

# Volkovysk and surroundings



Chalk quarries near Krasnoselsk

## **The breath of Belarusian countryside**

The peaceful town of Volkovysk (Belarusian: Waukawysk) is located in the west of the country not far from the town of Grodno.

Not far from here Ludmilla Vassilevna awaits you on her picturesque estate, surrounded by meadows, fruit trees and a small lake.

Here you will stay in your own comfortable cottage overlooking the lake. While Ludmilla prepares a rich dinner for you after your arrival, you have the possibility to visit a typical Belarusian sauna (Belarusian: Banja), to fish, or to go for an evening walk through the forest with Ludmilla's husband, a hunter.

The next day you will visit the so-called Belarusian Maldives. These are two huge abandoned chalk quarries. The chalk combine has been lying fallow since the Perestroika, meanwhile nature has completely reconquered the terrain and impresses with beautiful chalk formations and azure blue and emerald green lakes. The area is now closed to visitors, but you are led by a former employee of the combine with special permission.

Afterwards you visit a small village and meet Natalia Georgievna, a strong, purposeful woman who owns her own goat farm. Natalia is a Don Cossack, born in Rostov on the Don in Russia. She has been the proud owner of own privately-owned goat farm, which she runs with her two sons, since 2010. Natalia looks forward to showing guests her farm. You can try your hand at milking goats and see the various stages involved in making goats' cheese. Natalia will then

invite you to sample her cheese and explain how difficult it is for private enterprises in Belarus. After two exciting days in the Belarusian province you will return to Minsk or continue your journey with us to other exciting places in Belarus.



Natalia and her goats