



*Bibrechchyna.*

*Incredibly  
interesting!*



## The Incredible Bibrechchyna

**Bibrechchyna** is a picturesque part of Lviv Opillya, the mysterious Hologory and the mystical Gorbohirya.

There are some true historical treasures here: the medieval defence castle in Svirzh, a defence tower of the 12th-14th centuries in Pyatnychany, ancient chapels, wooden churches, villas and estates of the original architecture, roadside figures and crosses. There are hundreds of impressive and inspiring sights.

**Bibrka – bibretskyi – Bibrechchyna – Boberka River – bibraki and bibrachki.** All these, of course, are about the beavers who lived here in entire colonies, even before people. This peculiar beast is depicted on the coat of arms and the flag banner and is part of the name of the city of Bibrka. Nowadays, beavers actively build dams on nearby reservoirs in Volovo, Kopan, and Pidhorodyshche.



### Historical Reference

**Bibrka.** The first mention of Bibrka dates back to 1211 in the Galician-Volhynian Chronicle. Bibrka is one of the smallest and oldest cities in Ukraine, a city of 4 cultures: Ukrainian, Polish, Jewish, and German. The city of the Rus' Voivodeship in the period of the First Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth; a city that was part of the Berezhan District during the reign of the Austrian Empire; the district centre of Austria-Hungary (1867-1918), the Western Ukrainian People's Republic (1918-1919), the IICommonwealth (1919-1939); the district centre in the Soviet period (1939-1941); Centre of the Land Commissariat (1941-1944); the Soviet district centre again (1944-1962), a city of district subordination (1963-2019). Today, Bibrka is the centre of the Bibrka City territorial district community.

## Top 10 Interesting Facts About Bibrechchyna



1. Bibrka is 45 years older than Princely Lviv (1211 compared to 1256) and received its Magdeburg Rights 25 years before Kyiv did (1469).
2. The Main European Watershed passes through Bibrechchyna, directing some rivers to the Black Sea and others to the Baltic Sea. The legendary Mount Kamula (with an ecological path leading to it) is the highest peak of Hologory and the entire Podilsk Highlands.
3. Bibrka is a city of Ukrainian educators and innovators, pharmacists and financiers, successful entrepreneurs and traders. At the end of the 18th-the beginning of the 19th century, about 100 weavers worked here, whose cloth would be taken to Vienna and Gdańsk for sale.
4. A unique fresco, «Apothecaries», is preserved in the magistrate's office. It reveals the history of pharmacy in Bibrechchyna and is rare given the subject matter: two putti boys, apparently Kuzma and Demyan, patrons of apothecaries, preparing medicine. A large snake wraps itself around the image, with a rooster on one side.
5. The mystical love story that left its mark in Ivan Franko's famous lyrical drama «Withered Leaves» took place in Bibrka. «The Suicide's Diary», which was considered a hoax, was found here. The motives of this mournful document, written by a teacher in love with Ulyana Kravchenko, were woven into Franko's texts and later unfolded the tragic story of unrequited love before the readers.
6. Taras Franko, son of Ivan Franko, and Kateryna Falkevych, a native of Bibrka, got married here. On August 12, 1922, in the Church of the Intercession of the Holy Virgin, Fr. Oleksandr Danylovych conducted the wedding ceremony. Petro Franko was a witness from the groom's side.





«The wedding took place in Bibrka, in one of the two rooms of the Falkevychs' house. One could only dream of a lavish wedding then. Modesty, in general, was characteristic of Ukrainian pastimes of that time, especially during the post-war destruction.

Moreover, it is mentioned that Taras Franko got married in a borrowed tailcoat. A photo was taken in the yard of the Falkevich family to capture the moment.»

7. The story of one publication and literary acquaintance:

Omelyan Partytskyi, the editor of the «Zorya» magazine, to whom Ulyana Kravchenko sent her first works (the novel «Marta» and short stories), submitted the stories to Ivan Franko for evaluation, the latter being an employee of the magazine. Looking through the manuscript, Franko came across a card with the poem «Remember Me, My Dear»:

Remember me, my dear; remember me in the Spring  
when the first violet smiles at you.  
You would adorn my head with fragrant violets, remember?  
Oh, I see it in my dreams still!

Franko liked the poem. He finished it and printed it in the 21st issue of «Zorya» in 1883. Later, Franko wrote a cordial letter to the poem's author, sincerely encouraging her to continue her literary work. Thus, correspondence began between Franko and the poetess, which continued until the former's death.

8. Sister Mariam (Nastya Voloshyn, 1911-1994), the first stigmatic officially recognised by the Greek Catholic Church, is buried in Bibrka. She received her stigmata in 1935. In May 1936, she became a Basilian nun. There is a documentary film, «Nastya Voloshyn: A Victim for Display» (directed by Ivan Fedorych).

9. Franz Xaver Mozart, a musician, composer and pedagogue, taught on the territory of Bibrechchyna. The son of the great Mozart taught the daughters of Count Bavorovsky in Novi Strilyshcha. Mentions of these locations are preserved in letters and musical works written here.
10. The German colonies of Ernsdorf (Blagodativka/Lany), Refeld (Sernyky), Milbach (Pyatnychany), and Heinrichsdorf (Linija) were located on the territory of Bibrechchyna.



## Top 10 Personages of Bibrechchyna



**Ulyana Kravchenko (Yulia Shnayder)** – the first Ukrainian-speaking poetess of Halychyna, a writer, educator-innovationist, public figure, friend and creative sister of Ivan Franko. She patronised the Bibrka Support Lyceum, where a museum and a monument in her honour were opened.



**Ivan Kernytskyi** (born in the village of Sukhodil) – a Ukrainian writer, playwright, feuilletonist, journalist, and humourist. Member of the Presidium of the Association of Ukrainian Writers «Slovo», emigrant since 1944 (Munich, New York).

**Julian Hołowinski** – «sotnyk» (captain) of the Ukrainian Galician Army, commander of the VI (Rava) brigade of the UGA, then of the II brigade of the RUGA, co-organiser of the Ukrainian Military Organization, combat officer, regional commander of the UMO, regional leader of the OUN. He was killed in 1930 near Velyki Hlibovychi, where a memorial sign was erected.

**Michael Zohary** (born in Bibrka) – a famous Israeli botanist-innovationist. Professor of Botany at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, author of the books «Geobotanical Foundations of the Middle East», «New Analytical Flora of Israel», and «Plants of the Bible» (1982). The *Anthemis zoharyana* Eig, *Bellevalia zoharyi* Feinbrun and *Stachys zoharyana* Eig plants are named in his honour.

**Hnat Palazhiy** (born in the village of Lany, emigrant since 1912) – a singer (bass-baritone), conductor and public figure. Brilliant performances at the «La Scala» theatre in Milan, the «Metropolitan Opera» in New York, and the Grand Opera Company in Philadelphia contributed to his popularity among Ukrainian emigrants in America.



**Mykhailo Stefanivskyi** (born in Bibrka) – an artist in the field of artistic smithing, «master of artistic metalwork», one of the organisers of the Ukrainian bourgeoisie in Halychyna, the author of the memorial cross in honour of Markiyan Shashkevych, installed on the «Pidlisetska Gora Bila» (The White Mountain). This lace-like cross, made in the locksmith workshop of Mykhailo Stefanivskyi, resembles a miniature Eiffel Tower. Stefanivskyi's creations still adorn many buildings in Lviv.

**Halyna Dydyk** – a liaison and trusted person of Roman Shukhevych, the commander-in-chief of the Ukrainian Insurgent Army, and the referent of the underground Ukrainian Red Cross.



**Olena Antoniv** (born in Bibrka) – «madonna of political prisoners», doctor, public figure, and wife of a famous politician, Viacheslav Chornovil.

**Yuriy Oleksandrovych Singalevych** (born in the village of Romaniv, 1911-1947) – a Ukrainian bandurist, actor, puppeteer, artist and public figure. The founder and head of the Bandurist Capella. Patron of the Bibrka musical school.



**Oleksa Horbach** (born in the village of Romaniv) – philologist (Slavic, Ukrainian), linguist, educator, publisher. Professor at the University in Frankfurt am Main, the Ukrainian Free University in Munich, and the Ukrainian Catholic University in Rome, a valid member of the Shevchenko Scientific Society (since 1962).

## Top 10 Tourist Attractions of Bibrechchyna

### Svirzh Castle («SVIRZH Castle» Cultural and Art Centre) in the village of Svirzh

This defence castle of the 15th century is a true gem of Renaissance architecture. Here one can walk through the courtyard and corridors of the most ancient part of the castle and see its vast halls. There is a window with the best view of the island on the lake. «D'Artagnan and the Three Musketeers» and «Dovbush» were filmed in Svirzh Castle. There also is a lake with swans and relict trees in the park. Hot air balloon rides and fishing are available to tourists.



### **Museum-Reserve «Pyatnychany Tower» of Borys Voznytsky Lviv National Art Gallery in the village of Pyatnychany**

Pyatnychany Tower is a castle-type defence structure in the village of Pyatnychany. The tower belongs to the rare monuments of defence construction of the Galician school. According to the legends, the Pyatnychany Tower could have been the remains of the Senyavsky Castle or the Basilian monastery. From the tower's loophole windows, one can see Bibrka, in particular, another structure – Bibrka Sokil Tower (Falcon Tower).

### **Ukrainian Contemporary Sculpture Park «PARK3020» in the village of Strilky**

PARK3020 is the first public park of contemporary sculpture where sculptors can realise their ideas and visitors can interact with art. Exhibitions, cultural exchanges and educational programs create space for the inspiration and development of a new generation of artists. Here one can view the sculpture from a different perspective and rethink art.

### **«Fairytale Fields» Park in the village of Strilky**

The newest place in the tourist area of Bibrka: fields of flowers that look like a place straight out of children's fairy tales. 26,000 flower bushes of the most fascinating and trendiest varieties of lavender, hydrangea, rose, hibiscus, weigela, and spirea bloom here. In total, about 3,000 plant species can be found on the park's territory. This place is a unique location for photo sessions, with an opportunity to drink coffee in a cosy cafe and buy souvenirs in a shop. On warm summer days and evenings, excursions, concerts, art exhibitions, and craft wine tastings occur here.

### **«Skarbova Gora» Ranch in the village of Lopushna**

At the «Skarbova Gora» ranch, one can learn to ride a horse, have a horse ride on the territory or in the surrounding forest, enjoy fresh air, take a break from the city's hustle and bustle, and try some delicious food. Several-day horse treks around the ranch with overnight stays in tents are organised in May and October. Besides horses, the ranch has dogs, cats,

chickens, a goat and a donkey. On the first floor of the guest house, there is a saloon-cafe (saloon is the traditional name of American bars in the days of the Wild West), which is open daily. The cafe is very cosy and has a fireplace. The interior is decorated with antique items in the American cowboy style. There is a terrace providing an enjoyable pastime in the warm season.

There is a playground, three rooms with 22 beds, and a large area for walking.

### **«Halytska Soroka» («Life in Raspberries») in the village of Vilyavche**

The winery was established in 2014 in a village near Bibrka and the Svirzh Castle. The family farm produces single-variety wines made from berries (raspberries, rowanberries), which are in demand throughout Ukraine. Tea roses grow around the winery, and the petals are used to make jam bought by restaurants as a delicacy. The owners of «Halytska Soroka» organise tastings for tourists.

### **Mount Kamula in the village of Romaniv**

Kamula is the highest peak of the Podilsk Highlands and the entire East European Plain. It is a natural landmark of local importance. It is located in the western part of the hilly range of Hologory, south of the village of Romaniv. Kamula is 471 metres above sea level. It consists of sandstones, and there are low picturesque rocks with grottoes. The mountain is covered with a beech forest of natural origin and beech-hornbeam plantations. Kamula lies within the boundaries of the nature conservation area, the Romanivsky Landscape Reserve.

### **Wooden churches of Bibrechchyna**

The sacred wooden architecture of Bibrechchyna consists of ten wooden churches in the villages of Lopushna, Vilkhovets, Sukhodil, Voloshchyna, Sokolivka, Kologory, Kvitneve (Zhabokruky), Orishkivtsi, Lyubeshka, Hlibovychi, and Selyska. The church in the village of Voloshchyna is recognised as an architectural monument of national importance, and churches in the villages of Lopushna, Selyska, Kvitneve

(former Zhabokruky) and Orishkivtsi – as architectural monuments of local importance. Churches in Sukhodil, Vilkhovets, Sokolivka, Kologory and Lyubeshka (newly built) do not have a protection status. In addition, the status of an architectural monument of national significance was assigned to the wooden bell tower of the brick church in the village of Hlibovychi (Svirzki).



You can visit most of these churches as part of the «Wooden Treasures of Bibrchchyna» route.

### Cultural and information centre «Sokil» in Bibrka

It is an architectural monument of the beginning of the 20th century and the building of the «Sokil» society. Currently, «Sokil» has the «Burgomaster's Room» with the recreated interior of the beginning of the 20th century. There is a lecture hall used to hold various events. The local Hospitality Office offers tourist brochures and souvenir products. Here one can go on a tour around the house and get advice on trips to Bibrchchyna and locations worth visiting.



### Ulyana Kravchenko Museum

In the Bibrka Support Lyceum named after Ulyana Kravchenko, visitors can see an exposition dedicated to Ulyana Kravchenko and Ivan Franko. There are photos and samples of the works of the second half of the 19th century, copies of letters, and a copy of the so-called «Suicide's Diary» (the motives of which can be traced in Ivan Franko's lyrical drama «Withered Leaves»), and information stands reproducing the biography of Ulyana Kravchenko. Also, there is a picture gallery.



## Culinary Highlights of Bibrechchyna

### Urbansky's Bagel

A culinary brand of Bibrechchyna with its own history.

### Regional tea from Ulyana Kravchenko

Unique things taste the best. For instance, a tea made from blackberry or strawberry leaves that grow on the edges of Bibrka forests. This tea is healthy and ecological. «When I drink tea, it is not Chinese tea, but our local one, made from young leaves of blackberries or strawberries. Though I am a vegetarian and love vegetables,» wrote Ulyana Kravchenko in «Teacher's Notes».

### Game burger at the «Skarbova Gora» ranch in the village of Lopushna

Resting in a beautiful location outside the city on a real ranch can be diversified by tasting a local dish – a burger made from game hunted on local grounds. The burger recipe is original and was created especially for the «Skarbova Gora» ranch. Visitors are offered craft wines and other local dishes in a cosy cowboy-style saloon with a fireplace.

### Craft wines and confitures

The family winery of Orest and Yulia Deineka («Life in Raspberries») produces wines from different varieties of raspberries and rowanberries. They also make liqueurs («Dlya Druga», «Raspberry Rouge», «Zamkove», and «Morning Dew»). The farm also offers rose petal jam (roses are grown in a garden near the winery).

## The Bagel of Success

### Urbansky's Bagel – a culinary highlight of Bibrechchyna, with its own history

Leon Urbansky – an entrepreneur and the owner of the largest mill in the Bibrka district. Even before the First World War, he would bake bagels, which the locals remembered as «Urbansky's bagels» and were in great demand. Thanks to those bagels, the entrepreneur raised his first capital and began to expand his business. Leon Urbansky was engaged in



agriculture. He also owned a bus (route «Bibrka-Lviv») and a large power plant. Thanks to the entrepreneur, part of Bibrka was electrified in the early 1930s. In 1938, Leon Urbansky employed over 100 people, most of them being Ukrainians.

Leon Urbansky had large residual electricity. He thought how to use it. The idea of running a tram from the railway from Veliki Hlibovych to Bibrka was innovative, but was not im-



plemented. In 1939, the «liberators» confiscated all the property of the «enemies of the people» and took the family to Siberia.

Today you can taste this work of culinary art in the family restaurant «Uzvar». You can also treat your friends, acquaintances, loved ones or neighbors. There is a special gift arrangement.

And a well-baked bagel tastes good with regional well-brewed and fragrant tea from Ulyana Kravchenko.



*«When I drink tea,  
it is not Chinese tea,  
but our local one, made from young leaves  
of blackberries or strawberries»*

*Ulyana Kravchenko*



## **Bibrka City Council**

**22 Tarnavskogo Street**

**Bibrka**

**Lviv region**

**Lviv district**

**81220**

**Ukraine**

**tel.: (03263) 4-32-35**

**e-mail: [bibrka.rada@gmail.com](mailto:bibrka.rada@gmail.com)**



**Bibrka City Council.  
Tourism**



**Charitable Foundation  
«Heritage.UA»**



**Family restaurant  
«Uzvar»**