



Jewish
Heritage
Travel

A Program of the Museum of Jewish Heritage

Castles, Citadels and Synagogues Bucharest, Belgrade & Brasov September 1—13, 2016



*Mountain top citadel near
Brasov, a backdrop of the
Carpathian Mountains.*

Program Overview

Picture everything you would want from a classic European country, add a certain quirkiness, and there you have Serbia — meeting place of many European cultures and center of Sephardic Jewish culture. Our trip will begin in Belgrade, which offers great museums, two major rivers — the Danube and the Sava; a synagogue, a Jewish museum and community center, and colorful cafés and restaurants for fine bohemian dining. A little way up the Danube, we will visit Novi Sad, a charming Baroque town and a former outpost of the Habsburg Empire, featuring wineries, beekeeping operations, and a synagogue that has now become a cultural hall.

Farther down the Danube, we will come to Bucharest, capital of Romania- once known as “The Little Paris” for its elegant architecture and boulevards and now home to a mixture of Communist utilitarianism and modernist glitz. Formerly home to a major Jewish community, Bucharest still has a number of active synagogues and a Jewish museum. From Bucharest, we will head north to explore Brasov — in the heart of beautiful Transylvania, surrounded by the Carpathian mountains with its magnificent synagogue and gothic church — then and on to Sighisoara, birthplace of the fabled but historical figure Count Vlad Dracula.

With a great variety of landscapes and cultural monuments, with reminiscences of a complex Jewish culture embodying the Ashkenazic and the Sephardic, the traditionalist and the modern, with visits to two UNESCO World Heritage Sites; with lectures on many aspects of history and culture by our accompanying scholar — both general and Jewish — along with good food, fellowship and music this trip will be a truly memorable experience.



**We are dedicated to
making your experience
rich in content and
superior in comfort.**

This unique travel program combines the expertise and resources of two organizations that cherish the traditions, achievements, and faith of Jewish communities – past and present – around the world. Jewish Heritage Travel and the Museum of Jewish Heritage are delighted to have the opportunity to share this rich, varied, and poignant history and culture with you on these select trips. We look forward to traveling with you.

Program Details

Program Cost: \$6600
(Plus \$54 Museum of Jewish Heritage fee for non-members)

Includes:

- Twelve nights' accommodations at deluxe hotels*
- Full breakfast daily; two lunches; five dinners
- All group transportation via deluxe air-conditioned coach
- Entrance fees to all museums and sites on itinerary
- Group flight from Belgrade to Bucharest, September 6

*Per person, based on double occupancy. Single supplement available at \$950.

Gratuities: (\$160) additional.

A non-refundable deposit of \$1000 per person will secure your place on the trip. A second non-refundable deposit of \$1,000 per person due on March 1, 2016. The balance is due in full by April 30, 2016.



View of Belgrade from across the Danube.

Tentative Daily Itinerary*

Thursday, September 1

Check into the Square Nine Hotel in Belgrade, Serbia, known for its sophisticated design and elegant, modern atmosphere. Rest and relax from our journey.

Evening: Overview by our accompanying scholar, Professor Ray Scheindlin, followed by Orientation and an opportunity to get to know one another. Welcoming dinner at our hotel (included).

Friday, September 2

Our tour will begin with a visit to the Sukkat Shalom Synagogue and Jewish Community and the Jewish History Museum of Belgrade. The museum's building was designed in 1928 by architect Samuel Sumbul for the needs of the then-Jewish Sephardic community. At the museum, a presentation by Professor Scheindlin, "Serbia and Its Jewish Community," after which we will visit the nearby Belgrade Fortress and Kalemegdan Citadel. Situated near Belgrade's most beautiful and largest park, which overlooks the Danube, today the fortress is a unique museum of the history of Belgrade. Other sites on our itinerary this morning include a visit to Ružica Church, a small chapel built into the side of the fortress.

Following lunch (included), a private guided tour at the Zepter Museum, famous for gathering the works of the fascinating art scene of Serbia in the second half of the 20th century and the beginning of the new millennium.

Evening: Shabbat dinner (included)

Saturday, September 3

Morning: Free to relax, or attend services at the synagogue — short walk from our hotel.

Afternoon: At leisure, or visit one of the nearby museums, including, among others, the Nikola Tesla Museum or Applied Arts Museum — all within a short walking distance from our hotel.



Old town Belgrade.



Traveling with You...

Scholar in Residence



Raymond P. Scheindlin, Ph.D., is Professor of Medieval Hebrew Literature at the Jewish Theological

Seminary and has served as the Seminary's Provost. His publications include *A Short History of the Jewish People*; *Wine, Women and Death: Medieval Hebrew Poems on the Good Life*; *The Gazelle: Medieval Hebrew Poems on God, Israel and the Soul*. A former Guggenheim fellow, Dr. Scheindlin is a member of the editorial boards of several scholarly journals. His latest book is *The Song of the Distant Dove: Pilgrimage Poems by Judah Halevi*.

Accompanying Artist:



Janice Meyerson (M.M., New England Conservatory; B.A., Washington University), has sung as a soloist

with the New York City Opera, New York Philharmonic, Boston Symphony, Deutsche Oper, Berlin, and the Spoleto Festival, among numerous others. A gifted mezzo-soprano and interpreter of song, Ms. Meyerson will perform Ladino and Hebrew examples of Sephardic music.



Kalemegdan Fortress, Belgrade.

Sunday, September 4

Visit to historic and picturesque Novi Sad. En route, we will stop at Sremski Karlovci — a baroque town on the banks of Danube that played an important role as a spiritual, cultural and political center for the Habsburgs. Since this area is renowned for its wine making, we will visit Jovan Živanović Apiculture Museum and Winery for a tour of its impressive 300-year-old wine cellar (where we will sample local wines) and an insight into the local tradition of apiculture (beekeeping) — still operated by descendants of the original founder. Following lunch, we will continue to Novi Sad for a tour of the town and a visit to its synagogue. Located on Jevrejska (Jewish) Street, the synagogue was added to the Spatial Cultural-Historical Units of Great Importance list in 1991 and is used today for cultural concerts and events.

Monday, September 5

This morning we will travel south from Belgrade and visit Oplenac, the mausoleum of the former royal family and House of King Peter I. Following our visit, we will return to Belgrade in time to break for lunch on our own, with the afternoon free to continue exploring Belgrade on our own and/or for last-minute shopping.

Late afternoon and early evening (optional): Rver cruise on Danube.

Tuesday, September 6

Morning at leisure

Afternoon flight to Bucharest — continuing to Brasov, where we will check in to the Kronwell Hotel.

Evening: Presentation by Dr. Scheindlin: "Romania and Its Jewish Community," before dinner at a local restaurant (included).

Wednesday, September 7

Walking tour of Brasov, including its synagogue and community center. Brasov Synagogue is a Liberal synagogue that has "risen from the ashes" twice, each time restored more magnificently than ever.

Afternoon tour of Old Town — with its historic town hall square, colorfully painted and ornately trimmed baroque structures, and "Black Church" — the largest Gothic church in Romania, housing one of the largest organs in Eastern Europe as well as the richest collection of Anatolian carpets in all Europe.



Brasov Synagogue and Community Center



Traveling with You...

Trip Leader



Aryeh Maidenbaum, Ph.D., has a strong background in the fields of History, Psychology and

Jewish Studies and more than 25 years experience in organizing and leading educational tours – including trips focusing on Jewish culture and history. Director of the New York Center for Jungian Studies, Dr. Maidenbaum received his Doctorate from the Hebrew University in Jerusalem. Former faculty member at N.Y.U., he is a contributing author to *Current Theories of Psychoanalysis*. Among his publications are “The Search for Spirit in Jungian Psychology;” *Lingering Shadows: Jungians, Freudians and Anti-Semitism*; and *Jung and the Shadow of Anti-Semitism*.

Trip Guide



Lucy Rapoport has guided and accompanied many previous Jewish heritage tours – all to great acclaim. Born and

schooled in England before moving to Italy as a young adult, Lucy is fluent in Italian, German, French, and Spanish and has been a tour manager for more than 20 years. Specializing in Europe, Lucy has accompanied previous Jewish groups to such places as Lithuania, Krakow, Prague, Berlin, Croatia, Spain, Northern and Southern Italy, and Sicily. With Lucy's attention to detail, knowledge of history, and considerable expertise in guiding groups, participants will be well served on this trip.



Petrovaradin is an impressive fortress that overlooks Novi Sad and the Danube.

Thursday, September 8

We will begin this morning with a visit to the 13th-century Church of Prejmer, an exquisite jewel among the Transylvanian fortified churches and a UNESCO World Heritage site enclosed by a massive wall 14 feet thick and 42 feet high, with more than 250 storerooms inside its walls. Afterward, visit Sighisoara — a perfectly intact 16th-century gem with nine towers, cobbled streets, burgher houses and ornate churches. Sighisoara is the birthplace of Vlad Dracula, also known as Vlad Tepes (Vlad the Impaler), ruler of the province of Walachia from 1456 to 1462, who inspired Bram Stoker's fictional creation Count Dracula.

Following a break for lunch on our own in Sighisoara's Old Town, we will visit the Sighisoara Synagogue. This synagogue, unusually decorated with paintings of palm trees and a ceiling painted to resemble a starry night, served the now-extinct Jewish community for over a century.

Friday, September 9

Depart for Bucharest with a stop at Bran Castle. The first documented mention of Bran Castle is an act issued by Louis I of Hungary in 1377. In 1920, the castle became a royal residence within the Kingdom of Romania and the favorite home and retreat of Queen Marie. Inherited by her daughter Princess Ileana, it was seized by the communist regime in 1948 but ultimately returned to Dominic von Habsburg — son and heir of Princess Ileana.

Following a break for lunch (included), visit to Peles Castle before arriving in Bucharest.

Check in to our hotel in time to relax before we enjoy a festive Shabbat dinner (included).

Saturday, September 10

Morning: Free, or (optional) attend services at Yeshua Tova Synagogue, Bucharest's oldest synagogue.

Afternoon: Optional private guided tour of the Art Collections Museum, with special focus on collections donated by Jewish patrons and artists.

Evening: Presentation by Dr. Scheindlin: “The Synagogues of Bucharest,” followed by dinner on our own.

Sunday, September 11

Morning: Tour Bucharest (once known as “Little Paris”), including its outdoor ethnographic museum—the Village Museum. Founded by the sociologist Dimitrie Gusti in 1936, the museum is one of the first and most valuable ethnographic museums in the world. Break for lunch on own before a private guided tour at the National Museum, with special focus on Romanian Jewish artists. Following our tour, for those interested, time to continue and tour other art collections on our own.

Evening: Presentation by Dr. Scheindlin: “The Holocaust in Serbia and Romania”



Choral Temple, Bucharest.

Monday, September 12

Today we will visit two of Bucharest's synagogues: the Great Synagogue (today a museum); and the Choral Temple, a copy of Vienna's great synagogue — and the Jewish History Museum, which provides a broad coverage of the history of the Jews in Romania. The museum's displays include a collection of books written, published, illustrated or translated by Romanian Jews; a serious archive of the history of Romanian Jewry; a collection of paintings of and by Romanian Jews that, while relatively small, is of a caliber worthy of a major art museum (many of the same artists' works hang in the National Museum of Art); memorabilia from Jewish theaters, including the State Jewish Theater and a display devoted to Zionism.

Afternoon: Free to continue exploring Bucharest on our own and/or last-minute shopping; optional tour of the Royal Residence.

Evening: Closing meeting, followed by a musical performance by Janice Meyerson and dinner (included).

Tuesday, September 13

Depart for U.S.

**Please Note: Daily schedule may be modified subject to weather or unanticipated changes.*



Accommodations

Square Nine

The luxurious Square Nine Hotel is in the heart of Belgrade's city center, just steps from the Kneza Mihailova pedestrian and shopping district and the Kalemegdan Fortress. Belgrade's first world-class luxury 5-star hotel blends international lifestyle and local hospitality with sophisticated design and an elegant, modern atmosphere. The Sisley Spa Center, modernly furnished rooms and free Wi-Fi access are provided throughout the property.



Kronwell

is a 4-star lifestyle luxury hotel – the most luxurious in Brasov. The hotel has stylish accommodations equipped with state-of-the-art facilities, as well as complimentary Wi-Fi. The new Belaqua Spa and Wellness Center offers beauty therapies, a fitness studio, an exercise area and a sauna. Guests can also enjoy the indoor pool.



Radisson Blu Bucharest

Just steps from the former Royal Palace, museums and Music Hall, the 5-star, deluxe Radisson Blu Hotel provides well-equipped rooms in the heart of Romania's capital and includes access to the business-class lounge and free Wi-Fi. The hotel's spa center offers indoor and outdoor pools and the exotic Bali Spa, which re-creates the atmosphere and spirit of Asia with state-of-the-art facilities and a wide range of treatments.

Registration Information

Participation

Limited to 30 participants, the program will entail considerable walking, including uneven terrain. Participants need to be in active, good health, able to keep up with the group, ready to travel and experience group and cultural differences with grace. If you have any questions, or need help with your travel plans, please call the Jewish Heritage Travel Office at 845.256.0197.

Insurance

Participants are urged to purchase travel insurance for losses necessitated by having to cancel participation due to health issues. For your convenience, insurance forms will be sent upon registration, or consult your own insurance agent. Please contact The Jewish Heritage Travel office at 845.256.0197 for more information.

Cancellations

Refunds and Insurance: All cancellations must be received by The Jewish Heritage Travel Program in writing. Cancellations received up to 120 days prior to departure: full refund less non-refundable deposits, per person; 119-90 days prior to departure: 50% refund per person after non-refundable deposits. No refunds after this date.

Changes

All rights are reserved by the Program Directors to make faculty substitutions and/or to modify the itinerary (including hotels) as needed.





A Program of the Museum of Jewish Heritage

How to register

Mail

Fill out this registration form and mail with your check or credit card information to:

Jewish Heritage
Travel Program
27 North Chestnut Street
New Paltz, NY 12561

Fax

Fill out this registration form and mail with your check or credit card information and fax to:

845.256.0196

Telephone

Call our office
845.256.0197
Monday-Friday, 10am-5pm

Disclaimer of Responsibility

By registering for this program, participant specifically waives any and all claims of action against the Museum of Jewish Heritage, and the Jewish Heritage Travel office and their respective staffs for damages, loss, injury, accident or death incurred by any person in connection with this tour. The Museum of Jewish Heritage, and the Jewish Heritage Travel office and their respective staffs assume no responsibility or liability in connection with the service of any train, vessel, carriage, aircraft or other conveyance which may be used wholly or in part in the performance of their duty to the passengers. Neither will the Museum of Jewish Heritage, and the Jewish Heritage Travel office or their staffs be responsible for any injury, death, loss, accident, delay or irregularity through neglect or default of any company or person engaged in carrying out the purposes for which tickets, vouchers, or coupons are issued. No responsibility is accepted for losses or expenses due to sickness, weather, strikes, wars and other causes. In the event it becomes necessary or advisable for any reason whatsoever to alter the itinerary or arrangements, such alterations may be made without penalty. All rights reserved to require any participant to withdraw from the tour at his/her own expense when such an action is determined by the tour staff to be in the best interest of the participant's health and safety, and/or that of the group in general.

REGISTRATION FOR

Trip title/country

Dates of travel

CONTACT INFORMATION

Name

Address

City

State

Zip

Email address

Phone number

Cell phone number

Participant name(s):

ACCOMMODATIONS

I would like a single room (for single room supplement please see trip details)

I'll share a room with:

Please share any special information we should know to enhance your experience.

FLIGHT ARRANGEMENTS

I will make my own flight arrangements . I need assistance and will call (845-256-0197).

DEPOSIT

Enclosed is a check made payable to Jewish Heritage Travel in the amount of :

\$ _____.

Please charge \$ _____ to my: Master Card Visa American Express

card holder's name

card number

exp. date: mo/yr

validation code

Signature

Please send your nonrefundable deposit for \$1000 per participant by mail or fax (see details at left)