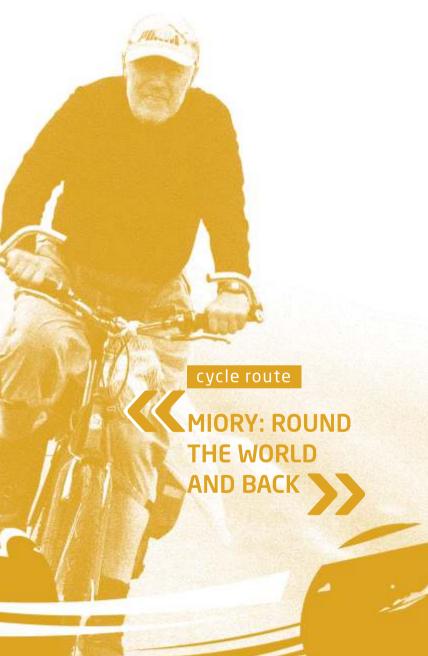
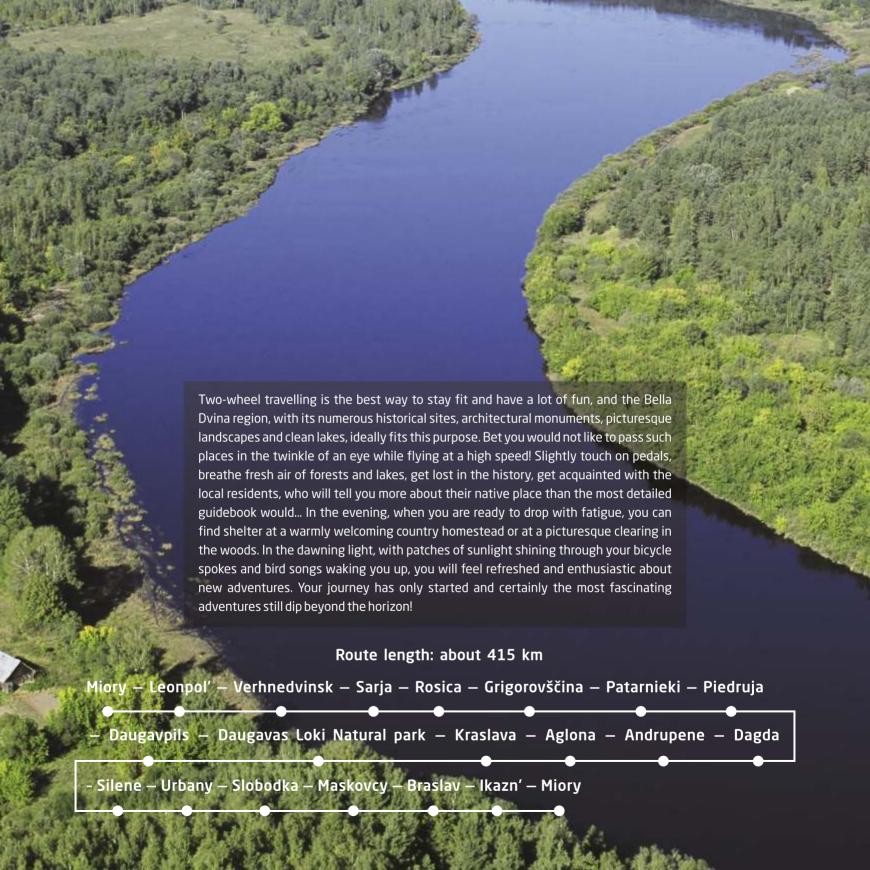


BellaDvina









Day 1

about 55 km

Miory – Leonpol' – Verhnedvinsk



Miory – Čeressy (6 km) – Lake Cheres – Tatary (2 km) – Maljavki (6 km) - Kozly (2 km) – Kovalevščina (2 km) – Starye Krjuki (3 km) - Poljaki (4 km) – Malcy (6 km) – Dolginovo (3 km) - Latyši (5 km) – Putinovo (3 km) – Leonpol' (3 km)

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 Mirskie, 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. Miory is best known for its 500-meter long quay, where local residents prefer to spend their free time.

1

WORTH SEEING:

Roman Catholic Church of the Ascension of the Holy Virgin Mary 11a, Pochtovava str.

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

The Ascension church is a red-brick Neo-Gothic architectural monument of the beginning of the 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 neighbourhood through the pointed arched windows.

Historical and Ethnographic museum

12, Shkolnava str., Miorv tel.: + 375 2152 2 19 15

Folk Glory Museum, Secondary school No3

14, Komsomolskava str., Miorv

Tourist information centre

28. Komsomolskava str., Miorv tel.: + 375 2152 4 17 15

e-mail: tic miory@belladvina.com www.belladvina.com

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





Leonpol'

On your way along the Dvina, turn to a small town Leonpol', which you will hardly find on the map, and you will never regret it. The most surprising thing about Leonpol' is that in the wilds of the forsaken park along the Dvina you will find a wonderful Late Baroque palace, which belonged to a famous rich family of Lopatinskie.

The local cemetery cherishes the memory of insurrectionists of Kastus Kalinowski rebellion, Polish soldiers and officers, as well as Red Army men.



WORTH SEEING:

Lopatinski palace

Lopatinski palace is the most ancient Baroque building in the Miory region. Nikolai Tadeush Lopatinski was granted a small village Čuriloviči and renamed it to Leonpol' in honour of his father, legendary hero of the Turkish war, Leon Lopatinski, turning the village to his main country seat. The palace, built in the second half of the 18th century, had been designed by A. Genu, one of the most famous Italian architects. The house included a wonderful greenhouse, and was filled with family archives, book collections and art gallery, with 4 pictures by Rubens, collection of Flemish landscape paintings and works by English maritime painters. During the Soviet-Polish War of 1919–1921, the battlefront line passed along the Dvina and the palace was almost ruined during the artillery attacks of the Red Army. After that Leonpol' became part of Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth after the division of Belarus between Poland and Soviet Russia. Following these events, the estate owner Eusebius Lopatinski turned the palace to the Catholic Church, which was quite a rare phenomenon in Belarus.



WORTH SEEING:

Museum of Motherland Folk Museum "The House of Yadzvinia"





Leonpoľ – Staroe Grudinovo (2 km) – Bredevo (3 km) – Dvorčany (2 km) – Sloboda (4 km) – Verhnedvinsk

Verhnedvinsk

Down the ages both the town and the river bore one and the same name. It was only in 1962 that the town Drissa was renamed to Verhnedvinsk. The town used to be a famous centre of traditional art weaving. The town was first mentioned in Chronicles of Poland, Lithuania, Zhemoitia and All Rus by Matvei Striikovski in 1386. During the Patriotic war of 1812, at the encampment which had been created near Drissa and occupied the territory of about 14 sq. km, staff headquarters of the First Russian army of Barclay de Tolly was situated. These historical events are covered in Leo Tolstoy's War and Peace.



WORTH SEEING:

War obelisk of 1812

The granite obelisk stands in the City Park, reminding of the events of 1812. It was erected to commemorate the one hundred anniversary of Napoleon epopee.

Saint Nicholas Church

Verhnedvinsk, 3 Gagarina str.

tel.: +375 2151 570 23

The church was built in 1819 in classic style — main square building is covered with high large-scale cylinder with spherical dome and outside ornament; the



church line is decorated with three-high square bell tower with hip roof. In 2005, a new bell weighing more than a hundred kilograms was placed on the bell tower.

Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Church

45, Sovetskaya str., Verhnedvinsk

tel.: + 375 2151 52866 (head of community)

This Catholic relic is located in the very centre of the town, combining the features of both neo-Gothic and Baroque. In 1990s the church was reconstructed and became the most beautiful and magnificent place of Verhnedvinsk.

Tourist information centre

1, Kooperativnaya str., Verhnedvinsk

tel.: + 375 2151 5 01 07

e-mail: tic_verkhnedvinsk@belladvina.com

www.belladvina.com

Restaurants:

Restaurant "Drissa"

55, Sovetskaya str, Verhnedvinsk

tel.: + 375 2151 5 23 70

Restaurant "Flora-Plus"

171, Sovetskaya str, Verhnedvinsk

tel.: + 375 2151 5 71 14

Cafe "Labirint"

49, Sovetskaya str, Verhnedvinsk

tel.: + 375 2151 5 24 70

Cafe "Nesterka"

village Bigosovo

tel.: + 375 2151 5 86 29

Hotels:

Hotel

65, Sovetskaya str, Verhnedvinsk

tel.: + 375 2151 5 32 71

Hotel

2, Solnechniy per., Verhnedvinsk tel.: + 375 2151 5 21 68

e-mail: dvina-hunting@mail.ru

Souvenirs:

Shopping centre

50, Sovetskaya str, Verhnedvinsk tel.: +375 2151 5 23 87, 5 24 96



Day 2:

about 45 km

Verhnedvinsk – Sarja – Grigorovščina



Verhnedvinsk – Borovka (4 km) – Ust'e (5 km) – Sardyki (2 km) – Obuhovo (2 km) – Sarja (5 km)

Borovka



WORTH SEEING:

Church of Saint Euphrosyne, erected in 1907

Sarja



WORTH SEEING:

Church of Assumption of the Blessed Virgin

Stroitelnaya str., village Sarja, Verhnedvinsk district tel.: + 375 2151 2 37 77, + 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 Lopatinski 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!

Sarja – Rosica (8 km) – Morozy (4 km) – Opytnaja (4 km) – Bigosovo (2 km) – Žukovo (4 km) – Grigorovščina (3 km)

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. In 1999, Rosica martyrs were canonized by Pope John Paul II.

Opytnaya



WORTH SEEING:

Estate and park complex of Nitoslavskie

The complex was created in the village Opytnaja in the second half of the 19th century. The estate is a true Old Classical building and a typical estate of the 19th century with a pond and artificial island in the centre of the estate complex. Earlier, the pond was crossed by small bridges, which added special romantic scent to the place...

Bigosovo

The railway station of Bigosovo is the most memorable building in the town, because if it were not for the station, the village would have never developed and grown. The village was founded in 1866 during construction of the railroad from Riga to Orel. The new name for the station – Bigosovo – appeared as a result of the card game of neighbouring landowners: the landowner Bigusov, who owned the today's Opytnoje estate, won the game and earned the right to rename the station.

7



WORTH SEEING:

Railway station

The station was built in 1924-1926. This is a great architectural monument of Modern style. Near the railway station you will see old buildings, constructed specially for those who worked at the railroad.

Day 3:

about 55 km

Border crossing point – Grigorovščina – Patarnieki – Piedruja – Kalnieši – Dagda



Piedruja

Piedruja, first mentioned in historical chronicles of the 14th century, used to be a strategic location for three states: Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth, Grand Duchy of Lithuania, and Russia. The Catherine tract, which goes through Piedruja, was the road along which all conquerors of Europe used to march.



WORTH SEEING:

Piedruja trail in the Daugava valley

The trail has numerous rare and preserved species of flora and fauna as well as

historical monuments and unique landscape. On one of Daugava's banks you can see the Daugava stone by Vilnis Cimanis where the word Daugava is carved in seven languages: Latvian, Estonian, Finnish, Russian, Polish, German and Livonian.

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.

Dagda Historic Centre

tel.: + 371 65681420 (Dagda TIC)

This is the place where the present and the past go together, where city comfort interlaces with village greenery and fresh air. Enjoy the harmony of picturesque landscapes and wooden architecture, stone buildings, architectural monuments of Soviet times and modern constructions.

Dagda Roman Catholic Church

13, Asūnes str., Dagda

tel.: + 371 65653634, 65681420

The church was built in Baroque style in 1741 in honour of the Blessed Trinity by the landowner Yan August Hilzens (1702–1767). The building is 42 m long and 33 m wide, with cement floor and stone dome.

Restaurants:

Cafe "Papardes zieds"

29, Alejas str., Dagda tel.: + 371 29519410

Cafe "Kornerstone"

4, Rīgas str.

tel.: + 371 29766513

Hotels and guest houses:

Guest house "Avotiņš"

Brīvības, 3, Dagda tel.: + 371 65681161

Guest house "Tinēji"

Beitāni, Dagda region tel.: + 371 26832249

www.tineii.lv

9

Guest house "Vējrozes"

Beitāni, Dagda region tel.: + 371 29758771

Holiday centre "Obiteļa"

Obiteļa, Dagda region tel.: + 371 29152078

Day 4:

about 45 km

Dagda – Andrupene – Aglona





WORTH SEEING:

Outdoor Ethnographic Museum "Andrupenes lauku sēta"

Andrupene, Dagda region

tel.: + 371 26458876, fax: + 371 65681860

e-mail: laukuseta@inbox.lv

Outdoor Ethnographic Museum "Andrupenes lauku sēta" is a complex of buildings constructed in early 20th century. It consists of 6 premises — residential building, barn, cattle barns, drying-house, sauna, and blacksmiths shop. Here you can see the household appliances and instruments of labour used by our ancestors.



Aglona basilica

Address: 8, Cirišu, Aglona, Aglona region tel.: + 371 65381109, 29472155

In 1699, landowners leva and Dadziborg Shostovitski invited the Dominican monks from Vilnius and built a nice wooden church in a very picturesque place between the lakes Cirišu and Egles. In 1768-1789, the old church was reconstructed into a new Baroque brick church together with the adjourning 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 Bread Museum

Address: 7, Daugavpils, Aglona

tel.: + 371 29287044

The museum is in a class by itself in Latvia. The founder and the soul of the museum Via Ansane will tell you interesting stories about bread, which you will remember for years. Here you can see ancient bread baking tools. If you decide to stay for the night, you are welcome at the guesthouse "At Via' place", in room "At the haymow" or "Stork nest".

Country house "Upenīte"

Address: 7, Tartakas str., Aglona, Aglona region

tel.: + 371 26312465 e-mail: a.upenite@inbox.lv

Enjoy legendary Latgalian cuisine heritage in the mantelpiece hall of the cellar, ride the pony, try famous "black sauna". Tents, fireplaces and swimming holes at Cirišu Lake are at your disposal.

Bicycle rental in Aglona Camping "Aglonas alpi"

Leitāni, Aglona region, Aglona district tel.: + 371 29275701, 29194362 www.aglonasalpi.viss.lv

Guest house "Aglonas Cakuli"

4, Ezera str., Aglona

tel.: + 371 29194362, 29333422

www.aglonascakuli.viss.lv

Guest house "Mežinieku mājas"

Gūteņi, Aglona region, Aglona district tel.: + 371 29234425, 25820461

Day 5:

about 62 km

Aglona – Kraslava – Rakuty – Naujene



Kraslava

Kraslava is located in the so-called blue lakes district, in the bend of river Daugava, in the beautiful valley not far from the border of Latvia and Belarus. 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. In Kraslava, you will still find wooden buildings of the 19th century, which account for the unique beauty of this Southern Latgalian town on the Daugava.



WORTH SEEING:

Earl Plater Fortress

8, Pils str., Kraslava tel.: + 371 65623586, 65622201 www.kraslava.lv



It was Konstantin Ludwig Plater who started to construct the fortress in 1750. In 1791, the construction was finished by August Hiatsint Plater. Originally the fortress decor was performed in Baroque style, however, in the late 18^{th} century and early 19^{th} century it was reconstructed in accordance with classical traditions. Kraslava fortress is the only fortress in Latgale with such a decor. Both sides of the building are visually similar, while the façade makes it nice and cozy.

Kraslava Roman Catholic Church

1, Sv. Ludvika 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 Filipo Castaldi.

Observation tower in Priedaine (32 m) on the riverside of Daugava Priedaine, Kraslava region

tel.: + 371 65622201 (Kraslava TIC)

The highest wooden observation tower in Latvia with a spectacular view on Daugava and Kraslava surroundings.

Daugavas Loki Natural Park ("Bends of Daugava")

Address: Kraslava district, Daugavpils region

tel.: + 371 65422818 (Daugavpils TIC), 65622201 (Kraslava TIC)

e-mail: info@visitdaugavpils.lv, tic@kraslava.lv

www.visitdaugavpils.lv

This Natural park is located in the Daugava valley, among picturesque preserved landscapes of Augšdaugava with the total area of $12\,372\,ha$. The park covers both banks of the river Daugava. It is notable that the park is a certain foothold of eight Daugava bends, their length reaching $6-8\,km$. The Park was founded in 1990. You can enjoy the landscapes on horseback, bicycle or on boats and floats along Daugava.



Tourist sights of the Daugavas Loki Natural Park, worth visiting: Farm household "Kurmīši" in the Daugavas Loki Natural Park

Address: Rakuty, Kraslava region tel.: +371 26538824, 65623655

e-mail: kurmisi@kraslava.lv

www.kurmisi.lv

Here you can learn how to grow medicinal herbs and prepare green tea, try medicinal teas, buy ecological green herbal teas, medicinal herbs brooms and healing herbs for baths and saunas.

Bicycle rental in the Daugavas Loki Natural Park Camping "Ozianna"

Vecloki, Daugavpil region tel.: + 371 29182474 www.ozianna.viss.lv

Guest house "Skerškāni" Ūdrīši, Kraslava region tel.: + 371 29195745

Ethnographic Old Believer village Slutišķi

Address: Slutišķi, Naujene district, Daugavpils region

tel.: + 371 65471321

e-mail: muzejs@apollo.lv, naujenesmuzejs@inbox.lv www.naujene.lv

Slutišķi, first mentioned in 1785, is located on the riverside of Daugava at the foot of the Markov settlement. Decoration of its houses reminds of native construction traditions of the nearest neighbours — Slavic folks, reflected in the façade, posh frames, decorated doors and attics.

Vasargeliški observation tower

Address: Vasargelišķi, Naujene district, Daugavpils region

tel.: + 371 65471321

e-mail: muzejs@apollo.lv, naujenesmuzejs@inbox.lv

www.naujene.lv

At the height of 24 m, you will have an opportunity to enjoy birds-eye view of picturesque landscapes of the Daugava valley, and, to your left, the glorious view of the Rozališķu turn. Take a 10-lat bill and compare it with the view opened to the right — the pictures are quite similar!

Vecpils settlement and ruins of the Dinaburg fortress

Address: Vecpils, Naujene district, Daugavpils region

tel.: + 371 65471321

e-mail: muzejs@apollo.lv, naujenesmuzejs@inbox.lv

www.naujene.lv

This settlement, located on one of Daugava's banks, was populated already in the 8^{th} – 13^{th} centuries. It is the place where Daugavpils was founded. Enjoy the ruins of the Dinaburg fortress, built in 1275 as well as a miniature replica of the fortress (1997). Right near the fortress, you can have a rest at the Rytsarskaya square.

Naujene Local History Museum

Address: 1, Skolas str., Naujene district, Daugavpils region

tel.: + 371 65471321

e-mail: muzejs@apollo.lv, naujenesmuzejs@inbox.lv

www.naujene.lv

Museum exhibit displays cultural and historical heritage of the Naujene region, including ancient items from the Dinaburg palace, documents about churches and burials, and settlement replicas. Estate living room and handicraftsman's tools will tell you about the ethnographic heritage of the region, and the "Underwater life" exhibit will inform you of natural sights of this place. You are also welcome to visit a famous exhibition "Bends of Daugava" ("Daugavas loki").

Kraslava tourist information centre

13, Brīvības str., Kraslava

tel.: + 371 65622201, 26395176

e-mail: tic@kraslava.lv www. kraslava.lv

Restaurants:

Board house "Daugava"

28, Rīgas, Kraslava

tel.: +371 65622634, 29112899

Cafe "Mārīte"

2 ,Tirgus, Kraslava

tel.: + 371 65624039, 29112899

Cafe "Todes"

58, Rīgas, Kraslava

tel.: + 371 29166609

Cafe "Zodiak"

34, Rīgas, Kraslava

tel.: + 371 26359045, 26522408

Hotels:

Guest house "Zive"

14, Pārceltuves, Kraslava

tel.: + 371 29185835

Guest house "Priedaine"

2, Klusa str., Kraslava

tel.: + 371 26430798

Cottage "Vilnis"

10, Raina str., Kraslava

tel.: + 371 26355115

Youth hostel "Zvaninš"

8, Pils, Kraslava

tel.: + 371 26541545

Bicycle rental in Kraslava:

Guest house "Zive"

Pārceltuves str., Kraslava

tel.: + 371 29185835

Guest house "Priedaine"

2, Klusā, Kraslava

tel.: + 371 26430798

Guest house "Stirnmeži"

Kaplava, Kraslava region

tel.: + 371 259 600 91, 29728133

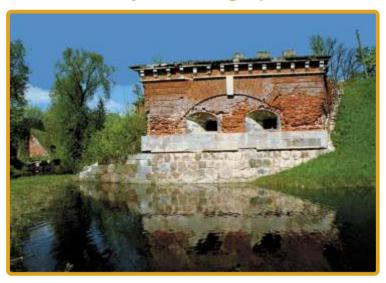




Day 6:

17 km

Naujene - Daugavpils



Daugavpils

The second largest city of Latvia, founded in 1275. The city is the birthplace 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:

Daugavpils fortress

This fortress is a unique cultural and historical site. It is the only fortress of the second half of the $19^{\rm th}$ century in the Eastern Europe, which has remained unchanged.

Daugavpils Local History and Art Museum

8, Rīgas, Daugavpils tel.: + 371 65424155 e-mail: museum@apollo.lv

www.dnmm.lv

One of the oldest and largest museums of Latgale. It was founded in 1938 in one of the most beautiful buildings of the city, which is considered a historical

and architectural monument (jugendstyle). Exhibits: 'History and culture of the Daugavpils region', 'Nature of the Daugavpils region', Art Hall of Mark Rotko.

Unity House

22a, Rīgas, Daugavpils tel.: + 371 65422818

e-mail: info@visitdaugavpils.lv

www.visitdaugavpils.lv

It used to be the largest building in the Baltic States during the First Latvian Republic period. Now the building hosts the centre of Latvian culture, Daugavpils theatre, tourist information centre and central library, information centre of USA, bank, etc.

Russian house

11, Tautas, Daugavpils tel.: + 371 65437936 e-mail: rusdom@inbox.lv

www.rusdom.lv

Exhibits: Old Faith Church in Latvia, Orthodoxy in Latvia, Gzhel bright room, Khokhloma gorenka, fairytale backyard, where characters of Russian fairy tales live (created by the Daugavpils artist Petr Hudobchenok).

Tourist information centre of Daugavpils

22a, Rīgas str., Daugavpils tel.: + 371 65422818

e-mail: info@visitdaugavpils.lv www.visitdaugavpils.lv

Daugavpils hotels:

Hotel "Park Hotel Latgola"

46, Ģimnāzijas str., Daugavpils

tel.: + 371 65404900

e-mail: reception@hoteldaugavpils.lv

www.hotellatgola.lv

Hotel "Hotel Dinaburg"

39, Dobeles str., Daugavpils tel.: + 371 654530 10, 65453009

info@hoteldinaburg.lv www.hoteldinaburg.lv

Daugavpils State Gymnasium Hotel

24, Saules str, Daugavpils

tel.: + 371 654 206 11, 26159884



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 65422455

Cafe "Pasaules brīnumi"

15, Vienības str, Daugavpils tel.: + 371 65421797

Bicycle rental in Daugavpils and Daugavpils region: Hotel "Park Hotel Latgola"

46 Gimnāzijas str., 46, Daugavpils tel.: + 371 65404900, 25923239, 26555879 e-mail: reception@hoteldaugavpils.lv www.hotellatgola.lv

Guest house "Rudzupukes"

Svente, Daugavpils region tel.: +371 28319326, 29406116 e-mail: info@rudzupukes.lv www.rudzupukes.lv

Day 7:

35 km

Daugavpils – Červonka – Silene





Červonka castle

Červonka, Daugavpils region tel.: + 371 65475870

e-mail: padome@vecsaliena.lv

It is one of the few estates in Augšzeme (1870), which preserved its stately and noble face, authentic stained-glass windows and grand hall with posh ceilings. The building is constructed in Neo-Gothic style and covered with steep double-pitch roof. In front of the building, there is an extensive grass-plat, surrounded with a simple-planned park with the total area of 3 ha and 14 types of exotic trees.

If we say that the north of Belarus is a crown of our country, then, undoubtedly, the Braslav region can be considered one of the largest and brightest diamonds of this crown.

Day 8:

about 50 km

Urbany – Slobodka – Maskovcy – Braslav



Border-crossing point Urbany — Boruny (6 km) – Lake Strusto (3 km) —
Keziki (3 km) — Lake Snudy — Buloviški (2 km) — Lukšy (2 km) –
Krivosel'cy (2 km) — Jurany (4 km) — Švedy (6 km) —
Lake Voloso - Luni (6 km) — Gavrilovcy (2 km) —
Slobodka (2 km) — Lake Poceh — Lake Nedrovo — Maskovcy (4 km) —
Lake Nespiš — Rubež (5 km) — Braslav (2 km)

Lake Strusto

It is one of the largest and most beautiful lakes of the Braslav group with bright and clear water. In the centre of the lake there is a Čajčin island with the total area of 1.62 sq. km and weirdly curved coastline. This island is considered to be the largest island of Belarus, and here you will have a unique opportunity to see a very rare plant—Karelian birch.



WORTH SEEING:

Okmenica spring

Okmenica natural boundary (in Lithuanian "stony") got its name from the small river running into the lake Strusto. Not far from the river outlet there is a very interesting tourist attraction — a healing spring "Šalkinia" ("cool" in Lithuanian), or Zimnik, as the locals call it. According to the legend, the spring waters will heal you only if you pay to the spring, which explains why there are so many different coins there — both ancient and contemporary ones.

Lighthouse (Majak) mountain

Lighthouse (Majak) mountain is the highest hill of the Kezikovskie Mountains; it got its name in the early 20^{th} century when the geodesists built a triangulation tower at the top of the hill. Before this, the hill was called Biznja mountain. Enjoy magnificent view on neighbouring lakes and the steeple of Slobodka Catholic Church, peeping over the wood from the observation platform made in the form of a tower at the top of the hill.

Snudy Lake

Snudy is the second largest lake in the Braslav group of lakes, and one of the most picturesque places with the square of 22 sq. km, length $8.8\,\mathrm{km}$ and $11\,\mathrm{islands}$ with the total area of $1.6\,\mathrm{sq}$. km. For hundreds of years Snudy was considered to be one of the richest fishing places of the Braslav region. It was mostly Old Believer village inhabitants living at the lakeside who used to fish here. Snudy fishermen were very popular in the neighbourhood; they were hired for fishing not only by neighbouring landowners but by the owners of other lakes.



Buloviški

The village is situated at the south-west coast of Lake Snudy. The locals say that Buloviški is the first Old Believer settlement near Snudy. The ancestors of the village inhabitants came here in the 17th century from the Tver region and lived in quite closed communities. They never registered their children in church books, did not follow religious ceremony during marriage, and played no musical instruments. It was only in the 20th century that the local community began to gradually lose its uniqueness and originality.



WORTH SEEING:

Old Believer Church

Cozv wooden Old Believer Church was built in the early 20th century. The church was constructed out of an ordinary wooden village house.

Slobodka

The settlement appeared in the 17th century. During the World War I, the village was crossed by a military narrow-gauge railroad. In 1964, the railroad was ruined, and only some parts of it can be seen along the modern road to Braslav. Slobodka is famous for cozy old cobblestone streets



WORTH SEEING:

Divine Providence Catholic Church

10.8 Marta str.

tel.: + 375 2153 3 30 07

White Divine Providence Catholic Church at the central square (1901 - 1903)is the heart of the village. It combines the features of Gothic and Roman styles. The fact that it is one of the very few plastered Neo-Gothic churches in Belarus makes it unique; other red-brick buildings have never been plastered (remember Miory and Sarja!).

Maskovcy

Maskovcy Village, with its unique ancient settlement of the $11^{th} - 13^{th}$ centuries, is located on the peninsula which separates Lake Nedrovo from Lake Nespiš. According to the archaeological data, at the 11^t-14th century this peninsula had great importance: these lands were considered to be the forpost of the Polotsk principality, and the village was a frontier post. However, the enemy attacks (most likely those were the crusaders) ripped the village to sheds, so that it could never rise from the ashes.

It was the first place in Belarus where the scientists found mysterious runic inscription carved on animals' bones; this is the greatest collection of runic Scandinavian inscriptions in Belarus.

Braslav

Braslav is located on shore of Lake Drivjaty, beautiful at any time, rain or shine. According to archaeological evidence, the settlement appeared in the $8^{\text{th}}-9^{\text{th}}$ 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 Stanislav 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. On the top of Zamkovaya Mountain there is a granite boulder with an inscription "Braslav was founded here. 1065" and a wooden sculpture composition which illustrates this legend.

Catholic Church of Nativity of the Blessed Virgin

23, Sovetskaja 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 Dormition of the Blessed Virgin (1897) — a beautiful building in the Pseudo-Russian style.



Building of the former hospital

The building, erected in 1906, is located in Kirov Street. Its history is closely connected with the name of Stanislav Narbut (1853–1926), who worked there for 40 years and was buried in Braslav Zamkovaya Mountain. On his grave, there is a white obelisk with the lamp at the top.



WORTH SEEING:

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 Drivjaty 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 "Zaezny dvor"

8, Gagarina str., Braslav tel.: + 375 2153 2 91 95

Restaurants:

Restaurant "Ozerniy" and dining room

115, Sovetskaya str., (Braslav central square)

Restaurant "Drivjaty"

Naberezhnaya str., Braslav tel.: + 375 2153 3 26 79

Cafe "Suzorie"

133, Leninskaya str.

tel.: + 375 2153 2 26 97

Day 9:

about 50 km

Braslav - Ikazn' - Miory



Braslav – Sudniki (11 km) – Zapružany (5 km) – Lake Uklja – Village Uklja (3 km) – Ikazn' (5 km) – Lake Obsterno – Perebrod'e (9 km) – Lake Nobisto – Moh swamp (Boloto Moh) – Lamenpol'e (12 km) – Miory (5 km)

Ikazn'

Ikazn' is located on shore of a picturesque lake bearing the same name. The town history is closely connected with the life of a well-known legendary Belarusian aristocratic family Sapehi, who used to take great positions in the Grand Duchy of Lithuania. In 1593, Lew Sapeha, the chancellor of the Grand Duchy, turned the former Calvinist church to Catholic Church. In 1627, Marshal Yan Stanislav Sapeha erected Uniate church in Ikazn'. Ikazn' fortress, erected in early 16th century on the island, was one of the frontier citadels of the Braslav region and was of paramount importance in military conflicts of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania and the Grand Duchy of Moscow. Only a few years passed after the fortress was erected, when in 1515 Moscow troops besieged the fortress and burned the township.



WORTH SEEING:

Corpus Christi Catholic Church

7 Molodezhnaya str.

tel.: + 375 2153 2 34 41

The Church was erected in 1901–1905. It is the largest Neo-Roman Catholic church in Belarus.



Saint Nikolas Church

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

Built in 1905.

Tourist information centre

28, Komsomolskaya str., Miory

tel.: + 375 2152 4 17 15

e-mail: tic_miory@belladvina.com

www.belladvina.com

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

Obsterno lake group

Obsterno lake group at the boundary of the Braslav and Miory regions comprises 12 lakes with the total area of 32 sq. km, with a system of shallow swamped channels. The largest lakes are Obsterno, Nobisto, Uklja, Važno, Inovo. In the neighbourhood, there is a hydrologic wildlife reserve "Boloto Moh" (swamp Moh). In 1960s, after the construction of a dam at the river Horobrovka, water level in the lakes raised up to 80-100 cm. The lakes attract fishermen, tourists and campers

Village Perebrod'e

The village is located not far from Miory. It is famous for its lakes Obsterno and Nobisto, two largest lakes of the Obsterno group, connected by river Hrabrovka. According to the legend, the lake was divided in two in one night (!) by the peasants, so that the troops of King Sigizmund August could march on. After that, the tiny Perebrod'e village became part of the Magdeburg Law and became a township. It used to be a very small village, not more than 30 houses, but its fishermen were famous all over the countryside. This is not surprising, considering that they lived in the country of lakes!



WORTH SEEING:

Saint George Church

tel.: + 375 29 511 67 79 (Father Viktor)

This wooden architecture monument, built in 1910, is located in the centre of the village.

Catholic Church of the Heart of Jesus

Molodezhnaya str.

tel.: + 375 2152 2 43 01

This wooden church was erected in 1933 at the exit road leading to Miory.

Kamenopol'e

Village Kamenopol'e is located at the edge of Boloto Moh. Kamenopol'e used to be part of the Miory estate, which became property of a poor aristocratic family Sviatopolk-Mirskie in 1640. Following family divisions in early 18th century, Kamenopol'e turned into a separate estate owned by the Braslav harbourer Yan Mirski. Up to World War II, the village belonged to the Sviatopolk-Mirskie family, which was quite famous in the Braslav region.



WORTH SEEING:

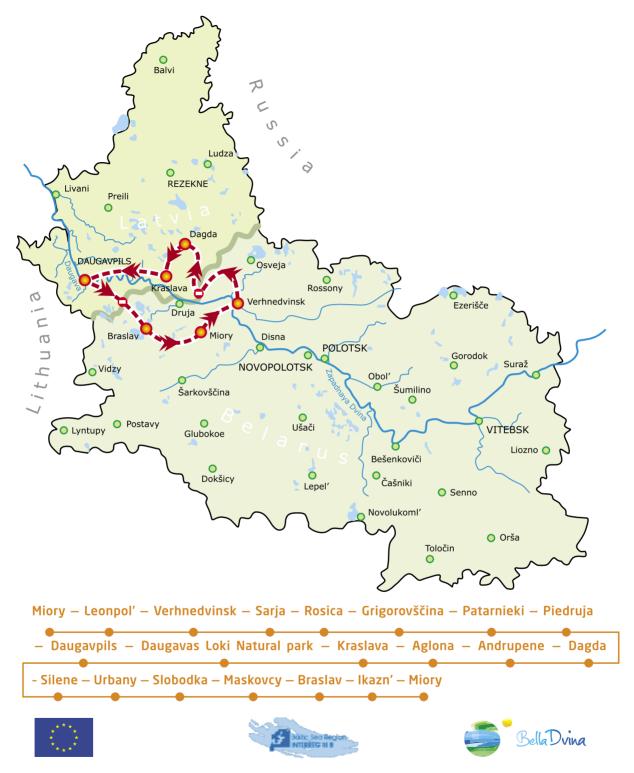
Mirskie estate, late 19th - 20th century

The Estate, erected in 1873, is a one-storey building with the second floor built over the central part. In the 1970s, after "perestroika", the building was used as a school. Certain household buildings in Neo-Gothic style, constructed in early 20th century, have preserved up to the present time. These include a blacksmith shop, an ice plant, and a horse barn.

One can still enjoy the remains of a regular park with a rectangular meadow, old shady lime avenue, and a complex canal system in its centre.







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