



# MEJDI TOURS

## TEMPLE BETH EL JEWISH HERITAGE TOUR TO CENTRAL EUROPE JULY 2ND-JULY 14<sup>TH</sup>, 2017

### **Day 1: Arrival - Welcome to Poland, Sunday, July 2nd**

- Include group arrival transfer to hotel
- In the late afternoon- Embark on a coach tour of Warsaw, and visit many sites related to the Jewish presence in the Polish capitol such as the Ghetto Memorial, the Umschlagplatz, the Jewish Historical Institute, Nozyk Synagogue (the only surviving synagogue in Warsaw, founded in 1900), Chopin's Monument, the Warsaw Ghetto, the Jewish Resistance Bunker at Mila 18, The Polin Museum and Stawski Street Buildings.
- Meet your guides for an orientation meeting this evening, and then enjoy a night out of exploring Warsaw and have dinner on your own.

*Hotel: Novotel Warsaw Airport Hotel (or similar) (B)*

### **Day 2: Warsaw, Monday, July 3**

- With a local guide and coach, this morning enjoy a panoramic sightseeing tour of Warsaw. Take in sights such as the Royal Castle and Lazienki Park.
- Visit the Warsaw Rising Museum, devoted to the 1944 uprising against the German occupation.
- Enjoy the afternoon and evening at leisure in Poland's capital

*Hotel: Novotel Warsaw Airport Hotel (or similar) (B)*

### **Day 3: Tuesday, July 4**

- En route to Krakow stop in Chmielnik where Jews first settled in the 16th century. Learn about the history of the Jewish community and its fate. Visit the Jewish Museum in the recently restored 17th century synagogue.
- Continue on to Krakow, enjoy a free evening and dinner on your own.

*Hotel: Hotel Orient, Krakow (or similar) (B)*

### **Day 4: Krakow, Wednesday, July 5**

- Visit the Old Synagogue, the “Temple” and the Remuh Synagogue, which is the center of Jewish religious life in Krakow. The Galicia Jewish Museum.
- Take a walking tour this afternoon in historic Krakow Old Town, a UNESCO World Heritage Site.
- Visit Oskar Schindler’s factory
- This evening, meet with Polish Christian members of the underground to learn about their perspective on World War II OR meet with a Righteous Pole who helped save Jews during World War II

*Hotel: Hotel Orient, Krakow (or similar) (B)*

### **Day 5: Krakow, Thursday, July 6**

- This morning, Visit the memorial and museum at Auschwitz (early-opens at 7:30am).
- See Blocks 4, 5, 7 and 11, the gas chamber, the crematorium and visit the Birkenau camp.
  - After visiting the memorial and museum, we will be on our way to Budapest with a stop in Nitra, Slovakia, which was one of the most important centers of Jewish life in Slovakia. Stop by the synagogue, which is now used as a center for cultural activities. The synagogue also serves as a permanent exhibition space for the Nitra- born, Israeli artist, Shraga Weil.
- Visit Slovakia’s National Holocaust Memorial exhibition, “The Fate of the Slovak Jews”.
- After lunch, continue toward Budapest.
- Have free time this evening to explore Budapest on your own.

*Hotel: Mercure Budapest City Center (or similar) (B)*

### **Day 6: Budapest, Friday July 7**

- Take a guided tour of Hungary’s Parliament building in Pest, an icon of Budapest’s skyline.
- Cross over to Buda to tour the Gothic Matthias Church, where the last two Hungarian kings were crowned.
- Wander through the quaint lanes and cobblestone streets of Castle Hill, perched above the river’s western bank.
- Visit the House of Terror, the former headquarters for the secret police for both the Nazi and Communist governments.
- This evening, for Shabbat, visit the Frankel Leo Synagogue, a Neologue congregation, and meet with Rabbi Tamas Vero, his wife Linda, and Cantor Gergely.
- Shabbat Dinner

*Hotel: Mercure Budapest City Center Budapest (or similar) (B, D)*

### **Day 7: Budapest, Saturday July 8**

- Take a walking tour of the Jewish Quarter with stops at the synagogues in Dohány and Kazinczy, and the Raul Wallenberg Memorial Statue.

- Enjoy the rest of your day with free time to explore.

Hotel: *Mercure Budapest City Center (or similar) (B)*

### **Day 8: Budapest to Prague, Sunday July 9)**

- Early this morning, depart from Budapest to Visit the Szarvas Camp, a place where young Jews from over 20 countries come together at a transformative summer camp to re-imagine and build Jewish community.
- Depart for Prague
- Upon arrival in Prague enjoy a free night.

Hotel: *Hotel Duo, Prague (or similar) (B)*

### **Day 9: Prague, Monday July 10**

- Start your day by visiting the Josefov District, Prague's historic Jewish Quarter.
- See the Jewish Cemetery, dating back to medieval days.
- Visit the Old-New Synagogue, founded in the 13th century, and the Pinkus and Maisel synagogues.
- Tour the State Jewish Museum, the hidden synagogue and the Memorial Monument.
- Visit the 1,000 year old Royal Castle of Hradcany, the Charles Bridge, the Astronomical Clock, St. Vitus Cathedral and the "Moorish Revival" Spanish Synagogue.
- This evening, meet with the students who created the "Neighbors who Disappeared" project to learn about their perspective on the Jewish community of Czech Republic and the broader community post World War II at Bej Praha, Prague's Jewish Community

Hotel: *Hotel Duo, Prague (or similar) (B)*

### **Day 10: Prague- Berlin, Tuesday, July 11**

- Travel to Terezin to visit the Theresienstadt concentration camp
- View the Memorial of National Martyrdom.
- See the Small Fortress, a former Gestapo prison.
- Spend time visiting the Museum of the Ghetto.
- En route to Berlin stop in Dresden (time permitting) and visit The New Synagogue to learn about the current Jewish community in Dresden.
- In Berlin visit the Neue Synagogue, The Jewish Boys' School, The Jewish Cemetery, including Moses Mendelsson's grave, the sight of the Women's Protest at Rosenstrasse

Hotel: *Hotel Berlin (or similar) (B,D)*

### **Day 11: Berlin, Wednesday, July 12**

We will start the day exploring the city with a local guide on a walking tour that takes us past some of the most iconic monuments in the city including the Brandenburg Gate and the Reichstag building, understanding their importance during World War II and the Cold War as well as the Book Burning Memorial Jewish museum

- Then head to the Checkpoint Charlie Museum. The museum has evolved into a more than 2000m<sup>2</sup> exhibition that explores not only the history of the Berlin Wall and the stories of those affected by it, but also looks at the challenges facing us today as we struggle for worldwide recognition of human rights and freedom.
- We will visit what is left of the Berlin Wall and the Berlin Wall Memorial.
- Enjoy some free time for the rest of the day

*Hotel: Hotel Berlin (or similar) (B)*

### **Day 12: Berlin, Thursday, July 13**

- Visit the Jewish Museum for a guided tour. The museum is one of the largest Jewish Museums in Europe. In three buildings, two of which are new additions specifically built for the museum by architect Daniel Libeskind, two millennia of German- Jewish history are on display.
- Our final stop of the day will be the Olympiastadion, the site of the 1936 Olympics. Enjoy a farewell dinner

*Hotel: Hotel Berlin (or similar) (B, D)*

### **Day 13: Berlin Departure, Friday, July 14**

Flight home