**THE LOST WORLD IN THE CENTRE OF EUROPE**

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Getting to this place is not an easy task as it is a real lost world in the very heart of Europe. It is a savage land where wolves have eaten almost all the livestock, and people hearing their lingering howl are afraid to leave their homes in the evenings. One can hardly find any signs of civilization there. This place is inhabited by aboriginals living in several hamlets and two small villages the population of which is gradually decreasing. But what an amazingly beautiful nature there is! It is a paradise for ecotourists and hunters. Having bought the licence, one is allowed to prey on a wild boar, a deer and even a wolf. This place is also rich in badgers, beavers and otters but hunting for them is prohibited. Moreover, the waters of the Dnieper-Buh liman (the estuary area) are alive with fish. Of course, this land is not for those who love comfort, but if you search for exciting adventures you should definitely visit it!

The Kinburn Peninsula is not only an impressive wildlife corner, but also one of the few places in Ukraine where khutor (hamlet) settlements have remained. Kinburn Khutor is a kind of a village consisting of extensive fishermen’s farmsteads with numerous traditional outbuildings that are scattered in the picturesque meadows, salt marshes, pine plantations and impassable cane thickets by the Dnieper-Buh liman. In everyday life and housekeeping traditions are put in a high priority and are carefully cultivated by the natives. Revolutions, wars and collectivization bypassed this region. Current inhabitants of such rural communities as Pokrovske and Heroiske are direct descendants of the Cossacks of the legendary Prognoiska Palanka (a cossack administrative unit). The mentality of the population combines patriarchy and enterprising spirit. Rural tourism with an ethnographic bias only begins to develop in the region, but some experience in this field has already been gained. Western tourists are attracted by the entourage of the fishing estates, the opportunity to use traditional fishing gear that was made in the nineteenth (!) century and, of course, by the advantage of eating their catch properly! By the way, a European would get totally crazy about homemade traditional Ukrainian fish borshch with dumplings, let alone soup cooked in a kettle somewhere in the plavni (the low parts of the downstream valleys of the rivers covered with reeds and trees). And what a delicious traditional fish-soup with three or even five kinds of fish called "uha" is cooked by the locals with love! It is sure worth trying with a famous Ukrainian moonshine «pervach» (a potent alcoholic drink).

These natural beauties are part of the regional landscape park **The Kinburn Spit**, which is located between Kherson and Nikolaev regions. These days the popularity of the tourist spot is growing, yet so far it is not as widely known as it deserves to be. There still exist places today that may help one to travel in time! Feel this life different just by visiting the Kinburn Peninsula! Don’t miss your chance!

**Based on: *Путешествие по Херсонщине: Энциклопедия-путеводитель. –Херсон: Наддніпряночка, 2008.***

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