

Join OJC in Poland from April 9-12, 2018



Join **Kenes Tours** and the **OJC** in Poland with our expert tour educator, **Sara Pellach**. This thought-provoking journey through Krakow, Auschwitz and Warsaw celebrates the once great and high-cultured Jewish community of Poland, while remembering the destruction at the hands of the Nazis. The emotional and thoughtful 4-day program will put participants directly in contact with the events of the Holocaust, as well as with the revitalization of the Jewish community of today.

Our tour educator, Sara Pellach, the daughter of two survivors, is a Holocaust scholar and has led over 250 youth and adult Jewish heritage tours to Poland and Eastern Europe over the last 30 years. A former school principal in Canada, Sara participated in a tour to Poland for second generation survivors, after which she decided to devote her work to researching and teaching the Holocaust from the 'field.' She was recognized by Lech Wałęsa for her work in Holocaust education in Poland and is also a longtime Holocaust educator for Israel's Ministry of Education.

Monday, April 9 – Krakow

- Arrive in Krakow from your New York flight, get luggage, meet guide.
- Visit **Galicia Museum** where you will get an introduction and overview about the region to which Krakow belongs. Meet with a Polish history Professor (and expert in Polish Jewish-relations before and after WWII) from the Jagiellonian University for a privately guided tour of the museum. Opened in 2004, the Museum exists to commemorate the victims of the Holocaust and celebrate the Jewish culture of the Polish Galicia, presenting Jewish history from a new perspective. The objectives of the museum are to challenge the stereotypes and misconceptions typically associated with the Jewish past in Poland and to educate both Poles and Jews about their own histories, while encouraging them to think about the future.
- Proceed to the Jewish neighborhood of **Jewish Quarter of Kazimierz**.
- Lunch at a restaurant in **Kazimierz** and then enjoy a walking tour of the Jewish Quarter including the **Remuh Synagogue** and adjacent cemetery, **Issac Synagogue**, the Temple and the **Jewish Museum** located at the **Alte Shul**. **Remuh** is a unique complex of relics of Jewish architecture and sacred art reaching back to the mid-16th century. It remains the only Synagogue in Krakow that continues to function as an actual place of worship. **The Old Synagogue (Alte Shul-Stara Boznica)** was built early in the fifteenth century. During World

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War II, the Nazis desecrated and looted the synagogue and murdered thousands of Jews there and ultimately destroyed it. The synagogue was rebuilt by Matteo Gucci of Florence in the late 1950s.

- Depart to the area of the former Ghetto and visit the **Pharmacy**; Tadeusz Pankiewicz published his memoirs called **The Pharmacy** in the Krakow Ghetto. He tells how his pharmacy became a meeting place for the Jews where they could get information from the underground press. It currently houses the Judaica Branch of the Historical Museum of Krakow. The museum displays a fascinating collection of Judaica -- silver and ceramic ritual objects, paintings, embroidered tapestries, and textiles – and was a hiding place for Jews whom the Nazis were trying to arrest for violations of their laws.
- Visit the **JCC** and get a briefing by **Jonathan Orenstein**, Director.
- Enjoy dinner at the JCC with young adult guests from the community.

OVERNIGHT: SHERATON HOTEL, KRAKOW

Tuesday, April 10 – Auschwitz-Birkenau

- Early breakfast.
- Depart for Auschwitz.
- Arrive in the work camp known as **Auschwitz**; visit the Barracks, Block 4, 5, and the Crematorium. Tour with a museum guide.
- Participate in short memorial service and then have lunch.
- Continue to the **Birkenau** death camp.
- Depart Birkenau for the **Auschwitz Jewish Center**, dedicated to public education. The Center's programs teach about the richness of pre-war Jewish life in Oswiecim (Auschwitz) and build awareness of the dangers of xenophobia, anti-Semitism, and the other forms of intolerance.
- Return to Krakow.
- Dine at one of the restaurants in the Old Market square.
- Enjoy a walking tour of the market square.

OVERNIGHT: SHERATON HOTEL, KRAKOW

Wednesday, April 11 – Lublin

- Early breakfast and checkout.
- Depart for **Lublin**.

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- Visit **Karzimierz Dolny**, a renaissance town today, was an art colony on the banks of the Vistula river prior to 1939; mostly inhabited by the Jewish population.
- Visit the **Once Yeshiva**, slaughter house and market.
- Lunch at one of the restaurants on the beautiful Renaissance Square.
- Continue to and visit **Majdanek**; an extermination camp that remains exactly as the Russians encountered it when they attacked the Nazis. Nothing in the camp has been destroyed.
- Check into Lublianka Grand hotel.
- Depart to visit **Lublin** with its famous Yeshiva and other Jewish sites.
- Return to the hotel for dinner.

OVERNIGHT: LUBLIANKA GRAND HOTEL, LUBLIN

Thursday, April 12 – Warsaw

- Early breakfast and checkout.
- Depart for the **Warsaw Jewish Cemetery**, founded in 1799, one of the world's largest Jewish cemeteries. Visit the cemetery, learn its history and pay respects.
- Depart for the **Jewish Museum Polin**; enjoy a buffet lunch at the museum's restaurant "Besamim."
- Depart for old **Jewish ghetto** and visit the following places: **Umschlagplatz**, (collection point), **Mila 18**, and the **Rappaport Memorial**. A commemorative **Gateway Monument** was built on the site of Umschlagplatz, on which the names of 400 Jews are etched. The train station began its first transports in the summer of 1942. The majority of Jews deported from the Warsaw Ghetto were sent to Treblinka. At Treblinka, 870,000 Jews were killed.
- Visit the **Nozyk Synagogue**, founded in 1902, by a wealthy Jewish merchant, Zalman Nozyk. It is Warsaw's only surviving shul, the only pre-war surviving synagogue, and is where the Germans allowed public worship in autumn 1941. Later it was used as a stable. The synagogue was renovated between 1977-83.
- Meet with **Rabbi Michael Shudrich, Chief Rabbi of Poland (NC)**.
- Head to the airport the late-night departure to Israel.

Draft Itinerary -- Subject to Change

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