

Republic of Belarus



Location



Belarus is situated nearly in the centre of Europe in the extreme western part of the East-European Plain within the basins of the Dnieper, the Western Dvina and the Upper Neman. It borders on Poland in the west, the Baltic States-Lithuania and

The State Flag of the Republic of Belarus

The State Flag of the Republic of Belarus is a rectangular canvas made of two horizontal coloured stripes. The upper one is red and makes up two thirds of the width while the lower one is green and as large as one third of the flag width. A vertical red-on-white Belarusian national pattern as large as one ninth of the flag length is located near the flagpole.



The State Emblem of the Republic of Belarus

The State Emblem of the Republic of Belarus is made up of a green outline of the Republic of Belarus lit by the golden rays of the sun rising over the globe. A five-pointed red star is located at the top of the outline. The emblem is encircled by a wreath of golden wheat heads intertwined with clover flowers on the right and flax flowers on the left. The wheat heads are embraced by a red-and-green ribbon with a golden inscription “Republic of Belarus”.



The Republic of Belarus celebrates the state holiday of the Belarus State Flag and State Emblem Day on the second Sunday of May every year.

The State Anthem of the Republic of Belarus

The music for the State Anthem of the Republic of Belarus has been written by Nestor Sokolovsky, the lyrics — by Mikhail Klimkovich and Vladimir Korizna.

The State Anthem of the modern Belarus retains the musical basis of the anthem of the Belarusian Soviet Socialist Republic. The music by Nestor Sokolovsky has been popular and respected by generations of Belarusians, this is why it was decided to keep it when the anthem of the independent Belarus was created. After that a contest for the anthem lyrics was announced.

State languages of the Republic of Belarus are Belarusian and Russian.

State power in the Republic of Belarus is exercised on the basis of its division into legislative, executive and judicial branches.

***The President of the Republic of Belarus** is the Head of State. The President is elected by general, free, equal, direct and secret ballot. Presidential elections are regulated by the laws of the Republic of Belarus.*

***The Parliament**, i.e. the National Assembly of the Republic of Belarus, is the representative and legislative body of power. The Parliament consists of two Chambers — the Chamber of Representatives and the Council of the Republic.*

***The Government**, i.e. the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Belarus, is the central body of state management, the executive power in the Republic of Belarus. In its activities, the Government is subordinated to the President and reports to the Parliament.*

***The Constitution of the Republic of Belarus** establishes the principle of the supremacy of law. The State and all of its bodies and officials act within the limits of the Constitution and the laws adopted in accordance with it. Provision of personal rights and freedoms of the citizens of the Republic of Belarus is the ultimate goal of the State.*



Belarus is a lake-country. There are about 10,800 lakes here. The lakes are particularly numerous in the north. The largest is Lake Naroch- 80 square kilometres. The lakes are noted for their great depth, transparent water and beautiful scenery.

There are more than 3,000 rivers in Belarus. Seven of them are more than 500 kilometres long each. They are the Dnieper, Neman, Western Dniva, Prypiat, Berezina, Sozh and Vilia.

A third of Belarus is under forest. The largest forests are called pushchas. The Byelovezhskaya Pushcha is famous for its aurochs (European bison). Fauna is rich and diverse there: one can see elks and deer, wild boar and wolves, bears and foxes, beavers and lynxes, not mentioning myriads of birds.

Minsk



Mogilev



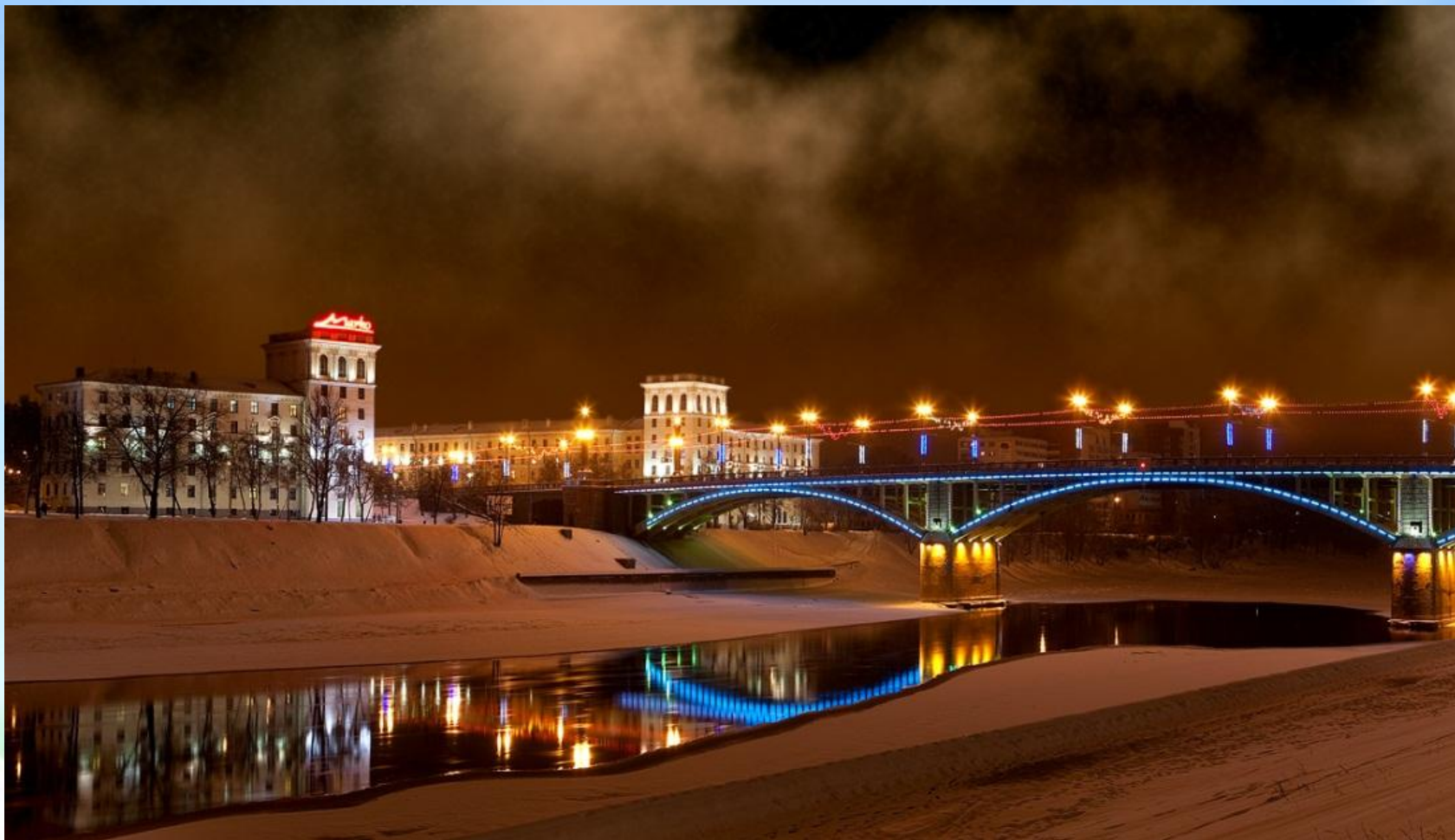
Grodno



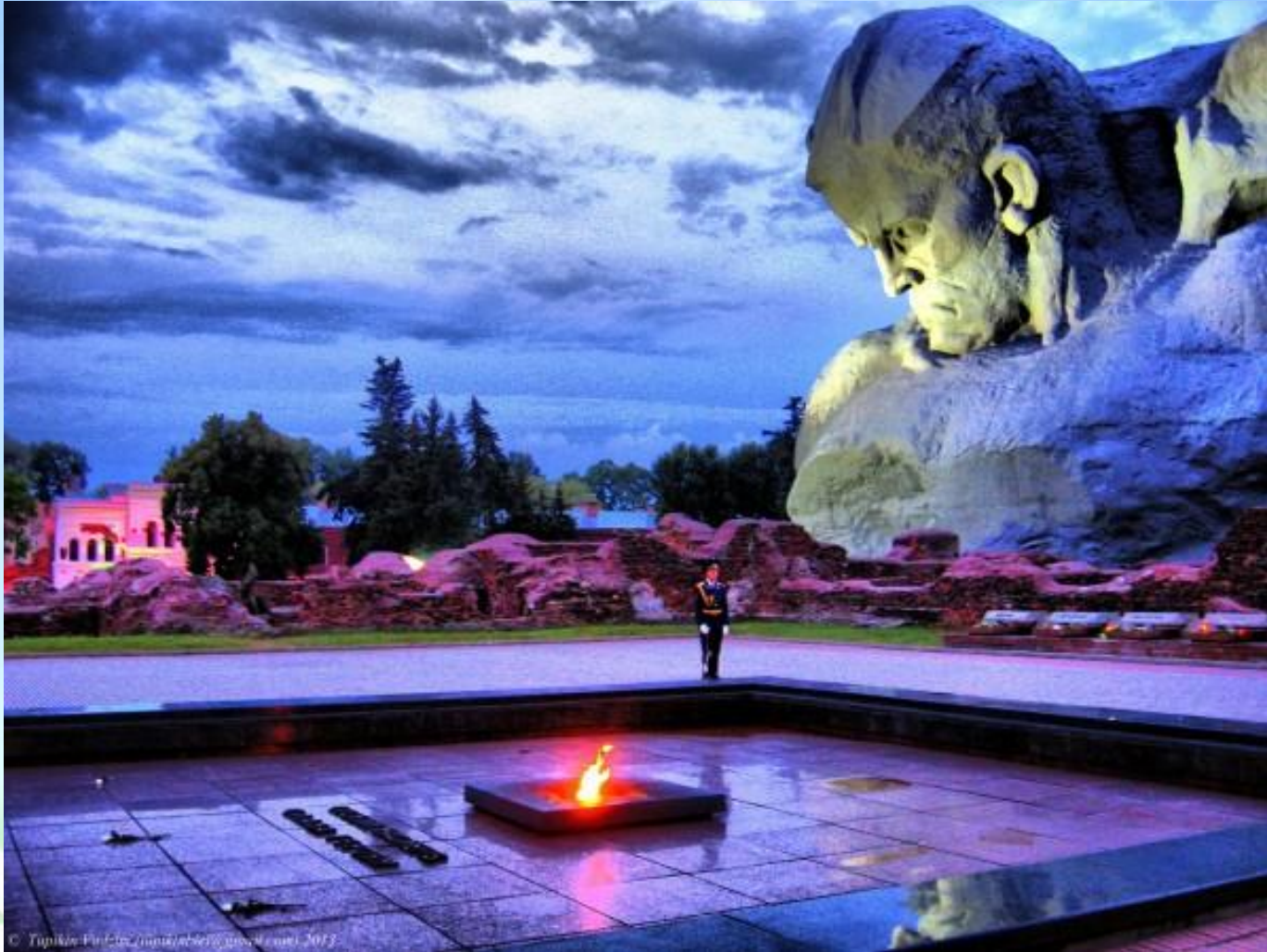
Gomel



Vitebsk



Brest



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