

Family Palaces and Estates



The spirit of luxury and splendor

Family Palaces and Estates: Link of Epochs



Priluki Estate, XIX c.,
picture: Napoleon Orda



Priluki Estate, XXI c.,
photo: Belarus National Tourism Agency archives



Palace compound of the Sapiieha family, XIX c.,
picture: Napoleon Orda



Palace compound of the Sapiieha family, XXI c.,
photo: Belarus National Tourism Agency archives



Umiastowski Palace, XIX c.,
picture: Napoleon Orda



Umiastowski Palace, XXI c.,
photo: Belarus National Tourism Agency archives



Rumyantsev-Paskevich Palace, XIX c.,
picture: Napoleon Orda



Rumyantsev-Paskevich Palace, XXI c.,
photo: Belarus National Tourism Agency archives



The culture of Belarus is unique – the traditions of the West and the East are intricately interwoven in it. Polish szlachta (noblemen), Russian nobility, Belarusian noble families lived here for centuries: the families of Radziwill, Sapieha, Paskevich, Czapski... We inherited a great number of luxurious palaces and romantic estates from them where the pompous receptions were held and the most educated persons gathered.

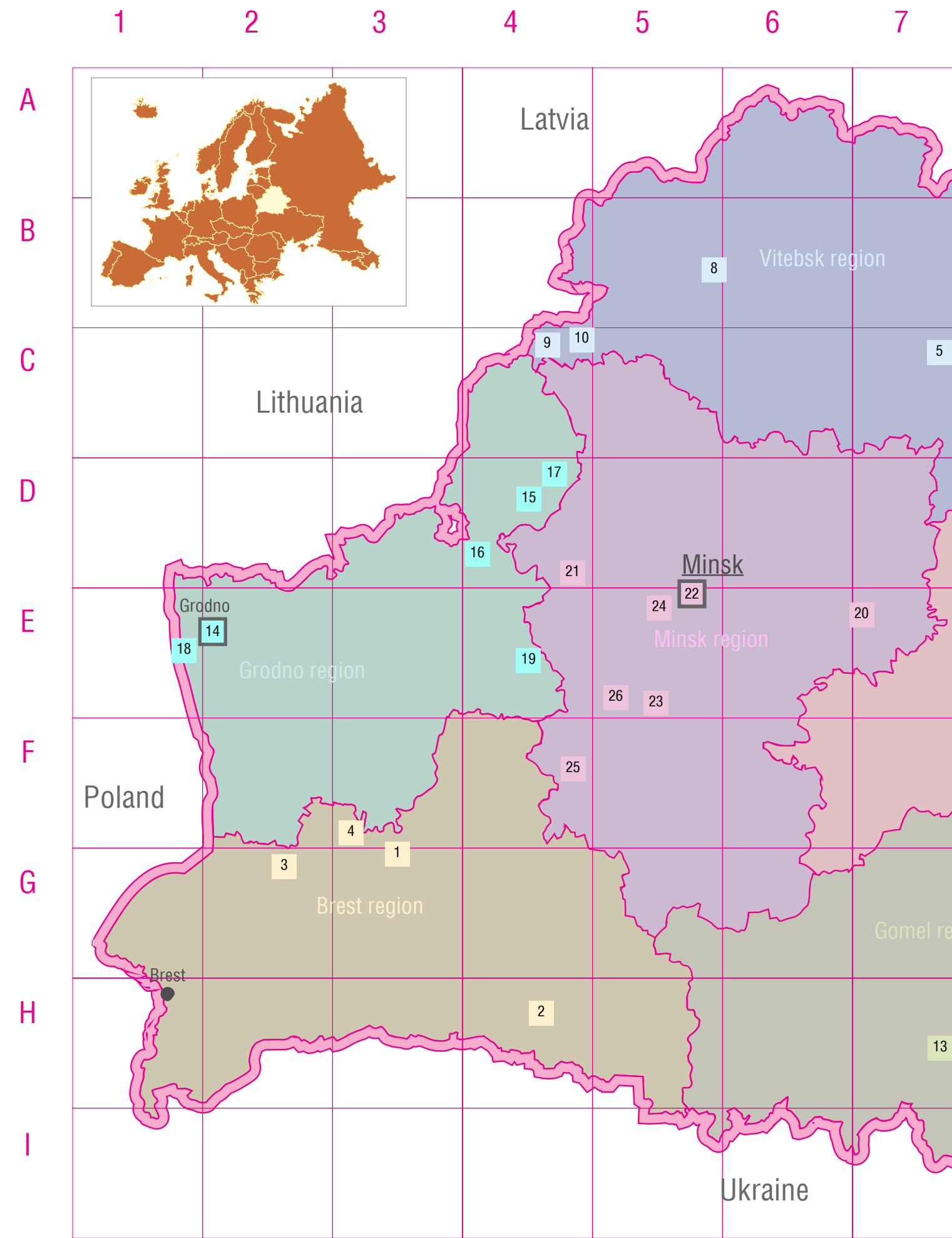
In our opinion, the most interesting residences of princes, counts and other eminent and famous people of Belarus from different epochs are gathered in this booklet. Today it is still pleasant to take a stroll in the park alleys, admire the architectural masterpieces from talented architects and imagine how leisurely and luxurious life was here centuries ago.

We wish you interesting journeys!

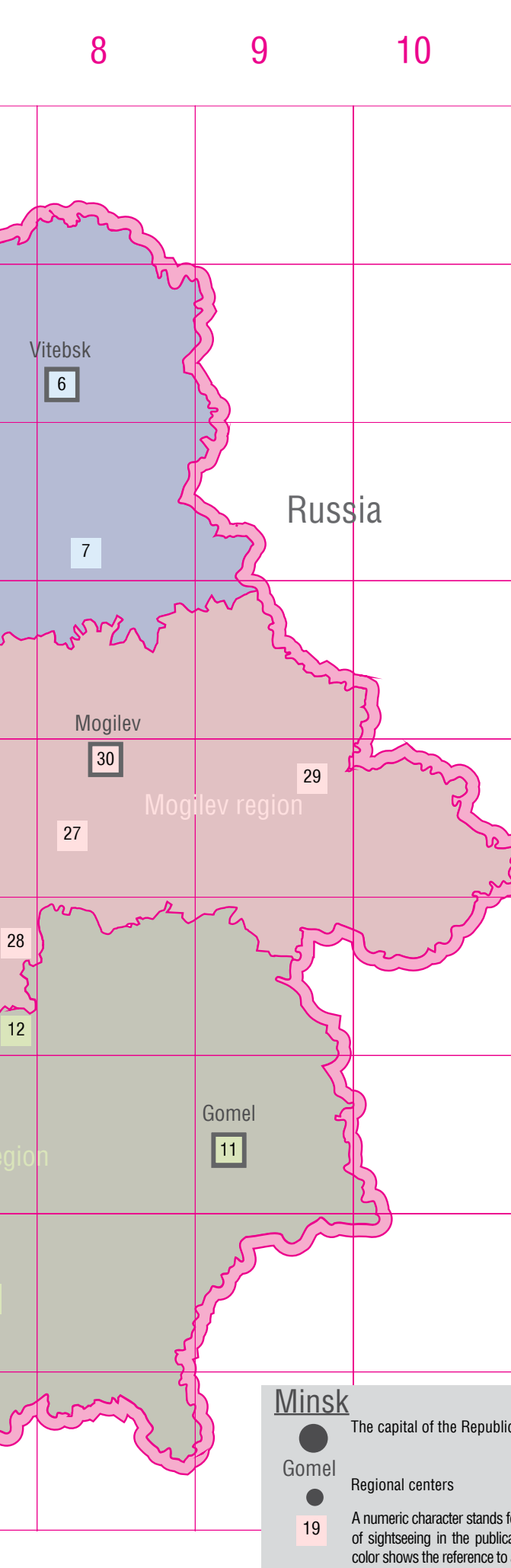
National Tourism Agency of the Republic of Belarus



Location of Places of Interest



ORDERING OF PLACES OF INTEREST WITH REFERENCE TO REGIONS



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Minsk

The capital of the Republic of Belarus

Gomel

Regional centers

A numeric character stands for the index number of sightseeing in the publication; a background color shows the reference to a region of Belarus

LEGEND

19
E5

At the top: a numeric character stands for the index of sightseeing in the publication, the color of the numeric character shows the reference to a region of Belarus; at the bottom: a letter and a numeric character indicate the location at the general map

7,8

Frame means that this sightseeing is located in the regional center

19¹

A footnote stands for an additional tourist attraction or tourist event having the location which differs from the location of the main sightseeing

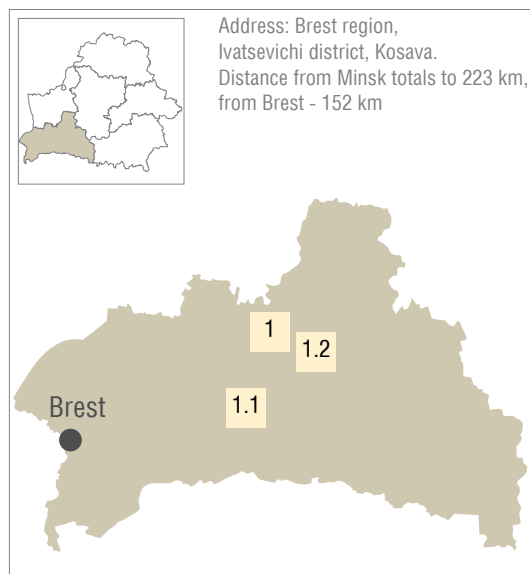
Puslowski Estate

1
G3



▼ Reconstructed house of Tadeusz Kosciuszko – a leader of the national liberation uprising of 1794, a national hero in America and Poland, honorary citizen of France.

▲ Majestic silhouette of the Puslowski Estate from afar mostly reminds a miniature castle. According to the legend, there was a 25-kilometer underground passageway under the residence that connected it with Ruzhany Palace.



The contemporaries called Kosava Castle “the knight’s dream” for its unusual “fairytale” architecture. The estate in Kosava was bought by Count Wandalin Puslowski. He restored the house of the famous Tadeusz Kosciuszko, a leader of the national liberation uprising of 1794, situated within the estate territory. Then the palace was built.

The rooms of the residence were completely different. The pompous balls were held in the White hall; the guests played cards in the Black hall and played music in the Pink hall. But the most genuine delight was evoked by the foyer with glass floor where the exotic fish swam right under the feet of astonished visitors.

During the Second World War Kosava Castle was burnt down. At present it is being restored and soon a museum and a hotel will appear in the former Puslowski Estate. And Tadeusz Kosciuszko’s house has already been restored and turned into museum. The original objects of the XIX century, replicas of awards and arms of the great Belarusian are on display here.

DO NOT MISS:

You can easily get from Kosava to the village of Sporovo, where the most amusing annual festival “Sporovskiye zharty (The Jokes of Sporovo)” takes place in July. [1.1].

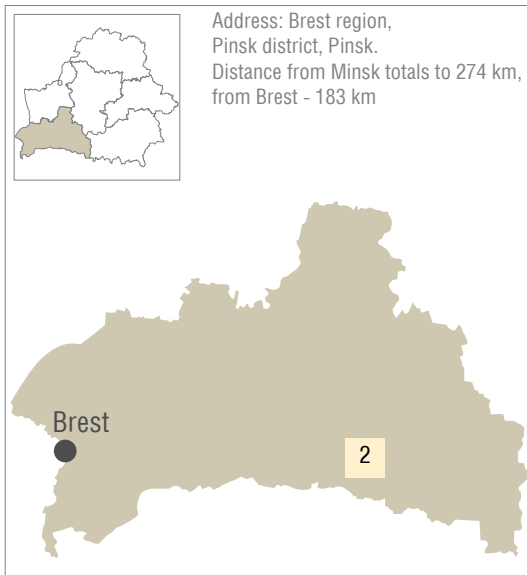
www.belarustourism.by/events | www.brest-region.by/index.php

WORTH SEEING:

Not far from Kosava in Ivatsevichi town you can see the estate of the Yundzily family (XVIII cent.). [1.2]. Another interesting object is the point of the Struve Geodetic Arc (XIX cent.), that is the biggest old Earth measuring tool.

Butrimovich Palace

$\frac{2}{H4}$



▲ Façade of the palace, facing the Pina River,
was preserved best of all. Once the pompous
balls and receptions were held here.

▼ Side staircase leading right to the living
premises.

Pinsk Palace draws attention because of its unusual curved silhouette. It was built in 1790 by the architect Schildhaus for the big financier Mateusz Butrimovich. According to the legend, the first stone in the foundation was laid by the king of the Polish–Lithuanian Commonwealth (Rzeczpospolita) Stanisław August Poniatowski.

The incurved, 'curvilinear' exquisitely decorated angles and windows are the hallmark of the palace. Its central part with 'oval' room is slightly put forward. In the XVIII century the big terrace where the owners and noble guests liked to stroll adjoined it.

The strong fire of 1901 irretrievably destroyed luxurious interiors— pictures of Dutch artists, old Venetian chandeliers, oriental carpets, tapestries and unique collection of the Slutsk sashes. And yet the palace preserved the most important thing – a unique aura of the XIX century and charm of the bygone epochs.

DO NOT MISS:

Once in two-three years, in the end of spring– beginning of summer the best folk bands perform in Pinsk during the International Folk Festival "Paleski karagod (The Khorovod of Polesia)". And in the beginning of autumn the surroundings are filled with motor roars of thousands of motorcycles – the bikers from all over the Europe gather here for the International Motor Festival "Pinsk".

www.belarustourism.by/events | www.pinsk-roo.brest-region.edu.by

WORTH SEEING:

The communists appeared in Pinsk long before the revolution of 1917. In the XVII century the communist monks called so because of the joint property and mutual income came here. They built the Catholic Church of Karl Baromey, now it's the concert hall where you can listen to classical music.



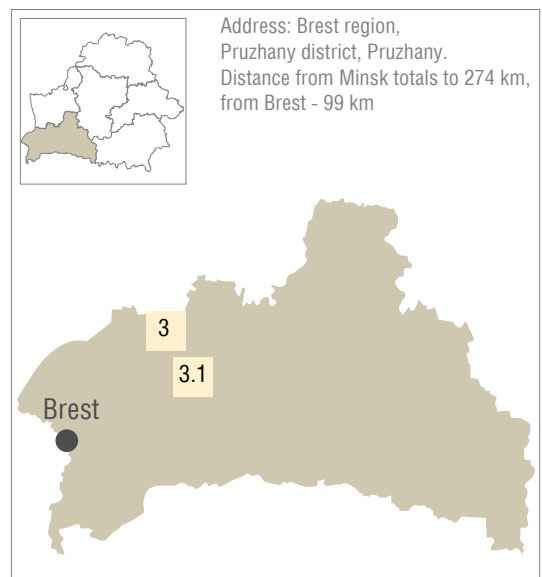
Szwykowski Estate

3
G2



▲ The Szwykowski estate attracts tourists from all over the world. Up to six thousand tourists visit it annually.

▼ Fragment of the building. Windows of the first floor are high and narrow, what gives the silhouette of the residence elegance.



The Szwykowski Estate is the only Italian country villa, preserved in Belarus. Bernard Szwykowski bought the estate in Pruzhany only in the XIX century. Before that it belonged to the Rumyantsev family. In 1795 Catherine II herself presented her favorite Pyotr Rumyantsev-Zadunaisky with the "Pruzhany Key".

In the middle of the XIX century the estate was famous for wonderful orangery that was compared with Radziwill Gardens by wealth and variety of exotic plants.

According to the legend, the Romanov family was a constant visitor of Pruzhany. While the tsar was hunting in the Belavezhskaya Pushcha, the empress passed the time by chatting with the mistress of the house.

At present "Pruzhany palatsik" is a museum. The first floor is occupied by the antique interiors of the "manor house" with fireplaces, magnificent mirrors and animal skins on walls. The exposition of the second floor tells about the life of common peasants. The collection of icons with rare patterns of the XVIII century is unique too.

DO NOT MISS:

The festival of ultralight aviation and aeronautics takes place in May in Pruzhany. The aero clubs, private crews, aircraft modellers, paragliders, pilots of ultralight trikes and aircrafts from Belarus, Russia, Ukraine, Poland and the Czech Republic participate. In September-October the town attracts the jazz fans during the Republican Jazz Music Festival.

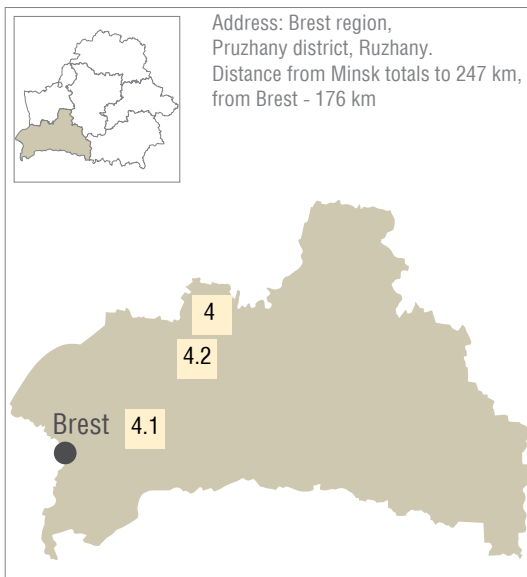
www.belarustourism.by/events | www.pruzhany.net

WORTH SEEING:

The Szwykowski Estate was built in the village of Belousovshchina [3.1] in the XIX century. The old wooden estate still stands; it is also worth seeing a cheese factory, a barn and a 200-hundred years summer "landowners" park.

Palace Compound of the Sapieha Family

4
F4



▲ The power of the palace owners is proved by the fact that Ruzhany was repeatedly visited by eminent guests, in 1784 Polish king Stanislaw August Poniatowski stayed here.

▼ The main building of Ruzhany Palace was built in the Baroque style, but you can trace in its appearance the features of the Classicism, that was just coming into vogue.

The thoughts of ancient temples emerge from the ruins of Ruzhany Palace owned by once very powerful Sapieha family. The family had a considerable political importance. Lew Sapieha became especially famous as one of the authors of the Statutes of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania, a unique code of laws, remaining in force for almost 300 years (from 1588 till 1840).

Ruzhany Palace, called the Belarusian Versailles, was built in 1784 – 1788 by the architect Jan Samuel Becker in place of the old fortress. The semicircular arcades like giant wings opened wide from the main building of the estate. They connected the house, wings and entrance gates (Brama), stylized like the Triumphal arch. The windows and doors were exquisitely decorated, the sculpture details – delicately drawn.

The Ruzhany residence was famous for a wonderful theatre, one of the best in Europe and a library, the biggest one in the Grand Duchy of Lithuania.

Now the palace compound is being restored. You can already see the new face of the entrance Brama through the forests. The palace itself and the wings are next in turn.

DO NOT MISS:

After having visited Ruzhany, you can drop in Kobrin [4.1], where the Youth Initiative Festival “Free movement” takes place in August. It includes the contests of pop songs and graffiti paintings as well as a HIP-HOP dance competition. www.belarustourism.by/events | www.inkobrin.org

WORTH SEEING:

The estate of the XIX century was preserved in Internatsionalny [4.2] settlement. Left intact by the restorers it seems to bear the trace of time.



Beshankovichy Palace

5
C7



▲ The facade of the palace has undergone little change.

▼ The one delicate balcony.



Address: Vitebsk region,
Beshankovichy district, Kamai.
Distance from Minsk totals to 213 km,
from Vitebsk - 52 km



The main residence of the chancellor of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania Joachim Ignacy Chreptowicz was the estate in Shchorsy. However in 1770s he built an exquisite palace in Beshankovichy.

The peculiarity of the two-storey building was the absence of the columns popular at that time. Instead of them the palace was decorated with an exquisite risalit and big openwork balcony. In 1812 Napoleon Bonaparte himself watched the sunsets leaning his elbows on its forged railing. And in 1821 Alexander I, the Russian Emperor, stayed at the palace.

A magnificent park was the pride of the masters. The architects brought the elements of the landscape English park to the old French park with strictly delineated alleys. In the end of the XVIII century a big orangery was built, an orchard was laid out and the numerous lawns were decorated with flowerbeds.

Beshankovichy Estate is perfectly preserved, every tourist should see it.

DO NOT MISS:

If you're not too lazy you can get from Beshankovichy to Polotsk [5.1] and visit the Medieval Festival "Rubon" (May-June). The festivities include contests of archers and horsemen, mass buharts, and medieval music. Polotsk is one of the most ancient cities in Belarus, where a great number of unique architectural monuments were preserved.

www.belarustourism.by/events | www.epolotsk.com

WORTH SEEING:

It is worth visiting the village of Dvor-Nizgolovo [5.2] to see the estate (XIX century). Both the manor house itself built in the Classicism style and the kitchen with Gothic windows and the 'medieval' smokery tower are interesting to see.



▲ Vitebsk Palace is unique because it has never belonged to the noblemen. Over a century and a half the residence was occupied by city governors.

▼ The Monument to the Soviet Liberators was placed right in front of the palace.

Vitebsk palace of the governor was the residence of all the governors of Vitebsk province for the last 150 years. Built in the end of the XVIII century (up to 1772) it became the real example of the Russian classicism – minimum décor, restraint and purity of lines. The only decoration of the building is the arched windows and columns.

The history of Vitebsk palace is fascinating and full of dramatic events. During the Patriotic War of 1812 Napoleon Bonaparte celebrated his 43rd birthday here. During the October revolution the Military Revolutionary Committee that declared Soviet power in the city and province was situated in the governor's halls. The first Vitebsk province conference of the Russian Social Democratic Labour Party was held in the residence and in June 1919 Mikhail Kalinin himself spoke at the enlarged meeting of Vitebsk province executive committee.

DO NOT MISS:

The most famous festival in Belarus "Slavianski Bazaar" is held in July in Vitebsk. The program of this grandiose event includes the Culture Days and gala concerts of the distinguished artists from Russia, Belarus, the Ukraine, solo concerts of variety performers, music and theatrical projects. www.belarustourism.by/events | www.festival.vitebsk.by

WORTH SEEING:

At a distance of 16 km from Vitebsk you can find the estate of the great Russian painter Ilya Repin [6.1]. The Zdrawneva Estate is a museum with the artist's belongings and archaeological finds discovered not far from the Zdrawneva urozhistshe (stow).



Mokritsky Estate

$\frac{7}{C8}$



▲ The manor is waiting for new owners.

▼ The former glory is easy to guess in the survived elements of the manor.



The history of the estate absorbed many events. A beautiful house in the neoclassicism style with openwork balconies and exquisite décor was built in the XIX century for the Mokritsky family. The interiors of the estate were distinguished by wealth and harmony at the same time. The walls were covered with picturesque canvases, parquet floors were laid with different species of wood, in the décor of the fireplace you could see the delicate artistic taste of the owners.

After the October Revolution of 1917 the house was passed into the ownership of the Soviet power. In summer 1928 the first congress of the Communist party of the West Belarus in which by the way Goloded and Knorin participated was held here. The latter suggested the idea to ban the Belarusian language and the Belarusians that demanded to acknowledge them as a separate nation – to exile or shoot.

Nowadays, the Mokritsky Estate is overgrown, the big trees ‘came right up’ to the windows. But you can still discern a prepossessing charm of the past in this neglect.

WORTH SEEING:

In the village of Mezhevo [7.1] (not far from Vysokoye) the travelers can see the Dorozhinsky Estate (1901). A ‘round-bellied’ house, built in the neoclassicism style, is still in good condition.



▲ Symmetry - a distinctive feature of this palace.

▼ Palace. View from the side.

Germanovichi was first mentioned in the chronicles in 1563. During its history the settlement changed its owners. It belonged to Sapieha, Gilzen, Shirin. The latter decided to build a palace here that was erected in 1782 on a large scale.

Symmetrical, in the Classicism style, the palace became the real treasure of the heart of the country. The family of Shirin really loved the 'high-status' things. That's why the house had quite an impressive library with many rare books and fireplaces with expensive décor.

The park of the owners created with the local species of woods was exceptionally beautiful. The masters and their guests liked to spend time in cozy gazebos, hidden in the shadows of maple and lime trees. The remnants of the ancient park laid in the XVIII century were preserved. The memory of the former estate owners is kept by a splendid Catholic Church of the Transfiguration, built in 1787 by Shirin.

DO NOT MISS:

The unique festival "Yablochny Spas vsemu chas (Apple Spas-all in good time)" is held in the village of Malye Alashki (not far from Germanovichi) [8.1] in August, dedicated to the birthday of the famous Belarusian amateur breeder Ivan Sikora. Here you can try the most tasty apples and take part in street festivities. www.belarustourism.by/events | www.sharkovshchina.vitebsk-region.gov.by

WORTH SEEING:

In the village of Gorodets [8.2] the tourists will see the Plater Estate. The manor house (palace), park, chapel, brovar (brewery), poultry yard, piggery, smithy, wing, other household outbuildings, entrance brama are left of the former estate of nobility.



Byszewski Estate

9
C4



▲ Luxurious palace decorated with colonnades and arcades remained the monument to unshared love.

▼ Stone arch bridge seems to reach us from the Middle Ages.



Address: Vitebsk region,
Postavy district, Lyntupy.
Distance from Minsk totals to 170 km,
from Vitebsk - 265 km

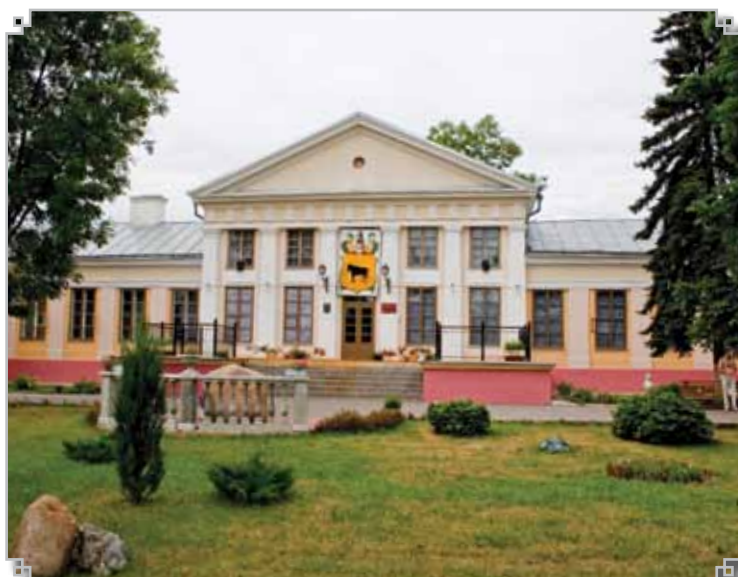


In the shade of the ancient park a splendid estate of the Byszewski family is hidden. According to the legend, in the XIX century the luxurious palace was built by the first owner Maurizio Buchinsky. Over head and ears in love with the French actress, he proposed her. The beauty accepted but only under condition that a palace will appear in the heart of the country for her. A luxurious residence was soon finished but by then the fiancée changed her mind. Broken-hearted Maurizio led a dissipated life in a brand new palace.

According to other version, the palace was built by the new estate owners – the Byszewski. In any case, the estate turned out to be a splendid beauty. The palace itself decorated with a great number of exquisite details, columns and rich stucco was situated on the island in a manner of speaking surrounded by ponds. The impression was supplemented with small but very beautiful chapel, smokery towers in the pseudo-Gothic style and arched bridges, preserved to the present day.

WORTH SEEING:

The spirit of the old times hovers in the village of Krikaly [9.1], where you can see the ruins of the estate of the XVIII-XIX centuries. It is worth seeing the remnants of the ancient estate park and the watermill of the XIX century.



▲ General appearance of the residence: austerity and elegance in every detail. It is known that the Tyzenhaus Palace was repeatedly visited by eminent guests. For example Nicholas II stayed here.

▼ Beautiful and austere building of the Tyzenhaus Palace in the XIX century was one of the scientific and cultural centers of the Belarusian lands.

The construction of the palace in Pastavy began in 1733 by Antoni Tyzenhaus, a close friend of King Stanislaw August Poniatowski and Jean-Jacques Rousseau.

The erection of the residence in the strict traditions of the classicism finished only in 1814 by the new owner – Konstantin Tyzenhaus. All the western part of the building was occupied with the rooms for zoology, mineralogy and ethnography of the land. The real pride of Konstantin, a true science fan, was the ornithological museum with a giant collection of stuffed birds (more than 3000 pieces!), collected during 40 years all over Belarus, Lithuania, Ukraine.

The palace also had splendid art galleries (more than 600 canvases) with original works of Leonardo da Vinci, Rembrandt, Rubens. Unfortunately, the interiors of the Tyzenhaus residence were irreversibly lost. But there's good news: an extensive network of underground passageways was found under the foundation. The catacombs are being restored and soon will be occupied by a museum.

DO NOT MISS:

The annual International festival "Dulcimer and Accordion Sounds" is held in Postavy. The folk bands not only from Belarus but from Latvia, Lithuania, Estonia, Croatia participate in the festival. www.belarustourism.by/events | www.postavy.vitebsk-region.gov.by | www.dvina.by

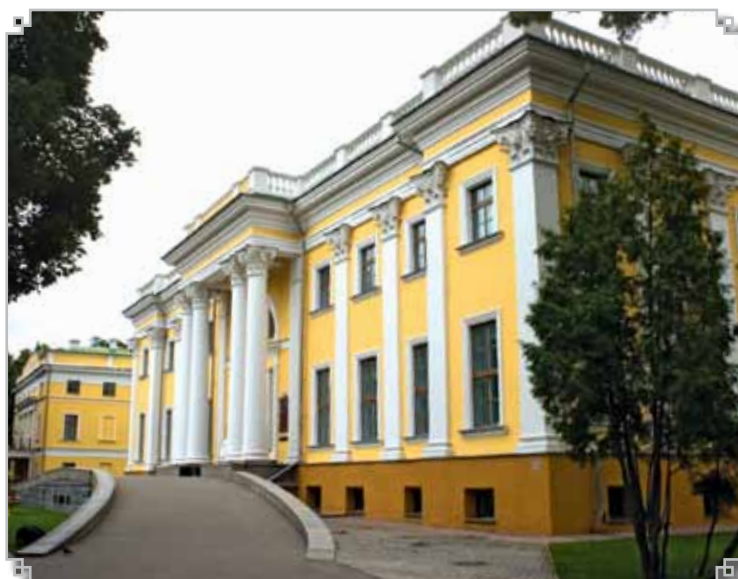
WORTH SEEING:

Once the village of Mankovich [10.1] was the residence of the noble family of Drucki-Lubecki. Now you can find the ruins of the chapel and burial vault (XIX century), the remnants of the watermill (XIX century) and the wild ancient park.



Rumyantsev-Paskevich Palace

11
G9



▲ Rumyantsev-Paskevich Palace. The residence got its finished appearance only under Ivan Paskevich. This man always enraptured the contemporaries, even Alexander Pushkin wrote enthusiastic lines about him.

▼ Chapel and burial vault of the Paskevich family was made with intentional ornamentality, it was decorated with a great number of details of unusual shape.



Address: Gomel region,
Gomel.
Distance from Minsk totals to 291 km



The Rumyantsev-Paskevich Palace tops the steep bank of the Sozh River, a place literally soaked in history. In different time periods there was the Iron Age ancient settlement, the detinets (fortress) of the ancient Gomel, the medieval castle with mighty walls.

In 1777 a 'small village' of Gomel was granted by Catherine II to her favorite Pyotr Rumyantsev-Zadunaisky that immediately began to build a palace. In the XIX century the residence was bought by Count Ivan Paskevich, famous military leader and keen collector of rare antiquities, artworks, antiques. Unique collections, royal gifts and war loots were placed in Gomel Palace by Paskevich.

The Rumyantsev-Paskevich residence is one of the brightest Belarusian tourist gems. At present the compound includes the palace, the church of Sts. Peter and Paul, the chapel and burial vault of the Paskevich family, that by the way was the first monument restored in the republic after the Second World War.

The interior of the palace tells about the life of the Russian nobility of the XIX century. There are more than 150 original antiquities. Unfortunately not all of them belonged to the owners. The real rarities are the bronze Goddess of Peace, replica of the sculpture of the Italian master Antonio Canova and the copy of the Gospel by Pyotr Mstislavets, dated 1575.

A match for the palace is a magnificent park with exquisite fountains and rare plants, laid in the



▲ You can trace the features of the early Classicism in the architecture of the front façade of the Rumyantsev-Paskevich Palace.

end of the XVIII – beginning of the XIX centuries. Its planning is the work of the gifted Polish architect Adam Idzkowski. By the way, he also became famous as an excellent painter. The canvas with the palace view was painted by him. The image can be found on a banknote of denomination of 20 thousand Belarusian rubles.

DO NOT MISS:

Every year in September the whole city dances – the International Festival of Choreography “Sozhsky Khorovod” is held on several stages. The ethnographic, folk and sport dances are performed by the artists from Belarus, Russia and Ukraine. www.belarustourism.by/events

WORTH SEEING:

Not far from the Palace compound in Gomel you can find the ‘hunting lodge’, built in the beginning of the XIX century by order of Rumyantsev. It is interesting that the house is wooden, but brick-encased and plastered. Hence it seems that the building is ‘full stone’. Now it is occupied by a museum presenting unique paintings and ancient watches collected by the Paskevich family.

▼ Interior of the palace. Reconstructed interiors of the XVIII – XIX century allow you to feel the atmosphere of that time.



Gatovsky Estate

12
F7



▼ The Gatovsky estate is one of the places of interest of Gomel region, united in a tourist route "Golden Ring of Gomel region".

▲ Fantastically beautiful, the Krasny Bereg Estate looks more like an illustration in the fairy tale book.



Address: Gomel region,
Zhlobin district, Krasny Bereg.
Distance from Minsk totals to 188 km,
from Gomel - 114 km



The Krasny Bereg Estate is one of the most fantastic estates in Belarus, looking like a castle from children's dreams. The wonder house was built in the XIX century for Mikhail Gatovsky, military engineer.

The architects successfully combined two styles – the Neo-gothic and the Neo-renaissance. Hip roofs of towers and bay windows, mansard roofs and dormer windows are entwined together in the building's appearance.

In the XIX century the interiors blinded by their splendor. The enfilade of rooms helped to see all the premises simultaneously. For every room was chosen its own style: Roman, Arab, Renaissance, French of the period of Louis XVI... The palace was famous for excellent collection of paintings with the original works of Aivazovsky, Siemiradzki and other famous painters.

The estate was well preserved. Nowadays you can see the palace itself, wing, household outbuildings and a wonderful park, where all the trees are thoroughly selected taking into account the color of leaves during the season.

DO NOT MISS:

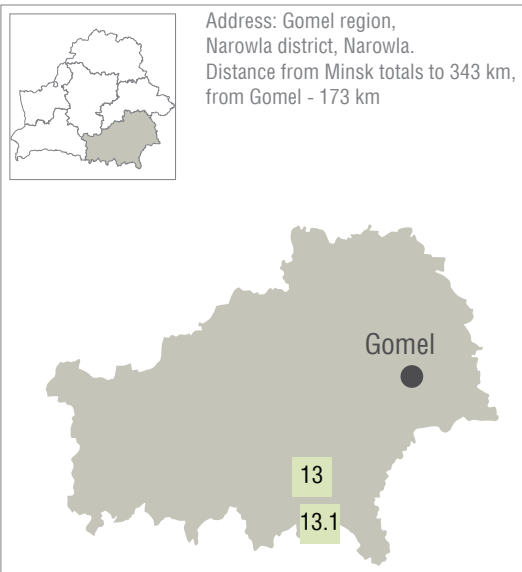
August the traditional International Bike Festival, one of the largest in Belarus is held in Zhlobin [12.1] (not far from Krasny Bereg) (bikers' contests, stunts, live music). www.belarustourism.by/events | www.zhlobin.by/zhlobin/news.php

WORTH SEEING:

It is not difficult to get from Krasny Bereg to Chachersk [12.2], mentioned in chronicles beginning with the XII century. You will see an exquisite palace of Chernyshov-Kruglikov (XIX century), a magnificent town hall built in the Neo-gothic style (XIX century) and the Church of the Transfiguration (XVIII century).

Narowla Palace

13
H7



▲ The manor house will soon be renovated.

▼ Park gazebo-lighthouse was set on a hill at the confluence of the river Narovlianka to Pripyat.

Narowla Palace built in the 1850 for the nobleman Daniel Gorvatt and his wife Iphigenia Ratynski was the oasis of culture and enlightenment in the heart of Polesia.

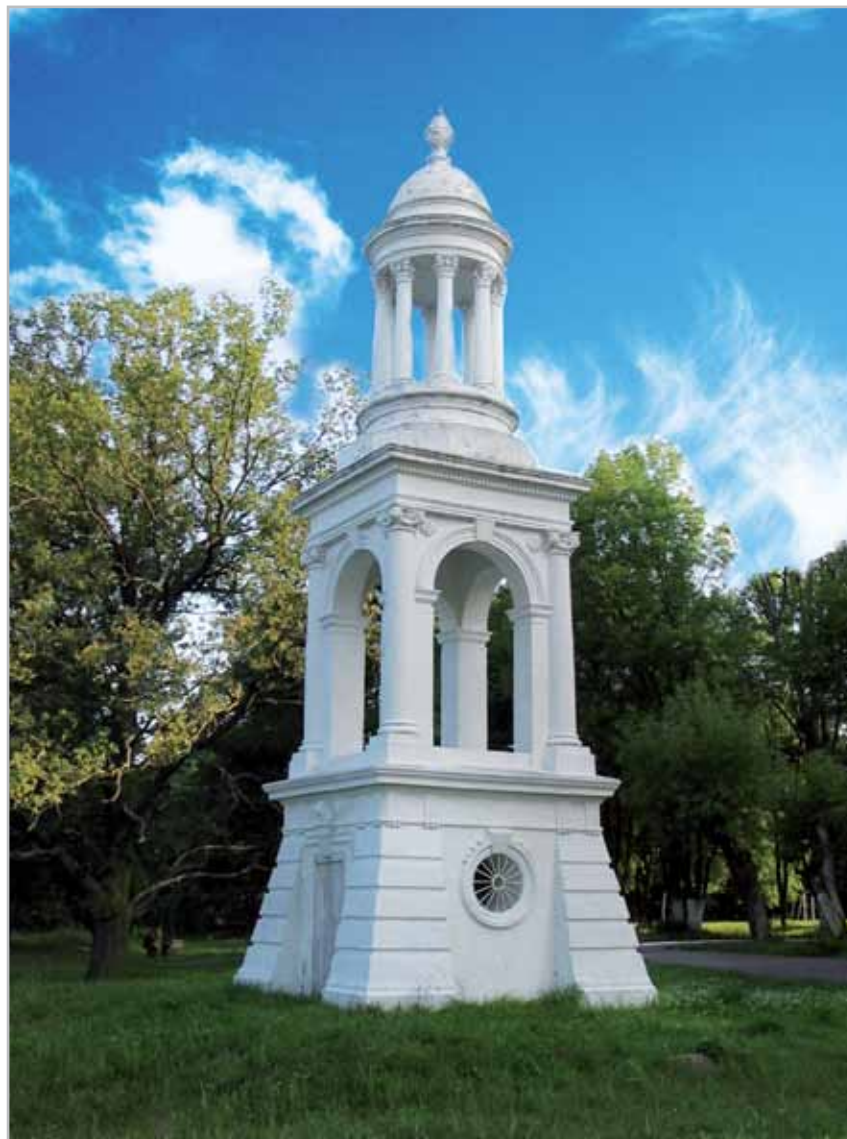
The fantastic amounts of money were invested in the construction. And on the territory of the magnificent park besides the palace a chapel, fountain, front stable, orangery, brama, gatekeeper's house and rosarium appeared. A great number of sculptures decorated the residence and the entrance to the estate was "guarded" by two bronze full-size lions.

Every room had its own 'character'. The red room delighted with a parquet floor laid with different wood species. The walls of the Blue room were covered with blue satin and the ceiling was decorated with gilded stars. The real connoisseurs of books, the Gorvatt family had a large library with rare editions. The Nature Museum with stuffed animals, birds and even fish occupied its own room.

The Palace was heavily damaged during the Second World War and now it awaits restoration.

WORTH SEEING:

There is one more estate of the Gorvatt family in Golovchitsy [13.1] (XIX century): Manor house, household outbuildings and ancient estate park are worth seeing.



Walicki Palace

14
E2



▲ Southern wing of the residence of the bishop has a gallery and a bell tower.

▼ Walicki Palace.



Address: Grodno region,
Grodno.
Distance from Minsk totals to 287 km



Grodno

14

The Walicki Palace is one of the most interesting residences in Grodno. It was built from 1780 till 1793 by the design of the Italian architect Meser for the head of the administration of Grodno economy Dekonsky, and then it came into the ownership of Count Walicki. In 1845 Grodno became the place of stay of the second vicar of the Lithuanian eparchy and the church bought the palace to accommodate the bishop.

From that time an icon painting workshop and a chapel functioned in the main building of the bishop's residence. Then it moved to the south wing, above which a gallery with bell tower was built. Young Psalm Readers lived and studied in the residence, the church archaeological museum and science center operated here.

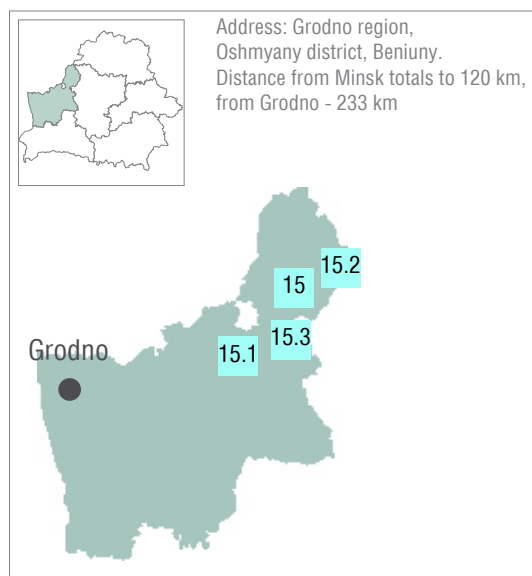
During the years of Soviet power the bishop's residence became desolate. But since recently it belongs to the Orthodox Eparchy. Now it is being restored and soon the building will accommodate a little church.

DO NOT MISS:

The biggest event in Grodno is the Festival of National Cultures annually held in the middle of June that gathers the representatives of more than 30 nationalities. Amusing contests, parades of wind bands and music of different genres. www.belarustourism.by/events

WORTH SEEING:

Quite a few palaces were preserved in Grodno. The most interesting are: "Batorievka" (XVI-XIX centuries), Chreptowicz palace (XVIII-XIX centuries), house of the vice-governor Maksimov (XIX century), house of the Massalski noblemen (XVIII-XIX centuries).



▲ The manor house looks even too massive against the rural landscape.

▼ The remains of one of the estate's buildings.

The historical documents recorded that the estate in Beniuny existed as far back as the XVI century and belonged at that time to the Tatar family of Furs. The owners of these places changed more than once and in 1809 the estate was bought by Jozef Karchevsky.

During the Patriotic War of 1812 the manor house was completely burnt down, it had to be reerected once more. A brand new estate (1828) came out to be non-typical for those times. Made of wood, it rested on a high stone foundation.

The descriptions of the interior of that time were preserved. Parquet floors and ovens with white ceramic tiles, massive ancient furniture of ashwood, fortepiano... Jozef Karchevsky was a real connoisseur of books and collected a sizeable library of 3000 volumes, documents and manuscripts, dated XVI century.

At present there is a very interesting 'live' museum. The guests can sit down on a real throne of the Grand Duke of Lithuania, inspect the Sapieha wardrobe, the sideboard from the destroyed estate of the Sniadecki family in Boltup.

DO NOT MISS:

The enthralling historical reconstructions and festivities are held in Beniuny all year round – on Christmas, Kolyada (carol), Kupala Day. Every event is always an impressive performance with jousts, ancient dances and fire shows. www.h-t.by/ru/2.html

WORTH SEEING:

Beniuny is situated between two ancient castles: 15 km from Halshany [15.1] (Sapieha castle of the XVII century) and 10 km from Kreva [15.2] (Gediminas castle of the XIV century). You can also visit the settlement of Mikhailovshchina [15.3] with the preserved estate of the Skinder family (XIX-XX centuries).



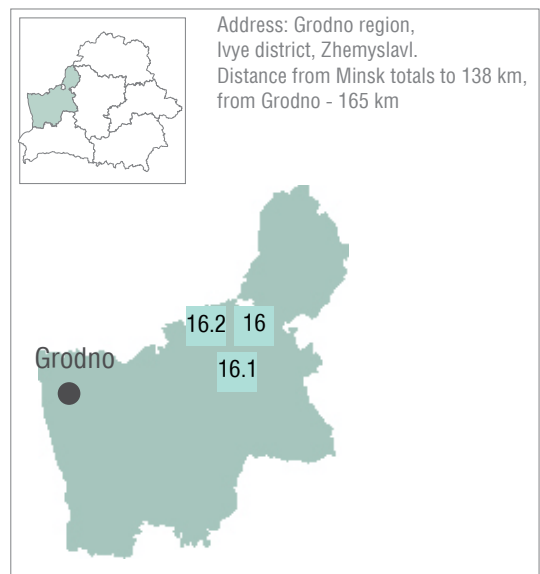
Umiastowski Palace

16
D4



▼ During the First World War the palace was occupied by German health resort that operated for some years.

▲ The Umiastowski Palace was built with a real royal luxury, copying not only the architecture of the royal house but the interior and the landscape park.



The replica of the Polish residence of the last king of the Polish–Lithuanian Commonwealth Stanisław August Poniatowski “Lazienka” is situated in the Belarusian village of Zhemyslavl. The estate of the XIX century belonged to the ancient, poor but proud family of Umiastowski. The ambitions pushed them to copy the royal residence.

The palace represented a classical two-storey building with promenade area on the flat roof. It possessed charming vivacity and beauty thanks to stained glass applied to the arched windows of belvedere. And an open-air loggia with mosaic floor, placed above the front door on four massive columns, was a real delight.

The ‘royal’ interiors of the estate were distinguished by marble fireplaces in the “Parisian style”, parquet floors, laid with intricate patterns, and wonderful frescoes.

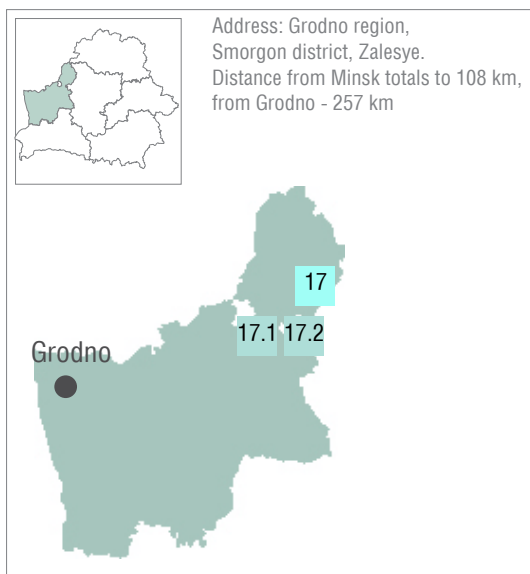
The building of the palace was well preserved. It peeps out of the trees of the ancient park that is over 200 years.

DO NOT MISS:

In the end of August we advise you to visit Lida (not far from Zhemyslavl) [16.1] , where the grandiose Bike Festival is held. Thousands of bikers from Belarus, Russia, Ukraine, Germany, Sweden and other countries, numerous contests, rock band performances, fire show.
www.belarustourism.by/events | www.lida.info

WORTH SEEING:

You should certainly visit the village of Geraneny [16.2]. Here you can find the remnants of castle fortifications (XV-XVI centuries), estate ruins (XIX century) and St. Nicholas Church (XVI century).



▲ Creek in the shade of trees Englischer Garten.

▼ Currently, the estate is mothballed and awaiting reconstruction. Slim wing colonnade.

The famous Michal Oginski, gifted diplomat, author of a sentimental polonaise “Farewell to Homeland” and solemn Polish anthem “Jeszcze Polska nie zginela (Poland Is Not Yet Lost)” lived and worked in Zalesye Estate.

The main treasure of the building erected in 1805 in the austere classic style was the high tower above the central building. It was crowned with clock and topped with a sphere with bell. For its severe beauty and plasticity the contemporaries immediately called the palace “The Northern Athens”.

Michal ordered to keep the French park, left after the previous owners, and the English park and botanical garden and menagerie were laid out next to it.

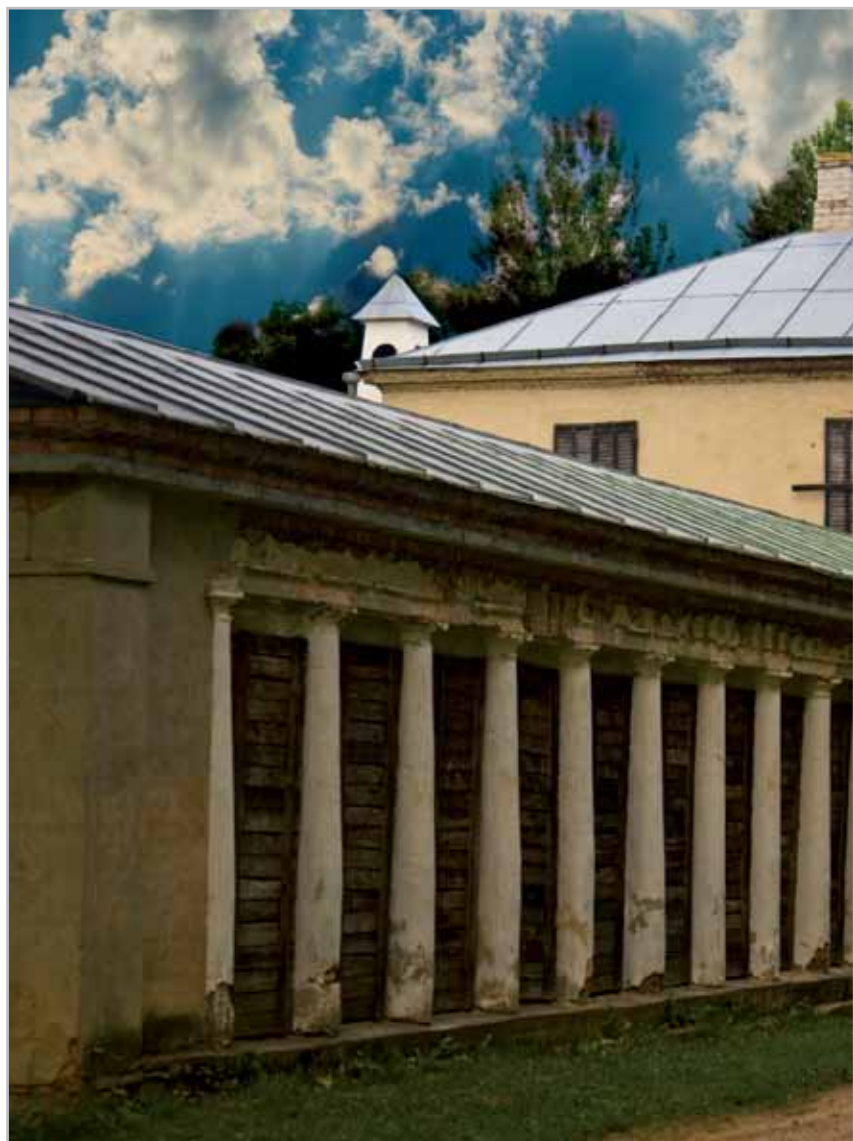
The First and Second World Wars caused heavy destruction of the Oginski estate. At present the restoration is being planned, after which a museum will fling the doors open and ancient waltzes and minuets will begin to sound again in the palace during the musical evening.

DO NOT MISS:

The amusement seekers should go to Halshany [17.1] in summer when the annual medieval festival “Halshany Castle” is held, including live ancient music, jousts and equestrian tournaments.
www.belarustourism.by/events | www.h-t.by/ru/index.html

WORTH SEEING:

In the village of Kushlyany [17.2] there is a museum-estate of another famous Belarusian— Francishak Bahushevich. The ancient interiors were restored in the wooden house of the XIX century and the writer’s belongings were put together.



Valovich Palace

18
E1

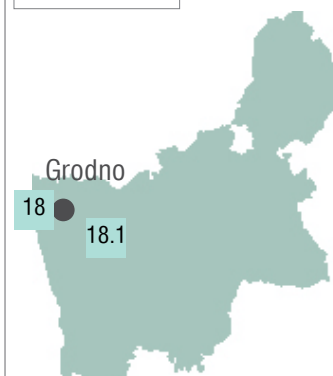


▼ A bird's eye view shows a horseshoe-shaped silhouette of the residence surrounded by ponds and remnants of the ancient park.

▲ General appearance of the Valovich Palace. The main building and two lateral galleries giving it lightness and gracefulness were well preserved.



Address: Grodno region,
Svyatsk.
Distance from Minsk totals to 291 km,
from Grodno - 23 km



The Palace of the Valovich noblemen was built in 1779 by the Italian architect Giuseppe Sacco in the Baroque style with features of the Classicism. Intricately curved roof, pilasters, semicircular windows gave the building the luxurious appearance indeed.

It is interesting that the interiors were also made by Sacco. Thanks to that magnificent harmony was achieved between the interior and exterior appearance. The Italian decorated the ceiling with skilful stucco and the walls – with the canvases of famous painters, thoroughly placed the sketches of furniture, fireplaces, doors and mirror frames.

The landscape park was also very beautiful, in the lush greenery of which were hidden four ponds, chapel-burial vault and artificial hill, from which one admired the surroundings – Belvedere.

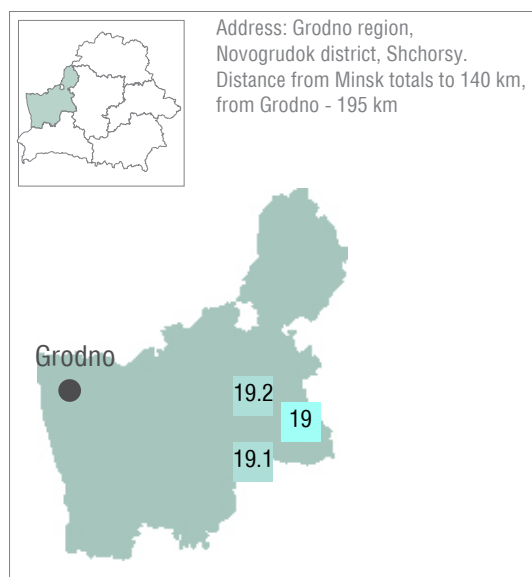
There is an old legend of the daughter of the landowner Valovich who fell in love with a stableman. Infuriated father killed the lovers, since then the corridors of the palace are haunted by the ghosts of the wretched ones...

DO NOT MISS:

In February the largest International Festival of the orthodox chants "Kolozhsky blagovest" is held in Grodno. About fifty groups from Belarus, Lithuania, Russia, Poland and Ukraine traditionally take part in the festival.
www.belarustourism.by/events | www.vgrodno.by | www.grodno.biz

WORTH SEEING:

You can continue your acquaintance with the ancient architectural monuments in the village of Ponemun [18.1]. There you can see a manor house (XVIII-XIX century), big park and original chapel.



▲ The Chreptowicz Estate in Shchorsy attracted the most educated and interesting persons of the XIX century.

▼ Preserved building of the library. A couple of years ago it became a set for the historical drama "Cursed cosy home".

"Peace and liberty" - these meaningful words were cut on the pediment of the palace in Shchorsy by order of Ierachim Chreptowicz, political writer, poet and historian, famous for his progressive views.

The Chreptowicz Palace was erected in 1770-1776 by the project of the Italian architects Sacco and Spampiani. A luxurious building combined perfectly well the features of the late Baroque and the early Classicism. The estate was beautified with a magnificent park and a cascade of artificial lakes. The estate was famous for the largest library in Eastern Europe, based according to the legend on the collections of the Society of Jesus, abolished in the XVIII century.

There were about 20 thousand rare books, ancient manuscripts, unique geographical maps in the library. At different times here worked prominent scientists and writers— Adam Mickiewicz, Jan Czeczot, Wladyslaw Syrokomla.

During the First World War the palace was heavily damaged but the library's building is almost completely preserved.

DO NOT MISS:

In the middle of summer, situated not far from Shchorsy, the largest festival of the medieval culture in Belarus is held in Navahrudak [19.1], where you can see jousts, equestrian tournaments, listen to live performance of ancient melodies. www.belarustourism.by/events | www.novogrudok.grodno-region.by/ru

WORTH SEEING:

Once the village of Vereskovo [19.2] was the Brokhotsky family estate. The manor house (XIX century), ancient Saints Peter and Paul Church and various household outbuildings were preserved.



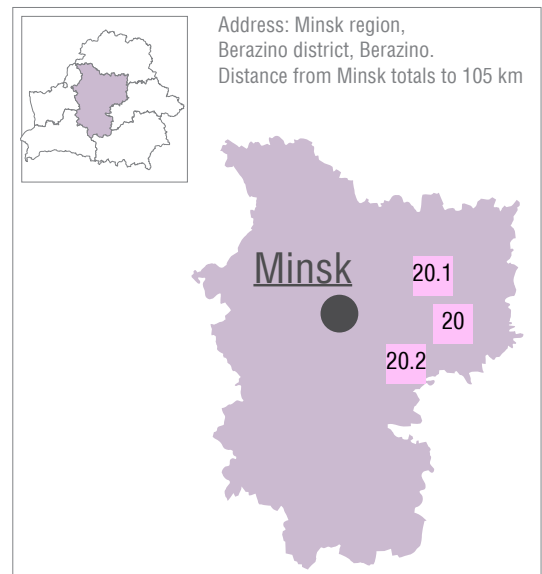
Pototsky Estate

20
E7



▲ At sunset the manor house looks mysterious.

▼ The palace prepares for restoration.



In the end of the XIX century a luxurious mansion was built on the high bank of the Berezina River. The famous Polish explorer Roman Aftanasi describes the estate as follows: “A beautiful two-storey palace with wonderful gardens was built approximately in 1850 by Anna Potocka-Wasowicz in order to use it as one of the summer residences”.

The Pototsky, a famous noble Polish family, could argue with the Radziwill family itself on quantity of lands and riches. The Pototsky family had estates in Belarus, Ukraine and Poland. There are evidences that the Berazino residence was frequented by rich magnate carriages, some chronicles assert that even the royalty stayed in the palace, when they came to the wonderful local forests to hunt.

Built in the late Classical style, the palace was well preserved, in the near future it will be restored and then the ancient walls will be occupied by a hotel and a café.

DO NOT MISS:

Near Barysaw [20.1] in the historic Brilevo field (not far from Berazino) the annual festivities are held dedicated to the famous battle of 1812, when the majority of the “invincible” army of Napoleon perished crossing the Berezina. www.belarustourism.by/events | www.ambafrance-by.org/spip.php?rubrique88

WORTH SEEING:

In the village of Poplavy [20.2] the tourists can find an unusual wooden estate of the beginning of the XX century.

Tyszkiewicz Palace

21
D4



▲ The secret of beauty of the Valozhyno Palace is in strict observance of proportions and symmetry.

▼ Fragment of the building: elegance and sense of harmony in every detail, especially in décor.

The construction of Valozhyno Palace began in 1803 by order of the Vilniusian head, Count Joseph (Yosef) Tyszkiewicz. The historic place where the medieval castle stood was chosen for the building.

The residence of counts was under construction for three years and became a true treasure of Valozhyno. The central part of the palace was occupied by a two-storey orangery, where orange trees, palm trees and other exotic plants grew under a spherical dome. The architects who designed the residence skillfully included in its appearance the old garden, laid in the XII century. The masters liked to stroll in the shadows of mighty trees on hot days.

The palace compound itself consists of three two-storey buildings built in the classical style. There is nothing superfluous in its décor: skilfully drawn windows and doors, columns and stucco. That is all there is to its decorations. However, the Valozhyno residence of the Tyszkiewicz family is unique and very exquisite.

WORTH SEEING:

In the village of Vishneva [21.1] you can find a well preserved estate of the XIX century. The "Odrovonzh" is the former hunting residence of the Chreptowicz family. By the way, Vishneva is the birthplace of Shimon Peres (Szymon Perski), eminent Israeli politician.



Loshitsa Estate

22
E5



▲ Part of the manor house was rebuilt.

▼ The coast park pond and romantic ruins of a water-mill became the traditional place for wedding photos.



The aura of old times and romance is in the air in Loshitsa Park, where the manor house built in 1895 in the modern and eclectic style can be seen through mighty trees in three girths.

The first owners of Loshitsa were the Drutski-Gorski, the descendants of Vseslav the Sorcerer himself, and then the estate passed into the ownership of the ancient and wealthy family of Pruszyński. But at the height of its prosperity it was in time of Efstafy Lubansky, who became notorious for organization of attempt on the life of Minsk governor Kurlov and popularized... the bicycles.

A romantic story is connected with Efstafy's wife Jadwiga Kieniewicz that was about 20 years younger than her husband. Lubansky who was in love with her laid out a real Garden of Eden, where Manchurian walnut, mountain and Crimean pine, fir and magnolia grew.

The contemporaries gossiped that Jadwiga could not leave the men indifferent to her. They say, that Count Czapski, Minsk city governor, was one of her admirers. During the pompous festivities on the occasion of the 30th anniversary of Jadwiga Efstafy caught the wife in his arms. And on the next day the

DO NOT MISS:

The traditional Medieval Festival "Loshitsa Fest" brightens up the ancient park in the end of May. The guests enjoy jousts, live folk music and amusing 'medieval' contests.

www.belarustourism.by/events | www.minsk.gov.by/ru/



▲ The manor park alleys are ideal for slow walks and recreation.

▼ Manager house with a wooden tower.

beauty drowned herself in Losha river. Struck with grief her husband planted an apricot tree on the bank in memory of his beloved and left Loshitsa for good. On a moonlit May night when the tree begins to blossom you can see the ghost of Jadwiga, who helps all the lovers...

At present the estate in Loshitsa is being restored. Soon it will become an open-air museum with ancient mill, bakery and brovar (brewery). The archaeologists found the remnants of the settlement of the X – XI century in the park's territory. The part of the ancient town will be reconstructed basing on them. A stable with racehorses and ambulatories with retro amusement park rides will appear. And, of course, the visitors will be welcomed by a museum in the former manor house.



WORTH SEEING:

The estate of the end of the XIX – beginning of the XX centuries is situated in the village of Kalinino [22.1], not far from Minsk. The Ignatich Estate belonged to the noble Jelski family.

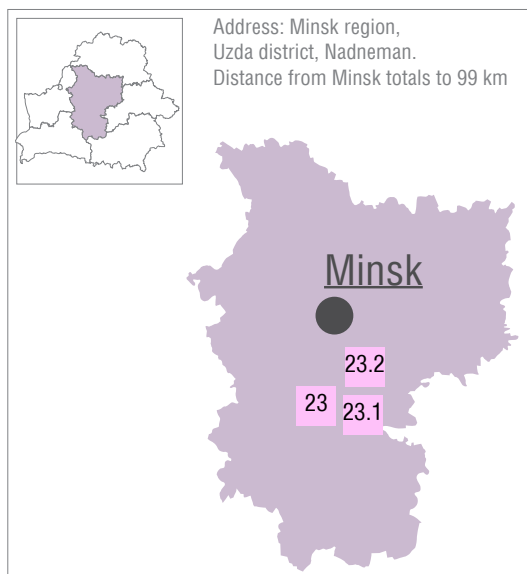
Nadneman Palace

23
E5



▲ The ruins of the manor look bizarre at the background of the rural landscape.

▼ Remains of the mansion are home to storks.



The estate that became a prison to its owner attracts tourists to Nadneman village. Onuphriy Narkevich-Yodko, the leader of the uyezd (district) nobility, bought the estate in 1823. For participation in the uprising he was sentenced to life imprisonment in his own folwark (farm) and he rebuilt the wooden house into a pompous palace to brighten up his existence.

A luxurious two-storey building intricately put together the Gothic, the Renaissance, the Classicism and the Romanticism in its architecture. Especially admirable was the “singing” tower of 27 meters long, designed so skillfully, that the wind gusts created real music.

Yakub Narkevich-Yodko, a scientist and inventor, who invented the first prototype of radio receiver in the world, invented the method for measuring soil moisture and created a meteorological station in the family estate, was born here.

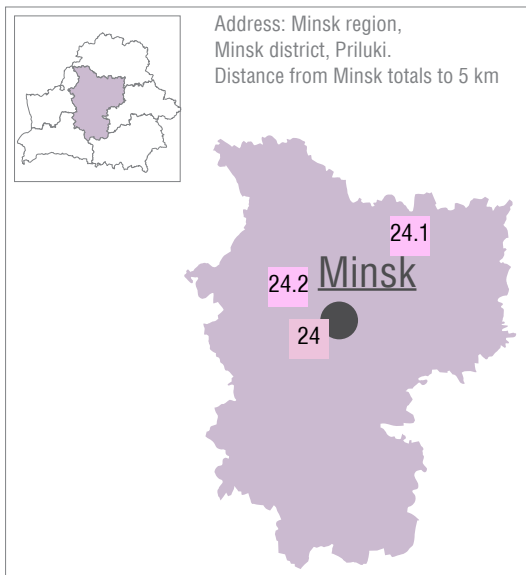
At present the picturesque ruins remind of the luxurious palace.

WORTH SEEING:

The settlement of Pervomaysk [23.1] is interesting thanks to the Kukhtichi Estate (the first half of the XIX century), that belonged to the ancient and noble family of Zavisha. The left and right wings, watermill, park and household outbuildings were preserved. And in Uzda town [23.2] you can see a unique burial vault of the Zavisha family in the form of a pyramid.

Priluki Estate

24
E5



▲ Emeryk Hutten-Czapski was introduced at court of the Russian Emperor. Many people in St. Petersburg admired his taste and love of the beautiful. These qualities were incarnated during the construction of the Priluki Estate.

▼ According to the legend, a ghost lives in the Priluki Estate. They say that the soul of the wife of one of the Wisniowiecki family killed for infidelity roams the ancient rooms.

Over its history Priluki Estate changed a couple of owners: the families of Ivanovskiy, Oginski, Gorratt, Wisniowiecki... The latter is connected with a blood-freezing legend. They say that the landowner Tomasz collected... the mummies of his enemies and showed them in special glass coffins.

From 1875 and up to the October Revolution (1917) the Czapski family lived in Priluki. In their time the main treasure of the estate became a wonderful Neo-Gothic palace with towers, castellations and arched windows. In the descriptions of palace interiors a parquet floor, gilded stucco, Rococo furniture and Gdansk chests are mentioned... The walls of the residence were decorated with the canvases of paints by Jan Matejko, family portraits, miniatures of the XVIII – XIX centuries.

The guests of the estate were met by the original entrance brama (gates) with spheres above. You needed to make 365 steps - by the number of days in a year – from the gates to the palace.

DO NOT MISS:

"The Beatles forever!" is a festival traditionally held in the Lahojsk sports complex (not far from Priluki). [24.1]. The program includes the songs of the famous Liverpool foursome performed by modern rock bands.
www.belarustourism.by/events | www.logoisk.by

WORTH SEEING:

The ancient settlement of Semkovo [24.2] is famous from the XVI century. In the XVIII century a magnificent residence of Adam Khmara, the last voivode of Minsk of the Polish–Lithuanian Commonwealth was built here. King August Poniatowski himself was among the notable guests of the estate.



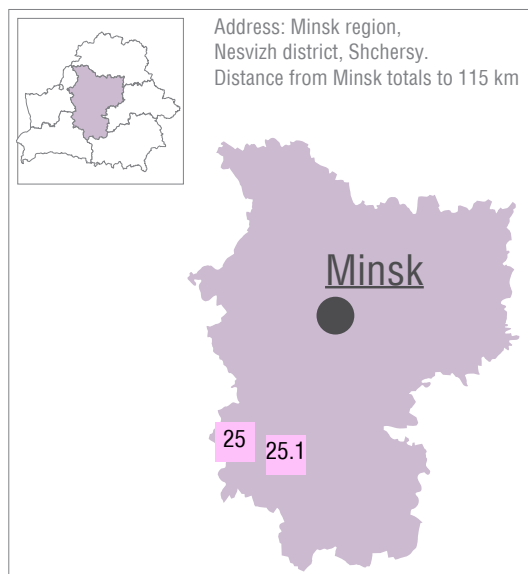
Rdultowski Palace

25
F4



▼ Delicate drawings of façade details and absence of excessive décor are the distinctive features of the Rdutowski Palace.

▲ The estate preserved the spirit of time so good that these days it has become a set for the video "Kak upoitelni v Rossii vechera (The evenings in Russia are so intoxicating)".



The Rdultowski Palace is one of the best monuments of the Classicism epoch. It was built in 1827 by the design of the famous architect Tychetski for Kazimir Rdultowski, nobleman and doctor of philosophy.

A gigantic building extends for almost 140 m. At the same time its architecture is impressively harmonious. Magnificent porticoes with delicate drawings of capitals, wide triple windows that span two floors, simple but elegant decorative inclusions at arched top of windows – everywhere you can see the delicate taste of the estate owners.

The principle of "nothing in excess" was also strictly observed in the interiors. There was no stucco or other décor except for the heavy cornice that made the building's appearance significant. There were 100 rooms exactly in the palace. The most impressive was the gigantic front hall of 100 sq.m.

Alluring and enchanting, as a fairytale mirage, the palace is now a favourite tourist spot.

DO NOT MISS:

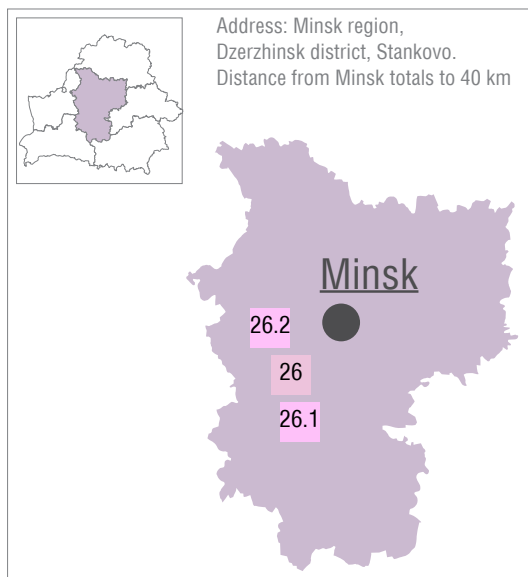
After visiting Snov, go to Nesvizh [25.1]. The big Motorbike Festival with participation of thousand of motorcyclists from different countries of the world is held here in the middle of summer. In Nesvizh you can find one of the most beautiful castles of the XVI century – residence of the Radziwill family. www.belarustourism.by/events | www.tio.by/calendar/2044

WORTH SEEING:

In Snov you can also see the estate of the Garting family "Mountainous Snov" (XIX-XX centuries), the Catholic Church of the St. John the Baptist (XVIII century) and the cemetery for Russian soldiers killed during the First World War.

Hutten-Czapski Estate

26
E5



▲ A rotunda-shaped gazebo, located at the lakeside, was one of the gems of the Czapski Estate. It was designed for private recreation and contemplation of the landscape beyond the lake.

▼ One of the towers of "Skarbnitsa (Treasury)" with decorative castellations and narrow 'medieval' windows.

The picturesque estate in Stankovo built in 1880 by Count Emerik Hutten-Czapski attracts the dreamers and the lovers. The palace was distinguished by asymmetry. Its arched windows and doors, pilasters and octagonal tower, stylized like an ancient fortification, showed the obvious nostalgia for the Middle Ages.

The crowning glory of Count Czapski was the "Skarbnitsa (Treasury)". Unique numismatic collections, large library consisting of thousands of rare books, paintings, "antiquities" found during the excavations in the tumuli near Stankovo were kept in a two-storey building with angle towers and pointed Gothic roofs. The collection of freemason symbols was indeed priceless.

More than 500 forms of plants grew in the palace park. Now it is wild but it's still interesting to stroll by its shady paths. The count's palace was lost, but the Skarbnitsa building, entrance Brama and the variety of household outbuildings still greet the estate's guests.

DO NOT MISS:

The PULSESESSION Festival in April invites the fans of alternative music to Dzerzhinsk [26.1] (not far from Stankovo).

www.belarustourism.by/events | www.buk.by/index.php

WORTH SEEING:

You can continue the trip to the ancient places in the village of Bolshiye Novoselki [26.2]. You will see a magnificent estate of the Kostrovitski family (XIX – XX centuries), the worker's house, the main brama (gates).



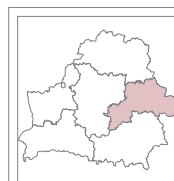
Tolstoy Estate

27
E8



▲ Count's house - a real architectural jewel of this locality.

▼ The dome on the roof of the palace conjures up the idea of the observatory.



Address: Mogilev region,
Byhov district, Grudinovka.
Distance from Minsk totals to 277 km,
from Mogilev - 33 km



The house of the counts in Grudinovka is an amazing architectural gem, miraculously preserved in the heart of the country. The Tolstoy family clearly approved themselves under Peter the First, when Peter Tolstoy brought back Tsarevitch Alexei from abroad to be punished by the father, for what he was awarded the title of Count. Among of his descendants was 'the very' Leo Tolstoy, author of War and Peace, and Peter Tolstoy, one of the masterminds of Streltsy uprising.

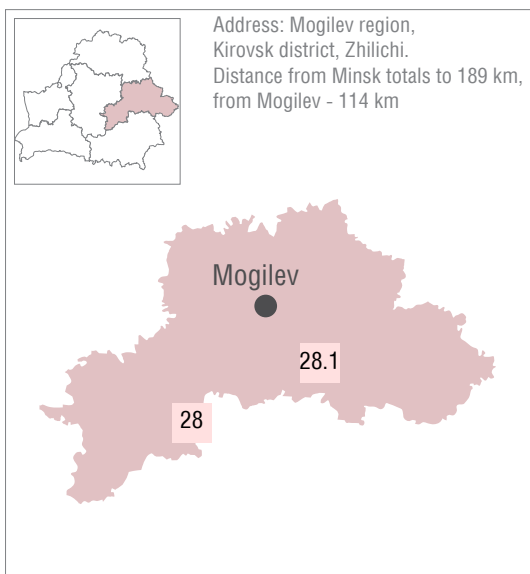
However, the Tolstoy line, who owned the Grudinovka Estate, did not hold progressive views, for what the Decembrists even wanted to arrest the estate owners.

What concerns the palace, it was built in the end of the XIX century as a country residence. The two-storey building with a dome, columns and open-air terrace left all pleasantly impressed. It was a typical estate of rather rich landowners.

The estate park of 10 hectares was laid in the English style. Overgrown and wild, it still can surprise and delight.

WORTH SEEING:

The village of Dashkovka [27.1] that can be easily reached from Grudinovka is interesting thanks to the manor house of the Zhukovsky family (beginning of the XX century). There you can take a stroll in the ancient park and see a hospital (beginning of the XX century).



▲ The Bulhak Estate impressed the contemporaries with its enormous size – more than 100 hectares. Even nowadays the palace looks impressive. It is one of the largest in Belarus.

▼ Front door with numerous columns and abundant stucco. It was supposed to astonish the guests with its pompousness and portray the wealth of its owners.

In 1825 the rich landowner Ignacy Bulhak planned to build the most beautiful residence in Belarus. He spared no expenses for the erection of the Palace in Zhilichi village. But the works lasted for about half a century and the construction was finished by Edgar, son of Ignacy.

The residence's ceilings were completely covered with abundant stucco. Furthermore, the pattern repeated itself in none of the rooms. Passionate about music, Bulhak ordered to make a secret floor, through which the musicians unnoticed to the guests reached the balconies where they played.

Two lateral buildings sided with the central part of the palace. The first one accommodated a church, and the second one – an orangery with expensive exotic plants. In summer some of them were planted by the gardeners in the park. A wonderful apple orchard was a real delight. If you looked at it from above you could see the initials of the Bulhak family.

The palace has a good destiny: he has never been destroyed and damaged in fire. Soon the restoration will begin, after which the residence will become a museum.

WORTH SEEING:

You can easily get from Zhilichi to Slavgorod [28.1], mentioned in chronicles as far back as in the XII century. The Golitsyn Estate (XVII century), Church of the Nativity of the Holy Mother of God (XVIII century), post office (XIX century) are interesting to see.



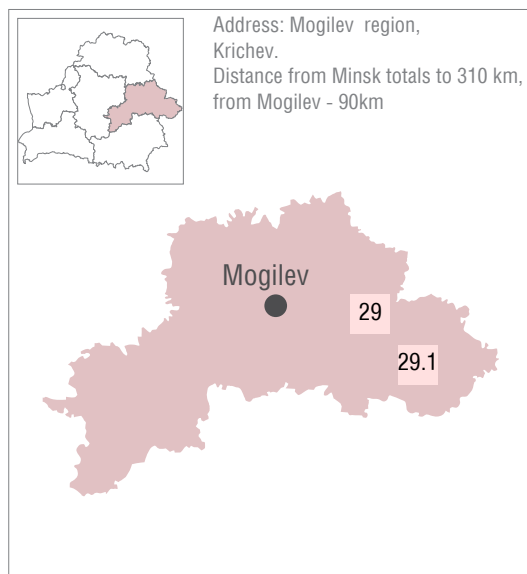
Potemkin Palace

29
E9



▼ There are no written evidence of the palace interiors; it is only known that they were pompous and expensive. That is why the interior in the restored residence was made in the XVIII century style.

▲ The Krychaw residence of Potemkin impressed the contemporaries not only with architecture. According to written sources "there was a splendid illumination burning until dawn in the yard in front of the Palace".



The "Krychaw elderate" was presented by Catherine II to her favorite Prince Potemkin in the XVIII century. The Prince immediately ordered the prominent architect Ivan Starov (author of Tauride Palace in St. Petersburg) to build a palace in the classical style. A bird's-eye view shows that the building has a shape of letter 'E' - sign of devotion to Catherine, that by the way visited the estate in January 19, 1787.

Later the residence passed into the ownership Jan Golynsky, who rebuilt the palace in the pseudo-gothic style, with lancet arches and castellations on the roof. And in the XIX century the entrance gates stylized like the Egyptian pyramids appeared.

According to the legend, a splendid park in Krychaw was laid by famous gardener Gould, author of the garden in the Tauride Palace and parks in Bakhchisaray and Kherson.

In the XX century the Potemkin Palace became desolate. Its restoration has lasted for almost 20 years. Now there is a museum, one of the best in Belarus. The interiors of the butler's room, Chivalrous hall and Winter garden were reconstructed.

WORTH SEEING:

If go from Krychaw to Klimovichi [29.1], you can see the wooden estate of the Meshchersky princely family (XIX century). Now there is a local history museum. The building of former prison (XVIII-XIX centuries) also draws attention. They say that it was reorganized from the building of the monastery of the XVI century.



▲ Preserved front façade of the Bishop's Palace. The time made a few changes in the external appearance of the building, but even now it can still impress with beauty and harmony of the details.

▼ Entrance door of the front façade is made of wood and arched.

One of the gems of Mogilev is a splendid palace of the XVIII century of the bishop Georgij Konisski, famous Russian orthodox figure.

The building was erected in 1762-1785 by the project of the eminent Vilniusian architect Jan Glaubitz. A great number of niches, architraves with intricate pattern, uncommon plasticity gave away the Baroque style very popular at that moment. It is interesting that the palace seemed to spread to the monastery cells built right and left. The intricate pattern of their walls created the front yard.

The building of the residence was rectangular with risalits at the corners. The center of the first floor was occupied by a vestibule and the great hall, where the pompous receptions were held. The second floor was occupied by the owner's room, study and library. Small rooms on the third floor must have belonged to servants and guests.

The Palace successfully fits into the modern city architectural ensemble, giving Mogilev a unique charm.

DO NOT MISS:

In September the International Animated Film Festival "Animayovka" is traditionally held in Mogilev. The program includes the works of famous animators from Belarus, Lithuania, Estonia, Kazakhstan, Poland, Iran and China. And in October Mogilev becomes a stage for the Golden hit festival. www.belarustourism.by/events | www.city.mogilev.by | www.mogilevkino.by | www.222.by

WORTH SEEING:

The house of the merchant Antoshkevich was built in the XVII century in Mogilev. Now it accommodates the museum of the painter Bialynitski-Birulia. It is worth seeing the Archbishop's Palace (XVIII century). In the XIX century it was rebuilt into a synagogue and then was a residence of the Chief Rabbi of the city.



Basic Information About the Country and Useful Information



State Emblem and Flag

Official name of the country

The Republic of Belarus. Unitary democratic social law-based state.

Official languages: Belarusian, Russian.

Administrative division: 6 regions with the centres in Minsk, Brest, Vitebsk, Gomel, Grodno and Mogilev. There are more than 100 cities in Belarus, including 12 of them with the population more than 100,000 inhabitants.

Geographic position

Belarus is bordered by Lithuania and Latvia to the northwest, by Ukraine to the south, by the Russian Federation to the east and north and by Poland to the west. North to south extent makes up 560 km (350 miles), west to east extent is 650 km (460 miles).

Territory

207,600 km

Fertile lowland and hilled plainland with about 11,000 lakes and about 20,000 rivers and streams.

Longest rivers

Dnepr, Pripyat, Neman, Berezina, Western Dvina.

Largest lake: Naroch 79.6 km².

Highest point

Dzerzhinskaya Gora (Dzerzhinsk district) 345 m above sea level.

Climate

The Belarusian climate is a moderate one, marked by seasonality (winter, spring, summer, autumn). Winters are snowy with the average January temperatures of -6°C (21°F). Summers are warm with the average July temperatures +18°C (64°F). Annual rainfall is about 550–700 mm.

Population: 9.7 million.

Major Cities

Minsk (capital) — 1,8 million inhabitants
Brest — 316.400 inhabitants
Vitebsk — 346.900 inhabitants
Gomel — 486.300 inhabitants
Grodno — 332.000 inhabitants
Mogilev — 371.300 inhabitants

Ethnicity

Belarusian — 81,2%
Russian — 11,4%
Polish — 3,94%
Ukrainian — 2,4%
Jewish — 0,3%
Others — 1%

Local time

GMT+2hrs. At noon in Belarus, it's 11:00 in Paris, 10:00 in London, 5:00 in New York, 2:00 in Los Angeles, 13:00 in Moscow.

Currency: Belarusian Ruble (BYR)

Country Dialing Code: + 375

Weights & Measures: Metric

Voltage: 220V 50Hz

National holidays when all offices are closed

1 January: New Year
7 January: Orthodox Christmas
8 March: Women's Day
9th day after Orthodox Easter: Radonitsa
1 May: Labour Day
9 May: Victory Day
3 July: Independence Day
7 November: October Revolution Day
25 December: Catholic Christmas.



Hints to Belarus

Arriving in Belarus

By plane



Belarus has good flight connections with many countries. You may choose National Air Company BELAVIA <http://belavia.by> or other airlines (see flight timetable at <http://www.airport.by>).

By train, by coach



You can get to Belarus by train, see timetable at <http://www.rw.by> (in the Russian language) or by coach <http://www.minsktrans.by> from many European cities.

By car



Arriving in Belarus is easy. At the border you will have to fill out a declaration on your car and buy Belarusian auto insurance. For driving in Belarus you will need the international driving license. The quality of the roadway covering in Belarus is rather high. Speed limits for cars 60–90–110km/h (37–56–68mph), buses 60–70–90km/h (37–43–56mph), motorcycles 60–90–90km/h (37–56–56mph) in towns, country roads and highways respectively. See more about arriving in Belarus at <http://eng.belarustourism.by/info/arrive/>

Visa

Normally foreigners except for some countries are required to apply for the Belarusian visa in the country of their residence. However you can also get visa on arrival to the National Airport. See more at <http://mfa.gov.by/en/consular/airport-visas/>.

Information on obtaining visa to Belarus can be found at <http://mfa.gov.by/en/consular/>, the whole list of Diplomatic Representations of the Republic of Belarus abroad see at <http://www.belembassy.org>.

See more about visa at <http://eng.belarustourism.by/info/visa/>.

Customs

There are some things that cannot be imported or exported to/from Belarus by tourists and visitors. The list of such things is rather common with other European countries.

More information at <http://www.mfa.gov.by/en/consular/customs/> and <http://gtk.gov.by>

See more about customs at <http://eng.belarustourism.by/info/custom/>

Clothes

In summer it is recommended to wear light clothes. In autumn it is recommended to wear jackets, cloaks, umbrellas are also necessary. In winter when it's freezing and snowing we wear fur coats, sheepskin coats and warm shoes.

Floors

Belarusians consider the ground floor to be the first floor, and so on.

Communication, official languages

The majority of staff in hotels, restaurants, big stores speaks at least English. People in the streets even if not speaking any foreign language would be delighted to help you find the way.

Money

Banknotes come in denominations of 100,000, 50,000, 20,000, 10,000, 5,000, 1,000, 500, 100, 50, 20, 10 rubles.

Exchange offices dealing in major currencies operating 24h can be found in the hotels, airport, railway stations and in the streets. ATMs are widely used. Most hotels, stores and restaurants accept credit cards.

Safety

The crime rate in Belarus is relatively low. Belarus is considered to be one of the safest tourist destinations as the crimes against foreigners are rare. Of course, there is no need to walk alone in the dark suburbs in search for troubles.

Toilets

Public toilets can be found in the streets. You can also use those in restaurants for free. Sometimes toilets can be marked M for the Gents' room, and Ж for the Ladies'.

Tipping

Tipping is entirely discretionary in Belarus and service charges are not automatically added to the bill.

If you want to tip in a restaurant or cafe, give about 5% of the total amount. Taxi drivers and hotel staff don't generally expect tips, although they are always gratefully received!

Traveling for disabled

If you are travelling in a wheelchair and willing to visit Belarus, you'd better consult the organizers of your tour whether there are the facilities needed for your visiting of several places. The most convenient city for the tourists travelling in a wheelchair is Minsk and the regional centres. Small towns and villages are unlikely to have the accommodation needed. On the whole, the Belarusian hotels and tourist infrastructure objects don't have the substantial experience of working with disabled people. However, they will do everything possible to make your stay comfortable.

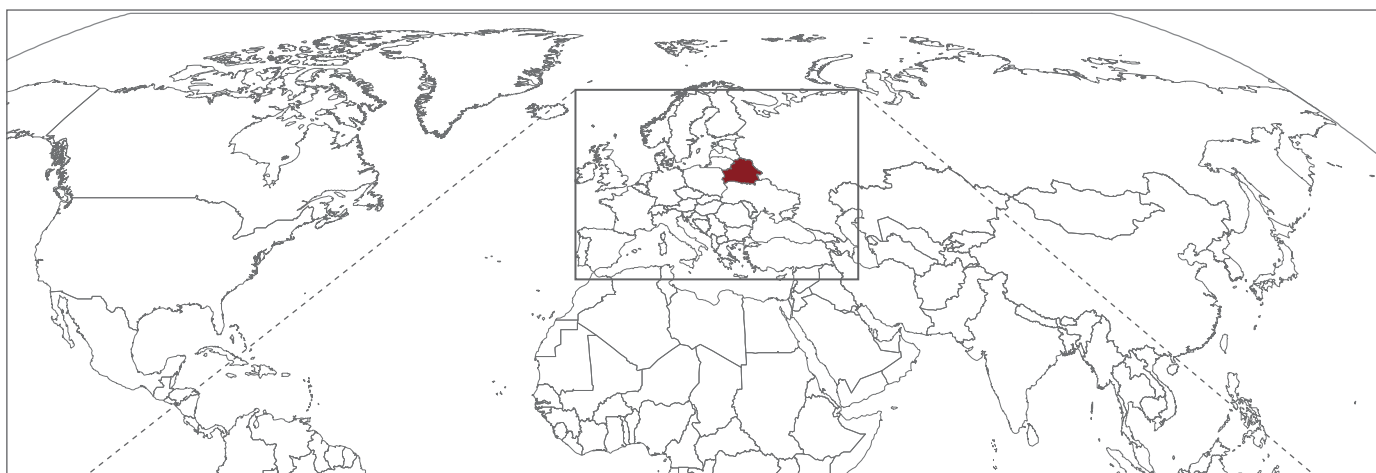
Useful phones (free calls)

101 — rescue service
102 — police
103 — first aid

More information at

<http://eng.belarustourism.by/info/>

The Republic of Belarus on the Map of the World



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