



April 18, 2022

# Temple Beth-El San Antonio | Jewish Heritage Trip to Poland and Germany | Led by Rabbi Mara Nathan

**October 15 - 25, 2023**

## The **J<sup>2</sup>** way

J<sup>2</sup> crafts journeys of inspiration, education, and Jewish connections to Israel and worldwide. We are guided by a simple but powerful concept: No two trips are the same; each experience should be personal, meaningful, and backed by superb service. Travel is not just about the places you visit, but the connections you make along the way.

PASSIONATE **JEWISH JOURNEYS**

Educational trips, curated expeditions & missions.

**NEW YORK | TEL AVIV**



# Program **Outline**

We are committed to providing you with an educational, enlightening, and inspirational program that will be created in partnership with you.

## **01: SUNDAY, OCTOBER 15 | ON THE WAY | FLIGHT**

- ◇ Depart the USA.

## **02: MONDAY, OCTOBER 16 | THE START OF A SPECIAL JOURNEY | KRK**

- ◇ Arrival at Krakow International Airport.
- ◇ Meet your tour educator **Uri Feinberg** who will accompany you on this journey of education and inspiration.
- ◇ Group transfer to the hotel and check-in.
- ◇ Guided walk to Krakow's Historical **Market Square**, with its medieval architecture, basilicas and sculptures. This UNESCO World Heritage site, once the capital of Poland, was not destroyed during WWII and bears witness to the rich history of the country.
- ◇ **1,000 Years of Jewish History: Welcome dinner** and orientation with your tour educator. Overview of the group journey; including reviewing the itinerary, the group themes, the different narratives. Share group and personal goals with your tour educator at a local restaurant.



### 03: TUESDAY, OCTOBER 17 | RE-CREATING MEMORY | KRK

- ◇ **Breakfast** at the hotel.
- ◇ Connect to the story of Jewish life in Krakow with an interactive program in the **Kazimierz Jewish Quarter**, including:
  - The **Altshul**, the oldest synagogue in Poland, transformed into the local Jewish life cycle museum.
  - The **Rema Synagogue**, the synagogue of **Rabbi Moses Isserles** (the “Rema”), the great codifier of Jewish law.
  - The **Rema Cemetery**, where many great rabbinical leaders of Polish Jewry are buried.
  - The **Temple**, once the first “Modern” orthodox synagogue.
- ◇ Lunch on your own, en route.
- ◇ Take a guided journey following the Jewish community on their descent from Kazimierz, crossing over the bridge into the Jewish Ghetto of **Podgorze**, including:
  - The **Krakow Umchlagplatz memorial**, now called **Ghetto Heroes Square**.
  - The **Oscar Schindler Factory Museum**. The museum tells the story of the city of Krakow and its residents under Nazi occupation from 1939 to 1945. The museum is housed in the administrative building of Oskar Schindler’s enamel factory. **Schindler**, a successful businessman, and his wife **Emilie**, managed to provide a safe environment for over 1,000 Jews, and saved them from being sent to Auschwitz. They were later honored with the title of “Righteous among the Nations”.
  - The **Under the Eagle Pharmacy**, a pharmacy inside the ghetto run by **Tadeusz Pankiewicz**. We’ll hear how this Polish-Catholic pharmacist saved many Jews and was subsequently recognized by Yad Vashem as one of the Righteous among the Nations.
  - The **Galicia Jewish Museum**, which exists to commemorate the victims of the Holocaust and celebrate the Jewish culture of Polish Galicia, presenting Jewish history from a new perspective. Learn and explore the past, present and future through the unique photo exhibit which captures life through the still media.
- ◇ Return to the hotel.
- ◇ Enjoy dinner on your own and an evening at leisure in the vibrant university city. Your tour educator will be available for a night tour of the city.



## 04: WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 18 | THE DESTRUCTION OF EUROPEAN JEWRY | KRK

- ◇ **Breakfast** at the hotel.
- ◇ **In This Place** - Guided visit through the **Auschwitz-Birkenau** Complex, reflecting on personal stories and texts. Walk through the Auschwitz Museum exhibits, built in the original blocks of the camp, see the original artifacts and footage, and witness the life and death of the prisoners of this work camp. A short drive will take you to the **Auschwitz II** death camp, better known as **Birkenau**. This camp was barely touched or renovated, allowing you a first-hand experience to understand the last moments of the prisoners of this camp.
- ◇ **Boxed lunch.**
- ◇ Group reflection and conversation at the **Oswiecim Synagogue**, on the site of one of Oswiecim's many pre-Holocaust synagogues – a silent witness to what was once an ordinary Polish town known as Oswiecim with a Jewish majority, later to become the ultimate symbol of the Holocaust.
- ◇ Return to Krakow.
- ◇ **The Krakow Jewish Community Today and a Vision for the Future:** Evening program at the **Krakow Jewish Community Center** with **Jonathan Ornstein**, the JCC Director. Enjoy **dinner** with members of the local Jewish community, and learn more about the cultural and religious revival happening at the JCC.



## **05: THURSDAY, OCTOBER 19 | INTO THE DESERT FROM KRAKOW TO WARSAW | WAW**

- ◇ **Breakfast** at the hotel and check out.
- ◇ Load luggage onto the luggage truck. (*Luggage will be transferred to Warsaw separately.*)
- ◇ Visit the **Wieliczka Salt Mines**. Explore magnificent chambers chiseled out of rock salt, underground saline lakes and unique statues sculpted in salt.
- ◇ Guided visit to one of Kraków's most famous landmarks, the **Wawel Royal Castle**. This Gothic style Castle, built by Prince Casimir the 3<sup>rd</sup>, holds beautiful grounds, a **cathedral**, the Crown treasury and armory.
- ◇ Lunch on your own, en route.
- ◇ Travel to Warsaw by train. (*Train journey is approximately 2.5 hours.*)
- ◇ Transfer to the hotel for check in.
- ◇ Enjoy a free evening in Warsaw, once considered to be the European "city of lights". Enjoy the vibe of the restaurants and cafes, with its local and international cuisine.

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## 06: FRIDAY, OCTOBER 20 | THE WORLD THAT WAS & THE WORLD THAT IS | WAW

- ◇ **Breakfast** at the hotel.
- ◇ **The World That Was:** Visit the **Gensha Cemetery**, one of the largest Jewish cemeteries in the world. Revive the names on the unique tombstones of the famous Jewish leaders, artists, Rabbis, and intellectuals, including Yiddish writer, author of “If Not Higher” **Y.L Peretz**, “Esperanto” language creator **Ludwig Zamenhoff**, Warsaw theater diva Ida Kaminska and **Adam Czerniakow**, the beloved head of the “Judenrat.” The cemetery is a testimony to hundreds of years of Jewish life in Poland.
- ◇ Visit the **Nozyk Synagogue**, the last remaining pre-WWII synagogue in Warsaw.
- ◇ Lunch on your own, en route.
- ◇ Tour the underground archive of the Warsaw Ghetto at the Jewish Historical Institute, the so-called **Ringelblum Archive**. The archive consists of a unique collection of documents that are one of the world’s most significant testimonies about the extermination of Polish Jewry.
- ◇ Visit the **Villa** at the **Warsaw Zoo**, which was once the home of the zoo director, Jan Żabiński, and his wife Antonina Żabińska. Learn the story of how they saved the lives of many Jews during the Holocaust.
- ◇ Return to the hotel to prepare for Shabbat services and dinner.
- ◇ **Kabbalat Shabbat services** at a local synagogue.
- ◇ **Shabbat dinner** with members of the local Jewish community.



## 07: SATURDAY, OCTOBER 21 | EXPLORING WARSAW | WAW

- ◇ **Breakfast** at the hotel.
- ◇ Take a guided journey through the **Warsaw Ghetto**, including the **Remnants of the Ghetto Wall** and the **Nathan Rapoport Warsaw Ghetto Memorial**. Follow the footsteps of the Warsaw Ghetto Heroes along the **Path of Remembrance**, commemorating the heroic Warsaw Ghetto uprising at **Mila 18**, and reflecting on the last moments of the Warsaw Jewish Community at the **Umschlagplatz** - the gathering area of the Jews before they were sent to the death camp of Treblinka.
- ◇ Explore the **Museum of the History of Polish Jews** located in the center of what once was the Jewish Ghetto. Explore the 1,000 years of rich history of the Polish Jews; beginning from their arrival as merchants, through the medieval ages until today. This 43,000 sq. ft. museum includes rare and valuable art, photos, documentation, and footage of what was once the largest Jewish community in the world.
- ◇ Walk through **Warsaw's Old Town**. Established in the 13th century and destroyed by the German army during WWII, it was meticulously rebuilt using the original stones. Walk through the **Old Town Market Place**, once the center of European cultural life, and now a vibrant and colorful center. Explore the fashionable restaurants and shops, the beautiful, medieval architectural city walls, and a lookout of the **Warsaw Barbican** and **St. John's Cathedral**.
- ◇ Lunch on your own, en route.
- ◇ **Walls that Talk:** Take a journey to discover **mezuzah traces** that adorn old tenement buildings in the city, led by **Helena Czernek** and/or **Aleksander Prugar**, founders of **MI POLIN**, created in 2014, the first Polish Judaica company since World War II. These traces are enduring symbols of the strong prewar Polish-Jewish presence in the city.
- ◇ Return to the hotel with free time for last-minute shopping or exploring the city on your own.
- ◇ Dinner on your own and evening at leisure.



## 08: SUNDAY, OCTOBER 22 | INTRODUCTION TO BERLIN | BER

- ◇ **Breakfast** at the hotel and check out.
- ◇ Transfer to Warsaw train station.
- ◇ 8:45 a.m. Depart Warsaw on your train to Berlin.
- ◇ 2:16 p.m. Arrive in **Berlin** and meet your local guide.
- ◇ **The Enigma that is Berlin:** Orientation dialogue with your tour educator.
- ◇ Panoramic tour of Berlin including:
  - ◇ The **Brandenburg Gate**. Originally commissioned by Friedrich Wilhelm II to represent peace, the gate was ironically incorporated into the Berlin Wall during the years of the Communist regime. Perhaps Berlin's best-known landmark, it now stands as a symbol of the city's reunification.
  - ◇ The **Holocaust Memorial**, the monument dedicated to the murdered Jews of Europe. Designed by architect Peter Eisenman, this undulating field of reflection, comprised of thousands of concrete dark gray slabs forming a gentle wave, ankle-high in some places, the monument gives visitors a sense of groundlessness and loss of orientation. The memorial also includes a subterranean information center at the edge of the site which houses a permanent exhibition dedicated to the six million Jewish victims of the Holocaust.
- ◇ View the **Reichstag**, the seat of the German Parliament and one of Berlin's most significant landmarks.
- ◇ Visit the **Berlin Wall Memorial**, an open-air exhibition that explains the history of division and the impact of the Berlin Wall on the city and its residents.
- ◇ Check into the hotel.
- ◇ Dinner on your own and evening at leisure.



## 09: MONDAY, OCTOBER 23 | JEWISH LIFE IN BERLIN | BER

- ◇ **Breakfast** at the hotel.
- ◇ ***Being Young, Jewish, and German***: Dialogue with **Rebecca Blady**, the Executive Director, and **Jeremy Borovitz**, the Senior Jewish Educator, of **Base Berlin – Hillel Germany\***. This intersection of identity is far from simple, and Rebecca and Jeremy will share their experiences of working with the diverse population of Jewish students and young adults in Berlin. They will also discuss who they are and why they have made Germany their temporary (or permanent) home, as well as what they are looking to gain from being part of the Jewish community.
- ◇ Walk along **Grosse Hamburger Strasse**, once the center of Berlin Jewry.
- ◇ Tour to Jewish sites in East Berlin including:
  - The **Hackescher Markt**
  - The **Jewish Cemetery**, including Moses Mendelsson's grave
  - The site of the Women's Protest on Rosenenstreaase
  - Stop by the house of **Rabbi Regina Jonas**, the first female Rabbi ever to be ordained.
  - Pass by the **New Synagogue** and the **Centrum Judaicum**, one of the most important locations for contemporary Jewish life in Berlin.
  - Visit the **Museum of Otto Weidt's Workshop for the Blind**, a safe haven for Jews during the Holocaust years in Berlin.
- ◇ Lunch on your own, en route.
- ◇ Visit the **Jewish Museum of Berlin**, designed by architect Daniel Libeskind. One of the most conspicuous architectural landmarks in the city, it embodies remembrance, melancholy, and departure.
- ◇ Continue to **Gleis 17** (Track 17), the main deportation center for Berlin Jews during WWII, located in the neighborhood of Grunewald. Witness the contrast between the calm atmosphere and the tragic history of the place.
- ◇ Return to the hotel.
- ◇ Dinner on your own and evening at leisure.



## 10: TUESDAY, OCTOBER 24 | **BERLIN TODAY** | BER

- ◇ **Breakfast** at the hotel.
- ◇ **From the Divided to the City of Freedom:** 30 years after the fall of the wall, stop at the **East Side Gallery**, a part of the former Berlin Wall now serving as a memorial of 150 wall paintings from a slew of international artists.
- ◇ **Street Art Tour of Berlin:** Get to know the weird and wonderful areas of Berlin. Check out the street art on many hidden corners and be impressed and inspired by the varied and dynamic works of art.
- ◇ Lunch on your own, en route.
- ◇ **Germany, the Refugee Crisis in Europe & the Israel Connection:** Germany has more asylum seekers than any other European nation, many of them having fled the war in Syria. Dialogue with a representative from IsraAID about the remarkable efforts of this Israeli-based aid organization to assist and integrate these refugees. Visit a refugee shelter in Berlin and hear personal stories from refugees.
- ◇ Return to the hotel with free time for last-minute shopping or exploring the city on your own.
- ◇ **Festive farewell dinner** and group reflection at a local restaurant.

## 11: WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 25 | **UNTIL WE MEET AGAIN** | FLIGHT

- ◇ **Breakfast** at the hotel before checking out.
- ◇ Group transfer to Berlin International Airport for your return flight to the USA.



## Rates & Lodging

Group rates are land only, per person sharing a double room:

Dates	Nights	Lodging	Room Cat.	City
Oct. 16 - 19	3	Indigo	Standard	Krakow
Oct. 19 - 22	3	Westin	Standard	Warsaw
Oct. 22 - 25	3	Westin	Deluxe	Berlin
# OF PARTICIPANTS	20+			Single Supplement
		\$4,475		+\$769

## What to **Expect**

### Included:

- ◇ 9 nights' accommodations.
- ◇ 9 days of touring with a tour educator (guide), 8 days of touring in a luxury, air-conditioned bus.
- ◇ 1 arrival transfer.
- ◇ 1 departure transfer.
- ◇ Daily breakfast, 1 boxed lunch & 4 dinners.
- ◇ Water on the bus.
- ◇ Porterage at the hotels.
- ◇ All site entrance fees & program fees as per your final program.
- ◇ Online portal to inform & to facilitate recruitment and registration.
- ◇ A personal tour operator who will take care of all your logistics and work with you to ensure a successful and seamless travel experience.



## Excluded:

- ◇ Credit card fees.
- ◇ Flights to & from Europe.
- ◇ COVID related expenses, including tests.
- ◇ Evening transportation when dinner is not included.
- ◇ Amendments to the program: In the event that any sites, programs or meals etc are added to the program, an additional fee may be required.
- ◇ Personal extras: Items of personal nature such as laundry, wines, mineral water, beverages, coffee, tea, food other than the table d'hotel menu, passport and visa fees, insurance, and foreign port taxes, unless otherwise specified.
- ◇ US and foreign airport taxes, Q fuel surcharge and border taxes when applicable.
- ◇ Value Added Tax is currently not applicable to tourists visiting Israel. Should the law change, you will be notified accordingly, and VAT will be added to your final invoice.
- ◇ Gratuities: We recommend the following guidelines for tipping (amounts are in US dollars): Group of 15 participants and more: Tour Educator: \$12 | Local Guide: \$8  
Driver: \$5 per day per person.

## Terms & Conditions (T&C's):

Please review separate attachment or request that we send you our full T&C's. Until you do that, here is the small print, and other stuff you may want to know:

**Rates:** Rates are per person based on double occupancy and a minimum number of 20 full-paying participants. Should the number of participants drop below the minimum listed, the cost of the trip will be adjusted to reflect the additional expense of operating the program.



**Currency:** Tour prices are per person in **U.S.** dollars. All hotel accommodations, motor coach transportation, special dinners, sightseeing, admissions, luggage handling and the services of local guides, drivers, and the tour guide/educator are included.

**Payment policy:** The following payment policy has been instituted in order to reflect current realities. J<sup>2</sup> Adventures reserves the right to adjust its terms of payment, including cancellation policies and initial deposits. Notification of any changes will be made explicitly to the participants where relevant.

- An initial refundable deposit of \$500 per person, non-transferable is due at the time of reservation unless another amount is indicated.
- Final payment is due 90 days before the scheduled trip begins, or as specified in your invoice.

**Cancellation policy:** All cancellations need to be made in writing.

- If your cancellation is made more than 30 days prior to departure all your monies will be fully refunded.
- If your cancellation is made less than 30 days prior to departure you will be provided with a travel credit, valid for 18 months for travel on a J<sup>2</sup> travel program.
- If your J<sup>2</sup> travel program is cancelled at any time you will receive a full refund.

**Cancellation less than 30 days before departure may also include:**

- Hotel or supplier cancellation fees.
- The cost of the PEACE OF MIND TRAVEL PROTECTION PROGRAM (POM), for trips only to Israel, if this was purchased.
- Group airfare penalty fee.

**Travel insurance:** We strongly recommend that you purchase your own travel insurance. Please discuss land, air, and health insurance options with your insurance provider. Some insurance programs provide more comprehensive coverage when the policy is purchased in close proximity to the initial trip deposit. We, therefore, recommend that you secure insurance within 14 days of your initial deposit payment date.