



We are three architecture students, Joana Ferreira, João Ferreira and Carlos Santos, from the Lisbon Technical University, Portugal. We came to Belarus under the TEMPO project supported by Erasmus Mundus Programme since we believe it is a great opportunity to explore a different culture, learn a new language and gain new perspectives on academic matters as well as sharing our knowledge and skills.

It is our belief that taking part on this experience allows people to acquire a set of gains which will contribute to building a more united Europe on cultural, linguistic and educational basis.

As foreign students we are able to know a little bit more about the country and her heritage and this is a unique opportunity which we won't waste, a reason why we intend to visit the most significant places. In tours organized by Brest State Technical University, we have already been given the chance of going to Belovezhskaya Pushcha National Park, Mir Castle and Nesvizh Palace.

Belovezhskaya Pushcha National Park



One of the biggest and oldest forests in central Europe, Belovezhskaya Pushcha, is home for hundreds of ancient trees and animal species including one of Belarus symbols, the famous bison, which we had the pleasure to see during this visit.

Walking around the forest was a refreshing moment where we could relax, enjoy

the typical fauna and flora and get in touch with nature. This experience was enhanced by the opportunity of renting some bicycles and deeper explore it as well as take part in the Belarusian tradition of picking mushrooms, once this is the season.

During this trip we have also visited the Natural Museum placed inside the park, where we could learn some historical facts about the forest and its biodiversity. There was even time to try the national cuisine, pancakes with caviar and wild berries jam, in a small wooden restaurant with a cozy fireplace.

It was a lovely day spent with nice people in a delightful environment.

Mir Castle and Nesvizh Palace

It was in the last 23rd October that the journey to Mir Castle and Nervizh Palace took place.

After a four hour journey, we arrived to our first destination, Mir Castle. This impressive complex dates back to the end of the 15th century. Originally built in Gothic, it was subsequently extended and reconstructed in different styles. Suffering several damages over times and wars, it was finally restored and opened to the public looking like we could see it in this trip.

As we passed through the front gates, we felt plunged into the historical atmosphere that surrounded us. As the tour guide led us inside we had the chance of learning more about the evolution of the castle along with the lifestyle of its lords and peasants.



Leaving Mir Castle, we headed to our next stop: Nesvizh Palace.

Before beginning the visit we had a break to try some tasty traditional food - draniki and beer while mingling with our Belarusian fellows which was delightful.

Nesvizh Palace is one of the oldest settlements and most famous places in Belarus. Acquired by the Radziwil family in the middle of the 16th century, they stayed there until 1939 when they were expelled by the invading Red Army. Its richly diverse architecture and attractive gardens make it one of the most popular tourist attractions in this country. And, in fact, for us, visiting Nesvizh Palace was a very pleasant moment. From one room to another we were impressed by the sumptuous interiors and decoration, in addition to the quality of the building restoration. At the end of the visit we went outside to the beautiful surrounding gardens where the mystic ambience impels us to explore further.

After a tiring cold day, we arrived home feeling this had been a remarkable day, full of culture and history, which will never be forgotten.