

Tentative Poland Itinerary

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 05, 2020

- Depart the US.

Overnight: Flight

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 06, 2020

- Arrival at Krakow International Airport.
- Meet your tour educator, who will accompany you on this journey of education and inspiration.
- **Medieval and Modern:** Explore the **Main Market Square**, Krakow's city center and one of the best public spaces in Europe today. It combines modern street life with medieval architecture. One of the largest medieval squares still in existence, it is a UNESCO World Heritage Site.
- **Grandeur and Vulnerability:** Visit the **Wawel Royal Castle**. This palace was the magnificent home of Poland's kings and rulers from 1038-1536 and is a key symbol of the nation's culture and independence. Learn also how Polish independence has been repeatedly threatened as we examine how the castle was, in later centuries, repeatedly sacked by invading armies. Highlights of the visit will include the stunning grounds and cathedral.
- Check into the hotel.
- **LaDa'at Focus 1,000 Years of Jewish History:** Orientation dialogue with your tour educator over **dinner**. During this **introduction session**, we'll look forward to the days ahead, preview some of the highlights and themes of our trip, and share personal expectations of what we will experience in Poland.

Meals: Dinner

Overnight: Krakow

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 07, 2020

- The **Kazimierz Jewish Quarter** has been the heart of Jewish life in Krakow for 500 years and is now one of the city's most attractive and Bohemian areas. Our tour will include:
 - The **Altshul**. Built in the 15th century, this is the oldest synagogue still standing in Poland and an important example of Jewish architecture in Europe. It was designed as a fortress synagogue to assist in the defense of the city. We'll visit its museum, which celebrates Krakow's Jewish heritage through exhibits based on lifecycle events.
 - The **Rema Synagogue**, named after **Rabbi Moses Isserles** (the "Rema"), a great Talmudic scholar and codifier of Jewish law. Reconstructed many times, the synagogue still includes

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some of its original features from the 16th century. It is one of the few synagogues in Krakow that is still active today.

- The **Rema Cemetery**, which was established in 1535. Many renowned rabbis, including the Rema himself, are buried here. But this is also the burial place of a man who may not have existed. A tombstone marks the grave of “Yossele the Holy Miser,” a legendary figure of Polish Jewish folklore.
- The **Tempel Synagogue**. Built in the 19th century and repeatedly extended, this Reform synagogue with its 36 stained glass windows is evidence of the growing power of non-Orthodox religious movements in Poland before the war. No longer used as a synagogue, it instead hosts artistic events and is a key venue in the revival of Jewish culture in the city.
- The **Galicia Jewish Museum**, with its powerful photographs of Jewish life in Polish Galicia. It includes exhibitions on the richness and diversity of Galician Jewish culture as well as haunting images of its destruction.
- We will then cross the bridge from Kazimierz to the site of the **Podgorze** ghetto. This was the tragic path taken in 1941 by thousands of Krakow Jews. After being forced into the ghetto, many were then deported to the death camps. Others were killed in Podgorze when the ghetto was liquidated in 1943. Our guided visit will include:
 - The **Krakow Umschlagplatz memorial**, now called **Ghetto Heroes Square**, which was the center of the Podgorze ghetto. Its “lonely chairs” are a remarkable monument to those who have vanished.
 - The **Under the Eagle Pharmacy**, a pharmacy inside the ghetto run by **Tadeusz Pankiewicz**. We’ll hear how this Polish-Catholic pharmacist saved many Jews and was subsequently recognized by Yad Vashem as one of the Righteous Among the Nations.
 - The **Oskar Schindler Factory Museum** tells the story of Krakow and its residents under Nazi occupation from 1939 to 1945. The museum is located in the enamel factory owned by Schindler and his wife Emilie, which they used to protect over 1,000 Jews from deportation to Auschwitz.
- Return to the hotel.
- Enjoy an evening at leisure in the vibrant university city.

Meals: Breakfast

Overnight: Krakow

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TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 08, 2020

- ***In This Place:*** Visit the **Auschwitz–Birkenau** complex, the largest of the Nazi concentration and extermination centers and a key location of the Holocaust in all its inhumanity. Over 1.1 million people lost their lives in the Auschwitz camps. Our experience will include:
 - The first camp built at Auschwitz, a mass concentration camp. Here, we'll visit the Auschwitz **museum** which contains powerful artifacts and haunting footage of the lives and deaths of prisoners.
 - We will then make the short drive to the **Auschwitz II death camp**, also known as **Birkenau**. Largely untouched since the war, it provides intimate insights into the tragedy of the Holocaust. We'll reflect here on the personal stories of some of the Jews held and killed here and read accounts from survivors.
- **Boxed lunch** en route.
- ***After Auschwitz:*** At the **Oswiecim Synagogue**, we will reflect, as individuals and as a group, on what we have experienced. This synagogue stands as a silent witness to the Holocaust. Before the Holocaust, Oswiecim (in German, Auschwitz) was a Polish town with a Jewish majority, many synagogues, and a thriving Jewish communal life.
- Return to the hotel.
- ***The Krakow Jewish Community Today and a Vision for the Future:*** Evening program at the **Krakow Jewish Community Center** with **Jonathan Ornstein**, the JCC Director. Enjoy **dinner** with members of the local Jewish community and learn more about the cultural and religious revival happening at the JCC.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Overnight: Krakow

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 09, 2020

- Check out of the hotel.
- Load your luggage onto the luggage truck; it will be transferred separately to Warsaw.
- ***A World Made of Salt:*** The Wieliczka Salt Mines are a UNESCO World Heritage Site and one of Poland's most popular attractions. We'll experience this underground labyrinth of tunnels and shafts, which houses a salt lake and many intricate statues and creations (including an entire chapel) chiseled out of salt.
- Transfer to the Krakow train station.
- Depart Krakow and travel north by train to Poland's capital, Warsaw (*The journey is approximately 2.5 hours*).

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- Boxed lunch, en route.
- Visit Warsaw's Old Town. Established in the 13th century but destroyed by the German army during World War II, the Old Town has been meticulously rebuilt. We'll walk through the market place, once a center of European cultural life and now again a vibrant area of fashionable restaurants and shops, see the medieval walls and the Warsaw Barbican, the fortifications that encircled the city. John's Archcathedral, reconstructed according to its original 14th-century Gothic style, is another impressive example of a city and culture rebuilt after the carnage of the war.
- Check into the hotel.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

Overnight: Warsaw

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2020

- Depart for **Lodz**.
- Visit the **Jewish Cemetery of Lodz**, the largest Jewish cemetery in Europe. Learn about the rich history of the city's Jewish life through the tombstones of its rabbis, scholars and artists, and stand along the "**Ghetto field**," a mass grave of the Lodz Holocaust victims.
- **What Remains:** Lodz's rich Jewish communal life included hundreds of synagogues. Today, only one of those synagogues remains. **The Reicher Synagogue** was the private synagogue of an industrialist family. We'll see the synagogue and learn how it survived Nazi destruction and discuss recent efforts to revitalize Jewish life in Lodz.
- **The Ghetto:** In 1940, all of Lodz's Jews were forced into a tiny area that was sealed off by barbed wire and German soldiers. We'll visit what remains of the Lodz Ghetto and its key sites. At **Koscielny Square**, we'll learn how even in the most horrendous of circumstances, Jews in the ghetto tried to keep education, social welfare, and communal life going in spite of the increasing disease and atrocities as the ghetto was turned into a slave labor camp.
- **Lodz – From Industry to Entertainment:** We'll experience firsthand the transformation of Lodz's economy. The great complex of 19th century factories known as the **Izrael Poznanski Empire** is now a 21st-century center of shopping and entertainment called **Manufaktura**. There will be free time to shop as well.
- **Deportation and Devastation:** Stand at the **Radegast** train station from where 150,000 Lodz Jews were sent to their deaths. In 1942, this station was used for the first mass deportation of Lodz Jews to the Chelmo extermination camp. In 1944, with defeat in sight, the Nazis sent almost all of Lodz's remaining Jews to Auschwitz and liquidated the

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ghetto. Our visit will include the original station building, the Tunnel of the Deported, and the Hall of Towns, memorials that mark the destruction of a the once-powerful Jewish community of Lodz.

- Depart Lodz and return to **Warsaw**.

Meals: Breakfast

Overnight: Warsaw

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2020

- ***The World That Was:*** A guided visit to the **Jewish Cemetery of Warsaw (Gensha) on Okopowa Street** is a chance to mourn what has been lost but also to recall the strength of Jewish life in Warsaw. From 1806, many of the great figures of Polish Jewry, including rabbis, communists, scientists, and Yiddish writers, were buried here. One of the world's largest Jewish cemeteries, it was badly damaged in World War II and then neglected for many years. Since the 1990s, Jewish and non-Jewish volunteers have been repairing and trying to trace the names of the many Jews buried here. We'll walk among the earth-laden paths, overgrown thicket and worn-down tombstones and talk about the Jews of Warsaw.
- ***Still Standing:*** Warsaw had over 400 synagogues before the Holocaust. We'll visit the **Nozyk Synagogue**, the only stand-alone synagogue that remains today. Badly damaged during the war, it was eventually returned to the Jewish community, restored, and is now an active synagogue.
- Take a guided visit to the **Warsaw Ghetto**. Here, we'll see the **Remnants of the Ghetto Wall** and the **Nathan Rapoport Warsaw Ghetto Memorial** and retrace, at the **Path of Remembrance**, the steps taken in 1943 by heroic fighters during the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising. At **Mila 18**, we will commemorate the doomed uprising and at **Umschlagplatz**, the holding area before transportation to the Treblinka death camp, reflect on the fate of the Jews of the Warsaw Ghetto.
- ***Shelter from the Storm:*** Local guides will escort us to the site of a remarkable display of heroism. During World War II, hundreds of Jews were hidden at the **Zabinski Villa at Warsaw Zoo**. Learn how zookeeper Jan Zabinski smuggled Jews to the zoo from the Warsaw Ghetto and see the cellar and abandoned animal enclosures where they hid. We'll also view the piano on which Jan's wife, Antonina Zabinski, would play a special tune to warn that Germans were approaching. Honored by Yad Vashem as Righteous Among the Nations, the story of the Zabinskis inspired the book and film, *The Zookeeper's Wife*.

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- Return to the hotel with free time to prepare for Shabbat.
- **Kabbalat Shabbat services** at a local synagogue.
- **Shabbat dinner** with members of the local Jewish community.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Overnight: Warsaw

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2020

- ***A Very Large Symbol of Soviet Power:*** We'll venture to the top of the **Palace of Science and Culture**, one of Europe's tallest buildings, for 360-degree views of modern-day Warsaw. Find out why, in the 1950s, Joseph Stalin ordered this massive example of Soviet architecture to be constructed in the war-destroyed capital of Poland. An optional tour of the cavernous interior will include exhibitions, socialist statues, and massive halls where the Polish Communist party met and the Rolling Stones played.
- ***Many Stories:*** We'll visit the **POLIN Museum of the History of Polish Jews**, located in the center of what once was the Warsaw Ghetto. Opened in 2014, this massive (over 43,000 square feet) museum explores the history of Poland's Jews from their arrival one thousand years ago until today. Our visit will begin with a discussion on the richness and variety of Jewish life in Poland and an introduction to key features and highlights of the museum. It would take weeks to explore the entire museum, but you'll get the chance to visit the exhibitions and issues that especially fascinate you.
- A **free afternoon** in Warsaw will give you the chance to check out the city's combination of rich history and contemporary fun. We recommend:
 - The 187 acres of gardens, lakes, and glades at **Łazienki Park**. The city's largest park also includes palaces, museums, and some fine peacocks.
 - The **Fryderyk Chopin Museum**. Warsaw's favorite son was a composer and pianist of genius. Multimedia exhibitions explore Chopin's life, while listening booths let you lose yourself in his wonderful music.
 - **Wilanów Palace**. Miraculously, the royal palace and grounds known as "Poland's Versailles" survived the carnage of WWII. First commissioned by King Jan III in 1677, it is one of the country's most visited sites due to its beautiful Baroque and neo-classical architecture and lavish interior packed with art and treasures.
 - The **Polish Vodka Museum**. Find out why Polish vodka is considered better than the rest as a guide takes you through the

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vodka-making process and explains the cultural importance of Poland's favorite drink. The visit concludes with a tasting session.

- **The Warsaw Rising Museum:** The city's doomed but heroic uprising against the Nazis in 1944 is commemorated through interactive displays, exhibits, and personal accounts. It's a powerful and large museum, so allow yourself plenty of time.
- **Farewell dinner** and group reflection at a local restaurant.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Overnight: Warsaw

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2020

- Check out of the hotel
- Group transfer to Warsaw International Airport.
- Departure flight to the US.

Meals: Breakfast