



Past · Present · Future Congregation Kehilath Jeshurun Journey to Poland

11-17 July 2023 – Draft 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 —

Tuesday 11 July

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.

Nożyk Synagogue

The Nożyk Synagogue is the only functioning pre-war synagogue in Warsaw and is home to the current Jewish community, here we will meet with Chief Rabbi Michael Schudrich.

Overnight: Warsaw

Wednesday 12 July

Jewish Historical Institute

The Jewish Historical Institute cares for the Jewish legacy preserved in its collections of seven million pages of varied documents. The most significant part of the collections is the Underground Archive of the Warsaw Ghetto, also known as the Ringelblum Archive.

Tykocin

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.

Overnight: Warsaw

Thursday 13 July

The "Grodzka Gate – NN Theatre" Centre

Founded by local enthusiasts in 1990 the Grodzka Gate NN Theatre Centre runs a range of activities and programmes drawing on the symbolic and historical significance of its residence, the Grodzka Gate, also known as the Jewish Gate. The Gate used to be a passage from the Christian to the Jewish part of the city, a meeting place of various cultures, traditions and religions.

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.

Majdanek

The Majdanek concentration camp was located three kilometres from the centre of Lublin and was in operation from October 1941 until July 1944.

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: Rzeszow

Friday 14 July

Łańcut

The town of Łańcut was central to the development of Chassidut in Poland. The synagogue from 1761 has been stunningly restored with wall decorations from 18th and 19th centuries.

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.

Zbylitowska Góra

A site of mass murder of the Jews from Tarnów.

Shabbat in Kraków

Candle lighting to begin Shabbat
Kabbalat Shabbat in one of Kraków's old Synagogues
Shabbat Dinner

Overnight: Kraków

Shabbat 15 July

Tefilla with Community
Kiddush

Kazimierz

The Jewish quarter in Kraków, known as Kazimierz, comprises the most intact and significant collection of Jewish buildings in Central Europe today, including seven remaining synagogues. It was home to Krakow's Jews for hundreds of years and was one of the most important Jewish communities in Europe. We will also visit the Krakow JCC and discover their role in establishing a Jewish community in Krakow today.

Shabbat Lunch
Testimony from one of the Righteous Among the Nations
Optional walk to Krakow's Wawel Castle

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.

Shabbat ends

Overnight: Kraków

Sunday 16 July

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".

Overnight: Krakow

Monday 17 July

Płaszów

The area of Płaszów was home to two of Krakow's Jewish cemeteries before the war. It is the burial place of the founder of the Beis Yaacov Girls' School network, Sarah Schenirer. The cemeteries were destroyed to make way for the Płaszów Labour camp under the command of the infamous Amon Goeth.

Drive to Krakow Airport