

“Then, in the
mighty family
of all men that
are free,
maybe sometimes,
very softly,
you will
speak of me?”

Testament,
Taras Shevchenko, 1861

The colour orange has acquired a new meaning in the Ukraine since the political changes in 2004. But the Ukraine has had a colourful history long before then. Kiev is now the capital of an independent Ukraine, but it is also the birthplace of Kievan Rus, founded in the eighth and ninth centuries, and the city from which the Orthodox faith spread throughout Eastern Europe.

The skyline of Kiev is dominated by the thirteen cupolas of St Sophia's Cathedral. The foundations were laid in 1037 under the orders of Prince Yaroslav the Wise, who was also responsible for the Golden Gate Entrance to the city.

The Dnieper Hills are dominated by the Pecherska Lavra, built almost nine centuries ago. This complex of churches – masterpieces of architecture by themselves – is famous for its catacombs and saints' relics, hence its other name, the Monastery of Caves.

