

# 11 Reasons to visit Belarus

**National parks and gardens**  
 Visit the world 3rd largest National Botanic Garden or move to Belovezhskaya Pushcha, Berezinsky National Reserve or any other place to feel the stunning power of Belarusian nature. Get acquainted with Belarusian forest inhabitants like lynx, wild boar, deer and wolf. And don't miss European bison, which is the symbol of the country listed in the Red Book of rare species.

**Authentic village life**  
 The best way to learn about local village life is to go to the folk museum Dudutki or Belarusian Skansen – Ozertso. Both are open-air museums where the 19th-century rural life is reconstructed. You can walk around windmills, small wooden huts, village wells or take part in Belarusian master classes in traditional crafts: needlework, pottery, carpentry, braiding, bakery or cheese making. Find activities you enjoy and let them carry you away!

**Break from the bustling city**  
 Get some rest at a cozy homestead on the shore of a small lake near the forest, away from civilization and open up tranquil and bright Belarus for yourself.

**Orthodox churches**  
 You will be surprised by the number of Orthodox and former Uniate churches, their greatness and glory. Golden domes, hand-painted wall murals cause admiration and make you realize why many of them were nominated for UNESCO World heritage list.

**Trail of World War II**  
 The World War II period takes a special place in the history of this country as the life of every fourth Belarusian was taken away by the hardships of war. The country keeps the memory of those who perished on the battlefields and those who has survived at every corner of its land. The Brest Fortress, the World War II Museum in Minsk, the Stalin Line and other memorials will bring you to the atmosphere of the past war. One of the greatest events for Belarusians today is a Victory Day which takes place on the 9th of May and is accompanied by a grandiose military parade.



**Marc Chagall heritage**  
 One of the most avant-garde artists who struck the world with his art was born here, in Belarus! Find out the way the great creator lived here by visiting his family house in Vitebsk. You may also include the Art Center of Marc Chagall into your itinerary to see original etchings and drawings by this prominent master.



**Belarusian National Art Museum**  
 Get inspiration from one of the richest collections of art pieces in Eastern Europe. The diversity of paintings, sculptures and folk art masterpieces ranging from old Belarusian icons to modern ornamental art will let you appreciate various artistic compositions and feel new emotions during your visit to Belarus.



**UNESCO world heritage highlights**  
 Magnificent Mir and Nesvizh Castles still have such power and beauty that everybody can realize why Belarus once carried the proud name of the "Country of Castles". Today castle facilities provide you opportunity to enjoy knight tournaments, participate in historical quests, pick up souvenirs from Belarusian masters or simply to relax at restaurants and music festivals.

**Opera and Ballet Theatre**  
 The National Academic Bolshoi Opera and Ballet theatre commissioned in 1938 is one of the largest theatre venues in Europe. The virtuosity of Belarusian ballet dancers will not leave indifferent even the most sophisticated spectator. The luxurious decorations of the main hall with golden moldings and crystal chandeliers turn your standard visit to the theater into a royal court ceremony.



**Belarusian cuisine**  
 Crispy potato pancakes, warm soups, homemade berry drinks and sweet apple pies... Feel the atmosphere of coziness and hospitality and try the delicious national cuisine, which definitely will give you vigor for the whole day of adventures.

**Power of BelAZ machinery**  
 Visit the world greatest manufacturer of mining dump trucks – BelAZ. Take a look at the monstrous trucks with a load capacity of 450 tons which are featured in the Guinness book of records! Watch up fascinating production process or take a ride on the giant machines, which movement sound causes land to shudder. Finally you're welcome to try branded cookies made in the shape of world largest dump trucks!

## Nature and wildlife

Belarus is often nicknamed the "blue-eyed" country. In fact, there are more than 20,000 rivers and 11,000 lakes within its territory where you can enjoy staying at marvelous recreation sites, make yacht trips or engage yourself in rafting, kayaking and fishing. The most common Belarusian landscape comprises of vast green plains, pristine forests (up to 40 % of the territory), and large unbroken swamp marshy areas which gave Belarus its status of the «lungs of Europe». Belarus gladly invites you to visit its magnificent national parks and natural reserves like Belovezhskaya Pushcha, Narochansky and Braslavsky National Parks and many others.



## Culture and traditions

Imagine a family where the owner is engaged in pottery and wood engraving, his wife weaves fabrics from flax or hay and cooks a warm dinner from potato and mushrooms in traditional stove. The elderly women sing cheerful songs and children are occupied by funny games. The typical portrait of authentic Belarusian village will not differ from the above mentioned scenery. Guests are always kindly welcomed to each house where they can experience Belarusian traditions: meet people, taste national cuisine and get acquainted with rites and customs.

The cultural life of modern Belarus is more dynamic and diverse. The country hosts a variety of annual art exhibitions, music and theatre performances and film festivals. If you would like to attend event with the elegant dress code and luxury atmosphere, then visiting ballet is a must. It is a true celebration of beauty, grace and high professionalism. Art galleries in Minsk will allow you to complete your immersion into the art world of Belarus. For example, corporate collection of Belgazprombank is recognized as one of the largest gatherings of works of expressionists from the Paris school in Eastern and Central Europe.

## Belarusian cities

Belarus is divided into 6 administrative regions with the main cities to be Minsk, Vitebsk, Grodno, Brest, Gomel and Mogilev. Each of the regions has its own historical, cultural and architectural key features. Minsk – the capital of the country is the most dynamic city with cosmopolitan and bustling atmosphere, bright, clean and safe. Take a walk through its streets and you will be surprised by a huge number of green parks, beautiful avenues and elegant boulevards with flower beds. Here you will come across with almost any kind of architecture starting from old little houses on the river bank of Svisloch and Stalin empire stylish buildings up to diamond-shaped National Library and modern mirrored dwellings.

## Who we are

Prime Tour is one of the leading incoming travel companies with long track records in Belarus. We capture all areas of tourism: natural, cultural, historic tours, leisure, business and MICE arrangements. We do our best to analyze the tourist market and feedback from our clients to customize tours in accordance with the requirements of our guests from all over the world.

We know all the ropes in Belarus and we are always ready to welcome you with the utmost hospitality at our native land.

## Why Prime Tour

**Experience.** We have been working for more than 10 years in a tourism business and we are always ready to any kind of requests or eventualities.

**Relationship.** We deliberately choose the best partners to work with and constantly update our suppliers' network.

**Knowledge.** We are proud of our expertise of the country and carefully select our guides to make all tours thrilling and spectacular.

Entrust us your trip to get your own extraordinary experience and discover the most authentic places of Belarus. We are sure that you will love this country as much as we do!

## Our Services

- Visa support
- Meet and greet services
- Transfers and transport services
- Accommodation
- Guides, interpreters
- Tours and excursions
- Entertainment and cultural programs



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OPEN BELARUS. OPEN SOUL.

## Open YOUR Belarus

*«It is an unknown land; yet it is much more than this. It is an undiscovered box of gems, with a history rich in heroism, tragedy and despair, natural wonders of great beauty and a people who have endured endless privations over the centuries, but whose hospitality is open and unconditional, notwithstanding all that has transpired on their lands»*

**Nigel Roberts**

*lawyer, writer and the author of Belarus Bradt Travel Guide*

The country called Belarus is located in Eastern Europe. It still remains one of the most unexplored and mysterious places in this part of the world. Everyone who will open his heart to Belarus may find something special for himself. Old castles and churches, Soviet type architecture and modern urban masterpieces, folk Slavic traditions, original cuisine or simply the charming beauty of natural landscapes – everything will bring you to exciting world of unknown.

## History

For centuries Belarusian lands have been at the junction of political mainstreams, military ambitions and popular trade routes. The territories that make up Belarus have passed through the times of Kiev Rus, the Grand Duchy of Lithuania and Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth, the Russian Empire and the Soviet Union. The country has absorbed unique features from each epoch which brought up its genuine character, culture and ideology.

### The Soviet Past

The Soviet Union has left the most significant trace in the history of Belarus. The grandeur of pretentious Stalin Empire architecture, vast avenues and squares, historical museums and galleries of Soviet art allow you to travel back in time and gain a unique experience.

### Modern Day Mission

Today Belarus is widely recognized as one of the safest, clean and fast growing countries in Europe with GDP growth percentage well above the world average. Among other products Belarus is proud of its rapidly increasing IT-business and you have probably heard about such top rated Belarusian mobile apps like Viber, MSQRD, World of tanks, Maps.Me and Appalon Apps.

## People and religion

From the times of Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth (1569-1795), Belarus historically has grown into multinational community which affected personality of every Belarusian. Even the national anthem starting with the words "we are Belarusians - peaceful people" states that Belarusians are tolerant to people of any nation and religion. There is a considerable number of Catholics and Orthodox in the country, as well as representatives of other confessions living peacefully side by side. Kindness and generosity of Belarusians attract a lot of foreign guests to our land. Many young people choose to study at one of the local universities, education at which is prestigious and affordable. We are proud for the number of students in relation to the total population in Belarus to be the highest in Europe.