

Kherson oblast is Ukraine's southern outpost – a land of endless steppes and sun rising over the Dnipro River. Across its over 28,500 square kilometers, the southern character takes shape: open, strong-willed, and profoundly Ukrainian.

This land, born of vast open spaces, stretches across the lower reaches of the Dnipro – one of Europe's major rivers. Its access to the Black and Azov Seas has made the region a vital hub for shipping and trade. It is home to maritime ports, irrigation systems, and sprawling lands that for decades served as the breadbasket of Ukraine.

Kherson oblast is the heart of Ukrainian irrigated farming. Thanks to the waters of the Dnipro and the North Crimean Canal, the region produced vegetables, grains, and rice, while nurturing orchards and vineyards. Kherson watermelons were more than just a brand; they were a symbol of the southern steppe's fertility. Before the full-scale war, the region was a leader in Ukraine's agricultural exports.

Yet, this land is about more than just economy. It preserves unique natural treasures of global significance. The Askania-Nova Biosphere Reserve, founded in the late 19th century, is now the only patch of virgin steppe in Europe that has never known a plow. Nearby lies the Black Sea Biosphere Reserve and the Oleshky Sands – the largest desert in Europe – as well as the Dnipro Delta with its vast wetlands, where water, reeds, and sky merge into a single, living expanse.

The history of Kherson oblast is tightly interwoven with the legacy of the Cossacks and their struggle for freedom. It was home to the Oleshky Sich and a crossroads for Cossack trails where the Dnipro wetlands served as a natural fortress for a free people. In 1778, the city of Kherson was founded as a stronghold and a shipbuilding hub on the Black Sea.

Kherson oblast is a land of living traditions, where fishing customs, the unique Viticulture of Tavria, and a southern cuisine – a fusion of fresh fish, vegetables,

A roll of circulation commemorative coins

We are strong.  
We are united.  
Kherson oblast



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and steppe herbs – are still cherished. It is a land of labor and patience, defined by the ability to live alongside nature, not by conquering it, but by coexisting with it.

This land has gifted Ukraine and the world brilliant figures such as Mykola Kulish, one of the foremost playwrights of the 20th century, whose work shaped the modern Ukrainian stage. It also produced Oleksii Shovkunenko, a prominent artist whose painterly legacy preserved the very essence of the Ukrainian South – its light and its vastness.

In 2022, Kherson oblast became one of the first to fall under total Russian occupation. This period brought terror, violence, alongside a deliberate campaign to erase Ukrainian symbols and culture. Yet, even at gunpoint, the people of Kherson took to the streets in peaceful pro-Ukrainian rallies, proving to the world to whom this land truly belongs.

The liberation of Kherson in November 2022 was a symbol of the Ukrainian South's indomitable spirit. However, the destruction of the Kakhovka Hydroelectric Power Plant by Russian forces stood as one of the greatest ecocides in 21st-century Europe – a devastating blow to the people, the environment, and the region's future.

But Kherson oblast stood firm. While continuing to endure constant shelling, it is rebuilding and sowing its fields in anticipation of better days. The people of Kherson oblast serve in the Armed Forces of Ukraine, volunteer, and return to their liberated lands, preserving their identity even in the heart of war.

We are strong, we are united, and this unity will win.

Glory to Ukraine! Glory to the Heroes!

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# WE ARE STRONG. WE ARE UNITED. KHERSON OBLAST

NATIONAL BANK OF UKRAINE



Issue date	Metal	Diameter	Quality	Edge	Mintage
24 February 2026	nickel-plated zinc-based alloy	23.5 mm	uncirculated	grooved	2,000,000

CIRCULATION COMMEMORATIVE COIN • 2026