

# MIR CASTLE



The Mir Castle complex (Mirsky zamok) is another UNESCO Heritage site in Belarus and an outstanding example of 16th-century fortification art, which reflects the long confrontational history of the region.

The construction of this Belarus' Gothic style castle was started in the 1520s by Duke Ilinich to withstand attacks of the Crimean Tatars. The family died out in the same century, and the castle fell into the hands of a member of the Radziwill family.

A three-storey palace was built along the eastern and northern walls of the castle which had forty fretted rooms. Earth walls were built around the castle with bastions at the corners, surrounded by a water moat.

The successful blend of Gothic, Baroque and Renaissance architecture makes Mir Castle one of the most impressive castles in Europe. The construction of this castle began in Gothic style, later it subsequently extended and reconstructed, first in the Renaissance and then in the Baroque style. After being damaged and abandoned during the Napoleonic period, the castle was restored at the end of the 19th century, with the addition of a number of other elements and the landscaping of the surrounding area as a park. An Italian garden was laid to the north of the walls and an artificial lake was established to the south.

## DESCRIPTION

