



Belarus, Mir Castle

Discover Belarus

Privately escorted tour - 9 days/8 nights

Belarus is one of those enigmatic destinations still waiting to be discovered. Nestled between Russia, Ukraine, Poland and the Baltic States, a visit to Belarus can easily be combined with one or more of its neighbours. Once you travel outside the capital Minsk, Australian travellers are a rarity. This tailor-made itinerary features the must-sees such as Mir and Nesvizh Castles, Brest Fortress and Khatyn, whilst allowing you free time in Minsk to explore independently. The itinerary is completely flexible and can be tailored to your own interests. A highlight for nature-lovers is the opportunity to explore and stay in the World Heritage-listed Belovezhskaya Pushcha National Park. Its primeval forests are home to bear, elk, deer, wolves, lynx and the endangered European bison. For those seeking a more rural experience, we are able to offer homestays in the countryside. And for Australian travellers there is the added convenience of being able to obtain your visa before departure, through the recently opened Embassy of Belarus in Canberra.

visit the imposing Brest Fortress which played a significant role in WWII and is an important site in Belarusian history. Late afternoon head north to the UNESCO-listed Belovezhskaya Pushcha National Park, one of the oldest forests in Europe and jointly administered by Poland. Overnight at a hotel complex within the park. **BL**

Day 6 Belovezhskaya Pushcha

Inhale the amazingly pure air of the National Park as you explore its primeval forest. See the 600-year-old oak tree and observe the rare European bison, elk and deer at close quarters on a safari ride. You will also visit the park's excellent museum. Overnight Belovezhskaya Pushcha. **BL**

Day 7 Belovezhskaya Pushcha to Jirovichi Monastery & Nesvizh

After breakfast, drive north to visit the Jirovichi Monastery - the largest Orthodox monastery in Belarus. This popular place of pilgrimage for believers contains a sacred icon of the Virgin Mary. After lunch at a local restaurant, visit the UNESCO-listed Nesvizh Castle. Surrounded by a park with ornamental gardens and lake, the spectacular castle is one of the most visited sites in the country. It was founded by the immensely wealthy Radzivil family in the 16th century and their ownership continued for 400 years. Overnight Nesvizh Castle. **BL**

Day 8 Nesvizh to Minsk

Morning sightseeing of Nesvizh Castle. After lunch in the castle, return to Minsk. Afternoon free. Overnight Minsk. **BL**

Day 9 Minsk

Tour services end after breakfast with a transfer to the airport or rail station. **B**

Tour price & departures

Prices shown per person in AUD.
Daily departures Jan-Dec 2017.

Departures	Twn	Sgl
1 Jan-31 Dec	3622	POA

Inclusions

- 8 nights accommodation with breakfast in 4-star or best available hotels
- Meals - 7 lunches
- Arrival/departure transfers by car
- Transportation by A/C car
- Escorted throughout by **English speaking** guide
- Sightseeing - City tours of Minsk, Brest & Fortress; Khatyn Memorial, Dudutki open-air folk museum, Mir Castle, Belovezhskaya Pushcha National Park and Museum, Jirovichi Monastery, Nesvizh Castle

Your hotels

- **Minsk** - Minsk (*luxe room*)
 - **Mir Castle** (*luxe room*)
 - **Belovezhskaya Pushcha** hotel complex (*deluxe room*)
 - **Nesvizh Palace** (*superior room*)
- Hotels of a similar standard may be substituted.*

Day 1 Minsk

Arrive Minsk. You will be met and transferred to your hotel. Evening welcome meeting with your guide/escort. Overnight Minsk.

Day 2 Minsk & Khatyn

Morning sightseeing of Belarus' capital city. You will visit Independence Square

with its collection of magnificent Stalinist buildings, Victory Square and the Island of Tears, a monument to the fallen soldiers of the Soviet campaign in Afghanistan, and the Old Town. Relax over lunch at a local restaurant. Continue to the extremely moving memorial complex at Khatyn to learn about its tragic WWII history. Overnight Minsk. **BL**

Day 3 Minsk & Dudutki

This morning, travel 40 km into the countryside to visit the Dudutki open-air national craft museum. Set in an unspoilt location, the centre comprises an authentic collection of workshops producing pottery, linen, leather, honey, bread and even its own vodka. Return to Minsk for some free time to explore independently or take an optional tour of the Museum of the Great Patriotic War. Overnight Minsk. **BL**

Day 4 Minsk to Mir Castle

After breakfast, check out of your hotel and drive 90 km south-west to the Museum Town of Mir to visit the 16th century Mir Castle Complex. The imposing UNESCO-listed castle/fortress is dramatically situated overlooking a lake. After lunch at a local restaurant, you will have free time to explore the village and surroundings. Overnight Mir Castle. **BL**

Day 5 Mir to Brest & Belovezhskaya Pushcha

Today you drive to Brest - the western gate of the country. After your city tour,

