



9 Variety of museums and genuine exhibitions

Numerous museums and exhibitions is another reason to visit Belarus. Some expositions save history in potsherds, old blades and early manuscripts, others demonstrate paintings of known masters opening the world of art to the audience.

Walk in echoing halls of the Museum of the History of the Great Patriotic War, and you will be exposed to large-scale pictures of fierce attacks and bitter defeats, self-sacrificing heroism, and, at last, the Great Victory over fascism. You can touch the history of the country of that period in the war and historic complex. Every year, staging of glorious battles of the Second World War is performed here.

Works of notable artists and sculptors › Napoleon Orda, Chaim Soutine, Ferdynand Ruszczyc › are waiting for you in the capital s National Art Museum in Minsk. The whole city of Vitebsk may be considered to be a city-museum. Its streets remember Marc Chagall and are captured in the paintings of the genius artist, while in the suburbs of the city, there is a hidden estate of Ilya Repin, where the master of the brush created his masterpieces far away from noise and rush.

In Brest, besides the unique memorial "Brest Fortress", unusual museum "Berestye" open by scientists and preserved as the city settlement of X › XIII beckons tourists.

However to tell about museum rarities is thankless job. You should see them!



10 Terrific masterpieces of ethnic cuisine

Belarus has its own, captivating taste and smell. Having tasted traditional dishes once, you will never forget them. Pork jugged in pots, fried sausages with crisps, potato pancakes with cracklings and onion.

Potato dishes are traditionally considered to be the national particularity of the Belarusian cuisine. And indeed, over 1000 different pleasures of the table are cooked from this vegetable. Definitely, one should taste "kolduny" (potato pancakes with meat or mushroom stuffing). With sour-cream or special fragrant topping, they are extraordinary tasty and very nutritious.

Another important component of Belarusian menu is represented by pork dishes. From pagan times, tradition to stick pigs and make sausages, salt bacon and make polendvitsa (dried salted meat) in the beginning of winter was preserved in villages.

Treat yourselves with traditional Belarusian drinks, krumbambulya, krupnik and kvas. Krumbambulya, strong spicy alcohol has been developed by the Polish gentlemen about two hundred years ago. Krupnik is a mixture of healing herbs, alcohol and honey. It is loved by men and women for its mild taste. Kvas, bread juice with birch syrup, magically quenches your thirst, fills you with energy and spirits.

Try it! You will definitely like it!



10 reasons to visit Belarus



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Choose your own reason!



1 Wonder of intact nature

Pine forests filled with birds' songs and oak woods whispering about previous times, wonderful lakes shamefacedly hiding in bulrush and fast rivers. In Belarus, you will find one of the latest wonders of the world, i.e. wonder of intact nature.

Wonderful opportunity to walk in virgin forest waits for you in Belovezhskaya Pushcha. The National Park is included into UNESCO World Heritage list as the oldest park in Europe, indeed, some trees are over 600 years old! Many of Pushcha's residents are rare and listed in the Red Book. The most know of them is the mighty wisent, which already kings and princes of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania liked to hunt for.

"Berezinskiy" biosphere reserve is considered to be the oldest in the republic. There is everything needed for photo hunting here, such as nesting places of uncommon birds, amazing landscapes and a historical compound, i.e. the ancient route "from the Varangians to the Greeks" that lied through these places. Bottomland meadows, bitterish aroma of herbs and unique opportunity to observe birds are waiting for you in the National Park "Pripyatskiy".

Touch the magical beauty of Belarusian nature and pleasant impressions will stay with you for a long time.



3 Sweet charm of rural farmsteads

Breathtaking odor of drying hay, morning babble of birds and a glass of new milk for breakfast! What can be better after big city? Belarus invites you to spend your vacation in rural farmstead and fully enjoy silence and peace.

As a rule, farmsteads are located in picturesque nook, and you can choose vacation to any taste and wallet. In some farmsteads, guests will be offered a separate cottage with fireplace and bath house, in others – a modest room and jug with well water for washing. But, regardless which option you choose, you should know, that open-hearted welcoming, tasty and ecologically clean food and numerous unforgettable impressions and findings are waiting for you. Hosts of farmsteads with pleasure will arrange hiking tours to pick up mushrooms and berries, horse riding trips, walking and cycling tours, river and lake floating trips. During excursions you will be able to acknowledge yourselves with Belarusian traditions and history, to see ancient castles and temples, to buy authentic souvenirs. In some farmsteads, tourists are offered fishing and hunting services. For city people, routine rural labor will "hit the high spots". You'll learn to milk a cow, to shear sheep, to make conservations for winter, if you choose so, of course.

Having vacation in rural farmstead once you will return here over and over again for a jolt of fresh air, romantic ordinary life and positive emotions.



5 Active rest at the highest level

To feel joy of movement shaking off couple of dozens of years. Who would refuse such a rare chance? There is everything needed for active rest in Belarus.

Tune yourselves up for hog-wild enthusiasm from the date with heights and flight! Breath-taking down-runs and steep rises, up-to-date ski pistes and sports centers equipped with state-of-the-art facilities in ski complexes of international class wait for you. European standards of the sporting and health-improving complex will please both professionals and beginners; in the Republican ski complex, you can choose yourselves a piste to ski, there are seven of them, each corresponding to certain difficulty level.

The center, where Olympian sportsmen train, is known as one of the best grounds for biathlon in the world, and in the "Republican centre of Olympic training in equestrian sports and horse breeding", it is possible not only to take individual classes of horse riding, but also see amazing horse show.

Movement is life. Get your sip of life from active rest in Belarus!



7 Unique culture and ancient traditions

Like ice and fire, the traditions of the West and of the East have met in Belarus giving birth to the unique culture woven of Christian traditions and flashes of heathen beliefs, exuberance of high spirits and solemnity.

Ancient magic takes shape in the mysterious night on the Eve of Ivan Kupala. Old legend says: "The one who finds the fern flower on the Eve of Kupala will never know grief. Girls read fortunes to find out who is their future husband by floating wreaths of flowers on river. Unmarried young man, who caught the wreath, is the future husband. And the night of the Eve of Kupala is lit with flames of countless bonfires, over which the youth jump purifying themselves from the sins. The most bright joy is associated with celebration of Maslenitsa festival marking the end of winter. Traditionally, on that day, people burn Maslenitsa, lady of straw (evil witch Morana, the mistress of cold) down and bake flavor pancakes. The first pancake is always thrown into the snow, to make it melt faster.

It is best of all to celebrate Maslenitsa, Kupala's festivals and other traditional holidays in the Museum of folk architecture and life (Ozertso village close to Minsk). Artists in national Belarusian costumes will organize antique rituals, games and contests turning your weekend into faerie show.

Get your own bouquet of fantastic impressions and familiarize yourselves with mysterious Belarusian traditions!



2 Mysterious beauty of rivers and lakes

The fate did not give Belarus a sea, but still the country is called "blue-eyed". Indeed, there are over 20 000 rivers and over 10 000 lakes on its territory. The biggest and the most admirable is Naroch. In cloudy weather, far bank gets lost in mist, and then it seems that it is not lake water slopping around at your feet, but sea water.

Naroch beckons thrill-seekers and romantics. The depth of the lake reaches 30 meters, just the right depth for divers! Or you can go for a ride in a lifeboat across mirror-like surface, fish (from bank or from boat), or simply sunbath on yellow sand listening to mysterious murmur of beach pines.

Like fanciful embroidery, Braslav lakes spread in the north-west of the country. Over 30 water basins, big and small, round and prolonged, interconnected with crotchety ornament of straits.

Journalists called Augustow Canal the miracle of engineering thought of the XIX century. Even now, it still amazes with its elaborated lockage system, while unique scenery, palaces, temples on the banks make the trip along the Canal especially bright.

Experienced raftsmen will be interested in canoeing or floating. Vast spaces of huge rivers such as Neman, Dnepr, Sozh, Bug and narrow creeks lost in thick littoral vegetation are open for you. Belarusian water basins are so different, but all of them incredibly attractive and all of them give you joy and admiration after you meet them.

4 Health improvement: harmony of price and quality

Your work doesn't leave you time to take care of your health, and your vacation is too short to be spent on visits to doctors. Then Belarusian health resorts invite you to improve your health and recuperate and at the same time have an excellent vacation. All health resorts are located in pine woods, on banks of rivers and lakes, where the air itself already has health improving power, while Belarusian temperate – continental climate provides possibility to have vacations here all year round. Guests will appreciate comfortable accommodations, high level of medical services and excellent food. A haunt of fashion of international class became a network of health resorts located on the banks of the most beautiful lake Naroch. Both, grown-ups and children come here. There is the unique health resort in Soligorsk, where tourists have procedures in salt mines. The air there contains valuable microelements that have positive impact on lungs. If you wish, in almost all health resort you may order not only traditional medical procedures, baths and massages, mud and mineral water therapies, but also genuine health-improving programs such as "Healthy spine", "Anti-cellulites", "Men's health" and many others.

In addition, Belarusian health resorts represent reasonable combination of price and quality. Hurry up! Our packages are in great demand!



6 Admirable architectural masterpieces

Chronicles in stone – it is fair to say this about the architectural heritage of Belarus. Strict towers and splendid palaces, powerful castles and amazing temples create unique image of the country.

The aura of the Middle Ages is in the air over the walls of the ancient Mir Castle. Founded in XVI century, it was preserved almost intact until our days. Elegant light lines of castle's outline unchangingly amaze thousands of tourists coming here from all over the world. The castle in Nesvizh keeps memories about the powerful Radziwills. A famous Belarusian family settled here almost five centuries ago was known as a family of uncrowned kings of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth. The palace is steeped in legends and mysteries, they even say that it is haunted by a ghost.

The walls of Belaya Vezha, Novogrudok and Lida Castles, fortified temples in Synkovichy, Murovanka, Kamayah still remember fierce battles with the crusades. Stave churches in Zhirovichy, Slutsk, Duda beckon with their silent beauty. The oldest Cathedral of Sophia in Polotsk enjoys its reflection in river waters. Ancient Catholic churches in Ishkoldy (XV century), Vselyub (XV century), Nesvizh (XVI century) fascinate with their unimaginable luxury.

Castles, temples and palaces of Belarus seem to embody the aroma and magic force of attraction of previous times. Come here and see it for yourselves!

8 Bright festivals and shows

Plenty of "live" music to any liking, real masterpieces of cinema art, cheerful contents, jokes and lots of socializing, you will find all these at numerous Belarusian festivals.

The most famous is "Slavianski Bazaar" in Vitebsk. It is an international festival contest for young performers popular both within Belarus and outside. Annually, "Slavianski Bazaar" turns into bright, faerie show collecting the best pop-performers from all over the world. Avid cinemagoers look forward the festival "Listopad". In autumn, it is held in Minsk, it gives the audience a chance to see works of both, directors with world-known and less known names, but talented authors.

A trip to the festival of rural tourism "Zaborie Fest" (Zaborie village, Rosson Region) is the unique adventure and possibility to better learn culture of the Belarusians. Large-scale folk crafts fair, lots of music and humor will create good mood and will charge with optimism.

The "tasty" festival "Motol prysmaki" (Motol village, Ivanovo Region) will be a real catch for gourmands. Famous Motol sausages, pies, draniki (potato pancakes) with different stuffing will not leave anybody indifferent!

Allow yourselves pleasure of becoming familiar with Belarusian culture!