

## Excursions

**1. Wine-tasting tours.** Wine-making is an ancient art. Each of the wine-making regions of the Earth has its own secrets and bears original wines. Crimea is no exception. History of wine-making in Crimea started together with Greek colonization of the peninsula 2500 years ago. Today there are more than 10 large wineries, each relishing their own traditions and perfecting quality of their wines, but Massandra, Inkerman and Magarach are the most well-known. During wine-tasting tours you can enjoy the selection of their best wines.

- Gurzuf winery - tour around the facility + tasting 9 varieties of Massandra wines, including the famous The Red Stone Muscat, twice recognized as the best wine in the world.
- The Count Ustinoff Estate - tasting 9 varieties (5 from Massandra, 2- Inkerman, 2- Magarach)

**2. The complex of Museum and Memorial to the heroic defenders of Sevastopol “35th coastal battery”** -- memorial complex in 35th coastal battery near Sevastopol. It was constructed on the site of the final position for the Siege of Sevastopol in June- July 1942. It includes a number of military facilities turned into museum.

The tragic story of the Siege of Sevastopol is told with such verve that it leaves nobody unperturbed. This is the most popular museum in Crimea, with over thousand of visitors daily. Definitely worth seeing!

During the tour you will see the historical center of Sevastopol, **additionally** you can enjoy a boat ride around the Sevastopol bay (50 uah \person)

**3. Livadia palace** is a pearl of the Southern Coast of Crimea, the last residence built in Russian Empire for the family of the last Russian emperor.

The Italian Renaissance palace is considered to be one of the most picturesque sites around Yalta. Each of the facades has its own unique character.

Livadia palace shares history not only of the Russian royal family, but also a number of cultural and political events which had some great influence on the course of the European history. In February of 1945 the palace hosted meetings of the Crimean (Yalta) conference of the “Big Three”, the British Prime-minister W. Churchill, the USA president F.D.Roosevelt and head of the USSR I. Stalin. Until this day the palace remains the venue for most important political summits.

Inside the palace there is a museum which tells the story of the Crimean Conference and the Romanoff family. The royal dynasty celebrates its 400 anniversary in 2013 and a special exhibition is dedicated to this event.

## Crimean mountains

**1. Walking tour around Baidary-Kastropol wall (Western region of Ai-Petri mountain)**

The tour starts at the Shaitan-Merdven mount pass which once was a part of the ancient trading way between the South Coast of Crimea and Chersonesus (a predecessor of Sevastopol). The name “Shaitan Merdven” means “The Devil’s Staircase”, since the path looks like a giant steps leading to Ai-Petri plateau.

Ascending the plateau takes up to 30 minutes and most of the tour takes place at the steady 700-800 meters above the sea level. The tour is famous for its breathtaking views and easy accessibility. It ends near the Baidary mount pass, where the famous Foros Church on the Red Rock is located. The tour is 7 km long and takes 7 hours to complete.

**2. The Environmental Path to Alupka-isar, above the town of Alupka (Southern slopes of Ai-Petri) (An easier, shorter and less sloping tour)**

This pleasant tour takes you to a pine forests and picturesque stone amassments of the Chaban-Tash mountain and ends on its top, where a medieval castle - isar - was once located. You will enjoy a breathtaking view on Ai-Petri and the coast. The descend takes place through the eastern branches of Ai-Petri through a very interesting humid pine forest.

The tour is 4 km long and takes 4 hours to complete.