



## American Conference of Cantors Musical Mission to **POLAND & PRAGUE**

**July 7-16, 2021**

(As of 6/10/19)



*Join the soaring voices of the American Conference of Cantors on a unique journey, as together we sing, pray, and explore through Europe.*

*Ours will be a mission of music and healing, featuring gala concerts, outstanding scholarship, connections with local communities and unforgettable touring geared towards Cantors and congregants alike.*

### **Day 1: Wednesday, July 7, 2021: DEPARTURE**

- Depart the United States on your overnight flight to Poland.

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### **Day 2: Thursday, July 8, 2021: WELCOME TO POLAND**

- Arrivals throughout the day in **Warsaw**. Transfers will be provided for all arrivals on this day from the airport and central train station (transfer times TBD based on flight list).
- We set out on a city tour of Warsaw, including stops at the **Royal Castle, Chopin's Monument, Beit Polska and Eitz Haim**.
- We join together for opening remarks, including a special guest speaker, followed by our **opening ceremony and mini concert/sing along** with the local Jewish community.
- We delight in a **welcome reception and dinner**.
- Return to our hotel or enjoy the remainder of the evening to explore Warsaw at night.

### **Overnight in Warsaw**

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### **Day 3: Friday, July 9, 2021: WARSAW'S JEWISH PAST**

- Breakfast at our hotels.
- We begin our day with a **Jewish heritage tour** beginning at the **Nozyk Synagogue**, the only surviving synagogue in Warsaw, founded in 1900. We continue to the **Umschlagplatz monument**, followed by the **Jewish Resistance Bunker at Mila 18** and the **Stawski Street buildings**, where the SS had their headquarters.
- We host a **memorial service** at the **Monument to the Ghetto Heroes** built by Jewish sculptor **Nathan Rapoport**, who was born in Warsaw.



- We take a docent-led tour of the astounding **Museum of the History of Polish Jews (POLIN)**. 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 nearly a thousand years.
- As the sun begins to set, we come together for **candle lighting** and **Kabbalat Shabbat** featuring the voices of the ACC, followed by **Shabbat dinner** this evening.

### Overnight in Warsaw

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#### Day 4: Saturday, July 10, 2021: SHABBAT SHALOM!

- Breakfast at our hotels.
- This morning, participate in a special musical interchange program with Polish non-Jewish youth, coordinated through the **Forum for Dialogue**, an organization dedicated to inspiring new connections between contemporary Poland and the Jewish people.
- This afternoon, discover **Old Town** on a walking tour through the cobblestone alleys. See the medieval buildings reconstructed after WWII, explore **Old Town Market Square** and view the **Presidential Palace**.
- We return to the main hotel for a **lecture** by one of our guest speakers.
- We enjoy a moving and melancholy **Havdalah** as we bid farewell to Shabbat, then set out on an evening at leisure to discover the city and enjoy dinner on own.
- **Option** to attend an elegant **Chopin concert** at a local palace.

### Overnight in Warsaw

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#### Day 5: Sunday, July 11, 2021: JEWISH KRAKOW

- Breakfast and check out of our hotels.
- This morning, we board our train to **Krakow**. Upon arrival, we check into our hotels and refresh. Our luggage is transferred by truck.
- We enjoy a tour of the Jewish interest sites, including the old Jewish district known as **Kazimierz**, where we visit the **Old Synagogue**, the “**Temple**” and the **Remuh Synagogue**.
- Later this afternoon, we visit the **Krakow JCC** and meet with Executive Director, **Jonathan Ornstein**, to share our music with the exciting and growing community.
- This evening, we enjoy a **concert** celebrating the rebuilding of the Krakow Jewish community with music originating from Poland and Central Europe.
- Dinner on own this evening.

### Overnight in Krakow

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## Day 6: Monday, July 12, 2021: THE DESTRUCTION OF EUROPEAN JEWRY

- Breakfast at our hotels.
- This morning, we hear a **lecture** by one of our guest speakers at the main hotel.
- We travel to **Auschwitz-Birkenau**, the infamous Nazi concentration camp, using personal stories and texts as a guide. We begin our visit with a **memorial service and shacharit**, followed by a visit to the **museum**. We walk through Birkenau with time for personal reflection, then join together as a group at the end of the train tracks for a meaningful memorial prayer.
- We return to Krakow for an afternoon at leisure.
- Dinner on own this evening.
- After dinner, we delight in an evening of music joined by members of Krakow's Progressive community.

### Overnight in Krakow

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## Day 7: Tuesday, July 13, 2021: KRAKOW TO PRAGUE

- Breakfast and check out of our hotels.
- Today, we pass by the **Little Museum at the Drug Store, Schindler's Factory** and stop at the memorial on the former site of the **Plaszow Concentration Camp**.
- We continue our tour as we see the **Wawel Castle, St. Mary's Church** and the **Renaissance Cloth Hall** in Krakow's ancient city center.
- This afternoon, we transfer to the airport for our flight to **Prague**. Luggage will be sent by truck and will await us at our hotels.
- Upon arrival, we enjoy a **lecture** by one of our guest speakers.
- We check into our hotels and enjoy the remainder of the afternoon and evening at leisure with dinner on own.

### Overnight in Prague

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## Day 8: Wednesday, July 14, 2021: GOLDEN PRAGUE

- Breakfast at our hotels.
- We begin our day with a tour of the former Jewish area known as the **Josefov**, with its **Old Town Hall, the Alt-Neu Synagogue, the Pinkas Synagogue, the Maisel Synagogue, the Jewish cemetery** and the **State Jewish Museum**.
- Our city tour encompasses visits to the **Hradcany Castle, the Charles Bridge** and the nearby **John Lennon Wall**, as well as the famous **Astronomical Clock** and **St. Vitus' Cathedral**.
- This afternoon, we visit and meet with leaders at **Bejt Simcha**, Prague's Progressive Jewish community.
- Dinner on own tonight.
- **Optional:** Attend a **classical music concert** at one of Prague's majestic concert halls (details & cost TBD).

### Overnight in Prague

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### Day 9: Thursday, July 15, 2021: TEREZIN

- Breakfast at our hotels.
- This morning, we have our final **closing lecture**.
- 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 also 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.
- Later this afternoon, we return to Prague for an afternoon at leisure.
- Tonight, we join together for a festive **farewell dinner**, followed by a **farewell concert**, including greetings by the Israeli Ambassador.

### Overnight in Prague

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### Day 10: Friday, July 16, 2021: DEPARTURE

- Breakfast and check out of our hotels.
- We transfer to the airport and train station for our flights back to the United States, landing later today.

## OR JOIN ONE OF OUR PRE-TOUR OPTIONS:

- **Vienna**
- **Budapest**
- **Berlin**
- **PLUS! Join the Pre-Pre Tour to Krakow, for the Krakow Jewish Culture Festival and the JCC Ride for the Living!**



**The Memories Last Forever!!**

*Itinerary subject to change*

