



A Program of the Museum of Jewish Heritage



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.

Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow

The Jews of Poland

June 7–19, 2020



Detail from interior of Remuh Synagogue, Krakow.

Program Overview

Before World War II, Poland's 3 million Jews represented one of the largest and most influential Jewish communities in the world. The diverse community included Hasidim, secular Jewish intellectuals, Yiddish writers, Zionists, and socialists. Recently, a world-class museum opened in Warsaw, devoted to what Jewish life and culture were like in Poland. Jewish festivals in Kraków and other parts of Poland attract tens of thousands of people each year. Additionally, several universities have opened Judaic studies departments that have nurtured graduate students who have published impressive publications, bringing to life important aspects of Poland's astonishingly rich Jewish history and culture.

Join us on what promises to be a meaningful and fascinating trip—beginning in Warsaw, where a highlight will be a guided tour of the Museum of the History of Polish Jews, a museum that explores Poland's 1,000-year Jewish history. Additionally, in Warsaw, we will visit sites including the monument to the Warsaw Ghetto uprising, the memorial of Mila 18, and the Umschlagplatz—the site from which Jews were deported to Auschwitz and Treblinka.

From Warsaw, we will travel to historically rich Kraków, with a stop in Wrocław and an overnight in Łódź, where we will learn about the prosperous textile industry built by Jews and the role they played in this thriving industrial city. From there, we will continue to Kraków, once home to a flourishing Jewish presence. Here, we will explore the district of Kazimierz, with its many surviving synagogues, a prewar Jewish cemetery, and the largest medieval market square in Europe. Additionally, we will visit the Auschwitz-Birkenau State Museum and newly expanded Auschwitz Jewish Center.

Traveling with us throughout will be accompanying scholar Professor Sid Leiman, who, through lectures and on-site commentary, will help us appreciate the phenomenon and vibrancy of Jewish life in Poland over the centuries.

Tentative Daily Itinerary*

Sunday, June 7 | Warsaw

Afternoon: Check in to the 5-star, deluxe Bristol Hotel, superbly located near Warsaw's Old Town.

Evening: Overview by our scholar, Professor Sid Leiman, followed by orientation and an opportunity to get to know one another, followed by a welcoming dinner at our hotel (included)

Monday, June 8 | Warsaw

Depart hotel for a walking tour of Warsaw that will include the Old Town, Market Square, and the Barbican (surviving remnant of Old Town's defensive structure). Break for lunch on our own in the Old Market Square, an area filled with street vendors, cafés, shops, galleries, and some of Warsaw's top restaurants, all within easy walking distance.

Afternoon: After breaking for lunch on our own, visit the Warsaw Jewish cemetery—the largest in Europe and one of the largest Jewish cemeteries in the world. Many Jewish luminaries were buried here over the years; it comprises more than 200,000 marked graves as well as the mass grave of victims of the Warsaw Ghetto.

Evening presentation by Professor Leiman: *R. Yudel Rosenberg and the Creation of the Golem in Warsaw*, followed by dinner on our own

Tuesday, June 9 | Warsaw

Depart our hotel, by coach, for our morning's walk to Umschlagplatz (where the Jews were gathered for deportation to Treblinka); Mila 18 (site of Jewish fighting organization in the Ghetto uprising); and the Museum of the History of the Polish Jews. At the museum, we will have a private guided tour, with ample time for lunch on our own at the museum and visiting its gift shop.

Later this afternoon, we will visit the Nożyk Synagogue, where we will meet with the chief rabbi of Poland, Rabbi Michael Schudrich (or one of his assistants), and learn about Jewish life in Poland today.

Evening at leisure, dinner on our own

Wednesday, June 10 | Warsaw

This morning, we will visit the Jewish Historical Institute, once the main Judaica library and the first Jewish research and educational center in Europe. The most precious of its collections is the Ringelblum Archive, found in the ruins of the Warsaw Ghetto. First unearthed in 1946 (a second trove was come upon by chance in 1950; a known third part is still missing) and containing more than 6,000 documents, it is a veritable treasure, shedding light on what Jewish life was like in the Warsaw Ghetto.

Following a break for lunch on our own, we will visit the National Museum of Warsaw for a private guided tour, highlighting the "Polish–Jewish Exchange" through works of art from the 19th and 20th centuries. The tour will cover Jewish themes in Polish art as well as contributions of Jewish collectors and patrons. Especially prominent on this tour are works of artists Maurycy Gottlieb, Moïse Kisling, Eugeniusz Zak, and Henryk Berlewi.

Evening presentation by Professor Leiman: *Jewish Confrontation with Modernity*

Tentative Daily Itinerary* (cont'd.)

Thursday, June 11 | Lodz

We will depart Warsaw for Lodz, where Jews were an integral part of the textile industry in the early 20th century. Lodz was known as the “Manchester of Poland,” and Jewish families owned 175 factories, including the I. K. Poznanski factory, one of the largest textile plants in Europe. Upon arrival in Lodz, we will break for lunch on our own before a visit to the Radegast train station historical site and the Lodz Jewish cemetery. We will check in to the Vienna House hotel, originally part of Poznanski’s textile factory and today a top hotel with artworks throughout its premises.

Evening at leisure, dinner on our own

Friday, June 12 | Wrocław

Depart Lodz for Wrocław, formerly known as the German city of Breslau. Upon arrival in Wrocław, we will visit its impressive Jewish cemetery, reopened in 1991 after many years of neglect. The beauty and diversity of styles and symbols on display are perhaps unmatched—so much so that it is now known as the Museum of Jewish Cemetery Art, in tribute to the craftsmanship of its sepulchral art. Many noteworthy figures are buried here, including renowned biologist Ferdinand Cohn, historian Heinrich Graetz (author of the first complete history of the Jews), Clara Immerwahl (first female PhD student at the University of Breslau and wife of Fritz Haber; she committed suicide in objection to her husband’s work in developing chemical warfare), Ferdinand Lassalle (founder and leader of the first labor party in Germany, killed in a duel), and the parents of Edith Stein.

Break for lunch on our own in the Old Market Square, before a walking tour of Old Town and checking in to the Art Hotel. Time to rest and relax before Shabbat dinner (included) at our hotel.

Saturday, June 13 | Wrocław

Morning: Free, or (optional) attend services at the Jewish community prayer room (next to the White Stork Synagogue, including kiddush with the congregation)

Afternoon: (Optional) walking tour, including the White Stork Synagogue, the Little Synagogue, Takowa Street (monument to the New Synagogue, which was torched during Kristallnacht), and Świdnicka Street (former Jewish theater).

Evening talk by Professor Marcin Wodziński, director of the Center for the Culture and Languages of the Jews, as well as the Department of Jewish Studies at the University of Wrocław and the author of several books and articles. Dr. Wodziński’s special fields of interest are the social history of the Jews in 19th-century Poland, the regional history of the Jews in Silesia, and Jewish sepulchral art.

Sunday, June 14 | Kraków

Depart Wrocław for Kraków. En route, visit Katowice for a private, guided tour of the Silesian Museum (one of the largest in Poland), which contains works of Polish art, including some remarkable portraits by Stanisław Wyspiański.

Upon arrival in Kraków, we will check in to the 5-star deluxe Sheraton Kraków, with time to rest and relax before a late-afternoon walking tour of Kraków’s Old Town and the Rynek. A UNESCO World Heritage site, the Old Town is a 13th-century medieval town and the largest of its kind in Europe. Dinner (included) at our hotel.

Tentative Daily Itinerary* (cont'd.)

Monday, June 15 | Kraków

Welcome and lecture by Maciek Zabierowski, coordinator of the Learning and Special Projects division at the Auschwitz Jewish Center. Maciek will be our guide for the day as we tour the Kazimierz District and visit its important Jewish sites. Some sites we will see in the Jewish district include the Alte Schul; the Remuh, Isaac, High, and Tempel Synagogues; the former Jewish streets and marketplace; and the old Jewish cemetery.

Lunch on our own before visiting the former Ghetto area: the new memorial on the Deportation Square and the remnants of the Ghetto wall from 1941. Our last stop of the day will be the Galicia Museum, documenting remnants of the Galitziener heritage in Poland and Ukraine today.

Evening presentation by Professor Leiman: *Lifeboat Ethics*, followed by dinner on our own

Tuesday, June 16 | Kraków

Today, we will visit the Auschwitz Jewish Center for a tour and a light lunch (included), followed by a guided tour of Auschwitz itself. The Auschwitz Jewish Center (AJC) in Oświęcim, operated by the Museum of Jewish Heritage, is just two miles from the Auschwitz-Birkenau death camps. The only Jewish presence in the vicinity of Auschwitz, the center opened its doors in 2000 so that people from around the world could gather to learn, pray, and remember the victims of the Holocaust. Evening discussion led by Professor Leiman, where we will process and discuss together our experience at Auschwitz.

Wednesday, June 17 | Kraków

This morning, we will visit Oskar Schindler's enamel factory (formerly a factory, now host to two museums and made famous by Steven Spielberg's film *Schindler's List*), as well as visit Plaszow, a former forced-labor camp and an important memorial dedicated to the Polish Jews.

Afternoon: (Optional) visit to Wieliczka salt mine

Evening at leisure, dinner on our own

Thursday, June 18 | Kraków

Morning tour of the Wawel Castle (seat of the Polish monarchs until 1596), including Wawel Cathedral and Dragon's Cave), within walking distance of our hotel.

Lunch on our own; afternoon free to rest, continue exploring Kraków on our own, or for any last-minute shopping.

Evening: Festive closing dinner (included)

Friday, June 19

Depart for home.

Accommodations



Warsaw – Hotel Bristol

Situated on the famous Royal Route, in the heart of Warsaw, for over 100 years the 5 star Hotel Bristol has served as Warsaw’s most distinguished destination. With a majestic neo-renaissance facade, romantic interiors, and Art Deco elegance, the Bristol is just steps away from Nowy Swiat — the most fashionable street in Warsaw. Recently renovated, the Bristol combines incomparable beauty and luxury with a prestigious blend of history and culture. The exquisite guest rooms reflect an engaging mix of comfort, discreet elegance, and state-of-the-art technology.



Lodz – Andel’s Hotel

The deluxe Andel’s is an historic red brick façade, housed in a former weaving mill on the grounds of Manufaktura, the city’s premiere shopping, arts and cultural center. Its unique architecture is a combination of colors and forms, design and material, warmth and hospitality. Superbly located, with its large windows and light colors ensure a spacious, airy feel. The hotel’s rooms combine modern design and technology in a modern setting.



Wroclaw – Art Hotel

The elegant and stylish Art Hotel is located in the cultural heart of Wroclaw just a few blocks from the Market Square. From the hotel, it is a short walk to theatres, museums, art galleries and numerous restaurants and pubs. The hotel’s decor includes wall paintings, ceramics, wooden ceiling beams, portals and stuccos; its rooms are cozy and furnished with stylized furniture, picturesque fabrics and flowers. Located in a beautiful 16th century tenant house, the Art Restaurant and Cafe are one of the most intriguing places in Wroclaw.



Krakow – Sheraton Hotel

The five star Sheraton Grand Krakow is ideally located on the bank of Wisla River, within walking distance of the historic Wawel Castle, “Old Town,” and the famous Kazimierz district. This hotel has three restaurants including the Roof Top Terrace with views over Wawel Castle and Wisla River. Spa services, a fitness center, and a sauna are also onsite, as well as an indoor pool. Considered Krakow’s finest hotel, all its rooms have been beautifully restored featuring a residential ambiance.

Traveling with You...



Sid Leiman, PhD, is professor emeritus of Jewish history and literature at Brooklyn College, and he teaches at the Bernard Revel Graduate School of Yeshiva University. He has taught at Harvard, Yale, and Oxford, as well as the Hebrew University in Jerusalem. Author of *Rabbinic Responses to Modernity* (2007) and *The Canonization of Hebrew Scripture* (1991), as well as hundreds of articles and numerous publications, Dr. Leiman has contributed entries to *Encyclopaedia Britannica* and *Encyclopaedia Judaica*. He frequently leads Jewish historical tours to Central and Eastern Europe.



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Program Details

Program Cost: \$6,530 (plus \$54 Museum of Jewish Heritage fee for nonmembers)

Includes:

- Twelve nights' accommodations at deluxe hotels*
- Full breakfast daily; one lunch; four dinners
- All group transportation via deluxe air-conditioned coach.

**Per person, double occupancy; single supplement (\$900) and gratuities (\$165) additional.*

To reserve your place, please complete the registration form (online or print) and submit with a nonrefundable deposit of \$1,000 per person (payable to the Jewish Heritage Travel Program). A second nonrefundable deposit of \$1,000 per person is due on December 5, 2019.

Balance is due in full by February 5, 2020.

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 HeritageTravel 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 that of the group in general.

Registration Information

How to register

Online jhtravel.org

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

To register by telephone, call our office

845.256.0197

Monday-Friday, 10am-5pm

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.

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

Cancellations 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.**



Jewish Heritage Travel

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Registration Form:

Trip title/country

Dates of travel

CONTACT INFORMATION

Name

Address

City State Zip

Email address

Phone number Cell phone number

PARTICIPANT NAMES:

Museum Member

Yes No

Yes No

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

Make your deposit by check or credit card.

- Enclosed is a check made payable to Jewish Heritage Travel Program
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 non-refundable deposit for \$1000 per participant by mail or fax.

MAIL
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845.256.0196

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