



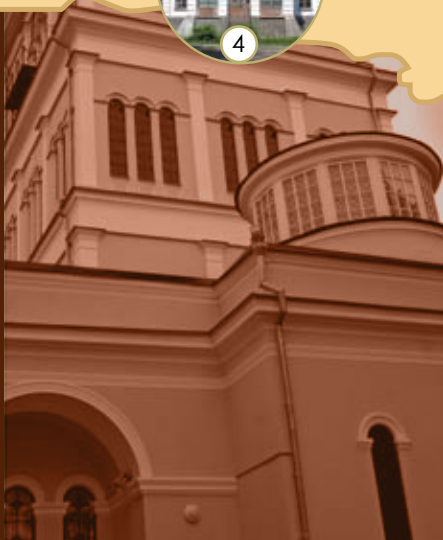
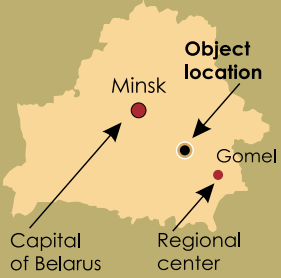
Belarus 



Ancestral Palaces and Manors

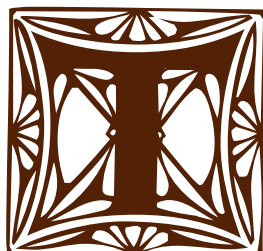


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Ancestral Palaces and Manors



The Sapegas, Rumyantsevs, Paskevichs, Chapskis, Tisenhauses... Their luxurious palaces, gorgeous family castles and manors erected by eminent architects were imbued with special aura where intelligent, educated, and progressive personalities used to meet. The owners were proud of huge libraries collected with special care and love, art collections and greenhouses full of rare for our latitude plants. For example, Earl Puslovsky had an in-house menagerie, the Sapegas could boast of the own theatre and the largest library in the Grand Duchy of Lithuania, Tizengaus founded an ornithological museum...

People's rumor gave rise to different legends about treasures, ghosts and underground labyrinths, the mysteries thereof are safely kept by ancient walls.

We cordially invite you to visit the original architecture of 'family nests', wander around the paths and lanes, be inspired with the light of History and get everlasting impressions of an encounter with our blue-eyed Belarus.

**The National Tourism Agency
of the Republic of Belarus**



The Palace of the Rumyantsevs- Paskevichs'



The Rumyantsevs-Paskevichs' Palace is located on the steep bank of the river Sozh surrounded by a gorgeous park and romantic landscape. Its first owner and erector was Field Marshal Petr Alexandrovich Rumyantsev-Zadunaisky, who received the 'Gomel village' as a present from Ekaterina II for his military merits. The unique natural and architectural ensemble was created owing to endeavours of the manor proprietors, the Rumyantsevs and Patskevichs, the families of famous in the Russian Empire military and state figures.

At present it is one of the most popular attractions for tourists. It consists of a Palace, St. Peter and Paul's Cathedral, close to which there is a chapel and family burial vault of the Paskevichs. The chapel was the first monument restored in the republic after the war.

The exposition of the complex has over 150 thousand of exhibits, among which there are genuine rarities. Unfortunately, many valuables vanished. Yet, lucky findings sometimes happen. For example, the bronze goddess Mir, who used to guard the Chancellor's peace and quiet, was returned from Voronezh. It is one of the three copies of the marble sculpture made by Italian Antonio Kanove. The Gomel goddess was reproduced in metal (35 poods of bronze) by master Deput-Malinovsky from Saint-Petersburg. Only in our times the Palace acquired a real treasure, the copy of the Gospel by Peter Mstislavets, which dates back to 1575.

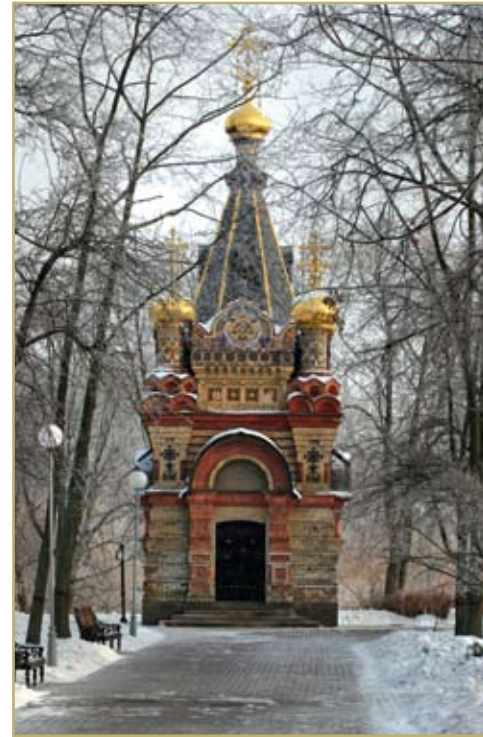


Gomel,
Gomel region





The palatine park is a magnificent sample of woodland art of the late 18th and early 19th centuries. The landscape design was made by Polish architect Adam Idzkovsky. He was the author of a painting depicting the Palace (its image is reproduced on the Belarusian banknote of 20 thousand value), which reconstruction and completion he was in charge of.



The Sapegas' Palatial Complex



The palatial complex in Ruzhany erected in the early 17th century is called Belarusian Versailles. It was a family residence of the mighty Sapegas. The most significant contribution to history was made by Lev Sapega. He was educated in the Leipzig University. At the age of 33 he was appointed to the post of Chancellor of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania. Lev Sapega headed the working commission on development of the Statute of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania in 1588, which in fact was the state constitution and remained in force till 1840 in Belarus.

Originally an unapproachable fortress was built in Ruzhany in 1617. Military arsenal, food supplies, and important documents were kept in its four-storied subterrenes. According to one of the versions, the underpass connected the Palace with the church in Synkovichi and the castle in Kossovo.

During the Northern war (1700-1721) the stone Palace was almost destroyed. The estate's second birth fell to 1784-1788. Under the instruction of Alexander Sapega, architect Yan Samuel Bekker could create a real wonder. Semicircular arcades stretching from the wings of the main building linked it with side buildings and an entry frame with two-sides adjoining annexes. The Ruzhanski Palace was famous for its theatre, which was equipped perfectly well for those times and had an ample art gallery. The largest library of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania gave grounds for a special pride of its owners.



Ruzhany,
Pruzhan district,
Brest region



...Today the survived parts of the Palace, arcade, entry frame with an oak cartouche and a garland remind the bygone splendor. And the alluring myth about the buried gold treasure of the mighty magnates continues to heat the imagination of adventurers...



The Palace of the Puslovskys



A rich manufacturer Earl Vandalin Puslovsky built his country seat in the natural landmark Merechevshchina lying 1.5 km remote from Kossovo. A huge Neo-Gothic construction with toothed parapet round the building perimeter, faceted towers at corners, wall loopholes, narrow lancet arches-shaped door and window apertures is a real medieval fortress. Twelve castle towers symbolized the months of the year. It was built in the way that the sun could light every room for two and a half days all the year round, and the system of inner passages and windows made it possible for the sunbeams to penetrate into every Palace corner. The story says every room was decorated on its 'room day' and became the place of celebration of a sunny day.

Contemporaries said the residence consisted of 132 halls and none of them resembled the other. Every room had its own name and function. One of the rooms with black marble walls had a glass floor through which visitors could see bright fish swimming. The Black Hall was intended for playing cards. Balls were held in the White Hall with refined décor. The rooms were decorated with tapestry and expensive carpets hanging on the walls. All halls were heated by mantelpieces finished with carved marble and sculptures.

The menagerie was located on the castle ground floor, and the story says that a lion was let out of the cage at night. The king of beasts was roaming



Kossovo,
Ivatshevichi district,
Brest region



along the corridors guarding its residents. They say that to hear the 'voice' of the castle, one should simply knock on the wall left to the main entrance at the height of approximately two meters.

As well as many other historic monuments of Belarus, the 'biography' of the castle of Puslovski abounds in sorrowful events: it changed its owners, was deprived of the valuables, suffered from the elements, wars and fires. Yet the Palace greatness is still exciting people's imagination...



The Butrimovich Palace



The Palace was built to the order of a prosperous financier Mateush Butrimovich. The first stone in the foundation of the future construction was laid by King of Rzech Pospolita Stanislaw August Poniatovsky. The building is unique due to its architecture of a transitional type from Baroque to Classicism with improvisation of canonical forms in individual parts and details. Baroque was adhered to in construction of the plan with concave curvilinear lines of angular parts, an oval-shaped main hall, facade traditional partitioning into two circles decoratively contrasted.

The building is symmetric. Its three parts form the grand court facing the river Pina. The middle building consists of show rooms, side buildings house living rooms and offices. The projecting oval hall which leads to the terrace is in the centre of the Palace. This part of the facade resembling an original bay window is the most decorated.

The Palace magnificent interior was ruined in the result of a big fire in 1901. Many valuables were lost: paintings of Dutch masters, ancient Venetian chandeliers, oriental carpets, gobelins and the collection of Slutsk belts. Experts assume many works by Napoleon Orda were taken away during the First World War.





The Bulgaks' Palace



The Palace amazes people by its proportions. Landlord and prosperous businessman Ignatiy Bulgak intended to erect the most beautiful residence in Belarus, so he opted not to economize on the Palace construction project.

The ensemble created by K.Podchashinskis, a well-known Lithuanian architect, was in line with classical traditions of the early 19th century. The Palace is a complex of multi-storied buildings. Its main two-storied building has two adjoining short side-wings. There is a church built in into one of the wings of the Palace, and a tropical greenhouse in the other wing. The part of the Palace adjoining wings stands out with its facade arrangement and window apertures shape.

The front door leads to a spacious lobby ceiled with a cross-vaulting. The doors open into the rooms on the ground floor, the staircase leads to the first floor where grand apartments are located. The interior of the rooms and halls sports numerous decorations, including mahogany and mouldings.

Ignatiy Bulgak, the owner of the Palace, had a taste for music, and for this reason all rooms and halls of the Palace have good acoustics. There used to be a secret level in the Palace for the musicians to quietly sneak to the balconies and play music for the audience. Unfortunately, the luxurious residence owner died soon after the construction of the Palace was finished. His son Edgar inherited the Palace.



Zhilichi,
Kirovsk district,
Mogilyov region



The Umestovskys' Palace



The manor of Earls Umestovsky is the copy of the royal residence of Rzech Pospolita belonging to King Stanislaw August "Lazenska".

A classical two-storied building with a promenade ground on the flat roof naturally suited the surrounding landscape. The belvedere arched windows covered the coloured stained-glass windows. Over the front door on the four columns of the Corinthian order there was an open loggia with a mosaic floor. The first floor was ornamented with laced balconies, the ends of the building were connected with lower annexes with open terraces. The inner layout and interior was also 'Warsaw' styled including marble mantelpieces, ingenious parquet pattern, murals.

The residence was surrounded with an English park having an artificial pond and boat mooring. The over-the-river side of the park accommodated a high octal "skarbeta" with an arcade gallery on the perimeter. Separate premises were occupied by warehouses, a stable, a family chapel, a winehouse and a cheese dairy.

The last owner Wladyslaw Umestovsky submitted the manor for scientific research of Vilnya University devoted to nature and agriculture study. All major manor constructions remained almost intact with time, yet the interior preserved only some fragments of ceiling molding and floor tiled mosaic.



Zhemyslavl,
lvie district,
Grodno region

The Gatovskys' Manor



The palace and park complex was erected according to the order of engineering Lieutenant General Mikhail Gatovsky in the second half of the 19th century and remained almost intact to our times.

The complex consists of a Palace, a wing, household constructions and a splendid park with birch and lime lanes. A channel in the park leads to the river with three bridges across it.

The Palace was built in 1890-1893 combining two architectural styles – Neo-Gothic and Neo-Renaissance. The tower marquees, bay windows, attic roofs, and dormer windows imbue the building with special fascination. An original combination of red-brick and plastered white walls makes the Palace exterior very impressive.

The Palace inner layout is a suite of rooms finished in different styles: Roman, Arabian, Renaissance, French of the times of Louis XVI. The luxurious interior abounds in mouldings, refined carving and friezes, wall decorations. Every interior detail was well thought-over including lamps, bronze statuettes, Venetian cut glass, English faience, French porcelain.

The art collection belonging to the Manor owners included the masterpieces by Aivazovsky, Semiradsky, and other talented artists (mainly of the 19th century).



Krasny Bereg,
Zlobin district,
Gomel region



The Governor's Palace



The Palace is one of the sights of the ancient Vitebsk, which silently witnessed the last 150 years of the town history.

It was the residence of all governors of the Vitebsk province. The Russian writer I. Lazhechnikov held the post of Vice-governor for sometime (1853-1854).

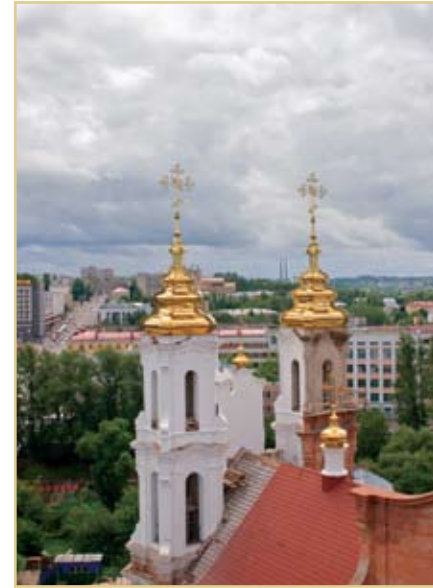
The appearance of the building built in the late 18th century on the high bank of Western Dvina was influenced by Russian classical architecture. The main building has three storeys with its middle projecting part treated by an order. The building facing the river is two-storied: the ground floor is rusticated, the windows are rectangular, the first floor is adorned with archways.

Once Napoleon chose the governor's residence as the place of his stay. The Palace evidenced the celebration of the 43d birthday of the French Emperor on August, 3 (August, 15 according to the New Style), 1812.



Vitebsk,
Vitebsk region





During the October Revolution the Military and Revolutionary Committee which proclaimed Soviet power in the town and province held its meetings in the Palace. It hosted the first Vitebsk provincial conference of the Russian Social-democratic Workers' Party. M.I. Kalinin made a speech at the extended session of Vitebsk provincial executive committee in June, 1919.



The Palace of the Valovichs'



The Palace for the magnates Valovichs was constructed in the Baroque style with elements of Classicism by Italian architect Juseppe Sacco in 1779.

The complex consists of three buildings: one central part and two wings. The main building is linked with two lateral wings by semicircular galleries. A central staircase, halls, the drawing room, and other rooms are located in the main building. It uses a widely-spread in those times composition method of the facade with three projections. Each of the slightly bulging lateral projections is spotted with coupled pilasters. Lateral projections are crowned with bent pediments.

In the park façade, lateral projections are contrasted with the pentahedral ledge of the main halls decorated with pilasters and capped by a figured roof. The building interior finishing lasted till the end of the 18th century. Two types of decoration - moulded and painterly - were applied in the interior design.

According to the Svyatsk legend, the daughter of the landowner Valovich fell in love with a groom. The enraged father ordered to drown the guy in the pond, and to immure his daughter alive into the Palace wall. They say that since then the ghost of the girl has been wandering around the house every night...

The Palace of the Valovichs is located in vicinities of Augustovsky Canal and can become a real attraction for tourists.



Svyatsk,
Grodno district,
Grodno region





The Priluky Manor



The Priluky Manor with its refined Gothic features was deservedly considered one of the most attractive in the Minsk region. It became the Chapsky residence in 1872 and remained their property till 1917.

The magnificent Neo-Gothic Palace had a number of towers and turrets, fortified teeth and facades in the spirit of Romanticism. The Palace interior looked rather 'modest'. Documents showed that along with nice parquet and gilt ceiling moulding in the show rooms, there was an oak and leather garniture, grotto work furniture in the style of Louis XV, two grand pianos, a piano, beautiful wardrobes, Gdansk chests, paintings by Yan Mateyko, family portraits, miniatures of the 18-19th centuries, silver, Saxon and French porcelain...

...In our times as well, an eight-metres-wide avenue leads to the Palace from the entrance ("brama"), which is shaped as faceted pylons with spheres above. Its length equals to 365 steps - the number of days in the year.



Minsk

Priluki,
Minsk district,
Minsk region



One of the versions states that the residence was reconstructed from an old monastery. Soon after that rumour spread about a ghost inhabiting the Palace...

Now the Palace houses the Belarus Scientific Research Institute of Plants Protection.



The Bishop's Palace



The Bishop's Palace of George Konissky, a prominent Orthodox personality, was built according to the project of Vilnius architect Yan Glaubitsa.

The Palace exterior has typical characteristics of Baroque: plastic art in the facades, niches, and intricate platbands. The high unusually-shaped roof of the building suits the style of the facades.

The lay-out of the complex was originally conceived to be symmetrical: there was a palace in the town centre, to the right and left there were monastic cells forming a grand court. The cells were connected to the main entrance gates by a laced metal fencing.

The Palace building represents a compact rectangle with ledges-projections in angular parts. Internal rooms were spacious. The lobby and the reception hall were located in the centre of the ground floor. The owner's personal rooms, a study and a library were on the first floor. In the middle of the Palace there is a second attic floor with small rooms which, probably, were intended for service staff and visitors.



Mogilyov,
Mogilyov region





Up to now the building has partly survived. Today the Bishop's Palace is a historic and architectural monument of one of the ancient towns of Belarus.



The Rdultovskys' Palace



The Palace located on the bank of the river Snovenka was built by Kazimir Rdultovsky, a Belarusian nobleman, Oxford graduate, Doctor of Philosophy, in 1827. The Palace amazes people by its proportions: it is 140 meters long, originally it had 100 rooms and a stateroom.

The Palace architecture is laconic. Proportionality and grace of porticoes with beautifully drawn capitals, laced projections with wide two-floors three-part windows, modest decorative panels at the arch end of the windows made the exterior graceful and magnificent.

The central part of the Palace and flanking projections are located on two floors. Lateral wings are one-storied: the left wing is an open gallery, a colonnade, and the right wing is a colonnade adjoining the front wall. The structure of flanking parts is very simple: windows with canopies are located in shallow and flat niches, and a floret relief is placed in the top part of the wall. The state hall with the total area of 100 sq. m has a plain interior. Ceilings and walls are not decorated. Only the top part of the hall walls has the eaves. Along with an alcove, a big well-made glazed tile stove serve as decorations.



Minsk

Snov,
Nesvizh district,
Minsk region





The Rdul'tovskys' Palace ranks among the best monuments of the epoch of Classicism.



The Potyomkin Palace



The Potyomkin Palace is a monument of architecture of early Classicism. It was constructed under the project of architect Starova (the author of the Taurian Palace in Saint-Petersburg) in 1778-1787. It represents a two-storied stone building with a suite of rooms. In the middle of each floor there are round halls projecting beyond the limits of the Palace towards the court yard.

Architectural and art exterior decoration belongs to the pseudo-Gothic style. The main facade is adorned with toothed faceted pylons, window apertures are ogival. Yet the Palace facades facing the park are of the classical style.

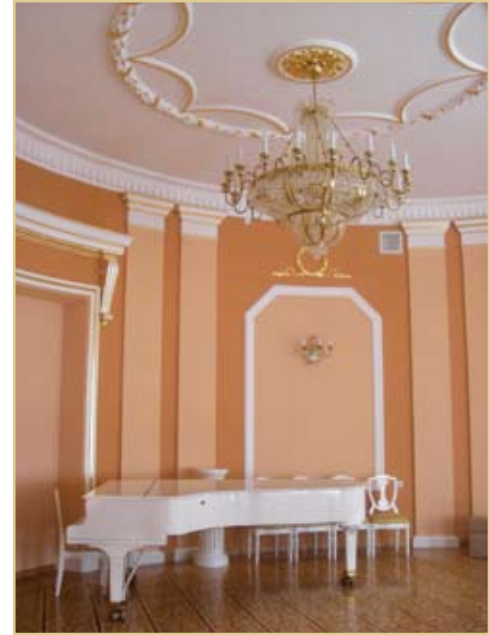
Grigory Potyomkin was an outstanding person. The Krichevsky Palace is a live proof to it. The unique building totals the area of 1120 sq. m, every 90-centimeters thick stone wall is bearing. The interior of more than 40 halls was adorned with mouldings, fireplaces and stoves were finished with original tile. The landscape park adjoins the Palace porch, some old lindens have remained in the orchard to these days.



Krichev,
Mogilyov region



At the height of the bird's flight one can see that the Palace is E-shaped. It was the way for the favourite of the Empress to show his fidelity to Ekaterina. The sovereign visited the Palace on January, 19th, 1787 during her regular trip to new provinces.



The Tizenhaus Palace



The Tizenhaus Palace was built in the late 18th century. A well-known ornithologist Konstantin Tizenhaus, the author of many tractates, used to reside in the Palace. He founded an ornithological museum in the manor and granted working conditions for the field chair of Vilnya University.

A big stone building was erected in the style of Classicism having a U-shaped contour of the layout. Konstantin equipped the northern part of the building for study of science and art. The Palace had also special rooms for study of zoology, mineralogy and local ethnography. The Palace accommodated ballet and secular schools, and a belts and paper manufactory.

On the left there were rooms with a stucco moulding and marble fireplaces, the walls were adorned with masterpieces of Leonardo da Vinci, Rubens, Veronese, Tintoretto, Breygel, Durer. The owner's family (Konstantin's wife, two daughters and son) lived in the western, more plain part of the Palace. The Palace was surrounded by a magnificent park with fountains and sculptures. Under the Palace archeologists found an extensive network of underpasses and passages stretching assumingly for dozens of kilometers.



Postavy,
Vitebsk region





The Palace of the Tyshkevichs'



The Palace is an architectural monument of Classicism. Its "biography" is closely connected with the history of Volozhin. Earl Joseph (Yuseph) Tyshkevich, the Vilnius head, paid 100 thousand zloties and bought the town in 1803. That year the residence construction was begun.

The Palace and park ensemble was erected in conformance with the project of A.Kossakovsky on the place where a medieval castle used to be located.

Three years later a striking palatine residence appeared in the centre of Volozhin. A two-storied greenhouse with a spherical dome in the Palace centre could boast of multiple orange trees, palm trees and other splendid tropical plants. At the rear side of the Palace the landscape park laid as early as in the 12th century descended towards the river.

The Palace complex nowadays accommodating administrative offices consists of three two-storied buildings. Two of them positioned opposite each other have a similar art solution; the third building is perpendicular to them and closes the space of a grand court yard.

The Palace complex architecture meets classical requirements: well-developed porticoes, skilfully traced elements of the order system, laconic apertures framing. The exterior composition is typical of Classicism: laconic side wings are contrasted with the central portico which is affluent in plastic.



Volozhin,
Minsk region



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**TOURIST
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Pobediteley Ave., 19, Minsk
Tel.: +375 17 226 99 00
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