

Jewish Renewal in Poland

Led by Rabbi Haim Beliak
June 26- July 9, 2018

(As of 2/9/18)



Day 1: Tuesday, June 26, 2018: DEPARTURE

- We depart the United States on our overnight flight to Warsaw. (Contact Ayelet Tours for flights).

Day 2: Wednesday, June 27, 2018: WELCOME TO POLAND!

- Today, we meet our local guide at our hotel to begin our journey together.
- This afternoon, we enjoy a visit to the new **POLIN Museum**, where we learn about the history of the Polish Jews.
- Tonight, we join together for a **welcome dinner** with fellow travelers.

Overnight in Warsaw

Day 3: Thursday, June 28, 2018: WARSAW – MAJDANEK - LUBLIN

- Breakfast and check out of our hotel.
- This morning, we return to the **POLIN Museum** for additional study and exploration.
- This afternoon, we depart Warsaw and travel to the **Majdanek Death Camp**. In this terrible spot, more than 80,000 people were killed, including 18,000 Jews from Lublin, during the largest two-day, single location murder of the entire Holocaust.
- We continue to nearby **Lublin**, a city that once served as one of the most important centers of Jewish life, commerce, culture and scholarship in Europe.
- We check in to our hotel and enjoy an evening at leisure and dinner on own.

Overnight in Lublin



Day 4: Friday, June 29, 2018: LUBLIN TO KRAKOW



- Breakfast and check out of our hotel.
- We begin our day with a **guided tour of Lublin**, including a visit to the **Brama Grodzka**, the **Castle** and the **Cathedral**, as well as several other historical sites.
- Next, we visit the **Medical Academy** building, which was once one of the largest Yeshivot in the world, known as “the school of the sages of Lublin”.
- We depart for **Luncut**, where we view the **synagogue** and have time for lunch on own.
- This afternoon, we continue to **Krakow** to check in to our hotel and refresh.
- As the sun begins to set, we join together for **Shabbat services** at the **Temple Synagogue**, followed by **Shabbat dinner** at our hotel.

Overnight in Krakow

Day 5: Saturday, June 30, 2018: SHABBAT SHALOM!

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- Option to attend Shabbat services this morning.
- Enjoy the day at leisure to attend the **Krakow Jewish Culture Festival**, which features programs throughout the day and concerts in the evening.
- Dinner on own tonight.

Overnight in Krakow

Day 6: Sunday, July 1, 2018: JEWISH KRAKOW

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- Today, we begin with a **Jewish heritage tour** of Krakow. We start in the **Old Jewish district** known as **Kazimierz**, where we see the **Old Synagogue**, a massive fortress-like building erected in the 15th and 16th centuries. We also see the **Temple** and the **Remuh Synagogue**.
- Our next stop is at the **Krakow JCC**, where we meet with Executive Director, **Jonathan Ornstein** to hear about the incredible rebirth of Jewish life in Krakow.
- We continue to the **Little Monument at the Drug Store** inside the Jewish ghetto, followed by a visit to **Schindler’s factory**, where he employed hundreds of Jews, saving them from the concentration camps.
- We stop at the **Galicia Jewish Museum** to see the photo exhibitions documenting the remnants of the once vibrant Jewish life and culture in Polish Galicia.
- Tonight, we enjoy **dinner** with a Polish political scientist at a local restaurant, including a fascinating discussion of the Polish political landscape today.

Overnight in Krakow



Day 7: Monday, July 2, 2018: AUSCHWITZ-BIRKENAU

- Breakfast and check out of our hotel.
- This morning, we travel to **Auschwitz-Birkenau**, the infamous Nazi concentration camps where many Jews and others perished in WWII. Here, we see the museum and pay tribute to the victims.
- We will also visit the **synagogue** in the adjacent town of Auschwitz (Oswiecim).
- We continue to **Czestochowa** and check in to our hotel.
- Enjoy the evening at leisure and dinner on own.



Overnight in Czestochowa

Day 8: Tuesday, July 3, 2018: CZESTOCHOWA

- Breakfast and check out of our hotel.
- This morning, we visit the **Yasna Gora Monastery**, known for the blackened picture of the Virgin Mary, popularly called the “Black Madonna”.
- Next, we stop at the **Jewish Museum of Czestochowa** to learn about the more than 30,000 Jews who lived in this Polish town before the Nazi invasion.
- This afternoon, we travel to **Kielce**, where we check in to our hotel and enjoy an evening at leisure and dinner on own.

Overnight in Kielce

Day 9: Wednesday, July 4, 2018: KIELCE TO LODZ

- Breakfast and check out of our hotel.
- Today, we participate in events surrounding the community’s observance of the anniversary of the Kielce pogrom, including a memorial concert (details TBA).
- Later this afternoon, we continue to **Lodz** to check in to our hotel.
- Spend the evening at leisure and enjoy dinner on own.

Overnight in Lodz

Day 10: Thursday, July 5, 2018: TO WARSAW

- Breakfast and check out of our hotel.
- We begin our day with a **tour of Lodz**. The history of the city was shaped by the contributions of four peoples: Polish, German, Jewish and Russian. Jews made up about one third of the city’s population and owned a third of all the factories. We set out on a specialized tour that will provide us with insight into the life and history of this important community.
- Our first stop is at the **Jewish cemetery**, the biggest in Europe, still preserved in its pre-war state on **Bracka Street**.



- Next, we visit the **Radegast railway station**, once the departure point to the death camps in Chelmno and Auschwitz.
- We tour the areas of the former **Litzmannstadt ghetto**, one of the most remarkable ghettos in Poland.
- Lastly, we view the only remaining **synagogue in Lodz**.
- We travel to **Warsaw** and check in to our hotel upon arrival.
- Evening at leisure and dinner on own.

Overnight in Warsaw



Day 11: Friday, July 6, 2018: DISCOVERING WARSAW

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- This morning, we visit the **Nozyk Synagogue** founded in 1900 and the only surviving pre-war Jewish house of prayer in Warsaw.
- We continue to the **Warsaw ghetto**, including a visit to the **Gensa cemetery**, the largest cemetery in Poland.
- Next, we visit the **Jewish resistance bunker at Mila 18**, the **Umschlagplatz**, where transfers from the ghetto took place, and pass by Janucz Kurczek's famous **orphanage**.
- We welcome **Shabbat** with members of **Beit Warsawa**, Warsaw's progressive congregation, followed by **Shabbat dinner** with members of the congregation, while learning about the Judaism alive in Poland today.

Overnight in Warsaw

Day 12: Saturday, July 7, 2018: TO GDANSK

- Breakfast and check out of our hotel.
- We attend **Shabbat services** at a local congregation.
- This afternoon, we travel to **Gdansk**. Upon arrival, we celebrate **Havdallah** at **Beit Trojmiasto** as Shabbat comes to an end.
- We check in to our hotel and enjoy an evening at leisure and dinner on own.

Overnight in Gdansk



Day 13: Sunday, July 8, 2018: TOURING GDANSK

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- Today, we **tour Gdansk** and hear about the history of the Jewish population, dating back to the 15th century. We see the place where the Great Synagogue stood until its destruction in 1939.
- Next, we visit the **Museum of the Second World War** as well as the **Polish post office**, where the militia defended against one of the first German attacks of WWII.
- Later this afternoon, we visit the **Gdansk shipyard**, site of the creation of the anti-communist solidarity movement in 1980 that helped liberate Poland from Soviet rule.
- Dinner on own tonight.



Day 14: Monday, July 9, 2018: DEPARTURE

- Breakfast and check out of our hotel.

THE MEMORIES LAST FOREVER!

**itinerary subject to change*

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