

= Andriivskyy Descent =

Andriivskyy Descent (Ukrainian : ?????????????? ????? , Andriivs ? kyi uzviz , literally : Andrew 's Descent) is a historic descent connecting Kiev 's Upper Town neighborhood and the historically commercial Podil neighborhood . The street , often advertised by tour guides and operators as the " Montmartre of Kiev " , is a major tourist attraction of the city .

The descent , 720 metres (2 @, @ 360 ft) in length , is constructed of laid cobblestones . It winds down steeply around the Zamkova Hora hill , ending near the Kontraktova Square in the Podil . The Andriivskyy Descent is marked by a couple historic landmarks , including the Castle of Richard the Lionheart , the 18th century baroque Saint Andrew 's Church , famed Russian writer Mikhail Bulgakov 's house , and numerous other monuments .

Recent talk of the descent 's reconstruction has been going since 2006 , when a local grassroots organization aimed at saving the Andriivskyy Descent collected more than 1 @, @ 000 signatures to petition local authorities to take action on the descent 's reconstruction . On June 23 , 2009 , the Kiev City Council administration approved the reconstruction of the Andriivskyy Descent , which was officially announced a year earlier by Mayor Leonid Chernovetsky . The exact timeline for reconstruction has not yet been adopted , although the reconstruction 's budget has been drafted in the city 's 2010 budget .

= Description =

The Andriivskyy Descent begins on the summit of the Starokyivska Hora (Old Kiev mountain) near the ornate late @-@ baroque Saint Andrew 's Church (which gave the street its current name) . The street continues on down and descends to the Podil district where it ends at the Kontraktova Square . In the past times , the descent was known as the Borychiv Descent mentioned as " Borichev uvoz " (Old East Slavic : ??????? ?????) by Nestor the Chronicler in his Primary Chronicle and in the 12th century poem , The Tale of Igor 's Campaign (Slovo o polku Ihorevim) . The descent 's current name is derived from the 18th century , at the time when the Saint Andrew 's Church was erected atop the hill .

In the 18th and 19th centuries , the street was mainly inhabited by merchants and craftspeople . Although they are long gone due to the sweeping demographic changes in Kiev during times of the late Russian Empire and the Soviet Union , the street is once again thriving thanks to its unique topology , architecture , rich history and also many gift shops and small art galleries showcasing various paintings and sculptures by Ukrainian artists . The descent is one of the favorite spots for tourists . It is also notable for the many festivals it holds , including various art festivals and the Kiev Day celebrations on the last weekend of May .

The street 's location in the city and its landmark attraction has made it lately a highly prestigious area , with several new luxurious restaurants . However , the descent 's sewer and water systems have not been upgraded within the past 100 years , thereby underlining the need for a new system to be installed . Although , city authorities have not yet scheduled a new sewer project system to be installed .

= History =

The descent , located between two hills , is the shortest passageway from the historic Old or Upper Town (Ukrainian : ?????????????? ????? ; Kniiazivs ? ka Hora) to the commercial Podil neighborhood . One of the hills , known as Uzdyhal ? nytsia , was the place where pre @-@ Christian idols once stood (see : Baptism of Kiev) , and another hill , called Zamkova Hora , served as a castle hill during the Middle Ages . For many centuries , this passageway was very steep and inconvenient , that 's the reason why there were not any settlements for a long time . The first buildings were erected here only in the 17th century , and the first apartment buildings began appearing towards the end of the 19th century .

In 1711 , by the order of then @-@ Governor of Kiev , the route between the Zamkova and

Andriivskyy mountains were expanded , thus allowing traffic to become more suitable for horses and wagon carriages . The Andriivskyy Descent was renamed in 1920 in honor of young revolutionary Georgiy Liver . In 1944 , it was decided to return the street to its prior name ; in 1957 , the street was renamed back to Andreevsky Spusk ? the Russian variant of Andriivskyy Descent . In the 1980s , the Andriivskyy Descent received a thorough reconstruction after years of disrepair .

On April 9 , 2012 , construction workers began demolishing legally protected historic structures , even though earlier that year , their safety was guaranteed at several news conferences and the buildings themselves were included in scale models of the " renovated " descent . The destruction of the buildings took place under the guise of " reconstruction " efforts , which began in October 2011 . Preliminary reports indicate that the buildings directly across from , and next to the Museum of Bulhakov , (Buildings 10a , 10b , and 9 / 11) were all razed to the ground . The land was being redeveloped to make room for a new office and business complex to house Rinat Akhmetov 's Kyiv operations .

Several hundred protestors , including boxer / politician Vitali Klitschko , gathered outside the main Kyiv office of Akhmetov ? s SCM Holdings . On April 12 , Akhmetov claimed he had canceled plans to build a multi @-@ story business center in the buildings ? place , promising instead to build a cultural center and restore the facades .

= = Attractions = =

The Andriivskyy Descent contains numerous historic attractions and museums . The 18th century baroque Saint Andrew 's Church ; the late 19th century Mikhail Bulgakov 's house @-@ museum ; the 20th century Castle of Richard the Lionheart ; the Museum of One Street , chronicling the Andriivskyy Descent 's history ; and numerous other monuments attract tourists and Kievans alike to the area .

= = = Saint Andrew 's Church = = =

Another attraction of the Andriivskyy Descent is the baroque Saint Andrew 's Church . It is located atop a hill overlooking the Podil neighborhood from the Andriivskyy Descent . The idea to construct the Saint Andrew 's Church came from the Russian Tsaress Elizabeth Petrovna . When she visited Kiev in 1747 ? 1754 , she laid the foundation brick of the church with her own hand , after which the church was constructed , to a design by the imperial architect Bartolomeo Rastrelli .

As the Tsaress planned to take personal care of the church , the church has no parish , and there is no belltower to call the congregation to divine service . But she died before the construction ended , so the church was never cared for by Elizabeth Petrovna . After Elizabeth 's death , the Kiev court took no interest maintaining in the church , last consecrated in 1767 . Later , there were not enough funds to maintain the church , which left the maintaining of the church to private and voluntary funds , such as Andrey Muraviov .

In 1963 , Rastrelli 's original plans for the building were found in Vienna , Austria . This made it possible to reconstruct the original images on the building . The plan of restoration was carried out in the 1970s , overlooked by the main architect @-@ restorer , V. Korneyeva . Since 1968 , the church has been opened as a museum to tourists and visitors . The church is now owned by the Ukrainian Autocephalous Orthodox Church .

= = = Castle of Richard the Lionheart = = =

The " Castle of Richard the Lionheart " house was built from 1902 ? 1904 . It was originally supposed to be called Orlov House in reference to its constructor Dmitry Orlov . But because its owner failed to clear the house construction with the city 's authorities , a major scandal arose . Viktor Nekrasov named the building " The Castle of Richard the Lionheart " , after the 12th century English king in his book . It has been established that the modernized Gothic fronts were practically copied from a published design for a Saint Petersburg building by the architect R. Marfeld . But the

stunning relief of Andriyivskyy Descent softened the effect of this plagiarism .

The cellar of the building contained a barber 's shop , a grocery store and a butcher shop . The remaining premises were used as apartments for rent . When Dimitri Orlov died in 1911 while building a railroad in the Russian Far East , his widow , left with five children , had to sell off the house to pay her family 's debts . In 1983 , renovation works were started on the building to convert it into a hotel . Since the fall of the Soviet Union in 1991 , various reconstruction works have been largely unsuccessful . As of 2009 , the Castle of Richard the Lionheart still stands empty and fenced off in renovation .

= = = Mikhail Bulgakov 's house = = =

Mikhail Bulgakov , a famous Kiev @-@ born Russian writer , and his family lived on the street at two different houses in the early @-@ 20th century . In Bulgakov 's novel The White Guard the author vividly describes the street and house (he calls it Aleksey Descent - " Alekseevskiy Spusk ") in the turbulent times of the 1917 Russian Revolution . The address , at No.13 Andriyivskyy Descent is still commonly called the Bulgakov House and displays a plaque with the address the writer used in his book (No.13 Alekseevsky Spusk) (see image) . Popular writer 's statue is also installed near museum .

A museum was opened inside the preserved building to mark the 100th birthday of Mikhail Bulgakov on May 15 , 1991 . The upper floor of the museum houses an exhibition of various Bulgakov objects , and the lower floor contains thematic exhibitions . The house , built in 1888 and designed by architect N. Gardenin , was thoroughly renovated before the opening of the museum . A memorial plaque with Bulgakov 's portrait is now hanging on the front of the building .

= = = One Street Museum = = =

The One Street Museum is another main attraction of the Andriyivskyy Descent , which houses many of the historic items of the descent , containing more than 6 @,@ 500 exhibits . They include information about the Saint Andrew 's Church , the castle of Richard Lionheart , and the many other buildings of the Descent .

Also , the museum has a unique collection of various works by Ukrainian philologist P. Zhitetsky , Arabist and professor of the Kiev University T. Kezma , journalist and public figure A.Savenko , Ukrainian writer G.Tyutyunnyk , which have lived in the house No. 34 in the different periods of the twentieth century . Another important part of the collection in the museum is the memorabilia of professors of Kiev Theological Academy A. Bulgakov , S. Golubev , P. Kudryavtsev , F. Titov , A.Glagolev , famed doctors Th . Janovsky and D. Popov , and other prominent local figures .

The museum also has a large collection of antique books . Book relics of the exposition include a famous Trebnik of the Metropolitan of Kiev Petro Mohyla , rare editions of works written by professors and graduates of the Kyiv @-@ Mohyla Academy , unique books written by the Ukrainian Walter Scott , M.Grabovsky , the Defender of Orthodoxy , A.Muravyov , and the works of Mikhail Bulgakov published in his lifetime .

= = = Monuments = = =

The Andriyivskyy Descent also has a number of monuments . One of them is the monument to Yaroslav the Wise , the Grand Prince of Novgorod and Kiev , which depicts him holding a model of the Saint Sophia Cathedral . Another is the monument to Pronya Prokopovna and Svirid Golohvastov , which was unveiled in 1989 , depicting two characters , Pronya Prokopovna and Svirid Golohvastov , from the play Chasing Two Rabbits , which was written by Mykhailo Starytskyi . Another main monument on the street is dedicated to the famous Ukrainian poet and artist Taras Shevchenko , located to the right of the monument to Yaroslav the Wise . Most recently , a monument to Mikhail Bulgakov was opened on the Andriyivskyy Descent , the first dedicated to the writer in the former Soviet Union .

= = Legends = =

During its long history , the Andriivskyy Descent has a couple of legends surround it .

One legend states that when Andrew the Apostle visited the uninhabited mountains in the mid @-@ stream of the Dnieper River (today 's Andriyvskyy Descent area) , he put up a cross atop of the hill where the descent starts and prophesied a foundation of a great Christian city . Since that time , wooden churches sprang up around in the vicinity , completing his prophecy .

According to another legend , there was once a sea where the Dnieper River now flows . When Saint Andrew came to Kiev and erected a cross on the place where the Saint Andrew 's Church now stands , the sea went away . The only part that remained of the sea is under the mountain on which Kiev sits today . When the church was built there in the 18th century , a spring opened under the altar . The church has no bells , because , according to the legend , when the first bell strikes , the water can revive again and flood the left bank of Kiev .

= = Panorama = =