



Back to Bucha! 2023 Winter/Spring Tour

Raising Awareness, Entertaining, and Inspiring – All While Raising Funds for Ukraine.

We are going on tour to promote *Trek to Bucha* on our way back to Bucha to premiere the film in Ukraine.

Be part of it!

On-site in-person dates will begin in January as the long, cold, energy-tight winter in Ukraine and Europe moves in. Virtual events will potentially be held even sooner.

Tour plans take us throughout the USA and Europe.

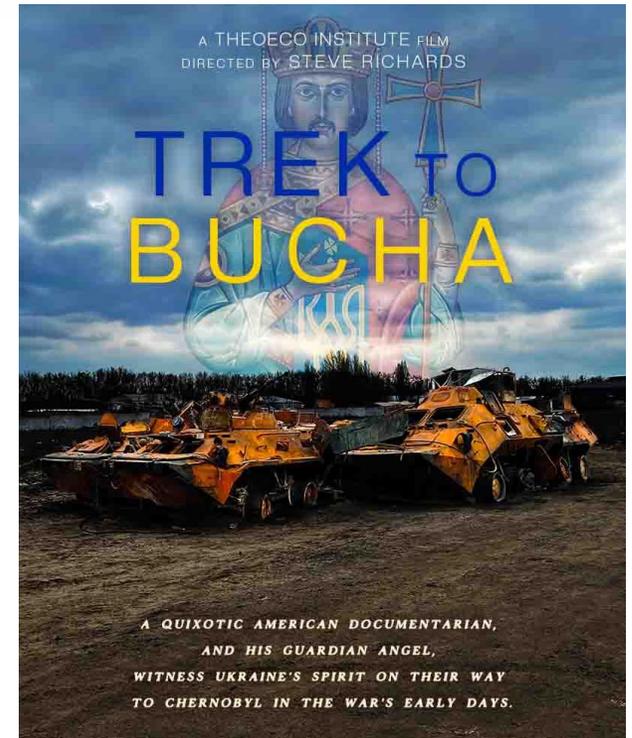
So, if you have a group that backs Ukraine – and wants to be entertained and inspired – we would love to welcome your town to the list!

For more information please contact:

Steve Richards, Managing Director

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305-310-2634



TrekToBucha.com

TREK TO BUCHA

The Film

In March 2022, documentarian Steve Richards travelled to Ukraine to document its war zone nuclear power plants. But things changed, and instead of the power plants he was led to Lviv, Kyiv, and Bucha, into the extraordinary worlds of people caught up in Putin's war.

The stories and images are from people like us caught in a war few imagined. Richards takes us into their world as they are living it. Breaking the limitations of network news coverage, the film gives us more than quick sound bites of victims. We hear stories about gratitude alongside the documentary's footage, most seen nowhere else.

It begins in Boston when Father Yaroslav from Christ the King Ukrainian Catholic Church called down a guardian angel to look over Richards on his journey.

It's easy to see the Spirit taking Richards from one rendezvous to another capturing the inspirational with the realities.

“Steve, Bobbie, and the others have produced a must-watch film that freedom-loving people in the US and around the world will find inspiration. Slava Ukraini!”

– Alexander Gamota, Bear Witness



Father Yaroslav with Saint Volodymyr.

TREK TO BUCHA

Why This Film

In the film we see normal citizens – a civil engineer, a businessman, a DJ, a restaurant owner, a student, an insurance agent – all forever changed and looking for a return to “normal life.”

Ukraine can use help over the long term and not just for its military. Property damage as documented in the film fits along a spectrum, from isolated damage in Lviv to almost complete devastation in Irpin.

The film can help increase awareness and maintain support for Ukraine, to resource its capabilities economically as it rebuilds huge swaths of devastated terrain. Like a little Marshall Plan.

Trek to Bucha can help with the information war which was repeatedly mentioned by interviewees as vitally important. It can also boost morale and support throughout Europe and the USA during a cold and energy-challenged winter.

“The documentary's texture presents the horror, terror, and yes, hope, without showing the gore of war. The generosity of spirit links all people of all walks and daily life...”

- Roma Hayda, Providence, RI



A house on the way to Bucha.



How it Works

We had our premiere screening in Boston on September 11th and would very much like to screen *Trek to Bucha* for your group. Check out the post-premiere interviews we did at [our premiere screening](#) for a bit of insight as to how the film is being received.

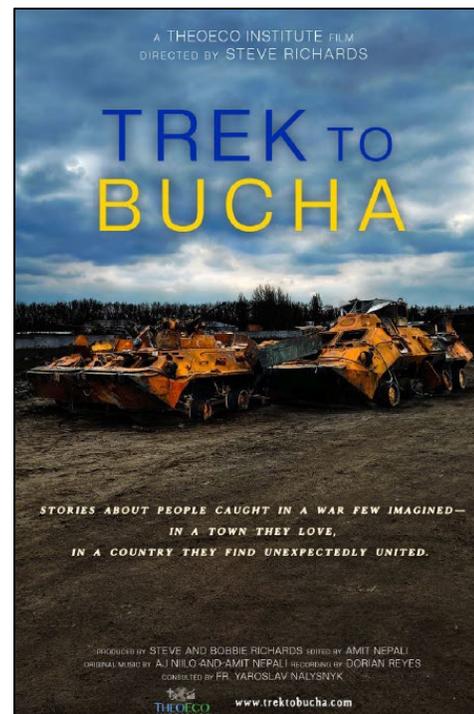
What's required of your group? Basically, just screening facilities (for in-person events), and promotional assistance. Refreshments are optional. We can also help arrange a sponsor or two. Don't have a screen? A/V equipment can be arranged.

So, make it an event and invite the broader community. Together, we can shore up support for Ukraine as energy supply cutoffs – and ongoing war – test NATO's resolve.

Here's all that's necessary:

- Make a plan
- Set a date
- Print invites and post on social media
- Send a few emails
- Have a great event!
- 50% of net proceeds go to a Ukrainian support organization you choose.

We will also be holding virtual screenings, complete with Q&A, online fundraising, and optional livestreams of the event.



THEOECO INSTITUTE
TheoEco Institute Presents

Trek To Bucha

Any Day
Anytime

At
Your Organization
123 Main Street, Any City

To attend the Livestream go to
[Facebook.com/TheoEcoOrg](https://www.facebook.com/TheoEcoOrg)

For tickets and info contact Steve Richards at
(305) 310-2634 / SteveR@TheoEco.org

TrekToBucha.com

TREK TO BUCHA

Join Us

One story can move mountains. Through our strategic approach to distribution and community engagement, *Trek to Bucha* will reach a national and international audience. Our goal is to further support Ukraine and our universal fight for liberty. Here's how we're planning to do it:

- **Film festival screenings** to build awareness
- **Theatrical release** in select cities earning audience and press coverage
- **Partnerships with influencers** in the areas of faith, academia, and media
- **Screenings & discussions** at top universities and libraries
- **Grassroots faith outreach** to churches and community centers
- **Policy & discussion materials** to facilitate important conversations
- **National television broadcast** on PBS
- **Digital release** on iTunes, Amazon, and Streaming Services

The Director

Steve Richards (For his filmography click [here](#).) Richards directs and produces all of TheoEco's documentaries. He went to Ukraine to film *Trek to Bucha* in late March 2022 for a month-long shoot that is the basis for the film. With four documentaries under his belt, he started TheoEco in 2015.



A new refugee on her way to
Przemyśl, Poland

"Well done, especially the part where you see people trying to live the normal life amongst the destruction."
- Vsevolod Petriv, Ukrainian Congress Committee of America, President of Boston Branch



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We present this synopsis as a summary of the 14-part video blog series posted by director Steve Richards in real time from locations on his trek beginning in March 2022 through his return in late April.

Story Summary / Synopsis

Getting There

Director Steve Richards began his trek to Bucha in Boston. After a visit to REI for a new backpack and other gear he also visited with Father Yaroslav at Christ the King Ukrainian Catholic Church in Boston where he documents parishioners gathering and shipping supplies for Ukraine. For more read the post: [Announcing TheoEco's Ukraine Trek.](#)

On March 28th Richards flew to Warsaw from Boston on his way to Lviv. He arrived the next day and hiked from Chopin airport to downtown recording as he went. For more check out: [Flight to Warsaw.](#)

On March 30th Richards made his way through a harrowing gauntlet of cancelled trains, missed buses and a midnight crossing through multiple checkpoints into Ukraine. By two in the morning on March 31st he had reached his hotel thanks to the help of many along the way. A recurring theme of the trek. That night he also heard his first air raid siren. For more see the post: [Warsaw to Lviv.](#)



Story Summary / Synopsis (Cont.)

Lviv

Richards' first day in Ukraine at a Lviv hotel started with a kitten at his window. The rest of the day he explored Lviv this first day of April and finds a lovely city in full swing...aside from the frequent air raid sirens and recent memories of missile strikes nearby. For more go to: [Lviv Walk Around](#).



It's a funny thing when one begins a journey without much of a plan. Father Yaroslav in Boston told Richards to go to the UCU. He stayed close to a week waiting for the weather to clear a bit and editing a 25-minute short documentary about the place including the basements/bomb shelters and the student activities. For more go to: [Ukrainian Catholic University \(UCU\)](#).



During the stay in Lviv it became clear it was reasonably safe to go to Kyiv. So, Richards caught the first train he could and wound up in Kyiv 20 minutes before curfew in a blacked-out train station and soldiers with AK-47s everywhere. He started his hike to his hotel as there were no taxis. Thankfully, a soldier gave him a ride and he arrived at his hotel just in time. For more read the post: [Train Ride to Kyiv](#).



Story Summary / Synopsis (Cont.)

Kyiv

When Richards first left Boston he never imagined he could go to Kyiv since the Russians and Ukrainians were still battling. But here he was, and he spent no time documenting the realities of a city with more soldiers than civilians on the streets. But he found life in a coffee kiosk, liquor store, electronics store, a bank and a restaurant making meals with World Central Kitchen. For more see the video at: [Kyiv Walk Around](#).



One of the great highlights of the trip was when Richards found the folks at Match Restaurant in Kyiv when he was kind of desperate for a meal. They weren't exactly open as the place had been converted to a producer of more than 1,500 meals a day in conjunction with World Central Kitchen. We took an extra day in Kyiv editing this video which includes an interview with the owner and director. Check out the video at: [World Central Kitchen in Kyiv](#).



After a few days in Kyiv Richards and his team in Boston and Kathmandu decided it was worth the effort to go to Bucha and document what was happening there just days after the Russians had pulled out. But it wasn't so easy to get there as there were no trains, buses or Ubers operating. There was really just one option - a two-day hike with a rest day in between. For more read the post: [Hiking to Bucha](#).



Story Summary / Synopsis (Cont.)

Bucha

The most harrowing day of the month-long trek was the hike into Bucha where Richards navigated checkpoints, trenches, possibly mined dirt roads, and territorial dogs. What he saw when he arrived was even worse than the newscasts. The day concluded with a warm welcome by an unexpected hotelier. For more see: [Way to Bucha](#).

Richards spent the next week touring Bucha. The sites of the atrocities are documented in Richards' footage, and much more including interviews with a survivor who had been bound and blindfolded for days in his ransacked apartment and a man rummaging through the vehicle his mother was shot and died in. For more see: [Bucha](#).

Richards spent Easter in Bucha at the site of the mass graves at the gold-domed church broadcast internationally. His typical brunch was exchanged for a bowl of chicken soup cooked over an open fire in a parking lot that just days before had an armored personnel carrier parked in it - and snipers on the roof. For more go to: [Easter in Bucha](#).

Irpin represents the Russians final defeat in the Battle of Kyiv and was heavily shelled for weeks. It is the site of some of the worst damage of the battle and was largely a ghost town when Richards visited on his final tour of the western suburbs on April 18th before returning home. For more see: [Irpin](#).



Story Summary / Synopsis (Cont.)

Going Home

The trip home for Richards began with his return to Kyiv on April 21st when he documents the return of life to Kyiv just a week after his first foray into the city. This footage includes a short encounter with a young family with baby recently returned to the city. For more see [Kyiv \(Part 2\)](#).

The final leg of the trek was a convoluted set of three train rides over two days back to Warsaw from where Richards caught a flight back to the USA. On the way he shared a compartment with a toddler and mother on their way to Poland to take refuge from the war. For more see [Heading Home](#).



Project Stages, Budget, and Timeline

Shooting has finished for *Trek to Bucha* and a trailer already produced. We are moving into Post-Production.

√ - Pre-Production

A rough-cut trailer has been finished.

√ - Production

Shooting for the film was completed on location in Ukraine in late April 2022.

Post-Production

The footage from the Ukraine shoots is ready for editing. Additional elements like news footage and graphics are being assembled.

Release and Promo

If all goes well, we plan to release the film in the summer of 2022 with promotional activities commencing concurrent with the release.

The film's budget is projected at \$67,903 with \$38,830 incurred as of May 2022.

*Premiere
set for
Sept. 11 in
Boston!**

For a more detailed budget go to our webpage at
[Trek to Bucha - Budget and Timeline \(theoeco.org\)](https://theoeco.org/Trek-to-Bucha-Budget-and-Timeline)

*Premiere will be held at Christ the King Ukrainian Catholic Church in Jamaica Plain. For more go to:
[Premiere Screening \(theoeco.org\)](https://theoeco.org/Premiere-Screening)

\$29,073
still needed

- **Support Ukraine**
- **How screenings work**
- **The essays and other promo items**
- **Think Abraham Family?**
- **Light flares in the basement is my Angel - Per Mary Lou**
- **Film can help boost morale and support in Europe during a cold winter**
- **People trying to return to "normal life"**
- **Help TheoEco and SRR reach out to its audience supporting Ukraine and adding to the conversation with its list including...**
- **Feel the connections and show support for Ukrainians by screening TtB**
- **Goals of the tour - travel USA and European cities especially Lviv, Kyiv, Bucha, and Irpin**