

**Rabbi Ben Zeidman**  
**Temple Mount Sinai**  
**Jamie Flores, Executive Director**  
**El Paso Holocaust Museum**  
**Tour to Eastern Europe**  
**May 11-22, 2020**

(As of 4/30/19)



*Jewish history in Europe neither begins nor ends with the Holocaust. Together we will explore 1,000 years of Jewish history. We'll confront the horrors of the past, experience the nascent Jewish renewal of the present, and discuss the challenges that face a Jewish future in Europe.*

**DAY 1: Monday, May 11, 2020: DEPARTURE**

- We depart on our overnight flight to Prague.

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**DAY 2: Tuesday, May 12, 2020: ARRIVAL IN PRAGUE**

- We arrive in **Prague**, the Czech capital, also known as "the City of One Thousand Spires" with its Baroque churches, promenades, parks and ancient city walls.
- We check into our hotel.
- This afternoon, we enjoy a tour of Golden Prague, including the 1,000-year-old **Hradcany Castle** and **St. Vitus' Cathedral**.
- Tonight, we enjoy an orientation and **welcome dinner**.

**Overnight in Prague**

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**DAY 3: Wednesday, May 13, 2020: JEWISH PRAGUE**

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- Today, we stroll across the **Charles Bridge**, and visit the **Astronomical Clock**.
- Next, we enjoy a sightseeing tour of Jewish interest sites, with a visit to the **Old City** to view the **Josefov**, Prague's Jewish town with its **Old Town Hall**, the **Alt-Neu Synagogue**, the **Pinkas Synagogue**, the **Maisel Synagogue**, the **Spanish Synagogue**, and the **Jewish Cemetery**.
- Dinner on own tonight.

**Overnight in Prague**

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#### DAY 4: Thursday, May 14, 2020: TEREZIN

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- Today, we travel to **Terezin**, the former "model" Nazi concentration camp. We visit the **fortress, Jewish Cemetery, museum**, the hidden synagogue, the **memorial monument** and the town itself. While here, we see the plaque dedicated in memory of **Regina Jonas**, the first woman ordained a rabbi. We'll also hear stories and see photos of some of the great rabbis imprisoned here, including Leo Baeck, which hang on the wall of the main building.
- We return to Prague for an evening at leisure and dinner on own.

#### Overnight in Prague

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#### DAY 5: Friday, May 15, 2020: BUDAPEST

- Breakfast and check out of our hotel.
- We transfer to the airport for our short flight to **Budapest**, the capital of Hungary. Situated on the opposite banks of the Danube River, the former cities of Buda and Pest are linked by a series of graceful bridges.
- Our first stops in Budapest are the **Dohany Synagogue**, the largest synagogue in Europe, and the **Jewish Cemetery and Museum**.
- We continue to the **Raoul Wallenberg Memorial Statue**, named for the Swedish diplomat who saved thousands of Hungarian Jews from the Nazis.
- Before we check into our hotel, we stop at the “**Shoes on the Danube**” memorial created to honor those who were shot by the Arrow Cross militiamen during World War II.
- We return to the Dohany Synagogue, and enjoy **Shabbat services**, followed by **Shabbat dinner** together at our hotel.



#### Overnight in Budapest

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#### DAY 6: Saturday, May 16, 2020: JEWISH BUDAPEST

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- Enjoy the morning at leisure or join us at **Sim Shalom**, a Reform Progressive Congregation, for services with Rabbi Katalin Kelemen.
- This afternoon, we enjoy a panoramic bus tour of Budapest, including the **Parliament, the Royal Palace, the Castle Hill area, Fishermen's Bastion, Coronation Church, Hero's Square** and **Gellert Hill**.
- This evening, we join together for **dinner with wine** on an evening **private cruise on the Danube River** admiring the illuminated “Paris of the East”. We will be passing by the Elizabeth Bridge, Margaret’s Island and the Castle Hill with the Royal Palace.

#### Overnight in Budapest

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### DAY 7: Sunday, May 17, 2020: TO KRAKOW

- Breakfast and check out of our hotel.
- This morning, we depart for **Krakow**, driving through the lovely hills and countryside of Slovakia, past the Tatras and into the Great Plains of Poland.
- We check into our hotel and have time to relax and refresh.
- This evening, we enjoy **dinner** together with **Jonathan Ornstein**, executive Director of the **Krakow JCC**, who updates us on the many exciting projects they have undertaken in what is now a growing and flourishing Jewish community in the heart of Galicia.

#### Overnight in Krakow

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### DAY 8: Monday, May 18, 2020: AUSCHWITZ-BIRKENAU

- Breakfast at 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 return to Krakow and have the remainder of the afternoon to reflect.
- We enjoy **dinner** together this evening at a local restaurant.

#### Overnight in Krakow

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### DAY 9: Tuesday, May 19, 2020: KRAKOW

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- This morning, we enjoy a **Jewish heritage tour** that includes the **Old Jewish District, Kazimierz**, where we see the **Old Synagogue** (a massive fortress-like building erected in the 15th and 16th centuries), the "**Temple**," and the **Remuh Synagogue**.
- We pass by **Schindler's Factory** and the **Plaszow Concentration Camp**.
- This afternoon, we either:
  - Visit the **Wawel Castle, St. Mary's Church** and the **Renaissance Cloth Hall**, OR
  - Travel outside the city center to explore the UNESCO World Heritage **Wieliczka Salt Mines**, which are over 700 years old. It is one of the largest and oldest working salt mines in Europe and is on the UNESCO list of the 12 most priceless monuments of the world.
- Evening at leisure and dinner on own.



#### Overnight in Krakow

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## DAY 10: Wednesday, May 20, 2020: WARSAW PAST & PRESENT

- Breakfast and check out of our hotel.
- This morning we travel by train to **Warsaw**.
- Our bus meets us at the train station as we arrive and begin touring.
- After lunch on our own we drive through the **Warsaw Zoo**, where we visit the **Zookeeper's House** owned by the couple that saved many Jews during the Holocaust, now memorialized in the movie "*The Zookeeper's Wife*".
- Next, we enjoy a guided visit of the **POLIN Museum (The New Museum of the History of Polish Jews)**. The Hebrew word Polin means either Poland or "rest here" in English and is related to a legend of the arrival of the first Jews in Poland. The museum sits on the former site of the Warsaw Ghetto and features a multi-media narrative exhibition about the vibrant Jewish community that flourished in Poland for a thousand years.
- We check into our hotel.
- Tonight, we meet with members of the local progressive congregation in Warsaw. Afterwards, we enjoy **dinner** as we learn more about the Judaism alive in today's Poland.

### Overnight in Warsaw

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## DAY 11: Thursday, May 21, 2020: EXPLORING WARSAW

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- Today, we enjoy a city tour of Warsaw including **Chopin's Monument**, the **Royal Castle**, the **Jewish Historical Society**, and walk to **Old Town Market Square** and **Lazienki Park**.
- This afternoon, we have a sightseeing tour encompassing **Nozyk Synagogue** (the only surviving synagogue in Warsaw, founded in 1900), the **Warsaw Ghetto**, the **Jewish Resistance Bunker at Mila 18**, **Stawski Street buildings** (where the SS had their headquarters) and the **Gesia Cemetery** (established in 1806, containing the graves of about 250,000 people and known as the largest cemetery in Poland).
- Tonight, we enjoy a special **farewell dinner** together and a wonderful gala event, including a **Chopin concert**.

### Overnight in Warsaw

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## DAY 12: Friday, May 22, 2020: 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*

