
DISCOVER
YOUR
BELARUS



GET READY TO GO DEEPER

Welcome to our guide to the country of blue lakes and primeval forests – Belarus. Here you will find interesting and useful information on how to spend memorable holidays in the heart of Europe. Friendly residents, forest reserves and quiet towns... Let us reveal to you the unique world of Belarus.

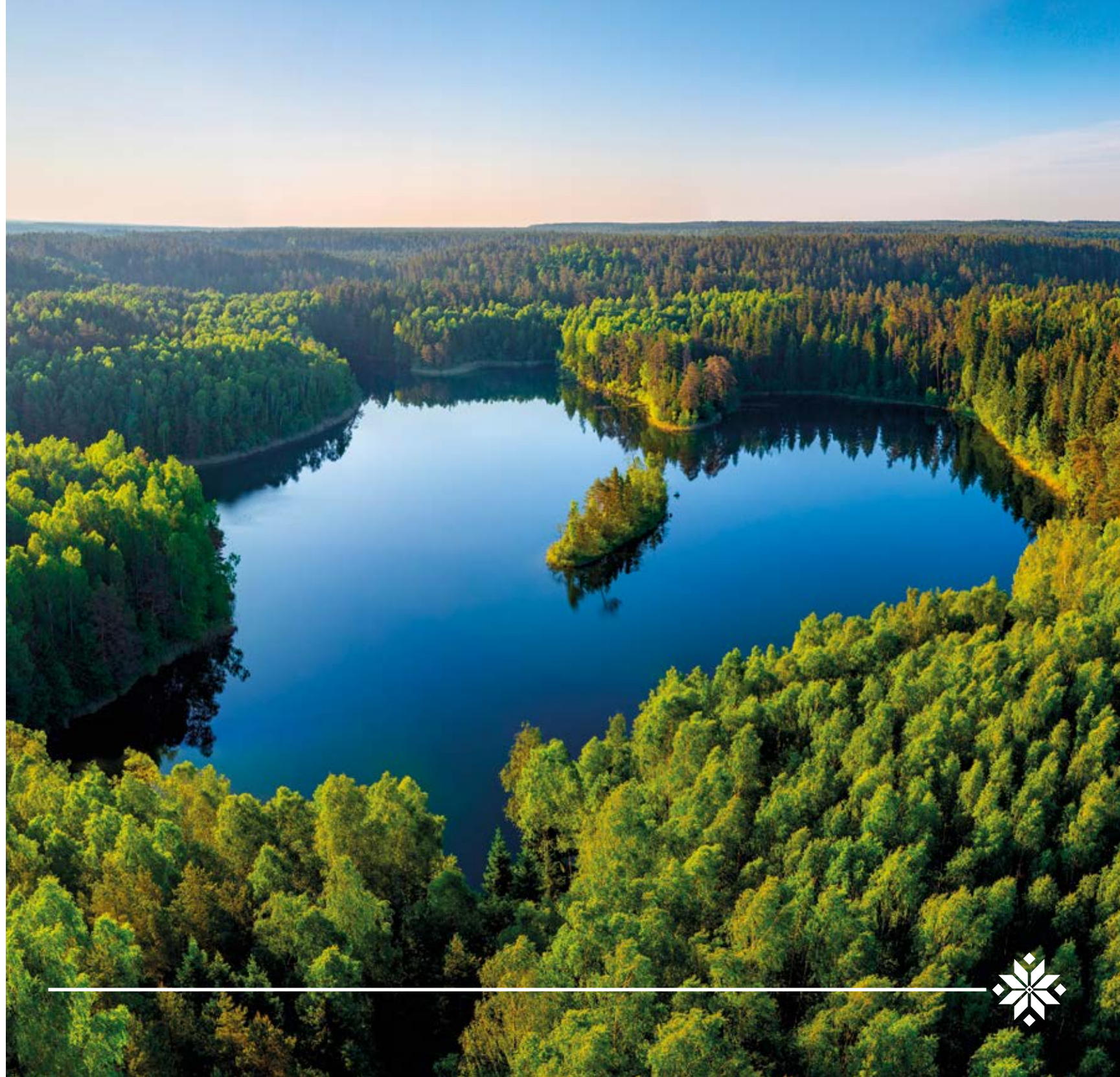
Belarus is a great place for:

- getting to know the contrast of medieval and soviet architecture;
- having a carefree rest on the pristine nature or at the farmstead;
- tasting delicious national dishes;
- relaxation and healthcare in a sanatorium away from the hustle and bustle;
- fascinating walks and kayak rafting;
- hunting and fishing;
- beautiful landscape photos;
- caravanning and biking;
- enjoying music and dancing in good company at the best festivals.



CONTENTS

- | | | | |
|-----------|-------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 6 | About Belarus | 22 | Absolute village sincerity |
| 9 | 5 reasons to visit Belarus | 24 | «Relax, you have time to think» is the main advice for perfect trip to Belarus |
| 10 | Welcoming Minsk | 26 | Unique tours |
| 12 | Calm city style | 28 | Sport |
| 14 | Stone history | 30 | Culture and festivals |
| 16 | For centuries Belarus was going to surprise you | 32 | Are you ready to be belarusian? |
| 18 | What is the point of fresh waters? | 34 | Your place is reserved |
| 20 | 11 thousand lakes and 20 thousand rivers instead of the sea | | |



ABOUT BELARUS



How to get here

Air travel is the most comfortable and popular way to travel to Belarus. However, you can also get to Belarus by train from virtually any major city in Europe and the CIS. In addition, there are available highways from neighbouring countries to the capital where you can find roadside cafes that are waiting for the guests of our country.



5 days visa-free through National Airport

If you travel to the capital of Belarus by plane and you are going to stay in Belarus for no more than 5 days, then we have good news for you – you don't need a Belarusian visa. For more information about traveling so, please visit www.mfa.gov.by.



Augustow Channel + Grodno/Hrodna visa-free

In addition, you can also travel visa-free for 10 days to the Augustow Channel as well as to the majestic city of Grodno/Hrodna. For this you will need a tourist voucher from the Belarusian tour operator at the border checkpoint.



Safety

Belarus belongs to the group of tourist destinations with a low risk for tourists, by the expert evaluations of international companies, International SOS and Control Risks, together with the UK, the USA, Canada, etc.



Visa

Citizens of many countries do not require a visa to visit the Republic of Belarus even for more days. Those are Israel, Turkey, UAE, Brazil, Argentina, Georgia, Azerbaijan, Armenia and others.



Belovezhskaya Pushcha + Brest visa-free

From now on if you would like to visit one of the main sights of Belarus (and a UNESCO site as well) together with the heroic city of Brest, you can also do it visa-free for 10 days. Belovezhskaya Pushcha is not only the oldest relic forest but also a home for a unique animal, one of the symbols of Belarus – The bison (or "zubr").

Population:

about 9,5 million people

Currency:

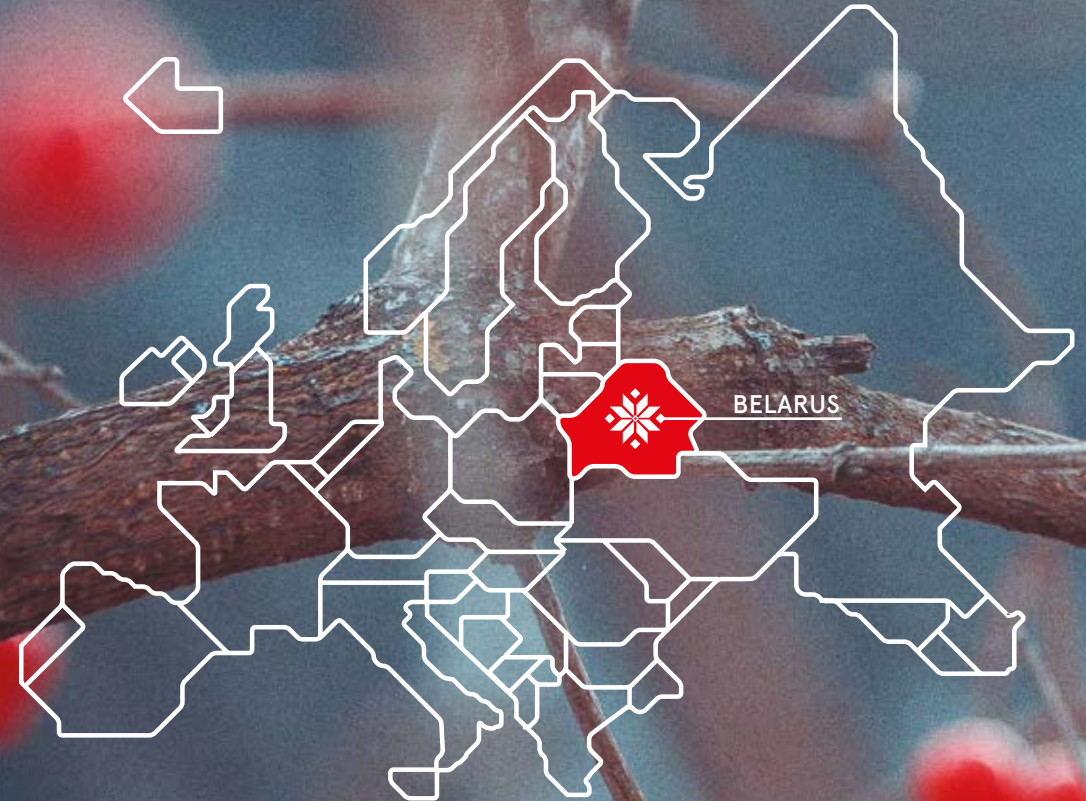
Belarusian ruble (BYN)

Language:

Belarusian, Russian

Capital:

Minsk





5 REASONS TO VISIT BELARUS

1. Architectural heritage

What you can find is a mixture of architecture from the Middle Ages and the recent high-tech infrastructure with sites still standing created during the Stalin Empire, as well as the mixture of East and West. Many claim to smell gunpowder in the back streets of forts and hear piano sounds from the halls of the palaces and park ensembles.

2. Cultural contrasts

The contrast and originality – that's what makes our country's culture distinctive and unique. Here the historical heritage is carefully preserved at the same time as a new street culture is developing, national ornaments keep pace with world fashion trends.

3. Luxury of quietness

A peaceful pace of life, no stress together with the modern infrastructure is kind of a standard in every Belarusian city. Surprisingly this place isn't a utopia; it's just the way the towns of Belarus are. In the countryside, you'll often find your own place for solitude and inspiration where you can communicate with nature personally or listen to yourself closely.

4. Relic forests and pristine lakes

Learn about the secret life of the inhabitants of wildwoods and feel the slight breath of birch groves. Blue-eyed Belarus is a paradise for photographers, where instead of the sea there are thousands of lakes. This is for sure a perfect place for your precious holidays.

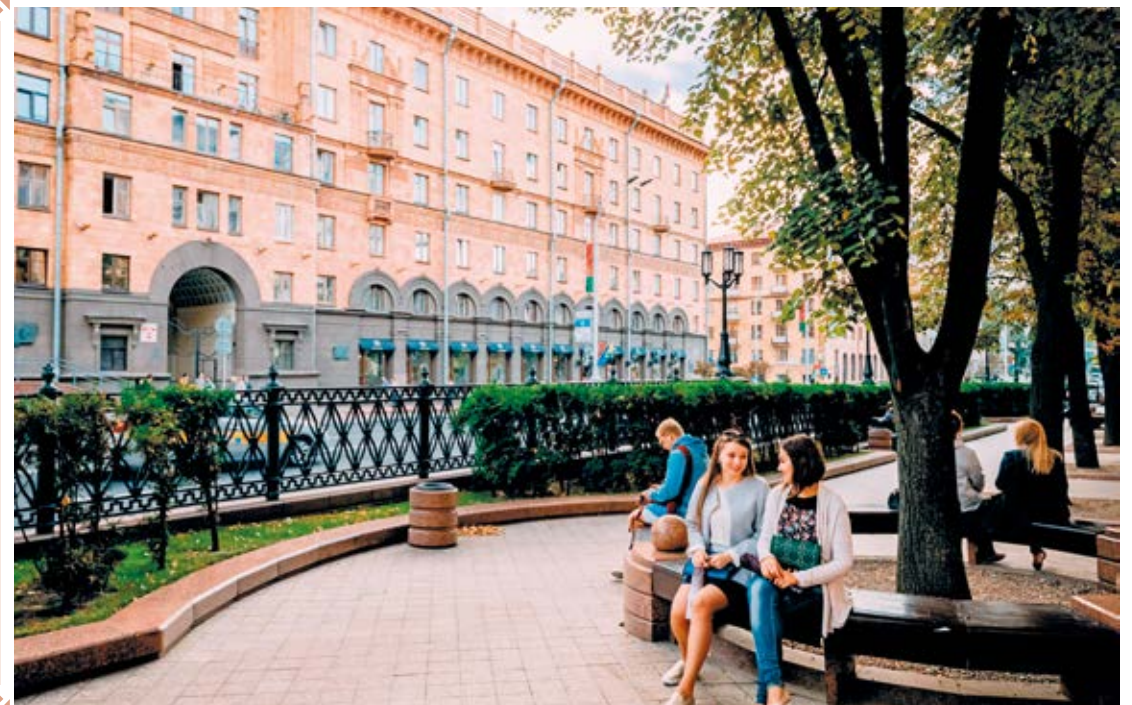
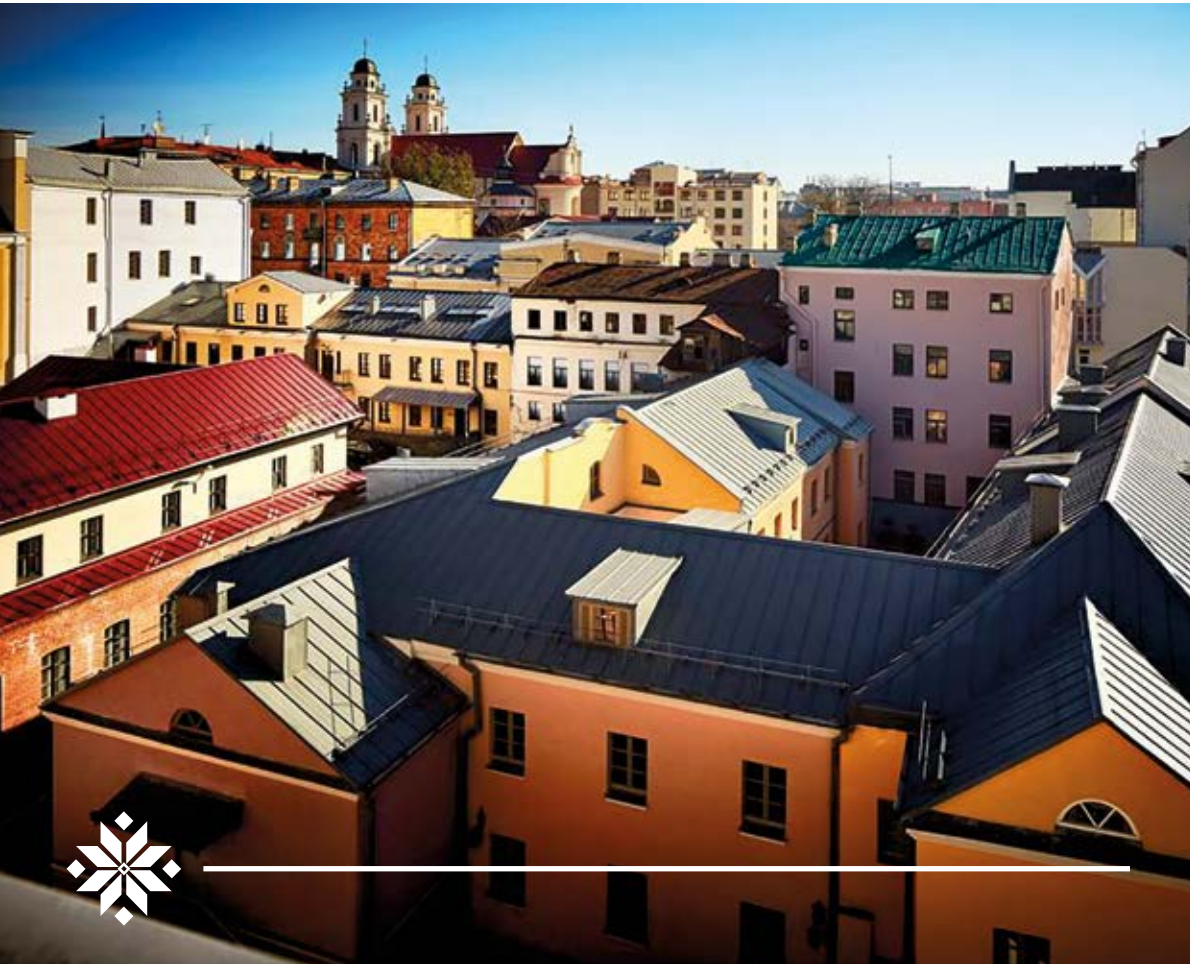
5. Energy of the earth for health

Mild climate, natural beauty products and the medical personnel whom you can trust have long made Belarus a health resort brand. Treatment in underground salt mines, pure mineral water, fresh moist air and healing muds are the trademark of one of the most environmentally friendly European countries.



WELCOMING MINSK

You never know what is waiting for you around the corner of the architectural monument of the XIX century: a cozy family park, a motley graffiti street, a dozen of extravagant bars. The capital of Belarus is a city with a character and its culture, it is hospitable and multi-faceted. Sometimes Minsk citizens gently refer to Minsk as «the city of the sun». And only after walking along its streets, you understand why!



CALM CITY STYLE

Tourists say that every Belarusian city has its own soul and atmosphere that are formed by small but very important details. Royal Grodno (Hrodna), the cultural capital of Belarus – Vitebsk (Vitsebsk), the heroic city of Brest, majestic Gomel (Homel), quiet Mogilev (Mahilyow) – this is just a small list of cities that we suggest to you for your visit in order to know Belarus better.



Gomel



Vitebsk



Mogilev



Grodno



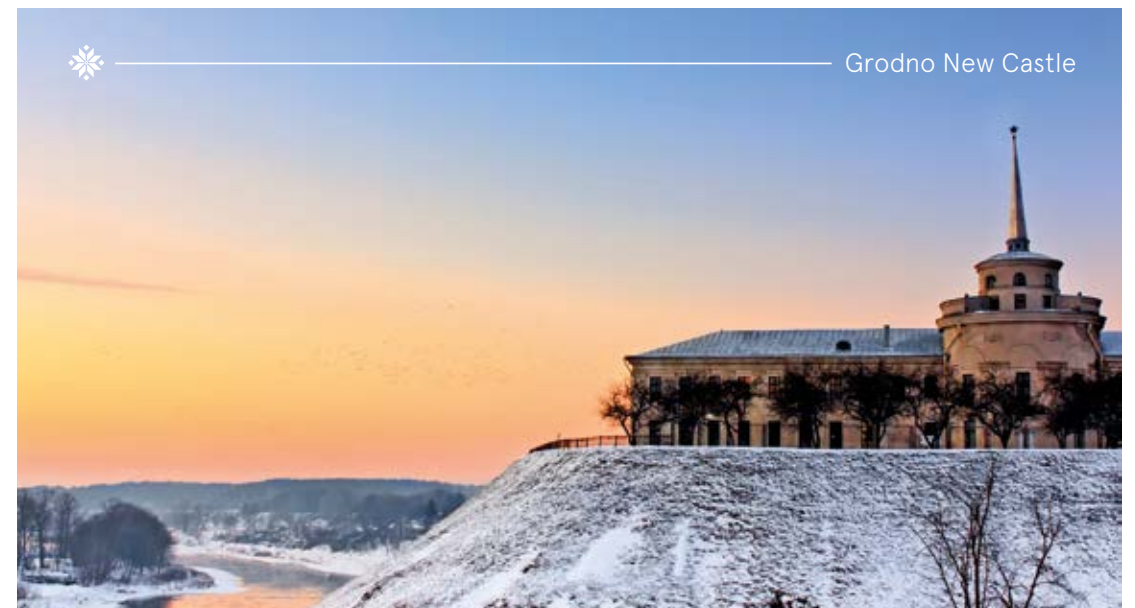
Brest

STONE HISTORY

Castles of Belarus are not the homes of princesses anymore. Nowadays it is history that lives in them. According to legends, ghosts can be found roaming these castles. But be careful for which one you look for, you never know if they're happy to have guests or not!

6 Belarusian castles worth visiting:

- Mir castle
- Nesvizh Castle
- Kossovo castle
- Grodno Old Castle
- Grodno New Castle
- Lida castle



FOR CENTURIES BELARUS WAS GOING TO SURPRISE YOU

The grinding of water replaces the car noise, birdsong calls to relax under the crowns of black birches or giant oaks. Pick up a bouquet of wildflowers or cook a self-caught fish on the barbecue! Pine and broad-leaved forests where you can fill your baskets with berries, mushrooms and herbs, reserved areas from UNESCO World Heritage List — all of this will not leave a trace of indifference to the power of nature.



WHAT IS THE POINT OF FRESH WATERS?

Belovezhskaya Pushcha

The last relic of Europe where you can find rare bison, lynxes and more than a half of all the plants in Belarus that grow in the countryside. Dense forests of Pushcha still have some spots where no man has gone before and some trees remember the princes from the Middle Ages. When the cold chill comes, you know, Santa Claus' residence is nearby!

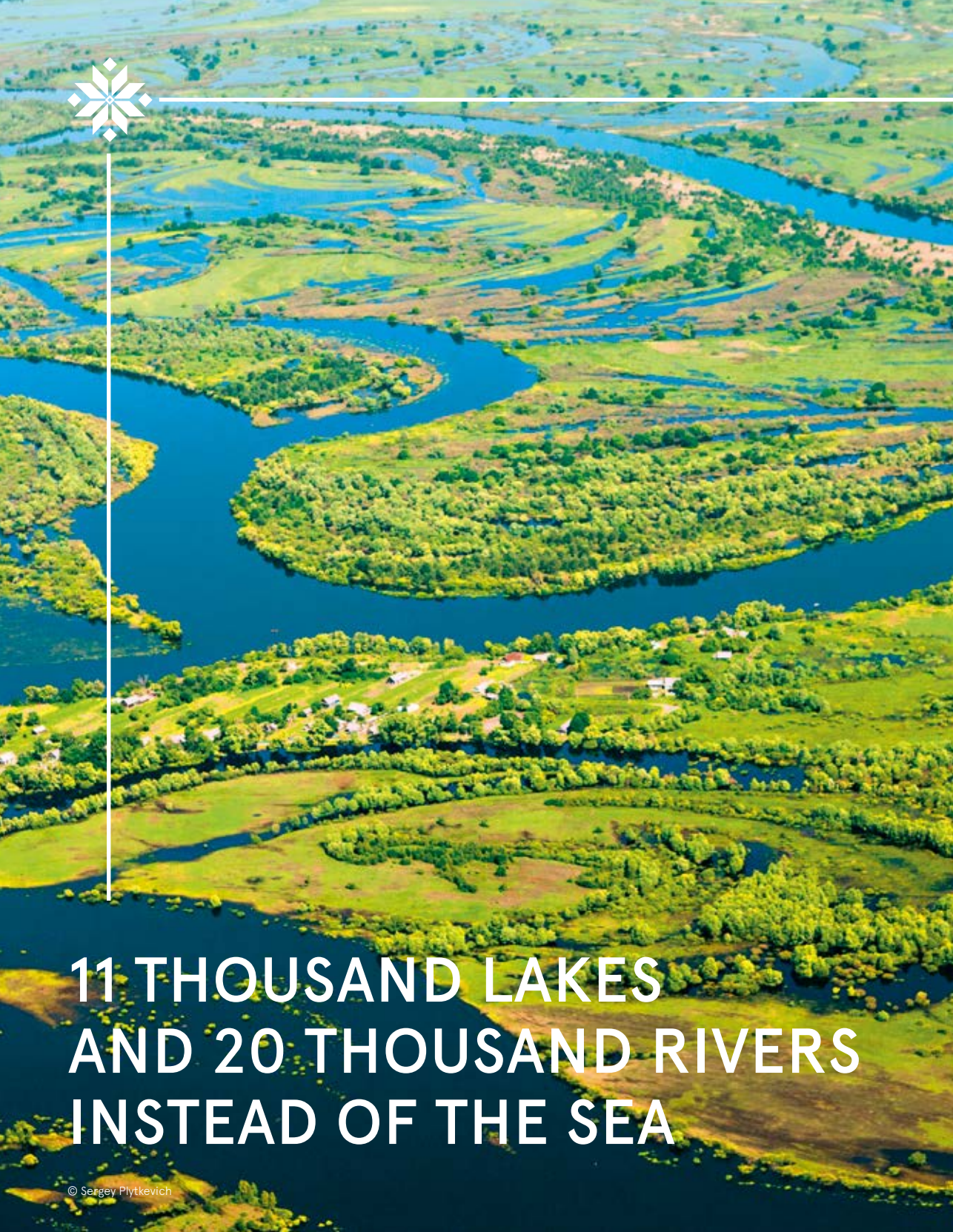
Nalibokskaya Pushcha

This place is surrounded by mysticism. According to the tradition, a church once located here sank and a lake with a surprisingly smooth coastline appeared in its place. They say that in the quiet of the night over the water you can hear the sound of bells. The Lavrishevsky monastery that was built side by side, on the left bank of the Neman, suddenly appeared on the right bank of the river. By the way, it is here where you can try the famous Naliboksky moonshine (home-made vodka)!

Yelnya (moor)

One of the largest marshes in Europe hides the treasures of flora and fauna: tons of cranberries, cowberries, blueberries, hundreds of species of migratory birds and about 7,000 cranes. If you forget to bring your water, do not worry. The moor is surrounded by more than 100 crystal clear lakes.





11 THOUSAND LAKES AND 20 THOUSAND RIVERS INSTEAD OF THE SEA

Blue Lakes

The natural system «Blue Lakes» has the status of a key botanical territory of Belarus. In addition to picnics and swimming, we invite you to go to the Forest Museum to learn about the main natural wealth of Belarus. By the way, it is located in the forest thicket. After listening to all the legends of Blue Lakes make sure to gently bathe in the refreshing Boltiksky spring.

Augustow Channel (a unique water system)

A part of this unique channel is located in Belarus and another part is located in Poland. Crossing the interstate border, kayaking or by boat is considered quite an adventure by the locals. In addition, you do not need a visa for doing this. The Augustow Channel is a perfect place for those who prefer water and active tourism.

Naroch

Naroch is a blue pearl of Belarus; it is its largest and cleanest lake. It also has a sandy beach with white swans which you can see from the view of a helicopter. Additionally, here you can visit the Park containing rare plants and learn how to dive.

Berezinsky Biosphere Reserve (moor)

Moors occupy about 60% of Berezinsky Reserve territory. Thousands of tourists come here every year to see the iridescent colors of marshy meadows and how the lady's slipper orchids blossom. Locals say that here frogs croak in synchronous collaboration. Worth checking out!

Braslav lakes

74 picturesque lakes, 30 species of fish, more than 10 kinds of hunting and 2 eco-trails – everyone will find something that they could enjoy. Advice: climb Mayak (Lighthouse) hill and try not to admire the view! You have been warned... it will be difficult!



ABSOLUTE VILLAGE SINCERETY

Enjoying the atmosphere, excitement of fishing and hunting at the Belarusian farmstead is only the first step. You will then discover the unique countryside features, plunge into a completely different way of life and see the real Belarus, with its traditions, holidays, cuisine, authentic activities, songs and dances. You will be taught to collect honey in the apiary, to bake bread in the oven and, if you wish, even marry in the best traditions of Belarusian weddings.



«RELAX, —————
YOU HAVE TIME TO THINK»
IS THE BEST ADVICE
FOR PERFECT TRIP
TO BELARUS



UNIQUE TOURS



BelAZ

Have you seen the world's largest dump truck? BelAZ with a carrying capacity of 450 tons is listed in the Guinness Book of Records, and its smaller brother, 130 tons, is waiting for you! You can not only see it but also take a test drive on the territory of the factory.



Salt caves

A real trip to the «world of the salt kingdom» is possible in Belarus! Go de-e-ep underground and discover how salt is mined and by whom. Or visit a unique speleological clinic, which annually saves hundreds of people from respiratory diseases.

Bison Photo Safari

In Belarus every tourist can be a participant of a photo safari on one of the main wild nature symbols of the country. Photo traps are open all year round, and some of them are located so close that you can not only bring a lot of impressions from Belarus, but also have a selfie with a bison.



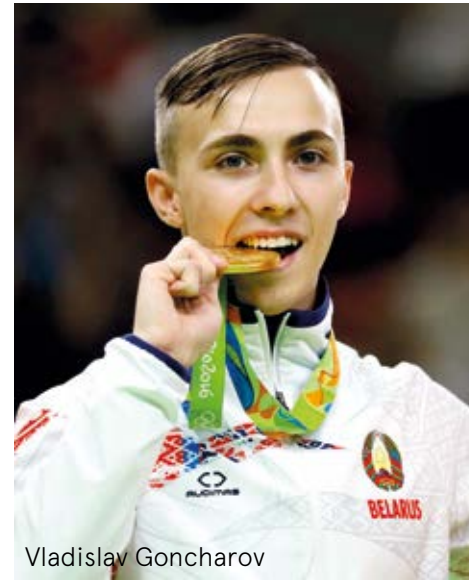
Walking through the swamp

If you are adventurous and are enchanted by the nature views, then walking through the swamp in Yelnya reserve is just for you. Put on special footwear – and you are ten feet tall. You will find a wonderful view of the small lake with islands, flight of birds, trails of wild animals where you can even learn to recognize their footprints.



SPORT

Our country is the motherland of many famous athletes: Daria Domracheva, Victoria Azarenka, Maxim Mirny, Vladislav Goncharov, etc. Probably that's why sport is so popular here and locals are waiting for every sporting event and its guests. Therefore, we will be glad to see you in 2019 at the II European Games and in 2021 at the World Ice Hockey Championship.



Vladislav Goncharov



Daria Domracheva



Victoria Azarenka



CULTURE AND FESTIVALS

Belarus is a country of contrasts, including its cultural traditions. Here you will find an event for every taste – from classical jazz in the main square of Minsk to beer festivals, open-air and raves with DJs from different parts of the world. In order to enjoy music you don't need to go far. Musicians often play right in the streets of the old town.

Where to go:

- Jazz evenings at the Town Hall (June)
- Festival of National Cultures in Grodno (Hrodna) (June)
- Slavonic Bazaar in Vitebsk (Vitsebsk) (July)
- Freaky Summer Party (July)
- Mirum Music Festival (July–August)
- Folk-festival "Kamyanitsa" (September)
- Festival of Hops, Malt and Water "Lidbeer" (September)



ARE YOU READY TO BE BELARUSIAN?

They say that a person is what he eats. However it's not just about the national cuisine. The atmosphere is also important: a house in the village, a cloth on the table and something stewing in the oven. Didn't get to the village or farmstead? The city is still full of places where you can try Belarusian dishes: from expensive modern restaurants to a cafe with an authentic interior in the spirit of a real Belarusian hut.



What do you definitely need to try in Belarus?

- Draniki
- Verashchaka
- Beetroot Soup
- Potato Babka
- Krambambulya



Tip: Belarus is famous for its dairy products. Be sure to try the local milk, cottage cheese, yogurt and sour cream.



YOUR PLACE IS RESERVED

Cafes have already baked delicious draniki, tour guides have prepared the most interesting tours to beautiful places, festivals have already been planned in cities and outskirts, farmsteads have already heated the oven for a tired traveler. The Belarusians are a hospitable nation; they are always ready to share their hospitality with guests.



BREATHE OUT

Thank you for your interest in Belarus!
We hope that this book will be the beginning
of your journey to the heart of Europe.

Discover more at
www.belarus.travel

 www.facebook.com/belarusofficial

 www.instagram.com/belarus.travel



© Государственное учреждение "Национальное агентство по туризму", 2017
Свидетельство о государственной регистрации издателя, изготовителя,
распространителя печатных изданий от 14.11.2014 г. в качестве издателя
печатных изданий за N 1/449 выдано Министерством информации
Республики Беларусь

Отпечатано в типографии ООО «ТМ АРГО-ГРАФИКС».
220131, Республика Беларусь, г. Минск, ул. Гало 148.
Тел.: (017) 336 70 51.
Свидетельство о ГРИИРПИ №2/95 от 01.04.2014 г.
Заказ 172752. Тираж 8000 экз.

