Exploring Our Legacy: Kindertransport Tour
July 24 – Aug 5, 2016
By K2 Rachel Rubin Green

As KTA members, we value our shared heritage of having been Kinder or being their descendants. The “Pathways to Life: Tracing the Kindertransports” Tour of Europe is a ONE TIME ONLY opportunity to explore WHERE and HOW this rescue effort that is integral to all our identities occurred. Travel on this intimate tour with other Kindertransport Families (limited to 12 - 40 participants) as we explore the departure cities of Vienna, Prague, and Berlin, the rail route to the Hook of Holland, the Ferry from Holland to England, and the places of reception in Harwich, Dovercourt, and London.

The tour will start on Sunday July 24, 2016 in Vienna. Optional Shabbat in Vienna tour extension is available. We will see sights of Jewish interest including the Stadttempel, the Vienna Jewish Museum, the Judenplatz memorial, and a walking tour of Leopoldstadt (the old Jewish neighborhood). Participants with family history in Vienna will have an opportunity to look at records at the Jewish Community Offices. We will visit the recently opened Kindertransport museum “Fur Das Kind”. While tiny, it is the only such museum in the world. There will also be time for some general sightseeing in Vienna.

On Tuesday July 26 we travel to Prague. We will tour the many old synagogues of the Josefov quarter and also see the cemetery where Rabbi Loew of Golem fame is buried. We will learn about the work of Sir Nicholas Winton z’l and other rescuers of the Czech Kindertransports. An optional tour of Terezin, an hour outside of Prague, is available.

Next stop is Berlin, where we will tour the Daniel Liebeskind Jewish Museum tracing the 1000-year history of Jews in Germany, the Holocaust memorial, Checkpoint Charlie, etc. We will be in Berlin for Shabbat, giving participants a chance to independently explore the Jewish resurgence and modern community in Berlin, and its array of synagogues, or to explore Berlin’s wealth of museums, as each participant chooses.

On Sunday July 31, we follow the route of the Kindertransports as closely as possible, taking the train to the Hook of Holland. We then take a bus to Amsterdam, where we will spend the next two nights. We will learn about the Dutch role in the Kindertransports, tour the Jewish Museum, the Portuguese Synagogue built in the 1600s and still lit by candle filled chandeliers, the Anne Frank house, and the Jewish Quarter.

On Tuesday August 2 we return to the Hook of Holland to see the monument to the Kindertransports and the “Children of Then/Children of Now” project. We then take the overnight Ferry to Harwich.

Next we visit the camp at Dovercourt, where many newly arrived Kinder were housed. We continue to London, where we will see The Imperial War Museum and Churchill’s War Rooms and a special guided tour of the Weiner Library for the Study of the Holocaust. We will also have an opportunity to search the archives of World Jewish Relief for Kindertransport records of our family members. We hope to have a meeting with our British counterparts at the Association of Jewish Refugees. The formal tour ends in London on Friday August 5. Extension for Shabbat in London is available.

Please join with your fellow KTA members in this profound exploration of our shared history. We can share moments of triumph and sorrow together. Reserve your place on this historic tour at http://www.ayelet.com/Kindertransport2016.aspx .

HURRY! Registration closes March 1, 2016