

# 2000+ monuments to one person

## 1. Kharkiv, Ukraine



As the capital of Ukraine from December 1919 to June 1934, Kharkiv just had to have a Taras Shevchenko Monument, didn't it? Actually, the monument in Kharkiv is considered to be the best monument to Shevchenko in the world. The total height of the monument is more than 16 metres, and the statue of Kobzar, which is made of bronze, is 4.5 metres. The unveiling ceremony of the monument took place on March 24, 1935.

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## 2 Hlukhiv, Ukraine

An unusual monument to Taras Shevchenko stands in the city of Hlukhiv in the Sumy region of

Ukraine. Everyone is accustomed to seeing the Great Kobzar in images and sculptures as a middle-aged man, aren't they? But once upon a time this grey-haired legendary Ukrainian was young too. In 1844 young Shevchenko came to Hlukhiv for the first time. That is why the inhabitants of Hlukhiv portrayed Shevchenko as a young man. The monument was created by architect Volodymyr Bykov and sculptor Eldanas Gurbanov.



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## 3 Kovel, Ukraine



The monument to Shevchenko in Kovel is over 7 metres high and weighs around 20 tons. That's a lot of granite, isn't it? This makes it the second highest monument to Shevchenko in the world (the highest one was erected in Dnipro in 1958). The monument in Kovel was unveiled in Shevchenko park in 2005. Shevchenko only went to Kovel once in the autumn of 1846 as a full-time artist in the Archaeographic Commission for the study of monuments.

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#### 4 Oakville, Canada

A massive 11-foot-high bronze statue of Taras Shevchenko was stolen from Shevchenko Park, just north of Oakville, Ontario in December 2006. Originally, the statue was a gift to the 500,000 Ukrainians in Canada from the Soviet Society for Cultural Relations Abroad and was valued at more than \$350,000. It was at the centre of a lot of controversy at the time and for a while was under 24-hour police surveillance. Erected Lviv, Ukraine to commemorate the 60th anniversary of Ukrainian immigration to Canada, it stood for more than 55 years before being stolen. Public officials there probably won't erect any more valuable statues without security, **will they?**

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#### 5 Canberra, Australia

You don't think that Kyiv is the only capital that has a monument to Shevchenko, do you? A monument to Taras Shevchenko, shaped like a kobza was officially unveiled in Canberra in 2013. This monument has a long and sad history. It was brought to Australia in early 2000 as a gift from the Kyiv City Administration. However, due to the indecision of the Ukrainian community's leaders at that time, no action was taken until 2005, when it was finally erected in Canberra. This is the monument that is the furthest of all from Ukraine. As the crow flies, it is around 15,000 km away.

This city



#### 6 Beijing, China.

The first mentions of Shevchenko in Chinese literature and periodicals as well as translations of his poems in Archaic Chinese date back to 1912. So you've already guessed the next city with a monument, **haven't you?** Yes, you are right - it is Beijing. In fact, this is the only monument to Taras Shevchenko on the Pacific Rim. It was unveiled in 2008 and had quite a prominent tilt of the head at first (the sculptor wanted to depict Taras Shevchenko as if deep in thought). However, upon the request of the Ukrainian ambassador, the sculpture was altered and unveiled again in 2016.

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