# excursion



#### Plan for Saturday

on Saturday we have breakfast in a cafe and let's go see the city



at 8.00 we will visit the "City Gate", railway station at 10.00 National Library at 13.00 we visit Cathedral of the Descent of the Holy Spirit at 16.00 we visit National Academic Bolshoi Opera and Ballet Theater in 19.00 we Let's go and dine in the café heat



## "City Gate", railway station



From this place it is worth starting a tour of Minsk. It is here that the "gates of the city" are located: two eleven-storied towers erected at the corners of five-story houses. One of them has the largest (about 5 m in diameter) and, perhaps, the main clock of Belarus (their Belarusians see on the screen on New Year's Eve). Opposite the two towers is the railway station – the only building in Belarus with so many glass structures.

### National Library

In form, the library resembles a diamond. The building looks particularly good in the evening, when it turns into a giant multicolor screen, on which the patterns constantly change.



# Cathedral of the Descent of the Holy Spirit



The cathedral is located in the former Bernardine church. His most valuable relic is the miraculous icon of the Minsk Mother of God, considered the patroness of Minsk. As the legend says, the baptized Rus Prince of Kiev, Vladimir, brought an icon to Kiev from Greece. But during the attack of the Crimean Tatars she was thrown into the Dnieper. Contrary to the laws of physics, the icon swam up, not downstream. And on August 26, 1500 was discovered off the coast of Svisloch. Since then, this day is celebrated as the feast of the Minsk Mother of God.

#### National Academic Bolshoi Opera and Ballet Theater

This is the only building occupying the whole area – the area of the Paris Commune. Before the theater there is a monument to the famous Belarusian poet Maxim Bogdanovich. And it is not accidental: one of the national operas "Zorka Venus" is written for his poems.



#### Plan for Sunday

at 6 am we will arrive at the park Museum of boulders in the open air in Uruch'e to meet the dawn.

at 10 am we will visit Church of the Virgin Mary

at 13.30 we visit Palace of the Republic

at 16.54 we visit Museum of the Great Patriotic War

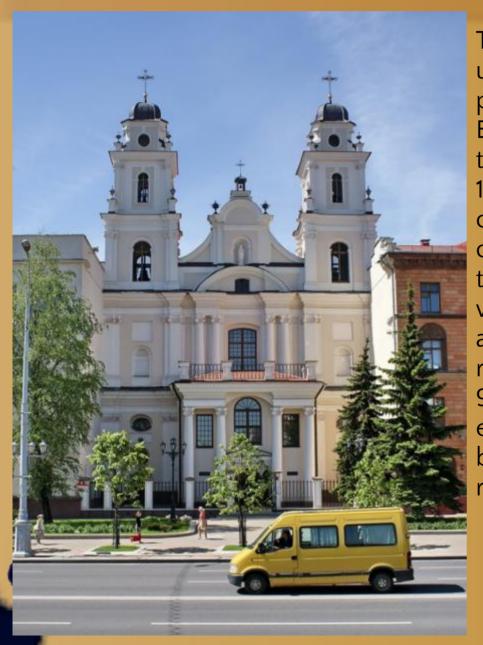


# Park Museum of boulders in the open air in Uruch'e

This is one of the most unusual museums in Europe. A similar museum exists only in Lithuania, but it is several times smaller than Minsk. In Belarusian history and culture boulders are considered an important object. On the territory of the park boulders and stones are laid out the map of Belarus: cities, hills, transport and water arteries.



### Church of the Virgin Mary



The temple was built in 1710-1732. as a church under a Jesuit monastery. In 1773, under the pressure of the secular authorities of European countries, the Order was temporarily banned by Pope Clement XIV. In 1798 the Minsk diocese was created, and the church changed its status, becoming a cathedral consecrated in honor of the name of the Blessed Virgin Mary. In 1951 the cathedral was closed, its two towers were demolished and the central facade was significantly rebuilt, in the building until the beginning. The 90s was the "House of the Athlete". In the early 90's, the church was returned to believers and in the 90s and 2000s it was restored to its original appearance.

#### Palace of the Republic

The main purpose of the Palace is to hold mass events, concerts, opera performances, gala concerts, performance of symphony orchestras, New Year's events with a Christmas tree for children and adults, various exhibitions, etc.



#### Museum of the Great Patriotic War

The largest repository of relics of the Great Patriotic War in Belarus.

