

Travel with The Jewish Museum

Kraków, Prague and Berlin
Three Jewels of Culture, Three Portraits of Jewish Life
September 4 – 16, 2011



There is mystery in these storied cities of Eastern Europe and beauty beyond compare. Their histories are deep and long, full of periods of turbulence and tragedy, but also those of enlightenment, prosperity and astonishing cultural achievement. All of them were once great centers of Jewish culture. This trip is a unique opportunity not only to visit the must-see wonders like Prague's castle and Kraków's Tempel Synagogue, but to gain substantial knowledge about the rich Jewish history of the region.

Thousand-year-old Prague, with one of the world's most pristine and varied collections of architecture, is breathtaking. It is also the site of the oldest continuous Jewish community in Europe. We will wander through its labyrinthine streets and mystical cemetery. The Jewish Museum of Prague's *Precious Legacy* exhibition will be explored in depth. This unparalleled collection of Judaica and art was confiscated by the Nazis with the stated intention of placing them in a "museum to an extinct race." At war's end, with Prague spared from bombing, the collection filled 50 warehouses throughout the city and remained intact for the world to see now. In Kraków—the intellectual and artistic center of Poland—we will explore the Hasidim of Galicia and the medieval Old Town, with its 6,000 historic sites and more than 2 million works of art. Berlin will give us a taste of a modern, thriving, cosmopolitan city. There we'll stroll along the legendary Unter den Linden Boulevard and allow ample time in its famed museums including The Jewish Museum of Berlin—Daniel Libeskind's architectural tour-de-force.

Trip leader Dr. Aryeh Maidenbaum and scholars Rabbi Chaim and Dr. Doreen Seidler-Feller will deepen our understanding of each city with their inspiring and complex understandings of Jewish history and the art that illuminates it as we travel the roads of modernity in an ancient, endlessly fascinating land.

Sunday, September 4: Depart U.S. for Kraków, Poland.

Monday, September 5: Morning arrival in Kraków; check into the 5-star Sheraton Kraków hotel, ideally located on the bank of the Wisla river near famous Wawel Castle and a few minute's walk to Old Town and the Market Square. Optional afternoon walking tour, including the Rynek (UNESCO World Heritage site), a picturesque medieval market square built by Eastern traders on the famous Silk Route between Asia and Europe.

Evening: Orientation, introduction and short overview by Chaim Seidler-Feller followed by opening dinner (included).

Tuesday, September 6: Kraków city tour including the Wawel Royal Castle. High on the hills overlooking the Wisla river, the castle was the seat of the Polish monarchs until 1596.

Evening: presentation by Chaim Seidler-Feller: Hasidism: A Revolutionary Movement of Spiritual Renewal.

Wednesday, September 7: Kraków Jewish sites and synagogues, including the Stary Synagogue. Built in the 15th century, this synagogue is the oldest in Kraków. It currently houses a museum of Jewish art with a beautiful collection of Judaica including silver, textiles and manuscripts.

Lunch on our own followed by optional visit to Auschwitz or Czartoryski Museum.

Thursday, September 8:

Morning presentation by Doreen Seidler-Feller: Personal Reflections of the Daughter of a Survivor of Theresienstadt and Auschwitz. Lunch on our own and depart for airport for flight to Prague. Check at the luxurious Four Seasons Prague Hotel. Rest and relax before dinner (included).



Charles Bridge Prague

Friday, September 9:

Morning: tour Theresienstadt and visit the New Jewish Cemetery noted for its Art Nouveau monuments and the gravesite of Franz Kafka. Afternoon: tour of Prague Castle with return to hotel in time for Shabbat dinner at a local restaurant (included).

Saturday, September 10:

Morning free, or (optional) to attend services in the Alt-Neu (Old-New) Synagogue, Europe's oldest active synagogue. Following services, lunch at a local restaurant (included). Afternoon: walking tour, starting with Charles bridge (c.1357) connecting Old Town and Lesser Town. For those interested, visits to Museum Kampa (showing modern, central European Czech work) and/or the Kafka Museum. Evening free; dinner on our own.

Sunday, September 11:

Visit the Jewish quarter including the Maisel, Spanish, Pinkas and Klaus Synagogues, the Old-New Synagogue (c.1270) & Ceremonial Hall. En-route, view the Old Jewish Cemetery, Memorial Monument and the Jewish Museum, boasting the most extensive Judaica collection in the world. Presentation by Chaim Seidler-Feller: From Kabbalah to Haskalah (Enlightenment).



Dresden

Monday, September 12:

Depart for Berlin with a stop in Dresden, once known as the “Florence of the Elbe.”

Bus tour of historic buildings not destroyed in the 1945 bombing including a visit to the new synagogue, the first to be built in Eastern Germany. Visit the Grünes Gewölbe (Green Vault), a museum that contains one of the largest collection of treasures in Europe and part of the Dresden castle, followed by lunch on our own. Arrive in Berlin, check into Regent Berlin Hotel. Known for its personal service and classic elegance, the Regent overlooks Gendarmenmarkt Square with its magnificent 18th century cathedrals and concert hall. Museum Island, the famed Friedrichstrasse shopping mile and several of the city's most significant sights; including the historic Brandenburg Gate, the Bebelplatz, Reichstag and opera, are only a stroll away.

Rest and relax before dinner (included). Lecture by Karsten Krieger, our Berlin scholar, historian and special guide: From Mendelssohn to Menihin: Jewish Cosmopolitans and Cosmopolitan Jewish Life in Berlin.

Tuesday, September 13: Our morning begins with a sightseeing tour of Berlin (including Brandenburg Gate, Unter den Linden, Bebelplatz, Berlin Wall and a guided tour of the Holocaust Memorial. Lunch on our own at Potsdamer Platz followed by an afternoon tour of the Berlin Jewish Museum.

Evening: free for dinner on our own or (optional) evening offering of theatre or Berlin Philharmonic to be announced.

Wednesday, September 14: Visits to Weißensee Jewish Cemetery, Neue Synagogue/Centrum Judaicum and guided walking tour through the Jewish Quarter (including Cafe Orange, new Jewish culture in Berlin and art galleries). Return to hotel for lunch on our own followed by an afternoon visit to the exceptional Museum Berggruen.

Evening: presentation by Chaim Seidler-Feller: The Pity of It All: Enlightenment, Emancipation and Elimination, followed by dinner on our own.

Thursday, September 15: Walk to nearby world-famous Museum Island, including time to visit renowned Pergamon Museum - known for its impressive collection of antiquities, Middle Eastern and Islamic Art. Afternoon (optional) visit to Wannsee Conference House, mansion where the extermination of Jews became the formal, official policy of the Nazi Regime, or time on our own to explore Bode-Museum, Old and New Museum or Old National Gallery on Museum Island.

Evening: closing discussion followed by dinner (included).

Friday, September 16: Morning departure for U.S.





Tour Leader: Aryeh Maidenbaum, Ph.D., with expertise in the fields of History, Psychology and Jewish Studies, and more than 20 years experience in organizing and leading educational tours. Special consultant to the Jewish Museum for its Travel Program. Director of the N.Y. Center for Jungian Studies, Dr. Maidenbaum received his Ph.D. from the Hebrew University. On the faculty of N.Y.U., he has authored and edited books and articles, including Jung and the Shadow of Anti-Semitism.



DOREEN SEIDLER-FELLER received her Ph.D. from The Ohio State University in Clinical Psychology in 1980. Since 1978 she has been associated with the Human Sexuality Training Program at UCLA. Over the course of 35 years, she has taught and consulted, supervised young practitioners in psychology and psychiatry, and published papers in her field for both psychology and Jewish publications. **CHAIM SEIDLER-FELLER**, author and well known lecturer, has been working with students and faculty as the Executive Director of the Yitzhak Rabin Hillel Center for Jewish Life at UCLA for 35 years. He was ordained in 1971 at Yeshiva University where he completed a Master's in Rabbinic Literature. A widely published author and well know lecturer. Chaim has taught in the Departments of Sociology and Near Eastern Languages and Cultures at UCLA and in the Department of Theological Studies at Loyola Marymount University. He was a rabbinic consultant to Barbra Streisand during the making of the film Yentl.



Our Guide: Lucy Rapoport was born and schooled in England before moving to Italy. Fluent in Italian, German, French and Spanish, Lucy has been a tour manager for over 20 years. Specializing in Europe, Lucy has accompanied previous Jewish Museum groups to Croatia, Northern and Southern Italy, Spain and Sicily. With Lucy's attention to detail, knowledge of Kraków, Prague and Berlin and considerable expertise in guiding groups, participants will benefit from her experience.

Program Details:

Land Program Cost: \$6550 After March 30, 2011: \$6800
(plus \$75 Jewish Museum [Individual](#) level membership fee for nonmembers)

***Program Fee Includes:**

- Eleven nights accommodations at 5 star deluxe hotels
- Daily buffet breakfast, 2 lunches, five dinners are included
- All lectures, presentations, guided tours, Museum and site entrance fees
- All ground transportation for group travel
- Group flight from Kraków to Prague

**Per person, based on double occupancy. Single supplement available at \$1650. For those preferring to share a room and need a roommate, we will try and provide one for you; otherwise, single supplement will apply. Gratuities (\$145) additional. Balance in full due: May 21, 2011*

Participation:

The Jewish Museum Travel Program is open to all [Individual](#) level or above members of The Jewish Museum; non-members are welcome to join the Museum at the Individual level to participate. [While designed for people of all ages, participants should be prepared for a considerable amount of walking. While generally moderate, at times this may entail some steep inclines and uneven terrain.](#)

We recommend arriving in Kraków early to acclimate yourself to the time difference. For those interested, please call the Museum Travel Program office (845-256-0194) and we will be happy to speak with you personally.

**To Register:**

Include non-refundable deposit of \$750, payable to The Jewish Museum. Please complete the attached registration form and return to:

The Jewish Museum Travel Program
27 North Chestnut Street
New Paltz, NY 12561

(OR) Registration accepted by telephone or fax with credit card
Tel. (845) 256-0194 Fax (845) 256-0196

Changes:

All rights are reserved by the Program Directors to make faculty substitutions and/or to modify the itinerary (including hotels) as needed.

Insurance:

We strongly recommend travel insurance in the event you may have to cancel your participation. For your convenience, insurance forms will be sent upon registration or consult your own agent.

Cancellations and Refunds:

All cancellations must be received by the Jewish Museum Travel Program in writing. Cancellations received 90 days prior to departure: full refund less \$750 deposit per person; 89-75 days prior to departure: 50% refund per person after nonrefundable deposit. No refunds after this date.

For more information contact The Jewish Museum Travel Program:

Tel. 845-256-0194 Fax: 845-256-0196 or e-mail < TheJMtravelinfo@aol.com >

Registration

Please complete, include a non-refundable deposit of \$750 per person, and mail or fax to: The Jewish Museum Travel Program, 27 North Chestnut Street, New Paltz, NY 12561
Tel. (845) 256-0194 / Fax (845) 256-0196

Destination and Date of Trip: _____

Name

Address

City State Zip

Phone (day)

Phone (evening)

Phone (cell)

E-mail

Single room Double room I'm travelling with _____

I will make my own air arrangements I would like help with my travel arrangements

METHOD OF DEPOSIT *Credit card registration accepted by telephone or fax

Check enclosed

Charge my credit card MasterCard Visa American Express

Name as it appears on card Signature of cardholder

Billing address (if different from above)

City State Zip

Account number Expiration date Security code

Deposit amount (If you are not a member of the Museum, a membership fee of \$75 per person will be added to the final invoice). Information, including benefits of membership and options for other levels of membership will be forwarded with registration acknowledgement.

Disclaimer of Responsibility:

By registering for this program, participant specifically waives any and all claims of action against The Jewish Museum and its staff for damages, loss, injury, accident or death incurred by any person in connection with this tour. The Jewish Museum and its respective employees assume no responsibility or liability in connection with the service of any train, vessel, carriage, aircraft or other conveyance which may be used wholly or in part in the performance of their duty to the passengers. Neither will The Jewish Museum be responsible for any injury, death, loss, accident, delay or irregularity through neglect or default of any company or person engaged in carrying out the purposes for which tickets, vouchers, or coupons are issued. No responsibility is accepted for losses or expenses due to sickness, weather, strikes, wars and other causes. In the event it becomes necessary or advisable for any reason whatsoever to alter the itinerary or arrangements, such alterations may be made without penalty.