

THE PERFECT UKRAINIAN GIFT

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The Christmas countdown is on, especially for many ex-pats who will be flying home in the coming weeks. Those who have already deluged their families and friends with *matryoshka* dolls and painted eggs need not panic. There are plenty of places in Kyiv to find other distinctly Ukrainian gifts sure to please. Below are a few of our favorite places to get gifts:

NEW YORK NIGHTCLUB FLEA MARKET

This authentic Soviet memorabilia bazaar is staged by the Kyiv Collectors Club. It's a great place to find war medals, coins, currency, stamps, cameras, helmets, icons and lapel pins. Located in the New York nightclub (2 Perova) on the Left Bank, the space transforms into a collector's paradise Saturdays between 9 a.m. and 2 p.m.

The best time to check it out is on the last Saturday of the month, though, when up to 1,500 people come to sell their collections, said Collectors Club head Oleh Kryvushenko. The club has even drawn the interest of collectors from abroad, including Germany, Israel and the United States.

Prices vary depending on the seller. The club does not restrict what can be sold at the market. Basically, if it can be collected, it can be sold. Therefore, the market attracts some of the most unusual memorabilia available in Kyiv.

ARTEAST

Looking for a classy creative gift? ArtEast (13 Reytsarska) offers a wide range of unique and original pieces to fit a range of budgets. Printed Christmas cards depicting the art of Olena Pryduvalova are sold at the gallery for \$10 for a package of 12. The proceeds go to Winrock International and support women's charities in Ukraine.

ArtEast stocks a variety of art objects in the under-\$100 range that make unique gifts. Christmas angels are fashioned after traditional dolls and come with necklaces, earrings and bracelets. They sell for \$60. The gallery also has some special holiday works by Ukrainian artist Mykhailo Khymych. The exhibition includes paintings of nativity scenes and contemporary icons.

Even if you just stop by the gallery to browse, ArtEast will put you in the holiday spirit with a piping hot glass of mulled wine. And for those who don't have time to shop at the gallery, the ArtEast



On Saturdays, New York nightclub gives way to the Collectors Club bazaar – your one-stop shop for Soviet memorabilia. (Post photo by Yuri Bukhanvosky)

staff will choose a gift for you, wrap it up and deliver it for a fee.

OLYMPIC STADIUM

Sports fans or those eager to show a yellow-and-blue burst of Ukrainian pride need look no further than Respublikansky Market at the Olympic Stadium metro. Head to the booths near the back by the stadium for the kiosk stocking a good supply of Dynamo Kyiv paraphernalia. Prices are reasonable on everything from buttons (Hr 2), key chains (Hr 5), mugs, (Hr 10-Hr 16), hats (Hr 10-Hr 20), scarves (Hr 10), jerseys (Hr 35) and balls (Hr 160).

If it's too chilly for you to shop in the open-air market, there's also the more official Dynamo shop just across the street at 86 Chervonoarmiyska – where they stock a broader and better-quality but more-expensive range of items.

ANDRIYIVSKY UZVIZ

It would be remiss in a shopping story not to mention Andriyivsky uzviz, Kyiv's premier open-air crafts fair. Those who don't know exactly what they want will find a wide array of crafts, souvenirs and Soviet memorabilia on the uzviz. Things cost a tad more than at other locations, but the selection,

convenience and atmosphere can't be beat.

THE CORNER GROCERY STORE

Still stumped about what to get that relative who wouldn't really appreciate a doll or a Dynamic scarf? Then pop into a more upscale grocery and choose a box of chocolates, a jar of black caviar or a bottle of Ukraine's finest vodka or champagne. Keep in mind that customs rules in most countries permit travelers to bring in only two bottles of alcohol duty-free, and the United States enforces of limit of 250 grams of caviar without an import permit from the country of origin.