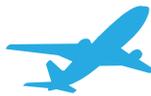




Past · Present · Future The Jewish Center Journey to Poland

22-28 June 2020 – Itinerary



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

This itinerary is subject to change

— M A P O F P O L A N D —



— 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.

Dinner with Rabbi Shudrich

Overnight: Warsaw

Tuesday 23 June

Drive to Tykocin and Lupochowa

A small town with a Jewish presence since the early 16th Century. We will see the Jewish life that existed, and will follow in the footsteps of the Jewish population's tragic end.

Treblinka

The site of the infamous Nazi death camp in which close to 900,000 Jews were murdered

Kaluszyn

The majority of the population in this shtetl were Jews before WW2. There was no real memorial to them until recently. We will hear the story of PJ, a current resident of Kaluszyn who has taken a keen interest in remembering the Jews of this shtetl.

Dinner with the Hillel director and some students

Overnight: Warsaw

Wednesday 24 June

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.

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.

Grodzka Gate

Also called The Jewish Gate the NN Theatre sits there the institution documents the history of the Lublin Jews.

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.

Overnight: Lancut

Thursday 25 June

Łańcut

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

Markowa

A small town close to Łańcut 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

Chmielnik

In a small Polish town of just 11,000 people with not a single Jew, a state-of-the-art Jewish museum has been built. Millions of dollars have been invested in restoring the town's breathtaking synagogue and a 150-year-old mikveh (Jewish ritual bath) has been re-discovered.

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.

Zbylitowska Góra

A site of mass murder of the Jews from Tarnów.

Krakow

Visit the Remah Cemetery

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

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

Bedzin

Kasimir the Great granted the Jews permission to live in Bedzin at the beginning of the 13th century. Before the war we were the majority in the city. The German army entered the town on September 4th, 1939; five days later they burned the Great Synagogue in the Old City.

Działoszyce

We will finish our journey in Poland in this town which was 80% Jewish before the war.

Depart for Kraków airport