

Belarus

Continent: Europe

Languages Spoken: Belarusian, Russian

Population: 9,400,000

Currency: Belarusian ruble (BYN)

Area: 207,600

Main Landmarks:

- {'name': 'Mir Castle', 'writeup': 'A UNESCO World Heritage site, this 16th-century fortress combines Gothic, Baroque, and Renaissance architecture.'}
- {'name': 'Brest Fortress', 'writeup': 'A historic fortress known for its heroic defense during World War II.'}
- {'name': 'National Library of Belarus', 'writeup': 'An iconic modern building in Minsk, known for its unique rhombicuboctahedron shape.'}
- {'name': 'Nesvizh Castle', 'writeup': 'A residential castle of the Radziwiłł family, also a UNESCO World Heritage site.'}
- {'name': 'Belovezhskaya Pushcha National Park', 'writeup': "One of Europe's last and largest remaining parts of the primeval forest, home to European bison."}

Head of State / Government:

President Alexander Lukashenko

Main Cultural Events:

- {'name': 'Kupala Night', 'writeup': 'A traditional Slavic holiday celebrating the summer solstice with rituals, songs, and bonfires.'}
- {'name': 'Slavianski Bazaar', 'writeup': 'An international arts festival held in Vitebsk, featuring music, dance, and cultural performances.'}
- {'name': 'Independence Day', 'writeup': 'Celebrated on July 3rd, marking the liberation of Minsk from Nazi occupation in 1944.'}

Food & Cuisine:

Belarusian cuisine features hearty dishes such as draniki (potato pancakes), borscht (beet soup), and machanka (pork stew), reflecting its agricultural traditions and Eastern European influences.

Brief History:

Belarus has a history marked by its position between major powers, including the Grand Duchy of Lithuania, Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth, Russian Empire, and Soviet Union. It gained independence in 1991 following the dissolution of the USSR.

Important People:

- Francysk Skaryna - Early Belarusian printer and cultural figure
- Yanka Kupala - Renowned Belarusian poet
- Svetlana Alexievich - Nobel Prize-winning author

- Alexander Lukashenko - Current president since 1994

Current Conflicts:

Belarus is not engaged in active armed conflicts but faces political tensions and international sanctions related to internal governance and human rights issues.

Youtube Links:

- Discover Belarus: History, Culture, and Landmarks
- Top 10 Places to Visit in Belarus
- Belarusian Cuisine: Traditional Foods Explained
- The Political Landscape of Belarus in 2024
- Belovezhskaya Pushcha National Park - Europe's Ancient Forest