

Zhovkva

The city has a very rich and interesting history, related to life and activity of famous historical persons. There were private residences of the crown hetman Stanislaw Zolkiewski and King Jan the third Sobieski, the military headquarter of Russian Tsar Peter the first, place of born and childhood of the Ukrainian Hetman Bohdan Khmelnytsky - the founder of Ukrainian State in XVII century.

Zhovkva is the only remained in Ukraine example of Renaissance "ideal" city-citadel, the real pearl of national architecture heritage. Today on the small territory of the town, there are 55 architectural monuments on world, national and religious level, two heritage places of landscape architecture, 15 historical museums.

Numerous Ukrainian towns and villages can boast of having the remnants of ancient fortifications, but only the small district centre of **Zhovkva** in the Lviv region has an absolute right to call its fortress "ideal". Here, in the first half of the XVII century the only mint in the territory of Ukraine was in operation with the coins being minted from silver that belonged to the Hetman Zolkiewski's widow. At the beginning of the XVII century it had three storeyed corner towers, an entrance gateway in the north-eastern wall, and fighting galleries with loopholes along the walled perimeter. The south-western wing was decorated with an open gallery and arcades and it served as a palace. Unfortunately luxurious halls, a treasury and an armoury can not be restored but the facade of the former outpost is again the town's showpiece due to restoration began in 2003.

Near the castle at the foot of the mountain a well-known "menagerie" is situated – a park where deer and chamoises graze on green meadows. Hunting has always been a favourite pastime for all the various castle owners – the Zolkiewskis, the Danylowyczis and their grandson, the Polish king, Jan III Sobeski. During 1604–1609 the Roman-Catholic church of St. Lavrentiy (Laurence) appeared here. It became a regular gathering place of the Sobeski and the Zolkiewski families. In 1741-1742 the Italian architect Antonio Kastell expanded the palace from the

stronghold, decorating the portico and the staircase with the sculptures of Lithuanian and Polish crown hetmans. In 1809 a ball was held in honour of Napoleon Bonaparte. The next owner of the castle was Artur Glodowski. In 1887 he sold one by one some of the walls, arcades, portico with the sculptures and one castle tower ...to be used as building materials. And in 1915 a fire broke out.

Zhovkva Synagogue was built in the 1690s for a rapidly growing Jewish community. During the eighteenth century, it became an important center of Jewish study and worship. An outstanding example of a fortress synagogue with a late-Renaissance appearance and baroque additions, Zhovkva was designed to protect Jews from invasions. To this day, a passageway to the roof and underground shelters exist.

Wooden Holy Trinity Church was built in suburb of Zhovkva, Ukraine in 1720 on the place of a church that burned down in 1717. The structure consists of three wooden naves and a brick sacristy.

There is an iconostasis consisting of about 50 icons painted by the masters of Zhovkva Painting and Carving School of Ivan Rutkovich in the beginning of 18th century. The iconostasis is made from linden wood carved by Ignatij Stobenskyj. In 1978-79 iconostasis was restored.

On June 21, 2013 on the 37th Session of the UNESCO World Heritage Committee in Cambodia the Holy Trinity Church was added to the UNESCO World Heritage List among 16 wooden tserkvas of Carpathian Region in Poland and Ukraine.^{[1][2]}

Krekhiv Monastery

Krekhiv of Ukraine, located about 10 km west of Zhovkva and 50 km north of Lviv. The village is famous for its Basilian monastery which is a popular pilgrimage site.

The monastery was established in the 16th century by two monks from the Kyiv Pechersk Lavra, Joel and Silvester, who settled in nearby caves. Around 1612 or

1618 the owner of Zhovkva, Stanisław Żółkiewski offered the monks land to build their monastery, later surrounded with fortifications during the second half of the 17th century to defend it from roaming Tatar hordes.

In the 18th century the monasteries prosperity rose and wooden buildings were replaced with stone ones which stand there today. At the beginning of the 19th century it suffered from the policies of Austrian emperor Joseph, however by the end of the century it was one of the main centers of the rebirth of Ukrainian monasticism.

The hardest time for Krekhiv came with the advent of soviet occupation in 1939, by 1949 the monastery was closed and many of the monks were martyred in soviet prisons while others had to live undercover. With the collapse of the soviet union the monastery was reopened on 29 August 1990 and the complex has undergone a thorough renovation.

The monastery is known for its miracle working icons of the Mother of God and of St. Nicholas. The largest annual pilgrimage to Krekhiv is held on the Feast of the Translation of St. Nicholas on May 22 (May 9 according to the Julian calendar).