

Jewish Heritage Tour of Poland

Day 1: Warszawa

Arrival in Warszawa.

Overnight stay in Warszawa

Day 2: Warszawa

In the morning you will start a full-day sightseeing tour of the Polish capital, including its Jewish sites. For centuries Warszawa was one of the great Jewish centres of Poland. In 1939 there were an estimated 380,000 Jews living in and around the city. Most of Jewish Warszawa was destroyed after the Ghetto Uprising, and just a few traces of its presence remain. Most of the monuments and memorials are located within the wartime ghetto area and include **Nozyk Synagogue**, which is open for worship, the **Ghetto Heroes Monument**, the **Jewish Cemetery**, the **Jewish Historical Institute**, the Ghetto Wall, and the **Jewish Theatre** – one of only two full-time theatre companies performing in Yiddish.

Your visit to the capital would also not be complete without seeing such places as **Łazienki** Palace and Park, the **Royal Castle**, **Wilanów** and other sights.

Overnight stay in Warszawa.

Day 3: Warszawa - Treblinka - Tykocin – Warszawa (381 km)

Today you will take a day-trip to Treblinka and Tykocin.

First you will visit **Treblinka**, the former labour and extermination camp for Jews and Poles, which was built in 1941. In terms of the number of victims who perished there Treblinka was the second biggest extermination camp for Jews after Birkenau.

You will then move onto **Tykocin**, a town famous for its many great and learned scholars of the Tora. The Waad Arba Arcot had its seat here. The town still has the lay-out of a typical Jewish "sztetl" with many old buildings and a 17th Century synagogue. It is one of the most magnificent historical monuments to Jewish culture in Europe. The family home of the Zamenhof family lies on Piłsudskiego Street, while the cellar of the "small synagogue" is the current home of the Tejsza restaurant, where you can try examples of Jewish cuisine, including the best tzimmes, kugel and kreplech donuts in town.

Overnight stay in Warszawa.

Day 4: Warszawa - Góra Kalwaria - Kazimierz Dolny – Lublin (219 km)

Today you will leave the Polish capital and head towards Kalwaria and Kazimierz Dolny.

Góra Kalwaria is the former seat of the famous Hassidic dynasty founded in the early 19th Century by Tzaddik (Rebbe) Meir Alter. His son, Tzaddik Abraham Mordecha' Alter, promoted the court at Gora as a rallying point for Orthodox Jews.

In the afternoon you will go to **Kazimierz Dolny**, which became a prosperous mercantile town in the 14th Century, during which time Jews began to settle in the area. Dynamic Jewish communities of traders and shopkeepers were integral to the character of the town and their legacy is still visible in the former Lustig House which belonged to a Jewish mercantile family. Other traces of their presence include the local synagogue, the Jewish Cemetery and the collection of ritual objects displayed in the Silverware Museum.

You will then travel to **Lublin** where we will provide you with a tour of the town, which was home to a Jewish community for centuries. The old town includes an orphanage for Jewish children, an Orthodox cathedral old and new Jewish cemeteries and a mausoleum. During your visit, you will see the site of the former city ghetto with its 19th Century synagogue. Lublin also boasts the famous Yeshivat Chachmei Lublin – a modern talmudical college.

Overnight stay in Lublin.

Day 5: Lublin - Majdanek - Leżajsk - Łańcut – Rzeszów (74 km)

You will leave Lublin and visit **Majdanek**, a former Nazi camp. Almost the entire Jewish community of Lublin perished here.

Further along on your route is **Leżajsk**, once home to a Hassidic centre established in 1772 by Rebbe Elimelech. It is currently a place of pilgrimage for many Jews who come here to pray.

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Our next destination is **Łańcut**. Here you will visit the Jewish Museum, the old cemetery which includes the restored grave of Reb Horowitz, the new Jewish cemetery and the old synagogue, which was built in 1761. The synagogue has a small prayer room known as the Lublin room, named after the Lublin Tsaddik Jakub Izaak Horowitz, also known as the or the "Prophet of Lublin".

Overnight stay in Rzeszów.

Day 6: Rzeszów - Krosno - Rymanów – Tarnów (166 km)

You will leave Rzeszów and visit **Krosno**, where the only remaining physical trace of its Jewish heritage is the Jewish cemetery. Around 200 gravestones have been preserved in the cemetery and special attention should be paid to the statue of Bernard Munz, shaped in the form of a broken tree.

On the other hand, in **Rymanów** you will visit the grave of Tzadik Menachem and his wife and the grave of Tzadik Cwi Hirsch and his son Jozef Friedman. Rymanów was also the birthplace of the Nobel Prize winner Isidor Isaac Rabi

In the afternoon you will move onto **Tarnów**. Here you will be given a sightseeing tour of the town whose architecture comprises a blend of Gothic and Renaissance styles. Tarnów has many places of Jewish cultural interest, such as the ruins of the old synagogue and the Jewish cemetery, which includes a large stone monument commemorating the deaths of thousands of Jewish people in WWII.

Overnight stay in Tarnów.

Day 7: Tarnów – Kraków (92 km)

Leave Tarnów for Kraków.

In the afternoon you will visit the Jewish quarter of Kazimierz in Kraków.

Kazimierz has been a major historic centre of Jewish culture since the 16th Century. Its soul perished during the traumatic events of the Second World War, but many of the district's buildings, some still with Yiddish inscriptions, have survived. Today Jewish life and culture is undergoing a revival in Kazimierz. Many buildings have been restored and the district's fashionable cafes, restaurants and bars are nowadays filled with tourists from all over the world curious to learn more about Jewish culture. The district's main attractions are Szeroka Street where "**Schindler's List**" was filmed, Isaac, High, and **Old Synagogues, Remu'h Synagogue** and its Cemetery, and the "**Pod Orłem**" ("**Eagle**") Pharmacy.

In the evening we invite you for dinner in a Jewish restaurant in Kazimierz to the accompaniment of Jewish music.

Overnight stay in Kraków.

Day 8: Kraków – Auschwitz – Łódź (213 km)

You will leave Kraków and travel to the **Auschwitz-Birkenau Concentration Camp** Museum of Martyrdom.

The Museum provides one of the most memorable lessons in Modern European History. The visit includes a film showing the camp's liberation, the flower-strewn Death Wall, national memorials, the railway line and ramp, the remains of hundreds of barracks, all of which constitute a moving testimony to the number of lives lost through Nazi atrocities across occupied Europe.

In the afternoon we offer you a tour of **Łódź**.

This industrial city owed its growth to the role played by the Jewish community, as some of its members became notable industrialists. The ghetto established there during War World II was one of the biggest. It contains over 200,000 Jews from all over Europe, but only a few hundred survived. The small cemetery and monument commemorate the victims of these events. The main cemetery is the largest in Europe and includes tombstones from 19th Century.

Overnight stay in Łódź.

Day 9: Łódź - Warszawa airport (139 km)

Transfer from Łódź to Warszawa airport.

Departure.

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