

## Exploring Poland plus a 7 Night Danube River Cruise

*Featuring Scholar in Residence*

**Prof. Natan Meir**

**July 1-17, 2018**

(As of 5/17/17)



*Led by the engaging and enlightening **Professor Natan Meir**, we will discover Poland from past to present. Wander through Warsaw, catching a glimpse of the former Jewish neighborhood (ghetto) and the Jewish Resistance Bunker at Mila 18. Visit the astounding new POLIN Museum, exploring the history of Polish Jews. Spend a day at Auschwitz-Birkenau processing the horrors of the Holocaust, balanced later that day by a warm and inviting Shabbat experience with members of Krakow's Jewish community. We'll then travel to Nuremberg to set sail aboard a luxurious **Viking Long Ship** for a journey of a lifetime along the Danube River. Professor Meir's presentations and touring commentary along the way will help create an immersive experience that will not soon be forgotten.*

### **Day 1: Sunday, July 1, 2018: DEPARTURE**

- We depart on our overnight flight to Warsaw, Poland.

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### **Day 2: Monday, July 2, 2018: WELCOME TO POLAND!**

- We arrive in Warsaw this morning, and are met by an Ayelet Tours representative.
- We begin our **tour of Warsaw** in **Old Town Market Square**, which was once leveled and rebuilt brick by brick. We enjoy pierogi, followed by a visit to **Lazienki Park**.
- Next, we visit the **Gensha Cemetery**, established in 1806, and containing approximately 250,000 graves, making it the largest cemetery in Poland.
- Check in to our hotel.
- We enjoy a **welcome dinner** together on our first night in Poland.

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### **Overnight in Warsaw**

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### **Day 3: Tuesday, July 3, 2018: WALKING TOUR IN WARSAW**

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- We begin our day with a walking tour of Warsaw. We start in the **Warsaw Ghetto** at the **Jewish Resistance Bunker at Mila 18**, where the commander of the Warsaw Ghetto uprising, Mordechai Anielwicz, took his life.
- Our next stop is at the **Keret House**, an art installation inserted between two existing buildings in the center of Warsaw by Israeli artist and author Etgar Keret. Young artists from a variety of fields are invited to join an artist-in-resident program at the “house”.
- We continue to the **Nozyk Synagogue**, founded in 1900 and the only surviving synagogue in Warsaw, where we enjoy a **lecture with our scholar, Professor Natan Meir**.
- We return to our hotel for time to relax and refresh.
- This evening, we enjoy **dinner** with local community members at **Beit Warsawa**.

### **Overnight in Warsaw**

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### **Day 4: Wednesday, July 4, 2018: THE NEW POLIN MUSEUM**



- Breakfast at our hotel.
- This morning, we visit **Alexksander Prugar & Helena Czernek**, young founders of contemporary design studio **Mi Polin**, the first brand to design and produce Judaica in Poland after World War II, the Holocaust and decades of Communism.

- We continue to the newly constructed **POLIN Museum (The Museum of the History of the Polish Jews)**, now opened on the site of the former Warsaw Ghetto. The museum provides a unique learning environment with a wide range of

media, documents and artifacts. We will see the amazing architecture in the main hall and hear from their excellent docents. Lunch on own here.

- Spend the remainder of the afternoon at leisure, discovering all that Warsaw has to offer on our own.
- Tonight, we attend a special **Chopin concert** in a beautiful setting, followed by dinner on own.

### **Overnight in Warsaw**

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## Day 5: Thursday, July 5, 2018: WARSAW TO KRAKOW

- Breakfast and check out of our hotel.
- We board the train for **Krakow** this morning (3 hours).
- Upon arrival, we set out for the historical district of Krakow, known as **Kazimierz**, where we see the **Old synagogue**, a massive fortress-like building erected in the 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> centuries. We also see the **Temple** and the **Ramuh Synagogue**. We continue to the **Little Museum at the Druf Store** in the Jewish Ghetto, and drive by **Schindler's Factory** and the memorial for the **Plaszow Concentration Camp**. Lunch (on own) along the way.
- We transfer to our hotel for check in.
- We enjoy a **lecture** with Professor Meir, preparing us for tomorrow's emotional visit.
- Spend the evening at leisure and have dinner on own at one of Krakow's many wonderful restaurants.

### Overnight in Krakow

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## Day 6: Friday, July 6, 2018: AUSCHWITZ-BIRKENAU

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- Today, we set out on a journey to **Auschwitz-Birkenau**, the infamous Nazi concentration camps where many Jews and others perished in World War II. Here, we see the museum and pay our respects to the victims.
- We return to Krakow for time to process our visit and refresh.
- As the sun begins to set, we enjoy **Shabbat services**, followed by **Shabbat dinner** at the **Krakow JCC**, with members of the community.



### Overnight in Krakow

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## Day 7: Saturday, July 7, 2018: SHABBAT SHALOM!

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- We begin our Shabbat morning in **Old Town**, a historic central district of Krakow and once the center of Poland's political life.
- Next, we have the chance to see the beautiful **Wawel Castle**, including state rooms, private royal apartments and more.
- Late afternoon **lecture** with Professor Meir.
- Stroll the streets of Krakow this afternoon and enjoy dinner on own at a local restaurant on our last night in town.

### Overnight in Krakow

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## **Day 8: Sunday, July 8, 2018: ALL ABOARD!**

- Breakfast and check out of our hotel.
- This morning, we fly today from Krakow to **Nuremberg, Germany**, to board our cruise ship.
- Check in to our staterooms, then spend the day (on own) discovering all that the ship and the city of Nuremberg has to offer.
- We meet for a **welcome reception and dinner** on board the ship this evening.
- Professor Meir will lecture this evening following dinner aboard the ship.

### **Overnight aboard our Viking Longship**

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## **Day 9: Monday, July 9, 2018: TOURING NUERMBERG**

- Breakfast aboard ship.
- This morning, we take a **tour of Nuremberg**, including the **Zeppelin Field**, the **Nazi parade grounds** of the 1930s and the **Palace of Justice**, where the Nuremberg Trials took place. We also make a brief stop at the main courthouse before walking from the imperial palace grounds, past the **Albrecht Durer House** and on to the **Main Market Square of Old Town**, enclosed within ancient city walls.
- We return to the ship for **lunch**.
- Following lunch, we enjoy a lively **discussion of the European Union** as we sail through the locks that comprise the **Main-Danube Canal**, stretching 106 miles from Bamberg on the Main River to Kelheim on the Danube.
- Pre-dinner **lecture** with Professor Meir.
- We enjoy **dinner** aboard the ship together this evening, as we cruise through the night.

### **Overnight aboard our Viking Longship**

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## **Day 10: Tuesday, July 10, 2018: REGENSBERG, GERMANY**

- Breakfast aboard ship.
- Our day begins as we meet our guide dockside for a **walking tour** through the scenic town of **Regensburg**, considered one of Europe's best-preserved medieval cities. We see a large group of 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>-century church spires, towers and patrician houses, and encounter the 12<sup>th</sup>-century **Old Stone Bridge**, **St. Peter's Cathedral** and several idyllic courtyards. We visit the museum called Dokument Neupfarrplatz, an underground museum of the city's Roman and Jewish history including excavation of medieval Jewish quarter.
- Free time to stroll through the streets or shop.



- This afternoon, you may choose to spend more time in Regensberg, visiting Germany's oldest restaurant, the Alte Würstküche, or on an **optional excursion to Kelheim**, located at the southernmost point of the Main-Danube Canal. On this excursion, travel by boat to Kelheim, then cast off on a ferryboat ride to explore the 400-foot chalk cliffs and dramatic scenery of the Danube Narrows. Visit the Weltenburg Abbey, famous for its dark ale, brewed here by monks since 1050.
- Pre-dinner **lecture** with Professor Meir.
- Return to our ship this evening for **dinner** and cruise through the night.

### **Overnight aboard our Viking Longship**

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#### **Day 11: Wednesday, July 11, 2018: PASSAU, GERMANY**

- Breakfast aboard ship.
- We arrive in **Passau, Germany** and set out for another day of adventure.
- Our **guided walk** takes us along the town's narrow streets through **Old Town**, past traditional patrician houses, including the **New Bishop Residence**. We also see the **St. Stephen's Cathedral**. Inside amongst the ornate interior of the cathedral, we are treated to a special **concert** played on the 17,000-pipe organ.
- We return to our ship for **lunch**, followed by more time to discover the city of Passau this afternoon on own before setting sail.
- **Dinner** together aboard our ship this evening.

### **Overnight aboard our Viking Longship**

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#### **Day 12: Thursday, July 12, 2018: KREMS, AUSTRIA**

- Breakfast aboard ship.
- Welcome to Austria! We spend the morning cruising leisurely through the **Waachau Valley**, a UNESCO World Heritage Site.
- Mid-morning **lecture** with Professor Meir.
- We enjoy the chance to taste some local Austrian specialties while taking in the riverside towns and castle ruins along the way.
- **Lunch** aboard the ship.
- After lunch, we arrive in **Krems**, with a chance to explore this time-honored town. We see the **Steiner Tor**, the last remaining city gate, as well as **Göttweig**, a working Benedictine abbey that owns several vineyards along the Danube. See the splendid ceiling fresco in the imperial stairwell, and visit the church to see the baroque architecture.
- Return to the ship to continue cruising while enjoying **dinner**.
- We arrive in **Vienna**, and enjoy a relaxing evening or take in an **optional concert** in the town known as the “City of Waltzes”

### **Overnight aboard our Viking Longship**

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### Day 13: Friday, July 13, 2018: A DAY IN VIENNA

- Breakfast aboard ship.
- Today, we tour the Austrian capital of **Vienna**. Take a ride along the **Ringstrasse**, which replaced the city walls in the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century. See some of the baroque architecture, including the world-famous **Opera House**, **St. Stephan's Cathedral** and **Hofburg Palace**.
- Return to our ship for **lunch**.
- The remainder of the day is yours to further explore Vienna on your own or choose to take an **optional tour to Schönbrunn Palace**, the “Versailles of Vienna”, erected in 1778 and graced by a number of formal gardens, Grecian statues, the world’s oldest **zoo** and Roman ruins. Or choose an afternoon visit (on your own) to the excellent **Jewish Museum and the Stadttempel**, the only Vienna synagogue to survive Kristallnacht.
- Pre-dinner **lecture** with Professor Meir.
- **Dinner** aboard the ship this evening.



### Overnight aboard our Viking Longship

### Day 14: Saturday, July 14, 2018: SHABBAT IN BUDAPEST



- Breakfast aboard ship.
- Shabbat Shalom! This morning, we arrive in **Budapest**, Hungary’s vibrant capital divided by the Danube River.
  - We set out on a **panoramic city tour** through the more modern Pest side of the city, driving along **Andrássy Avenue** and see the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century mansions, the **National Opera House**, **Parliament Building** and the **Chain Bridge**.
  - We stop in **Heroes’ Square** to learn more about Hungarian history, then cross the Danube to **Buda’s Castle District**. Walk up the hill to the **Fisherman’s Bastion** and **Matthias Church**. Enjoy brilliant views of the city below.

- Return to the ship for **lunch**.
- The remainder of the day is yours to explore both sides of the city.
- Pre-dinner **lecture** with Professor Meir.
- **Dinner** together aboard the ship this evening.

### Overnight aboard our Viking Longship



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## Day 15: Sunday, July 15, 2018: JEWISH HISTORY IN BUDAPEST

- Breakfast aboard ship.
- After breakfast, we disembark in **Budapest**.
- We spend our day visiting Jewish sites. Our first stop is at the **statue of Raoul Wallenberg**, a Swedish architect, businessman and humanitarian who is celebrated for saving tens of thousands of Jews in Nazi-occupied Hungary during the Holocaust.
- We see the moving Shoes on the Danube Bank memorial.
- Our next stop is at the impressive **Dohány Street Synagogue**, built between 1854 and 1859 in the Moorish Revival style. It is the largest synagogue in Europe and the second largest in the world.
- We continue to the **Jewish Cemetery** to pay our respects, followed by a visit to the adjacent **Magyar Zsidó Jewish Museum**.
- Visit the **Holocaust Memorial Center**, where we see several exhibitions, including *From Deprivation of Rights to Genocide*, a tribute to the Hungarian victims of the Holocaust.
- We check in to our hotel and enjoy an evening at leisure to discover Budapest and have dinner on our own.

### Overnight in Budapest

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## Day 16: Monday, July 16, 2018: FREE DAY IN BUDAPEST

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- Spend the day at leisure in Budapest, discovering the beautiful architecture, cafes and all the amazing sites this city has to offer.
- We enjoy a final **lecture** by Professor Meir, bringing closure to our incredible journey together
- We return to our hotel for relaxation and rest before heading out on the town for a **farewell dinner** together, recalling all that we have experienced together on this journey.



### Overnight in Budapest

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## Day 17: Tuesday, July 17, 2018: DEPARTURE

- Breakfast and check out of our hotel.
- We transfer to the airport for our flight back to the United States, landing later today.

**THE MEMORIES LAST FOREVER!**

*\*itinerary subject to change*

