

Makom NY Eastern Europe Jewish Heritage Tour

March 10-22, 2020

Prague, Budapest, Krakow, and Warsaw

One who remembers the past ensures the future...

Updated 7.10.19

Tuesday, March 10: *Depart USA on Lot Airlines flight 027 at 11:20pm.*

Wednesday, March 11: *Land in Warsaw at 12:35pm. Take Lot flight 521 to Prague at 3:20 pm. Land in Prague at 4:40pm.*

Afternoon arrival at **Prague**, an ancient European city renowned for its beauty and unique wealth of historical sights, the capital of the Czech Republic.

Group Dinner and overnight: Jalta Boutique Hotel, Prague

Thursday, March 12: *Prague*

Prague city tour traversing the new and old town of Prague. Visit the **National Museum**, the **State Opera House** and the **National Theatre**. Visit **Prague Castle** area with famous **St. Vitus Cathedral**, Gothic **Vladislav Hall**, picturesque **Golden Lane** and **Lobkowitz Palace** – world-famous picture gallery. Continue to the historical lesser town of Prague, walk across famous **Charles Bridge**.

Afternoon walking tour of the former **Jewish Ghetto** in Prague with its famous Jewish cemetery, and the legends of Rabbi Lowe and the Golem. Visit **Prague synagogues**; Maissel, Pinkas, Spanish, Klaus and the Old-New synagogue. View **Franz Kafka's House** and walk through the old town including the **Old Town Square** with its famous astronomical clock.

Free evening (options will be provided).

Overnight: Jalta Boutique Hotel, Prague



Friday, March 13: *Prague-TeresinStadt*

Drive to Visit **Terezin** (Theresiensdadt) - the town and fortress of Terezín were founded in 1780 by Joseph II. In June 1940 the small fortress was turned into a Nazi concentration camp run by the Gestapo and by the end of war over 90,000 prisoners had passed through its gates. In February 1942 the town of Terezín itself became a Jewish ghetto and 160,000 Jews from 35 different countries were brought here. Visit the **small fortress**, **Jewish cemetery** and **museum**. Visit **Lidice**.

Return to Prague-Shabbat services and Dinner with Liberal Jewish community.

Overnight: Jalta Boutique Hotel, Prague



Saturday, March 14: *Prague - Mikulov - Budapest*

Drive from Prague to **Mikulov**; for centuries Mikulov was the most important cultural and administrative center of the Moravian Jews, and the seat of the Moravian Rabbi. Picturesque old house – part of the former Jewish ghetto in the area directly surrounding the towering castle – bear witness to the bygone fame and glory of the Jewish community with its famous personalities such as Rabbis Mordechai Benet, Menachem Mendl Krochmal, and Samuel Shmelke Horovitz. Continue with drive to **Budapest**; the pearl on the Danube River and the capital of Hungary, one of the most beautiful cities in the world. View Gellért Hill, right next the Danube River flowing through the centre of the modern city. The ideal combination of the relative ease of crossing the river at this spot and the natural protection the hill offered against invasion led the earliest settlers to to build a town here. Covering an area of two hundred square miles and divided into 23 administrative districts, it is home today to a population of 1.8 million people. Group Dinner and overnight: Intercontinental, Budapest



Sunday, March 15: *Budapest*

City tour of Budapest, starting at **Chain Bridge** and driving over to Buda. We stop in the **Castle District**, a short walk to the main attractions of the area; **Matthias Church, Fisherman's Bastion, Gellért Hill** (Citadel) for a spectacular view of Budapest. Cross the **Elisabeth Bridge** to Pest. We pass by Europe's largest thermal spa and the Budapest Zoo. Stop at **Heroes' Square** with statues of the most famous Hungarian kings and dukes. Continue via the Andrassy Avenue to downtown Pest, passing the **Opera House, St. Stephen's Basilica**, to **Vaci Utza** pedestrian zone.

Jewish Budapest: visit **Dohany Synagogue, Toni Curtis Tree of life, Raoul Wallenberg Memorial Park**, the **Jewish Museum, Kazinczy Synagogue**, visit the famous Budapest **Central Market Hall** and **Szechenyi Bathhouse**.

Evening **deluxe cruise** on the Danube River including a buffet dinner.

Overnight: Intercontinental, Budapest



Monday, March 16: *Budapest - Banska Bystrica - Krakow*

Depart Budapest to Krakow, driving through Slovakia and the beautiful Tatra Mountains. En route visit **Banska Bystrica**, the historical town from World War II, known for its town square with attractive burgher houses, outdoor cafes, and restaurants. Visit **Kremnicka**, where Jews, POWs, and partisans were murdered by the Nazis after the suppression of the Slovak National Uprising in 1944. Continue via Tatra Mountains to **Krakow**; a beautiful historical town and former capital of Poland with a thousand-year tradition as a center of science, culture, and art. In 1978, Krakow was listed by UNESCO as one of the world's 12 most precious monuments. Today it is experiencing a revival of culture.

Group Dinner with Liberal Jewish Community in Krakow.

Overnight: Radison Blu, Krakow

Tuesday, March 17: *Krakow*

City tour of Krakow. Visit **Kazimierz**; the former Jewish district of Krakow; The **Remuh Synagogue** and cemetery, **Old Synagogue** and the **Jewish museum**. Visit the famous **Schindler Factory and Museum**. Continue to the **Wawel Castle**, formerly the royal residence and the seat of Polish kings, Poland's richest, most popular museum with seventy one magnificent rooms housing several thousand works of art of greatest value, among them the greatest Wawel collection of the Arras tapestries. The Wawel Cathedral, once the site for coronations, is the eternal resting place of the kings of Poland.

Evening on own.

Overnight: Radison Blu, Krakow

**Wednesday, March 18: *Auschwitz***

Drive to Auschwitz-Birkenau, the biggest Nazi concentration camp in the years 1940-1945, where approximately 1.5 million people were exterminated. Ceremony of Remembrance.

Visit the **Oswiscim Jewish Center** and the **Martyrdom Museum**. Private guided tour of the concentration camp with Pawel Sawicki. View the ruins of Brezinka (Birkenau) camp.

Name Reading and Yizkor ceremony – Ohr Elohim Nishmat Adam. Return to Krakow.

Free time at Krakow town square.

Overnight: Radison Blu, Krakow

**Thursday, March 19: *Krakow - Wieliczka - Warsaw***

Depart Krakow to visit the **Wieliczka Salt Mines**. Over 700 years old, this is the oldest working mine in Europe and listed by UNESCO as a World Heritage Site. Excavations, decorated chapels, galleries, and wonderous salt lakes are situated from Level I (64 metres deep) to Level III (135 meters below ground) in the Miocenic salt deposit which was formed about 15 million years ago.

Continue to **Warsaw**, the capital of Poland since the 17th century, located on the Vistula River. The town, almost completely destroyed during WWII, was painstakingly restored to its former condition and is now one of the gems of Europe.

Dinner and overnight: Westin Hotel, Warsaw

Friday, March 20: *Warsaw*

City tour of Warsaw, including the **Castle Square** where we can see the first non-ecclesiastic statue in Warsaw, King Sigismund's Column and the Gothic castle dating to the 15th century and expanded throughout the centuries, the seat of Poland's kings. It was here that the Third of May Constitution was promulgated in 1791, the second constitution after that of the US. Visit **St. John's Cathedral** and walk through the **Market Square** where we will have a break for tea and cake at one of the fine restaurants, or shopping at the gift shops and galleries. Pass the late-Gothic structure by John Baptist of Venice – the Barbican. In the new town market we can see the Church and Monastery of Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament and the house where Maria Sklodowska-Curie was born. At the **Krasinski Square** we will stop by the **Monument of the Heroes of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising**, located on the square, which was once a site of the main bunker of the Jewish Combat Organization. Drive via the Royal Route with its aristocratic residences, **Tomb of Unknown Soldier**, and Warsaw's **Grand Opera** and **National Theatre House** erected by Antonio Corazzi.

Our afternoon will focus on places of remembrance closely connected with Warsaw's Jews. Visit the **Nozyk Synagogue**, the last remaining pre-Holocaust synagogue in Warsaw. Guided visit through the **Okapova cemetery**, one of the largest Jewish cemeteries in the world and a testimony to hundreds of years of Jewish life in Poland.

Visit the site of **Warsaw Ghetto**, including the Remnants of the Ghetto Wall, Nathan Rappaport the **Warsaw Ghetto Memorial, Mila 18**, and **Umschlag-platz** on Stawki Street, from where 300,000 Jews were deported to Treblinka by the Germans during the summer of 1942. Visit the commemorative **Gate Way Monument**, erected on the site where Jews were loaded onto the railroad cars, and unveiled on the 45th anniversary of the Warsaw Ghetto uprising.

Evening: Shabbat Dinner with Jewish Community.

Overnight: Westin Hotel, Warsaw

Saturday, March 21: *Warsaw*

Visit the newly opened **Museum of the History of Polish Jews** and meet with one of the curators. Visit the **Jewish Genealogy Center**.

Afternoon free at leisure. Things to do on your own: Copernicus Science Museum. Chopin Monument, Teatr Polski – Poland Orchestra, Old Town, Shopping centers at Arkadia Mall, Zlote tarasy, Bazaar Olympia flea market.

Farewell dinner and wrap up conversation at local restaurant.

Overnight: Westin Hotel, Warsaw

Sunday, March 22: *Departure*

Daytime activity – TBA.

Transfer from the hotel to the airport for your departure home.

Depart Warsaw on Lot Airlines flight 26 at 4:50pm.

Land JFK at 9:30pm.

