

# REPUBLIC OF BELARUS



# The history of Belarus

**Belarus**, country of eastern Europe. Until it became independent in 1991, Belarus, formerly known as Belorussia or White Russia, was the smallest of the three Slavic republics included in the Soviet Union (the larger two being Russia and Ukraine).



---

While Belarusians share a distinct ethnic identity and language, they never previously enjoyed unity and political [sovereignty](#), except during a brief period in 1918. Belarusian history is thus less an isolable national narrative than a study of regional forces, their interplay, and their effects on the Belarusian people. The territory that is now Belarus underwent partition and changed hands repeatedly; as a result, much of the history of Belarus is inseparable from that of its neighbours. Since independence Belarus has retained close ties to its most dominant neighbour, Russia. In 1999 the two countries signed the Union State Foundation Treaty, which aimed to create a politically integrated confederation with a common currency; the precise nature of the partnership, however, remained unclear well into the 21st century. The legacy of Belarus's Soviet past also continued to manifest itself, both in the persistent prominence of communist political parties and in the country's authoritarian style of government. About one-fifth of the population of Belarus resides in the centrally located capital, [Minsk](#), a sprawling modern city that was almost entirely rebuilt after its near destruction in [World War II](#).

# Location

---

Belarus is a landlocked country bordered by Lithuania and Latvia to the northwest, by Russia to the north and east, by Ukraine to the south, and by Poland to the west. In area, it is roughly one-third the size of its southern neighbour, Ukraine.



# Capital of Belarus

---

Minsk is one of the oldest cities in Europe. The capital-to-be of the Republic of Belarus was first mentioned in the historical chronicle in 1067. At that time, Grand Princes of Kiev Iziaslav, Svyatoslav and Vsevolod, the grandsons of Princess Rogneda of Polotsk, the sons of Yaroslav the Wise, joined their forces and attacked the city of Menesk to retaliate for the campaign of Prince Vseslav of Polotsk, who besieged Pskov in 1065. They seized the fortress of Menesk and defeated Vseslav's army in the memorable Battle of Nemiga described in the Tale of Igor's Campaign.



# Other major cities Include:

---

Brest



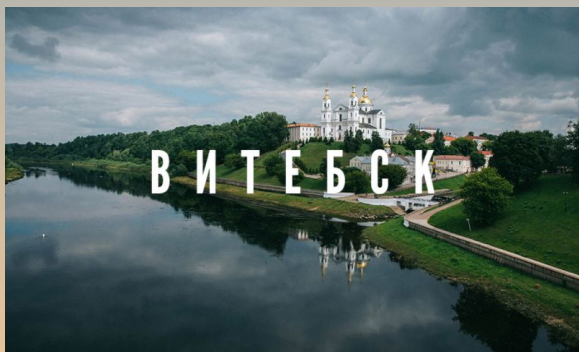
Homiel



Hrodna



Vitsebsk



Mahilyow



# Attractions of Belarus

---

## Brest fortress

**Brest Fortress, one of the most important places in Belarus, dates back to the 19th century and became a key symbol of Soviet resistance in World War 2. During Operation Barbarossa in the early days of the Great Patriotic War (WWII), a small band of soldiers gallantly held off a superior Nazi force at Brest Fortress and became Soviet legends. Today the fortress is a rambling complex of museums and Soviet memorials dedicated to that siege. It occupies a beautiful spot at the confluence of the Bug and Mukhavets rivers, about a 25-minute walk from central vul Savetskaya.**



# Nesvizh and Nesvizh Castle

---

Nesvizh Castle is one of the most popular Belarus tourist attractions and is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The majestic and diverse architecture of the palace, magnificent landscape parks, ponds, the river – all this makes the Nesvizh ensemble a **unique place of pilgrimage** for the majority of tourists coming to our country.



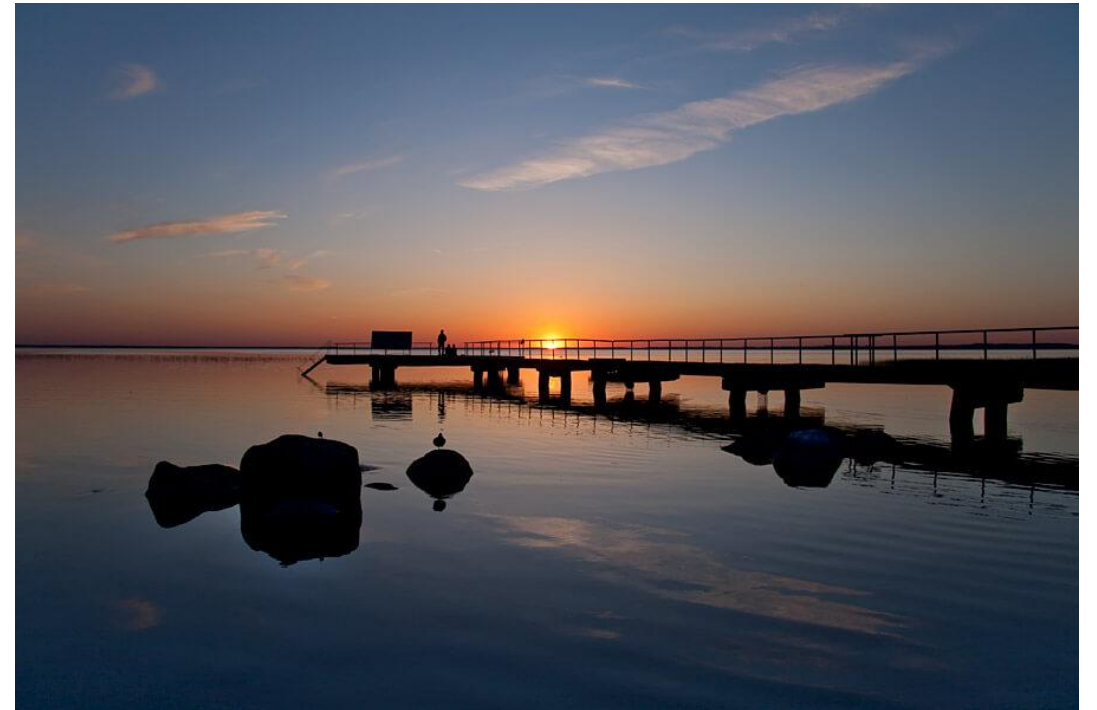


# Naroch National Park

---

Naroch National Park is the youngest national park in Belarus, and Naroch is the largest lake in the country. Numerous recreation centers, hotels, and sanatoriums were opened for tourists on the shores of the lake. This is a golden place for connoisseurs of nature and solitude. It also brings lots of tourists **visiting Belarus**.

Naroch National Park is the most important health resort in the country and one of the main Belarus tourist attractions. Thanks to the richness of flora and fauna, as well as crystal clear water, and natural sources, this place constantly attracts a large number of tourists. But thanks to the vast territory, you absolutely don't notice that.



# The Belarusian State Museum of History of the Great Patriotic War

---

The Belarusian State Museum of History of the Great Patriotic War - State Establishment of the Culture of the Republic of Belarus, the world's first museum of the History of the Great Patriotic War, the largest assembly of artifacts on the history of the Great Patriotic War.



# Writers of Belarus

---

## Zmitrok Biadula

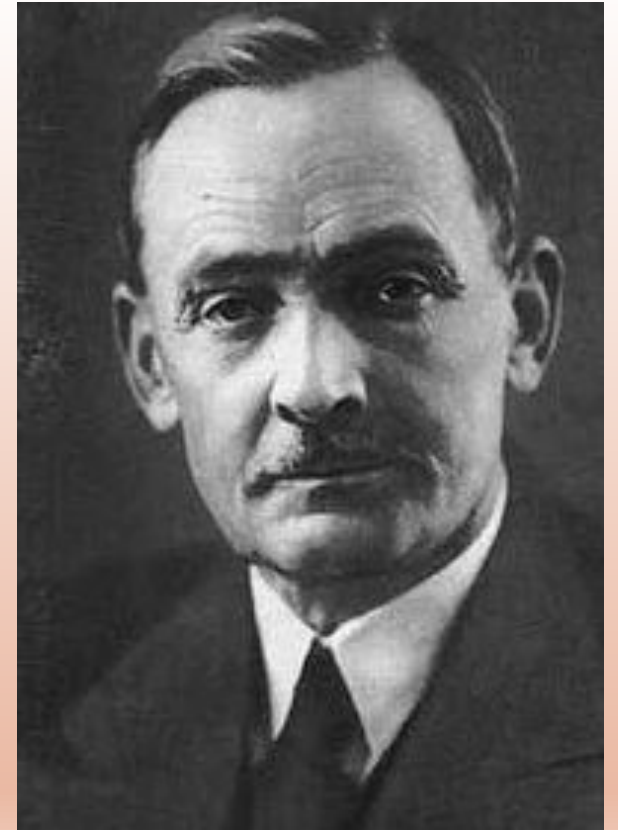
Zmitrok Biadula was born Shmuel Yefimovich Plavnik on April 23, 1886 in the small town of **Pasadziec be** (now in **Lahoysk District, Minsk Region**) to a Jewish family. He began writing **Hebrew** poems at age 13, based on medieval **liturgical poetry**. He later started writing in **Russian** and **Belarusian**, publishing works in the Saint Petersburg press and the Vilnius magazine *Mołodyje Porywy*. In 1910 he published poetic prose in *Nasha Niva*. Following the Soviet takeover of Belarus, he began writing novels in the **Socialist realist** genre.



---

# Yanka Kupala

Kupala was born on July 7, 1882, in [Viazynka](#), a [folwark](#) settlement near [Maladzyechna](#). His family was noble, although both of his parents were employed as tenant farmers at the [folwark](#). Kupala was thus essentially born into a landless peasant class. He received a traditional Belarusian education, completing his studies in 1898. Following the death of his father in 1902, Kupala worked a variety of short-term jobs, including as a tutor, a shop assistant, and a record keeper.



---

# Yakub Kolas

Yakub KOLAS, the classic writer of Belarusian and world literature, one of the founders of modern Belarusian literature and literary Belarusian language. A poet, playwright, prose writer, publicist, translator, teacher, public figure.

The real name of Yakub Kolas is Kanstantsin Mikhailavich Mitskevich. He was born on **3 November 1882** (new style) at the farmstead of Akinchitsy, Minsk district, Minsk province (now the town of Stoubtsy, Minsk region), baptized Orthodox. His parents, Mikhail Kazimiravich and Ganna Yurieuna (nee Liosik), came from a peasant stock of Mikalaeushchyna, 12 km from Stoubtsy. Of thirteen children born into the family only nine reached the adult age. His father was a forest warden for Prince Radziwill; mother, a housekeeper. Soon after Kostus (as they called him at home) was born, the family moved to the farmstead of Lastok (also called Sukhoshchyna). In the years 1890-1904 the Mitskevichs lived at the forest homestead of Albuty near Mikalaeushchyna.



# Symbols of Belarus

---

## Zubr

Zubr in Belarus is not only a representative of a rich and diverse animal world, but also its informal symbol. In ancient times, this powerful and majestic animal our ancestors personified with the forces of nature and worshiped him as a symbol of his native land. However, over time, everything has changed, and from the three existing species of this bull to this day only one has been preserved.



---

# Aist

Aist. Unofficial symbol of Belarus. In the Belarusian language, the name of the bird - Bousel. A revered bird, a bird of fate, a harbinger of happiness and well-being, is considered a spiritual spirit of the house, bringing the inhabitants of PLA and prosperity. Belarusians believe that the courtyard, where storks build their nest, prosperous, people in it live happily and rich. If the birds left the nest, it was considered a rapid adverse events.



Thanks for the attention!

---

Abilov Farid

Kuznetsov Alexander