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Built anew after the war, the capital of Belarus is a city embracing its own unique brand of modernity. A metropolis of nearly 2 million, Minsk is where nostalgia of Stalinist buildings and Soviet parks meets contemporary art galleries, stylish bars and excellent local eateries.

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#### Mound of Glory

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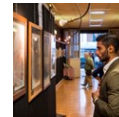
#### Island of Tears

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#### Holy Spirit Cathedral

Standing defiantly on a small hill is the Holy Spirit Cathedral, one of the ...



#### Kastrychnitskaya Street & ok16

The trendy space and "cultural incubator," as the creators have aptly refer...



## THE CITY



*Grisha Bruev/Shutterstock.com*

Minsk is one of the most intriguing cities you are ever likely to visit. It remains, almost proudly, a Soviet capital right down to its KGB building. It's also a city of reinvention - Minsk has been rebuilt several times, most recently after the Second World War when the Nazis reduced the city to rubble.

Along the huge Francysk Skaryna, you will find major pieces of architecture including the Main Post Office and the GUM department store. Nearby (on October Square) head to the haunting Museum of the Great Patriotic War. The Svisloch River divides the city. Walking along its banks is quite beautiful in the summer, particularly if you start your walk from the Old Town.

The city has a fascinating past and a lot of strange footnotes from history have been written here. Lee Harvey Oswald, the man responsible for assassinating JFK, defected to Russia and lived in Minsk. The apartment where he lived on Ploscha Peramohi still stands. As you will quickly find, Minsk invites curiosity.

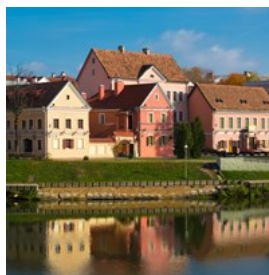
## DO & SEE



*Marianna Ianovska/Shutterstock.com*

With its grand boulevards and big squares, Minsk is all about monumental excess, but its Old Town is tiny and not particularly old at all - most of the city had been rebuilt following the demolition in WWII. The best place to start exploring Minsk is at the Independence Square with its statue of Lenin and the Belorussian University building. Some of the best views over the city unfold from atop the futuristic structure of Belarus' National Library.

### Old Town



The Old Town sits on the eastern side of the Svislach River, bordered by Vul Maxima Bahdanovicha. Known as Troitskoe Predmestiye, or "Trinity Suburb", the Old Town is not really that old. The original 17th and 18th century houses were recreated in the 1980's. However, it's a delightful place to walk around in. You can relax in quaint cafés or browse through the souvenir shops.

Photo: Viktor Malyshchyts/Shutterstock.com

Address: Troitskoe Predmestiye, Minsk

### Mound of Glory



The memorial sits on the Minsk-Moscow highway, a 30 minute car ride from Minsk. The monument itself was built in 1969, 25 years after the liberation of Belarus from the Germans, to honour the soldiers that fought against the Nazis in World War II and those who lost their lives. The view from the top of the hill makes the climb worthwhile.

Photo: Sergey-73/Shutterstock.com  
Address: Smolevichi District, Belarus  
More Info: At the 21st kilometre on the Minsk-Belarus motorway

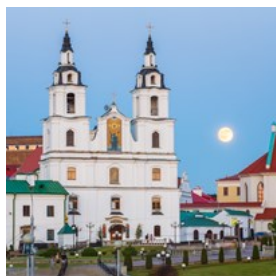
### Island of Tears



Down from the Old Town by the riverbanks is the evocative Ostrov Slyoz, or "Island of Tears". This is a memorial to Belarusians who lost their lives in battle, but particularly in remembrance of those that died in the Soviet Union's war in Afghanistan in the 1980's.

Photo: Grisha Bruev/Shutterstock.com  
Address: Island of Tears, Minsk

### Holy Spirit Cathedral



Standing defiantly on a small hill is the Holy Spirit Cathedral, one of the most instantly recognisable landmarks of Minsk. This two-towered Orthodox cathedral is situated in the Upper Town. It was once part of a Polish Bernadine convent. The monastery buildings

nearby are now a music academy.

Photo: Grisha Bruev/Shutterstock.com  
Address: Kirila i Mefodiya 3, Minsk  
Internet: minskcath.anitex.by

### Kastrychnitskaya Street & ok16



The trendy space and "cultural incubator," as the creators have aptly referred to it, ok16 regularly hosts art markets showcasing artwork by contemporary Belarusian creators, among other events like exhibitions, theatrical performances, lectures, and more.

The entire street is a showcase for Minsk's alternative art scene, with murals and graffiti adorning the walls of Soviet-era block buildings and trendy coffee outlets neighbouring on (fully operational!) factories with "Employees of the Month" billboards out front.

Photo: ArtOfPhotos/Shutterstock.com  
Address: Oktyabrskaya 16, Minsk  
Email: ok16minsk@gmail.com

### Gorky Park



Gorky Park is the city's oldest park, at its loveliest in the summer. It is very popular with locals who often stroll along the well-tended paths. Gorky Park is a big draw to guests of all ages because of its enormous Ferris Wheel. Another reason to come here is the great view of the city.

Photo: Yury Zap/Shutterstock.com  
Address: Gorky Park, Minsk

### Church of St. Simon and Helena



Better known as the “Red Church”, the Church of St. Simon and Helena was built in 1910 by a Polish noble to commemorate the death of his two children - the tower’s three bells are named after him and the dead children.

Photo: Grisha Bruev/Shutterstock.com

Address: Savetskaya 15, Minsk

### Victory Square

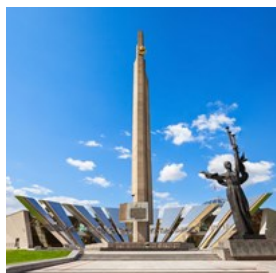


At the junction of Nezavisimosti and Zakharava is this huge square, with a giant victory obelisk emerging from the centre. The monument has an eternal flame at its feet, which has been burning since 1954, and is accessible from an underground passageway.

Photo: Alexander Chaikin/Shutterstock.com

Address: Victory Square, Minsk

### Museum of the Great Patriotic War



Next to the classical-style Trade Union’s Culture Palace lies the Museum of the Great Patriotic War. This museum tells of Belarus during World War II. It also tells the story of Minsk’s Jewish population following the Nazi invasion of the Soviet Union in 1941. Behind the building is a park filled with vintage tanks and planes.

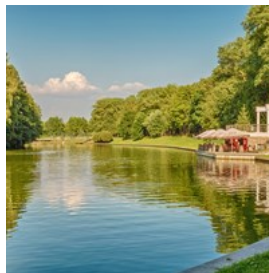
Photo: saiko3p/Shutterstock.com

Address: Skaryny 25, Minsk

Phone: +375 17 227 5611

Internet: [www.warmuseum.by](http://www.warmuseum.by)

### Pieramohi Park



Across the road from the Museum of the Great Patriotic War lies a delightful little park that stands on the site of a 19th century marketplace. You often see people playing music here.

Photo: BAHDANOVICH ALENA/Shutterstock.com

Address: Pieramohi Park, Minsk

### KGB Building



North-west of Independence Square is a yellow neo-classical block, which houses the KGB building. On the other side of the street is a park, where you can find a bust of Felix Dzerzhinsky, founder of "Cheka" (the pre-KGB establishment of the Soviet Union).

Photo: FeyginFoto/Shutterstock.com

Address: Skaryny 17, Minsk

### Palace of Art (Palats Mastatsva)



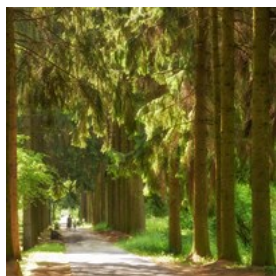
The Palats Mastatsva is a stylish and trendy hangout - well compared to the dour museums that tend to make up Minsk’s cultural scene. Palats Mastatsva is an arts institute where you will find galleries and book stalls.

Photo: Comanicu Dan/Shutterstock.com

Address: Kazlova 3, Minsk

Phone: +375 17 213 3549

### Central Botanical Garden



This is one of the most beautiful places in Minsk. The Botanical Garden is a leading scientific institution and home to more than 1,000 different plants. It is a tranquil place with a beautiful lake and the perfect spot to have a picnic at on a sunny day.

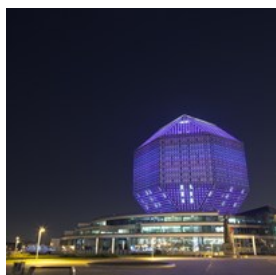
Photo: LAPTEVA IULIA/Shutterstock.com

Address: Surganova 2V, Minsk

Phone: +375 17 284 1484

Internet: [www.cbg.org.by](http://www.cbg.org.by)

### National Library of Belarus



National Library of Belarus is one of the most iconic buildings in the city, and it is easy to see why. Other than a vast selection of world literature, there is also an art gallery, cafe and an observation deck with a beautiful view over the city.

Photo: Kuprevich/Shutterstock.com

Address: Prasp'yekt Nyezalyezhnastsi 116, Minsk

Phone: +375 17 237 6778

Internet: [www.nlb.by](http://www.nlb.by)

### Minsk Arena



Minsk Arena is a great place to visit for concerts or fun-filled hockey games. Check out their website while you are there to see what is on.

You will also find 7 cafes and 3 different restaurants in the building.

Photo: kovop58/Shutterstock.com

Address: Prasp'yekt Pyeramozhtsaw 111, Minsk

Phone: +375 17 363 45 98

Internet: [www.minskarena.by](http://www.minskarena.by)

### Dreamland Park



Dreamland Park is one of the main amusement parks in Minsk. It is a park for all ages but children will probably find some things more exciting. There are lush walking paths, a zoological area with exotic birds and live entertainment.

Photo: Zurijeta/Shutterstock.com

Address: Arlowskaya 80, Minsk

### Belarussian State Circus



Few outings in the Belorussian capital can be as entertaining and amusing as going to the circus. Various performances are put on at the Belorussian State Circus - you should certainly try to catch one.

Photo: Yury Zap/Shutterstock.com

Address: Prasp'yekt Nyezalyezhnastsi 32, Minsk

Phone: +375 17 227 7842

Internet: [www.circus.by](http://www.circus.by)

## DINING



Grisha Bruev/Shutterstock.com

The restaurant scene in Minsk is slowly changing. Old, formal restaurants are being usurped by a new breed of dynamic Western European-style eateries. The local cuisine, rich in baked meat, mushrooms, soups and heavy sauces, is making a comeback, too. Local favourites worth trying include "hribnoy sup" (mushroom and barley soup), "kolduni" (stuffed meat dumplings) and "golubtsy" (cabbage rolls stuffed with meat and rice). Many of the best restaurants are located near the Grand Opera. Several restaurants offer performances to accompany your meal.

### Pan Khmelyu



Pan Khmelyu is one of the most popular upscale restaurants in town, often visited by locals to celebrate special occasions. Here you can

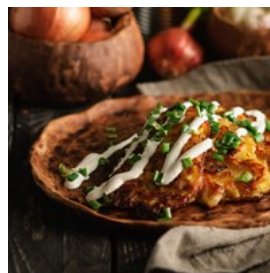
enjoy giant portions of traditional Belarusian dishes complemented by live bands and other entertainment. Open until 4am.

Photo: Tanya Stolyarevskaya/Shutterstock.com

Address: Internatsionalnaya 11, Minsk

Phone: +375 17 229 7602

### Vasilki



If cheap local eats are what you're after, try one of this establishment's locations across town. The menu is extensive and features great value

deals on traditional Belarusian and Eastern European dishes. Serves soups, mains, snacks, and even dessert.

Photo: tag2016/Shutterstock.com

Address: Nezavisimosti 16, Minsk

Phone: +375 29 706 44 52

Internet: [www.vasilki.by](http://www.vasilki.by)

### Talaka



Straunya Talaka occupies a basement cellar space and entices with an unusual décor featuring stuffed animals and tables made from re-purposed

old beds. Here, guests are welcome to indulge in generous portions of traditional dishes of the Belarusian cuisine.

Photo: Liliya Kandrashovich/Shutterstock.com

Address: Rakovskaya 18, Minsk

Phone: +375 17 203 2794

### Lido



Lido is an inexpensive self-service eatery located right next to the TSUM department store. Dish variety is impressive, with mostly Eastern and

Central European cuisines on offer. Lido will certainly not break the bank, food is of high quality and service fast and efficient.

Photo: CatchaSnap/Shutterstock.com

Address: Nezavisimosti Ave 49-1, Minsk  
Phone: +375 28 482 08  
Internet: [www.lido.by](http://www.lido.by)

### Westfalia



Westfalia offers fresh, healthy food in simple, elegant surroundings. The cuisine is primarily German and central European, with a large variety of Belarusian specialties. There is live jazz here every Friday. Vegetarian dishes and a children's menu available.

Photo: Tatiana Bralnina/Shutterstock.com  
Address: Gazeta Pravdy 11, Minsk  
Opening hours: Daily 7am-11pm  
Phone: +375 17 270 7004  
Internet: <https://ibb.by/restaurant/>

### Planeta Sushi



Planeta Sushi is a Japanese restaurant, part of a well-established international chain. The menu features classics of Japanese and Asian

cuisine, with a large chunk of it dedicated to different varieties of sushi. If in doubt, go for a Philadelphia or California roll.

Photo: Maksim Toome/Shutterstock.com  
Address: Lenina 3, Minsk  
Phone: +375 29 555 05 05  
Internet: [www.planetsushi.by](http://www.planetsushi.by)

### Café Traktir Na Parkovoy



This is a good café to sit and sink a few beers and watch the world pass by. The café offers local snacks like draniki and tasty potato pancakes.

Photo: Hammock/Shutterstock.com  
Address: Prospekt Pobediteley 11, Minsk  
Phone: +375 29 135 77 36

### Bergamo



The upscale Italian restaurant has consistently enjoyed great reviews, and is one of the finest restaurants in Minsk specialising in Italian cuisine. Live music is played as dinner accompaniment on most nights, and the service is attentive yet unobtrusive.

Photo: Andrey Bayda/Shutterstock.com  
Address: Kulman 37, Minsk  
Opening hours: Mon-Sat 10am-12am  
Phone: +375 17 334 4556

### Kamyanitsa



Kamyanitsa is an authentic Belarusian restaurant offering a wide selection of affordable Belarusian dishes. They also have a great selection of beer, both local and international. If you're lucky, you might be able to catch a show by local folk performers on some nights.

Photo: kselena/Shutterstock.com  
Address: Pervomayskaya 18, Minsk  
Phone: +375 17 294 5124  
Internet: [www.kamyanitsa.by](http://www.kamyanitsa.by)

## Gosti



If you're looking for a low-key, relaxed establishment then Gosti is the place to be. They serve European and Belarusian cuisine, pub grub, great beer and other drinks. Live music is played on some nights, and there even is a small dance floor to be made use of later in the night.

Photo: studio0411/Shutterstock.com

Address: Nezavisimosty 25, Minsk

Phone: +375 29 677 7999

## Food Republic



Food Republic is essentially an upper-range food court, with restaurants specializing in world cuisines from Turkish to Japanese arranged in a circular manner around the space. There is a pleasant outdoor terrace overlooking the river available to customers during the summer.

Photo: Rawpixel.com/Shutterstock.com

Address: Kupaly Yanki 25, Minsk

Opening hours: Daily 10am-11pm

Phone: +375 29 311 16 20

## CAFES



Africa Studio/Shutterstock.com

The cafe scene in Minsk is pleasantly varied and boasts an ever-increasing number of hip coffee shops and stylish brunch spots reminiscent of those dotting most European capitals. The city centre contains a wide range of spots from Viennese-style cafes to self-service eateries serving affordable local specialties, some still preserving a distinctive Soviet feel.

## Grunwald Café



Grunwald's classy atmosphere, elegant themed décor (the crockery and dishes are all branded with the restaurant's name) and a perfect fusion of Belarusian and Eastern European cuisines all make it a popular meeting point for local diners. Smoking and non-smoking rooms available.

Photo: Viktory Panchenko/Shutterstock.com

Address: Karl Marksa 19, Minsk

Phone: +375 17 210 4255



### News Cafe



News cafe is one that aims to recreate the atmosphere of a hip coffee shop in central and/or western Europe, with up-to-standards service, decent coffee, English-speaking staff and menus. The cafe is open all through the day and has something to offer for breakfast, lunch, and dinner.

Photo: YaiSirichai/Shutterstock.com  
Address: Karla Marksa 34, Minsk  
Phone: +375 29 103 1111

### Tapas Bar



The longstanding Spanish restaurant transports diners to Spain, forging a pleasantly relaxed atmosphere in the cosy space it occupies. Here, a wide selection of Spanish and Mediterranean dishes is on offer, along with quite a choice of various tapas.

Photo: ARTRAN/Shutterstock.com  
Address: Internatsionalnaya 9, Minsk  
Phone: +375 29 399 1111

### Stolle



Stille serves heavenly pies (both by piece and whole) to eat in or take away, and boasts several convenient locations across Minsk. The one on

Rakovskaya Street also serves a selection of traditional Belarusian and Eastern European dishes. Refer to the official website for a full list of branches.

Photo: CatchaSnap/Shutterstock.com  
Address: Karla Marksa 20, Minsk  
Opening hours: Daily 9am-10pm  
Phone: +375 29 655 53 50  
Internet: [www.stolle.by](http://www.stolle.by)

### Grand Cafe



The posh Grand Cafe is more of a rather upscale restaurant, really, with fully laid tables and schooled, English-speaking servers

attending to guests' every need. The menu is dominated by Italian (and miscellaneous European) specialties, and offers a pleasant selection of desserts.

Photo: vm2002/Shutterstock.com  
Address: Lenina 2, Minsk  
Opening hours: Mon-Sun 12pm-11pm  
Phone: +375 44 703 11 11

### BARS & NIGHTLIFE



Syda Productions/Shutterstock.com

There's no real part of town where you can head to just for bars alone so you need to spread your net wide. Good local beers include Krinitza and Lidskoe, and it's no exaggeration to say that Belarusian vodka is some of the finest in the world. Minsk offers nightlife that you are unlikely to ever forget. Planning is everything when going for a night out in Minsk, especially considering the size of the city.

### Rakovsky Brovar



One of the best bars in Minsk, Rakovsky Brovar has its own small brewery where you must try the Grashovoe and Pilzenskoe beers (the selection extends to 30 varieties). There are two floors of wooden tables and benches and a "sports corner". Open until midnight.

Photo: Brent Hofacker/Shutterstock.com  
Address: Vitebskaya 10, Minsk  
Phone: +375 44 733 9339

### Kew London



Once among the capital's best bohemian cafes for insiders, the legendary London underwent a substantial makeover, taking on a new identity as a coffee and cocktail bar (plus the prefix "Kew"). Coffee is still served here in the daytime as an homage to the establishment's past, but true magic happens as the sun goes down: Kew London's speciality are herbal notes that liven up familiar classics.

Photo: DisobeyArt/Shutterstock.com  
Address: Nezavisimosti Skoriny 18, Minsk  
Phone: +375 17 289 1529

### Graffiti



Located on the ground floor of a student dorm, Graffiti has some of the best live music in Minsk and frequently plays host to shows by local bands. It's an intimate red brick hangout (walls adorned with - you guessed it - graffiti art) where drinks

are cheap, locals friendly and the music top-notch.

Photo: Pressmaster/Shutterstock.com  
Address: Per Kalinina 16, Minsk  
Phone: +375 17 266 0154

### BierKeller



BierKeller is a German beer cellar with a large selection of exclusive German beer. The "German" theme is followed to the letter, complete with dirndl-clad waitresses serving guests traditional pork dishes. Some patrons even have their own personal mugs waiting for them in a designated cabinet.

Photo: allstars/Shutterstock.com  
Address: Zavulak Vajskovy 12, Minsk  
Phone: +375 44 588 8333  
Internet: [www.bier-keller.by](http://www.bier-keller.by)

### Gambrinus Pub



If you are a beer lover and/or connoisseur, then Gambrinus Pub is the place to be. The pub is divided into four different parts, each one representing a world-famous beer capital. It is also a foreigner-friendly location, with English-speaking staff and menu. Serves a good selection of savoury foods and dessert.

Photo: BlueSkyImage/Shutterstock.com  
Address: Svobody 2, Minsk  
Opening hours: Sun-Thu 12pm-12am, Fri-Sat 12pm-2am  
Phone: +375 17 321 2376

### Cherdak



Cherdak - translated "attic" - indeed occupies the top floor of a very centrally located building in Minsk's old town. The bar is known for its creative cocktail list and the adjacent airy rooftop terrace, immensely popular with locals in-the-know during the summer months. DJ sets and dancing have their place

Photo: oneinchpunch/Shutterstock.com  
Address: Zibickaia 9, Minsk  
Phone: +375 29 189 09 09

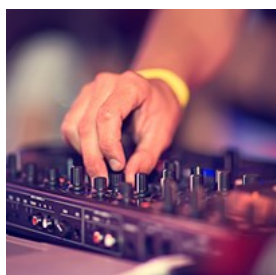
### Craft House



Part of the quickly emerging scene of craft beer bars, Craft House packs a punch with its varied selection of beer (over a dozen on tap and about 50 bottled varieties, from local brands to international favourites) and some great meal choices. Emerging Russian (AF Brew) and Belarusian microbrews are also represented.

Photo: Joshua Resnick/Shutterstock.com  
Address: Kolasa Yakuba 37, Minsk  
Phone: +375 29 310 37 37

### Insomnia Bar



With its unique decor (one of the rooms is Alice in Wonderland themed, with chairs glued to the walls) and an excellent drink list, Insomnia is one of Minsk's currently most attractive, stylish bars. One of its major draws is that food here is served late into the night, making it a good

after-party location.

Photo: Nykonchuk Oleksii/Shutterstock.com  
Address: Gertsena 1, Minsk  
Opening hours: Daily 12pm-5am  
Phone: +375 29 144 11 55

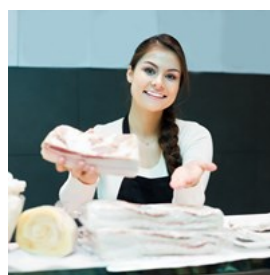
## SHOPPING



Grisha Bruev/Shutterstock.com

Francysk Skaryna is Minsk's main shopping drag. Apart from the quintessential painted wood souvenirs, Belarus is famous throughout the former Soviet-bloc for its ladies lingerie brand Milavitsa. Other products to look out for include Belarusian vodka, which is well-regarded both locally and internationally. An unusual local edible to try is the "salo" - cured animal fat to be consumed on its own or paired with dark bread (a large assortment can be found at the central food market, Kamarovsky).

### Komarovskiy Market



Minsk's largest food market, Komarovskiy is where locals head to stock up on fresh, locally-sourced produce. It's an experience even if you don't plan to buy, although prepare to be tempted - what better place to try the infamous local specialty called "salo" (cured animal fat), or purchase excellent quality honey.

Photo: Iakov Filimonov/Shutterstock.com

Address: V.Khorunzhey 8, Minsk

Opening hours: Tue-Sun 9am-7pm, Mon closed

Phone: +375 17 292 66 08

Internet: [www.komarovka.by](http://www.komarovka.by)

### Milavitsa



Belarus' own longstanding lingerie brand is doing exceptionally well all over Europe, and is especially popular with female shoppers in its Eastern countries. Milavitsa's products boast a well-deserved good reputation for their quality and affordable pricing.

Photo: nd3000/Shutterstock.com

Address: Kirava 1, Minsk

Opening hours: Daily 10am-8pm

Phone: +375 17 225 06 29

More Info: Several locations around Minsk

### GUM



It's great fun wandering around GUM, where you can find all manner of products - from souvenirs to edibles and clothing.

GUM is big, brash and an unforgettable place to shop. Little has changed since the Soviet era's end a couple of decades ago in terms of the general atmosphere, so a trip here might be worth it for the experience alone.

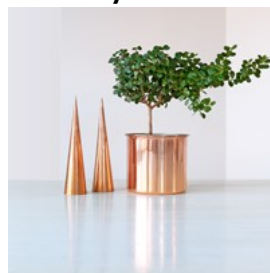
Photo: Raisa Kanareva/Shutterstock.com

Address: Nezavisimosti 21, Minsk

Phone: +375 17 226 1048

Internet: [www.gum.by](http://www.gum.by)

### Y Gallery



The alternative creative space of "Y" comprises an art gallery (with constantly changing exhibitions by local creators), stylish wine bar (that operates as cafe during daylight hours), and a small adjacent store selling artisan souvenirs, accessories, and artwork.

Photo: Modest Things/Shutterstock.com

Address: Kastrichnickaya 19, Minsk

Phone: +375 29 370 06 16

Internet: [www.ygallery.by](http://www.ygallery.by)

### Zamok



One of the best shopping malls of the capital, Zamok contains a wide range of international brand boutiques, as well as quite a few entertainment options - these include a 3D cinema, children's Discovery complex, multiple restaurants and cafes, and a very own ice-skating rink.

Photo: Syda Productions/Shutterstock.com

Address: Pobediteley 65, Minsk

Phone: +375 33 336 12 82

Internet: [www.tczamok.by](http://www.tczamok.by)

Email: [ydmitranitsa@zamok.korona.by](mailto:ydmitranitsa@zamok.korona.by)

### TSUM



TSUM is an abbreviation for (roughly) "universal store", and this shopping center really is a one-stop location for all shopping needs imaginable. The building has several levels, each dedicated to a specific theme - male and female clothing,

household goods and deli. The nearby Lido is a great value lunch spot.

Photo: haveseen/Shutterstock.com  
Address: Nezavisimosti 54, Minsk  
Phone: +375 17 389 00 15  
Internet: [www.tsum.by](http://www.tsum.by)  
Email: [info@tsum.by](mailto:info@tsum.by)

### Stolitsa Underground Mall



The three-storey underground mall is one of several larger shopping centres in the capital. The assortment of stores is what one would expect from a location like this one - mass-market and upper-range local and international brand boutiques, as well as a few eateries.

Photo: Kzenon/Shutterstock.com  
Address: Ploscha Nezalezhnosti, Minsk  
Phone: +375 17 226 11 67  
Internet: [www.tc-stolica.by](http://www.tc-stolica.by)

### TOURIST INFORMATION



*Ditty\_about\_summer/Shutterstock.com*

### Minsk International Airport



The country's main international airport is located at a distance of 42 km from the city. Reaching the city centre is possible via public

transport - buses 300Э and 173Э and shuttles 400-TK and 1430-TK all circulate between the city center and the airport. Tickets may be purchased at vending machines and/or from the driver directly. Journey time is estimated at 1 hour approximately. You can also easily get a taxi from outside the arrivals hall.

Photo: Juan Garces  
Phone: +375 17 279 1300  
Internet: [www.airport.by](http://www.airport.by)  
Email: [info@airport.by](mailto:info@airport.by)

### Passport / Visa



As of 2017, visa-free entry via the Minsk National Airport has been introduced for citizens of multiple world countries. The visa-free period has

recently been extended from 5 days to 30; if your stay will last longer than 5 working days, you will also need to register with local authorities and pay a small registration fee.

In order to make use of visa-free entry, travelers must arrive and exit solely through the Minsk National Airport (no border crossing by car or train allowed). This does not apply to flights to and from Russia: those crossing the border from or into Russia will need to obtain a visa in advance.

Those eligible for the 30-days visa include all

nationals of the European Union and further European countries, as well as the United States, Canada, Australia, Japan, and many others.

For longer stays a visa will most definitely be required. To learn more about different types of visas and supporting documents for each type, visit: <http://mfa.gov.by/en/visa/typesofvisa>

Photo: TukTuk Design/Shutterstock.com

### Best Time to Visit



Belarus' continental climate, with warm summers and cold winters, makes late spring through early fall the best times to visit the

country weather-wise. The months of June, July and August are normally very warm but not uncomfortably so, and these also see the Belarusian capital come alive with outdoor events and festivals, residents pouring out into the city's parks and outdoor cafes.

Photo: VectorA/Shutterstock.com

### Public Transport



You can get around Minsk by using the bus, tram, or the metro. All three are cheap and reliable. The two-line metro is an interesting way of getting

around as each station's decor is dedicated to a specific theme (the October Square station commemorates the 1917 revolution, for example).

Public transport operates from about 05.30 to 01.00 daily and serves all parts of the city. Trolleybuses 1, 2 and 18 pass through Minsk's

main street, Pr Francysk Skaryna The metro closes at 24.30 every night.

Remember to validate your ticket on board buses and trams by punching it on one of the red punching machines. Ten-day or monthly passes are available for all modes of transport.

Photo: Pierre-Luc Auclair

### Taxi



Yellow cabs are the state run taxis that are best used. Prices depend on distance. Taxis can be hired at short numbers 152, 135, 157 and 107

(upper-range).

Photo: ArrivalGuides

### Pharmacy



Pharmacies in Minsk are marked by a green cross and there are many of them in the city. Some addresses include: Kirava 3, Minsk (24/7) +375 17

328 47 05

Karla Marksa 20, Minsk (24/7)  
+375 17 220 28 44

Photo: Gemma Garner

### Post



There are multiple post offices all across Minsk. Post boxes are blue in color. Central Post Office Praspiekt Niezaliežnasci 10, Minsk +375 17 200

04 06

Mon-Sat 8am-8pm, Sun 10am-5pm

Photo: Andy Fuchs

### Telephone



Country code: +375 Area  
code: 17

Photo: Jardson Almeida

### Electricity



220V AC, 50Hz Standard  
European two-pin plugs

Photo: Stirling Tschan

### Population

1,900,000

### Currency

1 Belarusian Ruble (BYR) = 100 Kopeks

### Opening hours

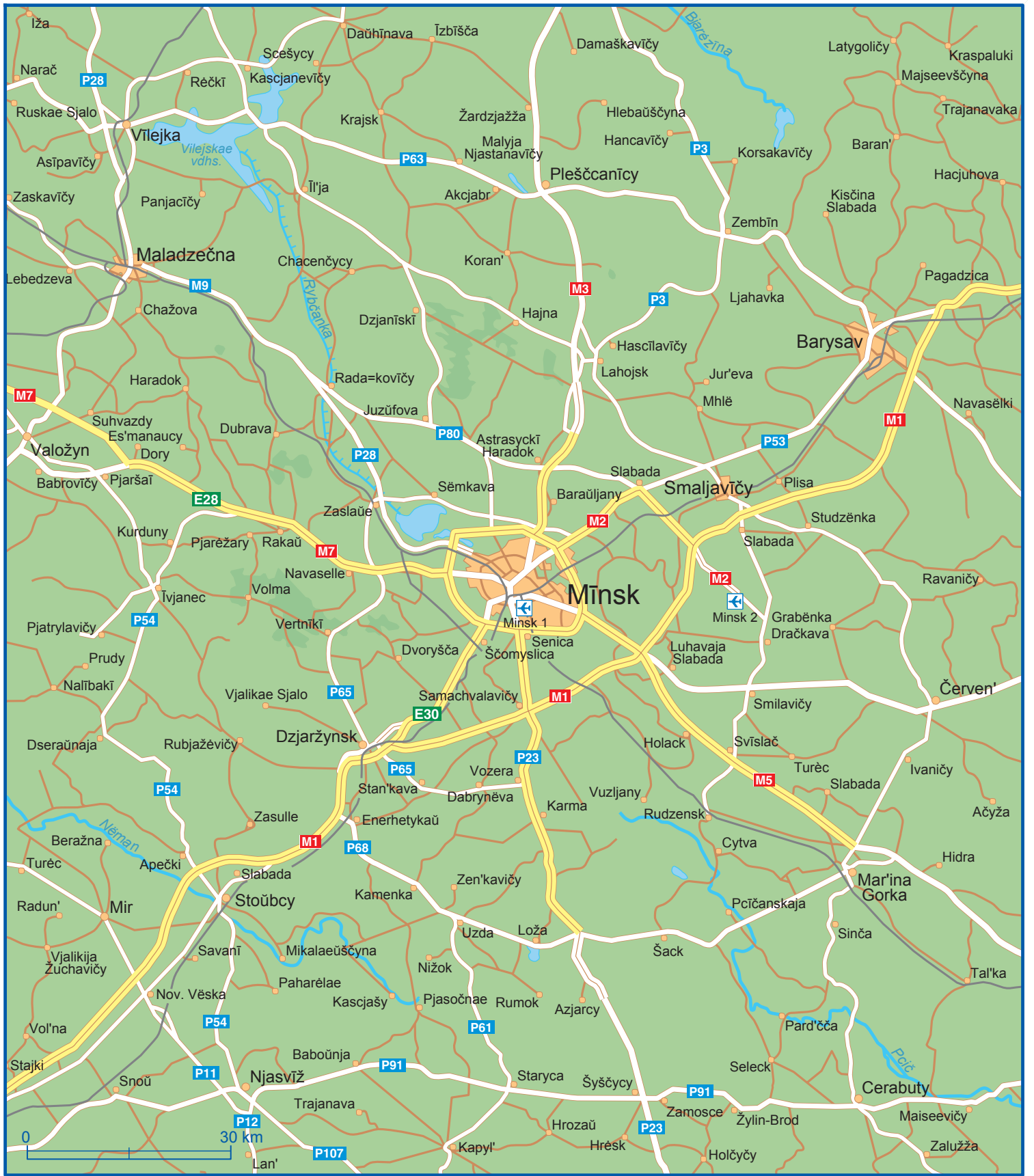
Most shops are open 10.00-19.00, Mon-Fri and 10.00-17.00  
on Sat. Banks are open 09.30-17.30 Mon-Fri.

### Emergency numbers

112

### Tourist information

13-119 Revolutsionnaya Street, Minsk  
Mon-Thu 08.45-13.00, 14.00-18.00, Fri - 08.45-13.00,  
14.00-16.45, Closed Saturday and Sunday  
+375 17 203 3995







Belorusskaya ul	B4	Sovetskaya ul	A4	Ul Nemiga	A2 A3 B2
Bobruyskaya ul	A4	Starovilenskaya ul	B1 B2	Ul Nikolaya Ostrovskogo	A2
Bronevoy per	D2	Traktornaya ul	D3	Ul Pervomayskaya	C3 D2
Druzhnaya ul	A4	Ul Bersona	A3	Ul Pulikhova	D3 D4
Internatsional'naya ul	B2 B3	Ul Chicherina	C1	Ul Rumyantseva	D2
Kollektornaya ul	A3	Ul Engel'sa	B2 B3 C3	Ul Smolyachkova	D1
Kommunisticheska ul	C1	Ul Frunze	C2 D2	Ul Sverdlova	A3 A4 B4
Komsomol'skaya ul	B2 B3	Ul Karla Marksa	B3 C3	Ul Uritskogo	A3 B3
Krasnaya ul	C1	Ul Kirova	A4 B3 B4 C3	Ul Varvasheni	D1
Krasnoarmeyskaya ul	C3 C4 D4	Ul Kiseleva	C1	Ul Volodarskogo	A3 B3
Krasnozvezdnaya ul	D1	Ul Korolya	A2 A3	Ul Yanki Kupaly	B1 B2 C3
Leningradskaya ul	A4	Ul Kozlova	D1 D2	Ul Zakharova	D2 D3
Oktyabr'skaya	B4 C4	Ul Kuybysheva	C1	Ul Zmitroka Byaduli	D2
Oktyabr'skaya Pl	B2	Ul Lenina	B3	Ul Zolotaya Gorka	D1
Prospekt Frantsiska Skoriny	A4 B3 C2 D1	Ul Maksima Bogdanovicha	B1	Ul' yanovskaya	B4
Prospekt Masherova	A1 A2	Ul Mel'nikayte	A1	Voyskovyy per	D2
Respublikanskaya ul	A2	Ul Myasnikova	A3	Zaslavakaya ul	A1
Slesarnaya ul	D3				