[Template:Other uses](/wiki/Template:Other_uses" \o "Template:Other uses) [Template:Distinguish](/wiki/Template:Distinguish) [Template:Use dmy dates](/wiki/Template:Use_dmy_dates) [Template:Infobox settlement](/wiki/Template:Infobox_settlement) **Odessa** or **Odesa** ([Template:Lang-uk](/wiki/Template:Lang-uk), [Template:IPA-uk](/wiki/Template:IPA-uk); [Template:Lang-rus](/wiki/Template:Lang-rus)) is an international city in [Ukraine](/wiki/Ukraine) and a major seaport and transportation hub located on the northwestern shore of the [Black Sea](/wiki/Black_Sea). Odessa is also an [administrative center](/wiki/Administrative_center) of the [Odessa Oblast](/wiki/Odessa_Oblast) and a multiethnic major cultural center. Odessa is the third biggest city in Ukraine and known in Ukraine as **Black Sea Pearl, Odessa mama,** South Capital (During the Russian Empire and USSR) or **Southern Palmyra**.<ref name=about\_region>[Tell about Ukraine. Odessa Oblast](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nbUfDC9xE5s). 24 Kanal (youtube).</ref> Population: [Template:Ua-pop-est2015](/wiki/Template:Ua-pop-est2015)

The predecessor of Odessa, a small [Tatar](/wiki/Tatars) [settlement](/wiki/Human_settlement), was founded by [Hacı I Giray](/wiki/Hacı_I_Giray), the [Khan](/wiki/Khan_(title)) of [Crimea](/wiki/Crimean_Khanate), in 1440 and originally named after him as "Hacıbey"[Template:Citation needed](/wiki/Template:Citation_needed). After a period of [Lithuanian](/wiki/Grand_Duchy_of_Lithuania) control, it passed into the domain of the [Ottoman](/wiki/Ottoman_Dynasty) [Sultan](/wiki/Sultan) in 1529 and remained in Ottoman hands until the [Ottoman Empire's](/wiki/Ottoman_Empire) defeat in the [Russo-Turkish War](/wiki/Russo-Turkish_War_(1787–1792)) of 1792.

In 1794, the city of Odessa was founded by a decree of the Empress [Catherine the Great](/wiki/Catherine_II_of_Russia). From 1819 to 1858, Odessa was a [free port](/wiki/List_of_free_ports). During the Soviet period it was the most important port of trade in the [Soviet Union](/wiki/Soviet_Union) and a Soviet [naval base](/wiki/Naval_dockyard). On 1 January 2000, the Quarantine Pier at Odessa Commercial Sea Port was declared a free port and [free economic zone](/wiki/Free_economic_zone) for a period of 25 years.

During the 19th century, it was the fourth largest city of [Imperial Russia](/wiki/Russian_Empire), after Moscow, [Saint Petersburg](/wiki/Saint_Petersburg) and [Warsaw](/wiki/Warsaw).[[1]](#cite_note-1) Its historical architecture has a style more [Mediterranean](/wiki/Mediterranean_Sea) than Russian, having been heavily influenced by French and Italian styles. Some buildings are built in a mixture of different styles, including [Art Nouveau](/wiki/Art_Nouveau), [Renaissance](/wiki/Renaissance_architecture) and [Classicist](/wiki/Classicism).[[2]](#cite_note-2) Odessa is a [warm-water port](/wiki/Warm-water_port). The city of Odessa hosts two important ports: [Port of Odessa](/wiki/Port_of_Odessa) itself and [Port Yuzhne](/wiki/Yuzhne) (also an internationally important oil [terminal](/wiki/Container_terminal)), situated in the city's suburbs. Another important port, [Illichivsk](/wiki/Illichivsk_Commerce_Seaport), is located in the same [oblast](/wiki/Oblast), to the south-west of Odessa. Together they represent a major [transport hub](/wiki/Transport_hub) integrating with railways. Odessa's oil and chemical processing facilities are connected to Russia's and EU's respective networks by strategic [pipelines](/wiki/Pipeline_transport).

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## Name[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=1)]

The city was named in compliance with the [Greek Plan](/wiki/Greek_Plan) of Catherine the Great. It was named after the ancient Greek city of [Odessos](/wiki/Varna#Antiquity_and_Bulgarian_conquest), which was mistakenly believed to have been located here. Although Odessa is located in between the ancient Greek cities of [Tyras](/wiki/Tyras) and [Olbia](/wiki/Olbia,_Ukraine), Odessos is believed to be the predecessor of the present day city of [Varna](/wiki/Varna), Bulgaria.[[3]](#cite_note-3) Catherine's [secretary of state](/wiki/Secretary_of_state) [Template:Ill](/wiki/Template:Ill) claimed in his memoirs that the name was his suggestion. Some expressed doubts about this claim, while others noted the reputation of Gribovsky as an honest and modest man.[[4]](#cite_note-4)

## History[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=2)]

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### Early history[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=3)]

[thumb|left|200px|Remains of ancient Greek settlement (under glass roof) on Primorsky Boulevard in Odessa](/wiki/File:Античный_музей_на_бульваре.jpg)[[5]](#cite_note-5) Odessa was the site of a large [Greek settlement](/wiki/Greek_colony), called Odyssos, not later than the middle of the 6th century BC (a [necropolis](/wiki/Necropolis) from the 5th–3rd centuries BC has long been known in this area). Some scholars believe it to be a trade settlement established by [Histria](/wiki/Histria_(ancient_city)). Whether the Bay of Odessa is the ancient "Port of the Histrians" cannot yet be considered a settled question based on the available evidence.[[6]](#cite_note-6) [Archaeological artifacts](/wiki/Artifact_(archaeology)) confirm extensive links between the Odessa area and the eastern [Mediterranean](/wiki/Mediterranean_Sea).

In the Middle Ages successive rulers of the Odessa region included various [nomadic](/wiki/Nomad) tribes ([Petchenegs](/wiki/Pechenegs), [Cumans](/wiki/Cumans)), the [Golden Horde](/wiki/Golden_Horde), the [Crimean Khanate](/wiki/Crimean_Khanate), the [Grand Duchy of Lithuania](/wiki/Grand_Duchy_of_Lithuania), and the [Ottoman Empire](/wiki/Ottoman_Empire). [Yedisan](/wiki/Yedisan) [Crimean Tatars](/wiki/Crimean_Tatars) traded there in the 14th century.

During the reign of [Khan](/wiki/Khan_(title)) [Hacı I Giray](/wiki/Hacı_I_Giray) of [Crimea](/wiki/Crimea) (1441–1466), the Khanate was endangered by the Golden Horde and the Ottoman Turks and, in search of allies, the khan agreed to cede the area to Lithuania. The site of present-day Odessa was then a fortress known as [Khadjibey](/wiki/Khadjibey) (named for Hacı I Giray, and also spelled Kocibey in [English](/wiki/Modern_English), Hacıbey or Hocabey in [Turkish](/wiki/Turkish_language), and Hacıbey in [Crimean Tatar](/wiki/Crimean_Tatar_language)). It was part of the [Dykra](/wiki/Dykra) region. However, most of the rest of the area remained largely uninhabited in this period.

### Ottoman Yedisan[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=4)]

Khadjibey came under direct control of the Ottoman Empire after 1529 as part of a region known as Yedisan, and was administered in the Ottoman [Silistra (Özi) Province](/wiki/Silistra_Province,_Ottoman_Empire).[Template:Citation needed](/wiki/Template:Citation_needed) In the mid-18th century, the Ottomans rebuilt a [fortress](/wiki/Fortification) at Khadjibey (also was known Hocabey), which was named *Yeni Dünya* (literally "New World"). Hocabey was a [sanjak](/wiki/Sanjak) centre of [Silistre](/wiki/Silistre) Province.[Template:Citation needed](/wiki/Template:Citation_needed)

### In the Russian Empire[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=5)]

[thumb|right|](/wiki/File:Shturm_kreposti_Hadjebey.JPG)[Russian](/wiki/Russian_empire) and [Cossack](/wiki/Cossack) troops take the fortress of Khadjibey, defeating the Ottomans and thus providing the impetus to found Odessa. During the [Russian-Turkish War of 1787–1792](/wiki/Russo-Turkish_War_(1787–1792)), on 25 September 1789, a detachment of [Russian forces](/wiki/Imperial_Russian_Army) under [Ivan Gudovich](/wiki/Ivan_Gudovich) took Khadjibey and Yeni Dünya for the [Russian Empire](/wiki/Russian_Empire). One part of the troops came under command of a [Spaniard](/wiki/Spanish_people) in Russian service, [Major General](/wiki/Major_General) [José de Ribas](/wiki/José_de_Ribas) (known in Russia as Osip Mikhailovich Deribas), and the main street in Odessa today, [Deribasivska Street](/wiki/Deribasivska_Street), is named after him. Russia formally gained possession of the area as a result of the [Treaty of Jassy](/wiki/Treaty_of_Jassy) (Iaşi) in 1792 and it became a part of [Novorossiya](/wiki/Novorossiya) ("New Russia").

The city of Odessa, founded by order of [Catherine the Great](/wiki/Catherine_the_Great), Russian Empress, centers on the site of the Turkish fortress Khadzhibei, which was occupied by Russian Army in 1789. De Ribas and Franz de Volan recommended the area of Khadzhibei fortress as the site for the region's basic port: it had an ice-free harbor, breakwaters could be cheaply constructed and would render the harbor safe and it would have the capacity to accommodate large fleets. The Governor General of Novorossiya, [Platon Zubov](/wiki/Platon_Zubov) (one of Catherine's favorites) supported this proposal, and in 1794 Catherine approved the founding of the new port-city and invested the first money in constructing the city.

[thumb|upright|left|](/wiki/File:Odessa_vlasenko.jpg)[Ivan Martos's](/wiki/Ivan_Martos) statue of the [Duc de Richelieu](/wiki/Armand-Emmanuel_de_Vignerot_du_Plessis,_Duc_de_Richelieu) in Odessa

However, adjacent to the new official locality, a [Moldavian](/wiki/Moldavia) colony already existed, which by the end of the 18th century was an independent settlement known under the name of [Moldavanka](/wiki/Moldavanka). Some local historians consider that the settlement predates Odessa by about thirty years and assert that the locality was founded by Moldavians who came to build the fortress of Yeni Dunia for the Ottomans and eventually settled in the area in the late 1760s, right next to the settlement of Khadjibey (since 1795 Odessa proper), on what later became the Primorsky Boulevard. Another version posits that the settlement appeared after Odessa itself was founded, as a settlement of Moldavians, Greeks and Albanians fleeing the Ottoman yoke.[[7]](#cite_note-7) In their settlement, also known as Novaya Slobodka, the Moldavians owned relatively small plots on which they built village-style houses and cultivated vineyards and gardens. What became Mykhailovsky Square was the center of this settlement and the site of its first [Orthodox church](/wiki/Orthodox_Christianity), the [Church of the Dormition](/wiki/Church_of_the_Dormition_(Odessa)), built in 1821 close to the seashore, as well as of a cemetery. Nearby stood the [military barracks](/wiki/Barracks) and the country houses ([*dacha*](/wiki/Dacha)) of the city's wealthy residents, including that of the [Duc de Richelieu](/wiki/Armand-Emmanuel_de_Vignerot_du_Plessis,_Duc_de_Richelieu), appointed by Tzar [Alexander I](/wiki/Alexander_I_of_Russia) as Governor of Odessa in 1803.

[thumb|upright|right|In the mid-19th century Odessa became a resort town famed for its popularity among the Russian upper classes. This popularity prompted a new age of investment in the building of hotels and leisure projects.](/wiki/File:Большая_Московская.jpg)

In the period from 1795 to 1814 the population of Odessa increased 15 times over and reached almost 20 thousand people. The first city plan was designed by the engineer F. Devollan in the late 18th century.[[2]](#cite_note-2) Colonists of various ethnicities settled mainly in the area of the former colony, outside of the official boundaries, and as a consequence, in the first third of the 19th century, Moldavanka emerged as the dominant settlement. After planning by the official architects who designed buildings in Odessa's central district, such as the Italians [Francesco Carlo Boffo](/wiki/Francesco_Carlo_Boffo) and [Giovanni Torricelli](/wiki/Giovanni_Torricelli), Moldovanka was included in the general city plan, though the original grid-like plan of Moldovankan streets, lanes and squares remained unchanged.[[7]](#cite_note-7) The new city quickly became a major success although initially it received little state funding and privileges.[[8]](#cite_note-8) Its early growth owed much to the work of the [Duc de Richelieu](/wiki/Armand-Emmanuel_de_Vignerot_du_Plessis,_Duc_de_Richelieu), who served as the city's governor between 1803 and 1814. Having fled the [French Revolution](/wiki/French_Revolution), he had served in [Catherine's](/wiki/Catherine_II_of_Russia) army against the Turks. He is credited with designing the city and organizing its amenities and infrastructure, and is considered[Template:By whom](/wiki/Template:By_whom) one of the founding fathers of Odessa, together with another Frenchman, Count [Andrault de Langeron](/wiki/Louis_Alexandre_Andrault_de_Langeron), who succeeded him in office. Richelieu is commemorated by a [bronze statue](/wiki/Bronze_sculpture), unveiled in 1828 to a design by [Ivan Martos](/wiki/Ivan_Martos). His contributions to the city are mentioned by [Mark Twain](/wiki/Mark_Twain) in his travelogue [*Innocents Abroad*](/wiki/The_Innocents_Abroad): "I mention this statue and this stairway because they have their story. Richelieu founded Odessa – watched over it with paternal care – labored with a fertile brain and a wise understanding for its best interests – spent his fortune freely to the same end – endowed it with a sound prosperity, and one which will yet make it one of the great cities of the Old World". [left|thumb|By the early 1900s Odessa had become a large, thriving city, complete with European architecture and electrified urban transport.](/wiki/File:CP_Odessa_Dom_Russova_circa_1920s.JPG)

In 1819, the city became a free port, a status it retained until 1859. It became home to an extremely diverse population of Albanians, Armenians, Azeris, Bulgarians, Crimean Tatars, Frenchmen, Germans (including Mennonites), Greeks, Italians, Jews, Poles, Romanians, Russians, Turks, Ukrainians, and traders representing many other nationalities (hence numerous "ethnic" names on the city's map, for example *Frantsuzky* (French) and *Italiansky* (Italian) Boulevards, *Grecheskaya* (Greek), *Yevreyskaya* (Jewish), *Arnautskaya* (Albanian) Streets). Its [cosmopolitan](/wiki/Cosmopolitanism) nature was documented by the great [Russian poet](/wiki/List_of_Russian_language_poets) [Alexander Pushkin](/wiki/Alexander_Pushkin), who lived in [internal exile](/wiki/Exile) in Odessa between 1823 and 1824. In his letters he wrote that Odessa was a city where "the air is filled with all Europe, French is spoken and there are European papers and magazines to read".

Odessa's growth was interrupted by the [Crimean War](/wiki/Crimean_War) of 1853–1856, during which it was bombarded by [British](/wiki/United_Kingdom_of_Great_Britain_and_Ireland) and French naval forces.[[9]](#cite_note-9) It soon recovered and the growth in trade made Odessa Russia's largest grain-exporting port. In 1866, the city was linked by rail with [Kiev](/wiki/Kiev) and [Kharkiv](/wiki/Kharkiv) as well as with [Iaşi](/wiki/Iaşi) in Romania.

[thumb|right|The 142-metre-long](/wiki/File:potemkinstairs.jpg) [Potemkin Stairs](/wiki/Potemkin_Stairs) (constructed 1837–1841), made famous by [Sergei Eisenstein](/wiki/Sergei_Eisenstein) in his movie [*The Battleship Potemkin*](/wiki/The_Battleship_Potemkin) (1925).

The city became the home of a large Jewish community during the 19th century, and by 1897 Jews were estimated to comprise some 37% of the population. They were, due to interethnic conflict that had existed throughout the 19th century, repeatedly subjected to anti-Jewish backlash. [Pogroms](/wiki/Pogrom) were carried out in [1821, 1859, 1871, 1881 and 1905](/wiki/Odessa_pogrom). Many Odessan Jews fled abroad after 1882, particularly to the [Ottoman](/wiki/Ottoman_Syria) region that became [Palestine](/wiki/Palestine_(region)#Late_Ottoman_and_British_Mandate_periods), and the city became an important base of support for [Zionism](/wiki/Zionism).

### Beginnings of revolution[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=6)]

[thumb|Bolshevik troops entering Odessa](/wiki/File:Entering_of_red_cavalry_brigade_Kotovsky_to_Odessa._February,_1920.jpg) In 1905, Odessa was the site of a workers' uprising supported by the crew of the [Russian battleship Potemkin](/wiki/Russian_battleship_Potemkin) and [Lenin's](/wiki/Vladimir_Lenin) [Iskra](/wiki/Iskra). [Sergei Eisenstein's](/wiki/Sergei_Eisenstein) famous motion picture *The Battleship Potemkin* commemorated the uprising and included a scene where hundreds of Odessan citizens were murdered on the great stone staircase (now popularly known as the "Potemkin Steps"), in one of the most famous scenes in motion picture history. At the top of the steps, which lead down to the port, stands a statue of the [Duc de Richelieu](/wiki/Armand-Emmanuel_de_Vignerot_du_Plessis,_Duc_de_Richelieu). The actual massacre took place in streets nearby, not on the steps themselves, but the film caused many to visit Odessa to see the site of the "slaughter". The "Odessa Steps" continue to be a [tourist attraction](/wiki/Tourist_attraction) in Odessa. The film was made at [Odessa's Cinema Factory](/wiki/Odessa_Film_Studio), one of the oldest cinema studios in the [former Soviet Union](/wiki/Post-Soviet_states).

Following the [Bolshevik Revolution](/wiki/October_Revolution) in 1917 during [Ukrainian-Soviet War](/wiki/Ukrainian-Soviet_War), Odessa saw two Bolsheviks armed insurgencies, the [second of which](/wiki/Odessa_Bolshevik_Uprising) succeeded in establishing their control over the city; for the following months the city became a center of the [Odessa Soviet Republic](/wiki/Odessa_Soviet_Republic). After signing of the [Brest-Litovsk Treaty](/wiki/Brest-Litovsk_Treaty) all Bolshevik forces were driven out by the combined armed forces of [Central Powers](/wiki/Central_Powers), nominally providing support to the [Ukrainian People's Republic](/wiki/Ukrainian_People's_Republic). With the end of the [World War I](/wiki/World_War_I) and withdrawal of armies of Central Powers, the forces of [Soviet Ukraine](/wiki/Soviet_Ukraine) fought for control over the country with groups still loyal to the People's Republic. Few months later the city was occupied by the [French Army](/wiki/French_Army) and Greek legions that supported the Russian [White Army](/wiki/White_movement) in struggle with Bolsheviks. The Ukrainian general [Nikifor Grigoriev](/wiki/Nikifor_Grigoriev) who sided with Bolsheviks managed to drive the unwelcomed [Triple Entente](/wiki/Triple_Entente) forces out of the city, but Odessa was soon retaken by the Russian White Army. Finally by 1920 the Soviet Red Army managed to overpower both Ukrainian and Russian White Army and secure the city.

The people of Odessa badly suffered from a [famine](/wiki/Famine) that occurred as a result of the [Russian Civil War](/wiki/Russian_Civil_War) in 1921–1922 due to the Soviet policies of [prodrazverstka](/wiki/Prodrazverstka).

### World War II[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=7)]

Odessa was attacked by Romanian and German troops in August 1941. The [defense of Odessa](/wiki/Siege_of_Odessa_(1941)) lasted 73 days from 5 August to 16 October 1941. The defense was organized on three lines with emplacements consisting of trenches, AT ditches and pillboxes.The first line was 80 km long and situated some 25–30 km from the city. The second and main line of defense was situated 6–8 km from the city and was about 30 km long. The third and last line of defense was organized inside the city itself.

[Medal](/wiki/Orders,_decorations,_and_medals_of_the_Soviet_Union) ["For the Defence of Odessa"](/wiki/Medal_%22For_the_Defence_of_Odessa%22) was established on 22 December 1942. Approximately 38,000 people have been awarded (servicemen of the Soviet Army, Navy, Ministry of Internal Affairs, and civil citizens who took part in the defense of Odessa). It was one of the first four Soviet cities to be awarded the title of "[Hero City](/wiki/Hero_City)" in 1945 ( [Leningrad](/wiki/Siege_of_Leningrad), [Stalingrad](/wiki/Battle_of_Stalingrad), [Sevastopol](/wiki/Siege_of_Sevastopol_(1941–42)), and [Odessa](/wiki/Siege_of_Odessa_(1941))).

In the battle for Odessa took part the world's best female sniper [Lyudmila Pavlichenko](/wiki/Lyudmila_Pavlichenko). Her first 2 kills were made near Belyayevka using a Mosin-Nagant bolt-action rifle with a P.E. 4-power scope. She recorded 187 confirmed kills during defense of Odessa. Pavlichenko's total confirmed kills during World War II was 309 (including 36 snipers).

Before being occupied by Romanian troops in 1941, a part of the city's population, industry, infrastructure and all cultural valuables possible were evacuated to inner regions of the USSR and the retreating Red Army units destroyed as much as they could of Odessa harbour facilities left behind. The city was [land mined](/wiki/Land_mine) in the same way as Kiev.[Template:Citation needed](/wiki/Template:Citation_needed)

During [World War II](/wiki/World_War_II), from 1941–1944, Odessa was subject to [Romanian](/wiki/Romania_during_World_War_II) administration, as the city had been made part of [Transnistria](/wiki/Transnistria_(World_War_II)).[[10]](#cite_note-10) Partisan fighting continued, however, in the [city's catacombs](/wiki/Odessa_Catacombs).

[right|thumb|Soviet gun crew in action at Odessa in 1941](/wiki/File:Odessa_Soviet_artilery.JPG)

Following the [Siege of Odessa](/wiki/Siege_of_Odessa_(1941)), and the [Axis](/wiki/Axis_powers) occupation, approximately 25,000 Odessans were murdered in the outskirts of the city and over 35,000 deported; this came to be known as the [Odessa massacre](/wiki/Odessa_massacre). Most of the atrocities were committed during the first six months of the occupation which officially began on 17 October 1941, when 80% of the 210,000 Jews in the region were killed.[[11]](#cite_note-11) After the Nazi forces began to lose ground on the Eastern Front, the Romanian administration changed its policy, refusing to deport the remaining [Jewish population](/wiki/Jewish_population) to extermination camps in German [occupied Poland](/wiki/History_of_Poland_(1939–1945)), and allowing Jews to work as hired labourers. As a result, despite the tragic events of 1941, the survival of the Jewish population in this area was higher than in other areas of occupied eastern Europe.[[11]](#cite_note-11) The city suffered severe damage and sustained many casualties over the course of the war. Many parts of Odessa were damaged during both its siege and recapture on 10 April 1944, when the city was finally liberated by the Red Army. Some of the Odessans had a more favourable view of the Romanian occupation, in contrast with the Soviet official view that the period was exclusively a time of hardship, deprivation, oppression and suffering – claims embodied in public monuments and disseminated through the media to this day.[[12]](#cite_note-12) Subsequent Soviet policies imprisoned and executed numerous Odessans (and deported most of the German and Tatar population) on account of collaboration with the occupiers.[[13]](#cite_note-13) <gallery> File:Odessa\_(timbre\_soviétique).jpg|Postage stamp of the USSR 1965 “Hero City Odessa 1941-1945” File:Defence\_of\_Odessa\_OBVERSE.jpg|Obverse of the Soviet campaign medal “For Defence of Odessa” File:Defence of Odessa REVERSE.jpg|Reverse of the Soviet campaign medal “For the Defence of Odessa” File:Наградное удостоверение к медали За оборону Одессы.jpg|Certificate "For taking part in the heroic defense of Odessa" Logvinov Petr Leontievich was awarded the Medal for the Defense of Odessa. File:Pavlichenko LM.jpg|Sniper Lyudmila Pavlichenko </gallery>

### Since the Second World War[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=8)]

[left|upright|thumb|Ships at anchor in Odessa – the USSR's largest port, 1960](/wiki/File:RIAN_archive_171693_Fleet_of_whalers_lying_up_in_Odessa_port.jpg)

During the 1960s and 1970s, the city grew. Nevertheless, the majority of Odessa's Jews emigrated to [Israel](/wiki/Israel), the United States and other Western countries between the 1970s and 1990s. Many ended up in the [Brooklyn](/wiki/Brooklyn) neighborhood of [Brighton Beach](/wiki/Brighton_Beach), sometimes known as "Little Odessa". Domestic migration of the Odessan middle and [upper classes](/wiki/Social_class) to Moscow and [Leningrad](/wiki/Saint_Petersburg), cities that offered even greater opportunities for career advancement, also occurred on a large scale. Despite this, the city grew rapidly by filling the void of those left with new migrants from rural Ukraine and industrial professionals invited from all over the Soviet Union.

[thumb|Nowadays the city is undergoing a phase of widespread urban restoration.](/wiki/File:Будинок_прибутковий_Маврокордато.jpg) As a part of the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, the city preserved and somewhat reinforced its unique cosmopolitan mix of Russian/Ukrainian/Jewish culture and a predominantly [Russophone](/wiki/Russophone) environment with the [uniquely accented dialect of Russian spoken in the city](/wiki/Ru:Русский_язык_Одессы). The city's unique identity has been formed largely thanks of its varied demography; all the city's communities have influenced aspects of Odessan life in some way or form.

Odessa is a city of more than 1 million people. The city's industries include shipbuilding, [oil refining](/wiki/Oil_refinery), chemicals, metalworking and food processing. Odessa is also a Ukrainian [naval](/wiki/Ukrainian_Navy) base and home to a [fishing fleet](/wiki/Fishing_fleet). It is known for its large outdoor market – the [Seventh-Kilometer Market](/wiki/Seventh-Kilometer_Market), the largest of its kind in Europe.

The city has seen violence in the [2014 pro-Russian conflict in Ukraine](/wiki/2014_pro-Russian_conflict_in_Ukraine) during [2014 Odessa clashes](/wiki/2014_Odessa_clashes). The [2 May 2014 Odessa clashes](/wiki/2_May_2014_Odessa_clashes) between pro-Ukrainian and pro-Russian protestors killed 42 people. Four were killed during the protests, and at least 32 pro-Russian protesters were killed after a trade union building was set on fire.[[14]](#cite_note-14) Polls conducted from September to December 2014 found little support for joining Russia[Template:R](/wiki/Template:R)

Odessa was struck by three bomb blasts in December 2014, one of which killed one person (the injuries sustained by the victim indicated that he had dealt with explosives).<ref name=Shkiryak>[Two dead after Ukraine rocked by series of blasts](http://mashable.com/2014/12/27/ukraine-blasts/), [Mashable](/wiki/Mashable) (28 December 2014)  
[Interior minister's advisor says Kharkiv, Odesa explosions aim at escalating tensions in Ukraine](http://en.interfax.com.ua/news/general/241835.html), [Interfax-Ukraine](/wiki/Interfax-Ukraine) (25 December 2014)</ref>[[15]](#cite_note-15) Internal Affairs Ministry advisor [Zorian Shkiryak](/wiki/Zorian_Shkiryak) said on 25 December that Odessa and Kharkiv had become "cities which are being used to escalate tensions" in Ukraine. Shkiryak said that he suspected that these cities were singled out because of their "geographic position".[[16]](#cite_note-16) On 5 January 2015 the city's [Euromaidan](/wiki/Euromaidan) Coordination Center and a cargo train car were (non-lethally) bombed.[[17]](#cite_note-17)

## Geography[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=9)]

### Location[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=10)]

[thumb|right|The Vorontsov Lighthouse in the Gulf of Odessa. The city is located on the Black Sea.](/wiki/File:Воронцовський_маяк.JPG) Odessa is situated ([Template:Coord](/wiki/Template:Coord)) on terraced hills overlooking a small harbor on the [Black Sea](/wiki/Black_Sea) in the [Gulf of Odessa](/wiki/Gulf_of_Odessa), approximately [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) north of the estuary of the [Dniester](/wiki/Dniester) river and some [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) south of the Ukrainian capital [Kiev](/wiki/Kiev). The average elevation at which the city is located is around [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert), whilst the maximum is [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) and minimum (on the coast) amounts to [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) [above sea level](/wiki/Above_mean_sea_level). The city currently covers a territory of [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert), the population density for which is around 6,139 persons/km². Sources of running water in the city include the Dniester River, from which water is taken and then purified at a processing plant just outside the city. Being located in the south of Ukraine, the topography of the area surrounding the city is typically flat and there are no large mountains or hills for many kilometres around. Flora is of the deciduous variety and Odessa is famous for its beautiful tree-lined avenues which, in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, made the city a favourite year-round retreat for the Russian aristocracy. [Template:Citation needed](/wiki/Template:Citation_needed)

The city's location on the coast of the [Black Sea](/wiki/Black_Sea) has also helped to create a booming tourist industry in Odessa. [Template:Citation needed](/wiki/Template:Citation_needed) The city's famous Arkadia beach has long been a favourite place for relaxation, both for the city's inhabitants and its many visitors. This is a large sandy beach which is located to the south of the city centre. Odessa's many sandy beaches are considered to be quite unique in Ukraine, as the country's southern coast (particularly in the Crimea) tends to be a location in which the formation of stoney and pebble beaches has proliferated. [Template:Panorama](/wiki/Template:Panorama)

### Climate[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=11)]

Odessa has a hot-summer [humid continental climate](/wiki/Humid_continental_climate) (*Dfa*) that borderlines the [semi-arid climate](/wiki/Semi-arid_climate) (*BSk*). This has, over the past few centuries, aided the city greatly in creating conditions necessary for the development of tourism. During the tsarist era, Odessa's climate was considered to be beneficial for the body, and thus many wealthy but sickly persons were sent to the city in order to relax and recuperate. This resulted in the development of a spa culture and the establishment of a number of high-end hotels in the city. The average annual temperature of sea is [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert), whilst seasonal temperatures range from an average of [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) in the period from January to March, to [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) in August. Typically, for a total of 4 months – from June to September – the average sea temperature in the Gulf of Odessa and city's bay area exceeds [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert).[[18]](#cite_note-18) The city typically experiences dry, relatively mild winters, which are marked by temperatures which rarely fall below [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert). Summers on the other hand do see an increased level of precipitation, and the city often basks in warm weather with temperatures often reaching into the high 20s and mid-30s. Snow cover is often only light, and municipal services rarely experience the same problems that can often be found in other, more northern, Ukrainian cities. This is largely because the higher winter temperatures and coastal location of Odessa prevent significant snowfall. Additionally the city does not suffer from the phenomenon of river-freezing. [Template:Weather box](/wiki/Template:Weather_box)

## Demographics[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=12)]

According to the 2001 census, [Ukrainians](/wiki/Ukrainians) make up a majority (62 percent) of Odessa's inhabitants, along with an ethnic [Russian](/wiki/Russians) minority (29 percent).[[19]](#cite_note-19) A 2015 study by the [International Republican Institute](/wiki/International_Republican_Institute) found that 68% of Odessa was ethnic Ukrainian, and 25% ethnic Russian.<ref name=iri1/>

Despite the Ukrainian majority, [Russian language](/wiki/Russian_language) is dominating in the city. In 2015, the languages spoken at home were [Russian](/wiki/Russian_language) – 78%, [Ukrainian](/wiki/Ukrainian_language) – 6%, and an equal combination of Ukrainian and Russian – 15%.<ref name=iri1>[Template:Cite journal](/wiki/Template:Cite_journal)</ref>

The city is also home to a number of other nationalities and minority [ethnic groups](/wiki/Ethnic_group), including [Albanians](/wiki/Albanians), [Armenians](/wiki/Armenians), [Azeris](/wiki/Azeris), [Crimean Tatars](/wiki/Crimean_Tatars), [Bulgarians](/wiki/Bulgarians), [Georgians](/wiki/Georgians), [Greeks](/wiki/Greeks), [Jews](/wiki/Jews), [Poles](/wiki/Poles), [Romanians](/wiki/Romanians), [Turks](/wiki/Turkish_people), among others. Up until the early 1940s the city also had a large Jewish population. As the result of [mass deportation to extermination camps](/wiki/Holocaust) during the [Second World War](/wiki/Second_World_War), the city's Jewish population declined considerably. Since the 1970s, the majority of the remaining Jewish population [emigrated to Israel](/wiki/Aliyah) and other countries, shrinking the Jewish community.

Through most of the 19th century and until the mid 20th century the largest ethnic group in Odessa was [Russians](/wiki/Russians), with the second largest ethnic group being the [Jews](/wiki/Jews).[[20]](#cite_note-20)

### Historical ethnic and national composition[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=13)]

* 1897[[21]](#cite_note-21)[Template:Colbegin](/wiki/Template:Colbegin)

1. [Russians](/wiki/Russians): 198,233 people (49.09%)
2. [Jews](/wiki/Jews): 124,511 people (30.83%)
3. [Ukrainians](/wiki/Ukrainians): 37,925 people (9.39%)
4. [Poles](/wiki/Poles): 17,395 people (4.31%)
5. [Germans](/wiki/Germans): 10,248 people (2.54%)
6. [Greeks](/wiki/Greeks): 5,086 people (1.26%)
7. [Tatars](/wiki/Tatars): 1,437 people (0.36%)
8. [Armenians](/wiki/Armenians): 1,401 people (0.35%)
9. [Belarusians](/wiki/Belarusians): 1,267 people (0.31%)
10. [Frenchmen](/wiki/Frenchmen): 1,137 people (0.28%)

[Template:Colend](/wiki/Template:Colend)

* 1926[[22]](#cite_note-22)[Template:Colbegin](/wiki/Template:Colbegin)

1. [Russians](/wiki/Russians): 162,789 people (39.97%)
2. [Jews](/wiki/Jews): 153,243 people (36.69%)
3. [Ukrainians](/wiki/Ukrainians): 73,453 people (17.59%)
4. [Poles](/wiki/Poles): 10,021 people (2.40%)
5. [Germans](/wiki/Germans): 5,522 people (1.32%)
6. [Belarusians](/wiki/Belarusians): 2,501 people (0.60%)
7. [Armenians](/wiki/Armenians): 1,843 people (0.44%)
8. [Greeks](/wiki/Greeks): 1,377 people (0.33%)
9. [Bulgarians](/wiki/Bulgarians): 1,186 people (0.28%)
10. [Moldovans](/wiki/Moldovans): 1,048 people (0.25%)

[Template:Colend](/wiki/Template:Colend)

* 1939[[23]](#cite_note-23)[Template:Colbegin](/wiki/Template:Colbegin)

1. [Jews](/wiki/Jews): 200,961 people (33.26%)
2. [Russians](/wiki/Russians): 186,610 people (30.88%)
3. [Ukrainians](/wiki/Ukrainians): 178,878 people (29.60%)
4. [Poles](/wiki/Poles): 8,829 people (1.46%)
5. [Germans](/wiki/Germans): 8,424 people (1.39%)
6. [Bulgarians](/wiki/Bulgarians): 4,967 people (0.82%)
7. [Moldovans](/wiki/Moldovans): 2,573 people (0.43%)
8. [Armenians](/wiki/Armenians): 2,298 people (0.38%)

[Template:Colend](/wiki/Template:Colend)

* 2001[[24]](#cite_note-24)[Template:Colbegin](/wiki/Template:Colbegin)

1. [Ukrainians](/wiki/Ukrainians): 622,900 people (61.6%)
2. [Russians](/wiki/Russians): 292,000 people (29.0%)
3. [Bulgarians](/wiki/Bulgarians): 13,300 people (1.3%)
4. [Jews](/wiki/Jews): 12,400 people (1.2%)
5. [Moldovans](/wiki/Moldovans): 7,600 people (0.7%)
6. [Belarusians](/wiki/Belarusians): 6,400 people (0.6%)
7. [Armenians](/wiki/Armenians): 4,400 people (0.4%)
8. [Poles](/wiki/Poles): 2,100 people (0.2%)

[Template:Colend](/wiki/Template:Colend)

## Government and administrative divisions[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=14)]

[left|thumb|](/wiki/File:Odessa's_city_hall.jpg)[Odessa City Hall](/wiki/Odessa_City_Hall), the seat of the city's municipal authorities Whilst Odessa is the [administrative centre](/wiki/Capital_city) of the [Odessa Oblast](/wiki/Odessa_Oblast) ([province](/wiki/Oblast)), the city is also the main constituent of the Odessa Municipality. However, since Odessa is a [city of regional significance](/wiki/City_of_regional_significance_(Ukraine)), this makes the city subject directly to the administration of the oblast's authorities, thus removing it from the responsibility of the municipality.

The city of Odessa is governed by a mayor and city council which work cooperatively to ensure the smooth-running of the city and procure its municipal bylaws. The city's budget is also controlled by the administration.

The mayoralty[[25]](#cite_note-25) plays the role of the executive in the city's municipal administration. Above all comes the mayor, who is elected, by the city's electorate, for five years in a direct election. [2015 Mayoral election of Odessa](/wiki/Ukrainian_local_elections,_2015#Odessa) [Gennadiy Trukhanov](/wiki/Gennadiy_Trukhanov) was reelected in the first round of the election with 52,9% of the vote.[[26]](#cite_note-26) There are five deputy mayors, each of which is responsible for a certain particular part of the city's public policy. [right|thumb|An antique map of Odessa's city centre. North is to the left.](/wiki/File:Brockhaus_and_Efron_Encyclopedic_Dictionary_b42_726-0.jpg) The City Council[[27]](#cite_note-27) of the city makes up the administration's [legislative](/wiki/Legislative) branch, thus effectively making it a city 'parliament' or [rada](/wiki/Rada). The municipal council is made up of 120 elected members,[[28]](#cite_note-28) who are each elected to represent a certain district of the city for a four-year term. The current council is the fifth in the city's modern history, and was elected in January 2011. In the regular meetings of the municipal council, problems facing the city are discussed, and annually the city's budget is drawn up. The council has seventeen standing commissions[[29]](#cite_note-29) which play an important role in controlling the finances and trading practices of the city and its merchants.

The territory of Odessa is divided into four administrative [raions](/wiki/Raion) (districts):

* Kyivsky Raion ([Russian](/wiki/Russian_language): Киевский район, [Ukrainian](/wiki/Ukrainian_language): Київський район)
* Malynovsky Raion (Russian: Малиновский район, [Template:Lang-uk](/wiki/Template:Lang-uk))
* Prymorsky Raion (Russian: Приморский район, [Template:Lang-uk](/wiki/Template:Lang-uk))
* Suvorovsky Raion (Russian, Суворовский Район, [Template:Lang-uk](/wiki/Template:Lang-uk))

In addition, every [raion](/wiki/Raion) has its own administration, subordinate to the Odessa [City council](/wiki/City_council), and with limited responsibilities.

## Cityscape[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=15)]

[Template:Panorama](/wiki/Template:Panorama) [Template:Further](/wiki/Template:Further)

Many of Odessa's buildings have, rather uniquely for a Ukrainian city, been influenced by the Mediterranean style of classical architecture. This is particularly noticeable in buildings built by architects such as the Italian [Francesco Boffo](/wiki/Francesco_Boffo), who in early 19th-century built a palace and colonnade for the Governor of Odessa, Prince Mikhail Vorontsov, the [Potocki Palace](/wiki/Potocki_Palace,_Odessa) and many other public buildings.

[thumb|The](/wiki/File:Opera2011.jpg) [Italian baroque](/wiki/Baroque_architecture#Rome_and_Southern_Italy) façade of the [Odessa Opera and Ballet Theater](/wiki/Odessa_Opera_and_Ballet_Theater). In 1887 one of the city's most well known architectural monuments was completed – the theatre, which still hosts a range of performances to this day; it is widely regarded as one of the world's finest opera houses. The first opera house was opened in 1810 and destroyed by fire in 1873. The modern building was constructed by [Fellner](/wiki/Ferdinand_Fellner) and [Helmer](/wiki/Hermann_Helmer) in [neo-baroque](/wiki/Neo-baroque); its luxurious hall was built in the [rococo](/wiki/Rococo) style. It is said that thanks to its unique acoustics even a whisper from the stage can be heard in any part of the hall. The theatre was projected along the lines of Dresden's famous [Semperoper](/wiki/Semperoper) built in 1878, with its nontraditional foyer following the curvatures of the auditorium; the building's most recent renovation was completed in 2007.[[30]](#cite_note-30) [thumb|left|The centre of Odessa, with its statue of](/wiki/File:Ekaterininskay_square_Odessa_2010.JPG) [Catherine the Great](/wiki/Catherine_the_Great), is one of the city's major attractions. Odessa's most iconic symbol, the [Potemkin Steps](/wiki/Potemkin_Stairs) (Primorsky Stairs) is a vast staircase that conjures an illusion so that those at the top only see a series of large steps, while at the bottom all the steps appear to merge into one pyramid-shaped mass. The original 200 steps (now reduced to 192) were designed by Italian architect Francesco Boffo and built between 1837 and 1841. The steps were made famous by Sergei Eisenstein in his film, The Battleship Potemkin.

Most of the city's 19th-century houses were built of [limestone](/wiki/Limestone) mined nearby. Abandoned mines were later used and broadened by local [smugglers](/wiki/Smuggling). This created a gigantic complicated [labyrinth](/wiki/Labyrinth) of underground tunnels beneath Odessa, known as "[Odessa Catacombs](/wiki/Odessa_Catacombs)". During World War II, the catacombs served as a hiding place for [partisans](/wiki/Partisan_(military)). [right|thumb|The](/wiki/File:Украина,_Одесса_-_Приморский_бульвар,_11.jpg) [Londonskaya Hotel](/wiki/Londonskaya_Hotel), on Odessa's magnificent Primorsky Bulvar, is one of the city's landmark buildings.

Deribasivska Street, an attractive pedestrian avenue named after José de Ribas, the Spanish-born founder of Odessa and decorated Russian Navy Admiral from the Russo-Turkish War, is famous by its unique character and magnificent architecture. During the summer it is common to find large crowds of people leisurely sitting and talking on the outdoor terraces of numerous cafes, bars and restaurants, or simply enjoying a walk along the cobblestone street, which is not open to vehicular traffic and is kept shaded by the linden trees which line its route.[[31]](#cite_note-31) A similar streetscape can also be found in that of Primorsky Bulvar, a grand thoroughfare which runs along the edge of the plateau upon which the city is situated, and where many of the city's most beautiful, imposing buildings are to be found.

As one of the biggest on the Black Sea, Odessa's port is busy all year round. The Odessa Sea Port is located on an artificial stretch of Black Sea coast, along the north-western part of the Gulf of Odessa. The total shoreline length of Odessa's sea port is around [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert). The port, which includes an oil refinery, container handling facility, passenger area and numerous areas for handling dry cargo, is lucky in that its work does not depend on seasonal weather; the harbour itself is defended from the elements by breakwaters. The port is able to handle up to 14 million tons of cargo and about 24 million tons of oil products annually, whilst its passenger terminals can cater for around 4 million passengers a year at full capacity.[[32]](#cite_note-32)

### Parks and gardens[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=16)]

[left|thumb|The city's Preobrazhensky Park surrounds its cathedral.](/wiki/File:Украина,_Одесса_-_Свято-Преображенский_кафедральный_собор_02.jpg) There are a number of public parks and gardens in Odessa, amongst these are the Preobrazhensky, Gorky and Victory parks, the latter of which is an arboretum. The city is also home to a university botanical garden, which recently celebrated its 200th anniversary, and a number of other smaller gardens.

[thumb|right|The Alexander Column in Schevchenko Park.](/wiki/File:Odessa_AlexanderII_colomn_and_spruce_tree.jpg) [thumb|right|Primorskiy Parkway in Odessa](/wiki/File:Primorskiy_Parkway.jpg) The City Garden, or Gorodskoy Sad, is perhaps the most famous of Odessa's gardens. Laid out in 1803 by Felix De Ribas (brother of the founder of Odessa, [José de Ribas](/wiki/José_de_Ribas)) on a plot of urban land he owned, the garden is located right in the heart of the city. When Felix decided that he was no longer able to provide enough money for the garden's upkeep, he decided to present it to the people of Odessa. The transfer of ownership took place on 10 November 1806. Nowadays the garden is home to a bandstand and is the traditional location for outdoor theatre in the summertime. Numerous sculptures can also be found within the grounds as well as a musical fountain, the waters of which are computer controlled to coordinate with the musical melody being played.

Odessa's largest park, Shevchenko Park (previously Alexander Park), was founded in 1875, during a visit to the city by Emperor Alexander II. The park covers an area of around [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) and is located near the centre of the city, on the side closest to the sea. Within the park there is a wide variety of cultural and entertainment facilities, wide pedestrian avenues and natural beauty. In the centre of the park one can find the local top-flight football team's [Chornomorets Stadium](/wiki/Chornomorets_Stadium), the Alexander Column and municipal observatory. The Baryatinsky Bulvar is popular for its route, which starts at the park's gate before winding its way along the edge of the coastal plateau. There are a number of monuments and memorials in the park, one of which is dedicated to the park's namesake, the Ukrainian national poet [Taras Shevchenko](/wiki/Taras_Shevchenko).

## Education[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=17)]

[left|thumb|The Odessa National Scientific Library is a major research library, and centre for study, in southern Ukraine.](/wiki/File:Odesa_National_scientific_library-03.jpg) Odessa is home to several universities and other institutions of higher education. The city's best-known and most prestigious university is the [Odessa 'I.I. Mechnikov' National University](/wiki/Odessa_National_University). This university is the oldest in the city and was first founded by an edict of Tsar [Alexander II of Russia](/wiki/Alexander_II_of_Russia) in 1865 as the Imperial Novorossiysk University. Since then the university has developed to become one of modern Ukraine's leading research and teaching universities, with staff of around 1,800 and total of thirteen academic faculties. Other than the National University, the city is also home to the 1921-inaugurated [Odessa National Economic University](/wiki/OSEU), the [Odessa National Medical University](/wiki/Odessa_National_Medical_University) (founded 1900), the 1918-founded [Odessa National Polytechnic University](/wiki/Odessa_National_Polytechnic_University) and the Odessa National Maritime University (established 1930). [thumb|right|The main building of the Odessa National Medical University.](/wiki/File:Odesa_Olgivska-4_0-1.jpg) In addition to these universities, the city is home to the Odessa Law Academy, the National Academy of Telecommunications and the [Odessa National Maritime Academy](/wiki/Odessa_National_Maritime_Academy). The last of these institutions is a highly specialised and prestigious establishment for the preparation and training of merchant mariners which sees around 1,000 newly qualified officer cadets graduate each year and take up employment in the [merchant marines](/wiki/Merchant_marine) of numerous countries around the world. The South Ukrainian National Pedagogical University is also based in the city, this is one of the largest institutions for the preparation of educational specialists in Ukraine and is recognised as one of the country's finest of such universities.

In addition to all the state-run universities mentioned above, Odessa is also home to a large number of private educational institutes and academies which offer highly specified courses in a range of different subjects. These establishments, however, typically charge much higher fees than government-owned establishments and may not have hold the same level of official accreditation as their state-run peers. [Template:Citation needed](/wiki/Template:Citation_needed)

With regard to primary and secondary education, Odessa has a large number of schools catering for all ages from kindergarten through to lyceum (final secondary school level) age. Most of these schools are state-owned and operated, and all schools have to be state-accredited in order to teach children.

## Culture[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=18)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main)

### Museums, art and music[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=19)]

[thumb|left|Odessa Archaeological Museum was designed in the](/wiki/File:Odessa_arheological_museum.JPG) [Neoclassical style](/wiki/Neoclassical_architecture) just like many other landmarks of the city. The [Odessa Museum of Western and Eastern Art](/wiki/Odessa_Museum_of_Western_and_Eastern_Art) is arguably Odessa's most important museum; it has large European collections from the 16–20th centuries along with the art from the East on display. There are paintings from [Caravaggio](/wiki/Caravaggio), [Mignard](/wiki/Pierre_Mignard), [Hals](/wiki/Frans_Hals), Teniers and Del Piombo. Also of note is the city's [Alexander Pushkin Museum](/wiki/Odessa_Pushkin_Museum), which is dedicated to detailing the short time [Pushkin](/wiki/Alexander_Pushkin) spent in exile in Odessa, a period during which he continued to write. The poet also has a city street named after him, as well as a statue. [Template:Citation needed](/wiki/Template:Citation_needed) Other museums in the city include the [Odessa Archeological Museum](/wiki/Odessa_Archeological_Museum), which is housed in a beautiful neoclassical building, the renowned [Odessa Numismatics Museum](/wiki/Odessa_Numismatics_Museum), the [Odessa Art Museum](/wiki/Odessa_Art_Museum), the [Odessa Museum of the Regional History](/wiki/Odessa_Museum_of_the_Regional_History), Museum of Heroic Defense of Odessa (411th Battery).

Among the city's public sculptures, two sets of [*Medici lions*](/wiki/Medici_lions) can be noted, at the [Vorontsov Palace](/wiki/Vorontsov_Palace_(Odessa))[[33]](#cite_note-33) as well as the [Starosinnyi Garden](/wiki/Starosinnyi_Garden).[[34]](#cite_note-34) [Jacob Adler](/wiki/Jacob_Pavlovich_Adler), the major star of the [Yiddish theatre](/wiki/Yiddish_theatre) in New York and father of the actor, director and teacher [Stella Adler](/wiki/Stella_Adler), was born and spent his youth in Odessa. The most popular Russian show business people from Odessa are [Yakov Smirnoff](/wiki/Yakov_Smirnoff) (comedian), [Mikhail Zhvanetsky](/wiki/Mikhail_Zhvanetsky) (legendary [humorist](/wiki/List_of_humorists) writer, who began his career as a port engineer) and [Roman Kartsev](/wiki/Roman_Kartsev) (comedian [Template:Ill](/wiki/Template:Ill)). Zhvanetsky's and Kartsev's success in the 1970s, along with Odessa's [KVN](/wiki/KVN) team, contributed to Odessa's established status as "capital of Soviet humor", culminating in the annual [Humoryna](/wiki/Humorina) festival, carried out on and around the [April Fools' Day](/wiki/April_Fools'_Day). Odessa was also the home of the late Armenian painter [Sarkis Ordyan](/wiki/Sarkis_Ordyan) (1918–2003), the Ukrainian painter [Mickola Vorokhta](/wiki/Mickola_Vorokhta) and the Greek philologist, author and promoter of [Demotic Greek](/wiki/Modern_Greek) [Ioannis Psycharis](/wiki/Ioannis_Psycharis) (1854–1929). [Yuri Siritsov](/wiki/Yuri_Siritsov), bass player of the Israeli Metal band PallaneX is originally from Odessa. [Igor Glazer](/wiki/Igor_Glazer) Production Manager [Baruch Agadati](/wiki/Baruch_Agadati) (1895–1976), the Israeli classical ballet dancer, choreographer, painter, and film producer and director grew up in Odessa, as did Israeli artist and author [Nachum Gutman](/wiki/Nachum_Gutman) (1898–1980). Israeli painter [Avigdor Stematsky](/wiki/Avigdor_Stematsky) (1908–89) was born in Odessa.

[thumb|The main hall of the Odessa Philharmonic Society's theatre.](/wiki/File:Bunina-15-135.jpg) Odessa produced one of the founders of the Soviet violin school, [Pyotr Stolyarsky](/wiki/Pyotr_Stolyarsky). It has also produced many musicians, including the violinists [Nathan Milstein](/wiki/Nathan_Milstein), [David Oistrakh](/wiki/David_Oistrakh) and [Igor Oistrakh](/wiki/Igor_Oistrakh), [Boris Goldstein](/wiki/Boris_Goldstein), [Zakhar Bron](/wiki/Zakhar_Bron) and pianists [Sviatoslav Richter](/wiki/Sviatoslav_Richter), [Benno Moiseiwitsch](/wiki/Benno_Moiseiwitsch), [Vladimir de Pachmann](/wiki/Vladimir_de_Pachmann), [Shura Cherkassky](/wiki/Shura_Cherkassky), [Emil Gilels](/wiki/Emil_Gilels), [Maria Grinberg](/wiki/Maria_Grinberg), [Simon Barere](/wiki/Simon_Barere), [Leo Podolsky](/wiki/Leo_Podolsky) and [Yakov Zak](/wiki/Yakov_Zak). (Note: Richter studied in Odessa but wasn't born there.)

The [Odessa International Film Festival](/wiki/Odessa_International_Film_Festival) is also held in this city annually since 2010.

### Literature[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=20)]

[thumb|left|The](/wiki/File:Одеса_189115.JPG) [School of Stolyarsky](/wiki/School_of_Stolyarsky), founded in 1933, has long been recognised as a centre of musical excellence. Poet [Anna Akhmatova](/wiki/Anna_Akhmatova) was born in Bolshoy Fontan near Odessa.[[35]](#cite_note-35) The city has produced many writers, including [Isaac Babel](/wiki/Isaak_Babel), whose series of short stories, [Odessa Tales](/wiki/Odessa_Tales), are set in the city. Other Odessites are the duo [Ilf and Petrov](/wiki/Ilf_and_Petrov), and [Yuri Olesha](/wiki/Yury_Olesha). [Vera Inber](/wiki/Vera_Inber), a poet and writer, as well as the famous poet and journalist, [Margarita Aliger](/wiki/Margarita_Aliger) were both born in Odessa. The Italian writer, slavist and [anti-fascist](/wiki/Anti-fascism) dissident [Leone Ginzburg](/wiki/Leone_Ginzburg) was born in Odessa into a Jewish family, and then went to Italy where he grew up and lived.

One of the most prominent pre-war [Soviet writers](/wiki/Russian_literature), [Valentin Kataev](/wiki/Valentin_Kataev), was born here and began his writing career as early as high school (gymnasia). Before moving to Moscow in 1922, he made quite a few acquaintances here, including [Yury Olesha](/wiki/Yury_Olesha) and [Ilya Ilf](/wiki/Ilf_and_Petrov) (Ilf's co-author Petrov was in fact Kataev's brother, Petrov being his pen-name). Kataev became a benefactor for these young authors, who would become some of the most talented and popular [Russian writers](/wiki/List_of_Russian_language_writers) of this period. In 1955 Kataev became the first [chief editor](/wiki/Editing) of the *Youth* ([Template:Lang-ru](/wiki/Template:Lang-ru)), one of the leading [literature magazines](/wiki/Literary_magazine) of the [Ottepel](/wiki/Khrushchev_Thaw) of the 1950s and 1960s. [Template:Citation needed](/wiki/Template:Citation_needed)

These authors and comedians played a great role in establishing the "Odessa myth" in the Soviet Union. Odessites were and are viewed in the ethnic stereotype as sharp-witted, street-wise and eternally optimistic. [Template:Citation needed](/wiki/Template:Citation_needed) These qualities are reflected in the "Odessa dialect", which borrows chiefly from the characteristic speech of the Odessan Jews, and is enriched by a plethora of influences common for the port city. The "Odessite speech" became a staple of the "Soviet Jew" depicted in a multitude of jokes and comedy acts, in which a Jewish adherent served as a wise and subtle dissenter and opportunist, always pursuing his own [well-being](/wiki/Quality_of_life), but unwittingly pointing out the flaws and absurdities of the Soviet regime. The Odessan Jew in the jokes always "came out clean" and was, in the end, a lovable character – unlike some of other jocular nation stereotypes such as The Chukcha, The Ukrainian, The Estonian or The American.[[36]](#cite_note-36) [Frank Cass](/wiki/Frank_Cass), the founder of Frank Cass & Co. was a noted publisher in United Kingdom, specialising in the social sciences and humanities subject areas and publishing military and strategic studies titles and journals, until bought by Taylor & Francis Publishers on 28 July 2003.[[37]](#cite_note-37) He was the unofficial publisher of the Anglo-Jewish community, and retained the Vallentine Mitchell Publisher even after the sale of Frank Cass & Co.[[38]](#cite_note-38)

### Resorts and health care[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=21)]

[thumb|Sea view,](/wiki/File:Sea_view,_Langeron,_Odessa1.jpg) [Cape Langeron](/wiki/Cape_Langeron) [left|thumb|Aerial image of Langeron Beach](/wiki/File:Odessa_Langeron.JPG) Odessa is a popular [tourist destination](/wiki/Tourist_destination), with many therapeutic [resorts](/wiki/Resort) in and around the city. The city's [Filatov Institute of Eye Diseases & Tissue Therapy](/wiki/The_Filatov_Institute_of_Eye_Diseases_&_Tissue_Therapy) is one of the world's leading [ophthalmology](/wiki/Ophthalmology) clinics.

### Other notable Odessans[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=22)]

[Ze'ev Jabotinsky](/wiki/Ze'ev_Jabotinsky) was born in Odessa, and largely developed his version of [Zionism](/wiki/Zionism) there in the early 1920s.[[39]](#cite_note-39) One [Marshal of the Soviet Union](/wiki/Marshal_of_the_Soviet_Union), [Rodion Yakovlevich Malinovsky](/wiki/Rodion_Malinovsky), a military commander in World War II and [Defense Minister of the Soviet Union](/wiki/List_of_Ministers_of_Defence_of_the_Soviet_Union), was born in Odessa, whilst renowned Nazi hunter [Simon Wiesenthal](/wiki/Simon_Wiesenthal) lived in the city at one time.

[Georgi Rosenblum](/wiki/Sidney_Reilly), who was employed by [William Melville](/wiki/William_Melville) as one of the first spies of the [British](/wiki/United_Kingdom_of_Great_Britain_and_Ireland) [Secret Service Bureau](/wiki/British_Secret_Service_Bureau), was a native Odessan. Another intelligence agent from Odessa was [Genrikh Lyushkov](/wiki/Genrikh_Lyushkov), who joined in the Odessa [Cheka](/wiki/Cheka) in 1920 and reached two-star rank in the [NKVD](/wiki/NKVD) before fleeing to Japanese-occupied Manchuria in 1938 to avoid being murdered.

The composer [Jacob Weinberg](/wiki/Jacob_Weinberg) (1879–1956) was born in Odessa. He composed over 135 works and was the founder of the Jewish National Conservatory in Jerusalem before immigrating to the U.S. where he became "an influential voice in the promotion of American Jewish music".[[40]](#cite_note-40) [Valeria Lukyanova](/wiki/Valeria_Lukyanova), a girl from Odessa, who looks very similar to a [Barbie](/wiki/Barbie) doll, become a sensation on Internet and other media for her doll-like appearance.[[41]](#cite_note-41)[[42]](#cite_note-42)[[43]](#cite_note-43)[[44]](#cite_note-44)

## Economy[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=23)]

[left|thumb|Odessa's port is Ukraine's busiest. The harbour remains accessible all year round and serves as a vital import/export channel for the Ukrainian economy.](/wiki/File:Oděsa,_přístav,_loď.jpg) [left|thumb|Odessa seaport](/wiki/File:Odessa_Seaport.JPG)

The economy of Odessa largely stems from its traditional role as a port city. The nearly ice-free port lies near the mouths of the [Dnieper](/wiki/Dnieper_River), the [Southern Bug](/wiki/Southern_Bug), the [Dniester](/wiki/Dniester) and the [Danube](/wiki/Danube) rivers, which provide good links to the hinterland.[[45]](#cite_note-45)During the Soviet period (until 1991) the city functioned as the USSR's largest trading port; it continues in a similar role as independent Ukraine's busiest international port. The port complex contains an oil and gas transfer and storage facility, a cargo-handling area and a large passenger port. In 2007 the Port of Odessa handled 31,368,000 tonnes of cargo.<ref name=autogenerated2>[Ассоциация портов Украины и всего Чёрного моря: члены](http://www.ukrport.org.ua/members.htm) [Template:Wayback](/wiki/Template:Wayback)</ref><ref name=autogenerated1>[Ports of Ukraine](http://www.blackseatrans.com/article.php?articleID=747) [Template:Wayback](/wiki/Template:Wayback)</ref> The port of Odessa is also one of the [Ukrainian Navy's](/wiki/Ukrainian_Navy) most important bases on the [Black Sea](/wiki/Black_Sea). Rail transport is another important sector of the economy in Odessa – largely due to the role it plays in delivering goods and imports to and from the city's port.

Industrial enterprises located in and around the city include those dedicated to fuel refinement, machine building, metallurgy, and other types of light industry such as food preparation, timber plants and chemical industry. Agriculture is a relatively important sector in the territories surrounding the city. The [Seventh-Kilometer Market](/wiki/Seventh-Kilometer_Market) is a major commercial complex on the outskirts of the city where private traders now operate one of the largest market complexes in Eastern Europe.[[46]](#cite_note-46) The market has roughly 6,000 traders and an estimated 150,000 customers per day. Daily sales, according to the Ukrainian periodical [*Zerkalo Nedeli*](/wiki/Zerkalo_Nedeli), were believed to be as high as USD 20 million in 2004. With a staff of 1,200 (mostly guards and janitors), the market is also the region's largest employer. It is owned by local land and agriculture [tycoon](/wiki/Tycoon) Viktor A. Dobriansky and three partners of his. [Tavria-V](/wiki/Tavria-V) is the most popular retail chain in Odessa. Key areas of [business](/wiki/Business_(disambiguation)) include: retail, wholesale, catering, production, construction and development, private label. Consumer recognition is mainly attributed[Template:By whom](/wiki/Template:By_whom) to the high level of service and the quality of services. [Tavria-V](/wiki/Tavria-V) is the biggest private company and the biggest tax payer.

[right|thumb|The](/wiki/File:Deribasovskaya-33-36.jpg) [Passage](/wiki/Odessa_Passage) galleries, one of the city's landmarks.

[Deribasivska Street](/wiki/Deribasivska_Street) is one of the city's most important commercial streets, hosting a large number of the city's boutiques and higher-end shops. In addition to this there are a number of large commercial shopping centres in the city. The 19th-century shopping gallery [Passage](/wiki/Odessa_Passage) was, for a long time, the city's most upscale shopping district, and remains [Template:As of](/wiki/Template:As_of) an important landmark of Odessa.

The [tourism](/wiki/Tourism_in_Ukraine) sector is of great importance to Odessa, which is currently[Template:When](/wiki/Template:When) the second most-visited Ukrainian city.[[47]](#cite_note-47) In 2003 this sector recorded a total revenue of 189,2 mln UAH. Other sectors of the city's economy include the banking sector: the city hosts a branch of the [National Bank of Ukraine](/wiki/National_Bank_of_Ukraine). [Imexbank](/wiki/Imexbank), one of Ukraine's largest commercial banks, is based in the city. Foreign business ventures have thrived in the area, as since 1 January 2000, much of the city and its surrounding area has been declared[Template:By whom](/wiki/Template:By_whom) a [free economic zone](/wiki/Free_economic_zone) – this has aided the foundation of foreign companies' and corporations' Ukrainian divisions and allowed them to more easily invest in the Ukrainian manufacturing and service sectors. To date a number of Japanese and Chinese companies, as well as a host of European enterprises, have invested in the development of the free economic zone, to this end private investors in the city have invested a great deal of money into the provision of quality office real estate and modern manufacturing facilities such as warehouses and plant complexes.

## Scientists[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=24)]

A number of world-famous scientists have lived and worked in Odessa. They include: [Illya Mechnikov](/wiki/Ilya_Ilyich_Mechnikov) (Nobel Prize in Medicine 1908),[[48]](#cite_note-48) [Igor Tamm](/wiki/Igor_Tamm) (Nobel Prize in Physics 1958), [Selman Waksman](/wiki/Selman_Waksman) (Nobel Prize in Medicine 1952), [Dmitri Mendeleev](/wiki/Dmitri_Mendeleev), [Nikolay Pirogov](/wiki/Nikolay_Ivanovich_Pirogov), [Ivan Sechenov](/wiki/Ivan_Sechenov), [Vladimir Filatov](/wiki/Vladimir_Filatov), [Nikolay Umov](/wiki/Nikolay_Umov), [Leonid Mandelstam](/wiki/Leonid_Isaakovich_Mandelstam), [Aleksandr Lyapunov](/wiki/Aleksandr_Lyapunov), [Mark Krein](/wiki/Mark_Krein), [Alexander Smakula](/wiki/Alexander_Smakula), [Waldemar Haffkine](/wiki/Waldemar_Haffkine), [Valentin Glushko](/wiki/Valentin_Glushko), and [George Gamow](/wiki/George_Gamow).[[49]](#cite_note-49)

## Transport[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=25)]

### Maritime transport[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=26)]

[right|thumb|Odessa has long been an important](/wiki/File:Украина,_Одесса_-_Морской_вокзал_22.jpg) [Black Sea](/wiki/Black_Sea) port. Passenger ships and ferries connect Odessa with [Istanbul](/wiki/Istanbul), [Haifa](/wiki/Haifa) and [Varna](/wiki/Varna), whilst river cruises can occasionally be booked for travel up the [Dnieper River](/wiki/Dnieper_River) to cities such as [Kherson](/wiki/Kherson), [Dnipropetrovsk](/wiki/Dnipropetrovsk) and [Kiev](/wiki/Kiev).

### Roads and automotive transport[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=27)]

The first car in Russian Empire, a [Mercedes-Benz](/wiki/Mercedes-Benz) belonging to V. Navrotsky, came to Odessa from France in 1891. He was a popular city publisher of the newspaper *The Odessa Leaf*.

[thumb|left|The M05 Highway links Odessa with the nation's capital, Kiev. Odessa junction.](/wiki/File:Odessa_road.jpg) Odessa is linked to the Ukrainian capital, Kiev, by the [M05 Highway](/wiki/M05_highway_(Ukraine)), a high quality multi-lane road which is set to be re-designated, after further reconstructive works, as an 'Avtomagistral' (motorway) in the near future. Other routes of national significance, passing through Odessa, include the M16 Highway to [Moldova](/wiki/Moldova), M15 to [Izmail](/wiki/Izmail) and [Romania](/wiki/Romania), and the [M14](/wiki/Highway_M14_(Ukraine)) which runs from Odessa, through [Mykolaiv](/wiki/Mykolaiv) and [Kherson](/wiki/Kherson) to Ukraine's eastern border with Russia. The M14 is of particular importance to Odessa's maritime and shipbuilding industries as it links the city with Ukraine's other large deep water port [Mariupol](/wiki/Mariupol) which is located in the south east of the country.

Odessa also has a well-developed system of inter-urban municipal roads and minor beltways. However, the city is still lacking an extra-urban bypass for transit traffic which does not wish to proceed through the city centre.

Intercity bus services are available from Odessa to many cities in Russia (Moscow, [Rostov-on-Don](/wiki/Rostov-on-Don), [Krasnodar](/wiki/Krasnodar), [Pyatigorsk](/wiki/Pyatigorsk)), Germany (Berlin, Hamburg and [Munich](/wiki/Munich)), Greece ([Thessaloniki](/wiki/Thessaloniki) and [Athens](/wiki/Athens)), [Bulgaria](/wiki/Bulgaria) ([Varna](/wiki/Varna) and [Sofia](/wiki/Sofia)) and several cities of [Ukraine](/wiki/Ukraine) and Europe.

### Railways[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=28)]

[thumb|right|Odesa Holovna is one of Ukraine's largest railway terminals. Every day trains depart to a large number of national and international destinations.](/wiki/File:Odesa_Holovna.jpeg) Odessa is served by a number of railway stations and halts, the largest of which is [Odesa Holovna](/wiki/Odessa_Train_Station) (Main Station), from where passenger train services connect Odessa with [Warsaw](/wiki/Warsaw), Prague, [Bratislava](/wiki/Bratislava), Vienna, Berlin, Moscow, [St. Petersburg](/wiki/Saint_Petersburg), the cities of Ukraine and many other cities of the former USSR. The city's first railway station was opened in the 1880s, however, during the Second World War, the iconic building of the main station, which had long been considered to be one of the [Russian Empire's](/wiki/Russian_Empire) premier stations, was destroyed through enemy action. In 1952 the station was rebuilt to the designs of A Chuprina. The current station, which is characterised by its many [socialist-realist](/wiki/Socialist_Realism) architectural details and grand scale, was renovated by the state railway operator [Ukrainian Railways](/wiki/Ukrainian_Railways) in 2006.

### Public transport[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=29)]

[thumb|left|An](/wiki/File:Oděsa,_Sofijska,_tramvaj.jpg) [Odessa tram](/wiki/Odessa_tram) on Sofievska Street. In 1881 Odessa became the first city in Imperial Russia to have steam tramway lines, an innovation that came only one year after the establishment of [horse tramway](/wiki/Horsecar) services in 1880 operated by the "Tramways d'Odessa", a Belgian owned company. The first [metre gauge](/wiki/Narrow_gauge_railway) steam tramway line ran from Railway Station to Great Fontaine and the second one to Hadzhi Bey Liman. These routes were both operated by the same Belgian company. Electric tramway started to operate on 22 August 1907. Trams were imported from Germany.

The city's [public transit](/wiki/Public_transport) system is currently made up of trams,[[50]](#cite_note-50) [trolleybuses](/wiki/Trolleybus), buses and fixed-route taxis ([marshrutkas](/wiki/Marshrutka)). Odessa also has a [cable car](/wiki/Cable_car) and recreational ferry service.

One additional mode of transport in Odessa is quite unique; the Potemkin Stairs [funicular railway](/wiki/Funicular_railway), which runs between the city's Primorsky Bulvar and the sea terminal, has been in service since 1902. In 1998, after many years of neglect, the city decided to raise funds for a replacement track and cars. This project was delayed on multiple occasions but was finally completed eight years later in 2005. The funicular has now become as much a part of historic Odessa as the staircase to which it runs parallel.

### Air transport[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=30)]

[Odessa International Airport](/wiki/Odessa_International_Airport), which is located to the south-west of the city centre, is served by a number of airlines. The airport is also often used by citizens of neighbouring countries for whom Odessa is the nearest large city and who can travel visa-free to Ukraine.

Transit flights from the Americas, Africa, Asia, Europe and the Middle East to Odessa are offered by [Ukraine International Airlines](/wiki/Ukraine_International_Airlines) through their hub at Kiev's [Boryspil International Airport](/wiki/Boryspil_International_Airport). Additionally Turkish Airlines wide network and daily flights offers more than 246 destinations all over the world.

## Sport[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=31)]

[Template:See also](/wiki/Template:See_also)

The most popular sport in Odessa is [football](/wiki/Association_football). The main professional football club in the city is [FC Chornomorets Odesa](/wiki/FC_Chornomorets_Odesa), who play in the [Ukrainian Premier League](/wiki/Ukrainian_Premier_League). Chornomorets play their home games at the [Chornomorets Stadium](/wiki/Chornomorets_Stadium), an elite-class stadium which has a maximum capacity of 34,164. The second football team in Odessa is [FC Odessa](/wiki/FC_Odesa).

Basketball is also a prominent sport in Odessa, with [BC Odessa](/wiki/BC_Odessa) representing the city in the [Ukrainian Basketball League](/wiki/Ukrainian_Basketball_League), the highest tier basketball league in Ukraine. Odessa will become one of five Ukrainian cities to host the [39th European Basketball Championship](/wiki/FIBA_EuroBasket_2015) in 2015.

### Athletes[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=32)]

[Chess](/wiki/Chess) player [Efim Geller](/wiki/Efim_Geller) was born in the city. Gymnast [Tatiana Gutsu](/wiki/Tatiana_Gutsu) (known as "The Painted Bird of Odessa") brought home Ukraine's first Olympic gold medal as an independent nation when she outscored the USA's [Shannon Miller](/wiki/Shannon_Miller) in the women's all-around event at [1992 Summer Olympics](/wiki/1992_Summer_Olympics) in Barcelona, Spain. Figure skaters [Oksana Grishuk](/wiki/Oksana_Grishuk) and [Evgeny Platov](/wiki/Evgeny_Platov) won the 1994 and 1998 Olympic gold medals as well as the 1994, 1995, 1996, and 1997 World Championships in ice dance. Both were born and raised in the city, though they skated at first for the Soviet Union, in the Unified Team, the Commonwealth of Independent States, and then Russia. Hennadiy Avdyeyenko won a 1988 Olympic gold medal in thehigh jump, setting an Olympic record at [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert).

**Other notable athletes:** [Template:Div col](/wiki/Template:Div_col)

* [Mykola Avilov](/wiki/Mykola_Avilov), Olympic champion in decathlon at the 1972 Summer Olympics in Munich
* [Oksana Baiul](/wiki/Oksana_Baiul), Olympic champion in figure skating
* [Ihor Belanov](/wiki/Ihor_Belanov), European Footballer of the Year in 1986
* [Yuriy Bilonoh](/wiki/Yuriy_Bilonoh), European Athletics Championships in shot put at 2002 in Munich
* [Leonid Buryak](/wiki/Leonid_Buryak), football coach and former Olympic bronze-medal-winning player
* [Maksim Chmerkovskiy](/wiki/Maksim_Chmerkovskiy), professional ballroom & Latin dancer on American Dancing With the Stars
* [Valentin Chmerkovskiy](/wiki/Valentin_Chmerkovskiy), professional ballroom & Latin dancer on American Dancing With the Stars
* [Charles Goldenberg](/wiki/Charles_Goldenberg), NFL football player
* [Svetlana Krachevskaya](/wiki/Svetlana_Krachevskaya), Olympic silver medalist in shot put
* [Viacheslav Kravtsov](/wiki/Viacheslav_Kravtsov), NBA basketball player
* [Lenny Krayzelburg](/wiki/Lenny_Krayzelburg), Olympic champion swimmer
* [Artur Kyshenko](/wiki/Artur_Kyshenko), K1 Muay Thai kickboxer
* [Roman Pelts](/wiki/Roman_Pelts), Soviet chess master
* [Viktor Petrenko](/wiki/Viktor_Petrenko), Olympic champion in figure skating
* [Vladimir Portnoi](/wiki/Vladimir_Portnoi), Olympic silver and bronze medalist in gymnastics
* [Vitaliy Pushkar](/wiki/Vitaliy_Pushkar), racing driver, No. 6 in 2012 International Rally Challenge Production cup standings[[51]](#cite_note-51)\* [Ekaterina Rubleva](/wiki/Ekaterina_Rubleva), Russian ice dancing champion
* [Dmitry Salita](/wiki/Dmitry_Salita), boxer
* [Solomon Trestin](/wiki/Solomon_Trestin), boxer
* [Olena Vitrychenko](/wiki/Olena_Vitrychenko), world champion in rhythmic gymnastics
* [Theodore Rezvoy](/wiki/Ru:Резвой,_Теодор_Павлович), Ocean Rower, traveller, Guinness records holder (twice)
* [Yakov Zheleznyak](/wiki/Yakov_Zheleznyak), Olympic champion in 50 m Running Target at the 1972 Summer Olympics in Munich
* [Yevgeny Lapinsky](/wiki/Yevgeny_Lapinsky), Olympic champion in volleyball at the 1968 Summer Olympics in Mexico
* [Yulia Ryabchinskaya](/wiki/Yulia_Ryabchinskaya), Olympic champion in the K-1 500 m Kayak Singles at the 1972 Summer Olympics in Munich

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## International relations[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=33)]

[Template:See also](/wiki/Template:See_also)

### Twin towns and sister cities[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=34)]

[Template:Refimprove section](/wiki/Template:Refimprove_section) **Odessa** is [twinned](/wiki/Twin_towns_and_sister_cities), has sister and partner relationships with many other cities throughout the world: [Template:Div col](/wiki/Template:Div_col)

* [Template:Flagicon](/wiki/Template:Flagicon) [Alexandria](/wiki/Alexandria), Egypt *(since 1968)*
* [Template:Flagicon](/wiki/Template:Flagicon) [Baltimore](/wiki/Baltimore), United States *(since 1975)*[[52]](#cite_note-52)\* [Template:Flagicon](/wiki/Template:Flagicon) [Chişinău](/wiki/Chişinău), Moldova *(since 1994)*[[53]](#cite_note-53)\* [Template:Flagicon](/wiki/Template:Flagicon) [Constanţa](/wiki/Constanţa), Romania *(since 1991)*
* [Template:Flagicon](/wiki/Template:Flagicon) [Gdańsk](/wiki/Gdańsk), Poland
* [Template:Flagicon](/wiki/Template:Flagicon) [Genoa](/wiki/Genoa), Italy *(since 1972)*
* [Template:Flagicon](/wiki/Template:Flagicon) [Haifa](/wiki/Haifa), Israel *(since 1992)*[[54]](#cite_note-54)\* [Template:Flagicon](/wiki/Template:Flagicon) [Istanbul](/wiki/Istanbul), Turkey *(since 1997)*[[55]](#cite_note-55)[[56]](#cite_note-56)\* [Template:Flagicon](/wiki/Template:Flagicon) [Jeddah](/wiki/Jeddah), Saudi Arabia
* [Template:Flagicon](/wiki/Template:Flagicon) [León](/wiki/León,_Guanajuato), Mexico *(since 2012)*
* [Template:Flagicon](/wiki/Template:Flagicon) [Liverpool](/wiki/Liverpool), United Kingdom *(since 1957)*[[57]](#cite_note-57)\* [Template:Flagicon](/wiki/Template:Flagicon) [Łódź](/wiki/Łódź), Poland *(since 1993)*[[58]](#cite_note-58)\* [Template:Flagicon](/wiki/Template:Flagicon) [Marseille](/wiki/Marseille), France *(since 1973)*[[59]](#cite_note-59)\* [Template:Flagicon](/wiki/Template:Flagicon) [Nicosia](/wiki/Nicosia), Cyprus *(since 1996)*
* [Template:Flagicon](/wiki/Template:Flagicon) [Oulu](/wiki/Oulu), Finland *(since 1957)*[[60]](#cite_note-60)\* [Template:Flagicon](/wiki/Template:Flagicon) [Piraeus](/wiki/Piraeus), Greece *(since 1993)*[[61]](#cite_note-61)\* [Template:Flagicon](/wiki/Template:Flagicon) [Qingdao](/wiki/Qingdao), China *(since 1993)*
* [Template:Flagicon](/wiki/Template:Flagicon) [Regensburg](/wiki/Regensburg), Germany *(since 1990)*
* [Template:Flagicon](/wiki/Template:Flagicon) [Rosh HaAyin](/wiki/Rosh_HaAyin), Israel
* [Template:Flagicon](/wiki/Template:Flagicon) [Rostov-on-Don](/wiki/Rostov-on-Don), Russia *(since 1999)*
* [Template:Flagicon](/wiki/Template:Flagicon) [Split](/wiki/Split,_Croatia), Croatia *(since 1964)*[[62]](#cite_note-62)\* [Template:Flagicon](/wiki/Template:Flagicon) [Szeged](/wiki/Szeged), Hungary *(since 1977)*
* [Template:Flagicon](/wiki/Template:Flagicon) [Valencia](/wiki/Valencia), Spain *(since 1982)*[[63]](#cite_note-63)\* [Template:Flagicon](/wiki/Template:Flagicon) [Van](/wiki/Van,_Turkey), Turkey
* [Template:Flagicon](/wiki/Template:Flagicon) [Vancouver](/wiki/Vancouver), Canada *(since 1944)*[[64]](#cite_note-64)\* [Template:Flagicon](/wiki/Template:Flagicon) [Varna](/wiki/Varna), Bulgaria *(since 1958)*
* [Template:Flagicon](/wiki/Template:Flagicon) [Yerevan](/wiki/Yerevan), Armenia *(since 1995)*[[65]](#cite_note-65)[[66]](#cite_note-66)
* [Template:Flagicon](/wiki/Template:Flagicon) [Yokohama](/wiki/Yokohama), Japan *(since 1968)*[[67]](#cite_note-67)

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### Partner cities[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=35)]

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* [Template:Flagicon](/wiki/Template:Flagicon) [Brest](/wiki/Brest,_Belarus), Belarus *(since 2004)*[[68]](#cite_note-68)\* [Template:Flagicon](/wiki/Template:Flagicon) [Gdansk](/wiki/Gdańsk), Poland *(since 1996)*[[69]](#cite_note-69)\* [Template:Flagicon](/wiki/Template:Flagicon) [Heraklion](/wiki/Heraklion), Crete *(since 1992)*
* [Template:Flagicon](/wiki/Template:Flagicon) [Klaipėda](/wiki/Klaipėda), Lithuania *(since 2004)*
* [Template:Flagicon](/wiki/Template:Flagicon) [Larnaca](/wiki/Larnaca), Cyprus *(since 2004)*[[61]](#cite_note-61)
* [Template:Flagicon](/wiki/Template:Flagicon) [Minsk](/wiki/Minsk), Belarus *(since 1996)*
* [Template:Flagicon](/wiki/Template:Flagicon) Moscow, Russia *(since 1995)*
* [Template:Flagicon](/wiki/Template:Flagicon) [Ningbo](/wiki/Ningbo), China *(since 2008)*
* [Template:Flagicon](/wiki/Template:Flagicon) [Saint Petersburg](/wiki/Saint_Petersburg), Russia *(since 2002)*
* [Template:Flagicon](/wiki/Template:Flagicon) [Taganrog](/wiki/Taganrog), Russia *(since 1993)*
* [Template:Flagicon](/wiki/Template:Flagicon) [Tallinn](/wiki/Tallinn), Estonia *(since 1997)*
* [Template:Flagicon](/wiki/Template:Flagicon) [Tbilisi](/wiki/Tbilisi), Georgia *(since 1996)*
* [Template:Flagicon](/wiki/Template:Flagicon) [Valparaíso](/wiki/Valparaíso), Chile *(since 2004)*
* [Template:Flagicon](/wiki/Template:Flagicon) [Vienna](/wiki/Vienna), Austria *(since 2006)*
* [Template:Flagicon](/wiki/Template:Flagicon) [Volgograd](/wiki/Volgograd), Russia *(since 2001)*

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## See also[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=36)]

[Template:Portal](/wiki/Template:Portal)

* [Kherson Governorate](/wiki/Kherson_Governorate)
* [List of UNESCO World Heritage Sites in Ukraine](/wiki/List_of_UNESCO_World_Heritage_Sites_in_Ukraine)

## References[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=37)]

[Template:Reflist](/wiki/Template:Reflist)

**Bibliography** [Template:Refbegin](/wiki/Template:Refbegin)

* [Template:Cite book](/wiki/Template:Cite_book)[Template:Dead link](/wiki/Template:Dead_link) Complete book available online.
* [Template:Cite book](/wiki/Template:Cite_book) [Two reviews](http://www.2odessa.com/wiki/index.php?title=How_Things_Were_Done_in_Odessa)
* [Template:Cite book](/wiki/Template:Cite_book)
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* [Template:Cite book](/wiki/Template:Cite_book)

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## External links[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=38)]

[Template:Sister project links](/wiki/Template:Sister_project_links)

* [Template:Dmoz](/wiki/Template:Dmoz)
* [Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web) Russian, Ukrainian, and English versions
* [Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web) Russian, Ukrainian, and English versions of Maps
* [Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web) Russian, Ukrainian, and English versions
* [Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)
* [Template:Cite news](/wiki/Template:Cite_news)
* [The murder of the Jews of Odessa](http://www.yadvashem.org/untoldstories/database/index.asp?cid=292) during [World War II](/wiki/World_War_II), at [Yad Vashem](/wiki/Yad_Vashem) website.

[Template:Odessa Oblast](/wiki/Template:Odessa_Oblast) [Template:Administrative divisions of Ukraine](/wiki/Template:Administrative_divisions_of_Ukraine) [Template:Navboxes](/wiki/Template:Navboxes) [Template:Authority control](/wiki/Template:Authority_control)

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