

Ayelet TOURS

THE MEMORIES LAST FOREVER!

Keneseth Israel Jewish Heritage Tour of **POLAND**

Led by Rabbi Ben David
July 7-13, 2025
with Prague extension

800.237.1517 | www.ayelet.com | ayelet@ayelet.com

as of 6/25/24

Jewish history in Europe traces its roots back over 1,000 years and continues with rebuilt vibrancy today. Together, we will explore this rich and varied history, filled with triumphs and tragedy. We will confront the horrors of the past and also connect with the European Jewish renewal of the present.

DAY 1

MONDAY, JULY 7, 2025
DEPARTURE

- We depart the United States on our overnight flights to Warsaw.

DAY 2

TUESDAY, JULY 8, 2025
ARRIVAL IN WARSAW

- **Witamy - welcome to Warsaw!** Upon arrival, we are met by an Ayelet Tours representative.
- We begin with a panoramic bus tour of the city, passing **Chopin's Monument**, **Lazienki Park** and the **Royal Castle**. We will also walk through **Old Town Market Square**, reconstructed post-war to its former glory.
- We check into our hotel and have a chance to relax and refresh.
- Tonight, we meet with members of **Beit Polska**, the center of progressive Judaism in Warsaw, learning how Judaism lives on in today's Poland.
- We complete our day with a **welcome dinner** together at a local restaurant.

Overnight in Warsaw (D)

DAY 3

WEDNESDAY, JULY 9, 2025
JEWISH WARSAW

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- This morning, we tour the landmark **POLIN Museum**, a national project that takes visitors on a multi-media journey through Poland's Jewish history, from the early Roman trade routes through the Holocaust and into today's reborn community.
- Next, we set out on a **Jewish heritage tour** of the city. We begin with a visit to **Nozyk Synagogue**, Warsaw's only surviving synagogue from pre-war days, then view remains of the **Warsaw Ghetto wall** before walking along the **Memorial Route of Jewish Martyrdom and Struggle** in the former ghetto. We finish by paying tribute at the powerful **Rappaport Monument to the Ghetto Heroes**.
- We continue with a story-filled visit to the enormous **Okopowa Street Jewish Cemetery**, where the giants of Yiddish culture are buried near Talmudic masters and enlightenment-era intellectuals.
- After lunch on our own, we drive through the **Warsaw Zoo** to visit the Zookeeper's house, where hundreds of Jews were saved during the Holocaust and now memorialized in the movie *"The Zookeeper's Wife."*
- We return to our hotel for a chance to relax and refresh before setting out to explore and enjoy dinner on our own.

Overnight in Warsaw (B)





DAY 4

THURSDAY, JULY 10, 2025
JEWISH KRAKOW THEN & NOW

- Breakfast and check out of our hotel.
- This morning, we board the **train to Krakow**.
- Upon arrival, our discovery of **Kazmierz**, Krakow's old Jewish district, begins at the **Altshul**, the fortress-like "Old Synagogue" erected in the 15th century. We will also stop by the bastion of the Reform community, the grand and luxurious **Tempel**, as well as the **Remuh Synagogue and cemetery**, dedicated to the great Talmudist Moshe Isserles and his contemporaries.
- We continue with a visit to the "**Under the Eagle**" **Pharmacy**, where pharmacist Tadeusz Pankiewicz smuggled information and medicine into the ghetto.
- We pass by **Oskar Schindler's Factory** now a museum, on the way to the memorial site of the former **Plaszow Concentration Camp**, both recreated in the movie Schindler's List.
- We check into our hotel and refresh before **dinner** together at a local restaurant.

Overnight in Krakow (B, D)

DAY 5

FRIDAY, JULY 11, 2025
AUSCHWITZ-BIRKENAU

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- This morning, we travel to **Auschwitz-Birkenau**, the infamous Nazi concentration camp, where over one million Jews were murdered in the Holocaust. After our docent-led through the museum, where we travel to Birkenau and witness the ruins of its destructive machinery, spreading as far as the eye can see.
- We return to Krakow and have the remainder of the afternoon to reflect.
- As the sun begins to set on this emotionally intense day, we join members of the inspiring **JCC Krakow**, including its Executive Director, **Jonathan Ornstein**, for **Shabbat services and dinner**. The JCC Krakow is a vibrant and growing community, serving Jews from pre-school through the elderly and hosting the annual Ride for the Living from Auschwitz to Krakow. Since February 2022, they have worked tirelessly to assist in the aid of Ukrainian refugees.

Overnight in Krakow (B, D)



DAY 6

SATURDAY, JULY 12, 2025
KRAKOW/SALT MINES

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- Today, we enjoy a city tour, including stops at **Wawel Castle**, **St. Mary's Church**, the **Renaissance Cloth Hall** and other ancient landmarks.
- Later, we visit the **Wieliczka Salt Mines**, which are over 700 years old and one of the largest and oldest working salt mines in Europe. The site is on the UNESCO list of the 12 most priceless monuments in the world. An elevator will descend to the first level of the mine, where we will be able to see the 180-foot chapel made from salt rock and list with salt-crystal chandeliers. There are many other chambers carved out of a huge block of salt, underground museums and even underground tennis and volleuball courts.
- This evening, we join together one final time for a **farewell dinner** and a chance to recount all that we have learned and experienced.

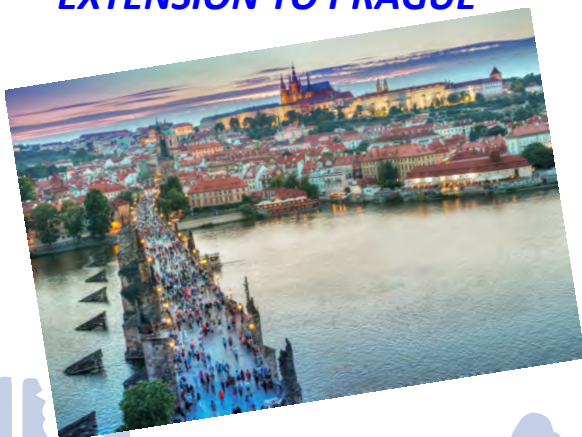
Overnight in Krakow (B, D)

DAY 7

SUNDAY, JULY 13, 2025
FAREWELL/EXTENSION BEGINS

- Breakfast and check out of our hotel.
- We transfer to the airport for our flight back to the United States, landing later today.

**OR JOIN OUR
EXTENSION TO PRAGUE**



DAY 7

SUNDAY, JULY 13, 2025
TO PRAGUE

- Breakfast and check out of our hotel.
- This morning, we say goodbye to those departing and board our bus to **Prague**. Along the way we enjoy the beautiful Bohemian and Moravian landscape and discuss the stories of these lands.
- Upon arrival, we check into our hotel and enjoy a relaxing evening with dinner on own.

Overnight in Prague (B)

DAY 8

MONDAY, JULY 14 2025
PRAGUE'S JOSEFOV

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- We begin our day with a visit to **Josefov**, Prague's legendary **Jewish quarter** with its **Old Town Hall**, the **Alt-Neu Synagogue**, the **Pinkas Synagogue**, the **Maisel Synagogue**, the **Spanish Synagogue** and the **Jewish cemetery**.
- This afternoon, we enjoy a tour of **Golden Prague**, including the 1,000-year-old **Hradcany Castle** and **St. Vitus' Cathedral**, a walk across the **Charles Bridge** and a view of the **Astronomical Clock**.
- Evening at leisure to explore and enjoy dinner on own.

Overnight in Prague (B)



DAY 9

TUESDAY, JULY 15, 2025
TEREZIN

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- Today, we travel to **Terezin**, the former "model" Nazi concentration camp. We visit the **prison fortress** and the **Jewish cemetery**, the **hidden synagogue** and the **museum** filled with the artwork of former prisoners. We stop by the **memorial monument** and pass through the town itself. We'll also hear stories and see photos of some of the great rabbis imprisoned here, including **Leo Baeck** and **Regina Jonas**, the first woman ordained a rabbi.
- We return to Prague and enjoy a **farewell dinner**, as we recount all we have experienced together. We are joined by **Rabbi David Maxa**, the first Czech-born rabbi to return to Prague and founder of the local **Congregation Ec Chajim**.

Overnight in Prague (B, D)

DAY 10

WEDNESDAY, JULY 16, 2025
DEPARTURE

- Breakfast and check out of our hotel.
- We transfer to the airport for our flight back to the United States, landing later today.

THE MEMORIES LAST FOREVER!

**Itinerary subject to change*

