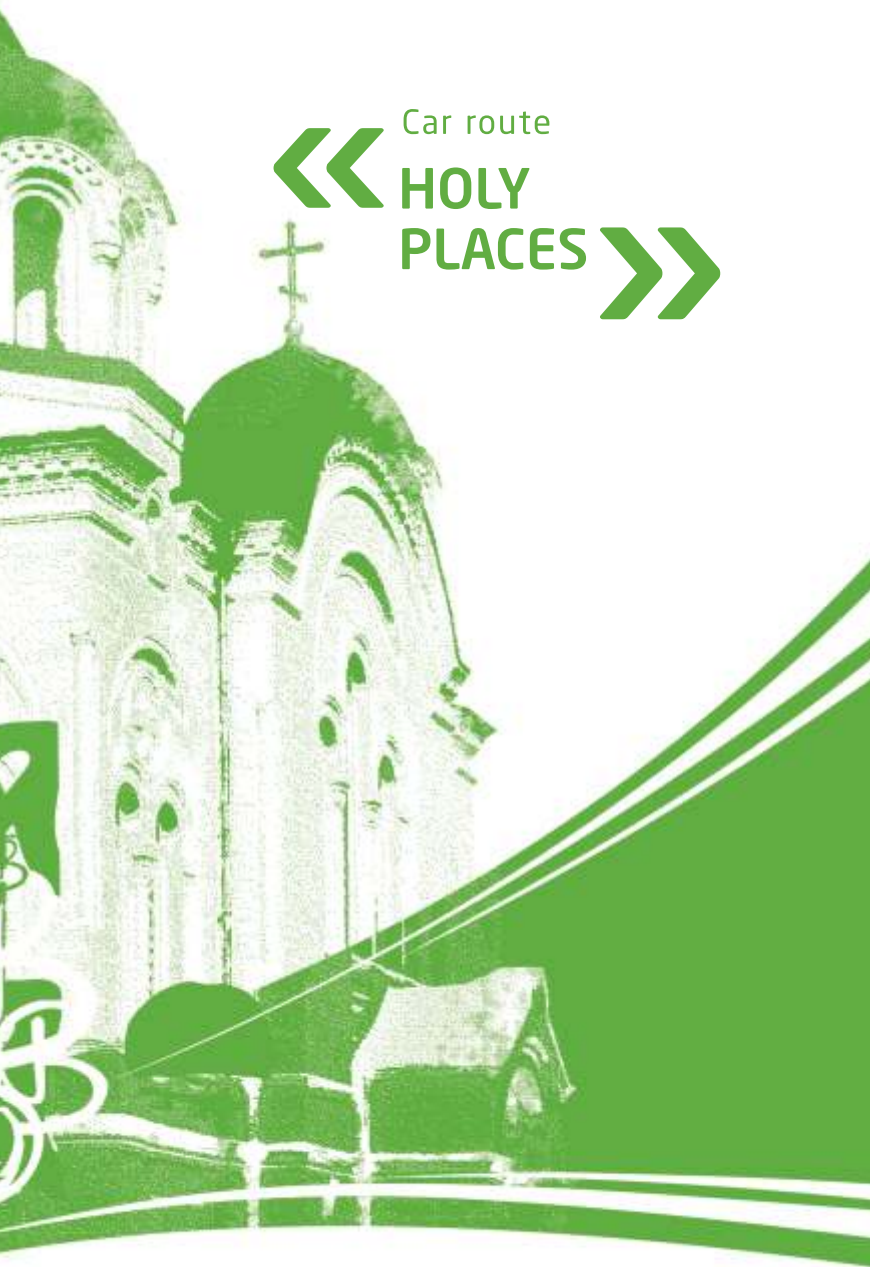


Bella Dvina



Car route

**HOLY
PLACES**




This leaflet is financed in frame of the EU project



Bella
Divina





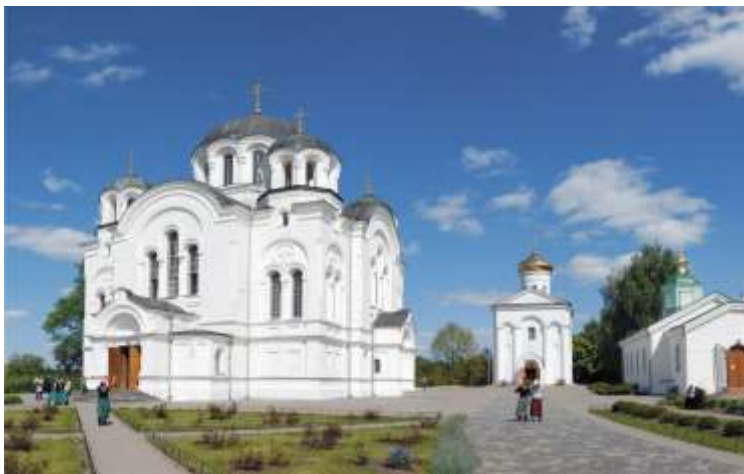
Sometimes it is not just restless urge for change of place that makes us leave home and hit the road. It seems to be an overwhelming desire to understand your own self, realize something really important, rise above the mediocre and day-to-day hassles, touch the sacred and holy and fill your soul with its blessing. In a certain sense, pilgrimage is not an ordinary trip; it is a serious decision and hard work.

Bella Dvina opens its heart and church doors to all pilgrims. The region is notable for sacred, blessed places: beautiful landscapes, which fill your soul with awe, and churches with miraculous icons, which can both heal heart wounds and cure diseases. Old Polotsk is filled with the spirit of Saint Patroness of Belarusian land Euphrosyne of Polotsk, and Euphrosyne cross is preserved in the monastery, which had been founded by her ...

Route length: about 450 km

**Polotsk – Disna – Rosica – border-crossing point Grigorovščina – Patarnieki – Kraslava –
– border-crossing point Urbany – Daugavpils – Livani – Viļāni – Ludza – Rezekne – Aglona
Druja – Lake Idolta – village Idolta – Miory – Verhnedvinsk – Sarja – Osveja – Polotsk**

POLOTSK |



Polotsk is a miraculous and attractive city for tourists from all over the world. Those fond of museums will feel like in a paradise, for Polotsk is the city of museums, and, in fact, itself is the museum in the open air. History admirers will feel cool breath of centuries, while walking along its ancient side streets. Indeed, it is the oldest town in Belarus; Prince Vseslav Charodei, St. Euphrosyne of Polotsk and first publisher Francysk Skaryna once breathed its air. Art enthusiasts will see the true value of Spaso-Preobrazhenskaya Church with unique wall-painting of the 11th century and Saint Sophia Cathedral. These monuments are the part of both Belarusian and world treasury. Polotsk is also the pole star for Christians: many people visit the town to worship the hallows of blessed Euphrosyne, preserved in the monastery which she herself had founded, and to admire the Belarusian sanctity - cross of Euphrosyne of Polotsk. Many people come here just to have some rest from hustle and bustle, to clear their minds and souls from niggling worldly ends...



WORTH SEEING:

Monastery of the Savior and Saint Euphrosyne

89, Euphrosyne of Polotsk str., Polotsk

tel.: +375 214 46 20 99, 46 01 36

This monastery, built in the 12th century, is one of the finest examples of original Polotsk architecture, located in the outskirts of Polotsk on the riverside of Polota (Plata). The church was founded in 1120 by Polotsk Mother Superioriess Euphrosyne of Polotsk. One of the relics of the monastery is a famous cross of Euphrosyne of Polotsk, created by the goldsmith Lazar Bogsha in 1161. Unfortunately, the cross disappeared during the World War II, and our famous contemporary, artist Nikolai Kuzmich, made a made its replica, which is now a relic of Belarusian people.

The monastery complex comprises Church of Saint Euphrosyne, The



Kreuzkirche (1152-1161), where the hallows of Saint Euphrosyne are preserved; Krestovozdvizhensk Church (1893-1197) – the Russian--Byzantian church where the cross of Euphrosyne of Polotsk is preserved; “warm” church – the church of blessed Euphrosyne with frater (1847 and 1886); gates and bell turret (1882) with residential monasterial block as well as production area and utility rooms.

Bogoyavlensky monastery

24, Nizhnepokrovskaya str.

tel.: +375 214 42 29 26

It was founded in 1582 and was considered to be main centre of Orthodoxy in Polotsk. Its residential building now hosts the museum and library of Symeon of Polotsk and a unique book printing museum. Since 1991, Bogoyavlensky monastery is open to all believers.

Polotsk Eparchial Administration

tel.: + 375 2144 6 21 80

Curia of the Vitebsk Eparchy

tel./fax: + 375 212 253 157

e-mail: curdioe@vitebsk.by

www.catholic.by

Tourist information centre:

8, F.Skaryna ave, Polotsk

tel.: +375 214 42 69 49

e-mail: tic_polotsk@belladvina.com

www.belladvina.com

Restaurants:

Restaurant “Slavianskii”

13, F.Skaryna ave

tel.: +375 214 46 07 97

Cafe “Damian”

41b, Nizhnepokrovskaya str.

tel.: +375 214 42 87 66

Cafe “Dionysus”

25, Oktiabrskaya str.

tel.: +375 214 42 31 48

Cafe “Hutorok Nikolaevski”

2, F. Skaryna ave.

tel.: +375 214 42 81 97

Hotels:

Hotel “Slavianskii”

13, F. Skaryna ave

tel.: +375 214 42 22 35

Souvenirs:

Shop "Art City"

7, F. Skaryna ave

tel.: +375 214 46 26 70

Shop "Dom Torgovli"

16, Gogolya str.

tel.: +375 214 42 52 36

DISNA L



Disna is the oldest town in the Miory district and the smallest in Belarus, with its population of 2.5 thousand people. Disna has a very long and fascinating history. In the 11th century, it used to be a domain of Polotsk dukes and had the name of Kopets-Gorodok. A small Kopets-Gorodok was considered to be a very important strategic point – it protected the capital Polotsk from the invasions of crusaders.

Surprisingly, although the banks of Zapadnaya Dvina and Disna are quite high, the town is regularly flooded. In spite of the floods, people of Disna do not mind living in this town which, in such moments, looks much like Venice.



WORTH SEEING:

Stephen Báthory Island

The island is located at the spot where the two rivers run into each other. At this spot, the history of Disna began. Historical name of the town, Báthory Island, is well-known up to our days. In 1579, before Polotsk campaign (at this time, Polotsk was occupied by the troops of Ivan the Terrible), King Stephen

Báthory made a camp here and reviewed his troops. Back from the campaign, he left his artillery in the castle. In summer 1581, Stephen Báthory's Pskov campaign started from here. According to the legend, the king ordered to deepen the ditch surrounding the castle to make it inaccessible. This is how the river beds of Dvina and Disna merged and the castle turned into an island.

Centenary bridge

This unique arch bridge with wooden cover at metal and stone ground has been used for more than 100 years. After the World War II the destroyed bridge span was replaced with another construction. The bridge was thoroughly repaired in 2002.

Resurrection Cathedral of the 19th century

Disna, Yubileinaya str., (before - Zamkovaya str.)

The walls of this stone church keep the icon of Hodegetria of the 15th century. According to the legend, this icon came to Disna through Zapadnaya Dvina in the 18th century. On August 10 every year a mass procession is held here, with the icon being carried along the streets of the town from Resurrection Cathedral to Hodegetria and back.

Gymnasium building

5, Telmana str., Disna

A famous Belarusian artist, folklorist and ethnographer Yazep Drozdovich studied there.

Disna History Museum

5, Kuzmin street, Disna

tel.: +375 2152 3 73 46

Enthusiasts from the boarding-school collected lots of materials dedicated to the history of Disna, including exhibits from the archaeological excavations of 1982. Here we can trace the town history from the Stone Age up to the present time. Museum features exhibits of different centuries as well as pictures, books, images, and masterpieces of local craftsmen

Restaurants:

Cafe "Dvina"

11, Yubileinaya str., Disna

tel.: +375 2152 3 73 98

Hotels:

Hotel, 26, Yubileinaya str., Disna

tel.: +375 2152 3 73 86

ROSICA |



Rosica is one of the oldest settlements of the Verhnedvinsk region. Owing to its location at the Druja road – one of the most important routes of old times – Rosica turned into an important trade unit for both Russian and Livonian merchants. For centuries Russians, Belarusians, Latvians and Jews used to live there in peace.



WORTH SEEING:

Rosica Blessed Trinity Catholic Church

65, Tsentralnaya str.

tel.: +375 2151 2 68 46

Rosica Catholic Church was erected at the beginning of the 20th century by the Lopatinskie family. According to the legend, the red bricks, delivered to Bigosovo by train for the construction of the church in Rosica, were passed to the site of church construction in the following way: the residents of neighbouring villages made a chain from the railway station to the church and passed the bricks from hand to hand. The church is the witness of the Rosica tragedy: in February 1943, the fascists held a punitive action called “Winter magic” and used the church as a “sorting station” for their victims. More than 1600 civilians were burnt to death in Rosica by the occupants; among them were such famous Marianists as Antoni Leschevich and Yuri Kashira. After the war the Catholic Church was used as a village club, horse barn, shop, storehouse and grinding-mill. Floor mosaic was lost under the caterpillar bands. It was only in 1988 that the church began to function again, and in 2000 it was fully restored. In 1999 Rosica martyrs were canonized by Pope John Paul II. The commemoration of Saint Yuri and Antoni is held twice a year in Rosica church – in the middle of February and in the middle of August.

Border-crossing point Grigorovščina – Patarnieki –
Indra – Kraslava – Aglona – Rezekne – Viļāni – Ludza –
Livany – Daugavpils – border-crossing point Urbany

INDRA |



WORTH SEEING:

Indrica Catholic Church

Indrica, Kalnieši, Kraslava region

tel.: +371 65622464, 65622201

This unique building (1655-1658) is one of the oldest wooden catholic churches in Latgale. In its chorals, you will see an old-fashioned organ with original preserved woodcarving and old canvas paintings.

KRASLAVA |



Kraslava is located in Latgale, 'the blue lakes district'. It lies in the bend of the Daugava river, 40 km away from the second largest city of Latvia, Daugavpils, and 275 km away from Riga.

On Kraslava's coat-of-arms you will see a silver boat with five oars against the blue background. The oars stand for five nationalities of people who live in Kraslava: Latvians, Russians, Belarusians, Polish and Jews. When explaining the meaning of this emblem to the guests, Kraslava citizens usually say, "We are in one boat, so we have to row together!"

First mentioned in historical chronicles in 1558, Kraslava owes its rapid development to Earl Ludwig Plater, who owned this place since 1729. For almost two centuries, the Platers had extremely strong influence on the economic and spiritual life of the town.



WORTH SEEING:

St. Alexander Nevsky Church

tel.: +371 65622201

The Church was erected in 1789 as the Catholic kaplica of the Saint Vincent Hospital, later it turned into the Orthodox Church.

Kraslava Roman Catholic Church

1, St. Louis sq., Kraslava

tel.: +371 29816995, 65622201

This church is a spectacular example of Latgalian Baroque designed by an Italian architect Antonio Parokko within the period of 1755 to 1767. In the altar part of the church you will see a fresco painting of the 18th century called „Saint Louis crusades” by Italian artist Filippo Castaldi; it is considered to be the most precious example of monumental painting.

Kraslava tourist information centre

13, Brīvības str., +371 65622201, 2648776

tic@kraslava.lv

Restaurants:

Board house "Daugava"

28, Rīgas str., Kraslava

tel.: +371 656 22634, 29112899

Cafe "Mārīte"

2, Tīrgus str., Kraslava

tel.: +371 656 24039, 29112899

Cafe "Todes"

58, Rīgas str., Kraslava

tel.: +371 29166609

Hotels:

Guest house "Zive"

Pārceltuves str., Kraslava

tel.: +371 29185835

Guest house "Priedaine"

2, Klusa str., Kraslava

tel.: +371 26430798

Guest house "Stirnmeži"

Kaplava, Kraslava region

tel.: +371 25960091, 29728133

Youth hostel "Zvaniņš"

8, Pils, Kraslava

tel.: +371 26541545

AGLONA



Aglona is worthily considered to be the third popular sight of Latvia and the first one in Latgale.

In 1980, due to the 200-anniversary of the church, Pope John Paul II assigned Aglona church the status of Basilica minoris. Pope John Paul II visited Aglona in September 1993 and served a Pontifical Mass on a newly reconstructed consecrated square with nearly 380 000 pilgrims.



WORTH SEEING:

Aglona Basilica

Address: 8, Cīrišu str., Aglona

tel.: +371 653 81109, 29472155

For more than 300 years, Aglona Basilica has been an international relic and the heart of Latgale. Every year more than 250 000 pilgrims come here to celebrate the Blessed Virgin resurrection from August 13 to August 15.

In 1699, landowners Ieva and Datziborg Shostovitski invited the Dominican monks from Vilnius and built a nice wooden church in a very picturesque place between the lakes Cīrišu and Egles. In 1768-1789, the old church was reconstructed into a new Baroque brick church together with the adjoining monastery building. The church was built in honour of the Blessed Virgin resurrection; the main altar is decorated with an icon of Holy Blessed Virgin by the unknown artist of the 17th century. For 10 years already the Holiest altar sacrament has been taking place in the Aglona Basilica.

Aglona tourist information centre

34, Somersētas, Aglona

tel.: +371 29118597, 65322100

tic@aglona.lv

www.aglona.lv.

Restaurants:

Guest house "Upenīte"

7, Tartakas str., Aglona

tel.: +371 26312465

Guest house "Pie Vijas"

7, Daugavpils str., Aglona

tel.: +371 29287044, 65321905

Cafe "Turība"

36, Somersētas str., Aglona

tel.: +371 65342313, 26483558

Hotels:

Guest house "Silmalas"

Rušona, Aglona region

tel.: +371 29101378

Guest house "Upenīte"

7, Tartakas str., Aglona

tel.: +371 26312465

Guest house "Pie Vijas"

7, Daugavpils str., Aglona

tel.: +371 29287044, 65321905

Guest house "Mežinieku mājas"

Gūteņi, Aglona region, Aglona district

tel.: +371 29234425, 25820461

Guest house "Aglonas Cakuli"

4, Ezer str., Aglona

tel.: +371 29194362, 29333422

www.aglonascakuli.viss.lv

Hotel of Aglona Basilica

8, Cīrišu str.

tel.: +371 65381109, 29472155

REZEKNE L



Rezekne is the true heart of Latgalia! It is a multinational and multilingual city where different nations live in peace. In this town, people live with Faith, listening to dense sonorous ding-dongs of Catholic, Orthodox, and Old Believer churches. "Vienoti Latvijai" (also known as "Latgales Māra") is the symbol of Rezekne, and is considered to be one of the most magnificent samples of monumental constructions in Latvia. Rezekne castle ruins, Zamkovaya mountain, Latgale Museum of Culture and History, and various churches are also of great interest.



WORTH SEEING:

Rēzekne Roman Catholic Cathedral of the Sacred Heart of Jesus

88 B, Latgales street, Rezekne

tel.: +371 64624522

One of the biggest and most beautiful cathedrals in Latvia. In 1904 it was consecrated in the name of Heart of Jesus. Front structural element of the cathedral was constructed in Semi-romantic style, and the altar was made in Semi-gothic style. The cathedral is famous for its stained-glass windows with images of first bishops of Livonia – St. Meinard and St. Albert.

Rezekne St.Nikolas Old Believer Preaching House

Sīpicina iela 4, Rezekne

tel.: +37164625471, 26354441

The Preaching House was built in 1895, and in 1906 it was considerably restructured: a bell tower with three bells was erected, after which the House obtained its modern look. Bells are the peculiar pride of the Rezekne Preaching House: the main bell weighs 4 tons and is considered to be the biggest in Europe. A museum, describing the life of Latgalian Old Believers, was opened in St.Nikolas Old Believer Preaching House. You can visit the museum upon advanced registration.

Rezekne tourist information centre

98, Atbrīvošanas aleja

tel.: +371 64605005, 26337449

tic@rezekne.lv

Restaurants:

Restaurant "Rozalija"

2, Brīvības str., Rezekne

tel.: +371 64607840

Bar - saloon "Mōls"

22/24 Latgales str., Rezekne

tel.: +371 64625353, 29460041

Cafe "Baravika"

11, Brāļu Skrindu, Rezekne

tel.: +371 64625072

Cafe "Marijas kafija"

88, Atbrīvošanas avenue, Rezekne

tel.: +371 64605450

Hotels:

Hotel "Latgale"

98, Atbrīvošanas avenue, Rezekne

tel.: +371 64622180

www.hotellatgale.lv

Hotel "Kolonna Rēzekne"

2, Brīvības, Rezekne

tel.: +371 64607820

reservationrezekne@kolonna.com

www.hotel.kolonna.com

Hotel "Rebir"

165, Atbrīvošanas avenue, Rezekne

tel.: +371 64638052

rebir@inbox.lv

Guest house "Zaļā sala"

Greikšani

tel.: +371 29373015, 26366391

www.hotelzalasala.lv





VIĻĀNI |



WORTH SEEING:

Catholic Church and Monastery in Viļāni

Viļāni, Viļāni region

tel.: +371 64662413

The Catholic Church and Monastery of the 18th century in Viļāni was constructed in accordance with traditions of classic Bernardine monasteries. It is one of the few monuments in Latvia that remained till nowadays, one of the most interesting witnesses of Catholicism and strong belief in Latgale.

Hotels:

Guest house "Lāču leja"

Viļāni, Viļāni region

tel.: +371 64662693

www.laculeja.lv

Guest house "Pie kaupra"

Viļāni, Viļāni region

tel.: +371 29440780

Holiday centre "Laimas nams"

Rezekne region, Lazdenieka

tel.: +371 26474968, 64640149, 26557774

www.laimasnams.lv

LUDZA |



WORTH SEEING:

Ludza Catholic Church

52, Baznīcas, str., (Baznīcas iela 52), Ludza, Ludza region

tel.: +371 65725653

In order to promote Catholicism in the region, Polish people built the first Catholic Church in 1687. In 1738, after the church had been burnt down, on the same spot, the Honourary Abritskis built the greatest and the most beautiful Latvian wooden catholic church with 2 towers, 5 altars, and rich liturgical inventory. The fire of June 11, 1938 destroyed the church and it was only in 1995 that the new white restored catholic church opened its doors to the believers.

Ludza Orthodox Church

121, Latgales iela, Ludza, Ludza region

tel.: +371 65781397

This church, designed by A. Zakharov, was built in 1845 in the Russian classic style and is considered to be one of the most beautiful buildings of the old city centre. The church is protected by the government.

All sights of Ludza can be visited independently or on a guided tour

tel.: +371 65707203, 29467925

tic@ludza.lv, ligakondrate@inbox.lv

Ludza tourist information centre

42, Baznīcas str., Ludza

tel.: +371 65707203, 29467925

tic@ludza.lv

www.ludza.lv

Restaurants:

Cafe "Kristīne"

25, Baznīcas str., Ludza

tel.: +371 26527888

Cafe "LEAN"

30, Stacijas, Ludza

tel.: +371 29443534, 65781331

Cafe "Larina"

45, Latgales str., Ludza

tel.: +371 65724310, 26575924

Latgale cuisine (for groups, in advance) – Ludza craftsmen centre

27a, Talāvijās str., Ludza

tel.: +371 65707203, 29467925

ligakondrate@inbox.lv

www.ludzasamatnieki.lv

Hotels

Hotel "Ludza"

1, Maija str.

tel.: +371 29104055, 65726112

hotelludza@inbox.lv

Hotel "Pie stacijas"

86, Stacijas, Ludza

tel.: +371 26199290

Hotel "Valensija"

20, Kr. Barona, Ludza
tel.: +371 28629829
www.valensija.lv

Recreation center "Dzerkali"

Dzerkali, Cirma region, Ludza district
tel.: +371 26324735
www.dzerkali.lv

DAUGAVPILS



The second largest city of Latvia, founded in 1275. The city is the birth-place of the world famous artist Mark Rotko, tango king Oskar Strock and actor Solomon Michoels. The fortress, built in the 19th century, and the church mountain, comprising the churches of four confessions, are considered to be the symbols of the city.



WORTH SEEING:

Baznīckalns

tel.: +371 65422818
info@visitdaugavpils.lv
www.visitdaugavpils.lv

This hill, "Jaunbūve", is the mirror of this multinational city: it opens a great view on 5 churches of 4 various confessions: Orthodox, Lutheran, Catholic, Old Believer churches of various architectural styles and epochs.

Daugavpils tourist information centre

22a, Rīgas str.
tel.: +371 65422818
info@visitdaugavpils.lv
www.visitdaugavpils.lv

Restaurants:

Bistro "Vēsma"

49, Rīgas str., Daugavpils
tel.: +371 65444363

Cafe "Vita"

22a, Rīgas str., Daugavpils
tel.: +371 65427706

Restaurant "Gubernators"

10, Lāčplēša str., Daugavpils
tel.: +371 654 22455

Cafe "Pasaules brīnumi"

15, Vienības str, Daugavpils
tel.: +371 654 21797

Hotels:

Hotel "Park Hotel Latgola"

46, Ģimnāzijas str., Daugavpils
tel.: +371 65404900
reception@hoteldaugavpils.lv
www.hotellatgola.lv

Hotel "Hotel Dinaburg"

39, Dobeles str., Daugavpils
tel.: +371 65453010, 65453009
info@hoteldinaburg.lv
www.hoteldinaburg.lv

Daugavpils State Gymnasium Hotel

24, Saules str, Daugavpils
tel.: +371 65420611, 26159884

Daugavpils – Vabole – Līksna – Jersika – Daugavpils



WORTH SEEING:

Crucifix road in Vabole

Vabole, Vaboles district, Daugavpils region.
tel.: + 371 65471009, 29964210
skrindu_muzejs@inbox.lv

This interesting route goes through traditional Latgalian sacred places in the village – places where any traveller can pray. Crucifixes are the places where Catholic believers usually gather to sing songs in the name of the Blessed Virgin.

Catholic Church in Līksna

Līksna, tel.: +371 65494298, 29428754

This church was built of red brick in 1913 and is considered to be the magnificent example of the Gothic architecture. It is one of the most beautiful churches in Latvia.

Transfiguration of the Lord Orthodox Church in Jersika

Jersika, Jersika district, Līvānu region

tel.: +371 26888809

After Jersika Principality was conquered by the crusaders, there was no trace of orthodox churches there for practically 6 centuries. Construction of this Orthodox church in 1866 was a very significant event. For more than 100 years, this cradle of Latvian Orthodoxy has been embellished by the so-called „iron” church. The church got its name due to the material it was made of.

Daugavpils – border-crossing point Urbany – Braslav

BRASLAV |



Braslav is located on shore of Lake Driviaty, beautiful at any time, rain or shine. It is one of the oldest towns in Belarus: according to archaeological evidence, the settlement appeared in the 8th – 9th centuries. Braslav is the town of lakes, counting more than 250 lakes.

Its coat-of-arms is also quite unusual and beautiful: it features a well-known Christian symbol, the Eye of Providence. The town got its coat-of-arms in 1792, together with the metric certificate of Stanislaw Augustus, the last King of Poland and Grand Duke of Lithuania.



WORTH SEEING:

Zamkovaya Mountain

Zamkovaya Mountain raises high over low houses of Braslav. It is a high hill with flat cover and steep slopes, used as perfect observation platform, where you can enjoy fabulous neighbourhood panorama. In the early Middle Ages, the place was a settlement of the Baltic tribe of Latgales, the ancestors of Latvians.

Archaeological excavations prove that the territory of Latgale settlement was inhabited by a Slavic tribe of Kryvitchy. On top of Zamkovaya Mountain there is a granite boulder with an inscription “Braslav was founded here. 1065.”

Catholic Church of Nativity of the Blessed Virgin

23, Sovetskaya str., tel.: +375 2153 2 27 60, 2 17 92

The Church was erected in 1897 from stones and red brick. Front facade of the Church is decorated with a three-storied tower. The main relic of the church is a miraculous icon of the Blessed Virgin Braslav Lakes Lady. Every year, August 22, the church holds worship celebrations of this miraculous icon.

In August 2009, the icon of the Blessed Virgin Braslav Lakes Lady was crowned with Pontifical crowns, thus getting an official recognition of its miraculous properties. According to historical evidence, the icon belonged to the Greek-Catholic monastery which was burnt because of the lightning stroke in 1832, but the icon was miraculously saved! The Braslav Blessed Virgin icon is the first icon to be incoronated in the Vitebsk region and the seventh in Belarus.

Church of Assumption of the Blessed Virgin

Sovetskaya str.

tel.: +375 29 818 78 18 (Father Anatoly)

In front of the Catholic Church of Nativity, there is a Church of Assumption of the Blessed Virgin (1897) – a beautiful building in the Pseudo-Russian style.

Local History Museum

39, Engels str., Braslav

tel.: +375 2153 2 14 45

Off-days – Monday and public holidays.

Traditional History Museum

8, Gagarina str., Braslav

tel.: +375 2153 2 22 30

Museum is located ashore Lake Driviaty in the former grinding-mill building. Have a look at the exposition of craft museum, which will tell you much about traditional netting, weaving, and pottery of the Braslav region.

Hotels:

Hotel, 121, Sovetskaya str., Braslav

tel.: +375 2153 2 22 71

Hotel “Zaeznyi dvor”

8, Gagarina str., Braslav

tel.: +375 2153 2 91 95

Restaurants:

Restaurant “Ozerniy” and dining room

115, Sovetskaya str., (Braslav central square)

Restaurant “Driviaty”

Naberezhnaya str., Braslav

tel.: +375 2153 3 26 79

Cafe “Suzorje”

133, Leninskaya str.

tel.: +375 2153 2 26 97

DRUJA



Druja is a small city in the Braslav district of the Vitebsk region. It stands on the left bank of Zapadnaya Dvina at the spot where it merges with Drujka. Druja was first mentioned in Strykovski Chronicles in 1386. Druja has retained the main features of city planning of previous ages – the main street directions are traced either parallel or perpendicular to Dvina. In the western part of Druja there is a monument to General Kulnev, a hero from the Patriotic war of 1812, who fell during the battle on Zapadnaya Dvina.



WORTH SEEING:

Holy Trinity Catholic Church and Bernardine monastery

74, Lenina str.

tel.: +375 2153 2 51 09

Holy Trinity Catholic Church and the Bernardine monastery are the most remarkable architectural composition in Druja. It is situated on the high bank of the river Dvina where a big island, known as the Bernardine Island, can be seen. High tower of the Bernardine relic, rising above the low old buildings, is the most popular site and a remarkable element of the Druja skyline.

The Bernardines came to Druja in the early 17th century, owing to Lew Sapeha, the chancellor of the Great Duchy of Lithuania, who was the owner of Druja at that time. The Baroque Catholic Church of Triad was erected in the years 1643-1646. In the second half of 18th century, the church was reconstructed but in 1944 it was destroyed by the bomb attack. After the Second World War, the church was closed. The relic was returned to believers only in 1989. At that time, following the repairs, the church was partially reconstructed and gained its new interior in Baroque and Rococo styles. Its most prominent elements are the main altar which was built in 1764-67 in Late Baroque style, and four side altars, built in 1779 in Rococo style.

Nowadays both the church and the monastery are completely restored.

Ruins of the Church of the Blessed Virgin Annunciation

Orthodox Church of the Annunciation was one of the main relics in Druja. It used to be a wooden building on the territory of the orthodox monastery which had existed in Druja since the 16th century. Russian tsar Peter I who visited Druja during the North War highly appreciated the monastery. In 1720, he made a considerable donation to the monastery. In early 19th century, the monastery fell into decay, and was closed in 1823, leaving only ruins to the future generations.

Ruins of the Uniate Church of St. Peter and Paul

The church was built in the late 18th century in Late Baroque style. After the Unia had been liquidated in 1839, the church was transferred to the autocephalous orthodox church. In the late 19th century, wooden elements of the building were disassembled, and the stone tower was reconstructed into the chapel, where miraculous Icon of the Saviour was preserved. During World War II, the chapel was partly destroyed, and came to decline ever since. Nowadays, only tower walls have remained untouched.

Jewish cemetery

Jewish cemetery in Druja is the only one in Belarus with color inscriptions on tombstones. Nearly 250 monuments remained until today.

Boris Stone

A large round stone with the carved six pointed cross and faintly visible inscription is the most ancient monument of Druja; for a long period of time it was buried in river Zapadnaya Dvina at the outflow of Drujka, not far from its bank. On October 22, 2002, it was drawn from the river and fixed on the high bank of the Dvina. It is one of three well-known Boris stones which, upon the order of Duke Boris Vseslavovich in early 12th century, were decorated with Christian symbols and inscriptions and were placed in different locations of the Polotsk Duchy. People used to call them differently: Boris, Boris -Khlebnik, Pisar, Pisanik, Boris-Gleb, Borisoglebskii, even French stone, and Napoleon stone. The stones inscription read: "God save your slave Boris". Some of Boris stones were destroyed during the imperial period, and three stones were blown up in the 1930s as part of the Soviet Union anti-religious policy.

VILLAGE OF IDOLTA



WORTH SEEING:

Church of the Virgin Mary Shkaplernaja

1, Milosheva str.

tel.: +375 2152 3 31 51

This Church, erected in 1939, is a beautiful building with unusual architecture which reminds of a romantic castle rather than of a church. It was built in modern style. There are no similar churches in Belarus. The walls were made of brick and stones prepared by local workmen. The church is situated in the eastern part of the village not far from the road to Miory.

MIORY |



Miory is located on shore of the picturesque Lake Merskoe, 190 km from Vitebsk. From 1514, Miory was known as estate “Merea” in the Braslav region of Grand Duchy of Lithuania. In 1517, Sigismund I the Old, the Grand Duke of Lithuania and the King of Poland, granted Miory to Ivan Sapeha, Governor of the Podlaski Province. In the middle of 16th century, the place became property of the Mirskys, a famous Belarusian noble family.

Miory is known for its regular shapes, which can be explained by the township’s location on shore of a long and narrow lake. Main streets of the town go along the lake, in parallel to the Braslav-Polotsk road. Shorter streets go in the same direction as the roads to Druja and Verhnedvinsk, and end at the lake shore.

Miory is best known for its 500-meter long quay, where local residents prefer to spend their free time. Miory is also a place where the annual regional intercultural festival “United by Belarusian land” takes place. In early January, you are welcome to visit a regional contest of Christmas songs “Bethlehem star”.



WORTH SEEING:

Roman Catholic Church of the Ascension of the Holy Virgin Mary

11a, Pochtovaya str.

tel.: +375 2152 4 10 83, 4 95 55

This church is a red-brick Neo-Gothic architectural monument of the early 20th century. Erected in 1907, it is rightfully considered to be the pearl of Miory.

The church is a small brick building with two towers, the flanks are decorated with false counterforts, and the walls overlook the neighborhood through the pointed arched windows. The church is the creative composition of methods, forms and details of Church construction art of the former centuries

Monument to the unborn child

Near the Catholic Church, there is a monument to the unborn child (sculptor Ales Dranets). In the hole of the guillotine scaffold, there is one apple half with a child in it. The Blessed Virgin icon protects the unborn child from the guillotine knife

Historical and Ethnographic museum

12, Shkolnaya str., Miory

tel. +375 2152 2-19-15

Folk Glory Museum, Secondary school No3

14, Komsomolskaya str., Miory

Books Museum of Secondary school No3

14, Komsomolskaya str., Miory

Hotels:**Hotel**

10, Kommunisticheskaya str., Miory

tel.: + 375 2152 2 12 71

Restaurants:**Cafe "Chaika"**

14, Dzerzhinskogo str., Miory

tel.: +375 2152 4 13 01

Cafe "Molodezhnoe"

54, Kommunisticheskaya str., Miory

tel.: +375 2152 4 27 89

Boat and bicycle rental:**Holiday centre "Aktam"**

tel.: +375 2152 4 27 89

Holiday centre "Rosinka"

Muraški village

tel.: +375 2152 3 51 59

SARJA L



If you want to see pure Flamboyant Gothic architecture, you are most welcome to visit Sarja, one of the family estates of the famous Lopatinskiye family!



WORTH SEEING:

Church of the Assumption of the Virgin Mary

tel.: +375 29 687 34 21 (Father Leonid)

This amazing church, true architectural pearl of the 1852–1857, was designed by a Prussian architect Gustav Shacht and constructed by the owner of the Sarja estate Ignatii Lopatinskii in commemoration of his beloved wife Maria. In 1865 the church was expropriated by the state treasury for quite a weird reason of being “too beautiful”; after that the church was used by Orthodox Christians for prayers. In 1935 it was closed, and after the World War II it was used as a warehouse. The church reconstruction was started at the end of 1980s and has not yet been finished. Despite lacking some décor elements, the church leaves a lasting impression!

OSVEJA |



Osveja was first mentioned in chronicles in 1503 and is closely connected with the name of its owner, Polotsk voevode Stanislav Glebovich, after which it was passed to the Vitebsk voevode Stanislav Kishka. In early 17th century, Osveja became property of Lew Sapeha, the chancellor of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania. Golden age of the settlement refers to the name of Minsk voevode Jan Avgust Gilzen, who erected the palace and church in the 18th century, and invited nurses, who, in their turn, established a monastery hospital.



WORTH SEEING:

Former Osveja hospital

The building of the former Osveja hospital (1859) is one of the oldest architectural monuments of the Verhnedvinsk region.

Osveja park

Take a walk along the Osveja park with the ruins of a once-known palace (the palace was destroyed in 1914 and has never been restored); it is considered to be one of the most interesting examples of park art in the Vitebsk region.

Polotsk Tourist Information Centre

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Polotsk – Disna – Rosica – border-crossing point Grigorovščina – Patarnieki – Kraslava –
 – border-crossing point Urbany – Daugavpils – Livani – Viļāni – Ludza – Rezekne – Aglona
 Druja – Lake Idolta – village Idolta – Miory – Verhnedvinsk – Sarja – Osveja – Polotsk



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