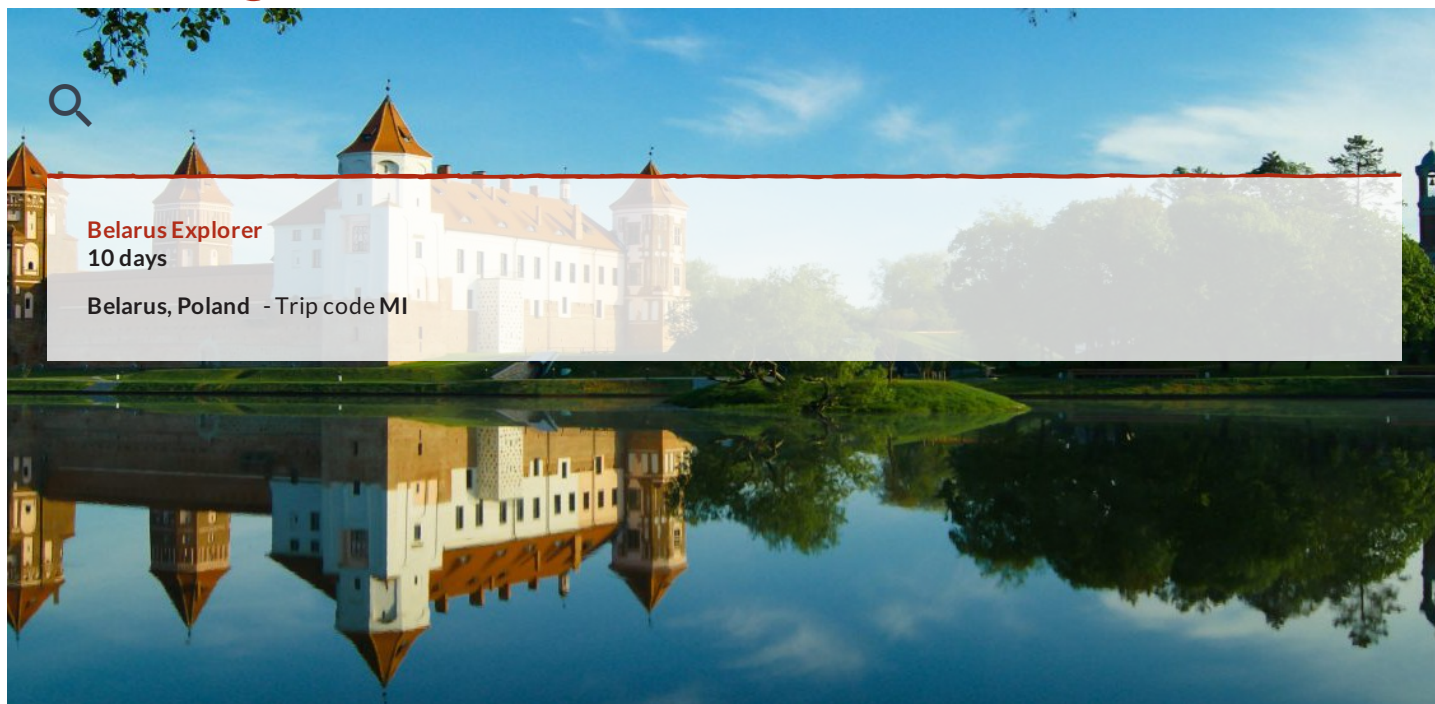


# EXPLORE!



**Belarus Explorer**  
10 days

Belarus, Poland - Trip code MI

## Belarus Explorer

Join us on this exploration of the villages, forests and historic cities of Belarus and eastern Poland. Along the way we spend a night in the Nesvizh Castle and visit the 15th century Mir Castle, both fascinating UNESCO World Heritage Sites, and take a walking tour through the streets of Minsk. We'll discover the incredible variety of flora and fauna while hiking in Berezinsky National Park and learn about the rich history of Hrodna (Grodno), Polotsk and Vitebsk, home to the artist Marc Chagall.

## Trip highlights

ACCOMMODATION GRADE:

## Itinerary

Itineraries on some departure dates may differ, please select the itinerary that you wish to explore.

# What's included?

## Trip information

### Country information

#### Belarus

**Climate**

Belarusian climate is moderately continental, a transitional form from maritime to continental climate with mild and humid winters, warm summers and damp autumns. Average July temperatures range from +17 C to +18.5 C, January temperatures vary from -8 C to -4.5 C.

**Time difference to GMT**

+3

**Plugs**

2 Pin Round

**Religion**

Orthodox

**Language**

Belarusian

#### Poland

**Climate**

Poland has a temperate, changeable climate. September and October are cooler and gradually become damper until late November when temperatures fall below freezing with snowfall, particularly in mountainous areas. Cold temperatures last through to March, but are tolerable. Snow can lie for up to three months in the mountains.

**Time difference to GMT**

+1

**Plugs**

2 Pin Round

**Religion**

Roman Catholic

**Language**

Polish

### Budgeting and packing

#### Optional activities

The following excursions and/or activities are usually available and may be arranged locally. Estimated costs are provided below for guidance only, are on a per person basis unless shown otherwise, and may depend on the number of participants. Prices quoted are correct as of the date these tour notes were originally issued but may change at any time due to currency fluctuations. Please note: These activities are booked and paid for direct with the supplier and do not form part of your Explore holiday contract.

Minsk - Minsk Centre Library €5.00  
Vitebsk - Chagal Art Gallery €1.00 for 1 hour  
Berezinsky National Park - Museum of Nature €12.00  
Lida Castle - €4.00

## Clothing

We recommend taking lightweight clothes for during the day plus some warmer clothes for colder nights. Take a lightweight rain jacket and an umbrella. Ladies should take a headscarf, which may be required for entering some churches.

## Footwear

We recommend bringing comfortable shoes and sandals for relaxing and walking shoes for the walking tours and hiking.

## Luggage

20kg

## Luggage: On tour

One main piece of baggage and day pack. Remember you are expected to carry your own luggage so don't overload yourself.

## Equipment

We advise taking a water bottle for our included walks, sun glasses, sunscreen and a sun hat are all essential.

Please also carry mosquito repellent with you for walk in the National Park.

## Tipping

### Explore leader

At your discretion you might also consider tipping your Explore Leader in appreciation of the efficiency and service you receive.

### Local crew

Although entirely voluntary, tipping is a recognised part of life in this region of the world. Some local staff will look to members of the group for personal recognition of particular services provided. Accordingly please allow £30.00 for tipping on this trip.

In order to make things easier for you, the Explore Leader may organise a group's tips kitty and if this is the case, they will account for it throughout the trip.

## Country Information

### Belarus

#### Food and drink

The costs for meals may vary depending upon location, type of restaurant and number of courses eaten and so the prices given are an average guide. Local restaurants located off the beaten track may be less expensive, whereas an upmarket restaurant located in the centre of a major city may charge more.

##### Lunch price

£6

##### Dinner price

£11

##### Beer price

£2.00 - 4.00

##### Water price

£0.4

#### Foreign Exchange

**Local currency**

Ruble

**Recommended Currency For Exchange**

USD or Euro

**Where To Exchange**

Most major towns - your Tour Leader will advise you on arrival.

**ATM Availability**

You might find it difficult to obtain money from some ATM machines using Maestro and Visa cards due to difficulties in reading the card.

**Credit Card Acceptance**

Restaurants and shops in major towns.

**Travellers Cheques**

Are difficult to cash on this tour.

## Poland

### Food and drink

The costs for meals may vary depending upon location, type of restaurant and number of courses eaten and so the prices given are an average guide. Local restaurants located off the beaten track may be less expensive, whereas an upmarket restaurant located in the centre of a major city may charge more.

**Lunch price**

£8

**Dinner price**

£18.00 - 22.00

**Beer price**

£1.50 - 3.00

**Water price**

£0.8

### Foreign Exchange

**Local currency**

Polish Zloty2

**Recommended Currency For Exchange**

British Pounds Sterling, US Dollars and Euros are all accepted at exchange offices and banks2

**Where To Exchange**

Most major towns - your Tour Leader will advise you on arrival

**ATM Availability**

Available in all major cities

**Credit Card Acceptance**

Credit cards are widely accepted in all major cities

**Travellers Cheques**

Easily exchanged

## Transport, Accommodation & Meals

### Transport Information

Bus

## Accommodation notes

### Booking a Single Room

All of our group tours are planned and operated on a twin-share basis, meaning that the standard cost is based either on individual travellers sharing accommodation with another group member of the same sex, or people who book together sharing accommodation. Please refer to the tour notes where the single room option availability is detailed on a night by night basis for this tour, and the price for the available nights is detailed on the dates & prices tab by departure date. For Self-Guided trips the Single Room supplement offers the option of a single room each and is charged per person. The Single Room supplement also applies to the third person in a party of three that will be accommodated in a single room.

Our hotel in Minsk is conveniently located just a few minutes' walk from the Partyzanskaya Metro Station and it's a 15-20 minute journey into the very centre of the city. Close to our hotel is the Belarus Department Store where you may like to browse for local products such as textiles. The area around the hotel is dominated by locals including a large tractor manufacturing base which employs an astonishing 17,000 people. They are extremely proud of their tractor production and so there are monuments to the tractor and even children's parks with tractor shaped toys. The hotel and the surrounding area have a very Soviet layout and give us a glimpse into what normal life is like in the city. The hotel is tall and offers great views from the higher floors.

We will also spend a night inside the palace ensemble at Nesvizh Castle. There are only 22 rooms here so it's a very exclusive experience. Rooms are en suite and have free internet access, but aren't air-conditioned and each varies in layout and decor due to the historic nature of the building.

## Essential Information

### FCO Advice

We strongly recommend that you check your government's travel advisory for up-to-date information and advice about your destination: safety and security, entry requirements, health, local laws and customs. For UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office advice [click here](#).

For more information from Explore about travel advice, [click here](#)

### Under 18 immigration guidance

Please note that some countries require proof of parental consent when travelling overseas with under 18s. Please check requirements with the relevant embassy or consular office well in advance of travel if this applies to your party.

### Price Guarantee

Once your booking has been confirmed we guarantee the price will not increase, whatever the circumstances. Before booking please ensure you have read our important tour pricing information. [Booking Conditions](#)

### Booking conditions

Before booking your Explore trip, please ensure that you read both our [Essential Information](#) and [Booking Conditions](#).

### Transfers

[Find out more about Trip Transfer Terms and Conditions before you book.](#)

### Booking a land only package with Explore

Customers who have chosen to book on the 'Land Only' arrangements of our tour, please ensure that you have checked your tour specific 'Joining Instructions' prior to booking your own travel arrangements. Your joining instructions can be found below in the dates and prices information.

You may also be eligible for the Free Explore Transfer.

### Joining Tour Abroad

Customers booked on the 'Land Only' arrangements will now receive a Free Transfer, provided you arrive and depart on the tour only itinerary start and end dates. The transfers will be from the Explore designated airport or train station to the joining point of your tour, and then back from the ending point to the designated airport or train station. The exception to this rule is customers who are booked on a tour where the joining and ending point is at the designated airport or train station.

Free transfers are not available for Self-Guided, Polar, Tailormade or Tours for Churches customers.

If you are not eligible for the Free Transfer then you will need to make your own way through to the joining and ending point. On a majority of our tours Explore will be able to provide a private transfer at an additional cost. Please ask for a quote at the time of booking.

For more information regarding the Explore Free Transfer [click here](#)

### Insurance

It is a condition of booking with Explore that you have adequate valid travel insurance. It is your responsibility to arrange appropriate travel insurance and ensure you have read and understood the full terms and conditions of your travel insurance policy to ensure that you are covered for all activities you intend to undertake whilst on the tour, including all optional activities. Your Insurance Policy must fully cover you for medical expenses and emergency repatriation to your home country. Please ensure your policy includes medical emergency helicopter evacuation in the event of illness or injury and covers the entire duration of your holiday. If you are trekking at altitude please ensure that there is no upper altitude limit which may limit or exclude cover for your trip. The cost of many of our Polar Voyages will exceed the capped amount covered by standard insurance premiums and you will be required to pay an additional premium to cover the full value of your trip. Please ensure that you are covered for the full amount of your holiday cost, as insufficient cover could invalidate a claim under the policy. Medical and repatriation insurance cover is not mandatory for UK residents who are travelling on trips within the United Kingdom. Read more information about what travel insurance is required.

## Flight information

Explore offers a wide range of flexible flying options to make joining and leaving our trips easy. [Read more about them here.](#)

### Flight Information

You are able to book this tour on a 'land only' basis or as a 'flight inclusive' package. Your flight inclusive package will be fully protected by the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) ATOL protection scheme.

### Booking a flight inclusive package with Explore

We have a good selection of flights not only from London but from many regional airports around the UK allowing us to compare fares between scheduled carriers as well as low cost and charter airlines. Our dedicated flights team will match the best flight options to your arrival and departure airport.

On our website we display a UK flight inclusive package guide price which is generally based on a London departure. To avoid paying supplements or to secure your preferred flight option, we recommend booking as early as possible, especially for peak travel dates.

## Included activities

This trip is designed to acquaint you with Belarus's highlights and to give you the opportunity to get to know this fascinating lesser known country better. There's so much to see and do during your time in Belarus and there's a lot of ground to cover, so please be prepared for the busy nature of this enthralling holiday.

## Non refundable permits

### Belarus

#### Vaccinations

Nothing compulsory, we recommend protection against Diphtheria, Hepatitis A, Hepatitis B, Rabies, Tetanus, Tick-borne encephalitis, Tuberculosis and Typhoid. Please check the latest requirements with your travel clinic or doctor prior to departure. The above is not an exhaustive list. Further information regarding vaccinations and travel health advice can be found by following the NHS and NaTHNaC links at [Explore Travel Health](#) and from your local healthcare provider. Visa and vaccination requirements are subject to change and should be confirmed by you before travelling.

---

### Poland

#### Vaccinations

Nothing compulsory, but we recommend protection against tetanus, polio and hepatitis A. Tickborne encephalitis is recommended by some medical sources if travelling in certain areas of Europe, at specific times of the year. Please check the latest requirements with your travel clinic or doctor prior to departure. The above is not an exhaustive list. Further information regarding vaccinations and travel health advice can be found by following the NHS and NaTHNaC links at [Explore Travel Health](#) and from your local healthcare provider. Visa and vaccination requirements are subject to change and should be confirmed by you before travelling.

---