



The silenced streets of Lviv: On our first night in Ukraine, an air raid preceded the standard 11:00 pm curfew in emptying the streets of its normal late-night European bustle. Thankfully, Ukraine’s air defense system prevented the five Russian missiles from striking their targets, which in most cities is right here in the city center, which in Lviv is a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Tapping Lviv’s nexus of humanitarian aid and the “relatively safe” location for government officials, our primary goal while here meeting with prominent Ukrainian leaders was to first get the latest status of aid needs across Ukraine, then to assess aid supplies and logistical considerations to determine how to get the most-needed, readily available aid into the hands of the Ukrainians with the greatest needs.

With that information in-hand, we then tackled what we thought would be our greatest challenge: cutting through war-time government bureaucracy and red-tape to free up the needed aid. But we quickly found that this typically universal roadblock was no match for two incredible Ukrainian Governors: Maksym Kozytskyy and Vitaliy Kim.

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Lviv is a postcard-perfect blend of European Old-World charm and modern cosmopolitan life, with a pre-war population of seven-hundred-thousand, but now housing an additional four-hundred-thousand “internal refugees”, mostly from the battle-weary southern third of the country. Only forty miles from Poland, a NATO nation, anything happening here could have international repercussions. Prominent since the start of the war, Lviv is a very important gateway for international aid coming into Ukraine and refugees leaving Ukraine.



Lviv City Center