolis welcome foreigners and visitors of the capital with open arms. If you get lost in the street and ask someone to show you the way, the passerby will draw a map on the palm of your hand. And if you tell that you haven't got a chance to catch the sight of anything, you'll receive the list of addresses with



all landmarks and sights, drawn on a first available napkin or a scrap of paper.  
There are no strangers. These boundaries were washed away centuries ago.  
You just arrive and become a Kyivan.

When you are asked: are you going to get back here one day?

You will definitely answer: With pleasure!

***Aleksandra Tkachuk***

***Concierge***

***Hilton Kyiv***