

# Tour to Belarus and Ukraine

## Key information

Duration: 13 days / 12 nights

Best season: May - September

Tour type: Small group / individual (starting from 2 persons)

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## What's included:

Airport transfers, Accommodation in 3\* hotels, Meals: breakfast, All transfers in air-conditioned vehicles (vaccinated drivers), English speaking guide service for all days (vaccinated guides), All admission fees, Excursion on BelAz factory, Excursion on Ales Los farm (+ musical performance)

## What's not included:

Flights, Visa fee, Medical insurance

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## Itinerary in brief

Day 1 - Arrival - Minsk City Tour

Day 2 - Belaz - Dudutki

Day 3 - Minsk - Hrodna

Day 4 - Hrodna - Brest

Day 5 - Belovezhskaya Pushcha

Day 6 - Belarus-Ukraine border - Lviv

Day 7 - Lviv - the Carpathians

Day 8 - Carpathians sightseeing - Verkhovyna - Chernivtsi

Day 9 - Chernivtsi City Tour - Kamianets-Podilskyi

Day 10 - Kyiv

Day 11 - Kyiv City Tour

Day 12 - Kyiv City Tour

Day 13 - Departure



## Detailed itinerary

### Day 1

After your arrival in Minsk, you will have a transfer to the hotel and check-in. Your first day in Belarus will start with a sightseeing tour around its capital, Minsk, a city with an interesting history and cozy atmosphere. Modern Minsk with its wide avenues and green parks is a truly European city, convenient and comfortable for travelers. The tour will start from the city's main landmark and a city symbol – the Gates of Minsk. You will continue your walk to Independence Avenue, the main street of Minsk with a number of key attractions. Here you will stop to admire Independence Square – one of the biggest squares in Europe; it is a central location of the seat of government and the historical scene of numerous demonstrations. Your further tour program will include many important historical, cultural, and religious attractions like the Church of St. Simon and St. Helena, the Russian Orthodox Cathedral of the Holy Spirit, the Orthodox Peter and Paul Church to the Trinity, the October Square and the Belarusian National Library. Founded in 1922, this “diamond of knowledge” will surprise you with its rich collections of books, printed and electronic resources. The building of the library offers an amazing observation deck with the best view of the city.

**Overnight:** *Hotel in Minsk*

### Day 2

Your morning will start with breakfast followed by the excursion around BelAZ factory – the Belarusian automobile engineering company that has created the world's biggest dump truck. This world's largest manufacturer of quarry equipment invites anyone to watch the process of the creation of those giant cars. The visitors will have a chance to see the famous dump trucks of large carrying capacity (from 90 to 450 tons) and a variety of heavy transport equipment, which is indispensable in the mining and construction industries. The regular excursion includes visits to the museum, the permanent open-air exposition and a drive around the whole territory of the factory with a stop at machinery producing spots. The excursion will end with some treats and souvenirs. The next place to visit is Dudutki open-air museum which represents Belarusian rural culture and many national crafts. Located in a picturesque place next to the Ptich River the museum invites visitors to plunge into the atmosphere of a provincial Belarusian estate of the 19th century. Here one will have a chance to discover the world of ancient lifestyle, get acquainted with folk customs and crafts of that time, make household items, and even bake a real ruddy loaf. Return to Minsk.

**Overnight:** *Hotel in Minsk*

**Meals:** *Breakfast*

### Day 3

Your day will start with an exploration of the capital's gems. The first site to visit will be a well-known graffiti street - a wonderful extraordinary place for young people and for those who appreciate creativity and street art. The street is known not only for its colorful graffiti made by Belarus and Brazilian artists but also for its cafés and bars. The city tour will end with a visit to the attractive Centralny shopping arcade to indulge in the country's culinary delicacies. After a while, the noisy megapolis will be left behind as you will head to Hronda city through beautiful and quiet natural areas. On the way, there will be a stop in the midst of green forests where the famous Belarussian musician Ales Los lives. He will invite you to his house and introduce to his musical instruments and even perform some beautiful Belarusian motifs for you. During lunch consisting of traditional dishes, Ales will tell you about his artist life. Your last tour destination is Hronda city located in the border triangle with Poland and Lithuania. It has its own architectural style not similar to the Soviet architecture of other cities. You will stroll along its Soviet Street and admire the old houses, cafes and boutiques. You won't miss its main landmark – the Orthodox Boris and Gleb Church – one of the oldest in Belarus.

**Overnight:** *Hotel in Hronda*

**Meals:** *Breakfast*



#### **Day 4**

The day will start with a trip to Brest - a hospitable ancient city with a rich history, located in the south-west of the country. For many years this gem of Belarus has been considered a city with the cleanest ecology as the city has a record number of specially protected natural reserves and forests. This day you will plunge into its 1000-year history and explore its cultural and historical objects among which the main place is occupied by the Brest Fortress Complex - one of the most important monuments of Soviet military history. The fortress witnessed the tragic events of the Second World War and was a site of the first battles. Nowadays the monumental sculptures, places of bloody battles, and the Museum of Defense, opened in the restored barracks, remind us of the feat and bravery of the Brest soldiers.

**Overnight:** *Hotel in Brest*

**Meals:** *Breakfast*

#### **Day 5**

On this day you'll have a chance to explore the natural beauties of Brest. You will visit one of the oldest primeval forests of Europe, Belovezhskaya Pushcha, which is a UNESCO World Heritage site since 1992. Belovezhskaya Pushcha is one of the main natural attractions of Belarus and, perhaps, one of the most significant relics of all of Europe. It is a real natural and ecological museum in the open air where nature is preserved in its original form. The mesmerizing forest is known for more than 220 species of birds and almost 60 mammals, its centuries-old trees including 500-year-old oak trees, as well as centuries-old pines, spruces, ash and linden trees. The park also has a zoo, a library, and a museum. You will return to Brest for an overnight.

**Overnight:** *Hotel in Brest*

**Meals:** *Breakfast*

#### **Day 6**

In the morning you will head to the border with Ukraine where your trip to Lviv will start. Lviv is a city in western Ukraine, a cultural, educational, and scientific center. After arrival, you will have a sightseeing tour that will let you discover the unique gems of this ancient city. Lviv surprises with its architectural diversity – here one can run across the buildings of the Renaissance, Baroque and Classicism, Art Nouveau, Art Deco, Constructivism and Stalinist neoclassicism. Your tour will include a visit to the typical Austrian streets and the medieval part of Lviv known for its Market Square (UNESCO World Heritage Site) – the most ancient site of the city, designed in the second half of the 13<sup>th</sup> century.

**Overnight:** *Hotel in Lviv*

**Meals:** *Breakfast*

#### **Day 7**

After breakfast, your acquaintance with Lviv will continue. On this day you will visit the Opera House and High Castle Hill which is the highest point in the city with the best view. Later you will see the former Austrian casino and St. George's Cathedral distinguished by its rococo architecture. After lunch, you will have a pleasant trip to the Carpathians – the beloved recreation site of Ukrainians and travelers from all over the world. The highlands delight with their incredible mountain lakes, fresh air of dense pine forests and adorable alpine villages.

**Overnight:** *Hotel in Tatariv*

**Meals:** *Breakfast*

#### **Day 8**

This day you will plunge into the stunning atmosphere of the Carpathian Mountains and the everyday life of its inhabitants. You will get acquainted with an interesting ethnic group Hutsuls who live in the highlands. The visits to Hutsul Everyday Life Museum and Musical Instruments Museum will let you have a deep immersion into the cultural life of those people. Hutsul Everyday Life Museum is ethnographical, its host's exhibits that have been collected during 30 years, those are



everyday objects, ancient Hutsul clothes, tools etc. In the museum of Vyshyvanka, you will learn about Ukrainian embroidery. During lunch, you will have a chance to enjoy the specific national dishes. Hutsul cuisine is known for its cereals and farinaceous dishes. The local meal always contains national bread burishnik made of corn flour, thick corn porridge, various dairy products and vegetables. After lunch, we will drive to Chernivtsi.

**Overnight:** *Hotel in Chernivtsi*

**Meals:** *Breakfast*

### **Day 9**

Your day will start with a sightseeing tour around Chernivtsi's historical center. Chernivtsi is a city located in western Ukraine, in the Ukrainian part of the Bukovina region. You'll stroll along Kobylanska Street; see the City Hall, Teatralnaya Square. You will also taste Bukovinian dishes which have their own specific peculiarities. The last sight to visit in this area will be the National University. Next you will head to Kamianets-Podilskyi – a beautiful city surrounded by a horseshoe-shaped canyon. After visiting the Cathedral of Saint Peter and Paul and the St. Nicolas Armenian Church you will reach the main attraction of this city - Kamianets-Podilskyi Castle – a fascinating structure from a fairy tale. It was founded in the 14th century on a giant rock surrounded by a deep canyon. Here you will have a chance to travel back in time and observe gates, bastions, and viewpoints.

**Overnight:** *Hotel in Kamianets-Podilskyi*

**Meals:** *Breakfast*

### **Day 10**

After breakfast, you will start your trip to Kyiv - the proud capital of Ukraine, its most populous city standing on the Dnieper River. Kiev has survived the Mongol invasion, World War II, Chernobyl and the difficult Soviet era. It is the center of Ukrainian culture, full of theaters, museums, religious sites, modern buildings and ancient ruins. Kyiv is known for its art, the mosaics and frescoes of its churches, its craftsmanship in silver, and the quality of many of its manufactures. You will have a full driving day to Kyiv.

**Overnight:** *Hotel in Kyiv*

**Meals:** *Breakfast*

### **Day 11**

In the morning you will start the exploration of the gems of Kyiv. During the walk you will notice that Kyiv is a beautiful city where modern architecture is harmoniously combined with old buildings, unusual museums coexist with ancient monuments, and Orthodox churches peacefully stand along with Gothic castles. Your tour program will include visits to such important attractions as the Golden Gates, St. Sophia Cathedral, St. Andrew Church and St. Michael Golden-Domed Church. You'll also walk along Khreshchatyk Street – the shortest yet widest main street in the world. The tour will end at Maidan Square where all the Ukrainian revolutions had started.

**Overnight:** *Hotel in Kyiv*

**Meals:** *Breakfast*

### **Day 12**

The morning will start with the second part of Kyiv city tour. The first visit will be to Kyevo Pecherska Lavra – an amazing golden-domed monastery that attracts pilgrims from different corners of the world. It is one of the most important Orthodox shrines, founded in 1051 and now protected by UNESCO. Later you will discover the largest monument in Kyiv - the Motherland Statue and then proceed your tour to the museum devoted to the WWII. After the end of the excursion, you will return to your hotel and have a free time. A farewell dinner will be a pleasant end of your tour.

**Overnight:** *Hotel in Kyiv*

**Meals:** *Breakfast*





**Day 13**

Transfer to the airport, departure.





### **Booking terms and conditions**

Once we received your application, confirmed all tour details with you, we will send a deposit invoice. After the deposit of 50-100 euro per person (depending on the tour price) is received, we will start your hotel reservation and other service booking and will send your Tour Voucher with all the trip details.

### **Payment Terms**

After you have booked the tour, it is necessary to make a non-refundable deposit of 50-100 euros, which will provide our coordinators with the possibility to start organizing a trip (hotel reservation, food, transportation, etc.). Final payment could be made after your arrival on the spot. We reserve the right to cancel your booking and apply the relevant cancellation charges (detailed below) if we do not receive all payments at the due time.

### **Cancellation of the tour**

If you or a member of your group wants to cancel the tour, please, inform our company as soon as possible in writing form. Please, note that the prepayment (50-100 euros) is non-refundable; however, you can use it throughout the year and book another tour. In this case, our company will have to charge an extra 100 euros for re-booking the hotel.

### **Rights and obligations**

Tours provided by our company are planned for many months before its inception and are not the subject of change or cancellation. Under the obligation of forced circumstances (weather, holidays) we can make some changes in the itinerary, however, all that relates to services and attractions will remain unchanged.

Please note, that our tours require a minimum number of participants – 2 persons. We reserve the right to cancel the trip, if any tour will not have the minimum number of participants. We will inform you about the cancellation of the tour no later than 30 days before the start and will do the full refund of the amount paid, including the prepayment.

We also request immediately and promptly report all complaints and any claims during the tour. If possible, all problems will be solved. If the tourist does not report any complaint, the compensation will not be implemented.

Please, also note that the company AraraTour is not liable for services not included in the tour price. Our responsibility is limited only to the extent provided by our tour.

Force majeure or any other event which is beyond our control and which is not preventable by reasonable diligence on our part frees both parties from liability or obligation. In case of Force majeure, we don't issue any refund.

### **Insolvency or bankruptcy insurance**

Tour operator Arara guarantees the refund of clients' money for unfulfilled services even in the case of company's own insolvency or bankruptcy.

