



Past • Present • Future The Jewish Center Journey to Poland



22-28 June 2020 –Draft Itinerary

"Jews were commanded to become the people who never forget. And they never did."
Rabbi Jonathan Sacks

This itinerary is subject to change

— I T I N E R A R Y —

Monday 22 June

Arrival in Warsaw

Okopowa Street Jewish Cemetery

Visit the life of the Jewish people pre-war through the Jewish Cemetery of Warsaw. The cemetery allows us to understand the richness and diversity of life pre-war.

Warsaw

A walking tour of Warsaw will include the former ghetto, the Umschlagplatz monument, Ghetto Uprising monument and Miła 18, the ŻOB (Jewish Combat Organization) memorial site.

Polin – The Museum of the History of Polish Jews

The Museum's Core Exhibition immerses visitors in the world of Polish Jews, from their arrival in Polin as traveling merchants in medieval times until today. The exhibition was developed by an international team of more than 120 scholars. Each of the eight galleries presents a different chapter of the story of Polish Jews, enabling visitors to come into intimate contact with those who lived that story through images, artifacts, first-person accounts and interactive multimedia.

Overnight: Warsaw

Tuesday 23 June

Łódź

Jewish people made up about one third of the city's population and owned one third of all the factories. The Radegast Train Station was situated in Łódź ghetto, which served as the departure point to the death camps in Chelmno and Auschwitz.

Dabie

A small village near Chelmno where we will reveal the hidden clues to the Jews who once called Dabie their home.

Chelmno

Chelmno was the first death camp of the Nazi's Final Solution which was operational in Autumn 1941 before the famous Wannsee Conference. Gassings took place in experimental gas vans claiming the lives of over 200,000 Jews.

Overnight: Kazimierz Dolny

Wednesday 24 June

Kazimierz Dolny

Home to the Chassidic dynasty of Kuzmir founded by Rabbi Yechezkel Taub, Kazimierz Dolny is a beautiful shtetl town with a Jewish presence which dates back to the 14th century and the reign of King Kazimierz the Great who was famed for his favourable treatment of the Jews.

Lublin

Before the war, Yeshivat Chachmei Lublin was the most important Yeshiva in Poland, if not the world. It was led by the dynamic Rabbi and member of the Polish Parliament – Rabbi Meir Shapiro.

Majdanek

The Majdanek concentration camp was located three kilometres from the centre of Lublin and was in operation from October 1941 until July 1944. Between 95,000 and 130,000 died or were killed in the Majdanek system; between 80,000 and 92,000 of whom were Jews.

Izbice

A vibrant town that was over 95% Jewish before the war, home to the Izbice Rebbe disciple of Reb Simcha Bunim of Pshischa. The Jews of Izbice were transported to Sobibor and a transit ghetto was set up in the town for Jews from across the country.

Overnight: Zamosc

Thursday 25 June

Zamość

Jews settled in Zamość as early as 1588, the first Jewish settlers were mainly Sephardi Jews coming from Italy, Spain, Portugal and Turkey. In the 17th century, Ashkenazi Jews also settled in the city and soon became the majority of the Jewish population. This combination of Sephardim and Ashkenazim gave the community a distinct identity within Poland.

Belzec

The site of one of the Operation Reinhard Death Camps where a memorial stands to the 600,000 Jews murdered there.

Leżajsk

The grave of R' Elimelech of Leżajsk attracts pilgrims from around the world making the surviving cemetery one of the largest sites of Jewish pilgrimage in Poland and still an important Chassidic center.

Markowa

A small town close to Łančut in which we can tell the remarkable story of those who put their lives at risk to save the lives of Jews during the Holocaust.

Łančut

The former synagogue from 1761 has been stunningly restored with wall decorations from 18th and 19th centuries.

Overnight: Kraków

Friday 26 June

Auschwitz I and Auschwitz II-Birkenau

The largest of Nazi Germany's concentration camps and extermination camps operational during World War II, the camp took its German name from the name of the Polish town of Oświęcim in which it is located. Most victims were killed in Auschwitz II's gas chambers using Zyklon B; other deaths were caused by systematic starvation, forced labour, lack of

disease control, individual executions and purported "medical experiments".

Shabbat in Kraków

Candle lighting to begin Shabbat.

Kabbalat Shabbat in one of Kraków's old Synagogues
Shabbat Dinner

Overnight: Kraków

Shabbat 27 June

Tefilla and Kiddush

Kazimierz

The former Jewish quarter in Kraków comprises the most intact and significant collection of Jewish buildings in Central Europe today, including seven remaining synagogues.

Shabbat Lunch and Testimony from one of the Righteous Among the Nations
Shabbat ends

Kraków Ghetto and Schindler's Factory

Over the bridge from Kazimierz is the former WWII ghetto situated in the Podgórze area of the city where traces of the ghetto wall can still be found as well as Schindler's 'Emalia' enamel factory.

Overnight: Kraków

Sunday 28 June

Zbylitowska Góra

A site of mass murder of the Jews from Tarnów.

Tarnów

Before the war, about 25,000 Jews lived in Tarnów, comprising about half of the town's population. By the end of the war the overwhelming majority of Tarnów Jews had been murdered by the Germans. Here we will hold a closing ceremony at the Bima of the Great Synagogue to conclude our journey.

Depart Kraków