



JEWISH HERITAGE TRAVEL

A program for the
Museum of Jewish Heritage

Call us: **845.256.0197**

Monday-Friday
10am-5pm

Send an Email:
contact@jhtravel.org

Visit the website
jhtravel.org



Our travels will take us from Frankfurt to Mainz, Baden-Baden, and Strasbourg

Birthplace of Ashkenazi Jewry

ALSACE

& THE RHINELAND

OCTOBER 25 - NOVEMBER 5, 2021

The Jewish history of Alsace and the Rhineland is both tragic and triumphant. The area was the focus of the massacres of the First Crusade in 1096 as well as the center of a flourishing culture. Here Jews were oppressed and persecuted throughout the centuries. And here they thrived and created the foundation of Ashkenazi Jewish life.

Jews have lived in Frankfurt continuously for nearly 900 years, longer than in any other German city, but most likely since the court of Charlemagne as well as when the Romans were there. They worked as merchants, bankers, politicians, philanthropists, artists, and scientists. Our trip will begin in Frankfurt, where we will learn about Mayer Amschel Rothschild (progenitor of the Rothschild dynasty), artist Moritz Oppenheim, and philosophers Martin Buber and Franz Rosenzweig. Moving on to Worms, we will visit the site of the yeshiva where the legendary “teacher of all Israel,” Rabbi Solomon Yitzchaki—known popularly as Rashi—studied, the ancient (1034) synagogue, and the haunting medieval cemetery.

Traveling westward, we will go deeper into Alsace, home to a hundred Jewish settlements in the villages and towns surrounding Strasbourg. In these villages, almost all bereft of their Jewish population, are magnificent synagogues and museums that preserve the unique traditions of Ashkenaz. We will find Strasbourg to be vital and lively, filled with an array of Jewish communal institutions, including a synagogue that is a center for Ashkenazic as well as Sephardic Jews. Its historic city center was classified as a World Heritage Site, and it has functioned as a bridge between French and German culture and as a living testament to the possible coexistence of Protestants, Catholics, Muslims, and Jews.

We invite you to join us on this fascinating and informative exploration of the birthplace of Ashkenazi Jewry!

TRAVEL
WITH THE MUSEUM OF
JEWISH HERITAGE



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Day-by-day itinerary

Monday, October 25

Frankfurt

Arrive in Frankfurt, located on the Main River, known to be Germany's oldest Jewish settlement. Check in to our deluxe hotel and rest and relax.

Evening: Introduction by our scholar in residence, Rabbi Chaim Seidler-Feller, The First Crusade and the Decimation of the Jewish Rhineland, followed by an opportunity to get to know one another and opening dinner at our hotel (included).

Tuesday, October 26

Frankfurt

Our morning will start with a walk to the Jewish Museum of Frankfurt, housed in what once was the "Rothschild Palais," for a private guided tour. In 1987, when the city of Frankfurt began constructing a building for the public utilities company, workers discovered foundations of houses from the city's former Jewish quarter, the Judengasse. After considerable protest, parts of the archaeological excavations were reconstructed and made accessible to the public as a museum, so that the museum, the old Jewish cemetery, and the memorial to the deported Jews of Frankfurt are now visible as a historical ensemble. Additionally, we will visit the nearby Judengasse Museum, which illustrates 300 years of everyday life of Frankfurt's Jews.

Evening lecture by Chaim Seidler-Feller, *Ashkenazic Pietists and Their Mystical-Ascetic Theology*, followed by dinner on our own.

Wednesday, October 27

Mainz

Today we will visit Mainz, hometown of the first printer of the Bible, Johann Gutenberg, and an important center of rabbinical scholarship during the Middle Ages. This attractive town on the Rhine was home to Rabbi Jacob ben Moses Moellin (the Maharil), spiritual leader of the Jews of Germany, Austria, and Bohemia, as well as of the eminent Kalonymus dynasty of rabbis. The small Mainz synagogue, part of the post-World War II Mainz Jewish Community Center, is an architectural gem. Its ark contains three Torah scrolls that survived Kristallnacht. The Mainz Regional Museum, which we will visit, displays several 12th-century Jewish tombstones, including that of Gershom ben Judah (d. 1049), who was commonly known to scholars of Judaism by the title *Rabbeinu Gershom Me'Or Hagolah* ("Our teacher Gershom the light of the exile"). Additionally, we will visit Mainz's Saint Stephen's Church, which contains Germany's only stained-glass windows by Marc Chagall.

Evening lecture by Chaim Seidler-Feller, *The Napoleonic Sanhedrin and the Assimilation of French Jewry*, followed by dinner on our own.

Thursday, October 28

Frankfurt

We will begin this morning with a tour of Frankfurt's Altstadt (Old Town), where many historical buildings surround the square, including the city hall (Römer). Römerberg was reconstructed after World War II and gives visitors an idea of the beauty and character of the area from the time of the Middle Ages. Following a break for lunch on our own in Old Town, we will continue on to the West End Synagogue for a tour and to meet members of the Jewish community. The West End Synagogue is the only synagogue to have survived Kristallnacht.

Following lunch (included), we will visit the Städel Museum for a private guided tour. This museum contains one of the most important art collections in Germany, including works by such Old Masters as Jan van Eyck, Rembrandt, and Botticelli; modern art by Claude Monet, Pablo Picasso, and Edgar Degas, among others; and contemporary art by Francis Bacon, Yves Klein, and Jeff Wall. Notable Jewish artists' works at the museum include paintings by Max Liebermann and Lotte Laserstein.



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Friday, October 29 **Worms | Baden-Baden**

Morning departure from Frankfurt for Worms, one of the leading centers of Jewish life in the Rhineland. Upon arrival in Worms, we will visit a synagogue that dates back to the early 11th century; and Rashi House (today a museum, named after Rashi, Rabbi Shlomo Yitzchaki, 11th-century author of the most important comprehensive commentary on the Talmud and Torah) as well as the Worms Jewish cemetery, one of the oldest cemeteries in Europe.

Following a break for lunch (included), we will head to Baden-Baden. Nestled in a beautiful landscape along the border of the Black Forest, this elegant, international, world-famous spa town is the perfect place to enjoy art and culture, as well as the museums of the “Cultural Mile” and the elegant boutiques in “Old Town” and shops along the historic Kurhaus Colonnade. In Baden-Baden, we will check in to Brenners Park-Hotel & Spa in time to rest and relax before Shabbat dinner (included).

Saturday, October 30 **Baden-Baden**

Morning: Attend services at the Baden-Baden synagogue, or rest and relax at our hotel.

Afternoon: Free or, a private guided tour of the Museum Frieder Burda, where we will focus on German Jewish Expressionist artists. The museum, designed by renowned New York celebrity architect Richard Meier, is a sparkling jewel in Baden-Baden. Its architecture and design, renowned for its natural light and elegant layout, is truly unique—much like the collection itself, which contains a number of old masterpieces.

Remainder of the day free to enjoy the spa, shop, or visit sites of interest on our own.

Evening: Free; dinner on our own.

Sunday, October 31 **Strasbourg**

Depart Baden-Baden for Strasbourg, a city of contrasts. The language is French, but the architecture, food, and wine are overwhelmingly German. Cities and towns all over Alsace have German names, and many streets are a French-German hybrid—for example, rue Unter den Linden. Here the clash of history is evident everywhere because over the centuries, Alsace changed from French to German hands and back again many times.

Along our journey to Strasbourg, we will visit towns and synagogues in Haguenau, Pfaffenhofen (its recently restored synagogue is now designated as a national monument) and Bouxwiller. In Bouxwiller, we will visit the old synagogue saved from demolition, and the Judeo-Alsatian museum, dedicated to the culture and art of Judaism in Alsace. After lunch (included), we will continue to Strasbourg and check in to the Régent Petite France Hotel, our base for the remainder of the tour. Dinner (included).

Monday, November 1 **Colmar | Strasbourg**

Morning visit to Colmar, with its painted and carved old houses, one of the loveliest towns in Alsace. In Colmar, tour the Bartholdi (architect and sculptor of the Statue of Liberty) Museum, and view the famous Ingelsheim triptych altarpiece by Matthias Grünewald, located in the Musée Unterlinden. Lunch on our own in Colmar.

Return to Strasbourg; remainder of the day free.

Evening lecture by Chaim Seidler-Feller, *Rashi and the Emergence of a Talmudic (or Jewish Learning) Culture in Ashkenaz*, following by a festive closing dinner.



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Tuesday, November 2

Strasbourg

Strasbourg is today home to some 16,000 Jews and an important place for us to visit as we explore the province's rich Jewish history. The rue des Juifs (street of the Jews), over 1,600 years old, was the Roman east-west road and the heart of the old Jewish quarter and is one of Strasbourg's oldest streets.

Our morning will begin with a walking tour of La Petite France, the most picturesque district of old Strasbourg, a "haven of peace" in the heart of the Old City. After lunch on our own in La Petite France, we will visit the Notre Dame Cathedral, with statues of Synagoga and Ecclesia and Jewish tombstones dating back to the 10th century in the Musée de l'Oeuvre nearby.

Wednesday, November 3

Struthof | Benfeld | Obernai

We will begin today by traveling south to Struthof, where we will visit the European Centre on Resistance and Deportation. Site of the former Natzweiler-Struthof camp, it is an important place of remembrance for all those murdered by the Nazis. Lunch (included) along the way before visiting the small towns of Benfeld and Obernai, with their charming synagogues.

In Obernai, a fascinating tourist town, traces of the old Jewish community can still be seen. For example, on ruelle des Juifs, an arched doorway with an engraving in Hebrew signals the entrance to the old synagogue, dating to 1454; and on rue du Général-Gouraud, an arch bears the Hebrew date 5456 (1696 C.E.), as well as an illustration of two blessing hands carved in stone with the inscription "The master, Rabbi Samson, the Cohen." Along the walls of the synagogue are vestiges of a Jewish community house built circa 1750 with traces of the Holy Ark and altar with hammered lilies that recall how the French kings protected the Jews of Alsace. When the old synagogue became too small, it was deconsecrated in 1876 and replaced by a neo-Romanesque edifice that is still in use today.

Evening lecture by Chaim Seidler-Feller, *A Jewish Revival in Early 20th-Century Germany: Franz Rosenzweig, Martin Buber, and the Frankfurt Jewish Lehrhaus*, followed by dinner on our own.

Thursday, November 4

Strasbourg

Morning: Guided visit to the Alsatian Museum of Strasbourg. The museum provides a charming tour of old Strasbourg homes connected by wooden staircases and passageways. It presents thousands of objects that illustrate rural life in Alsace in the 18th and 19th centuries, including rooms devoted to Judaism.

Afternoon free for personal sites of interest and/or last minute shopping.

Closing festive dinner (included)

Friday, November 5

Depart for home

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



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Accommodations



Steigenberger Frankfurter Hof—Frankfurt

In the heart of the financial district and the historical city center, this hotel has been welcoming since 1876. The Main Tower, Römer, and Paulskirche are only a few steps away, and the central station is a 15-minute walk. There is a chic breakfast eatery, an acclaimed French restaurant, and a charming brasserie with a terrace, along with a cozy bar offering afternoon tea. Other amenities include a gym, plush spa, and barbershop.



Brenners Park Hotel & Spa—Baden-Baden

Centrally located in the renowned German spa town of Baden-Baden, Brenners Park-Hotel & Spa is an urban oasis set in a private park facing the famous Lichtentaler Allee. A combination of elegance, tradition, and innovative contemporary concepts are hallmarks of this resort. It features a state-of-the-art spa with connecting medical care curated by the finest professionals. Fritz & Felix, one of the hotel's two fine restaurants, appeals to both a local and international clientele with its modern, urban lifestyle and a cuisine that is as authentic as it is original.



Régent Petite France—Strasbourg

On the banks of the river Ill and in the heart of La Petite France district, this refined spa hotel is a 10-minute walk from Cathédrale Notre Dame de Strasbourg. Its serene rooms, some with exposed beams and river views, are all unique in shape and style. Within the hotel is a sleek restaurant and chic champagne bar with terrace. Other amenities include a sauna, hammam, and terrace with a hot tub.



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Traveling with you...



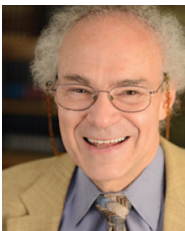
Trip Leader: Jo Fisher

Jo Fisher has been working with and assisting Dr. Aryeh Maidenbaum in designing, organizing, and leading educational travel programs for over 20 years. With degrees in education and art, and a strong background in event planning, Jo's research, planning, and site visits insure our itineraries combine a focus on content with the comfort and deluxe accommodations our participants have come to expect. Additionally, her help in coordinating and personalizing their own, individual travel plans has made travel seem seamless and personally meaningful for our many participants.



Trip Guide: Lucy Rapoport

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 twenty years. Specializing in Europe, Lucy has accompanied previous Jewish groups to such places as Lithuania, Krakow, Prague, Berlin, Croatia, Spain, Romania, Serbia, France, 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.



Accompanying Scholar: Chaim Seidler-Feller

Chaim Seidler-Feller recently celebrated his fortieth year of working with students and faculty as the Executive Director of the Hillel Center for Jewish Life at UCLA. Currently Director Emeritus, also serves as Director of the Hartman Fellowship for Campus Professionals. An ordained Rabbi, he also completed a Masters in Rabbinic Literature. Chaim has been a lecturer in the Departments of Sociology and Near Eastern Languages and Cultures at UCLA and in the Department of Theological Studies at Loyola Marymount University. He is also a faculty member of the Shalom Hartman Institute, North America, and of the Wexner Heritage Foundation and was rabbinic consultant to Barbra Streisand during the making of the film Yentl. The International Hillel Center has granted Chaim the Hillel Professional Recognition Award "for blending the love of Jewish tradition with the modern intellectual approach of the university."



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What's included

Program Cost: \$6980*
(plus \$54 Museum of Jewish Heritage fee for nonmembers)

- Eleven nights' accommodations at deluxe hotels*
- Full breakfast daily; four lunches; five dinners
- All group transportation via deluxe air-conditioned coach
- All lectures, presentations, guided tours, and site entrance fees

*Per person, double occupancy; single supplement (\$1,500) and gratuities (\$165) additional.

To reserve your place, please complete the registration form and submit with a nonrefundable deposit of \$1,500 per person (payable to the Jewish Heritage Travel Program).

Registration Information

Participation Limited to 28 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, and 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 *strongly 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 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.

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, sickness, 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, sickness, 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, viruses, weather, strikes, hostilities, wars, terrorist acts or acts of nature, local laws, or other causes. Jewish Heritage Travel and the Museum of Jewish Heritage are not responsible for any baggage or personal effects of any individual participating in one of their respective trips. In the event it becomes necessary or advisable for any reason whatsoever to alter the itinerary or arrangements, such alterations, including hotels, guides or scholars, may be made without penalty. All rights are 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.



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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
27 North Chestnut St
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

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Birthplace of Ashkenazi Jewry: ALSACE & THE RHINELAND

OCTOBER 25 - NOVEMBER 5, 2021, 2021

Museum Member ☐ Yes ☐ No

Participant name

Address

City

State

Zip

Email address

Phone number

Cell phone number

Deposit Make your deposit by check or credit card.

☐ Enclosed is a check made payable to Jewish Heritage Travel for \$_____.

☐ Please charge \$_____ to my: ☐ Master Card ☐ Visa ☐ AmerEx

Card holder's name

Card number

exp. date: mo/yr

validation code

Signature

Additional participant names:

Museum Member ☐ Yes ☐ No

Museum Member ☐ 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).

How did you hear about us?