



Holocaust
MEMORIAL RESOURCE & EDUCATION
CENTER OF FLORIDA



Jewish Heritage Tour to Poland and Germany

June 10-22, 2018

This journey is designed to explore, remember and reflect on Holocaust and Jewish history and the communities where Jewish life once thrived and has now been rebuilt. It includes historic synagogues, world-class museums, and plenty of opportunities to explore some of Europe's most elegant cities.

ITINERARY

Sunday, 10 June 2018
Arrive Warsaw

Upon arrival in Warsaw make your own way to the Sofitel Warsaw Victoria Hotel.



Remainder of day at leisure.

Monday 11 June 2018
Warsaw

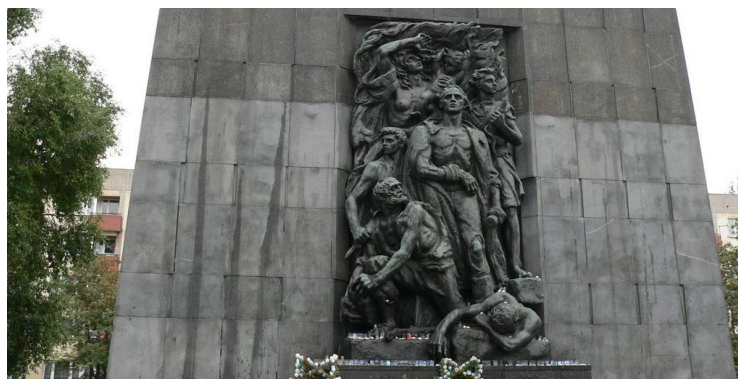
The tour officially begins Monday morning when we will be met at our hotel to begin our explorations of the Polish capital with a walking tour of the Old Town. Warsaw's Old Town as you see it today was almost totally rebuilt after the war, mostly based on 18th century paintings. But the people of Warsaw did such a meticulous job rebuilding it from scratch that the Old Town was honored with a place on the prestigious UNESCO World Heritage List in 1980.

When Hitler chose to expand Germany's territories under the odious excuse of providing 'living space' for the German people, Warsaw's Jewish population numbered 350,000 and growing. Neither pogroms nor the occasional boycott of Jewish businesses deterred Jews from settling in the Polish capital and only New York could boast a larger Jewish community. Yet within six years Warsaw's thriving Jewish scene was all but wiped from the map, with over 90 percent perishing either in the Warsaw Ghetto or the gas chambers of Treblinka.

Our first day will also include a visit to the Polin Museum of the History of the Polish Jews. This museum is not a Holocaust Museum, but explores the long history of Jewish Life in Poland leading up to Holocaust. It was built on the site of Warsaw's pre-war Jewish quarter and site of the former Warsaw Ghetto.



It faces the Monument to the Warsaw Ghetto Heroes that remembers the Warsaw Ghetto uprising of 1943 and is located at the spot where the first armed clash of the uprising took place. The monument (pictured below), by Nathan Rapoport, was built partly of German materials originally brought to Warsaw in 1942 by Albert Speer for his planned works. The completed monument was formally unveiled in April 1948. A nearly identical replica of this monument may be seen at Yad Vashem in Jerusalem.



On the northeast corner of the park area that houses the POLIN Museum and the Ghetto Heroes Monument is the Willy Brandt Kniefall monument. It highlights an interesting story and underlines how much attitudes have changed over the years.

Remainder of day at leisure.
Sofitel Warsaw Victoria

Tuesday 12 June 2018
Warsaw

This morning we will continue our tour of Jewish Warsaw with a visit to one of the few remaining sections of the Jewish Ghetto wall. From the middle of 1940 that Warsaw Jews, as well as those from other localities, found themselves enclosed behind the walls of the Ghetto. The numbers rose to nearly half a million people who lived in terrible conditions and suffered from hunger and disease. During the summer of 1942, Nazis began liquidating the Ghetto with mass deportations to Treblinka, which ultimately led to the Warsaw Ghetto uprising in April 1943.

We will tour the Okopowa Street Jewish Cemetery that was founded in 1806 and occupies over 82 acres and has 250,000 graves; the Umschlagplatz Monument, the square in Warsaw where Jews were gathered for deportation from the Warsaw Ghetto to the Treblinka extermination camp as part of Operation Reinhard; Mila 18 that honors The Jewish Resistance Movement and the Nożyk Synagogue, the only surviving prewar Jewish house of prayer in Warsaw, Poland. It was built in 1898-1902 and was restored after World War II.



We finish the day with a view of the Korczak orphanage that was established by the famous pedagogue, pediatrician, and writer Janusz Korczak. When the Nazis sent the children of the orphanage to Treblinka, Janusz Korczak heroically declined the opportunity to escape and rather chose to accompany "his" children into the gas chambers where he was murdered alongside them. Today, the building still functions as an orphanage. In front of it is one of the many Korczak memorial monuments.

Remainder of the day at leisure.
Sofitel Warsaw Victoria

Wednesday 13 June 2018
Warsaw – Krakow

We begin the morning with a tour of Treblinka, the second largest and possibly the cruellest Nazi Concentration Camp. Between July 1942 and October 1943, more than 800,000 Jews were mercilessly killed, the only evidence of these horrors came from testimonies of Nazi SS-men and Jewish survivors.



We will board a high-speed train to Krakow in the afternoon where you will be met & transferred to your hotel.

Remainder of the day at leisure
Sheraton Krakow

Thursday 14 June 2018
Krakow

Today's tour begins with a visit to the Krakow Ghetto (Podgorze) and Ghetto Heroes Square, which is marked by 33 empty chair-statues to commemorate the Jews lost in WWII and the Eagle Pharmacy where Tadeusz Pankiewicz, a Polish Roman Catholic pharmacist operating in the Kraków Ghetto during the Nazi German occupation of Poland, rescued countless Jews.



A walking tour of the historic Jewish district of Kazimierz will include a visit to Krakow's Old Synagogue, one of Europe's oldest Jewish places of worship and the Remuh Synagogue and cemetery that was founded in 1553 by Moses Isserles, writer of the Shulchan Aruch and a member of a prominent Krakovian family that had been bankers to the king. We will proceed to The Galicia Jewish Museum, a stunning photographic exhibit documenting the remnant of Jewish culture and life in Polish Galicia. We will finish the day at the Wawel Castle and grounds. There are several exhibits to tour in the afternoon and some of the sites on Wawel Hill are accessible until 9:00pm, so this may be a good place to linger after the formal tours have been completed.

Remainder of the day at leisure.
Sheraton Krakow

Friday 15 June 2018
Krakow

Today we will visit the Auschwitz-Birkenau Concentration Camp. Auschwitz, the site of the Nazi concentration camp, has been preserved as a memorial for the estimated at 1.1 to 1.3 million, of whom approximately 90% were Jewish.



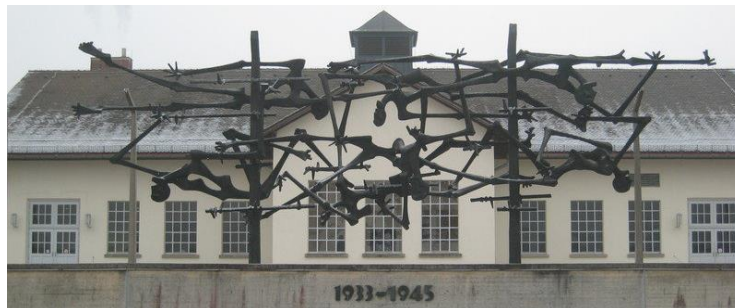
Return to the hotel
Sheraton Krakow

Saturday 16 June
Krakow - Munich

This morning we will be met and transferred to the airport for our flight to Munich. Upon our arrival in Munich we will tour the city and its rich Jewish history. The Jewish Community Centre is in the heart of 21st-century Jewish Munich. St. Jakobs Platz houses the Main Ohel Jakob Synagogue, Restaurant Einstein, the Munich Jewish Museum and several Jewish organizations.



A few steps from Munich's central Marienplatz, a stone Menorah Monument marks where the city's main synagogue stood until Kristallnacht. Nearby, in the courtyard at Lenbachplatz, is Joseph Henselmann's Fountain Statue of Moses in the Desert. In Milbertshofen a new Holocaust Memorial has been dedicated at the wartime deportation site for Munich's Jews. Although Munich was the birthplace of National Socialism, its Ludwig-Maximilian University was also home of the anti-Nazi White Rose Movement. Led by students Hans and Sophie Scholl, and their Professor, Kurt Huber, the White Rose distributed anti-Nazi leaflets in 1942 and 1943, publicizing details of the Final Solution and German battlefield reverses. A Memorial Plaque to the White Rose Martyrs is in the university's main lobby. The White Rose Information Centre is near the university's Lichthof Hall.



We will tour the site and the Memorial Chapel, which stands as an eternal reminder to Germans and the world: "Never Again!" We will then make our way to Munich in the afternoon to check into our hotel.

Remainder of the day at leisure
Pullman Hotel

Sunday 17 June 2018
Munich

Visit to the Dachau concentration camp, the first of the Nazi concentration camps opened in Germany in 1933 by Heinrich Himmler. Originally meant to house political prisoners, its purpose was enlarged to include forced labor, and eventually, the imprisonment of Jews, German and Austrian criminals, and eventually foreign nationals from countries that Germany occupied or invaded. The Dachau camp system grew to include nearly 100 sub-camps, which were mostly work camps and were located throughout southern Germany and Austria. The camps were liberated by U.S. forces on May 1, 1945.

Remainder of the day at leisure to explore Munich.
Pullman Hotel

Monday 18 June 2018
Depart Munich for Berlin



This afternoon we will drive to Wannsee. It was here on January 20, 1942, in a former industrialist's villa, that the Wannsee Conference was held. Chaired by Reinhard Heydrich, Head of the Reich Security Main Office, it was agreed to implement a protocol drawn up by Adolf Eichmann which called for the active participation of Germany's public administration in the extermination of European Jewry, otherwise known as the "Final Solution."

We will then visit the Liebermann-Villa on Lake Wannsee. Impressionist painter Max Liebermann (1847-1935), President of the Prussian Academy of Arts until 1932, one of the most influential public personalities of his day, lived here surrounded by the lush landscaped garden which became the subject of many of his paintings. Max Liebermann's villa, like other Jewish-owned residences such as Villa Minoux, where the infamous Wannsee Conference took place, was confiscated by the Nazis in 1933.

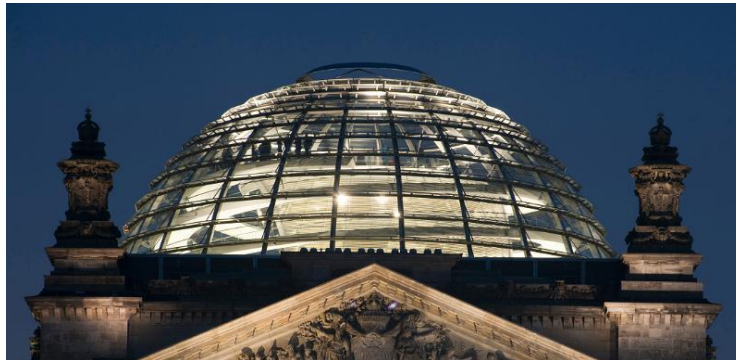


He remained a controversial figure throughout his life because his liberal, pro-French leanings. Later, as a liberal Jew, he became increasingly the target of the Nazi political propaganda. The fact that Lieberman, a Jewish artist had risen as far as painting the official portrait of President von Hindenburg, caused a furor in Nazi circles.

Evening at leisure.

Tuesday 19 June 2018
Berlin

Our first visit of the day will be the Reichstag Dome and terrace, which offers spectacular views of the parliamentary and government district and Berlin's sights. You will then visit The Memorial to the Murdered Jews of Europe also known as the Holocaust Memorial designed by architect Peter Eisenman and engineer Buro Happold.



Then on to the Abraham Geiger College. In 1942, the Nazis closed the "Hochschule für die Wissenschaft des Judentums" in Berlin. It was the end of an era that had begun in 1836 with Abraham Geiger's call for the founding of a Jewish theological department at a German university. Geiger (1810 - 1874) envisioned a school both dedicated to Jewish tradition and committed to the principle of academic freedom. Abraham Geiger College is the first liberal rabbinical seminary in Continental Europe since the Shoah. Its mission is the education of Reform Rabbis for Jewish communities in Central and Eastern Europe.

We will then move on to Hackesche Hoefe, a heritage site consisting of eight restored rear courtyards accessible through the main arched entrance at Rosenthaler Straße. The area, also known as the Scheunenviertel is one of Berlin's top entertainment hubs, popular with Berliners and visitors. We will have the opportunity for lunch (own arrangements - not included in costings) here before exploring what is on offer for a short while.



This afternoon we will then visit the Anne Frank Zentrum, (above) that tells the personal life story of Anne Frank and connects it to the world in which she lived. We will proceed to the Museum Otto Weidt's Workshop for the Blind that tells the story of the workshop where the owner of the small factory, Otto Weidt, employed mainly blind and deaf Jews producing brooms and brushes during World War II.

Finally, we will visit the New Berlin Synagogue, today the Centrum Judaicum, which is one of the most important locations for Jewish life in Berlin. It functions as a synagogue with egalitarian worship. Next, see the unusual, yet powerful Jewish Memorial that stands as a reminder of those who lost their lives in the Holocaust.

Remainder of day at leisure.
Crown Plaza Potsdamer Platz

Wednesday 20 June 2018
Berlin

This morning our visit will look at the delicate threads of Jewish history and culture interweave into an intricate web. Some places stand as a stark reminder of the obliteration of what was once vibrant Jewish life. The Jewish Museum Berlin, Daniel Libeskind's spectacular structure, has firmly established itself as one of Berlin's most recognizable landmarks. The museum's permanent exhibit invites visitors to travel through two millennia of German-Jewish history. Its depictions of 14 historical periods from the Middle Ages to the present paint a vivid portrait of Jewish life in Germany. Artistic and everyday objects, photos and letters, interactive displays and media stations together convey the history of Jewish culture and show how tightly Jewish life and German history are interwoven.



Then on to the Topography of Terror, which is both an indoor and outdoor museum in what was formerly Prinz-Albrecht-Strasse, an address associated with the SS, Gestapo and Reich Security Main Office during the period of the Third Reich. The permanent exhibition is divided into five themes, taking you on a thought-provoking journey from the 'National Socialist Takeover of Power' through to the 'End of the War and the Post-War Era'.



Time for lunch (own arrangements - not included in costings) before visiting the Tiergarten Strasse. The bus terminal at the corner Herbert-von-Karajan-Straße was formerly the site of the villa Tiergartenstraße No. 4, the headquarters of the Nazi "euthanasia" program (the mass murder of disabled people and others), codenamed Aktion T4 in reference to this address. Although the building from which this program was administered no longer exists, a monument by Richard Serra and a plaque set into the pavement commemorates its estimated 200,000 victims.

We will then visit the Kathe Kolwitz Museum. Käthe Kollwitz is known above all for her haunting Expressionist character studies and harrowing images of human torment. Finally we visit The Pestalozzistrasse Synagogue, one of the few pre-war synagogues still in use today as well as one of the liberal synagogues of the Jewish Community of Berlin. Religious services include organ music and a mixed choir. But men and women sit apart – the side and upper galleries are reserved entirely for women.

Remainder of your day at leisure.
Crown Plaza Potsdamer Platz

Thursday 21 June 2018
Berlin

Day at leisure to explore Berlin.
Crown Plaza Potsdamer Platz

Friday 22 June 2018
Berlin - Munich

Depart Berlin – Own arrangements