

Ayelet TOURS

THE MEMORIES LAST FOREVER!

THE PEOPLE OF

POLAND & PRAGUE

Led by **Cantor Susan Caro**
of Northern Virginia Hebrew Congregation



Our tour will including opportunities to provide humanitarian aid and spiritual inspiration to Ukrainian refugees and the amazing communities providing services to them.

**Including NVHC only Extension to Heřmanův Městec,
the original home of our Torah Scroll**

*Face to face encounters with Europe's nascent **Jewish communities**

*Trip coincides with Krakow's famed **Jewish Culture Festival 2022**

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Overview

Join **Cantor Susan Caro** with **Northern Virginia Hebrew Congregation** on a unique journey, on a mission of healing and hope, featuring humanitarian opportunities, experiences of our history, and deep connections with local communities. Together, we will discover the inspiring people, hidden stories and cultural heritage of Poland and Prague.



Face-to-Face Experiences:

- **Tikkun Olam** - we will provide a helping hand to local organizations supporting Ukrainian Refugees – uplifting both their physical and spiritual wellbeing.
- **Progressive Judaism in Warsaw:** Meet with *Beit Polska* and *Ec Chajim* and discover the heart of Jewish revival in Warsaw.
- **Discussing the Past, Describing the Future:** Meet non-Jewish Polish youth in the Forum for Dialogue and learn how they work to preserve their town's Jewish past and build a better future.
- **Shabbat of Celebration:** Join the local Jewish community and guests of the Ride For The Living for a celebratory Shabbat dinner, the largest in Krakow post-World War II.
- **Jewish Revival in Prague:** Meet with members of *Ec Chajim*, *Bejt Praha*, or *Bejt Simcha*, two of Prague's Progressive Jewish communities, and take inspiration from their dedication to revitalizing Judaism in the city.

Jewish History:

- **A Light in Dark Times:** Witness the moving stories of heroism and martyrdom along the Warsaw Ghetto Memorial Route.
- **Standing as a Witness, Vowing "Never Again":** Visit the Auschwitz-Birkenau Concentration Camp for a difficult and emotional tour through the ultimate witness to Nazi barbarity and horror.
- **Synagogues and Cemeteries:** Discover the rich history of the former Jewish quarter of Kazmierz, including its famous synagogues and cemetery.
- **History Preserved:** Explore Josefov, Prague's former Jewish Quarter, and visit its famous synagogues and cemeteries, preserved by the Nazis as a museum to our destroyed culture.

Itinerary

POLIN Museum Synagogue, Warsaw

DAY 1, Sunday, June 26, 2022

DEPARTURE

- We depart on our overnight flight to Poland.

DAY 2, Monday, June 27, 2022

ARRIVAL IN 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 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 a thousand years.
- **FACE TO FACE:** Visit **Beit Polska** and **Ec Chajim**, two progressive institutions situated at the heart of Jewish revival in modern Warsaw. We will hear from the director of the **JCC Warsaw** to learn about the JCC's exciting programs and a debriefing of the current situation and what can be done to help.
- We enjoy a **welcome dinner**, catching up with old friends and making new acquaintances with the local community, we will invite locals and refugees to join our meal.
- Return to our hotel and enjoy the remainder of the evening at leisure to explore Warsaw.

Overnight in Warsaw

DAY 3, Tuesday, June 28, 2022

WARSAW'S JEWISH PAST

- Breakfast at our hotels.
- We spend today engrossed in history through a **Jewish Heritage Tour of Warsaw**. Stops include: Entering the beautiful **Nozyk Synagogue**, the only surviving prewar synagogue in Warsaw; Walking the **Memorial Route of Jewish Martyrdom and Struggle**, including the **Umschlagplatz Monument** where Jews were assembled for deportation during the Holocaust, the horrific **Stawski Street buildings** where the SS was headquartered, and the **Jewish Resistance Bunker at Mila 18** where the resistance fighters made their final stand; Viewing one of the few remaining fragments of the **Warsaw Ghetto Wall**. We also visit the **Okopowa Street Jewish cemetery**, one of the largest in the world.
- We set out on a city tour of **Warsaw**, including stops to view the **Royal Castle** and **Chopin's Monument**.
- We will hold a **memorial service** at the dramatic **Monument to the Ghetto Heroes**, built by the Warsaw-born Jewish sculptor **Nathan Rappaport**.
- Free evening to enjoy the Warsaw culinary scene (recommendations provided by our team or the host hotels for any free night).

Overnight in Warsaw



Auschwitz Birkenau

DAY 4, Wednesday, June 29, 2022:

WARSAW TO KRAKOW

- Breakfast and check out of our hotel.
- Today we drive to **Kielce**, to join in a new venture to help Ukrainian children build a new future. the recently opened day care focuses on teaching Polish and English to the children.
- While here we discuss the Pogroms of 1948 and stop at the local monument.
- This evening, we hear the inspiring story of the rebirth of Jewish life in Krakow and the creation of the **Krakow JCC** as part of our discussion with **Executive Director Jonathan Ornstein**.
- **CULINARY OPTION:** We return to Krakow and lift our spirits with a delicious **culinary tour** of the **Kazmeirz Jewish Quarter**, enjoying local delicacies such as *perogie*, *zapikanka* and other treats.

Overnight in Krakow

DAY 5, Thursday, June 30, 2022

MARKING DESTRUCTION, CELEBRATING REBIRTH

- Breakfast at our 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**, followed by a visit to the **museum**. We participate in a guided walk through Birkenau with time for personal reflection, then come together at the end of the train tracks for a powerful memorial ritual.
- **Lunch** is included today.
- **KRAKOW JEWISH CULTURE:** This evening, experience Jewish rebirth through music and culture at the unparalleled **Krakow Jewish Culture Festival**.

Overnight in Krakow

DAY 6, Friday, July 1, 2022:

JEWISH PRESENCE IN KRAKOW

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- This morning we meet with **Dr. Edyta Gawron**, from the Institute of Jewish Studies in Krakow. She will update us on what was and is in the Polish Jewish Community.
- We take part in a **Jewish heritage tour** of **Kazmierz**, the old Jewish district, where we see the **Old Synagogue**, a massive fortress-like building erected in the 15th to 16th centuries, the **Tempel Synagogue** and the **Ramuh Synagogue**. We continue to **Apteka pod Orlem, the Under the Eagle Pharmacy Museum** inside the Jewish Ghetto and hear the story of **Tadeusz Pankiewicz**, recognized as a Righteous Among the Nations. We also pass by **Oskar Schindler's Factory** and the memorial at the former site of the **Plaszow Concentration Camp**.
- We return to our hotel for rest and down time.
- As the sun begins to set, we join together for **candle lighting** and **Kabbalat Shabbat** services with the local community.
- **FACE TO FACE/KRAKOW JEWISH CULTURE:** Later this evening, we enjoy an energetic and joyful **Shabbat dinner**, together with over 500 cycling participants, including the local Jewish community and guests from around the world – the biggest Shabbat dinner in Krakow post-World War II.

Overnight in Krakow



Jewish Cemetery

DAY 7, Saturday, July 2, 2022

SHABBAT IN KRAKOW

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- **PROGRAM OPTIONS:**
 - **Border Aid:** After breakfast at the hotel, we embark on a drive to the border to assist in humanitarian work in the UN official camp in **Przemyśl, Poland** in partnership with Hadassah International. (final permission pending)
 - **Optional free time** for exploring Krakow on own, enjoy the amazing market square for a little souvenir shopping.
- This afternoon, we enjoy a tour of **Wawel Castle**, **St. Mary's Church** and the **Renaissance Cloth Hall**, we continue down the **Royal Way** to the **Krakow Market Square**, the second largest square in the world, in Krakow's ancient city center.
- This evening, we join for **Havdallah**, celebrating the end of Shabbat.

Overnight in Krakow



Prague architecture

DAY 8, Sunday, July 3, 2022:

WELCOME TO PRAGUE

- Breakfast at our hotels.
- This morning, we transfer to the airport for our connecting flights to **Prague**, the Czech capital known as "the City of One Thousand Spires," filled with Baroque churches, promenades, parks and ancient city walls. Luggage will be sent overnight by truck directly to our hotels.
- Upon landing we enjoy a city tour, encompassing visits to the **Hradcany Castle** and the **Charles Bridge**, as well as the famous **Astronomical Clock** and **St. Vitus' Cathedral**.
- Delve into the stories and mind of **Franz Kafka** as we stroll along the **Golden Lane**, the quaint street that housed castle servants and served as a home to the famous author.
- Dinner on your own.

Overnight in Prague

DAY 9, Monday, July 4, 2022

TEREZIN AND BEYOND

- Breakfast at our hotels.
- Today, we travel to **Terezin**, the former "model" Nazi concentration camp. We visit the prison **fortress**, the **hidden synagogue** and the **museum** filled with the artwork of former prisoners. We stop by the memorial monument and pass through the town itself in addition to hearing stories and seeing photos of some of the rabbis imprisoned here, including **Leo Baeck** and **Regina Jonas**, the first woman ordained a rabbi.
- A **boxed lunch** is included today.
- We return to Prague to join **ADRA**, an organization founded with the Syrian refugee crises now leading the campaign to help Ukrainian refugees build a new life in the Czech Republic.
- Return to Prague for dinner on your own.

Overnight in Prague

DAY 10, Tuesday, July 5, 2022

JUDAISM IN PRAGUE

- Breakfast at our hotels.
- We tour the former Jewish Quarter known as *Josefov*, with its **Old Town Hall, Spanish Synagogue, Alt-Neu Synagogue, Pinkas Synagogue, Maisel Synagogue**, the **Jewish cemetery**, and the **State Jewish Museum** – all standing witness as testament to the Jewish life the Nazis all but extinguished from the area.
- **FACE TO FACE:** Meet **David Maxa**, the first Czech-born rabbi to return to Prague and founder of the local **Congregation Ec Chajim** Prague's Progressive Jewish community, and take inspiration from their dedication and hard work to revitalize Judaism in this great city.
- Free time to refresh and relax, or do a bit of last minute shopping in this magical city.

Overnight in Prague

DAY 11, Wednesday, July 6, 2022

HERMANUV MESTEC

- Breakfast at our hotels.
- This morning, we travel together to **Heřmanův Městec**, to discover the roots of our Torah scroll.
- We continue to the UNESCO world heritage site of **Kutna Hora**, to see the beautiful baroque church.
- In the evening, a **farewell dinner**, including greetings from the Israeli Ambassador and remarks from leaders of the local Jewish community.

Overnight in Prague

DAY 12, Thursday, July 7, 2022

DEPARTURE

- Breakfast and check out of our hotel.
- We transfer to the airport for our flight home...

PRE-TOUR OPTION: Fly early and attend the opening of the Krakow Jewish Culture Festival!

The Memories Last Forever!

Itinerary subject to change

| HOTEL & PRICING GRID | DELUXE PLUS |
|---|---|
| Warsaw – 2 nights (June 27-29, 2022) | Intercontinental (or similar) |
| Krakow – 4 nights (June 29-July 3, 2022) | Radisson (or similar) |
| Prague – 4 nights (July 3-7 2022) | Carlo IV (or similar) |
| RATES: | DELUXE PLUS |
| Participants (double occupancy, per person) | \$4,760 Check/Cash \$4,902 Credit |
| Add for Single Room | \$999 Check/Cash \$1,029 Credit |

Included:

- Hotel stays per the grid above
- All touring and sightseeing per an agreed upon itinerary in a private, deluxe air-conditioned vehicle with an expert English-speaking guide
- Breakfast daily
- 3 dinners including Shabbat dinner with the local Jewish community
- 3 Lunches
- Special tour to Hermanuv Mestec for congregation members only
- Amazing Experiences with local communities
- Assistance & transfers upon arrival and departure (when arriving on main days)
- Entrance fees as per itinerary

Not Included:

- Roundtrip airfare, departure taxes and fuel surcharges (Please contact Ayelet Tours for flight assistance)
- Any border taxes or visas
- Tips to guides, driver, and dining room waiters (For more information on Ayelet's tipping policies, visit ayelet.com)
- Meals not listed above
- Any costs associated with testing or related to proof of COVID/vaccine status
- Any items of a personal nature
- Travel insurance (recommended - group policy available at ayelet.com)

CANCELLATION POLICY: No land penalty if canceled 91 or more days before departure for payments by check (for credit card payment, minus \$25 per person non-recoverable cost), plus any applicable airline penalties. \$500 per person charged if canceled 90 to 31 days prior to departure, plus any applicable airline penalties. 100% per person charged if canceled 30 days or less before departure. Applicable airline penalties may still apply. If purchased, group travel insurance policy becomes non-refundable 90 days before departure. When offered, space on group air allotments can be reserved by checking the box that indicates "Land & Air" on your paper registration form, selecting Land & Air when making an online booking, or by emailing a request to our office to hold group air space for you. If you confirm a seat on our group air allotment, and then cancel that space within 90 days of departure (even if still traveling on the land portion of the tour), airline penalties will apply.

COVID-19 EXCEPTION: If the tour is canceled by Ayelet Tours due to the Covid-19 pandemic more than 90 days before departure, same policy as above. If tour is canceled due to Covid-19 within 90 days of departure, registrants can choose to either transfer funds in full to another Ayelet tour within 2 years of original travel date or choose to receive a refund minus up to \$150 per person in non-recoverable costs.

For more information and to book online see secure.ayelet.com/ACC2022.aspx





Jerusalem Synagogue, Prague

“The history of mankind is the instant between two strides taken by a traveler.”

– Franz Kafka, renowned Czech Jewish author

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