

Cafés

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Hotels



2014 Ice Hockey World Championship: game schedule

An updated city map





Jewelry & Watches

Nezavisimosti ave., 154 «Korona» • V.Khoruzhei str., 6 «Zerkalo» • Goretskogo str., 2 «Gippo» Dolginovsky trakt str., 178 «All» • Nemiga str., 12a «ELATIO» • Komsomolskaya str., 9 Sharangovicha str., 25 «Magnit» • Mayakovskogo str., 146 «Rublevsky» • P.Glebki str., 5 «Skala»

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ESSENTIAL CITY GUIDES

5

11

12

14

17

28

City map

Country map

Contents

Keeping in touch

Ε

Arriving in Minsk	
Are we there yet?	

Basics	7
ssential information, from alcohol to visas	
listory	10

Some useful background information	
Mail & phones	

Culture & Events Galleries, theatres, events and more

2014 Ice Hockey World Championship

Where to stav A bed for all budgets

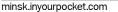
Dining & Nightlife

Restaurants	20
A roll call of recommended eateries	

Cafés Where to find the best espresso



Sports complex Chizhovka Arena. The venue for the games of the 2014 IIHF Ice Hockey World Championship Group «A», a capacity of 10 000 spectators





Sports complex Minsk Arena The venue for the games of the 2014 IIHF Ice Hockey World Championship Group «B», a capacity of 15 000 spectators

Nightlife Drinking, dancing and other after-dark treats	32
Sightseeing What to see Travel Agencies Unmissable Minsk	37
Getting around When legs just aren't enough	43
Directory Shopping Lifestyle Health Business Where to partake and observe	46 49 52 54
Maps Street index	57

60

62

4

Hello! We are happy to see you in our city. For about 15 years, *Minsk In Your Pocket* has been doing its best to keep you informed about the city's tourist attractions, its history, hotels, museums, parks, and architecture. We've been trying to keep you posted on what's happening in the city, on cultural events taking place in the Belarusian capital, on best places to eat out and have a good time. In these years, Minsk has seen hundreds of new cafes and restaurants opened, it has changed its architectural profile and has turned into an up-to-date and bustling European city. We pride ourselves on having given advice to thousands of visitors. In turn, visitors to Minsk have given us invaluable comments, tips and updates; their feedback has been much appreciated.

This year, from May 9th to 25th, Minsk hosts 2014 lee Hockey World Championship. In this issue of our guidebook you will find a schedule of games of the championship, plans of Minsk Arena and Chizhovka Arena, information on the fan zones and other useful information. We hope you'll enjoy this sporting event and have agood time in our city! Write e-mails to our address **minsk@inyourpocket.com**, share your impressions of Minsk, the city environment and service using our portal **www.inyourpocket.com/belarus/minsk**. And remember, *Minsk In Your Pocket* is always there for you: if you want a consultation, call anytime (+375 17) 331 34 52 or (+375 29) 678 27 79. Minsk is looking forward to seeing you again!

Cover story



The 2014 Ice Hockey World Championship mascot – bison VOLAT – can be seen in Minsk streets around the city at the time of the tournament.

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In Your Pocket.

Editorial

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The World of In Your Pocket



It's now 22 years since we published the first *In Your Pocket* guide – to Vilnius in Lithuania – in which time we have grown to become the largest publisher of locally produced city guides in Europe. We now cover more than 100 cities across the continent (with **Gudauri**, in Georgia, the latest city to be pocketed) and the number of concise, witty, well-written and downright indispensable *In Your Pocket* guides published each year is approaching five million. We will be expanding even further this year, with the publication of a guide to **Johannesburg**: our first outside of Europe. To keep up to date with all that's new at *In Your*

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Editor's note

The editorial content of in Your Pocket guides is independent from paid-for advertising. Sponsored listings are clearly marked as such. We welcome all readers' comments and suggestions. We have made every effort to ensure the accuracy of the information at the time of going to press and assume no responsibility for changes and errors.

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 Дрибас А.П., Страшнова Е.И., фото, 2014
 Государственный комитет по имуществу Республики Беларусь, картоснова, 2014
 Квадограф, составление, 2014 Arriving in and getting around Minsk are fairly simple affairs once you understand the basics. Accordingly, travelling further afield is relatively painless if you're prepared to do your research beforehand and use some sign language when using buses and trains. Car rental is relatively cheap by Western standards.

By bus

Minsk is served by two international bus stations, namely Tsentralny (Central) and Vostochny (Eastern). Check which one you'll be arriving at when you buy your ticket.

Getting to town Tsentralny is located next to the train station. See Arriving by train for more information. Vostochny is out in the suburbs. Getting to the city centre from it is complicated for anyone who doesn't speak Russian, involving multiple stops and boundless possibilities to get seriously lost. A taxi is by far the best bet.

By car

Driving in Belarus is generally much better than it used to be, and certainly less fraught with danger than in some of its EU neighbours. There's a risk of receiving on-the-spot fines' from traffic police, so stay within the speed limits. Road signs are in Belarusian only with the exception of the M1 (E30) Brest-Minsk highway. At the border it's necessary to fill out a declaration on your car and buy Belarusian vehicle insurance which is cheap, but be sure you have the money in cash (Russian roubles, US dollars and euros only). There may not be controls at the border coming in from Russia, but there could be sporadic checks.

You'll have to pay a toll for using the Brest–Minsk highway and some other major roads unless your vehicle is registered within the Customs Union (Belarus, Russia, Kazakhstan). When using a recently introduced **BeIToII** system, drivers are expected to pay the following amounts: €0.04 per km for motor vehicles weighing less than 3.5 tons and €0.08 per km for motor vehicles weighing over 3.5 tons. Do not forget to register with the **BeIToII** system and get an electronic on-board unit – in advance! It can be done either at **BeIToII** Customer Service Points or via the **BeIToII** website **www.**

Toll Roads, with effect from July 1st, 2013

Road sections, km	Toll section, km
1-609	609
15 – 42	27
9-41	32
16 – 74	58
21 - 65	44
12 - 57	45
	sections, km 1-609 15-42 9-41 16-74 21-65

beltoll.by. Registration is free of charge; however, in addition to the mileage fee, a deposit is required to get the on-board unit, depending on the vehicle weight: €20 for vehicles under 3.5 tons and €50 for vehicles (heavy vehicles, buses) over 3.5 tons. Amounts are to be paid in BYR at the exchange rate of the National Bank on the day of payment. When you no longer need the on-board unit, give it back at any BelToll Customer Service Point in exchange for your deposit; make sure the device has escaped any damage!

BelToll Border Distribution Points (check their location at http://www.beltoll.by/en/customer-servicepoints/border-distribution-points.aspx) as well as Customer Service Points found in regional centers and at petrol stations along the toll roads provide information about the BelToll system, account related services (including account registration and signing of contracts, termination of Customer Contract and on-board unit return handling, etc.).

In the event of a breakdown trouble, call tel. 116.



Minsk Central Train Station



Service Center CLUB SV (Highly comfortable area) Open daily from 07.00 to 23.00

Admission payable For passengers with SV (First Class) tickets free stay at the Service Center within three hours on the day of arrival or departure Privokzalnaya sq., 5, Minsk The Railway Station Building, second floor

Trains



tel. (+375 17) 225-00-52

fax. (+375 17) 225-52-00

By plane

Minsk has two airports, the tiny and hardly used Minsk-1 in the city centre and the larger National Airport Minsk (Minsk-2), where the majority of international flights arrive and depart.

Minsk-1

A classic Socialist Realist building not dissimilar to the façade of the nearby airport in Vilnius, Minsk-1, some 3km south of the centre, hardly qualifies as an airport at all. A currency exchange and café are the only services.

Getting to town Taxis can be found parked outside gates N°5 and 6. If you're quoted more than €25 for a ride into the city centre you're literally and metaphorically being taken for a ride. Bus N°3003 goes to Tsentralny (Central) bus station with only one stop close to the National Library (in Uruchie). Pay the driver currently about 30,000 BYR. Buses run between around 04:15 and 01:00.

National Airport Minsk (Minsk-2)

The city's main international airport, National Airport Minsk (Minsk-2), is located 42 km north-east of the city. Once you go through the usual customs torture, you end up at the arrivals hall on the first floor. The currency exchange, directly opposite, usually operates when flights arrive. Otherwise, head to the larger one on the second floor (Open 09:00 - 13:00, 13:30 - 20:00). An ATM is located on the third floor, next to departure



Central Train Station (Центральный вокзал) E-3, Privokzalnava pl. 5 (Привокзальная пл., 5), tel. (+375 17) 225 70 00, 150. Tickets to domestic destinations are sold in the two narrow halls that flank the main entrance. International tickets, for some reason, are still sold in the old train station building (Open 09:00 - 20:00) to the right as you face the new building. Call tel. (+375 17) 225 70 00 for information about international trains, or tel. 105 for any train-related enquiries. When looking for your train, keep in mind that there are platform numbers and track numbers, so there could be two trains on the same platform. Check the signs carefully if you don't want to end up in Izhevsk. The train station is packed with kiosks selling everything from flowers to instant noodles. People travelling First Class can take advantage of the VIP lounge.

gate N°1. For public telephones, long distance calls, Internet and post, head to the post office on the third floor.

Getting to town Taxis can be found parked outside gates N°5 and 6. If you're quoted more than €25 for a ride into the city centre you're literally and metaphorically being taken for a ride. Bus N°300 goes to both bus stations in the city. Pay the driver currently about 20,000 BYR. Buses run between around 04:15 and 01:00.

By train

Minsk's gleaming train station is a tribute to the modernity of Belarus, and proof that no matter how much money you spend you can still come up with something just as chaotic as the old train station. It does have the welcoming look of a shopping mall though, and if you follow the pictographic signs you shouldn't get lost. Currency exchange can be found at the top of the escalator. Find public telephones accepting chip cards on the ground floor and in the basement. The basement also contains public toilets (currently 4000 BYR) and a large, 24 hr left luggage room.

Getting to Town Minsk-Passazhirsky station is in the centre of city, so walking might be an option. Otherwise, head to the basement level and follow the underground passage, which eventually leads to the entrance of the Ploschad Lenina Metro station (see Public transport). Otherwise, take one of the taxis parked in the immediate area (see Taxis). To be safe, go for one of the yellow, state-run taxis or a private one with 135, 157, 158 or 181 displayed on the car. Be sure they turn on the meter.

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Alcohol

As one would expect to find in this part of the world, vodka is essentially the Belarusian national drink. Local brands are inexpensive and generally very good. Three to watch out for are Bulbash (Бульбашъ), Minsk Kristal (Минск Кристалл) and Belalco (Белалко). For men, knocking back ice-cold shots in one is considered the correct way to drink. Mixing vodka is looked on as being somewhat unmanly. Belarusian beer comes in all shapes and sizes from the mass-produced brands such as Krinica (Криница) to the more interesting ales such as the live Beaver Dark (Бивер Темное) and the light Lidskoye Beloye (Лидское Белое). Minsk has three orfour microbreweries worth investigating. See the Nightlife section of this guide for more information. The choice of imported beers, wines and spirits is fairly good, although prices are high, especially so for imported wines.

Nostalgia

Politics and business aside, like its neighbour Russia, Belarus is still very much visually as it was during Soviet times. Statues, hammers and sickles and many other remnants of Soviet art and architecture are in abundance, especially so in the capital. Minsk was almost entirely destroyed during WWII and was rebuilt along strict Socialist-Realist lines. Visitors looking for the ultimate Soviet-era ostalgie experience won't be disappointed.

Crime & Safety

The streets of Minsk are among some of the safest in Europe, although that shouldn't stop visitors from exercising caution as they would in any other large metropolis. The city is policed by an armed militia who effectively do the work of an ordinary police force and who, when we've needed them, have been the epitome of courtesy. Having said that, people should be careful around any public demonstrations. The best option in such circumstances is to stay well away.

Customs

The rules governing what you can bring in and out of Belarus get increasingly complicated the more people you ask. To the best of our knowledge, the current situation is that non-residents can import, tax free and undeclared, a maximum of US\$10,000 in cash, 3 littes of alcoholic beverages, including beer (if you exceed the limit, you'll have to pay the fee of €10 per 1 litte for the amount that is over the allowed quantity); 200 cigarettes or 50 cigars (cigarillos) or 250 grams of tobacco or tobacco products in the range. The restrictions on the amount of imported food and pieces of jewelry have been currently eliminated. You can bring in one video-recording or video-playing device, three

National holidays

January 1	New Year's Day
January 7	Orthodox Christmas
March 8	International Women's Day
March 15	Constitution Day
May 1	Labour Day
May 9	Victory Day
July 3	Independence Day
October 16	Mother's Day (2011)
November 1-2	Dzyady (Remembrance Day)
November 7	Revolution Day
December 25	Catholic & Protestant Christmas

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Basic data

Population

Belarus 9,503,800 Minsk 1,850,000

Ethnic composition (Belarus, 2009)

Belarusians 83.7% Russians 8.3% Poles 3.1% Ukrainians 1.7% Others 3.2%

Territory

207,595 square kilometres. Predominantly flat, landlocked country. Fertile lowland with around 11,000 lakes. Slightly smaller than Great Britain.

Borders

Latvia 143 km Lithuania 462 km Poland 399 km Russia 990 km Ukraine 975 km.

Longest river

Dnieper (Belarusian, Dnyapro). One of the longest rivers in Europe, the Dnieper rises in the Valdai Hills of Russia and flows south 2,201 km through Russia, Belarus, and Ukraine before emptying into the Black Sea.

Largest lake

Naroch 79.6 square kilometres

Highest point

Dzerzhinskaya gora (гора Дзержинская) 345 m

items of leather or fur clothing and four tyres (surplus to the ones attached to your car if you're arriving by road, we assume). But do not forget about the existing restrictions, the total weight of the goods you are allowed to bring in is 50 kg with the cost no more than €1,500 (or €10,000 for those who travel by air). If the imported goods cost more than €1,500 (€10,000 for air travellers), you have to pay a 30% customs duty on the extra amount, which can be at least €4 per 1 kg. When leaving the country, you can take out up to 500 g of gold and 5 kg of silver. Anecdotal evidence also suggests that you should avoid trying to take out icons, antiques or any works of art without the correct paperwork. For more information visit the State Customs Committee website at www.gtk.gov.by/en.

Disabled travellers

There's a long way to go before Minsk and the rest of Belarus is equipped to deal with disabled travellers. All new and renovated buildings must incorporate wheelchair-access into their design, and the capital's newer buses and trolleybuses have low entries for wheelchair users.

Electricity

Belarusian electricity flows out of standard European twopin sockets at 220v AC, 50Hz. Adaptors are not easy to find, and bringing your own is advisable.

Floors

Like the citizens of the United States, the Belarusians consider the floor at street level to be the first floor, and so on.



The people

The residents of Minsk are some of the friendliest people you'll ever come across. All you have to do is stand on a street corner and look confused and some affable local will probably come to your aid. Many younger people speak English and will be happy to give directions, read signs, take photographs, help you use the Metro and so on. While few restaurant and bar staff speak English, they're generally very obliging. If there's a place in town with grumpy people and bad service, we just couldn't find it. Even the once infamous border crossing is less hostlie. As for socialising, it's very easy in Minsk. Many locals are still delighted to meet and interested to talk to foreigners.

Language

Belarusian is an East Slavic language similar to Russian, is written using the Belarusian Cyrillic alphabet and is

Travel agency «Planet travel» 8-23 Gorodskoy Val, Minsk, Republic of Belarus +375 17 228 1818 (fax), +375 17 219 03 69 www.planet-travel.by e-mail: office.olirti@vp.by

- Recovery and excursions in Belarus
 Incoming
- Booking hotels and buses tickets
 Hunting
- Week-end in Russia (Moscow, St. Petersburg, Golden Ring)
 Group buses trips over Europe
- Visas for Shengen zone, USA, Canada
- Children summer camps in Bulgaria

spoken by less than 40% of the country's population. Both Belarusian and Russian enjoy equal official status in Belarus, although Russian is by far the dominant of the two. Street signs and metro stations are almost without exception written in Belarusian. Outside of Minsk, Belarusian is more widely spoken, with Polish also used further to the west. Staff in many bars, hotels and restaurants speak at least a little English, although many menus in town remain in Russian only.

Local time

At the time of going to press, Belarus is at UTC/GMT +3hrs. When it's 12:00 in Minsk it's 04:00 in New York, 09:00 in London, 10:00 in Warsaw and 13:00 in Moscow. Unlike most European countries, the Belarusians won't be putting the clocks forward by an hour at the end of March. Accordingly, from then on when it's 12:00 in Minsk it's going to be 05:00



Minsk In Your Pocket	

FULL TRA	VEL SERVICE:
 visa support transfers 	to Belarus
 accomodation excursion rent a car ecotourism 	«24-hours for you!»
Ostcom-Odigitria ostcom@yandex.by	+37517 2882511 +37529 1515510

in New York, 10:00 in London, 11:00 in Warsaw and 13:00 in Moscow until the last Sunday of October when the first set of times will again be relevant.

Money & Costs

The Belarusian rouble (BYR) comes in denominations of 50, 100, 500, 1,000, 50,000, 10,000, 20,000, 50,000, 100,000 and 200,000. Be careful not to confuse them during cash transactions. Currency exchange offices and ATMs can be found throughout Minsk. Outside the capital and the larger towns and cities, cash should always be carried. Minsk is far from being the cheap city it used to be. Choosing where to eat and drink can save considerable amounts of money, although finding a budget place to stay is almost impossible. A good night out for two in Minsk including a meal in a posh restaurant followed by drinks in a bar and a club to finish off won't leave you with much change, if any change at all, from €100.

Religion

The majority of believers in Belarus belong to the Russian Orthodox Church, with smaller communities of Catholics, Protestants, Jews and Muslims also existing. Women should cover their heads when entering a Russian Orthodox Church.

Service

Belarus doesn't disappoint when it comes to indifferent service, especially among public sector workers. As a rule, privately-owned business are much friendlier although the sort of polished service one expects to find in the sophisticated capital cities of western Europe is generally lacking here. Tipping, if deserved, is fairly common, with 10% or a rounding up of the bill considered the norm.

Smoking

Smoking is permitted in bars, clubs, restaurants, hotels and most public spaces although many restaurants provide a no-smoking section. Locally-produced Western brand cigarettes are available and are considerably cheaper than in the West.

Toilets

Public toilets and those in restaurants, bars etc are getting better all the time, although there's still a long way to go in many establishments. Don't automatically expect toilet paper. In general, M marks the Gents and ${\rm K}$ the Ladies.

Changes in the system of city transport for the time of 2014 Ice Hockey World Championship

To move around Minsk one can take the subway, or chose one of the city's ground means of transportation – a taxi, a trolleybus, a bus or a tram. Starting from the beginning of 2014 Minsk residents and city guests can pay for a ride with disposable paper coupons and tokens (in the subway), as well as electronic plastic tickets – contactless smart cards, which are sold in specialized kiosks at public transport stops and subway stations. A ticket or a token for one ride costs 3700 BYR. Buses and trolleybuses are equipped with electronic punches (for paper coupons) and validators (for electronic tickets). For the time of the 2014 lce Hockey World Championship, Minsk will launch additional bus routes connecting the city centre with arenas and fan zones:

- Nº 1C, Nyamiha (Nemiga) Minsk Arena
- № 911, Bus station Central Minsk Arena
- № 912, Bus station Central Student Village (Fan-Village)
- № 913, Bus station Central Chizhovka Arena
- Nº 914, Minsk Arena Chizhovka Arena
- № 916, Minsk National Airport Student Village (Fan-Village)
- **Nº 919**, Minsk Arena Student Village (Fan-Village)
- № 920, Chizhovka Arena Student Village (Fan-Village)
- № 926, Metro station Avtozavodskaya Chizhovka Arena
- № 951, Railway station Loshitsa Chizhovka Arena
- № 10Д, Metro station Pushkinskaya Minsk Arena (trolleybus route)

Visas

With the exception of citizens of a small number of countries, all visitors to Belarus must have a valid visa. Visas can be obtained from any Belarusian consulate abroad or in some cases through a travel agency. Visas are also available at Minsk-2 airport around the clock, although just who's entitled to one is unclear. If there was a possibility to acquire a visa before you travelled you might possibly be refused entry. Visas issued at Minsk-2 must be paid for in cash. Visitors also require medical insurance valid for the duration of the time spent in Belarus. On arriving in Belarus, visitors are given an immigration card, which must be filled in twice. Half is subsequently taken away and the other half must be presented when leaving the country. A Belarusian immigration card is also valid for Russia if travelling onwards. There is no border control between Russia and Belarus. For more information, see the Belarusian Ministry of Foreign Affairs website at www.mfa.gov.by.

HISTORY 10

MAIL & PHONES

Human history in the region now known as Belarus dates back to the Stone Age. Belarusian identity began somewhat later with the migration of the East Slavs between the 6th and 8th centuries AD.

10th century

980AD Rogvold, Prince of Polotsk, controls a region that now makes up part of northern Belarus. The first written record of the Belarusian state.

11th century

1067 The first written record of Minsk (Менескъ) and the accepted year of the founding of the city. Minsk rapidly develops into a major regional centre of trade.

12th century

Belarus is incorporated into the Grand Duchy of Lithuania.

16th century

The foundation of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth (Rzeczpospolita Obojga Narodów) in **1569** effectively writes Belarus out of existence as a national entity.

18th century

Belarus is incorporated into the Russian Empire after the third partition of Poland in 1795. Minsk becomes a regional capital.

19th century

Intensified Russification between 1840 and 1850 leads to Nicholas I banning the Belarusian language and outlawing the use of the word Belarusia/Belarus. The region becomes known as the Northwestern Territory.

20th century

In the wake of the signing of the Treaty of Brest-Litovsk on March 3, 1918 the short-lived Belarusian People's Republic is declared three weeks later on March 25. By February 1919 Belarus finds itself in the middle of the Polish-Soviet War. The obscure Lithuanian-Belarusian Soviet Socialist Republic survives for several months in Belarus and eastern Lithuania before a Polish victory sees the country split in two after the Riga Peace Treaty of March 18, 1921. The western half goes to the Poles and, in December 1922, the eastern half including Minsk becomes a founding member of the Soviet Union. The German invasion of the Soviet Union that starts on June 22, 1941 in Belarus and that becomes the Great Patriotic War leaves over 30% of the population dead and nine out of 10 buildings in the capital destroyed. The Minsk Ghetto holds some 100,000 Jews of whom nearly all perish during the Holocaust. On July 3, 1944 Minsk is liberated by the Red Army as it begins its slow advance on Berlin. Belarus becomes a founding member of the United Nations in 1945. In 1961 Lee Harvey Oswald, alleged assassin of US President John F. Kennedy, lives in Minsk. At the 1972 Summer Olympics in Munich, 17-year-old Olga Korbut from Grodno raises several storms with her revolutionary gymnastic performances that see her winning a total of one silver and three gold medals. Minsk is awarded the title of Hero City on June 16, 1974. A series of explosions and a resulting fire at reactor four at the Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant in the then Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic send a plume of radioactive smoke into the atmosphere on April 26, 1986. The worst nuclear accident ever sees Belarus receive 70% of the radioactivity.

Independence & Beyond

1990

National sovereignty is declared on July 27.



1991

Independence is officially declared after the collapse of the hard-line putsch in Moscow on August 25. On December 8 the leaders of Belarus, Russia and Ukraine sign an agreement bringing into existence the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS). Minsk becomes the administrative centre. The Soviet Union is officially disestablished on December 26.

1992

Belarus introduces its own coupons to replace the Soviet rouble on May 20, leaving the rouble zone on June 1.

1994

On March 15 the Supreme Soviet adopts a new constitution. In the first free presidential elections on June 23 Alexander Lukashenko is elected president, taking office officially on July 20.

1995

In a national referendum on May 14 over 75% of the electorate says Yes to Russian becoming an official state language alongside Belarusian and the return of the old Belarusian Soviet insignia including the Soviet-looking flag without the hammer and sickle.

1996

President Lukashenko and Boris Yeltsin sign a treaty calling for a political union between Russia and Belarus on April 2. On May 24 Belarus and Russia sign a new unification deal ensuring freedom of the press and free activities for political parties. The treaty goes into effect on June 11, 1997.

2000

On January 26 Belarus ratifies a treaty on the formation of the Union State of Belarus and Russia

2001

President Lukashenko is elected for a second term on September 9.

2006

President Lukashenko is elected for a third term on March 19. The new Belarusian National Library building opens its doors to the public on June 16.

2010

President Lukashenko is elected for a fourth term on December 19. On December 21 the Belarusian Parliament ratifies documents forming the legal basis for a single economic area comprising Belarus, Kazakhstan and Russia.

The Minsk telephone code is +375 17

Like the rest of the world, Belarus has come a long way in the last decade when it comes to communications. Most hotels now boast some kind of Internet connection and many cafés and bars around the city provide free wireless Internet connections. The postal system and telephones, including mobile networks, work just fine.

Post

Central Post Office D-3, Nezavisimosti pr. 10 (просп. Независимости, 10), tel. (+375) 200 04 06, www.belpost.by. Head straight through to the main hall in the back to send letters, buy postcards and make photocopies. For telephone and telegraph services, head to the Peregovorny Punkt in Hall 1, on the left (Open 07:00 - 23:00). Also on the left is the Internet centre, where people queue to use 12 terminals. Open 08:00 - 20:00, Sat, Sun 10:00 - 17:00.

Express mail

DHL ul. Brestskaya 18 (Head Office) (ул. Брестская, 18), tel. (+375 17) 278 11 08, www.dhl.by. Also they have express centres at Pobediteley 5, tel. 289 30 68, and XXI Vek Business Centre, Nezavisimosti 169, tel. 228 73 60, both open 09:00 - 13:00, 14:00 - 18:00. Closed Sat, Sun; and at Central Post Office, Nezavisimosti 10, tel. 227 25 33. > Open 08:00 - 19:00. Closed Sun.

EMS D-4, Nezavisimosti pr. 10 (просп. Независимости, 10), tel. (+375 17) 222 65 11/(+375 17) 227 85 12, www.belpost.by. > Open 08:30 - 17:30, Sat, Sun 10:00 - 17:00.

FedEx (M&M Militzer & Münch) C-3, Pobediteley pr. 19 (просп. Pobediteley, 19), tel. (+37517) 226 99 09, callcenter@mum.by, www.mum.by. > Open 08:00 -20:00, Sat 08:00 - 16:00. Closed Sun.

TNT C-6, ul. Platonova 10 (ул. Платонова, 10), tel. (+37517) 294 80 00/(+37517) 284 90 44, info@tnt.by, www.tnt.by. TNT at Minsk-2 airport tel. 279 11 86. > Open 09:00 - 19:00. Closed Sun.

Belaru	sian Tele	ephone	Codes
Baranovichi	(+375) 163	Myadel	(+375) 1797
Bobruysk	(+375) 225	Naroch	(+375) 1797
Borisov	(+375) 1777	Nesvizh	(+375) 1770
Braslav	(+375) 2153	Novogrudok	(+375) 1597
Brest	(+375) 162	Novopolotsk	(+375) 214
Gomel	(+375) 232	Orsha	(+375) 216
Grodno	(+375) 152	Pinsk	(+375) 165
Kobrin	(+375) 1642	Polotsk	(+375) 214
Lida	(+375) 1561	Shklov	(+375) 2239
Minsk	(+375) 17	Slonim	(+375) 1562
Miory	(+375) 2152	Soligorsk	(+375) 174
Mogilev	(+375) 222	Vitebsk	(+375) 212
Molodechno	(+375) 176	Zhlobin	(+375) 2334
Mozyr	(+375) 2351	Zhodino	(+375) 1775

Free Emergency Calls

- 101 Fire and Rescue Service
- 102 Militia (Police)
 - 103 Ambulance Service
 - 104 Gas Network Emergency Service

UPS C-4, Muzykalny per. 3 (Музыкальный пер.3), tel. (+375 17) 328 55 80, www.ups.com. > Open 09:00 - 18:00, Closed Sat, Sun,

Mobile phones

BelCel C-5, ul. Zolotaya Gorka 5 (ул. Золотая Горка, 5), tel. (+375 17) 282 00 18, belcel@belcel.by, www.belcel.by. "Diallog" service providers. Also at Nezavisimosti 18, Nezavisimosti 42, Lenina 4. > Open 09:00 -21:00, Sat, Sun 10:00 - 18:00.

Life D-4, ul. Krasnoarmeyskaya 24 (ул. Красноармейская, 24), tel. (+375 17) 295 99 99. Turkish - Belarusian GSM company. Also at Nezavisimosti 18, Pobediteley 1, Yakuba Kolasa 35, National airport Minsk-2.

MTS Nezavisimosti pr. 95 (просп. Независимости, 95), tel. (+375 17) 237 98 98, info@mts.by, www.mts.by. Russian-Belarusian GSM company, operating in Belarus and covering a rather nice part of it. Also at Revoliutsionnaya 24b, Kalvariyskaya 60, Nezavisimosti, 6, Karla Marksa, 26. Open 09:00 - 21:00.

Velcom C-3, ul. Melnikaite 14 (Head office) (ул. Мельникайте, 14), tel. (+375 17) 222 49 01, info@velcom.by, www.velcom.by. The first GSM provider in Belarus with a very informative website. The information number is 222 49 01 for all offices, or just 411 from mobiles. Also at Kalvariyskaya 4, Nezavisimosty 60, Nezavisimosty 105, Partizansky 12, Varvasheni 73, Masherova 19, Internatsionalnaya 3. > Open 09:00 - 21:00.

Laptop login

Wireless

Several restaurants, cafés and bars around the city provide free wireless internet services. Alternatively, there are a number of paid services, among them one provided by Belarusian telecoms provider, Beltelecom (cards available from any Beltelecom outlet or post office) and another from byfly (www.byfly.by), the latter being extremely cheap and flexible. Dialup

The Belarusian telecoms provider Beltelecom also offers a simple dialup service, useful when no other means of logging on is available. Using a scratch card system with several different time limits, cards can be bought from any Beltelecom outlet, Belsoyuzpechat kiosk or post office in the city.

Telephone

Beltelecom D-4, ul. Engelsa 6, (ул. Энгельса, 6), tel. (+375 17) 217 10 05, www.beltelecom.by. National telecoms provider Beltelecom are the people to contact if you need a telephone line. They also provide a number of Internet services.

Much more than screaming cocktail bars, nostalgic Soviet sights and girls in miniskirts, Minsk is also remarkably well endowed in the culture department. Concerts are of an exceptionally high quality and cost next to nothing to attend, cinemas screen everything from underground classics to the latest Hollywood blockbuster and there's a number of very good galleries around too. If you're in town and you need a dose of serious culture, you won't be disappointed. Also check the Sightseeing section of this guide for more museums and galleries.

Cinemas

Autocinema (Авто кинотеатр) ul. Menkovsky Tract 2, Ozertso (ул. Меньковский тракт, 2, Озерцо). The only drive-in cinema in Minsk, complete with a 144 square-meter screen.

Belarus (Беларусь) С-3, ul. Romanovskaya Sloboda 28 (ул. Романовская Слобода, 29), @Frunzenskaya (Фрунзенская), tel. (+375 17) 209 40 34. Minsk's first multiplex. Five halls.

Moskva (Москва) С-3, Pobediteley pr. 13 (просп. Победителей, 13), tel. (+375 17) 203 14 48.

Октуарт (Октябрь) В-6, Nezavisimosti pr. 73 (просп. Независимости, 73), [MAkademiya Nauk (Академия Наук), tel. (+375 17) 292 94 26.

Роbeda (Победа) D-4, ul. Internatsionalnaya 20 (ул. Интернациональная, 20), tel. (+37517) 203 77 66. One of the city's oldest surviving cinemas specialising in serious cinema. Seasons include screenings of works by international directors as well as films from one specific country.

Tsentralny (Центральный) D-4, Nezavisimosti pr. 13 (просп. Независимости, 13), tel. (+375 17) 200 34 16.

Concert halls

Belarusian State Music Theatre (Белорусский государственный академический музыкальный театр) D-3, ul. Myasnikova 44 (ул. Мясникова, 44), tel. (+375 17) 200 81 26. Established in 1970, the extensive repertoire includes operettas, musicals, comic opera and more from home and abroad.

Belarusian State Philharmonic (Белорусская государственная филармония) B-5, Nezavisimosti pr. 50 (просп. Независимости, 50), MPloschad Yakuba Kolasa (Площадь Якуба Konaca), tel. (+375 17) 333 16 17. Comprising three separate concert halls, the Belarusian State Philharmonic hosts international festivals and contests alongside its own repertoire.

Minsk Arena (Минск Арена) Pobediteley pr. 111 (просп. Победителей, 111), tel. (+375 17) 254 77 36. When it's not putting on major sporting events the 15,000capacity Minsk Arena hosts live music concerts.

Minsk Concert Hall (Концертный зал Минск) E-4, ul. Oktyabrskaya 5 (ул. Октябрьская, 5), tel. (+37517) 328 66 38. A large, 1,300-seater for mostly pop and rock music concerts.

Раlace of the Republic (Дворец Республики) D-4, Oktyabrskaya pl. 1 (Октябрьская пл., 1), МОкtyabrskaya (Октябрьская), tel. (+375 17) 216 22 44,

Opera & Ballet

Belarusian National Opera & Ballet Theatre (Национальный академический Большой театр оперы ибалета) C-4, Parizhskoy Kommuny pl. 1

(пл. Парижской Коммуны, 1), tel. (+375 17) 334 10 41, www.belarusopera.by. The Belarusian Opera & Ballet Theatre began performances in 1933 although this building dates from considerably later. The repertoire is extensive and includes many classics.

www.palace.by. A wide range of concerts and performances. Other facilities include cafés, bars, billiards and a restaurant that puts on shows during the evenings.
 Implify

Cultural centres

Galleries

Galereya Mastatstva (Мастацтва Галерея) D-3, Nezavisimosti pr. 12 (просп. Независимости, 12), MPloschad Lenina (Площадь Ленина), tel. (+375 17) 327 83 63. A range of art and artsy souvenirs. ▶ Open 10:00 - 20:00, Sat, Sun 10:00 - 19:00. [@]

Modern Arts Gallery Y (Галерея современного искусства Ў) C-5, Nezavisimosti pr. 37a (просп. Независимости, 37a), tel. (+375 17) 284 53 99. A small space inside the same building as the former Moloko bar, exhibitions are temporary and very contemporary. Despite the address, find this place hidden away through a gap in the buildings well away from the main street.

Verkhny Gorod (Верхний город) С-4, Svobody pl. 5 (пл. Свободы, 5), tel. (+375 17) 203 45 47. The "Upper Town" Gallery exhibition – paintings and sculptures by modern Belarusian artists. → Open 10:00 - 19:00, Sat 10:00 - 18:00. Closed Sun.

City Art Gallery of L. Shemelev's Artworks (Городская художественная галерея произведений Л. Щемелева) Rokossovskogo pr., 49 (просп. Рокоссовского, 49), tel. (+37517) 29116 76. In one of the two Art Gallery halls there are changeable art exhibitions, in the other hall – the constant exhibition of People's Artist of Belarus – Leonid Shchemelev. → Open Tue – Sat 11:00 - 19:00.

Kontseptsiya (Концепция) D-4, ul. Karla Marxa 20/9, (ул. Карла Маркса, 20/9), tel. (+375 17) 327 17 96. Gallery of Modern Art and young talents'creative workshop. » Open 10.00 - 19.00. Closed Sun.

Theatres

Belarusian Republican Young Spectator Theatre (Белорусский Республиканский театр юного зрителя) D-4, ul. Engelsa 26 (ул. Энгельса, 26), tel. (+375 17) 327 09 34, www.beltuz.by. With its origins in the early 1930s, this recommended theatre gives a space to young writers and performers.

Belarusian State Puppet Theatre (Белорусский государственный театр кукол) D-4,

ul. Engelsa 20 (ул. Энгельса, 20), MKupalovskaya (Кулаловская), tel. (+37517) 327 05 32. A marvellous institution staging performances of all kinds for children and adults alike.

Yanka Kupala National Academic Theatre (Национальный академический театр им. Янки Купалы) D-4, ul. Engelsa 7 (ул. Энгельса, 7), (Мкираlovskaya (Купаловская), tel. (+375 17) 327 60 81. An established theatre company staging classics from home and abroad. Language: Belarusian.

National Art Museum

D-4, ul. Lenina 20 (ул. Ленина, 20), [MOktyabrskaya (Октябрьская), tel. (+375 17) 328 68 44/(+375 17) 327 71 63, www.artmuseum.by.

Minsk's fabulous National Art Museum, or the National Art Museum of the Republic of Belarus to give it its full title, holds the largest single collection of Belarusian and international art in the country and is a must-see sight for anyone visiting the city. Holding individual collections of Belarusian Art from the 12th to the 20th Century, Russian Art from the 18th to the 20th Century, Western European Art from the 16th to the 20th Century and Oriental Art from the 15th to the 20th Century, the museum's origins date back to before the war and a Resolution of the Council of People's Commissars of the Belarusian Soviet Socialist Republic, passed on January 24, 1939, its official founding date. Starting life in the humble surroundings of Minsk's Upper Communist Agricultural School, by 1941 the museum's collection numbered 2,711 works of art, most of them donated by galleries in cities in Russia and Belarus. The coming of the Great Patriotic War however saw the collection looted by the occupying Nazis and spread far and wide, with not one item remaining and almost nothing recovered at the end of hostilities.

Starting from new, like the city in which it was housed, the collection was rebuilt from scratch with the notable work of the museum's Director, Elena Aladova (1907-1986) who



minsk.inyourpocket.com

Minsk State Circus

D-4, Nezavisimosti pr. 32 (просп. Независимости, 32, tel. (+375 17) 327 88 23

The origins of the Minsk State Circus date to 1930 and the construction of a tent in what's now Gorky Park. Today's building took four years to complete and was opened to the public on February 11, 1959. Completely renovated in 2010, the circus now also boasts a hotel for visiting performers and a museum.



ran operations for 33 years from 1944 until her retirement. After the war the museum moved from home to home as the collection slowly grew. Greatly extended in 2006 and possessing over 30,000 paintings, sculptures, drawings, porcelain and other works of art in total in its contemporary collection, the museum's current home dates from 1957 and was designed by the Belarusian architect Mikhail Baklanov (1914-1990). The museum manages to exhibit only a small fraction of its entire collection, none of it the work of a household name in the West (the absence of Marc Chagall continues to cause mild embarrassment for a few, but the museum really isn't any worse off without him), although much of it truly outstanding all the same.

Notable among the many great works on display are several landscapes by the French painter Huber Robert (1733-1808), some truly exquisite Chinese woodcarvings and Japanese ceramics, one or two outstanding pieces by the Jewish-Belarusian artist and Chagall's teacher Yehuda (Yuri) Pen (1854-1937) and a particular favourite, Mikhail Savitski's (1922-2010) extraordinary painting, Partisan Madonna, dating from 1967. Even the least cultured visitor with only a passing interest in art should give the museum at least an hour. More serious connoisseurs might like to give up half a day or so to the work on display. Afloor plan of the 19 halls that make up the entire exhibition can be purchased inside



Vol. 1. 2014

14 2014 ICE HOCKEY WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP

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2014 Ice Hockey World Championship in Minsk, visa requirements, rules of stay in Belarus. Changes to be put in place at the time of the tournament

The Ice Hockey World Championship will to be held in Minsk from the 9th to the 25th of May 2014. Starting from 25th April through 31^{et} May, a visa-free entry into the Republic of Belarus is granted to the official participants of the championship as well as foreign tourists. In case of transit through Russia, though, make sure you have a valid Russian visa.

The grounds for a visa-free Belarusian border crossing are as follows:

- An official accreditation by the International Ice Hockey Federation of the championship's participants
- An original or an electronic ticket to the 2014 World Championship game or games for tourists (note that it's required to show the ticket on the border both on entering and leaving the country).

Standard customs regulations are in force at a border crossing, while the championship participants and foreign tourists coming to watch the games of the tournament do not need the otherwise compulsory health insurance.

For more information, please visit the website of the State Border Committee of Belarus at http://gpk.gov.by.

Venues

The championship is held at two venues, **Minsk Arena** and **Chizhovka Arena**. Both sports complexes are within a 20minute ride from the city centre by public transport.

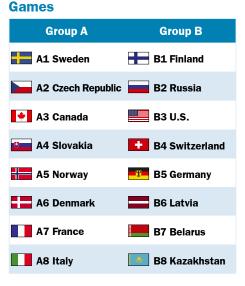
The **Minsk Arena** is located at 111 Pobediteley Prospect. The Arena seats 15,000 people. You can get to the **Minsk Arena** by bus – take number 1 or number 44, by trolley bus – number 10 or number 28, and by route taxi (the local term "marshrotka"). It's hard to miss the complex, the bus stop being, obviously, "The Minsk Arena".

There are a few parking areas nearby: a car park for 300 cars facing Stand B of the **Minsk Arena** complex and a multilevel parking for 1,080 cars in the rear of the Velodrome complex. The rate of one-time parking is 20,000 BYR.

The **Chizhovka Arena** is the other venue of the championship's games. The complex seats 9,600 people. The Arena is located on the banks of the Chizhovsky reservoir, on the opposite side of the city from the **Minsk Arena**.



Teams of 2014 Ice Hockey World Championship



You can get to the complex by bus – take numbers 22, 92, 917, 924, 926 from the metro station Avtozavodskaya.

Ticket prices for the 2014 Ice Hockey World Championship games range from 6 to 400 Euro.

On offer are one-game tickets and ticket packages for a number of games:

Event Ticket – The ticket for all games at one of the arenas of the tournament (including finals). Includes 34 games at the Minsk Arena or 30 games at the Chizhovka Arena.

Group Round Ticket – The ticket for all games of the preliminary round at one of the arenas of the tournament. Includes 28 games.

Day Ticket — The ticket for 2 games on a weekday or 3 games on a weekend day at one of the arenas of the championship.

Day Ticket BY — for citizens of Belarus only. The ticket gives admission to 2 games on a weekday or 3 games on the weekend at one of the arenas of the championship.



Schedule of 2014 Ice Hockey World Championship Games

Date, Day of the week	Local time, Minsk	Game Nº		oup A vka Arena	Game №		up B Arena
Friday 9/5/14	16:45 16:45 20:45 20:45	2 4	France Slovakia	Canada Czech Republic		 Switzerland Belarus 	Russia
Saturday 10/5/14	12:45 12:45 16:45 16:45 20:45 20:45	6 8 10	Italy Sweden Canada	Norway Denmark		Kazakhstan Finland U.S.	Germany Latvia Switzerland
Sunday 11/5/14	12:45 13:45 16:45 17:30 20:45 21:00	11 13 15	France Norway	Italy Denmark Czech Republic	14	Germany Belarus Finland	Latvia Kazakhstan
Monday 12/5/14	16:45 16:45 20:45 20:45	18 20	Slovakia Czech Republic	France	17 19	🛨 Switzerland	Belarus
Tuesday 13/5/14	16:45 16:45 20:45 20:45	22 24	Italy	Denmark	21 23	💶 Germany Kazakhstan	Finland
Wednesday 14/5/14	16:45 16:45 20:45 20:45	26 28	Czech Republic	Italy	27	+ Switzerland Russia	Germany
четверг 15/5/14	16:45 16:45 20:45 20:45	30 32	Canada	Denmark		U.S.	Latvia Belarus
Friday 16/5/14	16:45 16:45 20:45 20:45	34 36	Italy Sweden	Canada 🖳 🛀 Canada		Kazakhstan Finland	U.S.
Saturday 17/5/14	12:45 12:45 16:45 16:45 20:45 20:45	38 40 42	France Denmark Slovakia	Norway Czech Republic		Latvia Belarus • Switzerland	Russia Germany Kazakhstan
Sunday 18/5/14	16:45 16:45 20:45 20:45	44 46	Canada Czech Republic	Sweden	43 45	U.S.	Finland Germany
Monday 19/5/14	16:45 16:45 20:45 20:45	48 50	Denmark	France	47 49	Kazakhstan	Finland Belarus
Tuesday 20/5/14	12:45 12:45 16:45 16:45 20:45 20:45	52 54 56	Norway Denmark Czech Republic	Canada Slovakia	51 53 55	Germany Latvia Russia	U.S. Switzerland Belarus

	Playoff Round Quarterfinals	
Date	Local time, Minsk	Arena
22 May, Thursday	16:00	Chizhovka Arena
22 May, Thursday	17:00	Minsk Arena
22 May, Thursday	20:00	Chizhovka Arena
22 May, Thursday	21:00	Minsk Arena
	Semi-finals	
Date	Local time, Minsk	Arena
24 May, Saturday	14:45	Minsk Arena
24 May, Saturday	18:45	Minsk Arena
	Bronze Medal Game	
Date	Local time, Minsk	Arena
25 May, Sunday	16:30	Minsk Arena
	Gold Medal Game	

Date	Local time, Minsk	Arena
25 May, Sunday	21:00	Minsk Arena

Final Round Ticket – The ticket package for the final round of the tournament at the Minsk Arena. Includes 6 games. Single Game Ticket – The ticket for one game of the championship.

The Championship in Minsk will have two fan zones and three

Fans who've failed to get the tickets for the games of the

championship will be able to follow the games on big screens

Fan zones for hockey devotees

at the 2014 Ice Hockey World

Championship in Minsk

hospitality zones.

in the fan zones located next to the main venues, the **Minsk Arena** and the **Chizhovka Arena**.

The fan zones will have cafes and restaurants, shopping areas, kiosks and stands selling snacks, tea and coffee, soft drinks and beer (strong alcohol is not on sale). Entrance to the fan zones is free of charge. Fans will have a chance to join in various recreational activities, listen to the "songs" of the championship.

Hospitality zones

The hospitality zones will also host all sorts of entertainment activities, broadcast games and show their highlights. Fans will be able to buy championship-related souvenirs and enjoy the national Belarusian cuisine. The hospitality zones will be located :

- near the Palace of Sports in Pobediteley Prospect
- near the Student Village (Fan-Village) in Dzerzhinskogo
- Prospect (the palace will be open for ice skating and other entertainments)
- near the Ice Palace in Pritytskogo street (the palace will be open for ice skating and hosting various events)

The hospitality zone at the Student Village will be open until 3:00 a.m., two other zones – until 24:00.

On May 9th and in the period from 22nd to 25th May the hospitality zone near the Palace of Sports will have extended hours and will welcome its guests until 03:00 a.m. In May Minsk's shops will be open until 23:00, most restaurants will extend their opening hours to 06:00 a.m. To prepare the materials related to the 2014 Ice Hockey World Championship, we've used the information posted on the official websites of the Championship: http://www.lihfworlds2014.com

minsk.inyourpocket.com

http://www.icehockey-2014.com

Accommodation is usually the biggest expense in what's otherwise a relatively good value city. Luckily things are changing, and if you shop around a bit you can often find a reasonable deal on a decent room. The cheaper places tend to be out of the centre, although taxis remain cheap. Almost without exception, Minsk's hotels are state run. Registration is included in the price of the room.

Cream of the crop

Crowne Plaza Minsk (Краун Плаза Минск) D-4, ul. Kirova 13 (ул. Кирова, 13), MPloschad Lenina (Площадь Ленина), tel. (+375 17) 218 34 00, fax (+375 17) 200 80 60, www.cpminsk.com. Minsk's first international chain hotel sets new standards which will have some of its rivals seething with envy. The two-floor Presidential Suite, with its private lift and sauna, is the last word in luxury and will no doubt put up many a visiting head of state and megalomaniacal pop star. Standard rooms are also well furnished and equipped and come quite reasonably priced by Western standards. The Crowne Plaza's convenient central location and outstanding facilities, which include a swimming pool, fitness centre, spa, business centre, fine dining restaurant Dolce Vita and giltzy nightclub, should ensure it's regularly booked out. ▶ ③ ④ ① ① ① ① ① ① ① ① ①

Europe (Европа) D-4, ul. Internatsionalnaya 28 (ул. Интернациональная, 28), $\bigcirc Oktyabrskaya$ (Ormópъcкая), tel. (+37517) 229 83 39, fax (+37517) 229 83 34, info@hoteleurope.by, www.hoteleurope.by. The superbly located five-star Europe is one of Minsk's finest hotels. The lovely, atrium-like lobby includes a towering painting of Minsk in a quasi-historic style. The level of service is excellent, while the impressive facilities include a well equipped fitness centre and swimming pool, business centre, underground parking and five bars in which to unwind. The Europe also boasts some of the best views to be had in Minsk. \blacktriangleright 67 rooms: 13 singles €265, 11 doubles €310, 7 twins €353, 25 deluxe rooms €465, 9 suites €320, 1 apartment €588, 1 presedential suite €1150. () \bigcirc \bigcirc \bigcirc \bigcirc \bigcirc \bigcirc \bigcirc \checkmark \checkmark \checkmark \checkmark

Renaissance Minsk Hotel (Ренессанс Отель, Минск) Dzerzhinskogo pr., 1 E, (просп. Дзержинского, 1 E), tel. (+375 17) 309 90 99, fax (+375 17) 309 90 92, reservation@renaissance-minsk.by. In 2014 Minsk saw an opening of a high-class hotel - Renaissance - belonging to the Marriott chain. The ultra-modern building stands out from Minsk's hotels with its architecture and high-quality construction and finishing materials, which suggests impeccable taste and serious investment. The hotel offers 267 rooms equipped in line with the highest standards. Celebs, multimillionaires and government officials of high rank can enjoy the Presidential Suite, Ambassador and Senator Suites, and Penthouse - the epitome of luxury and comfort. We lesser mortals haven't been left out. Renaissance is also able to satisfy our most demanding tastes and are reasonably priced by Minsk's standards of high-end hotels. Renaissance Minsk Hotel provides the services of a hairdressing salon, a wellness and stress-relief programme, spa and fitness. There's a restaurant of Mediterranean cuisine, a few bars, a Russian bath and Finnish sauna, a swimming pool with Jacuzzi - in short, everything that's expected from a hotel of this brand. Immaculate service. Recommended! > 🛞 🛛 🖬 🚾 🕀 🖪 🖼 🚥

Upmarket

Minsk(Минск) D-3, Nezavisimosti pr. 11 (просп. Независимости, 11), MPloschad Lenina (Площадь Ленина), tel. (+375 17) 209 90 78,

Symbol key

🐼 Air conditioning	cc Credit cards accepted
🛃 Casino	🔢 Conference facilities
🛤 Child friendly	Facilities for the disabled
 Fitness centre 	Guarded parking
LAN connection	Non-smoking rooms
Restaurant	Central location
🛃 Sauna	😹 Swimming pool
A Fireplace	📼 Wireless Internet access
Smoking section	

fax (+375 17) 209 91 11, hotelminsk@pmrb.gov.by,

www.hotelminsk.by. Are we still in Minsk? This grand hotel with stylish subdued marble in the foyer and classy coffee-and-cream decor in all the rooms could have you believing that you are in any western city. Until you step out the door. Some rooms have views of the adjacent Independence Square, but all have satellite television, minibar, air conditioning and nice firm beds. The 'superior' rooms are worth considering for having even larger beds. Other facilities include a fitness and sauna centre (weights, cardio, green bubbling vat and both Turkish and Finnish style saunas), business centre and a helpful English-speaking guest relations person who will help you with just about anything. Breakfast included, and it's edible. \triangleright 252 rooms (singles US\$432, suites US\$432, builtes US\$432, suites US\$432, builtes US\$432, b

Mid-range

Belarus (Беларусь) В-3, ul. Storozhevskaya 15 (ул. Сторожевская, 15) tel./fax (+37517) 226 00 70, www.hotel-belarus.com, www.belarus-hotel.by. The best three-star hotel in Minsk, in our opinion. After a 3-year reconstruction, everything pleases the eye. All that attracted visitors back in the nineties has been retained, the general layout remained unchanged, but the interior's turned brighter, more optimistic. The cheerlessness of a Soviet hotel is gone, today's décor features warm colors, white marble, elegant stained glass, painting, moldings, sparkling crystal. There's a new dominant - a panoramic lift shaft on the front of the hotel. Belarus has 484 comfortable rooms (starting from 110 USD), two well-equipped conference halls for 240 and 35 people, meeting rooms, a gym, a swimming pool, a beauty salon and more. It can make short work of feeding any number of guests (800 at the maximum), with its two restaurants, a café and a few bars. The hotel has spacious parking, a Wi-Fi is accessible on the premises. Noiseless high-speed lifts carry guests from floor to floor, and a rooftop observation deck offers a bird's-eye panorama of Minsk. Service has also tuned in to the spirit of the times: the staff are more attentive, friendly and professional. Recommended! ▶ख़©♠₽Щఊ≋‱★★★

18 WHERE TO STAY



Call us on **+375 29 378 97 21** tell promo-code **«BonTime»** and get a discount 5% for accommodation in **BonHotel** Promo-code is valide till 31.12.2014 r.

BonHotel (БонОтель) ul. Pritytskogo 2 (ул. Притыцкого, 2) MPushkinskaya (Пушкинская), tel.: (+375 17) 389 7 389, (+375 17) 389 7 388, info@bonhotel.by, www.bonhotel.by. A new 9-storey hotel located in Minsk's dynamic area, it stands out from others, recently built in the city, thanks to its frugal elegance and balance. It seems the whole thing has been brought to Minsk directly from Stockholm or Oslo, along with its deco, accessories, and service. Carefully designed interior is far from being overloaded with details and invites to relax. The hotel has 127 rooms, including 6 deluxe rooms specifically for business-ladies. These rooms have king-size beds with ergonomic mattresses and good-quality linen made in Germany; bathrooms have fragrant Duran soaps and other toiletries, which proves BonHotel is a thoughtful gentleman offering ladies who arrive in the capital on a business trip an array of additional services. The hotel has a restaurant of original and European cuisine - BonBistro, cozy Lobbi Bar and BonConference - a modern conference complex which consists of two fully equipped meeting rooms. The hotel provides a wireless Internet access; its guests can use a dry cleaning service and a shoe cleaning machine, car rentals and free parking. BonHotel is one of the few hotels in Minsk with a fully barrier-free environment for people with disabilities. Recommended, without doubt! ▶ख़⊡ॎॎऻख़★★★

Garni (Гарни) B-4, ul. Internatsionalnaya 11 (ул. Интернациональная, 11), MNemiga (Немига), tel. (+375 17) 229 76 00. The new hotel Garni in the historic city centre is setting a new standard of comfort and service to the city's three-star hotels. It is fully restored to recreate the original exterior of Machiz, a 19th century hotel that belonged to a merchant, Soutin. The name Garni is also historic and comes from one of Minsk hotels located nearby. The designers did their best to convey the spirit of the epoch: interior decoration, furniture made to order, old pictures of the city streets and stained glass windows with views of the city's sights all recreate the atmosphere of the late 19th century. Garni can boast of well-trained and qualified personnel who speak foreign languages, the latter still being uncommon for Minsk. It has a nice restaurant, afully equipped business center, dry cleaning, Wi-Fi and other small pleasures of modern civilization. All taken in, Garni is a pleasant addition to Minsk's hotels, one of the best options in terms of price/quality relationship. \blacktriangleright 50 rooms: double rooms and suites. (PIII) Common the common strate suites.

Gubernsky (Губернский) С-3, ul. Osvobozhdenia 9 (ул. Освобождения, 9), MNemiga (Hемига), tel. (+375 17) 226 88 80. This new and cute mini-hotel is located in the Rakovsky suburb, within walking distance of Nyamiha street and Pobediteley Avenue, the hub of entertainment complexes, restaurants, casinos, shops and clubs to suit any taste. The hotel offers two categories of norms – standard and deluxe. Rooms are equipped with air conditioning, a mini-bar, a telephone, a plasma TV and a free internet access (Wi-Fi). Non-smoking rooms are also available. Buffet breakfast is served in the morning. ► 📆 @ [P] []] ★★★

Orbita (Орбита) С-1, Pushkina pr. 39 (просп. Пушкина, 39), MPushkinskaya (Пушкинская), tel. (+37517) 252 39 33/(+37517) 257 14 20. It's a bit trippy and will require a journey on the Metro to get there, but it offers a range of rooms from fair-value, clean and tidy basic business rooms to the most expensive hotel room in the country with its own gym and sauna. There's also a sauna and conference facilities for up to 50 persons. ▶ 200 rooms (41 singles US\$76-91, 140 doubles US\$85-137, 24 suites US\$190-200, 2 apartments US\$500).

Planeta (Планета) C-3, Pobediteley pr. 31 (просл. Победителей, 31), tel. (+37517) 226 78 55/(+37517) 203 85 87, fax (+37517) 226 77 80, booking@hotelplaneta.by, www.hotelplaneta.by. An absolutely marvellous hotel featuring the very best in what most hotels behind the former Iron Curtain gave up years ago. Still slightly struggling to come to terms with the 21^{ac} century, the staff are at least very friendly and most of them now speak good English. The rooms come in a number of different classes to suit all tastes and pockets, with the ones high up in the building boasting beautiful views of the river and city spread out below. Wireless Internet is available throughout the building and the breakfast, served inside a gorgeous room complete with brightly coloured Socialist Realist ceramic art, is ample. Recommended. \blacktriangleright 306 rooms (306 Total rooms).

Slavyanskaya (Славянская) ul. Narochanskaya 6 (ул. Нарочанская, 6), tel. (+375 17) 359 15 00, fax (+375 17) 359 15 01, info@slavyanskaya-minsk.by. Recently opened (2014) Slavyanskaya hotel is in Narochanskaya street, just across the street from Minsk Arena, the main venue for 2014 Ice Hockey World Championship, relating to the latter in a single architectural concept. The hotel refers to the three-star category and offers 108 single and double rooms and 12 two-roomed apartments. In total, it can accommodate about 250 guests, including those with disabilities - two comfortable rooms are at their disposal on the ground floor. The amenities include a restaurant with a bar and buffet facilities, a pub on the ground floor, currency exchange and an ATM, a hairdressing salon, as well as a business centre combined with a conference hall. The hotel offers a wireless Internet access, the convenience of open parking for 102 cars and a garage for 64 cars. ▶ඕ◙♠₽∰ゐ★★★

Sputnik (Спутник) ul. Brilevskaya 2 (ул. Брилевская, 2), tel. (+375 17) 220 36 19, www.sputnik-hotel.by. Inexpensive by Minsk's three-star standards, comfortable, conveniently located, Sputnik is a hotel with tradition, with the Soviet past, built in the early 60s in accordance with the architectural style typical of the time. The hotel has been completely renovated recently. Sputnik offers 136 rooms of all kinds, suites, junior suites, single and double standard and business class rooms, and rooms for people with disabilities. Guests have at their disposal a wireless Internet access, parking, luggage storage, a business center, a conference room, laundry, hairdresser's, beauty parlor, sauna. Restaurant specializes on Belarusian and European cuisine and serves buffet breakfast included into the price. ► [@] ★ ★ ★

Tourist (Турист) Partizansky pr. 81 (просп. Партизанский, 81), MPartizanskaya (Партизанская), tel. (+375 17) 295 40 31, fax (+375 17) 295 44 94. Located only four metro stops away from the city centre, Tourist's hard to miss. Good public transport connections, too. Partizanskaya metro station and overland transport stops are within 50 metres. Built in the Soviet era, it saw a large-scale reconstruction from 2005 through 2010 - the hotel fuses timeless Soviet style and modernity to create an entirely unique effect. The renovated rooms are now in line with three-star standards, on the pleasant side, the rates are lower than a three-star hotel average in Minsk (single rooms from 73 USD, double rooms from 95 USD). The 215 rooms all have TVs with cable channels, IDD telephones, an Internet access (Wi-Fi) and fridges. Suites and rooms on the 9th, 11th and 12th floors are air conditioned. Some are non-smoking floors. A package of high quality services: at your disposal are secured paid parking, luggage storage and a safety deposit box, currency exchange, an ATM, a business centre, a hair studio. Entertainment options and other amenities include a 24-hour billiards/bar and a casino, a slot machine arcade and a restaurant of Belarusian and European cuisine. Buffet breakfast is served with a wide choice of foods that will cost a guest an extra 15 USD a day. Professional and friendly staff. All things considered, Tourist obviously offers excellent value for money. ▶ 🔮 🚾 P 🛞 🚻 🗳 🛲 ★ ★ ★

U Fontana (У ФОНТАНА) C-2, ul. Amuratorskaya 4 (ул. Амураторская, 4), tel. (+375 17) 203 58 18/ (+375 17) 203 14 00, fax (+375 17) 203 14 74. At last, a healthy refuge in this vodka and potato pancake culture. Opened in 2005, this tiny hotel attached to a fitness centre is perfect for aerobics bunnies and muscleheads. It even has its own 'sports restaurant'. That said, even a slob with a beer gut or an In Your Pocket editor is welcome here, and will definitely appreciate the sparkling, high-quality rooms, relatively central location and spa bath. ▶ 18 rooms (2 singles €46, 14 doubles €66-82, 2 suites €119). இ@ [] [] @ [] [] @ [] # ★★

Voyage (Вояж) ul. Yakubovskogo, 52A (ул. Якубовскоro, 52A), tel. (+ 37517) 257 22 00, www.hotel-vojage.by. Voyage is a small, budget hotel which hasn't yet received a star status, but has won over its guests' loyalty. The hotel's obvious strong points are low rates, location in a quiet residential area of the city, modern layout and facilities. This six-floored hotel located close to Kuntsevshchina metro station accommodates up to 65 people. Of its 32 rooms 29 are Double. The decor is Spartan, but you get all you need for a comfortable stay – the rooms have a bathroom shower combination, air conditioning, T Vs, unsophisticated but solid furniture. The ground floor features reception, a bar, a small business centre, luggage storage and a safe (an extra service). Breakfast is not included into the room rate; at request and for a small fee a continental



breakfast is served from 8 to 10 a.m. in the hotel bar, you can order what's on the menu. At your disposal is free parking close of the hotel. \bullet $\overline{\text{cec}}[\mathbf{p}]$

Yubileynaya (Юбилейная) С-3, Pobediteley pr. 19 (просп. Победителей, 19), tel. (+375 17) 226 90 24, fax (+375 17) 226 91 71. Having undergone substantial renovation work, everything is comfortable and the hotel comes with a good range of services. It's a good combination of quite-central location and not-very-expensive price. Tattoos and other professional services available in the lobby... ▶ 230 rooms (119 singles U\$\$59-92, 83 doubles U\$\$79-118, 19 suites U\$\$153-243). இ இ இ இ இ இ %

Apartments

Apartment Rental Service C-5, Nezavisimosti pr. 40 (просп. Независимости, 40), M Ploschad Pobedy (Площадь Победы), tel. (+375 29) 655 05 88, eurokvartira@yandex.ru, www.eurokvartira.narod.ru/ english.html. They have a good choice of centrally located apartments for rent, fully furnished and equipped with all appliances you might need for a comfortable stay. They also provide visa support, registration, airport transfer and custom tours around Minsk and Belarus.

Hostels

Hostel "Traveler" (Хостел «Трэвелер) С-4, ul. Starovilenskaya 12 (ул. Старовиленская, 12), MNemiga (Немига), tel. (+37529) 311 27 83, http:// www.hostel-traveler.by, hosteltravelerbelarus@gmail. com. Hostel chain Traveler, well located in Minsk's historic centre, is not exactly a chain per se but rather a group of two cozy and rightly-billed as 'budget' mini-hotels, Riverside and Trinity. They pride themselves on being a part of the well known Trinity Suburb, one of the most charming places in the city centre, with all tourist attractions close at hand - cafes, restaurants, souvenir shops, bookstores. The two hostels, standing only 20 metres apart, offer their guests comfortable rooms decorated in the traditions of European hostels, with comfy furniture and a free internet (Wi-Fi) access. The nearest metro station Nemiga is a 7-minute walk from the mini-hotels, the nearest grocery store just 3 minutes away. If you feel like walking to the Upper Town, it won't take more than 10 minutes. At a time when every penny counts, the accommodation will cost as little as 15 USD to 18 USD for a bed, besides Traveler has double 'junior suite' rooms at 46 USD per room. The hostels often do special offers and have a system of discounts.

RESTAURANTS 21

Eating out in Minsk continues to improve on an almost daily basis. There's still a handful of places that fail to impress with either food or service, but these are thankfully few and far between. If it's awful, we generally don't write about it. Likewise, the diversity of cuisine in Minsk is far from all-encompasing, with what international food there is thankfully getting better all the time. Be aware that many restaurants list garnishes such as French fries, vegetables, rice and, butter and tomato ketchup as separate items.

Belarusian

There are essentially two types of Belarusian restaurant in Belarus. The first and most obvious variety features pigtailed waitresses in national dress serving plates of potatoes and beetroot soup in an atmosphere reminiscent of an old barn. The second is less easy to pin down, and is perhaps best described as a restaurant or café serving predominantly but not exclusively Belarusian favourites in an atmosphere you won't find anywhere other than in Belarus. Rather than insult the best intentions of the good restaurant owners of Minsk and call the former of the two Folk restaurants, we choose to list both types of restaurant together.

Kamyanitsa (Камяніца) D-5, ul. Pervomayskaya 18 (ул. Первомайская, 18), tel. (+375 17) 294 51 24/ (+375 17) 285 39 47, www.kamyanitsa.by. Recreating the time when Belarus formed part of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania, this fine little restaurant churns out classic dishes from days gone by with a heavy emphasis on roasted, grilled and stewed meat. The staff dress in authentic costumes and the menu is held inside a large leather wallet. If you're not starving, do at least try one



Symbol key

Air conditioning	cc Credit cards accepted
Live music	🗑 Take away
舷 Child friendly	Facilities for the disabled
🛞 Non-smoking	📼 Wireless Internet access
Smoking place	Outside seating
Fireplace	Old town location

Kuchmistr (Кухмистр) D-4, ul. Karla Marxa 40 (yn. Kapna Mapĸca, 40), tel. (+375 17) 327 48 48, www.kuxmistr.relax.by. Absolutely one of the best restaurants we've experienced in Minsk, Kuchmistr serves an excellent selection of regional dishes that nudge peasant food into the arena of gourmet cuisine. Our last meal here saw five of us tucking into a range of treats, of which none failed to impress entirely. The surroundings are swish, the service is friendly and there's a strict no-smoking policy which plenty of visitors will no doubt enjoy in a city where smoking in public is practically enforced. Don't forget to have a glass of vodka flavoured with horseradish while you're waiting. Excellent location too. ▶ Open 11:00 - 23:00.

Megapolis (Мегаполис) Nezavisimosti pr. 116 (просп. Независимости, 116), ∭Vostok (Восток), tel. (+375 17) 266 39 53/(+375 29) 664 35 96, fax (+375 17) 266 39 41. A modern take on an old Soviet theme, the National Library's in-house restaurant, as one would perhaps expect, specialises in national dishes. The translated menu tempts diners with a beguiling list of dishes including The Tongue Baked Under Souse and (a particular favourite) Smoky Sturgeon Kegs From A Cucumber. Whatever you choose to eat, expect it to be accompanied by live cabaret music and the occasional bit of dancing during the weekends. Megapolis also offers an excellent value weekday lunch menu. ▶ Open 12:00 - 23:00, Mon 12:00 - 18:00. (新)[@][]]

Mirsky Zamok (Мирский Замок) D-3, ul. Gorodskoy Val 9 (ул. Городской Вал, 9), MMemiga (Немига), tel. (+37517) 328 69 38/(+375 29) 616 69 38. Meaning Mir Castle and named after the Unesco World Heritage complex some 60km or so west of Minsk after which the interior decoration owes more than a passing nod, inside the menus held together with metal clasps is a meat-heavy choice of dishes plus one or two offerings for vegetarians. ► Open 12:00 - 23:00, Fri, Sat 12:00 - 02:00. இ) () ()

Рап Кhmeliu (Пан Хмелю) D-4, ul. Internatsionalnaya 11 (ул. Интернациональная, 11), MNemiga (Heмиra), tel. (+37517) 2297602. Pan Khmeliu located in the very hub of the city is famed for its culinary tradition in the spirit of good old Belarusian and Polish gentry cuisine and for high reputation among its gourmet regulars. Pan always wines and dines its guests, serving round deliciously, abundantly and wholeheartedly. The chefs make sausages, roulades, draniki (potato pancakes), machanka (hick gravy), beetroot soup on kefir (butter milk). You may think these



dishes seem commonplace in Minsk, but drop in and try yourself – every detail matters, and Pan's chefs are masters of detail. We recommend Pani Walewska salad (boiled tongue and vegetables), Panskiye prysmaki and specialty of the house - Pan Khmeliu pork withfried mushrooms. Do not forget to leave room for dessert, Pan's good at them. Hospitable Pan will offer drinks for all tastes: fresh beer, vodka, liqueurs, wine. Feel like hitting the dance floor? Pan's musicians are right on cue. In short, Pan Khmeliu will gratify your every whim. Recommended... ▶ Open Mon – Sun: 12:00 - 23:00, Fri - Sat: 12:00 - 02:00. இ @ @ @ ∭ ... @

Pechki Lavochki (Печки-лавочки) D-4, Nezavisimosti pr. 22 (просп. Независимости, 22), MOktyabrskaya (Октябрьская), tel. (+375 17) 327 78 79. Not so long ago this place was marvelous. Today it's anything but. The food (which tastes like it's been cooked in oil that's been in the kitchen since the 1970s or perhaps recently drained from the gearbox of a Volga 24) is a disaster to the point that they can't even prepare an edible borsch. The music is painful and the smell coming from the aforementioned galley isn't the sort of thing to be wished on anyone's nostrils. Avoid. ▶ Open 12:00 - 23:00. இ@@@ (M) @ @ @

Staraya Melnitsa (Старая Мельница) B-6, Nezavisimosti pr. 78 (просп. Независимости, 78), [МРагк Chelyuskintsev (Парк Челюскинцев), tel. (+375 17) 280 28 72. A perfectly adequate although by no means special place to eat hearty local snacks for a good price, the Old Mill also features a small outdoor terrace for some excellent people-watching opportunities. ▶ Open 11:00 -01:00. இ © []

Таlaka (Талака) С-3, ul. Rakovskaya 18 (ул. Раковская, 18), Memiga (Немига), tel./fax (+375 17) 203 27 94, tel. (+375 29) 637 03 80. An eclectic cellar restaurant with a hunting theme (stuffed rabbits are among its décor victims), Talaka is one to seek out for its magnificent food and unusual atmosphere. Tables are made from old beds, carriages and the like, and what's served on them is mostly potato snacks and skewered meat. A bit pricier Traktir na Parkovoy (Трактир на Парковой) C-3, Pobediteley pr. 11 (просп. Победителей, 11), MNemiga (Немига), tel. (+375 17) 203 69 91/ (+375 29) 135 77 36. Right from the threshold of rich merchant peasant's log hut "Traktir" heartily welcomes you with bread rings and fruit wine. The real Russian stove gives out the warmth, boils and fries - dishes here are cooked according to the time-honoured recipes. And in the evening there is a "joy till you drop" – dancing to live music, performance of Gypsy band and the picnic on the terrace with bonfire and fried pork that you can eat with puffy toasted pancakes!) Open 12:00 - 24:00. இ⊚@@@} ? © T¥

Vasilki (Васильки) D-4, Nezavisimosti pr. 16 (просп. Независимости, 16), tel. (+375 29) 706 44 52, www.vasilki.by. Although there's absolutely nothing wrong with the dining area at street level, the upstairs area complete with hand-painted furniture and a ringside seat of the attached delicatessen is the place to be here, unless you don't like cigarette smoke when you dine. The menu is extensive, affordable, filing, and, for an entirely unpretentious restaurant, exceptionally good. Because you're now east of Berlin you'll need to do battle with piped music and a television, but it's amazing how quickly one accilimatises to such nonsense. A recommended venue

Buffet express

If you've just read the entire restaurant chapter of this guide and you still haven't been served, stay calm, collect your belongings and pop into a place where the food is served piping hot and straight from metal containers.

Lido (Лидо) B-5, Nezavisimosti pr. 49/1 (просп. Независимости, 49/1), MPloschad Yakuba Kolasa (Площадь Якуба Коласа), tel. (+375 17) 284 82 08/(+375 29) 368 66 86. For those who aren't familiar with this successful Latvian chain, Lido's philosophy is to serve an absolutely enormous selection of foods such as pizza, pork chops, ice-cream and much more in a fun, folksy cafeteria set-up for a bargain price and, best of all, in an instant. A staff equalling the population of Riga buzz around the dining room ready to whisk away your plate the instant the last morsel of food goes into your mouth. Also at Kulman 5a. > Open 08:00 - 23:00, Sat, Sun 11:00 - 23:00. 🛞 CE)

22 **RESTAURANTS**



Traditional Belarusian restaurant in the very heart of Minsk with great views of the city

> Svobody 4 (пл. Свободы, 4) tel. (+375 17) 321 20 89 (+375 29) 321 20 59 Open 10:00 - 24:00, Fri 10:00 - 02:00, Sat 10:00 - 02:00,



in a superb central location. Also at Yakuba Kolasa 37, Bobruyskaya 6 and Nezavisimosti pr. 89. ▶ Open 08:00 -23:00. P 🛞 🚾 🛋 🕻 🔭 🗑

Verkhniy Gorod (Верхний Город) C-4, Svobody pl. 4 (пл. Свободы, 4), tel. (+375 17) 321 20 89/ (+375 17) 321 20 59, www.verhniy-gorod.prazdnik.by. A much talked about and much loved restaurant in the heart of the city featuring a great view of the Cathedral of the Holy Spirit and the river, Verkhniy Gorod is in the eyes of many who've experienced it the best place in Minsk to dine on quality Belarusian and international cuisine in sumptuous surroundings. Popular with locals and foreigners alike, legend has it that one group of visiting Germans refused to eat anywhere else during their stay in the city and insisted on taking the recipe for the pike perch in a clay pot back home with them. Recommended. \triangleright Open 10:00 - 24:00, Fri, Sat 10:00 - 02:00. 🛞 EC A r

American

TGI Friday's (Фрайдис) D-4, Nezavisimosti pr. 22 (просп. Независимости, 22), MOktyabrskaya (Октябрьская), tel. (+375 17) 327 23 31. Silly hats, klaxons, loud shirts and all the other nonsense that those who know this American chain will have come to expect, the formula is unchanged here with decent food such as burgers, chicken wings, steaks and ribs, although not served in such large portions. Worth it for the New York cheesecake alone. A good choice if you want to play it safe and go somewhere where you know exactly what you're going to get. ▶ Open 10:00 - 23:00. () () () () () () () ()

Asian

Dzhomalungma (Джомалунгма) B-5, ul. Gikalo 7 (ул. Гикало, 7), MPloschad Yakuba Kolasa (Площадь Якуба Коласа), tel. (+375 17) 280 53 88. Just the kind of Asian restaurant Minsk has been waiting for, find a well-orchestrated affair set in a cheerful room of explosive colours. The outstanding food is mainly Tibetan, with a few Nepalese, Indian and Thai choices thrown in. Hot towels precede your meal, and tea comes in a tiny pot set on a wooden platform. Also at International airport Minsk-2. • Open 12:00 - 02:00. Image of the set of the

Azerbaijani

Astara (Actapa) D-5, ul. Pulihova 37 (ул. Пулихова, 37), tel. (+375 17) 299 97 61/(+375 29) 115 94 01. Absolutely fantastic for anyone who hasn't experienced the full-on extravagance of cheesy Azerbaijani décor before, this cavernous recommendation is popular with all kinds of diners from diplomats to movie stars. The menu positively heaves with classic dishes which need to be tasted to be believed, Azerbaijani festivals are celebrated with small festivals inside the restaurant plus, as is so often the case inside a Minsk restaurant, there's live shows and belly dancing during the weekends. ▶ Open 10:00 - 23:00. (※) (○) (○) (○) (○) (○)

Fast food

McDonald's (Мак Дональдс) C-2, Nezavisimosti pr. 23 (просп. Независимости, 23), **М**Oktyabrskaya (Октябрьская), tel. (+375 33) 340 90 90, (+375 29) 340 90 90, (+375 25) 790 90 90. The local McMecca for spotty youth on weekend evenings. The outside tables are a good spot to watch the world go by. Also at Surganova 63, Dzerzhinskogo 96, Nemiga 12b, Pritytskogo 28, Logoisky Trakt 35, Shugaeva 2. ▶ Open 07:00 - 23:00, Fri, Sat 07:00 - 24:00. @↑

Fine dining

Bella Rosa (Белла Роса) B-5, ul. Gikalo 3 (ул. Гикало, 3), MPloschad Yakuba Kolasa (Пло-щадь Якуба Коласа), tel. (+375 17) 284 53 03/(+375 17) 284 52 55. The exemplary if somewhat pricey kitchen in this classy establishment whisks up more than pizza and pasta, including oysters and Tuscan goulash. Also serving afew more local dishes such as an extremely good *shchi*, other things worth further applause are exceptionally good focaccia and an espresso that could/ve come direct from Rome. ▶ Open 12:00 - 02:00. Im Mere P (1)

Dolce Vita (Дольче Вита) D-4, ul. Kirova 13 (ул. Кирова, 13), MPloschad Lenina (Площадь Ленина), tel. (+375 17) 218 35 55/(+375 17) 200 47 81. Predominantly fine Italian dishes served inside the Crowne Plaza's flagship restaurant, everything was imported from Italy and the food is very good indeed. It being a hotel restaurant, don't expect value for money or too much in the way of atmosphere. Having said that, there are many worse hotel restaurants to be found in the world. ▶ Open 12:00 - 02:00. இ இ இ இ [] (]

Europa Restaurant (ресторан г-цы "Европа") D-4, ul. Internatsionalnaya 28 (ул. Интернациональная, 28), MOktyabrskaya (Октябрьская), tel. (+375 17) 229 84 31. Classy in a stilted, stifling sort of way, Europa tries just a little too hard to be elegant and sophisticated (we grimaced while watching a waitress struggle with one hand to open a plastic bottle of water balanced on a silver tray). Concentrate on the excellent food instead, such as the fried camembert with sesame and raspberry sauce, or the kebab with tiger prawns. The à la carte menu is pricey, although there's a much cheaper, if very limited, set lunch option. ▶ Open 12:00 - 24:00. (新)@

Grand Café (Гранд Кафе) D-4, ul. Lenina 2 (ул. Ленина, 2), MOktyabrskaya (Октябрьская), tel. (+375 44) 703 11 11. Relatively new although already buzzing, this crisp, white tablecloth affair provides Italianfood and other treats cooked to perfection and served with a rare taste for quality and flair. The décor is interesting indeed, combining the classic look of a classy restaurant offset with large photographs of Soviet-era housing on the walls. Barmen mix drinks in white tuxedos to give the place an added touch of sophistication. Recommended among the many great dishes is the Chateaubriand steak, whilst Friday evenings see the arrival of fresh oysters and some of the best DJs in the city. ▶ Open 12:00 - 24:00. () O C ()

Table talk

Table t	ain		
English	Belarusian	Russian	Russian pronunciation
Café	кафе	кафе	ka´fe
Restaurant	рэстаран	ресторан	resto´ran
Bar	бар	бар	bar
Toilet	туалет	туалет	tua´let
Chicken	курыца / кураня	курица/ цыпленок	kuritsa / tsyp´lionok
Beef	ялавічына	говядина	go´viadina
Pork	свініна	свинина	svi´nina
Pasta	паста / макароны	паста / макароны	´pasta / maka´rony
Pizza	піцца	пицца	´pitsa
Sushi	сушы	суши	´sushi
Fish	рыба	рыба	´ryba
Soup	суп	суп	sup
Hot / Cold	гарачы / халодны	горячий / холодный	goʻriachii / hoʻlodnyi
Potatoes	бульба	картофель / картошка	kar´tofel'/ kar´toshka
Vegetables	гародніна	овощи	´ovoshchi
Теа	гарбата	чай	chai
Coffee	кава	кофе	´kofe
Bread	хлеб	хлеб	hleb
Sugar	цукар	сахар	´sahar
Milk	малако	молоко	molo´ko
Cream	вяршкі	сливки	´slivki
Beer	піва	пиво	´pivo
Wine (red/ white)	віно (чырвонае/ белае)	вино (красное/ белое)	vi´no (krasnoie/ beloie)
Vodka	водка	водка	´vodka
Bill / cheque	чэк / рахунак	чек / счет	chek/shchiot
Change	здача	сдача	zdacha
Tip	на чай	чаевые	chae´vyie
Thank you	дзякуй	спасибо	spa´sibo
Goodbye	Да пабачэння	До свидания	Do svi´daniia
We'll be back	Мы вернемся	Мы вернемся	My ver´niomsia
Which way to?	Як прайсці да?	Как пройти к?	Kak proi´ti k?



Newman (Ньюман) D-3, ul. Nemiga 36 (ул. Немига, 36), MPloschad Lenina (Площадь Ленина), tel. (+375 17) 306 48 39/(+375 44) 777 42 42. A magnificent find, Newman offers great steaks on two floors including several cooked on a charcoal grill, plus handmade lightshades and expert Russian hands overseeing the operation. At ground level there's a bar where a range of international food can also be ordered, while upstairs is a more sophisticated restaurant setting with leather seating and all the trimmings. The draught beer goes down a treat, the steaks we demolished were fantastic and the service is both helpful and attentive. Newman also offers a good value business lunch during the week which can be ordered from either floor. ▶ Open 12:00 - 24:00, Fri, Sat 12:00 - 02:00. ()

Renaissance (Ренессанс) D-4, Svobody pl. 23 (пл. Свободы, 23), MOktyabrskaya (Октябрьская), tel. (+375 17) 327 09 91, fax (+375 17) 327 09 64. Named after the European Renaissance style in which the three dining halls inside this sumptuous restaurant are decorated, this stylish Minsk offering is located inside a former monastic printing house and provides a superb range of classy dishes for the discerning palate. Highly recommended is the fillet of lamb in brandy sauce, or why not take advantage of their unusual Happy Hour, which rather than the usual business lunch arrange simply knocks 30% of the a la carte menu. Recommended. ▶ Open 12:00 - 02:00. இ@@@\$\P(R) () ()

Fish

Рогto del Mare (Порто дель Маре) С-5, ul. Коzlova 3 (ул. Козлова, 3), MPloschad Pobedy (Площадь Победы), tel. (+375 29) 197 00 00. The former

French

La Crête d'Or (Золотой гребешок) D-4, ul. Lenina 3 (ул. Ленина, 3), MOktyabrskaya (Октябрьская), tel. (+375 17) 327 32 04. The name suggests it is the highest cock, but somehow that sounds a bit too coarse for this fine and refined restaurant. Expect softly spoken men in black roll-neck skivvies perusing a menu that is too good to be translated into English (you'll have to read it in Russian or French, darling). Both kitchen and waitstaff are internationally trained, the environment is exquisite and the prices are not as stratospherically high as one might expect. A perfect choice for a quality evening. Den 11:00 - 23:00. Reference

Fun

Kalyannaya # 1 (Кальянная №1) D-4, ul. Karla Marxa 33 (ул. Карла Маркса, 33), tel. (+375 17) 222 27 07. Once you've finally figured out how to get through the front door you'll wish you'd bought a torch. Illuminated by a handful of scrawny red lightbulbs to give atmosphere but really just to disorientate and make you bang your shins on things, the main draw here are the hookahs. The concept, so the website says, is to bring like-minded people together over a bubbling smoke and, well, that's the end of the concept really. Also on offer is a limited range of drinks and light refreshments. ▶ Open 08:00 - 24:00, Fri, Sat 08:00 - 02:00, Sun 10:00 - 24:00.

German

Westfalia (Вестфалия) Gazety Pravda pr. 11 (просп. Газеты Правда, 11), tel. (+375 17) 270 57 27/ (+375 29) 172 00 00. A perfect escape from the overbearing atmosphere found elsewhere in the city, the restaurant attached to the IBB centre offers excellent, fresh food, a soft, modern interior and an overall unpretentious dining experience. Try the Zurich veal or the speciality, pike perch Papillote style. Live jazz is performed on Friday evenings, instrumental music on Saturdays and Sundays. Also note that the breakfast buffet here may be the best in town. • Open 07:30 - 23:00.

Indian

Taj (Тадж) C-3, ul. Romanovskaya Sloboda 26 (ул. Романовская Слобода, 26), MFrunzenskaya (Фрунзенская), tel. (+375 44) 711 11 10, fax (+375 17) 306 29 61. Opened to much blowing of trumpets, Taj is by all accounts a welcome addition to Minsk's ever growing and ever improving restaurant scene. Bright, understated and modern with plenty of Indian touches, an Indian chef oversees the preparation of a good choice of food, some cooked in a tandoor oven plus a few vegetarian options as well. There's an authentic Indian dance group during the weekends too, to really spice up the evening. ▶ Open 12:00 - 24:00. இ Macc () Tag me

International

Еl Pomidoro (Эль Помидоро) Е-3, ul. Kirova 6 (ул. Кирова, 6), MPloschad Lenina (Площадь Ленина), tel. (+375 17) 226 10 20/(+375 29) 702 02 07, fax (+375 17) 200 65 51. The Tomato is

Spanish

Tapas Bar (Тапас Бар) D-4, ul. Internatsionalnaya 9 (ул. Интернациональная, 9), Memiga (Немига), tel. (+375 17) 203 11 27, (+375 29) 399 11 11. Right across the street from one of the city's iconic, Stalin-era cinemas, if you're in town and you're looking for generously proportioned tapas or paella, this might be just the ticket. A simple and stylish cantina-like décor provides the backdrop whilst the drinks menu features a number of classic favourites plus the usual wine and beer. The staff are friendly and, unusual for Minsk, knowledgeable. The Belarusian capital would be a slightly worse place for its absence. ▶ Open 11:00 - 24:00. @@@ @@@@@

a busy restaurant near the train station that's one step up from fast food. Ask for El Menu and then order El Pizza or El Salad. It's hardly spectacular but decent enough to fill an undiscerning hole. Kebabs and breakfast are also served. Expect a 15-20 minute wait during the lunchtime rush. Also at Bogdanovicha 102, Nezavisimosti 83. ▶ Open 09:00 - 23:00. இ @ @ \\$ \T

Gostiny Dvor (Гостиный Двор) D-3, ul. Sovetskaya 17 (ул. Советская, 17), MPloschad Lenina (Площадь Ленина), tel. (+37517) 328 6417, www.gostinydvor.biz. A recommended cellar restaurant complete with knights in armour, painted ceilings and waitresses in green waistcoats, the food, a favourite among diplomats and wealthy wedding parties, is excellent. Recommended comes the Belarusian casserole, the ideal accompaniment to the live music that generally livens things up during the weekend. ▶ Open 12:00 - 24:00. ເછ @ @ P)

Kushavel (Кушавель) В-3, Pobediteley pr. 49 (просп. Победителей, 49), tel. (+375 44) 788 80 00, fax (+375 17) 226 68 91. An almost Scandinavian



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Georgian

Tiflis (Тифлисъ) B-6, ul. Tolbuhina 3 (ул. Толбухина, 3), tel. (+375 17) 385 64 74, (+375 44) 555 50 50. A nice modern twist on the classic Georgian restaurant theme albeit with plenty of traditional touches to give the place a definite Georgian feel, Tiflis (Tbilisi) uses skilled Georgian chefs to prepare a range traditional Georgian dishes that really do need to be eaten. Find four dining areas including two VIP halls complete with the usual old photographs of the Georgian capital plus reproductions of the work of the outstanding Georgian painter Pirosmani. They even bake their own bread. Magic stuff indeed. ▶ Open 11:00 - 23:00. இ @ இ @ இ @ இ @ ¶ @ ¶ .

feel here, including lots of sharp corners and emphatic curves, the menu features a number of original dishes that garner good comments from those who've eaten from it. Very tourist-friendly and with English menus and English-speaking staff, locals insist that they have the best summer terrace in the city. The location might well prove them right. \blacktriangleright Open 11:00 - 24:00, Thu, Fri, Sat. 11:00 - 02:00 🛞 🖻 \frown

Limoncello (Лимончелло) B-6, ul. Bogdana Khmelnitskogo 7 (ул. Богдана Хмельницкого, 7), tel. (+375 17) 290 02 00/(+375 44) 753 34 44. In short, two floors, lounge music, *World Fashion* on the television and groups of rich young women demolishing tables of expensive food and drink. A restaurant that serves *borsch* and sushi probably doesn't deserve to be called a tratorria as this place likes to call itself, but that's of little interest to the scores of people who flock here every day. We had Mexican Goulash and a pizza and thought both were ok Ukrainian

Chumatsky Shlyakh (Чумацький шлях) D-3, ul. Myasnikova 34 (ул. Мясникова, 34), [MPlo schad Lenina (Площадь Ленина), tel. (+375 29) 190 77 77. The rather over-the-topfolksy atmosphere in no way impinges on what's one of the best places to eat peasant food in the city. Set out on two floors, the real magic here can be found niside the kitchen. Choosing what to eat can be difficult as it's a big menu and it's all good. Recommended are either of the two offerings of *borsch*, the *vareniki* and the potato pancakes. There's several vodkas to help it all down too, and a rather marvellous photograph of happy factory workers just on the right as you enter. Highly recommended, especially for those eating in groups. In a word, magnificent. ▶ Open 10:00 - 23:00. இ @ @ [D] [P] [] @ @@

if nothing to write home about. Smoking is upstairs, it's a bit out of the way and is definitely worth a visit for anyone with even a passing interest in anthropology. Also at Byaduli 11. ▶ Open 12:00 - 24:00, Fri, Sun 12:00 - 02:00.

My English Granny (Моя английская бабушка) D-4, ul. Karla Marxa 36 (ул. Карла Маркса, 36), (Мкираłovskaya (Купаловская), tel. (+375 17) 327 22 24. Granny's still got a bit of spunk left in her yet. Just look at this place. Sure, it's a bit frilly and they serve your food on paper doilies, but somehow the place is rather cool. It attracts young hipsters who drink juice and have pillow fights and just seem to feel very comfortable here. Probably because it's just like Granny's place. Flick through the packed-with-classics menu, pick and partake. A good option for breakfast or just couching around with friends at any time. ▶ Open 09:00 - 24:00. இ @ CE ▲ CT → ④ CT

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Panorama (Панорама) B-3, ul. Storozhevskaya 15 (ул. Сторожевская, 15), Hotel Belarus, 22nd Floor, MNemiga (Немига), tel. (+375 17) 209 76 99, (+375 17) 209 75 78. Planning to stay at the Belarus hotel in Minsk? Here's good news for you. Just a few (or maybe more) stories up, under the roof, is the renovated Panorama restaurant. This, without exaggeration, legend of the early 90^s has retained its name and general layout; everything else - the interior, the kitchen equipment, the concept - has been fine-tuned and brought up to date. Now the restaurant can easily seat and feed 140 guests. Panorama offers the best views of the city, no wonder, along with the "top" cuisine on the top floor (the 22nd, to be exact). Jokes aside, the cuisine is up to the mark. So are the service, the decor and everything else, for that matter. Hurry up to give it a try and enjoy! > Open 07:00 - 04:00.

U Ratushi (У Ратуши) C-4, ul. Gertsena 1 (ул. Герцена, 1), MMemiga (Немига), tel. (+375 17) 226 06 43. Set over three levels, this spacious and pleasant bar-restaurant is an excellent place for a meal after an exhausting day walking around Minsk's blister-inducingly long streets. The diverse menu is a notch above average and throws everything from chicken masala to Thai stir fry to steak au poivre into the mix. There's also a good selection of beers, while local bands churn out bland pop tunes and jazz most evenings. Booking during the weekends is highly recommended. ▶ Open 12:00 - 02:00. இ @ CE)

Vostochny Express (Восточный экспресс) E-3, ul. Kirova 1 (ул. Кирова, 1), MPloschad Lenina (Площадь Ленина), tel. (+37517) 2256243. A great city centre location for a really nice-looking place complete with engraved wine glasses, the staff speak English and the menufeatures everything from Belarusian to Latin American. There's a super list of cocktails too to make the food go with a bang. A VIP room is also available for private parties. ▶ Open 12:00 - 23:00. இ @ CE

Kebabs

Byblos (Библос) D-4, ul. Internatsionalnaya 21 (ул. Интернациональная, 21), MOktyabrskaya (Октярьская), tel. (+375 17) 289 12 18. A bright, busy, noisy kebab house where you can fill your belly without emptying your wallet. Along with the kebab and salad plates you can get a decently priced chicken shawarma with French fries and chichtawook (chicken legs), among many other goodies. ▶ Open 12:00 - 24:00, Fri, Sat 12:00 - 02:00. @ce

Pizza

Amsterdam (Амстердам) С-2, ul. Kalvariyskaya 24 (ул. Кальварийская, 24), [MMolodezhnaya (Молодежная), tel. (+375 17) 200 81 55. A perfectly adequate if hardly outstanding little place inside the Korona shopping centre, Amsterdam probably serves more pizza than anything else although there's plenty of other dishes on the menu. A good enough place for filling food for a decent price without the frills. ► Open 09:00 - 01:00.

Tempo (Темпо) B-6, Nezavisimosti pr. 78 (просп. Независимости, 78), tel. (+375 17) 292 11 11. The name says it all. This is a fast-paced pizza joint popular with students from the nearby university building. Small, packed and highly recommended. Also at

Italian

Bergamo (Бергамо) A-4, ul. Kulman 37 (yn. Kyльман, 37), tel. (+375 17) 334 45 56, fax (+375 17) 210 12 08. A well established Italian restaurant inside a somewhat nondescript building that's been a favourite with staff from the Italian embassy among other for a number of years, the interior is classy but not too ostentatious and the food has a very good reputation. The menu comes complete with a large collection of Italian favourites including plenty of good pasta dishes and thin, crispy pizza. > Open 10:00 - 24:00. (*) COL

II Patio (Иль Патио) D-4, Nezavisimosti pr. 22 (просп. Независимости, 22), ∭Oktyabrskaya (Октябрьская), tel. (+375 17) 327 17 91. You really can't go wrong here. Central location, friendly prices, efficient service, cosy brick décor. What more could you possibly ask for? Formerly Patio Pizza, this popular restaurant and meeting place still serves some of the best pizza in town, although as the name change suggests, they've got plenty of other Italian dishes as well. It also has some of the freshest, best-tasting salads in Minsk. Also at Surganova 50. ▶ Open 09:00 - 23:00. இ @ @ [] இ _]

Perfetto (Перфетто) D-3, ul. Romanovskaya Sloboda 1 (ул. Романовская Слобода, 1), MNemiga (Немига), tel. (+375 17) 200 28 99/ (+375 29) 607 99 99. A doorman in a suit ushers customers into this moderately classy affair. The pizzas are excellent, although the pasta and salads are poor imitations of what they purport to be despite being served up on fancy crockery. The best reason to come is to watch the local posers hard at it. The barman helps the atmosphere along with his well-rehearsed cocktail bottle-flipping routine. ▶ Open 12:00 - 24:00. இ © @ ↑ 🏔 🗑 @ @

Lobanka 94, Karla Marxa 9, Karla Marxa 26, Pobediteley 84, 89, Gromova 20, Yakuba Kolasa 37, Dolginovski Trakt 178, Bobruyskaya 6, Golubka 2 and at Expobel shopping centre. > Open 008:00 - 23:00. @ 19

Sushi

Blackberry (Блекберри) D-3, ul. Bersona 3 (ул. Берсона, 3), MPloschad Lenina (Площадь Ленина), tel. (+375 17) 200 74 82/(+375 29) 196 89 68. Two for the price of one. To the right find a large space for the enjoyment of international dishes to the sound of live music at the weekend, and to the left a smaller area serving fresh sushi from a Russian-only menu. ▶ Open Mon - Wed, Sun 11:00 - 24:00, Thu, Sat, 11:00 - 02:00. இ© .

inyourpocket.com twitter.com/inyourpocket facebook.com/inyourpocket youtube.com/inyourpocket Atelier (Ателье) C-3, ul. Melnikaite 4 (ул. Мельникайте, 4) (M Frunzenskaya (Фрунзенская). (+375 17) 203 90 16. This relatively new restaurant complete with large photographs of famous chefs on the walls comes with a dressmaking theme as the name suggests and is well worth a visit. The menu features a wealth of classic dishes from the kitchens of Europe including a great menu of grilled meats as well as a better than average wine list. Don't eat too much though or you'll miss the mouth-watering *Sacher* cake, claimed by those who've tried it to be as good as any you'll ever come across. Atelier is also worth a visit to catch sight of the owner, tennis star Maxim Mirnyi who likes to turn up whenever he can and put on a bit of a show. Dopen 12:00 - 02:00. (S) (D) (C) (C) (C) (C) (C)

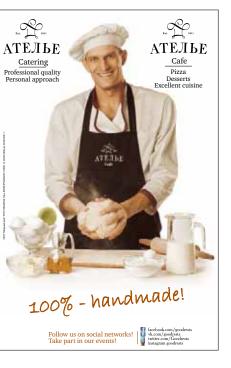
Banana Café (Банана Кафе) C-4, ul. Storozhovskaya 7 (yn. Cropoжевская, 7), Memiga (Hemura), tel./fax (+375 17) 289 50 79. It's certainly bent, but more bruised-banana brown than happy-smiley yellow. We don't know what goes on behind the mirrored VIP door downstairs, but upstairs is a dark café with a litter of wooden cottage-style tables and chairs. Twigs on the ceiling add a rustic, fire-hazard charm. It looks like there's a nice outdoor seating area, but it wasn't being used when we visited. No menus in English, and we don't know if the staff speak English because they didn't bother to actually serve us. • Open 10:00 - 05:00. இ@ A for a stually

Beze Café (Безе Кафе) D-4, Nezavisimosti pr. 18 (просп. Независимости, 18), MOktyabrskaya (Октябрьская), tel. (+375 17) 328 64 09. Beze bills itself as A Gallery of Sweet Masterpieces, and that's a fairly accurate summary of what this nice old-fashioned café is all about. It specialises in all kinds of Austrian desserts including strudels and the like. Inexpensive Belarusian meals are also served in case you feel guilty about not finishing all your vegetables first. → Open 10:00 - 24:00, Fri, Sat 10:00 - 01:00. இ @ @ @ (Ti))

Boulevard (Бульвар) D-4, Nezavisimosti pr. 22 (просп. Независимости, 22), MOktyabrskaya (Октябрьская), tel. (+375 29) 111 47 47/(+375 17) 328 45 96. Giving the two expat favourites around the corner a run for their money, this relatively new venture is already awash with the babble of spoken and broken English. Categorised as a cocktail bar simply because the cocktail menu outweighs the one with the food on it, the latter, which changes regularly, offers nouvelle cuisine and other favourites including schnitzel and mashed potato whilst the cocktail menu features every concoction you could possibly dream of. Purple and grey and spread out on two floors, Boulevard also works very well as a café and is a good place to visit any time of day. ▶ Open 11:00 - 24:00.

Brutto (Брутто) B-6, ul. Petrusya Brovky 3/2 (yn. Петруся Бровки, 3/2), tel. (+375 29) 5 630 630, fax (+375 17) 294 92 85. Nice, exposed brick walls, silver candelabras and a good mix of diners are to be found inside this fairly new Minsk offering. The menu provides a few local and international choices plus there's cold draught beer to drink outside during the summer. \rightarrow Open 11:00 - 24:00, Fri, Sat 24 hours, Sun 09:00 - 24:00. () Cold () Cold ()

Buvette (5yBet) C-3, ul. Rakovskaya 34 (yn. PakoBckaa, 34), MNemiga (Hemura), tel. (+375 29) 609 00 66. The idea of a French bistro with its own mini-bakery, and it's a pretty close shot. Minimalist interior,



everything really lovely, light and natural. Not to mention the smell! Buvette chefs can take pride in their enormous, juicy sandwiches. Salads were less to our liking, but desserts were great and filling, with stuffing in abundance. Happen to walk through old Minsk somewhere not far from Rakovs-kaya Street? Make sure to drop into Buvette, you'll have no regrets! ▶ Open 10:00 – 23:00. இ @ ⑦ @

Chill Out (Чилл Аут) C-4, Svobody pl. 4 (пл. Свободы, 4), Memiga (Немига), tel. (+375 17) 328 63 43. Soft tones of beige and brown with just a hint of neon purple and lime green inside this restaurant and cocktail bar in the heart of the city. Surplus to the telephone directory of cocktails is a menu of international dishes and the added bonus of a summer barbecue terrace. Chill Out also has a reputation for its parties, popular with some of the better off youth of the capital. > Open 11:00 - 24:00, Fri, Sat 11:00 - 04:00. () Com

Coffeeberry (Кофеберри) D-3, Nezavisimosti pr. SC "Stolitsa" (просп. Независимости, ТЦ "Столица"), tel. (+375 29) 187 45 02. A somewhat noisy, circular affair with a glass roof inside one of the city's best shopping centres. As well as serving a respectable espresso this place also boasts a small Internet café at the top of the stairs. ▶ Open 08:00 - 22:00, Sun 10:00 - 22:00. இ© (P) ()

CoffeeBOX (КофеБОКС) C-5, Nezavisimosti pr. 39 (просп. Независимости, 39), MPloschad Pobedy (Площадь Победы), tel. (+375 29) 609 94 49. Minsk's seen the arrival of a new coffee chain, CoffeeBOX. The chain of small and smug Western-type cafes targets primarily the younger generation. One of the cafes nestled in the very center of Minsk at the Victory square wouldn't look out of place in any European city. The decor is dominated by the motives of the British capital, with comfortable sofas and lots of pillows, the aroma of freshly made coffee and pastries fill the air. A nice choice of coffees in the hall and take-away, young sociable staff, free Wi-Fi and power sockets to plug in your gadgets – what else do the young need to be happy? Also at Stolitsa trade-centre, pavilion 414. ▶ Open 08:00 – 23:00. @[P]]

Coffee Inn (Кофе Инн) C-4, ul. Internatsionalnaya 23 (ул. Интернациональная, 23), MNemiga (Немига), tel. (+375 17) 327 40 41/(+375 29) 199 00 99. Good news! Coffee Inn's made a conceptual drift towards a classical American diner, enthusiastic about a popular theme - the burger. Coffee Inn's kitchen is wide open and your inquisitive eye can pry about the chefs' performance while you're sitting at the bar. We were thrilled to watch these wonderful sandwiches being engineered for us. Everything is for real: the bread is baked, the sauces are made, and so are the burgers, of course, in full view. Besides, there's a gastronomic display window, now you can make your own meat or cheese platter of delicacies and decorate it with olives or other homemade pickled veggies. Prices do not trouble the mind, with more than 10 kinds of burger on the menu they range from 45,000 to 85,000 BYR. Try "Chuck Norris" burger of pork, avocado and aubergine, or "Kiwi" burger made to a classic 1976 recipe of beef, red onions, beetroot and kiwi, 50,000 BYR each. A killer addition, a cocktail list with choice a bit exotic for Minsk. Gensek (read "general secretary") for 75,000 BYR is three-year rum infused with ginseng, banana, lime and egg white, definitely something worth trying! On top of all, Max Mirnyi, a doubles specialist and one of Coffee Inn owners, may be enjoying his drink at a table nearby. Recommended! > Open 08:00 -24:00, Sat, Sun: 10:00 - 24:00. 🕸 🞯 🚾 P 🗇 🕒

ENZO café (ЭΗЦΟ καφe) E-5, ul. Oktyabrskaya 19B (ул. Октябрьская, 19В), M Pervomayskaya (Первомайская), tel. (+375 29) 177 00 88, fax (+375 17) 328 46 28. Judging by the cafe's name, we assumed that red would dominate the colour scheme, the interior design would feature the characteristic Ferrari style, and cuisine would favour all Italian. We had made no mistake, actually. The interior part of the cafe with halls on two levels is replete with symbols of the famous Italian brand; the ground floor tables surrounded by comfortable red sofas are placed in a row, according to the principle of the American "diner", all is made in style, with creativity. The cuisine is a mix of international and Italian, they have burgers with fries on the menu along with pasta and risotto. A cute place, really worthy of your visit, no doubt. ▶ Open Fri, Sat 11:00 - 03:00, Sun – Thu 11:00 – 24:00 🛞 🖲 🖻 🗭 🔁

Feelini (Феллини) D-4, ul. Internatsionalnaya 36 (ул. Интернациональная, 36), MNemiga (Немига), tel. (+375 44) 555 55 56. Another newly opened café which was immediately noticed by sophisticated Minsk residents. Your coat taken upon entering, feel free to choose a place to your liking. Guests may even see and talk to Kasper, Feelini's chef who comes from Lithuania. Maestro will enquire if you like the food and willingly accept your gratitude. The wine list is excellent, a rarity for Minsk, with most expensive wines ordered by a bottle (which is understandable). Cuisine, in a nutshell, is top class; seafood and carpaccio we had were a tasty. And their desserts deserve attention, far from some boring and standard offerings on the menu. We were pleasantly surprised to find something original, say, a dessert of Dor Blue or Creme Brulee with poppy seeds and mango ice cream, all perfectly made. Prices are acceptable, salad up to BYR 100,000, main course up to BYR 200,000. Feelini, keep it up! Hope time and popularity won't spoil this lovely cafe and we'll visit it again. Open Mon - Thu: 17:00-24:00, Fri - Sat 17:00-02:00, Sun: 12:00-24:00. 🕸 🖻 🚱

FreshCafe (ФрэшКафе) C-5, Nezavisimosti pr. 42 (просп. Независимости, 42), MPloschad Pobedy (Площадь Победы), tel. (+375 17) 284 54 04, fax (+375 17) 288 17 14. One of Minsk's better cafés, this place has a nice modern look to it with lots of angular furniture and bright colours plus a gaggle of young and friendly waitresses scuttling about and keeping everyone happy with smiles glued to their faces. As well as being a recommended place to fuel up on coffee, they also serve a few dishes from a menu of international dishes plus a few sushi options. Be warned that the business lunch menus are known to stay on the tables after they stop serving it, a situation that can be frustrating for hungry people in a hurry. Menus in English also remain little more than a vague and distant dream. ▶ Open 10:00 - 01:00. ③ [2] @ [3]

Golden Coffee B-4, ul. Maxima Bogdanovicha 26 (ул. Максима Богдановича, 26), tel. (+375 44) 777 78 84. Slow and surly service aside, Golden Coffee could be a lot worse. Basically two floors of budget sophistication, the pizzas are surprisingly good, the espressos are exactly as espressos should be, there's free wireless internet and the owners have won us over completely with the addition of menus in English. All in all a decent spot for unpretentious food in the evening or a pick-me-up coffee during the day. Also at Shopping Centre Expobel. ▶ Open 24 hours. 注 @ @ ₱

Graf Café (Граф Кафе) Nezavisimosti pr. 116, (просп. Независимости, 116), tel. (+375 17) 266 37 22/ (+375 29) 690 62 17. Perched up high on the 22nd floor



of the National Library, this average café hosts changing art exhibitions and sells a drinkable cup of coffee. Access is only possible with a ticket to the viewing gallery on top of the building. > Open 13:00 - 23:00.

Grunvald Café (Грюнвальд Кафе) D-4, ul. Karla Marxa 19 (ул. Карла Маркса, 19), [MKupalovskaya (Купаловская), tel. (+375 17) 210 42 55/(+375 29) 177 56 90. A half-hearted attempt to cash in on the greatest battle of medieval Europe. The food is a bit pricey and the atmosphere is nothing special, so other than the suit of armour by the door and some photographs of modern-day enthusiasts pretending to be medieval, it actually lacks an outstanding appeal. Outdoor seating on a relatively quiet street is a bonus during the summer. No pen 08:00 - 24:00, Sat, Sun 10:00 - 24:00. ③ @ @ ① ① ④ ④ @

Gurman (Гурман) C-4 ul. Kommunisticheskaya 7 (ул. Коммунистическая, 7), tel. (+375 17) 290 67 74. The Gourmet name is perhaps a bit of an overstatement but we can happily overlook such hyperbole. Gurman is one of the nicest places in Minsk and would snugly fit into any Western

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capital. The food is good, if not exactly haute cuisine, and includes Indian, Italian, Belarusian and a good breakfast menu. It's casual, friendly and delightfully easy-going, and just the sort of place you'd regularly hang out at if it were in your neighbourhood. Menus are available in English. Also at Pobediteley 1 ▶ Open 08:00 - 23:00. இ @

GURU Coffee Club (ГУРУ Кофе Клаб) D-4 ul. Komsomolskaya 34 (ул. Комсомольская, 34), MNemiga (Немига), tel. (+375 29) 150 22 55. A relatively new cafe in the city centre that serves good coffee made from freshly roasted beans. Good news the number and popularity of coffee houses and coffee shops in the city is going up. Looks like this invigorating aroma of fresh coffee and pastries is beating up potatoes-and-vodka tastes. GURU is a coffee shop with relaxing interior in milky-chocolate shades and a big coffee/tea card. You can have a coffee here or buy your favorite coffee or tea blend and enjoy at home. ▶ Open 08:00 - 23:00. இ @

La Crête d'Or Café (Кофейня Золотой гребешок) D-4, ul. Lenina 3 (ул. Ленина, 3), tel. (+375 29) 105 05 03. Right next door to the superb French restaurant of the same name, don't expect anything even vaguely resembling a French café though. La Crête d'Or is a pleasant but rather nondescript little place which does a good cup of coffee and a nice selection of gunk-filled pastries and cakes. The best thing it has going for it is its location on one of Minsk's most attractive streets. ► Open 09:00 - 23:00. இ @ ce f

London (Лондон) D-4, Nezavisimosti pr. 18 (просп. Независимости, 18), MOktyabrskaya (Октябрьская), tel. (+375 17) 289 15 29. Опсе уои see past the mountains of London souvenirs at this cheerful little café, you'll notice it has two narrow levels, it's decorated with red paint, and it has a spiral staircase at the back. Drop in for a quick cup of coffee from Guatemala or head upstairs to lounge out. → Open 10:00 - 24:00, Fri, Sat 10:00 - 02:00. 倒回 @「丁爾

Lozhki (Ложки) D-4, ul. Komsomolskaya 34 (ул Комсомольская, 34), tel. (+375 17) 327 07 72. Deliciously silly, this quirky and fun café-restaurant is littered with spoons (*lozhki*) on the walls and ceiling. A former muchloved café, it's now home to a range of international dishes including the usual selection of grilled meat and Italian offerings. The waiters speak English and there's rooms for those who smoke and those who don't. ▶ Open 11:00 - 23:00, Thu, Fri, Sat 11:00 - 24:00.

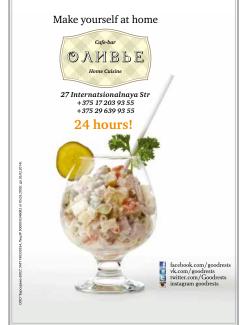
News Café (Ньюс Кафе) D-4, ul. Karla Marxa 34 (ул. Карла Маркса, 34), MOktyabrskaya (Октябрьская), tel. (+375 17) 327 78 67. The good news is that News Café has been providing quality international fare to scores of well-heeled locals and top notch foreigners for years. Friendly English-speaking staff oversee the delivery of a feast of food including some fine pasta dishes such as the knockout tagliatelle with rabbit ragout. There's free wireless Internet, a trendy layout and an overall laid-back feel to the place. The bad news is that because of this it's quite often difficult to find a seat. Reserving a table is highly recommended. ▶ Open 08:00 - 24:00, Sat, Sun 11:00 - 24:00. @@@@@@?

Olivye (Оливье) C-4, ul. Internatsionalnaya 27 (ул. Интернациональная, 27), MNemiga (Немига), tel. (+375 17) 203 93 55/(+375 29) 639 93 55. First of all, top marks for finding us a table when they were fully booked. Second, top marks for the food. One could easily overlook this place, thinking it one of a crowd of mediocre affairs in town, and that, judging from the food we ate, would be a grave error indeed. A good steak, a better-thanaverage Greek salad and an exemplary vegetarian lasagne all passed with flying colours, plus there's plenty more on offer including pasta, sushi and the intriguingly named Salad Oliver's USSR with Doctor's Sausage. The hunting season sees the arrival of game on the menu, plus there's a splendid outdoor terrace in operation between May and October. An excellent city centre choice. > Open 24 hours.

Skif (Скиф) C-5, Nezavisimosti pr. 34 (просл. Независимости, 34), MPloschad Pobedy (Площадь Победы), tel. (+375 17) 284 75 41/(+375 29) 304 86 22. Opposite the apartment where Lee Harvey Oswald used to live, this delightfully wicked, wacky and ropey little restaurant and bar is a very cool hang-out with a mad medieval theme. There's rope, wrought iron, sackcloth and wood everywhere, and a jaunty knight in jangly armour watches over it all. The crowd is young and hip and the place is so groovy that no one cares that the food is a bit basic. It's a great venue for a pre-club snack and chat. → Open 09:00 - 24:00. Fi 09:00 - 02:00, Sat 12:00 - 02:00, Sun 12:00 - 24:00. Sec A

SunCafe (СанКафе) B-5, ul. Kulbysheva 38 (ул. Куйбышева, 38), tel. (+375 17) 286 03 72/ (+375 44) 777 13 33. One of a chain of restaurants across the city serving Italian and international dishes as well as

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functioning as a simple café, Sun Café is popular with students and others looking for simple food served in modern surroundings with a professional touch. Also at Yakuba Kolasa 52, Gintovta 1, Nezavisimosti at SC "Stolitsa" and Borovaya 7. • Open 10:00 - 23:00. () C "S () T () T



32 NIGHTLIFE

Nightlife options in Minsk are diverse, friendly and at times refreshingly odd, making the city an excellent option for all manner of adventures after dark. Borders blur a bit, with bars being a bit like clubs and cafés turning into cabaret venues and live music striking up in the most unlikely places. The streets are safe and the taxis are cheap. There's really no excuse for not having a good night out.

Beer Minsk

Gaststätte (Гаштет) D-3, ul. Revolyutsionnaya, 16 (ул. Революционная, 16), MNemiga (Немига), tel. (+375 17) 306 20 62, (+375 29) 396 20 62. One of the newly opened pubs in Minsk, Gaststätte has three fairly spacious halls featuring all sorts of beer paraphernalia, a collection of German beer steins of the previous century and, most importantly, a wide choice of high quality draft and bottled beers. 8 taps pour aromatic beverages brewed in Germany, Belgium, the Czech Republic, most beer-conscious countries, with foamy heads just right. Beer snacks are tasty, though more sophisticated dishes (sausages and shin ;) impressed us less. On weekend nights Gaststätte gives live performance of foot-tapping Latin American songs. Prices are fair by Minsk standards, another excuse to drop in at Gaststätte while in Minsk. > Open Mon - Sat: 12:00 -02:00, Sun - Wed: 12:00 - 00:00. 🕸 🖻 🕲 🍞 🖳

Gvozd (Гвоздь) B-5, ul. Gikalo 5 (ул. Гикало, 5), M Yakuba Kolasa (Якуба Коласа), tel. (+375 17) 290 28 91/ (+375 29) 606 03 97. Hammers and nails (the name of the place translates as The Nail) all over the walls and one of the place translates as The Nail) all over the walls and one of the best selections of bottled beer within five hours of the place, Gvozd panders to the local addicts who can't live without the constant hum of a television set but, easily avoided, there's plenty more on offer inside. The aforementioned bottles include Master Tmavý and Master Zlatý, plus there's a decent menu of international food and live music. Great atmosphere too. Definitely one for the pub crawl. Also at Timiryazeva 65. > Open 12:00 - 24:00, Thu, Fri, Sat 12:00 - 02:00.

Underground (Андеграунд) D-4, Nezavisimosti pr. 19 (просп. Независимости), 19, tel. (+37517) 327 04 16. Former Goodwin is clearly visible in the setting of this renovated institution. Shining with all its facets, Tin Man still guards the door, while the new sign almost literally reproduces the familiar roundel indicating the entrance to the London Tube, which confuses gullible tourists looking for an underground station (clever thinking!). Underground's concept has changed, and now it's a beer restaurant with guite affordable prices. The menu is Central European without a focus on the British fare, the beer's English, German, the choice is wide, the Chef's Italian (quality assured), the working hours long. Be ready to part with 250,000 - 300,000 BYR, on average, a few Guinness beers included into the amount. The metamorphosis that Goodwin has gone through is quite to our liking; though we suspect it came from tough market conditions, the competition is for our benefit, no doubt. > Open Mon - Thu: 10:00 - 02:00, Fri, Sat: 10:00 - 05:00. 🕸 🚾 🛦 🛇 🗇 🗳

Vobla (Вобла) C-4, ul. Yanki Kupaly 25 (ул. Я. Купалы, 25), MOktyabrskaya (Октябрьская), tel. (+375 44) 539 55 55. Vobla (meaning "dried salted fish") is a pub, of course, what else can it be? If you associate dried salted fish with glass-walled pubs and beer mugs of good old Soviet times, a jolly, frumpy crowd filling the place as soon as it opens up in the morning, then you are not right. Progress has gone far, and today's Vobla, though not refined, but quite respectable, features a relatively expensive and original interior, a wide selection of draft and bottled beers, a table

Rounding things up

A new custom has recently emerged in cafés, bars and restaurants in which the bill is rounded up to the nearest 1,000 rouble note. Don't consider it a tip but rather a minuscule service charge.

Microbreweries

Arbat (Арбат) Nezavisimosti pr. 143/1 (просп. Независимости, 143/1), MVostok (Восток), tel. (+37517) 399 90 00. Let's keep the beer buzz alive. If you're a regular at Minsk pubs, Arbat is worth making a mental note of. Put a check mark here. Its own brewery, three original craft beers (three so far!) at very favourable prices (Ale Red at 35,000 BYR), good food (beer snacks best in the city), excellent service, two spacious halls (smoking and no-smoking), good price-quality ratio - a combination quite rare for the Belarusian capital, you're sure to agree. The interior may seem to someone a bit uncomfortable, a bit empty, but obviously it's the designers' intention: guests should have the impression of having a meal in an urban courtyard against the walls marked by time. What's important to us, though, is that the owners should maintain the present quality of food and drinks without increasing prices; at this rate we are ready to drink such beer out of plastic cups while sitting on a bench. > Open Sun - Thu: 12:00 - 00:00, Fri - Sat: 12:00 - 03:00. 🚾 🗟 🕲 🕁

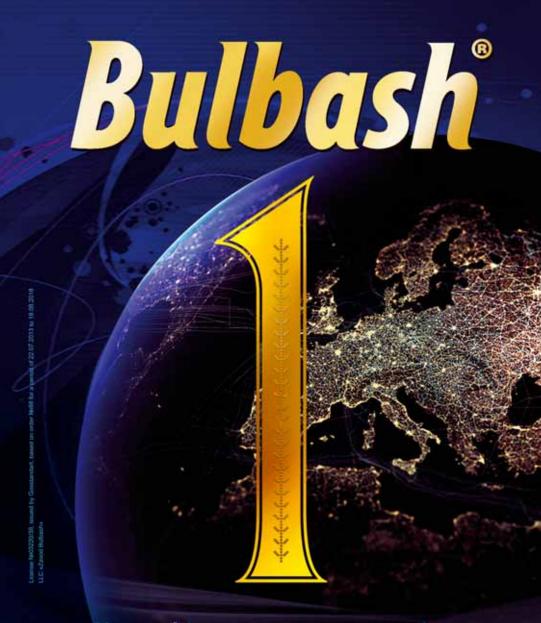
Rakovsky Brovar (Раковский Бровар) С-3,

ul. Vitebskaya 10 (ул. Витебская, 10), tel. (+375 17) 328 64 04. An absolutely enormous place, hard to find and decorated in the manner of a large hunting lodge, the main reason for dropping by is to drink yourself silly on the in-house beer. On offer are a choice of four brews, all of them superb and all of them liable to mislead as the percentage refers to something other than the alcohol content. A favourite among resident and visiting foreigners alike, the food on offer includes ostrich, brains and buckwheat and fish soup. The itinerant band may be good, but it probably won't stop you wanting to slap them. ▶ Open 12:00 - 24:00. 🏵

Bars

AUroom (AYpym) Nezavisimosti pr. 117a (просп. Независимости, 117a), tel. (+375 29) 190 22 22. Situated on the 16th and 17th floors of Alexandrov Passage business center, AUroom is currently a most popular place in the city. The atmosphere is far from common for Minsk. The interior features Indian motifs, with lots of Buddhist symbols, draperies, the dominant colour of the 16th floor is a combination of various shades of red and gold, the 17th floor is decorated in golden-green tints. AUroom positions itself as a lounge club. And, according to many, it serves the best sushi in Minsk. → Open Mon: 18:00 - 02:00, Fri - Sat: 18:00 - 06:00. ③ C ()

Bar T34 (Бар T34) D-4, ul. Krasnoarmeyskaya 3 (ул. Красноармейская, 3), M Oktyabrskaya (Октябрьская), tel. (+375 29) 768 90 73/(+375 44) 782 46 11. Named after the infamous WWII Soviet tank of



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which an example can be found outside, Bar T-34 functions like so many other places in Minsk as both a place to eat and to drink. Made up of two underground rooms decorated with lashings of military paraphernalia, the charming waitresses come complete with saucy slogans on their T-shirts and are on hand to deliver everything from bottled Asahi beer to pancakes. The menu unfortunately remains in Russian only and the gentleman on the door is apt to keep riff raff out, which generally doesn't include foreigners. Great for a meal or a beer or both. 0pen 17:00 - 04:00.

Bessonitsa (Бессоница) C-4, ul. Gertsena 3 (ул. Герцена, 1), MNemiga (Немига), tel. (+375 29) 144 11 55. This cafe, as they say now, is very atmospheric: an oblong room with tables in a row, a long bar, clocks on the wall over the bar showing time in different time zones, a light display similar to one at airports with information about dishes and drinks instead of flight details, bartenders serving the public in pilot's uniforms. The wall opposite the entrance is decorated with plenty of pillows with images of sleeping faces, all of them seeming strangely familiar, but we did not get it if these images had prototypes. Generally, the bar "Insomnia" features a lot of spatial illusions associated with Alice in Wonderland, in the interior you will find characters familiar from childhood and invented by Lewis Carroll, and some of them do misbehave. The menu is international, cocktails are made professionally, a cup of coffee/tea is up to BYR 40,000. Everyone likes the place, so you'd better come and spend the whole evening - relax in the bar or dine. Well chosen background music is always on, there's a DJ on Friday and at weekends. > Open Mon - Thu, Sun: 10:00 - 05:00, Fri - Sat: 10:00 - 06:00. OCC TAK

Соуоte (Койот) Nezavisimosti pr. 117а (просп. Независимости, 117а), MVostok (Восток), tel. (+375 29) 190 66 66. A wonderful blending of styles

Gosti (Гости) D-4, Nezavisimosti pr. 25 (просп. Heзависимости, 25), tel. (+375 29) 677 79 99. A veritable aircraft hangar lies behind the innocuous frontage of this splendid addition to the delights of the Belarusian capital. A predominantly booth-seated affair with lots of wood panelling and posters of pre-war American film heartthrobs on the walls, there's a bit of everything for everyone in here. The kitchen churns out a range of staples including chicken wings and squid whilst the bar packs both draught Guinness and Pilsner Urquell. Aimed at a 30-something crowd although attracting plenty more besides, there's also live music every night from 21:00. • Open 12:00 - 01:00, Fri, Sat 12:00 - 03:00. ()

ID Bar (ID-Gap) C-5, ul. Zakharova 19 (ул. Захарова, 19), M Ploschad Pobedy (Площадь Победы), tel. (+375 17) 293 13 96/(+375 44) 793 13 96. Mannequins as coat hangers, dangerously exposed lighting and a large evacuation plan on the wall make this place a little bit odd but worthy of further attention. The service is friendly if a little hit and miss, plus they had the audacity to run out of bottled beer before we arrived. Set in a gloomy, L-shaped basement, ID also offers free wireless Internet, has a limited menu of pricey food and is a decent place for a decent drink or two. → Open 10:00 - 24:00, Fri, Sat 10:00 - 02:00. இ @ 🏟 🐑

Moraskino (Мораскино) Nezavisimosti pr. 117a (просп. Независимости, 117а), tel. (+375 29) 192 10 00. Located on the 18th floor of Alexandrov Passage business center, Moraskino is a small VIP bar with panoramic views of the city. To enjoy this panorama to the full, however, you have to be lucky to get the table by the window, the views from others being blocked by the bar stand. But you shouldn't worry, there'll be plenty of time to admire the National Library and its surroundings along the way - there's a panoramic elevator to get to Moraskino. The bar is usually quiet and uncrowded, subdued sound and lighting creates the ambience of a lounge. Moraskino has friendly staff, international and original cuisine and good cocktails though not numerous on the menu, but bartenders will mix any when asked. If you want to relax, book a table in advance. And after some delicious dinner, go down to Aurum on the 16th floor to have a bit more fun. > Open Tue - Thu: 10:00 - 05:00, Fri - Sat: 18:00 - 06:00, Sun: 18:00 - 02:00. 🛞 🖻 🖉 🏵 🗎 🍟

Clubs

Alcatraz (Алькатраз) D-4, Nezavisimosti pr. 25 (просп. Независимости, 25), MOktyabrskaya (Октябрьская), tel. (+375 29) 355 33 33. Hidden away of all places underneath the Trade Union Palace of Culture, whilst this extraordinary if not outright kinky little club is no longer the force it was a decade ago, it's still a great place to visit for a bit of fun. There's a good sized dance floor to move around on with the help of a collection of mainstream DJs. Den 12:00 - 06:00. Black Door (Блэк дор) B-4, ul. Very Khoruzhey 29 (ул. Веры Хоружей, 29), MPloschad Yakuba Kolasa (Площадь Якуба Konaca), tel. (+375 17) 334 43 44/ (+375 44) 734 43 44. Dark and moody and featuring a bar that changes colour, Black Door lives in that classic Belarusian twilight zone that's not quite a restaurant and not quite a club. The food is much better than average, making even more of an argument for calling it a restaurant. The music sways between anything from funk to jazz, DJs come from abroad and they often have raucous music-theme nights. → Open 12:00 - 06:00, Fri, Sat 12:00 - 09:00. ③ ● ③ ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ●

Dozari (Дозари) B-5 Nezavisimosti pr. 58 (просп. Независимости, 58), M Ploschad Yakuba Kolasa (Площадь Якуба Коласа), tel. (+375 17) 290 05 60, (+375 29) 345 22 33. Dozari means Until Dawn, which is the first thing you need to understand about this place. This dazzling new addition to the city's nightlife scene is for serious party animals who believe a good night out ends in taxi ride home at sunrise. Spread out over two floors and covering a total of 1,500 square metres, the designers have pulled out all the stops here and have opted for a mind-boggling mix of Baroque and Art Deco sprinkled with ultramodern lighting and a big, big sound. Famous names from home and abroad feature on the flyers. If you thought Eastern Europe was all about cabbage soup and old ladies in headscarves, think again. > Open 10:00 - 06:00, Closed Mon, Tue. 🛞 🚾 🗟 P 🏹 🗳 🐨

Madison Royal Club (Мэдисон Роял Клаб) С-2, ul. Timiryazeva 9 (ул. Тимирязева, 9), tel. (+375 17) 219 00 10/ (+375 29) 619 00 40. The ultimate night club experience, Madison Royal Club is about as exclusive, luxurious and hedonistic as it gets. The face control is legendary, but assuming you get in (men should be sober and sophisticated, women beautiful and scantily dressed) expect, according to them, a New York concrete and Soho glass extravaganza. Many male DJs come from Ibiza, the women DJs spin tunes whilst practically naked and the bill at the end of the evening is going to cost you more than the flight home. If you don't like this kind of thing then move on. If on the other hand you do, the word on the street is that it's extremely well organised, safe and one of the best nights out of its kind anywhere. > Open 22:00 - 06:00. Closed Mon, Tue. 🛞 🚾 🖻 🚻 🗳

Max Show (Макс Шоу) B-6, Nezavisimosti pr. 73 (просп. Независимости, 73), MAkademia Nauk (Академия наук), tel. (+375 17) 337 38 05/(+375 17) 292 00 38/(+375 44) 703 07 84. This round, blue and popular club in the Oktyabr cinema puts particular emphasis on its erotic show programmes, meaning go-go dancers in various states of nakedness taking to the stage just about every night. In a surprising display of egalitarianism, it also caters to the ladies by offering a male striptease review some nights. Check the schedule ahead of time to see whether it'll be a Boris or a Natasha flapping their privates in your face. ▶ Open 13:00 - 06:00. Entrancefee - €10 (from 22:30 till 06:00). இ @ [>] [>] [>] [] @]] @@]

Next (Некст) D-4, ul. Kirova 13 (ул. Кирова, 13), tel. (+375 44) 718 77 77, www.cpminsk.com. The Crowne Plaza Minsk's very own in-house club is aimed at young, successful professionals with money in their bank accounts to match. Among the many treats in store are no less than four bars, one of which is generally alive with the skills of an acrobatic cocktail-maker. The music is quality mainstream club music, pumped out onto a dance floor more often than not awash with good-looking things having the time of their life. Professional security keeps the riff-raff out, guaranteeing a relaxed and fun night out for all. > Open 10:00 - 06:00.

Overtime (OBEPTAЙM) C-3, Pobediteley pr. 4 (просл. Победителей, 4), MMemiga (Немига), tel. (+375 29) 1 414 414. A big sports-themed hall with mediocre facilities has somehow managed to become a happening nightspot. Really, there's no accounting for taste. Most of the floor space is given over to restaurant-style seating, with blue plastic swivelling egg-cups accommodating some of the prettiest bottoms in town. There's a small tiled dance floor with not much in the way of lighting that quickly gets packed. Bar staff keep the crowd amused by juggling and dropping bottles. Wannabe thugs keep their ape ambitions alive with an arcade style punching bag in the foyer. Popular and fun. ▶ Open 18:00 - 06:00. Entrance fee: €4+.

Casinos

Diamond Princess (Даймонд Принцесс) D-4, ul. Kirova 13 (ул. Кирова, 13), MPloshchad Lenina (Площадь Ленина), tel. (+375 17) 218 34 46, diamondprincesscasino@hotmail.com, www.worldofprincess.com. Inside the Crowne Plaza hotel, Diamond Princess offers over 1,000 square metres of space for nine table games including Blackjack, Roulette, Caribbean poker and Russian Poker as well as over 100 slot machines. Open around the clock there's also an in-house bookmakers for those who like to have a flutter on sporting events. A range of drinks and snacks is available from the casino bar. ▶ Open 24 hours. இ © © [] ...

Millennium (Казино-клуб «Миллениум») C-3, Pobediteley pr. 7 (просп. Победителей, 7), tel. (+375 17) 209 42 25, (+375 29) 177 00 77, www.casinozeus.by. This elite entertainment complex can be found located in the very heart of Minsk. An eyecandy setting of the casino, friendly and highly skilled staff, impeccable service and an individual approach to each client - all add up to create a pleasing and comfortable environment where nothing hampers you enjoying the game. Four American roulette tables and six card tables are at your disposal. Those favouring privacy and playing for high stakes can have it all in the VIP hall. The casino offers most popular and exciting four kinds of poker (Caribbean, Russian, Texas, Caribbean), Blackjack and American Roulette, plus 50 slot machines with latest games. "MILLENNIUM" -- Success begins with a chance 🕨 Open 24 hours. 🛞 🖲 🕒 🖉 🖉 📼

Zeus (3eBc) A-4, ul. Orlovskaya 40a (yn. OpnoBckaa, 40a), tel. (+375 17) 335 03 22, www.casinozeus. by. A fun atmosphere thanks to an Ancient Greek theme, Casino Zeus features three areas, one for seri-

Karaoke

Sinatra (Синатра) C-3, Pobediteley pr 13 (просп. Победителей, 13), MNemiga (Немига), tel. (+375 17) 203 28 10, (+375 29) 633 28 10. If you want to sing your heart out while feasting on an original Belarusian specialty, look no further than Sinatra, a Karaoke restaurant in Minsk. Everything at Sinatra is in line with its motto - The best of the past in the present! Whether it's an elegant setting in retro style, traditional Belarusian and European cuisine, or excellent service - Sinatra owners hold the bar high. The main hall with a dance floor and a bar admits up to a hundred guests; a bit of privacy wanted, you can opt for a comfortable VIP zone there're four of those in different colours. Sinatra has 5 wide plasma screens, professional sound equipment, excellent acoustics and perfectly selected repertoire, including both retro hits and modern composition. Music to my ear - no prison lyrics or criminals' chanson. Place on record we had a most favourable impression, so old Frank could be proud of is namesake. Open Mon - Sun: 17:00 - 06:00, kitchen to 05:00. * CC P I T L VO

ous gambling with the help of slot machines, roulette, black jack, Russian poker, Texas poker and three-card poker, a bar to keep lubricated whilst betting and a lounge area to relax. There's also the opportunity to eat, with a menu full of good things to eat including the now ubiquitous Minsk staple, sushi. \triangleright Open 24 hours. $\textcircled{Descently Descently Des$

Cocktails

Stravinsky Bar (Стравинский Бар) С-4, Nezavisimosti pr. 25b (просп. Независимости, 256), (М) Oktyabrskaya (Октябрьская), tel. (+375 29) 190 99 99. A little bit of sophistication tucked away behind the tourist market, Stravinsky boasts a menu of over 60 cocktails, a glass bar, angle-poise lamps screwed to the ceiling and contemporary wall art made from red wine stains. One of the nicest places in town to head for a drink, added bonuses include the blues oozing from the loudspeakers and small selection of things to eat. > Open 17:00 - 02:00, Fri, Sat 17:00 - 05:00.

Sweet & Sour (Свит энд Сауэр) D-4, ul. Karla Marxa 14 (ул. Карла Маркса, 14), MPloschad Lenina (Площадь Ленина), tel. (+375 17) 218 25 93, www.sweetandsour.by. Relive pre-Prohibition era America inside this small and exclusive, centrally located bar popular with a range of well-heeled visitors from their 20s to their 50s. The lively bar staff conjure up all manner of fancy drinks including the highly recommended Prescription Julep made from cognac, rye whiskey, mint leaves, sugar and spring water. Inspired by the likes of legendary bartender Jerry Thomas, the cocktails are truly fantastic, plus there's a choice of quality beer to keep everyone happy. Superb alcohol is accompanied by delicious appetizers and snacks from the minimalist but sufficient menu. This bar is open to all, but more suitable for those who can value old school drinking and serving. Be aware that you can only pay in cash and there is no chance for morning espresso, as the bar starts at 4 p.m. Deliciously sophisticated and highly recommended. > Open 16:00 - 02:00. Closed Sun. 🛞 💿 🕻 🖻 🗳

Wine

Galereya Vin (Галерея ВИН) C-3, Pobediteley pr. 23 - 1 (просп. Победителей, 23 - 1), MNemiga (Немига), tel. (+375 17) 226 63 90. Wine Gallery is actually a wine shop, but it has a small bar in the back and a handful of wooden tables where you can enjoy a nice vintage by the glass. A very civilised alternative to the flashy casinos and beer gardens that surround it. ▶ Open 10:00 - 22:00, Mon 10:00 - 19:00. இ @ [¥]

Live music

DooDah King (ДуДа Кинг) D-3, ul. Bersona 14 (ул. Берсона, 14), MPloschad Lenina (Площадь Ленина), tel. (+37529) 103 10 00. Featuring live music almost every night from around 23:00 and a fabulous collection of art, graffiti and American road signs covering every available wall space, Doodah King also provides music performances on an array of large screens when there's nobody prancing around on the stage. The booze selection is good, the menu is bursting with Russian and American favourites and you'll be hard pressed to find a seat if you arrive too late. Friendly staff too. ▶ Open 11:00 - 05:00. இ for a the stage of the stage of

TNT ROCK CLUB D-3, ul. Revolyutsionnaya 9 (ул. Революционная, 9) MNemiga (Немига), tel. (+375 29) 655-55-55. Minsk is rocking with powerful AC/DC riffs! TNT ROCK CLUB in Revolutsionnaya street has every chance to turn into iconic venue, for there's lots more to it than just a glass of tap beer, a plate of American fare, live sound and dance floor! Along with entertaining, TNT's mission's to enlighten, so its walls, apparently, are covered with rock memorabilia. Displayed musical instruments that at one time belonged to famed rock stars would do honour to a museum or an HRC in any big city. What concerns live music, the focus is on original programmes. A chance is given to young and promising rock musicians and bands to demonstrate their skill, they have the club on Friday evenings and at weekends. Come and you'll have a feeling that you've been invited to a party of old buddies. Hearty and no-pathos atmosphere pleasantly contrasts with Minsk's mainstream. On weekdays, the entrance to the club is free. No glamour - just good old rock 'n' roll. Recommended! > Open 12:00 - 02:00, Fri, Sat: 12:00 -04:00, Sun: 12:00 -02:00.

Adult entertainment

Laguna (Лагуна) С-1, Pushkina pr. 39 (просп. Пушкина, 39), МРизhkinskaya (Пушкинская), tel. (+375 17) 257 37 80. Strip club ▶ Open 21:30 - 05:30. இ@ГП

Техаз (Техас) С-3, Pobediteley pr. 19 (просп. Победителей, 19), tel. (+375 17) 226 99 04. Strip club ▶ Open 20:00 – 05:00. இсс. () Г. ()

Versus (Версус) D-3, Nezavisimosti pr. 11 (просп. Независимости, 11), МРоссhad Lenina (Площадь Ленина), tel. (+375 17) 200 25 20/ (+375 29) 634 44 12. Strip club ▶ Open 21:00 - 07:00. இсс С.Р.Т.П.Э.

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Despite its predominantly post-war character, Minsk is a fabulous city to explore. One of the world's masterpieces of Socialist-Realist urban planning, the city also throws aficionados of antiquity a handful of titbits such as a scattering of marvellous old churches.

Museums & Galleries

Ancient Belarusian Culture Museum B-6, ul. Surganova 1/2 (yn. Cypranoba, 1/2), tel. (+37517) 284 27 32/(+37517) 284 24 97. Opened in 1979 on the 50th anniversary of the National Academy of Sciences, the collection includes a wide range of ethnographic and cultural exhibits including icons, folk art and even a collection of items relating to the Chernobyl disaster. \blacktriangleright Open 11:00 - 16:00. Closed Sat, Sun. Admission free. Fire Museum D-3, ul. Gorodskoy Val 12 (ул. Городской Baл, 12), tel. (+375 17) 294 61 22. The fascinating history of Minsk's fire brigade, with tours conducted by grinning firemen. Visits must be booked in advance, and keep in mind that tours are in the Russian language only. ▶ Open 09:00 - 17:00.

First Congress of the Russian Social-Democratic Workers Party Museum C-5, Nezavisimosti pr. 31a (просп. Независимости, 31a), tel. (+375 17) 290 684 7. Home to the first Party Congress way back in 1898, the building was destroyed during the Great Patriotic War. Such is the importance of the building, it was completely rebuilt after the war and remains a testament to all things Soviet. ▶ Open 10:00 - 18:00. Closed Wed.

Travel agencies

Champagne (Шампань) E-4, ul. Oktyabrskaya 5, 111 (ул. Октябрьская, 5-111), MPervomaiskaya (Первомайская), tel. (+375 29) 606 26 79, (+375 29) 709 26 79, (+375 17) 327 86 42, www.shampan.by, info@shampan.by. Travel company arranges tours around Belarus with theatrical performances and pageants based on historic events and legends ("A visit to Santa Claus," "The Marriage of King Jagiello," etc.). Travel company Champagne also provides organization of business trips, seminars, presentations, corporate celebrations; arranges visa support, booking hotels and transportation for individual travelers and groups, provides "dental tourism" services. It has a centrally located office: Svobody, 23, of. 102. > Open 09:00 - 19:00, Sat 10:00 - 16:00. Closed Sun.

Cross Tour (Kpocc Typ) Nezavisimosti pr. 95, 10 (npocn. Heзависимости, 95, 10), tel. (+375 17) 2816501, (+37529) 3816501, (+37529) 5556503, e-mail: office@crosstour.by, www.crosstour.by. The travel agency provides visa support, airport pick up and transfer, hotel accommodation booking, conducting seminars and conferences, various excursions and guided tours around Belarus, catering, agricultural tours and accommodation at Belarusian farmsteads and estates. ▶ Open 10:00 - 17:00. Closed Sat, Sun.

Driant (Дриант) D-3, ul. Revolyutsionnaya 12, (ул. Революционная, 12), tel./fax (+37517) 30621 14, tel. (+37529) 3062114, (+37533) 3062114, e-mail: info@driant.com, www.driant.com. They provide visa support, accommodation and airline tickets booking, arrival and departure transfers. ► Open 09:00-19:00, Sat 10:00-14:00. Closed Sun.

Gastina (Гастина) C-5, Masherova pr. 3/9 (просп. Машерова, 3/9), MPloshchad Pobedy (Площадь Победы), tel. (+375 17) 288 22 65/ (+375 29) 636 20 17, gastina2009@mail.ru, www.gastina.by. The agency can help you with visa support, airline tickets and hotel booking, airport arrival and departure transfers. ► Open 10:00 - 17:00. Closed Sat, Sun.

Planet Travel (Планет Травел) D-3, ul. Gorodskoy Val 8-23 (ул. Городской вал, 8-23), tel./fax (+375 17) 228 18 18, tel. (+375 17) 219 03 69, (+375 29) **312 07 60, www.planetby-travel.com, e-mail: office. olittl@vp.by.** They offer recreation and hunting tours, visa support, booking internationalflights and accommodation. Recommended. ▶ Open 09:00 - 19:00, Sat 11:00 - 15:00. Closed Sun.

OstCom-Odigitria (ОстКом-Одигитрия) С-5, Masherova pr. 3 (просп. Машерова, 3, оф. 18), MPloschad Pobedy (Площадь Победы), tel. (+375 17) 288 25 11, (+375 29) 151 55 10, ostcom@ yandex.by, Scype: ostcom.auto. The company provides the following services: visa support, transfers, accommodation, car rental, tours around Belarus and ecotourism. ▶ Open Mon – Fry: 09.00 - 19.00, Sat: 10:00 - 16:00.

Travel (Трэвел) D-4, ul. Kalvariyskaya 1 -102 (ул. Кальварийская, 1 - 102), M Frunzenskaya (Фрунзенская), tel. (+375 17) 200 80 66, tel. \ fax:(+37517) 226 46 27, (+375 29) 570 43 43, (+375 29) 626 43 43, belarus@minsktravel.by, www.travel-minsk.by. Development of tourist itineraries and organization of group and individual tours of Belarus, the CIS countries, Eastern and Western Europe, coach tours and transportation. Sightseeing and entertainment tours around Belarus, familiarising with folk culture and technologies, national customs and traditions. Hotel bookings, guides, interpreters, consulting and information services in the field of tourism. Advertising tours, presentations of new programs, travel club, charitable tours of Belarus. > Open 9:00 - 18:00. Closed Sat, Sun.

Vokrug Sveta (Bokpyr CBETA) D-4, ul. Internatsionalnaya 10 (yn. Интернациональная, 10), tel./fax (+375 17) 200 16 86, 226 83 92, www.vokrugsveta.by. Vokrug Sveta (Around the World) is the legal owner of the trade mark HOTEL.BYTM and sole owner of the on-line hotel booking service in Belarus made accessible on the website http://hotel.by. On-line hotel booking is a free service for corporate clients and individuals from any part of the world. You can in no time book accommodation in a Belarus' hotel of any category, your booking being accepted straight away. The company offers expert travel-related services to match all budgets – from economy to VIP – to foreign tourist groups and individual visitors. • Open 9:00 - 18:00. Closed Sat, Sun.

Great Patriotic War Museum D-4, Nezavisimosti

pr. 25а (просп. Независимости, 25а), tel. (+375 17) 327 56 11. Opened barely three months after Minsk was liberated by the Red Army, the city's must-see Great Patriotic War Museum has come a long way over the last six decades and is currently based inside a building where it's been since 1966. Presenting the full horrors of World War II from the perspective of the Soviet Union, you won't find much mention of the Allied efforts, but you will get insight into the suffering of the Belarusians and the immense sacrifices made by the Red Army to liberate their territory from the 'facist-German' [sic] occupiers. After passing a magnificent statue of Lenin, you can visit some original tanks and planes in the back yard of the museum. All texts are in Russian, and it's highly recommended to telephone or drop by in advance to arrange a guided tour in English to get the full benefit of the experience. Open 10:00 - 18:00. Closed Mon. Closed Mon. Admission 14,000 BYR.

Maxim Bogdanovich Literature Museum C-4, ul. Bogdanovicha 7a (ул. Богдановича, 7a), tel. (+375 17) 334 42 69. The Belarusian poet and journalist Maxim Bogdanovich (1891-1917) had an enormous effect on Belarusian literature, a fact reflected in the naming of several streets throughout the country in his honour. This museum, one of several in Belarus dedicated to his life, is somewhat specialised as well as lacking in any English explanations to the exhibits. ▶ Open 10:00 - 17:00. Closed Mon. Also closed Sundays in summer.

National Museum of History & Culture D-4, ul. Karla Marxa 12 (ул. Карла Маркса, 12), tel. (+375 17) 327 43 22. Artefacts relating to the history of Belarus from 40,000BC to the present day are sprinkled throughout this creaky old museum, the largest repository of archaeological items in the country. Axe-heads, swords, portraits, an old printing press and exhibits on fishing, hunting and folklore are among the many rewards for those who visit. Unfortunately there's no text to describe any of it in English. > Open 11:00 - 19:00. Closed Mon. Admission 15,000 BYR.

Nature Museum D-2, ul. Karla Marxa 12 (ул. Карла Маркса, 12), tel. (+375 17) 206 69 56. Located in the bowels of the Museum of History and Culture (see Museums), this small museum is the most exciting place in town to see dusty mammoth bones and stuffed bears. Don't miss the institution's pride and joy - a nice pile of potatoes. > Open 11:00 - 19:00. Closed Mon. Admission 15,000 BYR.

Zair Azgur Museum D-5 ul. Azgura 8 (ул. Азгура, 8), tel. (+375 17) 294 73 01. The award-winning, Vitebskborn Zair Isaakovich Azgur (1908-1995) is a household



Cemeteries

Eastern Cemetery Nezavisimosti pr. 161 (просп. Независимости, 161), tel. (+375 17) 267 53 04. Also known as the Moscow Cemetery due to its position on the main road out of Minsk in the direction of the Russian capital, this must-see, 23-hectare masterpiece was opened in 1952 near the site of a burial ground containing German soldiers from WWII. The final resting place of Belarus' finest figures from politics, the



arts and other high-ranking professions, a stroll around the place, especially with the help of a local guide, is a veritable lesson in recent Belarusian history. Notable graves among the many include those of former First Secretary of the Belarusian Communist Party Petr (Pyotr) Masherov (1918-1980), the writers Vasil Bykov (1924-2003) and Vladimir Korotkevich (1930-1984), the sculptor Zair Azgur (1908-1995), the Soviet partisan Elena Mazanik, who assassinated the infamous Nazi controller of occupied Belarus, Wilhelm Kube and figures from more popular spheres of life, among them Sverdlovsk/Ekaterinburg-born Vladimir Mulyavin (1941-2003), founder of the immensely popular Soviet-era folk-rock group Pesniary, and the former captain of the Belarusian ice hockey team Ruslan Salei (1974-2011) who lost his life and the lives of the entire Lokomotiv Yaroslavl ice hockey team who Salei was playing for at the time when a Yakovlev Yak-42 destined for Minsk crashed on take off. The cemetery, which also features an extraordinary collection of Jewish graves, was officially closed for burial in 2003 although it continues to function under special circumstances. To get there, take the Moskovskaya metro line to Vostok station and follow the main road out of the city. The cemetery is on the north side of the road and is impossible to miss.

Military Cemetery C-5, Between ul. Kozlova and ul. Krasnozvezdnaya (между ул. Козлова и ул. Краснозвездная). First opened in 1840 and moved to its current location in 1895, the cemetery contains the war dead from countless campaigns from the Russo-Turkish War of 1877-1878 to those who fell during the Great Patriotic War. The cemetery also contains the graves of several notable figures in Belarusian culture including that of the poet and writer Yanka Kupala (1882-1942), whose name crops up in several places around the capital.

name in Belarus. Azgur being one of the most celebrated Belarusian artists of the Soviet era, his busts of soldiers, the political elite and a few surprising others graced and in many cases still grace plinths throughout the former mighty empire. This little known museum, housed inside the sculptor's former home and workshop, is a real jawdropper, and should feature on all itineraries to the city. A massive head of Karl Marx greets visitors, although

the main reason for dropping by is the vast space on the second floor, dominated by a series of large floor-to-ceiling shelves packed with Azgur's work. Magnificent. > Open 11:00 - 16:00. Closed Sat, Sun.

Churches

Aleksander Nevsky Church C-5, ul. Kozlova 11 (ул. Козлова, 11). Built inside the grounds of the city's Military Cemetery to commemorate victory in the Russo-Turkish War of 1877-1878 and completed in 1898, this splendid little Russian Baroque church is the only religious building in the city to retain its original appearance. The interior is somewhat austere, featuring lots of black marble with inscriptions to those lost in bloody battle. In February 1938 the church was the last to be closed in the city, three years before a Luftwaffe bomb fell through the roof on June 24, 1941, landing in front of the icon of St. Nicholas but failing to explode. Another bomb during the same air raid had better luck, destroying much of the roof. Reopened by the occupying Germans soon after, the church was closed again by the Soviets who did at least spend time restoring the building.

Cathedral of Sts. Peter & Paul C-3, ul. Rakovskaya 4 (ул. Раковская, 4), MNemiga (Немига). Built in 1613, the so-called Yellow Church is the oldest surviving religious building in Minsk. The building was closed by the Bolsheviks at the start after the October revolution, reopened by the Nazis, closed again by the Soviets in 1944 and reopened once more in 1992.

Cathedral of the Holy Spirit C-4, ul. Kirilla i Mefodiya

3 (ул. Кирилла и Мефодия, 3). One of the most instantly recognisable symbols of Minsk is this magnificent, gleaming, two-towered Orthodox cathedral in the heart of the city. Completed in 1642 as part of a larger ensemble to serve Bernadine nuns, consecration was delayed for 40 years because of the Muscovite invasions. In 1741 the original structure was

Church of Sts. Simon & Helena

damaged by fire but later reconstructed. The convent was closed in 1852 and the building given to the Russian Orthodox Church for use as a monastery before being closed by the Bolsheviks after the October Revolution. Today the church has been restored to its former glory. Look out for the famed Minsk Icon, supposedly dating from around 1500.



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Holy Martyr Grand Princess Elizabeth Convent

ul. Vygotskogo 6, (ул. Выготского, 6) tel. (+375 17) 289 88 06, (+375 17) 289 01 59 www.obitel-minsk.by e-mail: monaster-nov@yandex.ru. Named after the Grand Duchess Elizabeth Feodorovna of Russia (1864-1918), a granddaughter of Queen Victoria who was arrested and thrown down a mineshaft by the Bolsheviks soon after the October Revolution and who was subsequently canonised by the anti-Soviet Russian Orthodox Church

Outside Russia in 1981 and by the Russian Orthodox Church 11 years later, this extraordinary ensemble on the outskirts of Minsk including four churches, a shop, crafts facilities and other buildings was founded in 1999 as a centre for over 70 Orthodox nuns, novices and lay labourers who've all given their lives to providing spiritual and social help to the sick and suffering. Also involved in a tireless amount of outreach work as well as running a farmstead for recovering alcoholics



and other people down on their luck, the women oversee an enormous amount of activity at the convent. The complex is open to the public with tours available in English, taking in several of the things taking place inside the buildings including a number of workshops making stained glass,



icons and other works of art that as well as help decorate the convent and its four churches also give young people new skills and, through the sale of many of the things they make, a valuable source of income. Much of the stained glass is fashioned into small items including plates and fridge magnets, all of which are available to buy from around €2 to somewhere in the region of €30. The icon workshops are particularly fascinating

Church of Sts. Simon & Helena D-3, ul. Sovetskaya 15 (ул. Coberckaa, 15), MPloschad Lenina (Площадь Ленина), tel. (+375 17) 220 44 15. Known in the local vernacular as the Red Church, the city's best-known Catholic building was constructed between 1908 and 1910 on the orders of a rich Belarusian family upon the premature death of their two children after whom the church is dedicated. The two smaller towers are named after the offspring, while the larger one represents the grief of the parents. Under the Soviets the church was turned into a cinema then a film studio. Now once again used for its original purpose, the building adds a nice splash of history to an otherwise modern square. The bronze statue in front of the church represents Archangel Michael saying the Devil, represented as a dragon. Also of interest is the so-called Nagasaki Bell,



and include not only new works of art but a small department who renovate damaged icons from Belarus and beyond. The churches can also be visited, perhaps the most interesting being the Church of St. Nicolas the Wonder Worker, where the women of the convent read from the Psalter around the clock in hour-long shifts in order to save the world. There's also a shop where you can buy produce from the farmstead including jars of honey and a small café selling excellent value potato pancakes. Located in the suburb on Novinki (HaBiHKi) about 8km north of the city centre, the convent can be reached on the N°18 bus, which runs every 10 minutes or so during the day. Get off at the Novinki stop and keep walking in the same direction. The convent is on the right. Keep an eye out for the onion domes.



a replica of the one that used to hang in Nagasaki's Urakami Cathedral before it was destroyed in the nuclear attack on August 9, 1945.

Maria Magdalena Church B-4, ul. Kiselyova 42 (yn. KuceneBa, 42). Founded in 1847, this lovely little church with a fine octagonal bell tower and splendid dome was built on the site of an earlier wooden structure. Also on the same territory are, to the left, a small church dedicated to John the Baptist and consecrated in 1995 and, to the right, a chapel dating from 1998. Used as a film, photography and sound archive during the Soviet period, Mary Magdalena Church was the first religious building in the city to be given back to the religious community, the first service taking place on November 25, 1990. Maryinsky Cathedral D-4, Svobody pl. 9 (пл. Свободы, 9). This Catholic cathedral survived the ravages of both world wars but in the 1950s lost its two towers when it received a thorough Soviet makeover. The twin towers have since been restored, with copper domes sparkling impressively.

Places of interest

Isle of Tears B-2, On the Svisloch, near Storozhevskaya, Memiga (Hemura). A smallfootbridge leads from the Trinity to the Isle of Tears, a memorial commemorating Soviet soldiers from Belarus who died in the decade-long war with Afghanistan between 1979 and 1989. The centrepiece is the chapel, with haunting figures of grieving mothers, sisters and widows at its base. A nearby fountain features the boy-like figure of an angel, rigged up to cry teardrops. You may notice that a certain part of his anatomy is shinier than the rest. This is explained by the tradition of newlyweds visiting war memorials on their wedding day, and a modern folk belief that if the bride gropes this poor young lad's privates she'll be guaranteed children.

Minsk State Circus D-4, Nezavisimosti pr. 32 (просп. Hезависимости, 32), tel. (+375 17) 226 10 08/ (+37517) 327 22 45. The origins of the Minsk State Circus date to 1930 and the construction of a tent in what's now Gorky Park. Today's building took four years to complete and was opened to the public on February 11, 1959. Completely renovated in 2010, the circus now also boasts a hotel for visiting performers and a museum.

Minsk Zoo ul. Tashkentskaya 40, Chizhovka district (yn. Taшкентская, 40), tel. (+375 17) 240 23 97. Established in 1984 in true Soviet style by workers at the neighbouring Minsk Automobile Plant, this 42-hectare menagerie features over 160 species of animals including eagle owls, brown bears, Egyptian fruit bats, lamas and others. As well as functioning as an ordinary zoo open to the general public, Minsk Zoo is also involved in several conservation and breeding programmes. ▶ Open 10:00 - 17:00, Fri 10:00 - 18:00.

National Library Nezavisimosti pr. 116 (просп. Независимости, 116), tel. (+375 17) 229 24 94, www.nlb.by. Opened on June 16, 2006 and the work of architects Mihail Vinogradov and Viktor Kramarenko, the Belarusian National Library is well worth a trip out of the centre for a closer inspection. Standing at 72 metres tall and boasting an impressive 22 floors, the extraordinary rhombicuboctahedron construction houses 20 state-of-the-art reading rooms, has full disabled access, contains its very own Book Museum, lights up at night and even has an observation point on top for superb



Gorky Park

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views of the city reached via a ride in a glass lift that clings to the edge of the building. A statue of the 16th-century father of Belarusian publishing, Francysk Skaryna stands near the entrance, whilst membership is open to anyone in possession of a valid passport regardless of nationality. > Open 10:00 -21:00, Sat, Sun 10:00 - 18:00.

Oktyabrskaya (October) Square D-4, Oktyabrskaya pl., next to Museum of Great Patriotic War, MOttyabrskaya (Oктябрьская). Originally functioning as a small marketplace until the first half of the 19th century, October Square is now a massive open space that effectively serves as the centre of the city where a small granite pyramid marks the spot. Mostfamous as a place of celebration, public events and an outdoor skating rink during the winter. Perhaps the most interesting if not bizarre story of the square is the discovery of several mammoth skeletons when the Metro line below was being built.

Troitskoye Predmestye (Trinity Suburb) C-4, West bank of the river, between ul. Maxima Bogdanovicha and ul. Starovilenskaya (между ул. Богдановича и ул. Старовиленской). Minsk's old town, more commonly known as Troitskoye Predmestye (Trinity Suburb, or just Trinity) after the former Trinity Church that once stood in the area, is a slight misnomer in that it dates from just three decades ago. Built between 1982 and 1985 on the site of a former settlement dating from the 12th century, Trinity does at least offer a break from the sprawling concrete of the city centre. The birthplace of the Belarusian poet and journalist Maxim Bogdanovich, the area boasts a number of decent restaurants and bars, making it worth having a look round, especially during the summer.

Parks & Gardens

Central Botanical Garden B-6, ul. Surganova 2a (ул. Сурганова, 2a), tel. (+375 17) 284 14 84. Taking up a considerable portion of the city's Chelyuskintsev Park, the Central Botanical Gardens date from 1932 and feature some 9,000 different species. ▶ Open 10:00 - 19:00. Closed Mon.

Chelyuskintsev Park The sprawling, 78-hectare Chelyuskintsev Park is a hugely popular place for people of all ages to visit during the warmer part of the year. Great for strolling around under the trees or taking a picnic, attractions include an ancient amusement park complete with 28-metre Ferris wheel, a narrow gauge railway run entirely by young people and, next door, the lovely Central Botanical Gardens (see above). Interestingly, the park is named after the SS Chelyuskin, a Soviet steamship that found itself stranded along the Northern Sea Route in the early 1930s. Trapped in ice and eventually sinking, the pilots who rescued the crew were the first ever to receive the title of Hero of the Soviet Union.

Gorky Park C-5, D-5, Along Nezavisimosti pr., between ul. Yanki Kupaly and ul. Frunze (Mexqy yn. Янки Купалы и ул. Фрунзе). The oldest park in Minsk and founded in 1800 as the City Gardens, Gorky Park received its current name in honour of the Soviet-era writer in 1936. Originally designed along the lines of a classic English park, the hugely popular public space has seen many transformations over the years. Now geared towards children although frequented by people of all ages, it's home among other things to an amusement park complete with a 56-metre Ferris wheel, a small observatory and planetarium and an indoor skating rink. During the summer it's possible for children to take a ride round the park on a pony.

Hero City



On the day Hitler's Wehrmacht took control of the Belarusian capital in the summer of 1941, Minsk looked more or less like any other historical city in the region, a multi-ethnic mishmash of wooden houses, Catholic spires, grand tsarist façades, synagogues and other miscellaneous architecture.

When the Red Army took it back again three years later, over 90 per cent of the city lay in ruins. Rebuilt literally from the ashes of the Great Patriotic War in accordance with the strictest Socialist Realist principles, Minsk, granted the title Hero City on June 26, 1974 along with 11 other cities in the Soviet Union in honour of the special role it played during the aforementioned hostilities, offers a rare glimpse at Stalin-era social planning on a truly epic scale.

The city's crowning masterpiece is the grand avenue stretching several kilometres northeast from the mostly pre-war Independence Square through the heart of the city along Nezavisimosti and out past the pseudo-Classical Belarusian National Technical University into the suburbs. Lined with countless fine examples, of particular interest are the 1953 Central Post Office at Nezavisimosti 10 and complete with hammer and sickle over the entrance, the 1951 GUM department store at Nezavisimosti 23 and, a little further on, the cathedral-looking structure dating from 1954 that's the Trade Union Palace of Culture. Further on at the centre of the magnificent Victory Square is the arguably the most representative structure in the entire city.

The Victory Monument is a 38-metre granite column with a three-metre replica of the Soviet Order of Victory on top, unveiled on the 10th anniversary of the liberation of the city by the Red Army on July 3, 1954 to honour Belarusian Red Army soldiers and Partisans who gave their lives during the Great Patriotic War. At its base are four magnificent bronze reliefs (pictured) representing May 9, 1945 (Victory Day), the Red Army During the Great Patriotic War, Belarusian Partisans and Honour for the Deceased Heroes of the Liberation. Nearby lie small granite plinths with the names of the other 11 Hero Cities throughout Belarus, Russia and Ukraine.

An eternal flame at the base of the monument, burning since July 3, 1961, is a popular place for newlyweds to lay flowers and have their photograph taken. Interestingly, an entire three kilometre-long stretch of Nezavisimosti and the buildings surrounding it were at one time mooted for inclusion on the Unesco World Heritage list, an event which sadly never happened thanks to some rather careless planning in 2002 that destroyed the overall appearance of the area.

Monuments

Lenin

The country's most well known monument to the engineer of the October Revolution stands outside the House of Government and dates from 1933. The work of architect I Langbard and sculptor M Manizer, the sevenmetre statue was the tallest of the great man throughout the entire USSR and is based on a real life event from the Russian Civil War when on May 5, 1920 Vladimir llyich addressed

a group of Red Army soldiers before they left for the Western Front. The sides of the base feature four bas-reliefs, October Revolution, Protecting the Homeland, The Industrialisation of the Country and The Collectivisation of Agriculture. The statue is a 1945 reproduction made from one of Manizer's working models as the original was destroyed during the German occupation.

Out of town

Minsk Sea (Минское море) A large artificial expanse of water 5km or so north of Minsk, the Minsk Sea is popular place to escape during warm weekends. Scattered around the edge are beaches, cafés, places to rent pedalos and the like and much more besides.

Mound of Glory (Kypraн Славы) 30km north of Minsk, at junction of Moscow and Minsk-2 highways. This rather extraordinary, artificial 70-metre mound out in the direction of Minsk-2 airport was constructed in 1969 at the point where four Red Army divisions met on their drive towards Berlin in 1944. Made from soil taken from thousands of Belarusian towns and villages affected by the German occupation, at the top of a 240-step walk on top of the mound are three huge bayonets rimmed by an elaborate mosaic depicting the horrors of war in both words and pictures. A popular place of pilgrimage as well as one of the places local newlyweds come to have their photograph taken.

Stalin's Line (Линия Сталина) 31km west of Minsk along the Molodechno road, 6km from Zaslavl, tel. (+37517) 503 20 22, www.stalin-line.by. Opened in 2005 to mark the 60th anniversary of the end of the Great Patriotic War, Stalin's Line forms part of a chain of defences along or close to the former western border of the Soviet Union that ran from the Finnish border to the Black Sea. Made up of a large collection of old tanks, aircraft, artillery and other military hardware and set among old bunkers and other defensive structures visitors; are free to wander around at their leisure or to take one of the guided tours on offer by men in military uniforms. Stalin's Line is about 30 km northwest of the capital. Tours are available in Russian only. \blacktriangleright Open 10:00 - 18:00. Closed Mon. Entrance: 50,000 BYR Tour: 70,000 BYR.

Airlines

Aeroflot Russian Airlines C-4, ul. Yanki Kupaly 25 (ул. Янки Купалы, 25), tel. (+375 17) 327 28 87, (+375 17) 328 69 79, www.aeroflot.ru.

Bus stations

Тsentralny (Центральный автовокзал) Е-3 ul. Bobruyskaya 6 (ул. Бобруйская, 6), [MPloschad Lenina (Площадь Ленина), tel. (+375 17) 226 09 94, e-mail: avtovokzal@minsktrans.by. > Open 24 hours.

Vostochny (Восточный автовокзал) ul. Vaneyeva 34 (ул. Ванеева, 34), tel. (+375 17) 248 06 28. ▶ Open 05:30 - 23:00.

Car rental

Avis (Авис) D-3, Hotel Minsk, Nezavisimosti pr. 11 (просп. Независимости, 11), MPloschad Lenina (Площадь Ленина), tel. (+375 17) 334 79 90, fax (+375 17) 239 16 13. ▶ Open 08:00 - 17:00, Sat, Sun 09:00 - 16:00.

Strela Car Rental C-2, ul. Tanka 81/2 (ул. Танка, 81/2), tel. (+375 25) 604 93 15/(+375 29) 190 78 59. ▶ Open 09:00 - 18:00.

Driving

Petrol stations. The highways, towns and cities of Belarus are lined with shiny, state-of-the art petrol stations including Lukoil, Slavneft and BelNefteKhim. Unleaded petrol is freely available, as are maps, newspapers, food and all the other things associated with Western-style stations. Payment is in Belarusian roubles only. At the time of going to press, a litre of 95 cost around 9500 BYR.

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Flight schedule

From Winsk				TO WINSK		
Days	Dep.	Arr.	Destination	Days	Dep.	Arr.
1234567	6:10	8:35	(SU1835) MOSCOW (SU1830)	1234567	9:35	10:05
1234567	10:55	13:15	(SU1831) MOSCOW (SU1832)	1234567	19:10	19:40
1234567	20:35	22:55	(SU1833) MOSCOW (SU1834)	1234567	23:35	00:05
Notes: (1 – Mon, 2 – Tue, 3 – Wed etc). For details check at airport.by. Airline Codes: SU – Aeroflot.						

Minsk In Your Pocket

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Minsk tourist information centre



D-3, ul. Revolvutsionnava 13-119 (ул. Революционная, 13-119), tel./fax (+375 17) 203-39-95. http://www.minsktourism.by, e-mail: tic-minsk@mail.ru.

Minsk tourist information centre is glad to greet the guests of the capital! Here you may:

- book a hotel
- get free information about the history, culture, sports events of Minsk in different languages (English, German, Italian)
- · learn the repertoire of museums and theatres, cinemas and galleries
- order sightseeing tours around Minsk
- get free brochures and booklets, maps and city guides, souvenirs and video films

The centre has existed for 6 years and is visited by thousands of tourists from different countries

Working hours: Mon. - Th.: 08.45-13.00, 14.00-18.00 Fr.: 08.45-13.00, 14.00-16.45 Days off: Sat, Sun.

Taxis

If you use your common sense, taxis can be a surprisingly cheap and reliable way to get around Minsk. Just like in any other major city, however, Minsk boats plenty of entrepreneurial drivers out to take visitors for a ride in more ways than one. To minimise the risk, look for either the official yellow taxis or those run by some of the more reliable private companies, such as 135, 157, 158 and 181. These numbers not only show the company affiliation, they're also the short telephone numbers you need to call them. Make sure the meter is running before you set off.



Central Bus Station

Dep.	Arr.	City	Dep.	Arr.
9:00	22:00	M(6) STRASBOURG (1)	5:00	18:00
17:00	5:30	M(2) STUTTGART (1)	8:00	18:00
9:00	19:10	M(6) STUTTGART (6)	0:00	11:00
18:00	13:30	M(2,5) TORZHIM (1)	22:00	18:00
9:00	5:30	^M (6) TORZHIM	-	-
18:00	5:30	[™] (5) VERONA (1)	0:15	11:00
18:00	6:40	[™] (2,5) WARSAW (1)	6:00	16:00
9:00	19:00	[™] (6) WARSAW (2,6)	22:00	11:00

International bus schedule

Notes: Schedule valid until Sep 1, 2012. Timetable key: Departs Minsk. Arrives destination. Days of the week (1 = Monday). Departs destination. Arrives Minsk. ^M -Moscovsky bus station (Московский вокзал)

Train schedule

From Minsk

From Minsk			To Minsk		
Dep.	Arr.	City	Dep.	Arr.	
8:35	0:29	BERLIN	21:06	14:36	
13:02	0:39	KIEV	21:56	9:03	
21:20	8:36	KIEV	-	-	
15:48	4:48	(O) LVIV	19:48	9:03	
17:38	5:52	(E) LVIV	-	-	
2:07	11:45	MOSCOW	9:51	19:53	
3:40	16:23	MOSCOW	14:29	22:57	
8:59	20:21	MOSCOW	15:43	0:49	
18:28	5:57	MOSCOW	16:50	0:10	
21:30	8:05	MOSCOW	17:08	2:06	
22:09	9:01	MOSCOW	18:55	3:09	
22:18	9:21	MOSCOW	19:39	6:34	
23:20	10:26	MOSCOW	22:25	7:22	
23:38	9:37	MOSCOW	23:34	8:27	
23:45	9:27	MOSCOW	23:44	8:06	
8:35	6:44	PRAGUE	21:40	23:13	
9:00	10:33	SIMFEROLPOL	13:03	16:08	
17:41	8:16	ST. PETERSBOURGH	15:22	3:53	
18:48	9:28	ST. PETERSBOURGH	19:13	7:14	
3:33	8:00	VILNIUS	6:55	9:25	
7:40	10:10	VILNIUS	14:58	17:45	
18:50	21:20	VILNIUS	18:14	20:44	
0:22	9:09	WARSAW	9:55	23:13	
8:35	19:05	WARSAW	14:55	1:55	
20:44	5:50	WARSAW	20:50	08:03	
Notes: (E. Ω_{-} even or odd days of the month)					

Notes: (E, O – even or odd days of the month).

To Minsk

Anyone who's ever experienced the beauty of the Moscow Metro and is in need of more inspiration should see what they got up to in Minsk. A surviving

testament to Soviet design, all major sta-

Long-distance buses

09:00 - 13:00. Closed Sun.

Public transport

Metro

INTERCARS Intercars BELARUS

16 72, (+375 17) 265 08 58, http://en.intercars.

ru, e-mail: intercars@intercars.ru. National and

international services to countries including Portugal,

Spain, England, Denmark, Norway, Sweden, France,

Germany, Poland, Italy, etc. > Open 09:00 - 19:00, Sat

ul. Filimonova 63, 3

(ул. Филимонова, 63,

3), tel.(+375 17) 267

tions in the city centre remain intact since they were constructed with such inspiration. The use of glass is of particular interest, as are the occasional busts of Lenin found lurking in one or two subterranean niches. Using them on the other hand remains at best difficult. Two lines cover central Minsk. Purple plastic tokens costing 3700 BYR are sold from booths inside Metro stations. Drop those toy tokens into the slot machinelike turnstiles. Other tickets, including a 10-day pass, come in the form of magnetic cards. These you either swipe at the turnstile or shove in sideways until they pop back out, toaster-like a second later. Trains run every two minutes or so during rush hour and every five minutes off-peak. After 21:00 trains run every seven to 10 minutes until 01:00.

Buses, Trams & Trolleybuses

Minsk has 12 tram lines, 56 trolleybus routes and over 100 bus routes. All three run from around 05:35 to 00:55 seven days a week. Avoid peak hours if you value your limbs. Public transport tickets costing 3700 BYR are sold at most kiosks. Punch them inside the vehicle or risk a fine.

Minibuses

Known in the vernacular as a marshrutka the private minibus is an excellent way of getting around the city to the other in a hurry without the expense of a taxi. Operating along the same routes as Minsk's buses and trolleybuses and displaying the same route numbers with the addition of a 10 at the start (the 1053 operates the same route as trolleybus number 53 for example), they ride for a current flat fare of 10,000 BYR. People used to using similar transport in other former Soviet countries should be aware that in Minsk a marshrutka only picks up and puts down at official stops.

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International bus schedule

City

M(2,5) BERLIN (1)

MBERLIN (7)

18:00 19:30 M(2,5) BIELEFELD (2,6) 6:30 11:00

22:10 M(2,5) BOCHUM (1,5) 4:00

MBREMEN (6)

22:40 M(2,5) DUISBURG (1,5) 3:30

23:20 M(2,5) DUSSELDORF (1,5) 3:00

16:20 ^M(6) FRANKFURT (6) 3:00

18:00 M(2,5) HANNOVER (2,6) 8:00

^M(6) KASSEL (1)

MKASSEL (7)

^M(2.5) LILLE (1.5)

^M(4) MANHEIM (6)

M (5) MILAN (1)

M(5) MUNCHEN (1)

M (5) NEAPOL (1)

20:40 M(2,5) OSNABRUCK (2,6) 6:00

M (5) ROME (1,5)

18:00 17:00 M(2,5) SALZGITTER (2,6) 9:00 11:00

MHAMBURG (7)

^M(2,5) HAMM (2,6) 5:00

M(2) KARLSRUHE (1) 6:30

M(6) KARLSRUHE (6) 0:45

M(2,5) KOLN (1,5) 2:00

M(2) MANHEIM (1) 9:30

M(3,7) MOSCOW (2,5) 7:00

M(2) NURNBERG (2,6) 7:30

M(2,5) PARIS (1,5) 14:00 11:00

M(2) LEIPZIG (2,6) 10:30 11:00

M(2,5) AMSTERDAM (1,5) 23:00 11:00

M(2.5) ANTWERPEN (1.5) 21:00 11:00

M(6) BERLIN (2.6) 12:00 11:00

^M(5) BOLOGNA (1) 18:45 11:00

16:30 M(2,5) BRANDENBURG (2,6) 11:30 11:00

10:55 M(6) BRAUNSHWEIG (1) 16:00 18:00

9:00 M(2,5) BRUSSEL (1,5) 20:00 11:00

21:40 M(2.5) DORTMUND (1.5) 4:30 11:00

M(2,5) ESSEN (1,5) 3:50 11:00

^M(5) FLORENCIA (1,5) 16:30 11:00

M(2) FRANKFURT (1) 11:00 18:00

To Minsk

Dep. Arr.

20:00 18:00

21:30 16:00

19:00 18:00

11:00

11:00

11:00

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14:00 18:00

14:00 16:00

18:00 11:00

21:30 11:00

5:30 11:00

10:00 11:00

12:30 11:00

2:00

21:00 16:00

11:00

From Minsk

Dep. Arr.

15:30

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17:00

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18:00

18:00 14:30

46 **SHOPPING**

Minsk is hardly a shoppers' paradise, although most things are available, for a price.

Shopping centres

Bigzz (Бигз) Borovaya 5 (д. Боровая, 5), tel. (+37517) 237 93 33. A large hypermarket-style shopping centre not too far from the city centre. ▶ Open 09:00 - 23:00. இ@ []]

Evroopt (Евроопт) ul. Montazhnikov 2 (ул. Монтажников, 2), tel. (+375 17) 201 16 40. Essentially a fully fledged hypermarket complete with parking for 2,000 cars, it may not be central but what it lacks in location it more than makes up for in choice. Selling everything at bargain prices, the Evroopt chain also has a number of smaller outlets throughout the city. Also at Nezavisimosti 48, Kalinovskogo 23. ▶ Open 09:00 - 23:00.

Когопа (ТЦ Корона) С-2, ul. Kalvariyskaya 24 (ул. Кальварийская, 24), [MFrunzenskaya (Фрунзенская), tel. (+375 17) 226 52 19. Two floors of shops

What to buy

Contrary to popular opinion, Belarus has plenty of fantastic indigenous products that serve well as both gifts and souvenirs. Classic folk-related things include nesting matryoshka dolls, hand-painted wooden spoons, plus a wealth of bits and pieces fashioned from straw and flax, among them dolls in national costumes plus straw horses and chick-



ens popular with children. If you look around you can also pick up some nice inlaid wooden boxes which make great little jewellery boxes. Linen is a favourite, and is represented predominantly as tablecloths and napkins, usually for a very good price. Or why not some chocolate? Two well established brands making a range of chocolates of exceptional quality are Kommunarka and Spartak. Locally-produced glass and ceramics are both good value and can be really very nice indeed, and, last but not least, Milavitsa has been making quality ladies underwear since Soviet times. As well as the Gifts & Souvenirs section on p. 45, keep an eye out for other shops and the markets listed in this guide, several of which provide perfect gift and souvenir solutions. selling everything from saucy underwear to dictionaries, plus currency exchange and one of the best supermarkets in the city. There's also a pharmacy that stays open late and a couple of average restaurants. Upstairs also find Korona Techno, a large shop selling electrical and electronic goods from digital cameras to washing machines. \blacktriangleright Open 09:00 - 02:00. \bigcirc

Кираlovsky (ТЦ Купаловский) D-4, Under Kilometer Zero at Oktiabrskaya metro stop, MOktyabrskaya (Октябрьская), tel. (+375 17) 287 77 14. A labyrinth of tiny shops and stalls, mostly selling women's clothes, although there are a few other places selling household items, cheap CDs and one little stall selling children's toys. There's also a tiny café hiding in one corner. • Open 11:00 - 19:00. @?

ProStore (ПроСтор) Dzerzhinskogo pr. 126 (просп. Дзержинского, 126), tel. (+375 17) 256 45 59. Another quality Western-style outlet selling the usual array of goods. Also here find an in-house bakery and delicatessen. Also at Partizansky 182 and Uborevicha 176. ▶ Open 09:00 - 23:00.

Shopping Centre Stolitsa (Подземный торговый центр "Столица") D-3, Nezavisimosti pl. (Площадь Ленина), tel. (+375 17) 226 11 67/ (+375 17) 226 18 31. According to many Minsk's best shopping centre, Stolitsa is a great place for gift shopping as it's got pretty much everything from clothes to alcoholto souvenirs. As well as heaps of retail outlets on three floors, this centrally located, 75,000 square-metre underground gemfeatures a host of cafés, restaurants and, at the time of going to press, an Internet café. Dopen 10:00 - 22:00.

Markets

Car Market (Автомобильный рынок) Malinovka district, southwest of the ring road (микрорайон Малиновка), tel. (+375 17) 223 05 09. Motor vehicles and the associated bits that make them tick. ▶ Open 06:00 - 17:00. @ट

Komarovsky Market (Комаровский рынок) В-5, ul. Very Khoruzhey 6 (ул. Веры Хоружей, 6), MPloschad Yakuba Kolasa (Площадь Якуба Коласа), tel. (+37517) 331 90 33. This former traditional marketplace has been completely modernised. Meat is now kept in refrigerators and everything is in jolly good shape. Despite having lost its oldworld charm, this is still a great place to come and shopfor local produce. ▶ Open 10:00 - 17:00. Closed Mon. @

Books etc.

None of the shops we found had any great selection of books in English.

Akademkniga (Академкнига) B-6, Nezavisimosti pr. 72 (просп. Независимости, 72), tel. (+375 17) 292 00 52/(+375 17) 292 46 52. As part of the Belarusian Academy of Sciences, this distinguished shop has many interesting books on history, science and art among other subjects. Unfortunately, there's little in English, so it's mainly of interest to Russian speakers. ▶ Open 10:00 - 19:00, Sat 10:00 - 18:00. Closed Sun.

Central Bookshop (Центральный книжный магазин) D-4, Nezavisimosti pr. 19 (просп. Незави-

симости, 19), tel. (+375 17) 327 49 18. The largest bookshop in Minsk. Along with a rather interesting, if random, selection of English-language novels, it also has Belarus guidebooks in English, Italian and German. It also has some good postcards of Minsk as well as a selection of stationary. ▶ Open 10:00 - 21:00, Sat 10:00 - 20:00, Sun 10:00 - 19:00.

Dom Knigi Svetoch (Дом Книги Светоч) С-3, Pobediteley pr. 11 (просп. Победителей, 11), tel. (+375 17) 203 34 96. An old Minsk favourite for many years, this recommended bookshop holds a large collection of literature albeit with little in English with the exception of a few books about Belarus. Those who use the place say that the English-speaking staff that work here are some of the friendliest in the city. ► Open 10:00 - 21:00, Sat 11:00 - 21:00, Sun 11:00 - 19:00.

Flowers & Plants

Flora - Design (Флора-дизайн) А-6, ul. Yakuba Kolasa 50 (ул. Якуба Konaca, 50), tel. (+375 29) 666 17 32, www.gloss.by. ▶ Open 09:00 - 21:00, Sat, Sun 10:00 - 19:00.

Terra (Teppa) C-3, Pobediteley pr., underground crossing by Yubileynaya hotel (просп. Победителей), tel. (+375 17) 204 85 91, yuri-sh@cosmostv.by. ▶ Open 08:00 - 19:00, Sat 08:00 - 18:00. Closed Sun.

Food & Drink

Tsentralny (Центральный) D-4, Nezavisimosti pr. 23 (просп. Независмости, 23), MOKtyabrskaya (Октябрьская), tel. (+375 17) 327 88 76. One of the best, most Western-style food halls in Minsk despite its gloriously Soviet appearance. There are cafés, bakeries and a shop selling alcohol on the first floor plus a well stocked supermarket upstairs. Worth a visit even if you're not going to buy anything. ▶ Open 09:00 - 22:00.

Preston Market (Πρестон Маркет) B-5, ul. Maxima Bogdanovicha 153 (yr. Максима Богдановича, 153), tel. (+375 17) 331 77 65. A popular haunt of hungry expats, Preston Market sells a good selection of processed foods and other delights. One of the first of its kind, the place has been somewhat eclipsed over the years by newer competition. Still worth a look inside though. • Open 09:00 - 21:00.

Department stores



GUM (ГУМ) D-4, Nezavisimosti pr. 23 (просп. Независимости, 23), MOktyabrskaya (Октябрьская), tel. (+375.17) 327 88 76. Built in 1951, Minsk's showcase department store is a must for fans of classic Socialist Realist architecture. Otherwise it's a fairly dreary shopping experience. ▶ Open 09:00 - 21:00, Sun 10:00 - 19:00. @ CE

Na Nemige (На Немиге Торговый дом) D-3, ul. Nemiga 8 (ул. Немига, 8), M Nemiga (Немига), tel. (+375 17) 220 97 47. A decidedly uninspiring department store in vintage Soviet style. ► Open 09:00 - 21:00, Sun 10:00 - 20:00. @

TSUM (ЦУМ) B-5, Nezavisimosti pr. 54 (просп. Nezavisimosti, 54), MYakuba Kolasa (Я. Konaca), tel. (+37517) 284 21 64. Several floors of goods from pens to beds. Hardly inspiring, although quite good fun. Look out for your wallet and note there's an ATM on the first floor. ▶ Open 09:00 - 21:00, Sun 11:00 - 18:00. @@

Univermag Belarus (Универмаг Беларусь) ul. Zhilunovicha 4 (ул. Жилуновича, 4), MPartizanskaya (Партизанская), tel. (+375 17) 245 11 11. Another large collection of everything imaginable for fair prices. ▶ Open 09:00 - 21:00, Sun 10:00 - 18:00. @



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Rublevski (Рублевский) D-3, ul. Romanovskaya Sloboda 14 (ул. Романовская Слобода, 14), tel. (+375 17) 214 89 85. Over 30 shops in Minsk selling a fairly average range of groceries and other household products for a decent price. Also at Pobediteley 1, etc. • Open 08:00 - 23:00.

Sosedi (Соседи) A-5, ul. Surganova 50 (ул. Сурганова, 50), tel. (+375 17) 334 82 33. A chain of supermarkets selling everything necessary. Their large shop, Riga, is generally considered to be the best. Also recommended for their great in-store bakeries. ▶ Open 08:00 - 23:00.

Gifts & Souvenirs

Gallery Slavutiya Maistry (Галерея "Славутыя майстры") С-4, ul. Bogdanovicha 21, 2nd floor (ул. М. Богдановича, 21, 2 этаж), MNemiga (Немига), tel. (+375 17) 334 49 79, www.artfolk.by. A good collection of both grotesquely ugly and staggeringly beautiful folk art, paintings, amber, large ceramic candleholders, dried flowers and chiffon scarves.

Craft Gallery Slavutiya Maistry Souce Maistry from the best craftsmen of Belarus Minsk, Troitskoye suberb (+375 17) 334 49 85 www. artfolk.by Open 10:00 - 19:00, Sat, Sun 10:00 - 17:00. Also at Troitskaya naberezhnaya (embankment), 6, tel. (+375 17) 283 28 25. Open 10:00 - 19:00, Sat, Sun 10:00 - 17:00

Lasandr-art (Ласандр-арт) D-3, ul. Romanovskaya Sloboda 24 (ул. Романовская Слобода, 24), tel. (+375 17) 327 79 46. The exhibition presents classical and modern works of art and sculpture. → Open 10:00 -19:00. Closed Sun.

Lyanok (Лянок) B-5, Nezavisimosty pr. 46 (просп. Независимости, 46), MPloschad Yakuba Kolasa (Площадь Якуба Коласа), tel. (+375 17) 284 81 44. Gorgeous local flax and linen, plus a range of hand-made gifts and souvenirs. ▶ Open 10:00 - 19:00, Sat 10:00 - 18:00. Closed Sun.

Minsky Vernisazh (Минский Вернисаж) D-4, Oktyabrskaya Square, next to Museum of Great Patriotic War, MOktyabrskaya (Октябрьская). A small outdoor market aimed specifically at tourists, find plenty of folk art, hats and the like as well as a few Soviet-era military trinkets thrown in for good measure. Arguably the best place in the city for things like *matryoshka* dolls and lacquered wooden boxes. Find it hidden way immediately to the left of the Trade Union Palace. ▶ Open 10:00 - 18:00. Closed Mon. @

Soyuzpechat (Союзпечать) С-5, Nezavisimosti pr. 44 (просп. Независимости, 44), MPloschad Pobedy (Площадь Победы). Buy someone you love a bag of stamps. Philately will get you everywhere. ▶ Open 08:00 -20:00, Sat 09:00 - 19:00.



 Pobediteley pr. 2371

 (between Hotel Yubileynaya and Hotel Planeta)

 Tel: +375 17 327-16-42, +375 17 327-16-45,

 8 (029) 316 16 45 - velcom, 8 (025) 755 54 88 - life

Looking for something very specific? Here's a quick guide to the city that goes beyond the obvious.

Barbers & Beauty

Joli (Джоли) D-4, ul. Internatsionalnaya 23 (ул. Митернациональная, 23), tel. (+375 17) 327 06 09, (+375 29) 752 69 09, (+375 44) 563 43 03, pro.style.2010@mail.ru. JOLI» provides a cozy setting, most modern equipment to ensure the effectiveness of hair and body care and a friendly staff to create your great mood. They've got stylists and technicians that do magic using a variety of methods: SPA, hair recovery programs, body massage, manicure, pedicure and other beauty treatments. JOLI» is both a pleasure and a health improvement. ▶ Open 09:00 - 22:00, Sun: 09:00 - 16:00. 孫 [₱]@@

The First Lady and the Best Man (Первая леди и лучший мужчина) С-3, Pobediteley pr., 23/1 (пр-т Победителей, 23 корп. 1), tel. (+375 17) 327 16 42, 327 16 45, (+375 25) 755 54 88, (+375 29) 316 16 45, www.firstlady.relax.by. A nice beauty salon where great hairdressers and beauticians will take care of your hair and body. They offer all types of haircut, nail and hair extension, manicure, pedicure, wax depilation and different kinds of massage. ▶ Open 08.00-21.00, Mon 09:00 - 21:00, Sun 08.00 - 21.00. இ @ P

Staroye Predmestye (Старое предместье) D-3, ul. Revolyutsionnaya 13 (ул. Революци-онная, 13), tel. (+37517) 3276262, 3270700, (+37529) 1077777. At your service: hair stylists, hair treatment (LeonorGreyl), coloring, highlighting (Emmediciotto) computer-diagnostics of hair and scalp; pedicure (Gehwol); manicure (Orli); paraffin treatment for hands and feet; virtual mesotherapy (BodyHealth) machine facials, tanning makeup («That`so»). Experienced hair stylists and beauticians, pleasant service. ▶ Open 08:00 - 21:00, Sun 10:00 - 16:00. 戀圖歷

Sport & Leisure

Bowling & Billiards

Bowling House (Боулинг Хаус) Nezavisimosti pr. 117a (просп. Независимости, 117a), tel. (+375 17) 268 01 90. В 0рен 13:00 - 03:00, Fri 13:00 - 05:00, Sat 11:00 - 05:00, Sun 11:00 - 03:00.

NLO (HЛO) A-6, ul. Yakuba Kolasa 37 (ул. Я. Konaca, 37), tel. (+375 17) 290 20 80. ▶ Open 18:00 - 06:00, Fri 16:00 - 06:00, Sat, Sun 12:00 - 06:00. இ@ P .

Olimp (Олимп) B-5, Nezavisimosti pr. 51 (пр. Независимости, 51), tel. (+37517) 290 79 03. ▶ Open 11:00 - 04:00. இ© இ

Planeta Hotel (Планета) С-3, Pobediteley pr. 31, 2-nd floor (просп. Победителей, 31, 3-й этаж), tel. (+375 17) 226 77 87. ▶ Open 12:00 - 24:00. இ©இ⊇

Sharovnya (Шаровня) Partizanskiy pr. 12 (просп. Партизанский, 12), tel. (+375 17) 266 96 24. ▶ Open 11:00 - 06:00.

Start (Старт) ul. Kalinovskogo 66a (ул. Калиновского, 66a), tel. (+375 17) 267 15 86. > Open 24 hours.





Sport & Leisure

Saunas

 Princess Spa (Принцесс Спа) D-4, ul. Kirova

 13, Crowne Plaza (ул. Кирова, 13, Crowne Plaza),

 tel. (+375 17) 200 94 24. ▶ Open 07:00 - 23:00, Sun

 09:00 - 22:00. இ@сс. (Р. 2000)

Swimming

Beldorstroy Fitness Centre (ФОК Белдорстрой) ul. Kalvariyskaya 37 (ул. Кальварийская, 37), tel. (+375 17) 251 66 81. ▶ Open 07:00 - 23:00.

Ріоtr Masherov Fitness Centre (ФОЦ им. П.М. Машерова) С-3, Pobediteley pr. 23/1 (просп. Победителей, 23/1), tel. (+375 17) 226 68 66. ▶ Орен 07:00 - 23:00. இ⊚(↑)

Оlimp (Олимп) B-5, Nezavisimosti pr. 51 (просп. Независимости, 51), MPloschad Yakuba Kolasa (Площадь Якуба Коласа), tel. (+37517) 331 07 11. ▶ Open 7:00 - 23:00, Sun 8:00 - 23:00. இ© 🛃 🗃

Water Sports Centre (Дворец водного спорта) B-6, ul. Surganova 2a (ул. Сурганова, 2a), tel. (+37517) 290 48 26. ▶ Open 07:00 - 21:30, Sun 09:00 - 21:30.

Spectator sports

Dinamo Stadium (Динамо Стадион) D-4, ul. Kirova 8 (ул. Кирова, 8), tel. (+37517) 226 00 55. Local heroes Dimano play at the 50,000-capacity Dinamo stadium (the official address is Kirova 8, although this information is rather superfluous as one can see the floodlights from Moscow). Tickets are as good as free, although you're recommended to buy them in advance from the attached ticket office. For some seriously thorough information in English on all things soccer in Belarus, including schedules of up-coming matches, surf on over to www.soccerbelarus.com. Currently under reconstruction.

Minsk Arena (Минск Арена) Pobediteley pr. 111 (просп. Победителей, 111), tel. (+375 17) 253 53 61. The recently opened, multi-function Minsk Arena provides sports and entertainment facilities for up to 15,000 spectators. Capable of handling everything from rock concerts (Elton John and Sting among others have already performed here) to indoor cycling competitions, Minsk Arena's biggest claim to fame is that of being home to HC Dinamo Minsk, the city's top ice hockey team. ▶ Open 08:00 - 23:00. ()





Fitness centres

EVO Wellness Club (EVO Велнес клуб) ul. Bogdanovicha 155 v (ул. Богдановича, 155 в), tel. (+375 17) 237 14 71. → Ореп 07:00 - 23:00, Sat, Sun 08:00 - 23:000. [@] Р

Fitness club Geut Gym (Фитнес-клуб Geut Gym) B-2, ul. Gvardeyskaya 10 (ул. Гвардейская, 10), tel. (+375 17) 306 39 89. ▶ Open 08:00 - 21:00, Sat, Sun 10:00 - 15:00. இ⊚

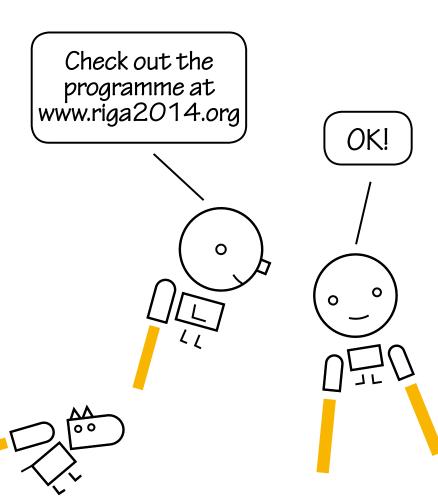
Міг Fitnessa (Мир Фитнесса) А-1, Pobediteley pr. 20/1 (просп. Победителей, 20/1), tel. (+375 17) 202 46 44. - Юореп 07:00 - 23:00, Sat, Sun 09:00 -22:00. இடி Р

National School of Beauty (Национальная школа красоты) ul. Melnikayte 4 (ул. Мельникайте, 4), ∭ Frunzenskaya (Фрун-зенская), tel. (+375 17) 203 35 41. ▶ Ореп 09:00 - 21:00, Sat 12:00 - 18:00. Closed Sun. Р

N-fitness (N-фитнесс) В-5, Nezavisimosti pr. 51 (просп. Независимости, 51), tel. (+375 17) 292 86 80. ▶ Ореп 08:00 - 22:00, Sat 09:00 - 21:00. இ©СС ∲ NonStop (Нон Стоп) Pobediteley pr. 89 (просп. Победителей, 89), tel. (+375 17) 228 52 66, (+375 17) 250 53 96. ▶ Ореп 08:00 - 22:00, Sat 09:00 - 21:00, Sun 10:00 - 19:00. இ⊚сс.

Princess Spa (Принцесс Спа) D-4, ul. Kirova 13, Crowne Plaza (ул. Кирова, 13, Crowne Plaza), tel. (+375 17) 200 94 24. ▶ Open 08:00 - 21:00. இ©↑ ₱ ♣ ஊ







EUROPEAN CAPITAL OF CULTURE



EIROPAS KULTŪRAS GALVASPILSĒTA EUROPEAN CAPITAL OF CULTURE

52 HEALTH

Clinics & Hospitals

Lekar (МЦ Лекарь) D-4, ul. Engelsa 34 А/2 (ул. Энгельса, 34 А/ строение 2), tel. (+375 17) 328 35 45, 328 35 36/(+375 29) 102 02 03, 501 02 03, www.lekar.by. ▶ Ореп 08:00 - 21:00, Sat 09:00 - 20:00, Sun 09:00 - 15:00.

Lode (ЛОДЭ) B-5, ul. Gikalo 1 (ул. Гикало, 1), M Ploschad Yakuba Kolasa (Площадь Якуба Konaca), tel. (+375 17) 284 72 20/(+375 29) 638 30 03, www.lode.by. - № Ореп 08:00 - 21:00, Sat 09:00 - 20:00, Sun 09:00 - 15:00. [@] Р

Nordin (Нордин) А-5, ul. Surganova 47b (ул. Сурганова, 476), tel. (+375 17) 289 53 48, www.nordin.by. ▶ Open 08:00 - 22:00. @ @ & 한 한 분 꼴

Когопа (МЦ Корона) С-4, ul. Kommunisticheskaya 39 (ул. Коммунистическая, 3), tel./fax (+375 17) 284 46 64, tel. (+375 17) 284 56 75, (+375 29) 358 12 04, (+375 29) 870 70 72, www.mckorona.by. > Open 09:00 - 21:00, Sat 09:00 -19:00. Closed Sun.

Кravira (МЦ Кравира) В-3, Pobediteley pr. 45 (просп. Победителей, 45), tel. (+375 17) 211 28 61, kravira@kravira.by, www.kravira.by. ▶ Open 08:00 -21:00, Sat, Sun 09:00 - 16:00. 國長員

Oko (MЦ Oko) B-5, ul. Yakuba Kolasa 1 (ул. Я. Коласа, 1), tel. (+375 17) 292 15 75, www.glaza.by/ oko. ▶ Open 10:00 - 20:00, Sat 10:00 - 18:00. Closed Sun.





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Dentists

Dentko (Дентко) В-5, Nezavisimosti pr. 58 (просп. Независимости, 58), MPloschad Yakuba Kolasa (Площадь Якуба Коласа), tel. (+375 17) 284 45 11, info@dentko.by. www.dentko.by. ▶ Open 08:00 - 21:00. இ©& Р@СФ

Elefantik (Элефантик) D-3, ul. Nemiga 6 (ул. Немиra, 6), tel. (+375 17) 200 38 80, (+375 29) 967 69 76, www.elefantik.by. The clinic offers dental care services for the whole family. They provide all kinds of dental therapy – caries treatment, pulpitis treatment, tooth filling, dental surgery, dental orthopedics, treatment of gum diseases, child and adult occlusion correction, aesthetic and bio-aesthetic stomatology. ▶ Open 09:00 -20:00. @@@P

MiDent (МиДент) С-4, ul. Zybitskaya 3 (ул. Зыбицкая, 3), MNemiga (Heмига), tel. (+37517) 321 23 80, http://eng.mident.by. ▶ Open 08:00 - 20:00, Sat 09:00 - 18:00. Closed Sun. @I@ P

Umkabelmed (Умкабелмед) C-5, pr. Masherova 9 (просп. Машерова, 9), tel. (+375 17) 290 70 80, (+375 44) 797 70 80, www.umkastom.com. The clinic offers dental care and provides such general dentistry treatments as: dental therapy, extractions, root canal treatment, prophylaxis, orthodontic treatment, tooth whitening, porcelain crowns and bridges and cosmetic dentistry. \blacktriangleright Open 08:00 - 20:00. Closed Sun. O

Pharmacies

Pharmacy #1 B-5, ul. Kuibysheva 57 (ул. Куйбышева, 57), tel. (+375 17) 284 68 67.

Рharmacy #13 D-4, ul. Karla Marxa 20 (ул. Карла Марска, 20), [MKupalovskaya (Купаловская), tel. (+375 17) 220 28 44.

Рharmacy # 13 D-3, pr. Nezavisimosti 16 (просп. Независимости, 16), [MPloschad Lenina (Площадь Ленина), tel. (+375 17) 227 48 44/(+375 17) 227 83 40.

Pharmacy # 19 Е-3, ul. Kirova 2 (ул. Кирова, 2), MPloschad Lenina, tel. (+375 17) 225 61 80. ▶ Open 08:00 - 21:00, Sun 10:00 - 18:00. @

Рharmacy # 2 D-3, ul. Nemiga 30 (ул. Немига, 30), MNemiga (Немига), tel. (+375 17) 211 06 75.

Pharmacy # 36 А-4, blvd Shevchenko 11 (бульвар Шевченко, 11), tel. (+375 17) 288 97 43.

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PRESS BOX

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Wall Street Journal

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The Times

"In Your Pocket guides are each written by an English language writer who lives locally. All information is also available on the publisher's website."

Sueddeutsche Zeitung

"The *In Your Pocket* series of guide booklets have turned out to be highly useful in avoiding tourist traps and other travel hazards. They have become a European publishing phenomenon."

International Herald Tribune

Banks

Belgazprombak (Белгазпромбанк) ul. Pritytskogo 60 (ул. Притыцкого, 60), tel. +375 17 229 1629.

Belswissbank (Белсвиссбанк) С-3, Pobediteley pr. 23/3 (просп. Победителей, 23 к. 3), MNemiga (Немига), tel. (+375 17) 306 20 40.

Belvnesheconombank (Белвнешэкономбанк) D-3, ul. Myasnikova 32 (ул. Мясникова, 32), tel. (+375 17) 209 29 44, www.bveb.by. ▶ Open 09:00 - 16:00, Fri 09:00 - 14:30. Closed Sat, Sun.

Priorbank (Приорбанк) В-3, ul. Very Khoruzhey 31a (ул. Веры Хоружей, 31a), tel. (+375 17) 289 90 87, www.priorbank.by. The largest private bank in Belarus and part of the large Raiffeisen Bank International company. Operating since 1989, Priorbank provides the highest standards of service to private and business customers. Everything from car /mortgage loans to VISA/ MasterCard/Belcard credit cards and much, much more. A range of premium banking services is also available. For more information on their wide range of professional services, take a look at their English-language website. ▶ Open 10:00 - 19:00. Closed Sat, Sun.

Business connections

Belarus National Bank (НБ РБ) С-2, Nezavisimosti pr. 20 (просп. Независимости, 20), tel. (+375) 327 50 37, www.nbrb.by. ▶ Open 9:00 - 16:00. Closed Sun.

Belarusian Chamber of Commerce ul. Yakuba Kolasa, 65 (ул. Якуба Коласа, 65), tel. (+375 17) 266 04 73, www.cci.by. ▶ Open 9:00 - 18:00. Closed Sat, Sun.

Ernst & Young LLC C-3, ul. Korolya 51 (ул. Короля, 51), tel. (+375 17) 209 45 35, inquiry@by.ey.com, www.ey.com/belarus.

IMF D-3, ul. Volodarskogo 6 (ул. Володарского, 6), tel. (+375 17) 200 25 33, www.imf.org. ▶ Open 09:00 - 18:00.

Law firm Sorainen D-3, ul. Nemiga 40 (ул. Немига, 40), tel. (+375 17) 306 21 02, belarus@sorainen.com, www.sorainen.com.

Stepanovski, Papakul & partners LLC C-4, ul. Kuibysheva 16 (ул. Куйбышева, 16), tel. (+375 17) 209 44 83, info@spplaw.by, www.spplaw.by.

UNDP D-4, ul. Kirova 17 (ул. Кирова, 17), tel. (+375 17) 327 48 76, www.un.by.

World Bank C-4, ul. Gertsena 2a (ул. Герцена, 2a), tel. (+375 17) 226 52 84, www.worldbank.org. ▶ Open 09:00 - 18:00. Closed Sat, Sun. ⊚

Consulting & Auditing

Dicsa (Дикса) ul. Melezha 5/2 (ул. Мележа, 5/2), tel. (+375 17) 268 40 22, www.dicsa.net. Legal advice on investment projects, corporate law, construction law, tax planning and intellectual property among many other services. See their website for more information.

Officials



Ministry of Foreign Affairs D-4, ul. Lenina 19 (ул. Ленина, 19), tel. (+375 17) 327 92 22, fax (+375 17) 227-45-21, www.mfa.gov.by. ▶ Ореп 09:00 - 16:00. Closed Sat, Sun.

Minsk City Executive Committee D-3, Nezavisimosty pr. 8 (просп. Независимости, 8), tel. (+375 17) 328 55 66, www.minsk.gov.by. ▶ Open 09:00 - 18:00. Closed Sat, Sun.

Foreign representations

Агтепіа (Армения) D-4, ul. Kirova 17 (ул. Кирова, 17), tel. (+375 17) 327 05 63, (+375 17) 297 92 57. ▶ Open Tue, Thu 10:00 - 16:00. Closed Mon, Wed, Fri, Sat, Sun.

Belgium (Бельгия) В-4, Masherova pr. 54 (просп. Машерова, 54), tel./fax (+375 17) 293 19 44, Emergency only: (+375 29) 888 33 35, consulbel@ tut.by, http://consulbel.at.tut.by. ▶ Open by prior arrangement.

Bulgaria (Болгария) С-4, Svobody pl. 11 (пл. Свободы, 11), tel. (+375 17) 328 65 58, fax (+375 17) 328 65 59. ▶ Open 10:00 - 13:00. Closed Fri, Sat, Sun.

China (Китай) C-5, ul. Berestyanskaya 22 (ул. Берестянская, 22), tel. (+37517) 2853682/(+375 17) 285 36 83. ▶ Open 10:00 - 13:00. Closed Sat, Sun.

Cuba (Ky6a) C-5, ul. Krasnozvyozdnaya 13 (yr. KpacHosBesgHas, 13), tel. (+37517) 200 03 83/ (+37517) 284 76 36, embacuba@belsonet.net. ▶ Open 09:00 - 18:00. Closed Sat, Sun.

Сzech Republic (Чешская Республика) C-4, Muzykalny per. 1/2 (Музыкальный пер. 1/2), tel. (+375 17) 211 01 37, minsk@embassy.mzv.cz, www.mzv.cz/ minsk. > Open 08:30 - 17:00. Closed Sat, Sun.

Estonia (Эстония) ul. Platonova 1В (ул. Платонова, 1В), tel. (+375 17) 217 70 60, fax: (+375 17) 217 70 69, consulate.minsk@mfa.ee. ▶ Open 15:00 - 16:00. Closed Fri, Sat, Sun. Open for visas Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu 10:00-13:00.

France (Франция) С-4, Svobody pl. **11** (Свободы пл. **11**), tel. (+375 17) 229 18 00, (+375 17) 229 18 01,

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fax (+375 17) 210 25 48, webmestre.by@diplomatie. gouv.fr, www.ambafrance-by.org. ▶ Open by prior arrangement.

Germany (Германия) C-5, ul. Zakharova 26 (ул. Захарова, 26), tel. (+375 17) 217 59 00, fax (+375 17) 294 85 52, germanembassy@mail.belpak. by, www.minsk.diplo.de. ▶ Open 09:00 - 12:00. Closed Sat, Sun.

Georgia (Грузия) С-4, Svobody pl. 4 (пл. Свободы, 14), MNemiga (Немига), tel. (375 17) 327 62 19, fax (375 17) 327 61 93. ▶ Open 09:00 - 12:00. Closed Sat, Sun.

Hungary (Венгрия) ul. Platonova 1b (ул. Платонова 1/6), tel. (375 17) 233 94 16, (+375 17)233 94 17, mission.msk@mfa.gov.hu. ▶ Open Mon, Wed, Fri 09:00 - 12:00.

India (Индия) ul. Sobinova 63 (ул. Собинова, 63), tel. (+375 17) 262 93 99, fax (+375 17) 288 47 99, indembassy@indemb.bn.by, www.indembminsk.org. > Open 09:00 - 11:00. Closed Sat, Sun.

Israel (Израиль) Partizansky pr. 6a (просп. Партизанский, 6a), tel. (+375 17) 330 25 00, fax (+375 17) 298 44 03. ▶ Open 9:00 - 12:00.

Italy (Италия) C-3, ul. Rakovskaya 16b (ул. Раковская, 166), tel. (+375 17) 229 29 69, fax (+ 375 17) 306 20 37, ambasciata.minsk@esteri.it, www. ambminsk.esteri.it. ▶ Open 09:00 - 12:00. Closed Sat, Sun.

Јарап (Япония) С-3, Pobediteley pr. 23/1 (просп. Победителей, 23/1), tel. (+375 17) 203 44 81/(+375 17) 203 62 33. ▶ Open by prior arrangment.

Kazakhstan (Казахстан) С-4, ul. Kuibysheva 12 (ул. Куйбышева, 12), tel. (+375 17) 288 10 26/(+375 17) 334 96 50, kazemb@nsys.by. ▶ Open 10:00 - 12:00. Closed Fri, Sat, Sun. South Korea (Южная Корея) Pobediteley pr. 59 (просп. Победителей, 59), tel. (+375 17) 306 01 47, fax (+375 17) 306 01 60, belemb@mofa.go.kr, www.blr. mofa.go.kr. ▶ Open 09:30 - 17:30. Closed Sat, Sun.

Кугдуzstan (Киргизстан) С-4, ul. Starovilenskaya 57 (ул. Старовиленская, 57), tel. (+37517) 334 91 17, fax (+37517) 334 16 02, manas@nsys.minsk.by. b Open 09:30 - 12:00. Closed Fri, Sat, Sun.

Latvia (Латвия) B-5, ul. Doroshevicha 6a (ул. Дорошевича, 6a), tel. (+375 17) 284 74 75, fax (+375 17) 284 73 34, embassy.belarus@mfa.gov.lv. ▶ Open 09:00 - 12:00. Closed Sat, Sun.

Lithuania (Литва) D-5, ul. Zakharova 68 (ул. Захарова, 68), tel. (+37517) 28524 49, fax (+37517) 28533 37, embassy.lt@belsonet.net, www.lithuania.by. • Open 09:00 - 13:00. Closed Sat, Sun.

Моldova (Молдова) Е-4, ul. Byelorusskaya 2 (ул. Белорусская, 2), tel. (+375 17) 289 11 17/ (+375 17) 289 11 47. ▶ Ореп, Tue, Thu 09:00 - 13:00. Closed Mon, Wed, Fri, Sat, Sun. @

Netherlands (Нидерланды) A-6, ul. Vostochnaya 133 (ул. Восточная, 133), tel. (+375 17) 262 53 23, fax (+375 17) 262 40 52, nedcons@gtp.by. > Open 09:00 - 12:00. Closed Fri, Sat, Sun.

Реги (Перу) ul. Prityskogo 34 (ул. Притыцкого, 34), tel. (+375 17) 216 91 14/(+375 17) 216 91 15. ▶ Open by prior arrangment.

Poland (Польша) C-5, ul. Z. Biaduli 11 (ул. З. Бядули, 11), tel. (+375 17) 388 52 00 (+375 17) 388 52 22, ambasada.minsk@msz.gov.pl, www.polsha.by. ▶ Open 09:00 - 12:00. Closed Sat, Sun.

Romania (Румыния) per. Kaliningradsky 12 (пер. Калининградский, 12), tel. 292 73 83, (+375 1) 292 73 00, romanla@belembassy.org. ▶ Open 09:30 -12:00. Closed Sat, Sun.



Russia (Россия) A-3, ul. Novovilenskaya 1a (ул. Нововиленская, 1а), tel. (+375 17) 233 15 58, (+375 17) 233 15 59. > Open 09:00 - 16:00. Closed Fri, Sat, Sun.

Serbia (Сербия) E-2, ul. Rumyantseva 4 (ул. Румянцева, 4), tel. (+375 17) 284 29 84, embassy.minsk@mfa.rs. > Open Mon, Wed, Fri 10:00 -12:00. Closed Tue, Thu, Sat, Sun,

Slovakia (Словакия) D-3, ul. Volodarskogo 6 (ул. Володарского, 6), tel. (+37517) 28529 99, fax (+375 17) 283 68 48, emb.minsk@mzv.sk, www.mzv.sk/minsk. Open 09:00 - 12:00. Closed Fri, Sat, Sun.

Switzerland (Швейцария) D-4, ul. Krasnoarmeyskaya 22a (ул. Красноармейская, 22a), tel. (+375 17) 327 18 42, fax (+375 17) 217 84 62. > Open 09:00 - 12:00. Closed Fri, Sat, Sun.

Tajikistan (Таджикистан) Zhdanovichi, ul. Zelyonaya 42 (Ждановичи, ул. Зеленая, 42), tel. (+37517) 549 01 83, (+375 17) 549 01 84, tajemb-belarus@ mail.ru. > Open 09:00 - 18:00. Closed Sat, Sun.

Turkey (Турция) D-3, ul. Volodarskogo 6 (ул. Володарского, 6), tel. (+375 17) 200 39 77, fax: (+375 17) 327 27 46. > Open 09:00 - 12:00. Closed Sat, Sun.

Ukraine (Украина) B-4, ul. Starovilenskaya 51 (ул. Старовиленская, 51), tel. (+37517) 283 1989/ (+375 17) 283 19 80, info@ukraine-emb.by, www.belarus.mfa.gov.ua. > Open , Mon 14:00 - 16:00, Tue, Wed, Thu 09:00 - 13:00. Closed Fri, Sat, Sun.

United Kingdom (Великобритания) D-4, ul. Karla Marxa 37 (ул. Карла Маркса, 37), tel. (+375 17) 229 82 00, fax (+375 17) 229 82 06, visaenquiries.minsk@fco.gov.uk, www.britain.by. Open , Mon, Thu 09:00 - 11:30. Closed Tue, Wed, Fri, Sat, Sun.

United States (CША) C-4, ul. Starovilenskaya 46 (ул. Старовиленская, 46), tel. (+37517) 2101283/ (+375 17) 217 73 48, fax (+375 17) 334 78 53, ConsularMinsk@state.gov, http://minsk.usembassy. gov. > Open , Mon, Tue, Thu 08:30 - 12:00. Closed Wed, Fri, Sat, Sun.

Vatican (Ватикан) D-3, ul. Volodarskogo 6 (ул. Володарского, 6), tel. (+375 17) 289 15 84, nuntius@catholic.by, http://nunciature.catholic.by. Open 09:00 - 18:00. Closed Sat, Sun.

Insurance

Belgosstrakh (Белгосстрах) D-2, ul. Liebknechta 70 (ул. Либкнехта, 70), tel. (+375 17) 269 26 00, fax (+375 17) 213 08 05, info@belgosstrakh.by, www. belgosstrakh.by. > Open 08:30 - 17:30, Fri 18:30 - 16:40. Closed Sat, Sun.

Belingosstrakh (Белингосстрах) С-3, Pobediteley pr. 19 (просп. Победителей, 19), tel. (+375 17) 209 24 16/(+375 17) 209 25 46, www.belingosstrakh.by. > Open 08:40 - 17:10. Closed Sat, Sun.

Language courses

Minsk State Linguistic University B-3, ul. Zakharova 21 (ул. Захарова, 21), MPloschad Pobedy (Площадь Победы), tel. (+375 17) 213 76 63. A huge and highly respected institution, who offer a multitude of courses in a multitude of languages. They have a good website in English http://international.mslu.by-> Open 09:00 - 21:00. Closed Sun.

Photographic services

Foto Centre (Фото Центр) E-3, ul. Kirova 1 (орposite train station) (ул. Кирова, 1), tel. (+375 17) 225 62 25/(+375 17) 225 06 03. One-hour service. Open 09:00 - 20:00, Sun 10:00 - 18:00.



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Azizova ul.

Bangalor pl.

Bersona ul.

Birvuzova ul.

Bronevoi per.

Chapaeva ul.

Belomorskaya ul.

Betonny proezd

Bobruiskaya ul.

Boleslava Beruta ul.

Botanicheskaya ul.

Byelorusskaya ul.

Chebotaryova ul.

Chervyakova ul.

Chicherina ul.

Chigladze ul..

Daumana ul.

Druzhnaya ul.

Engelsa ul.

Frunze ul.

Gikalo ul.

Gorodskoi Val ul.

Grushevskaya ul.

Griboedova ul.

Gusovskogo ul.

Ignatenko ul.

Izvoznaya ul.

Kalinina per.

Kalinina pl.

Kalinina ul.

Kakhovskaya ul.

Kalvariyskaya ul.

Karla Marxa ul.

Kirova ul.

Kiselyova ul.

Klumova per.

Klary Zetkin ul.

Kollektornava ul.

Kharkovskaya ul.

Karastoyanovoy ul. Karla Liebknechta ul.

Gvardeiskaya ul.

lerusalimskava ul.

Internatsionalnaya ul.

Gaia ul.

Fabrichnaya ul.

Fabritsiusa ul.

Dzerzhinskogo pr.

Dekabristov ul.

Dolgobrodskaya ul.

Domashevskogo per.

Frantishka Bogushevicha ul.

Chernyshevskogo ul.

Bogdana Khmelnitskogo ul. A/B-6

Berestyanskaya ul.

B-6

E-5

D-5

E-4

D-5

A-4

A-5

B-5

C-5

D-3

E-1

B-1

E-3

C-1

D-6

D-5

E-4

D-5

E-6

A-6

A-3

C-4

A-1

B-3

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D-6

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A-4

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C-1

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E-2

A-3

A-6

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B-4

D-3

E-6 D-3

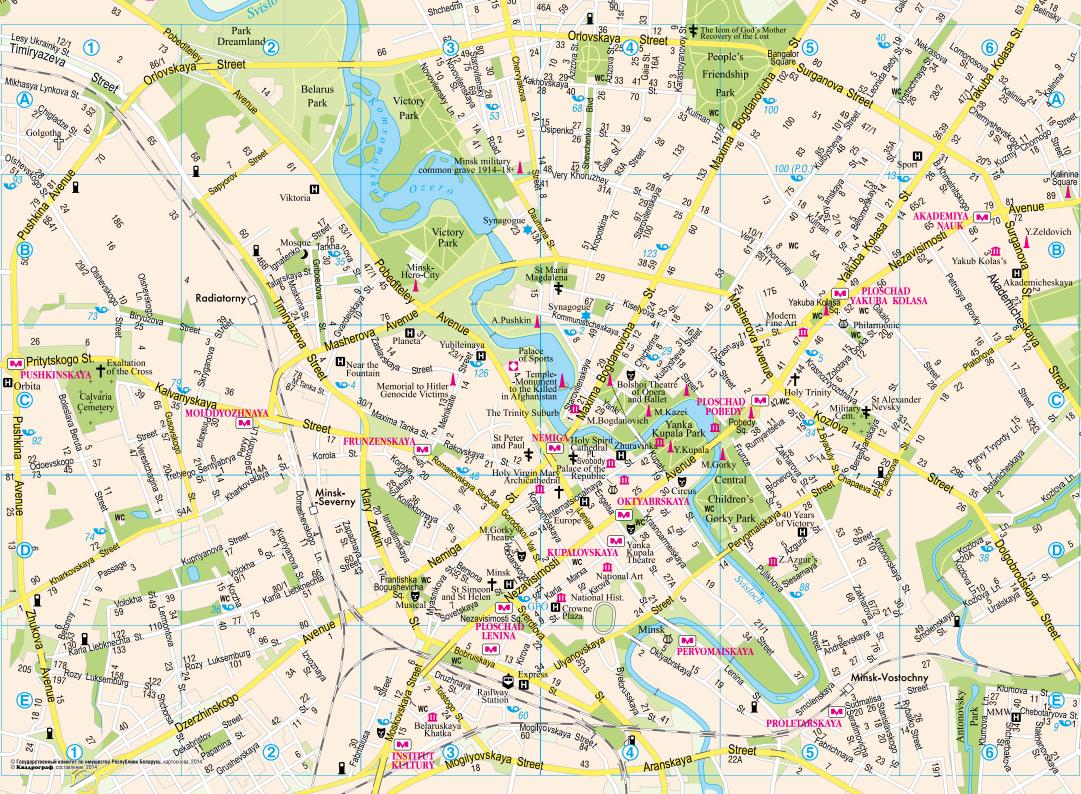
Kommunisticheskaya ul.	B-4
Komsomolskaya ul.	D-3
Korolya ul.	C-2/3
Korzha ul.	D-2
Kozlova ul.	D-6
Kozlova ul.	C-5
Krasnaya ul.	C-4/5
Krasnoarmeiskaya ul.	D-4
Krasnozvyozdnaya ul.	C-5
Kropotkina ul.	R-4
Kuibysheva ul.	A-5 C-4
Kulman ul.	Δ.4 B.5
Kupriyanova ul.	D-2
Kuzmy Chornogo ul.	16
Lopino ul	
Lenina ul. Leonida Bedy ul.	D-4, E-5
Leonida Bedy ul.	C-A
Lermontova ul.	D-1
Lesy Ukrainky ul.	A-L
Lomonosova ul.	A-6
Masherova pr.	B-5, C-2
Maxima Bogdanovicha ul.	A-5, C-4
Maxima Tanka ul.	C-2/3
Melnikaite ul.	C-3
Mikhasya Lynkova ul.	A-1
Mogilyovskaya ul.	E-3
Moskovskaya ul.	E-3
Moskvina ul.	B-2
Myasnikova ul.	D-3
Nekrasova ul.	A-6
Nemiga ul.	D-3
Nezavisimosti pl.	D-3
Nezavisimosti pr.	D-3, B-5
Novovilenskaya ul.	A-3
Novovilensky per.	A-3
Odoevskogo ul.	C-1
Oktyabrskaya ul.	E-4
Olshevskogo per.	B-1
Olshevskogo ul.	A/B-1
Orlovskaya ul.	A-1/4
Osipenko ul.	A-4
Papanina ul.	E-2
Pervomaiskaya ul.	D-5
Pervy Tvyordy per.	C-6
Pervy Zagorodny per.	C-2
Petrusya Brovky ul.	B-6
Pinskaya ul.	C-2
Platonova ul.	D-5. C-6
	,

Pobedy pl.	C-5
Pritytskogo ul.	C-1
Pulikhova ul.	D-5
Pushkina pr.	B/C-1
Rakovskaya ul.	C-3
Romanovskava Sloboda u	l. C-3
Rozy Luksemburg ul.	E-1/2
Rumvantseva ul.	C-5
Rybalko ul.	E-6
Sapvorov ul.	B-2
Serafimovicha ul.	F-5
Shcherbakova ul	F-6
Shchorsa ul.	E-1
Shevchenko blvd	A-4
Skryganova ul.	C-2
Slesarnaya ul.	D-5
Smolenskaya ul.	E-5/6
Sovetskava ul	D-3
Sovetskaya ul. Stakhanovskaya ul.	E-6
Stakilariovskaya ul.	E-0
Stanislavskogo ul.	E-5
Starovilenskaya ul.	B/C-4
Starovilensky tract	A-3
Sudmalisa ul.	E-5
Sukhaya ul.	D-3
Surganova ul.	A-5, B-6
Sverdlova ul.	D-3
Tarkhanova ul.	B-2
Tatarskava ul.	B-2
Tretyego Sentyabrya ul.	D-1, C-2
Timiryazeva ul.	A-1, B-2
Tolstogo ul.	E-3
isnyanskaya ul.	B-5
Ulyanovskaya ul.	E-4
Uralskaya ul.	D-6
Very Khoruzhey ul.	B-4/5
Vereshchagina ul.	C-1
Volodarskogo ul.	D-3
Volokha ul.	D-1/2
Vostochnava ul.	A-6
Yakuba Kolasa pl.	B-5
Yakuba Kolasa ul.	A-6. B-5
Yanki Kupaly ul.	C-4
Zakharova ul.	C/D-5
Zapadnaya ul.	D-2
Zaslavskaya ul.	C-3
Zhukova pr.	D-1
Zmitroka Byaduly ul.	C-5
Zolotaya Gorka ul.	C-5
Zolotaya dorka ul.	0-0

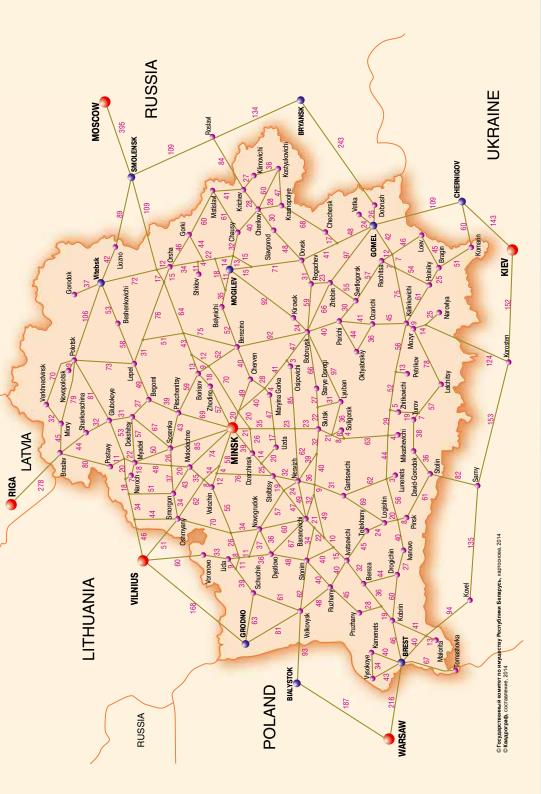
Street Smarts

	Belarusian	Russian
Street	vulitsa / вуліца (вул.)	ulitsa (ul.) / улица (ул.)
Square	ploscha / плошча (пл.)	ploschad (pl.) / площадь (пл.)
Avenue	praspekt / праспект (прасп.)	prospekt (pr.) / проспект (просп.)
Side street	zavulak / завулак (зав.)	pereulok (per.) / переулок (пер.)

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