

Best-Day Adventures & Beyond
Tours for ALL ADULTS: couples, singles, married and beyond!
in cooperation with the JCC Krakow

Ride for the Living

BERLIN & KRAKOW

The Capitals of Modern European Jewry

June 26 – July 4, 2021 – DATES ESTIMATE

**For Bikers and Non-Bikers alike!*



Optional post-tour extension – Vienna, Austria

(As of 4/21/20)

Explore Berlin, Potsdam and Krakow by bike, foot and coach as we prepare for an unforgettable participating in the JCC Krakow's Ride for the Living. Learn about the rebirth of European Judaism as you explore these European capitals.

**Note: Itinerary will accommodate bikers and non-bikers, but content and order of features may differ slightly between the two.*

About the bike riding: All rides are mostly on nearly flat, paved terrain with an occasional mild grade. Bikes are included at no additional cost where riding is mentioned in the itinerary. Limited "e-bikes" are available to rent at an additional cost. Anyone riding in the 60-mile **Ride for the Living program is required to fundraise a minimum of \$1,000 for the Krakow JCC. Details to be provided.*

Day 1: Saturday, June 26, 2021: DEPARTURE

- We depart the United States on our overnight flight to Berlin.

Day 2: Sunday, June 27, 2021 WELCOME TO BERLIN!

- Welcome to **Berlin!** Upon arrival, we transfer to our hotel and meet our Ayelet Tours representative.
- We set out on a tour of **Checkpoint Charlie**, the famous Berlin Wall crossing point between East and West Berlin during the Cold War, to see it up close and learn more about this significant site.
- We continue our tour with a stop at the **Berlin Holocaust Museum** and the **Burning Book Memorial** at **Bebelplatz**, where the Nazis burned approximately 20,000 books in May 1933.
- We return to our hotel to check in and relax.
- This evening, we join together to enjoy a special **welcome program and dinner.**

Overnight in Berlin



Day 3: Monday, June 28, 2021: BERLIN

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- **Optional:** Choose to join an early morning **bike tour** of Berlin, along important points of interest, including:
 - **Brandenburg Gate** – 18th century neoclassical monument in Berlin
 - **Berlin Wall** – previously separated East and West Berlin
 - **Checkpoint Charlie** – famous Berlin Wall crossing point
 - **Site of Hitler’s bunker** – center of the Nazi regime in 1945
 - **Reichstag** – Parliament building
 - **Memorial to the Murdered Jews of Europe** – a Holocaust memorial created on the site of the former Berlin wall
- Next, we all join together to enjoy a walking tour of the **old Jewish quarter**, which is always evolving and changing. Along the way, we hear stories of Jewish life in Berlin from past to present as we visit the old and new synagogues, the oldest Jewish cemetery in Berlin, the **Grosse Hamberger Strasse cemetery**, where Moses Mendelssohn is buried, and even the former address of **Regina Jones**, the first female rabbi to be ordained.
- We visit the **NENI restaurant** to enjoy **lunch**, meet with Israeli chefs and learn about the culinary world in Berlin.
- This afternoon, we visit the **East Side Gallery**, an open-air art gallery featuring artwork painting on the Berlin Wall.
- We continue with a tour of the **Mitte**, Berlin’s historic center district and host to many of the city’s top attractions.
- This evening, we enjoy dinner on our own (“follow the leader” option will be offered). Those who wish may stay in the Mitte area to explore the bars, restaurants and unique nightlife now thriving in Berlin’s former Jewish district on our own.

Overnight in Berlin

Day 4: Tuesday, June 29, 2021: POTSDAM

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- Today, we travel to **Potsdam**. Along the way, we stop at the **Wannsee House**, where the Wannsee Conference took place and the “final solution” of the Jewish question was decided.
- Upon arrival in Potsdam, we begin our biking tour of the city (non-biking option runs parallel), starting with the **Cecilienhof Palace**, site of the Potsdam Conference, where allied leaders such as Truman, Churchill and Stalin met in 1945 to decide the fate of Germany, which surrendered weeks later.
- We also make a brief photo stop at the **Palace of Sanssouci**.
- We continue to **Zacharias Frankel College**, where many prospective rabbis come to study the Jewish texts and train to become Masorti/Conservative rabbis. The graduates from this college are the first to be ordained as rabbis in Germany since before WWII.
- We return to Berlin and visit the **Gleis 17 Memorial**, the train platform from which many of Berlin’s Jews were deported during WWII.
- Evening at leisure to explore and have dinner on our own (“follow the leader” option will be offered).



Overnight in Berlin



Day 5: Wednesday, June 30, 2021: MUSEUM ISLAND

- Breakfast and check out of our hotel.
- Today, we visit **Museum Island** to tour the many museums located there. We begin at the **Pergamon Museum**, built in 1930, containing reconstructed and immense historically significant buildings such as the Pergamon Altar and the Ishtar Gate. Also located here are the **Altes (Old) and Neues (New) Museums**, as well as the **Bode Museum** with a sculpture collection and late Antique and Byzantine art.
- This afternoon, we transfer to the airport for our flight to **Krakow**, connecting through Warsaw.
- Upon arrival, we check into our hotel and enjoy **dinner** together.

Overnight in Krakow

Day 6: Thursday, July 1, 2021: THE FESTIVITIES BEGIN

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- We join **Ride for the Living** for an opening ceremony at the **JCC Krakow**.
- This afternoon, we drive to **Auschwitz-Birkenau**, the infamous Nazi concentration camp, for a private tour with the JCC Krakow. We see the **museum** and pay tribute to the victims; over a million Jews and others that perished in World War II.
- We return to Krakow to enjoy a **“welcome to the ride” dinner** together.

Overnight in Krakow

Day 7: Friday, July 2, 2021: RIDE FOR THE LIVING

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- **Ride participants:** We travel by bus to **Auschwitz** and begin our 60-mile bike ride to the **JCC Krakow**. The ride is on a flat, enjoyable and meaningful route. Shorter 12, 30 and 45-mile ride options are available.
- **Non-riders:** We enjoy a **Jewish heritage tour** that includes the old Jewish town known as **Kazimierz**, where we see the **Old Synagogue**, a massive fortress-like building erected in the 15th century, the **“Temple”** and the **Remuh Synagogue**.
- We continue to the **Little Museum at the Drug Store** inside the Jewish Ghetto, then pass by **Schindler’s Factory** and the site of the **Plaszow Concentration Camp**, now a Polish history museum.
- This evening, everyone joins together for **Shabbat dinner** with over 600 cycling participants and the local Jewish community and guests from around the world; the biggest Shabbat dinner in Krakow since before WWII.



Overnight in Krakow

Day 8: Saturday, July 3, 2021: DISCOVERING KRAKOW

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- Today, we enjoy **city tours** led by the JCC Krakow and the Ride for the Living.
- This evening, we join 20,000 people for **Havdalah** and an open-air **concert**, featuring highlights from the **Jewish Culture Festival**.
- Dinner on own this evening (“follow the leader” option will be offered).

Overnight in Krakow



Day 9: Sunday, July 4, 2021: FAREWELL

- Breakfast and check out of our hotel.
- If your departure flight time permits, you may participate in the final **closing event** for Ride for the Living, ending mid-afternoon. Otherwise, we transfer to the airport for our flight to connect to our home cities.

Best-Day Adventures and Ayelet Tours is a proud sponsor of the Krakow JCC's Ride for the Living.

**OR JOIN US FOR A 2-NIGHT
VIENNA EXTENSION**

- This afternoon we transfer to the airport for our flight to **Vienna**.
- Upon arrival, we check into our hotel and refresh before **dinner** together at a local restaurant followed by a **Mozart & Strauss Concert** where classical music in the city celebrates a long tradition. During this special performance, you are sure to lose yourself in the lilting airs of Vienna's most beloved music while enjoying the beautiful strains of Strauss waltzes and selections from Mozart's *The Magic Flute*—music that has defined this magical city.
- We conclude our wondrous day with a **scenic drive** after dark through an illuminated Vienna.

Overnight in Vienna

Day 10: Monday, July 5, 2021: JUDAISM IN VIENNA

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- Today, we set out on a panoramic tour along the **Ringstrasse** and through the historic center, where we view major landmarks, including the **Hofburg Imperial Palace**, former seat of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, **St. Stephen's Cathedral** and other vivid reminders of the city's imperial history.
- This afternoon we tour of Vienna's Jewish sites. We begin at the **New Jewish Museum at Place Eskels**, then stop at the **Judenplatz Holocaust Memorial**, see the **Jewish Community Center** and view the **Stadtemple**.
- Enjoy the evening discovering the city and having dinner on own. ("follow the leader" option will be offered).

Overnight in Vienna

Day 11: Tuesday, July 6, 2021: DEPARTURE

- Breakfast and check out of our hotel.
- We head to the airport (on own) to catch our flight(s) back to the United States, landing later today.

The Memories Last Forever!!

**Itinerary subject to change*

