

# **Jewish & Presidential History:**

## ***A Journey through the Northeast***

***Featuring Prof. Stephen Berk***

### **December 2021**

(as of 10/1/21)

*Together, we'll discuss the origins of Jewish life in the United States and learn how different Presidents viewed and impacted growing Jewish culture in America. With the insights of esteemed Professor Stephen Berk framing our days and taking us in-depth into American history, we will tour the Jewish Northeast and visit Presidential Libraries and archives on our journey from New York to the nation's Capital, Washington, D.C.*



### Day 1: Sunday, December 5, 2021: ARRIVAL IN NYC

- Arrival in New York and transfer to hotel (on own).
- We join for **dinner at a local restaurant** and enjoy an **opening lecture by legendary historian Prof. Stephen Berk.**

### Overnight in New York

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### Day 2: Monday, Dec. 6, 2021: NYC AS A CULTURAL AND RELIGIOUS CENTER

- We open our morning at the **Jewish Heritage Museum in Battery Park.** Built as a living memorial to those who perished in the Holocaust, it enables Survivors to speak through recorded testimony and educates visitors about Jewish life before, during and after the Holocaust.
- Our visit continues to the dramatic **9/11 Memorial Museum** at the World Trade Center. Telling the story of 9/11 through media, narratives and artifacts, it presents us with personal stories of loss, recovery and hope.
- We set out on a walking **tour of a Hasidic neighborhood in Brooklyn** to see this Jewish culture up-close. From synagogues to *shtreimels*, we'll delve into Hasidic ins and outs on this fascinating stroll.
- **Prof. Berk** takes us deeper into history and culture with a lecture this afternoon.
- Dinner on own and an evening at leisure.



### Overnight in New York



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### Day 3: Tuesday, December 7, 2021: JEWISH AMERICA'S FOUNDING

- Breakfast.
- We travel north by bus as we delve into the region's fascinating Jewish history via a **lecture from Prof. Berk.**
- We begin with a visit to the **Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library and Museum.** We learn about the great President's life and legacy and how he brought a "New Deal to a New Generation."
- Returning south, we visit the **General Grant National Memorial,** home to the famous Grant's Tomb. The largest mausoleum in North America, it serves as a testament to the general who helped end the bloody Civil War and the President who strove to heal a broken nation.
- Dinner on own and an evening at leisure (possible optional show).



### Overnight in New York

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### Day 4: Wednesday, December 8, 2021: RETRACING THE PATH OF THE FOUNDERS

- Breakfast and check out of our hotel
- We stop at the **Tenement Museum** on the **Lower East Side.** Our tour takes us through a historically restored apartment to discover how immigrants, many of them Jewish, lived at the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.
- We drive south past Philadelphia as we **learn about our founding fathers from Prof. Berk.**
- In **College Park, Maryland,** we stop at the **President Richard Nixon Archive,** the repository of his White House Tapes, and learn more about this



divisive president.

- Continue to **Washington DC**, our nation's capital and check in to our hotel.
- Free evening for dinner on own.

### Overnight Washington DC

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#### Day 5: Thursday, December 9, 2021: HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE IN AMERICA

- Breakfast followed by a **lecture by Prof. Berk**.
- We walk to the nearby **United States Holocaust Memorial Museum**, a living memorial to the Holocaust. Located on the National Mall, near the Nation's greatest monuments and memorials, the Holocaust Museum is a moving and emotional visit and stands to inspire visitors to confront hatred, prevent genocide and promote human dignity.
- We **meet with a member of Congress** (TBD) for a glimpse into the inner workings of Capitol Hill. Among other hot button topics, we'll discuss the challenges facing our democratic process today both domestic and foreign and steps being taken to address the resurgence of Anti-Semitism in the US.
- This evening, we enjoy a closing dinner together at an area restaurant.



### Overnight Washington DC

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## Day 6: Friday, December 10, 2021: UNTIL NEXT TIME...

- Breakfast and check out of our hotel. Store luggage if needed.
- This morning, we have a **closing program with Prof. Berk**, summarizing all we have seen and experienced together on our journey.
- Free day to explore the nation's capital (on own), perhaps at the newly opened **National Museum of African American History and Culture, the International Spy Museum, a Smithsonian Museum** or one of the many other memorials and museums in the city.
- Transfer on own to the airport for our flights home.

### THE MEMORIES LAST FOREVER!!

*\*Itinerary subject to change*

### PROGRAM DETAILS:

Program dates: Dec 5 - 10, 2021

3 nights New York City (4.5 star hotel)

2 nights Washington DC (4.5 star hotel)

Professional Tour Guide throughout

Exclusive presentations by Prof. Berk throughout

Breakfast daily

2 group dinners

Meetings and entrances as per program (subject to change/confirmation)

Covid prevention protocols in place (masks required indoors/on bus, vaccination record required, enhanced cleaning protocols)

**\$2,976/person double occupancy**

**\$999 single supplement**





## **ABOUT PROF. STEPHEN BERK:**

Prof. Stephen M. Berk is a Professor of History at Union College in Schenectady, New York, Chair of the Department of History, Director of the Program in Comparative Communist Studies and Faculty Advisor to the Jewish Student Organization. He is author of *Year of Crisis, Year of Hope: Russian Jewry and the Pogroms of 1881-1882* (Greenwood Press, 1985). At the present time Professor Berk is writing a book entitled, *Our People Are Your People: American Jewry and the Struggle for Civil Rights 1854-1965*. The book provides an interesting discussion of an extremely important chapter in the history of the civil rights movement and attempts to dispel the myths and misunderstandings that surround the Black-Jewish relationship. Professor Berk is also the author of many articles on Russian History, Russian Jewish History, anti-Semitism and American Policy in the Middle East. Professor Berk is frequently consulted by newspaper reporters and by television and radio stations including the BBC. He has lectured in numerous universities in countless cities and towns in the United States and Israel and is a primary speaker for the UJA, Israel Bonds and B'nai B'rith. Professor Berk is considered an absolutely superb lecturer and teacher. Touring with him has been compared to attending a "traveling university...his lectures are outstanding." He is always informative, interesting and entertaining. He has lectured as scholar-in-residence for Ayelet Tours on over 100 trips to Russia, Spain, Cuba, the Caribbean, Eastern Europe, Europe and Israel. It is a privilege to have him with us!

