Listen, read and answer the questions. 🎧
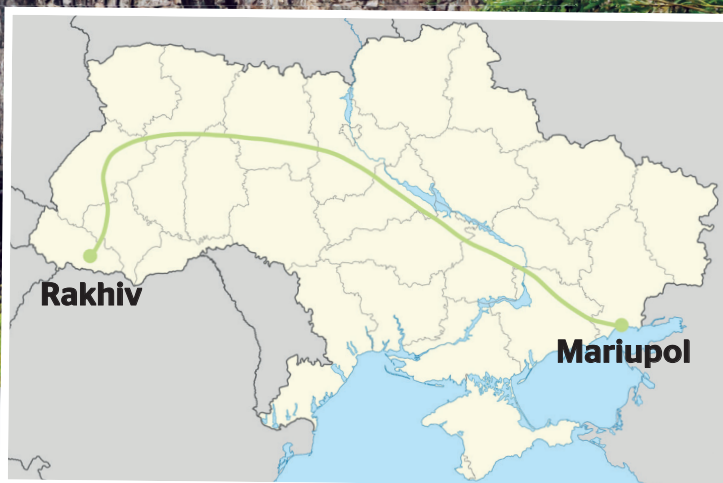
ALL ABOARD!

Rakhiv

Mariupol

Travelling tens of thousands of kilometres across the vast expanses of Ukraine, contemplating the beauty of villages and cities, conquering new places — you can enjoy all of this on a train journey.

Ukraine has one of the largest railway networks in Europe, with a rich and complex history that began in the 19th century. The first railway in modern Ukraine was built in 1861. This was the Lviv-Przemyśl line, which connected Galicia with the Austrian Empire, with a station in the city of Lviv that opened on 4 November, 1861. At first, the station had simple architecture, but by 1904, a new, luxurious station building was constructed, which still exists today.

The railway network grew very quickly, connecting large cities and factories. Soon, tracks were laid for other routes, including Odesa, Chernivtsi, Kharkiv, Kyiv, and other cities. In the second half of the 19th century, railroads were built in Donbas, Prydniprovia, and Kryvbas, which helped the regional industry develop. The first electrified railway in Ukraine was opened between Zaporizzhia and Kryvyi Rih.

Today, Ukraine is an important transit corridor between Europe and Asia, and Ukrzaliznytsia (Ukrainian Railway Company) plays a key role in this transit. The company manages one of the largest railway networks in Europe, with about 20,000 kilometres of tracks. It has six regional branches in Kyiv, Kharkiv, Dnipro, Lviv, Odesa, and Donetsk.

The longest railway route in Ukraine runs from Rakhiv to Mariupol. It is over 1,800 km, and the journey takes about 28 hours.

Rail transport is not the fastest way to travel, but there is a route in Ukraine that breaks all records! This route connects Uman and Cherkasy, covering 234 km in 7.5 hours. Although they are slow, trains on this important route make 69 stops along the way, allowing many people to get to their destinations.

The train is the main type of intercity transport in Ukraine. Ticket prices are affordable, and trips are almost never cancelled. For these reasons, tens of millions of passengers travel by rail every year. For example, about 25 million passengers travelled by long-distance trains in Ukraine during 2023.

Ukrzaliznytsia offers tourist routes that show passengers Ukraine's cultural and historical heritage, such as the Carpathian and Podolian landscapes. In the summer, many passengers take trains to Odesa, Mykolaiv, and Kherson. In winter, trains to the west of the country become popular as it is famous for Christmas traditions and ski resorts.

1. What city became the starting point for Ukraine's first railway?
2. Can people see the initial simple design of Lviv railway station?
3. Why was the railway network important for the regional industry?
4. How long is the railway network in Ukraine?
5. How much time does it take to get from Rakhiv to Mariupol?
6. Why is Ukraine's slowest route important?
7. Why do people choose to travel by train?
8. What tourist routes does Ukrzaliznytsia offer to passengers?

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SONG 4

I'm sorry

three   sad   wish   hang   smile   head   back   pick

I try to call but you (1) _____ up.

When I ring back, you don't (2) _____ up.

I didn't mean the words I said

I still hear them in my (3) _____.

It's been (4) _____ days and still no sign.

I'd like to know if you are fine.

I didn't want to make you (5) _____

Just call me (6) _____ and I'll be glad.

Sorry, sorry, sorry, I'm so sorry.

You're the only friend I've had.

You made me (7) _____ when I was sad.

I (8) _____ you were here right now

Can we be friends again somehow?