



FIND YOUR
BELARUS



PREPARE FOR IMMERSION

Find Your Belarus



Belarus is famous for its beauty, amazing nature, hospitality and kindness of its people. This is a perfect place for calm leisure, during which you can fully relax and feel the incredible energy of the silence.

You will discover a magnificent country, dressed in the greens of sanctuary forests, shining in the sun with the mirrorlike surfaces of blue lakes, keeping secrets of ancient castles and legends of cozy towns. You will dive into the special atmosphere of harmony, filled with songs of the rarest birds and steeped in kindness of hearts of the locals. Prepare for immersion into the wonderful world of Belarus – the country in the very heart of Europe.

National Tourism Agency



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Population:
about 9.5 billion people

Languages:
Belarusian, Russian

Capital:
Minsk

Area:
207 595 km²

Currency unit:
Belarusian ruble (BYN)



ABOUT BELARUS

How to get to Belarus?

You can reach Belarus by any transport except sea. The national airport accommodates all types of planes. Every year, the Belarusian Railway transports about 4 million international passengers. Motor roads used by tourists to travel are of excellent quality.

Visa-free entry

You can arrive at Belarus through the Minsk National Airport and stay in the country without a visa for 30 days. Visa-free visits to the main tourist areas (Brest, Belovezhskaya Pushcha, Grodno, the Augustow Canal).

Visa

It can be acquired in diplomatic offices and consular institutions of the Republic of Belarus or in the Minsk National Airport, where the Department for the Matters of Admission of Aliens of the Chief Council Directorate of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs operates 24 hours a day.

Detailed information can be found at the site of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Belarus.

www.mfa.gov.by



Safety

Belarus is a country with one of the lowest levels of risk for travelers (according to the estimates of international experts from International SOS and Control Risks).

Tax Free in Belarus

Tax Free system operates in Belarus, which allows tourists from any foreign countries except members of the EEU (Russia, Kazakhstan, Armenia, Kyrgyzstan) to get back VAT paid on Belarusian goods purchased in our country.

You can find the terms of purchase and the list of stores participating in the Tax Free program on our official site.



www.tax-free.by

Guest card

This is a plastic ticket that allows its owner to visit many museums, tours, aquaparks and other entertainment facilities for free or with a discount. Moreover, the card provides bonuses in cafes, restaurants and hotels; some types of city passes also work as travel cards.



www.minskpass.by

Architectural Heritage

East and West, Middle Ages and hi-tech, ancient architecture and Stalinist Empire style, examples of Soviet mosaic painting and modern murals. Here, you can feel the smell of powder in vaults of fortresses and hear the sounds of a grand piano from the halls of palace and garden complexes.

National color

Contrast and ingenuity – these are the things that make the culture of our country original and unique. Here, historical heritage is preserved, and new street culture is being developed; national ornaments neighbor upon the trends of the world fashion, and natural landscapes are finely intertwined with modern industrial design.

Luxury of calamity

Absence of stresses and relaxing rhythm of life together with modern infrastructure are the norm for any Belarusian town. Leaving the city, you will find a place for secrecy and inspiration, have a chance to speak to the nature and hear yourself.

Relic forest and pure lakes

Find out about the secret life of the dwellers of ancient woods and feel the captivating breath of birch groves. Blue-eyed Belarus is paradise for photographers, where thousands of lakes replace the sea. This is the perfect place for precious days of rest.

Earth energy for health

Soft climate, natural cosmetics and medical staff that you want to trust have made Belarus a sanatory and resort brand. Treatment in underground salt mines, pure mineral water and fresh humid air are the calling card of Belarus.

Belarus Waited for Centuries to
Surprise You



Belarus is a wonderful country, where the calm natural beauty intersperses with the noise of big cities, where old castles filled with secrets neighbor upon modern architectural masterpieces. Blue lakes surrounded by green forest attract the guests with its breathtaking beauty, inviting them to relax and fully immerse themselves into the atmosphere of stillness and calmness.





Minsk: hospitable, cordial and kind-hearted.

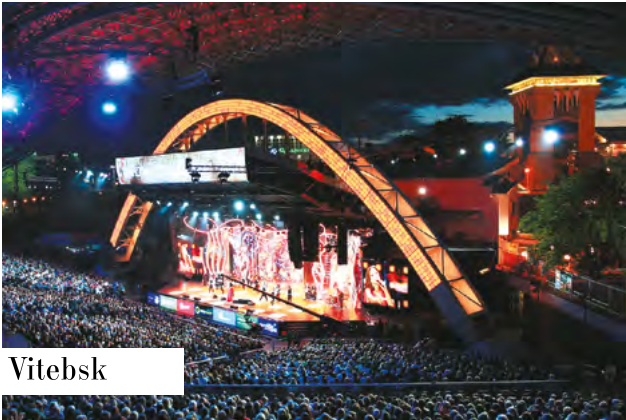
While walking along the streets of the Belarusian capital, you can visit a cozy family square or a quarter with eccentric graffiti, rest in a café or a bar.



Tourists notice that every Belarusian city has its soul, hidden in small yet important details. Royal Grodno, festival Vitebsk, heroic Brest, palace-filled Gomel and stellar Mogilev — here are only some of the cities we advise you to visit to know Belarus better.

Cities you must visit:

- | | | |
|------------|--------------|---------|
| ✦ Nesvizh | ✦ Novogrudok | ✦ Turov |
| ✦ Polotsk | ✦ Mstislavl | ✦ Pinsk |
| ✦ Bobruisk | ✦ Soligorsk | ✦ Lida |



What can stir the blood of a lover of mysticism and mysteries than medieval castles? Over a hundred castles surrounded by legends, secrets and riddles are found in Belarus.



Ruins of the Novogrudok castle



Mir castle



Nesvizh castle



Lida castle



New Grodno castle

Most popular Belarusian castles:

- ❖ Mir castle (XVI century, UNESCO heritage)
- ❖ Nesvizh castle (XVI century, UNESCO heritage)
- ❖ Kossovo castle (XIX century)
- ❖ Lida castle (XIV century)
- ❖ New Grodno castle (XVIII century)
- ❖ Ruins of the Novogrudok castle (XI century)

Kossovo castle



Belovezhskaya Pushcha



This place, one of the most important landmarks in Belarus, is formed by the remains of the ancient forest, which used to stretch from the Baltic Sea to the Bug River and from Oder to Dnieper. Belovezhskaya Pushcha national park is included in the UNESCO World Heritage List. European bison, bears, deer and lynx can be found here. The Nature Museum, located on the grounds of the park, tells the visitors about flora and fauna of the forest, which has lived through several epochs, illustrating it with 26 expositions. The most ancient trees growing here are about 600 years. If you feel a little cold, be sure: Father Frost’s residence is right around the corner.

Naliboki Pushcha



This huge forest area is 7 thousand years old. 80% of the pushcha’s area is taken by impenetrable forest. Here, you will find bogs, as well as purest rivers and lakes. This place is surrounded by legends, myths and secrets. According to folktales, the Lauryshava Monastery, which was built in the middle of the XIII century on the left bank of Nieman, suddenly appeared on the right one. Lake Kroman with its unique shore line appeared on the old place of the monastery, which disappeared from it in a blink of an eye. Forests are rich with berries, mushrooms and plants, a quarter of which have healing qualities. You can not only enjoy the beauty of the nature, but also kayak down the river, ride a bike or walk along the eco-path. The guests of this place have a chance to taste local pike meals and the famous Naliboki moonshine.



Yelnya (bog)

This is a bog surprising with its flora and fauna, surrounded by more than a hundred crystal clear lakes. Here, you can enjoy watching rare birds. It will just suffice to mention the smooth flight of a spotted eagle, seeing which in nature is true luck! If you try to draw a painting of this bog, one of the largest ones in Europe, 9 thousand years old, you will get a picturesque landscape, where the graceful crane soars into the sky over virgin spaces overgrown with cranberries, cowberries and blueberries.



Blue lakes

The lakes are located among pine woods with small inclusions of firs, birches and maples. These places are rich with blueberries. The natural complex is a home for 30 kinds of plants entered in the Red Book of Belarus. The Stracha River flows through these amazing places, sometimes referred to as the Belarusian Switzerland; its winding corridor and rapids make it especially picturesque.

The Blue Lakes Natural Reserve is a part of the Naroch National Park. Today, this is the largest resort area in Belarus. It has eco-paths and vista points. These places are perfect for those who prefer active leisure or dream of hiding away from the city hustle and stay alone with nature. If you're here, you should also visit the Forest Museum and wash your face in the Boltikskaya Spring; it is so powerful that it looks more like a small forest river.



Naroch

Naroch is the blue pearl of Belarus, its largest and purest lake. Naroch is the sandy beach, white swans and the possibility to see it all from a helicopter window. Here, you can visit the park with rare plants, learn to dive or rest in one of the many sanatoriums. People come here to marvel at virgin nature, fish and hunt and improve their health.

Braslaw Lakes

74 picturesque lakes, 30 species of fish, over 10 kinds of hunt and 2 eco-paths – everyone will find something to their liking. Climb up the Mayak Mountain and try not to get fascinated by the view before you. We're warning you: it won't be easy!

The Augustow Canal

Unique hydrotechnical structure of the XIX century, one of the largest canals in Europe, which passes along Poland and Belarus. Crossing the border between two countries on a kayak – isn't it an adventure? And you don't need a visa for that! The Augustow Canal is a wonderful place for active leisure, water tourism, backpacking or cycling. The magnificent beauty of the nature attracts thousands of guests. Festivals, concerts and sports events are held here specially for them.



Belarus is a country where people value traditions and respect rites of the ancestors. Do you want to see real life, enjoy its atmosphere, feel the unmistakable village atmosphere and immerse yourself into a brand new world, filled with authentic activities, songs and dances? Then you must visit one of Belarusian farm stays, where the hosts will welcome you, treat you with delicious meals of the Belarusian cuisine and teach you to gather honey and bake bread. Here, you can fish or hunt with pleasure or even celebrate a wedding in the best Belarusian traditions.



Salt caves

Come to Soligorsk — one of the most unusual Belarusian cities, where you can descend underground to an extreme depth and learn how the salt is produced. Moreover, it is possible in our country to visit a unique speleotherapy facility, which helps treat hundreds of people every day.



Beaver safari

Beaver safari is the real immersion into the world of the wild in the silence, among picturesque river and lake landscapes. Get into a boat and go kayaking, observing the most interesting river dwellers on the way. But remember: the closer the night, the more active the beavers are.



Walk on a bog

Put on the swamp boots and embark on an unforgettable journey, where the wonderful view of small lakes with islands, flight of birds and paths of wild enemies are waiting for you. Bog walks will give you the perfect combination of thrills and soothing nature.



Bison hunting with a camera

In Belarus, every tourist has a chance to take part in the hunt for one of the main symbols of the country in the wild. Photo traps work all year; some of them are located so close that you will be able to leave Belarus, carrying not just many impressions, but also a selfie with a bison.



Delicious tours

Belarus is famous for the quality of its dairy products, sweetness of the natural chocolate and the slightly bitter taste of true beer. Those who enjoy seeing production from the inside and tasting delicacies right off the conveyor will love the tours of large production facilities of the country, which always include tasting sessions.



Machines and engineering

Do you want to see how the world's largest dumping trucks, entered in the Guinness Book of Records, or tractors that are among the most popular ever are made? We'll give you this chance! Largest Belarusian enterprises open their doors for tourists and gladly share their production secrets. After visiting BelAZ or MTZ, you will know not only how legendary cars are made, but also perform a test drive of a 130-ton dumping truck, or participate in manufacturing a tractor. Don't miss your chance to take a photo near the famous quarry dumping truck with the lifting capacity of 450 tons!



Belarus is the native country of many famous sportsmen and sportswomen: Daria Domracheva, Viktoria Azarenko, Maxim Mirny, Ruslan Salei, Yulia Nesterenko, Vitaliy Scherbo, Aleksandr Medved, Yelena Belova, Olga Korbut, etc.

People of all ages here love sports and practice it in every corner of the country. Over 23 thousand physical culture facilities can be found in Belarus. About 26 thousand sports and entertainment events are held every year, many of which turn into bright and unforgettable holidays. Having come to Minsk, you can take part in the international cycling carnival “VIVA rovar” (May) or the grandiose half-marathon (September).



In 2019, the 2nd European Games took place in Minsk. It was a large-scale sports event, which gathered about 4 thousand sportsmen and sportswomen from 50 European countries.

At the moment, Minsk is preparing for the World Hockey Championship, which will take place in 2021. Support the best hockey teams together with us! We will be happy to see you among the guests of this impressive sports event!

2021



ICE HOCKEY
WORLD
CHAMPIONSHIP
BELARUS - LATVIA
Minsk - Riga

Belarus entertains its guests with all kinds of events: from classic jazz on the city street to festivals, open airs and raves with DJs from different corners of the world. Here, you can visit a theatrical forum or a folk culture festival, visit a holiday dedicated to ancient crafts or national cuisine in the open, take part in a high society ball or a medieval reconstruction. Lovers of extreme entertainment will definitely appreciate a bike fest, while amateurs of natural beauty will find a lot of interesting things at an unusual environmental holiday.



Draniki

This is a classic meal of the Belarusian cuisine. Draniki are made according to different recipes and served with fresh sour cream or butter.



Hot pots

Meals cooked in pots (meat, potatoes, vegetables) are highlights of the national cuisine.



Pechisto

Large pieces of meat cooked with great amounts of fragrant herbs and spices.



Veraschaka

Legendary meal of Belarusian dukes based on homemade sausage and bread kvass.



Cold borsch

Country's signature cold soup made of boiled beetroots. A perfect combination of taste and usefulness of vitamins!

Cooks in cafes have made delicious draniki, guides have prepared fascinating tours across picturesque locations, festivals have been organized in cities and villages, and the stoves in farm stays have been warmed up for tired travelers. Belarusians are ready to share the kindness and warmth of their hearts with their guests!





RELAX!

YOU HAVE TIME TO THINK



Alphabet of Belarusian ornaments

SOUL



LIFE



ENERGY



HARVEST



FIRE



PURITY



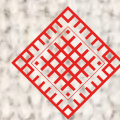
SUN



FAMILY



BLOOM



ANCESTORS



WEALTH



FRUITFULNESS





Find more at www.belarus.travel





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