



INTO THE JEWISH HEARTLAND: A FIELD EXCURSION TO JEWISH UKRAINE

June 25 – 30, 2019

Itinerary Subject to Change

PART ONE: ON THE ROAD IN WESTERN UKRAINE

TUESDAY, JUNE 25

The Glories and Tragedies of 650 Years of Jewish Life in Lvov

- Depart St. Petersburg in the morning and arrive in **Lvov** (formerly Lemberg and today called Lviv) in the afternoon. (Box breakfast)
- Box lunch
- Following check-in to the hotel, tour the capital city of Eastern Galicia, a former prominent center of Jewish culture, political and religious life.
- Visit the medieval Jewish quarter, the ruins of the **Golden Rose Synagogue**, the streets and lanes of the **Old City**, and the memorials marking the Shoah in Galicia—the **Yanov Labor Camp** and the war time ghetto.
- Visit the **HaTzori BeGilad Synagogue** in the city and have dinner there.

Overnight in Dnister Hotel, Lvov

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 26

Witnessing the Remnants of Holy Jewish Fragments

- Depart Lvov, travelling through the shtetls of **Galicia** and arrive in **Zholkiev**, a small-town former center of Jewish life and publishing.
- Visit a wonderfully preserved baroque fortified synagogue.
- Proceed to **Brody**, one of the most important Jewish communities in Eastern Europe
- View the remnants of the **Great Synagogue** and the unique old **Jewish Cemetery**.
- In the evening arrive in **Rivne (Rovno)**, the city of Israeli author Amos Oz and the **Maggid of Mezritch**.
- Dinner and overnight in Rivno.

Overnight: Optima Hotel, Rivne

THURSDAY, JUNE 27

Hassidism Emergent & the Spirit of Jewish Renewal

- Morning visit to two of the most important Jewish sites: the former **Tarbut Gymnasium** (one of the largest Jewish schools in Europe in the 1920's and 30's) and the impressive Holocaust monument in the **Sosenki Forest**.
- Depart for **Berdichev** and visit the tomb of the great and famous Rabbi Levi Yitzchak and recount some of his magical tales.
- Visit a local Jewish educational campus and the **Alumim Orphanage**, run by Habad to meet the youngsters and staff and to have lunch at the local kosher restaurant.
- In **Zhitomir** visit local spots



Berdichev Cemetery

including the home where the Jewish national poet **Haim Nachman Bialik** grew up.

- Meet with the local community and **Rabbi Wilhelm**, the **Chief Rabbi of Zhitomir and Western Ukraine**.
- Arrive in **Kiev** for the final days of our excursion, and check into the President's Hotel.
- Dinner in Kiev

Overnight: President's Hotel, Kiev

PART TWO: KIEV

FRIDAY, JUNE 28

Kiev: The Political and Jewish Capital of Today's Ukraine

- **"Wild grasses rustle over Babi Yar"**: Memorial visit to **Babi Yar**, the site of the mass slaughter of Kiev Jews during the Shoah.
- Visit the Jewish and general sites of the city, including:
 - The Kiev Central Synagogue, the **Brotsky Shul**.
 - **Podol** - the old Jewish section of town, and the Great Choral Synagogue.
 - **Maidan Square**, site of the 2014 revolution.
 - The local JDC (Joint Distribution Committee) sponsored **Hesed** welfare facility.



- The **Old Town** of Kiev and the Andriivskyy Descent connecting Kiev’s Upper Town with the Podol.
- Famous monuments and city sites, including the grandiose and grotesque

The Podol Shul Interior

- **Soviet Victory Memorial**, the statue to **Bogdan Khmelnitzky**, one of the most nefarious anti-Semites in Jewish history [pogroms of 1648-49], and the **Courthouse** where the infamous **Beilis Trial** took place.
- Friday evening visits to local **Reform, Conservative** and **Orthodox** religious communities (depending upon individual choice) and a festive Shabbat dinner.

Overnight: President Hotel, Kiev

SHABBAT, JUNE 29

“Od Lo Ovda Tikvateinu”—Jewish Hope Springs Eternal

- Optional Shabbat morning services at the Brodsky Shul
- Lunch
- Continue local visits with a walking tour to the **Golda Meir memorial**, the **Shalom Aleichem Monument**, and the **Kreshchatik**, the main boulevard of the city, plus other local sites.
- Meet local Jewish activists.
- Following a well-earned afternoon rest, reconvene for **Seudah Shlesheet** at the Brodsky Synagogue and a farewell Havdala ceremony.

SUNDAY, JUNE 30

Departure

- Flights back to the U.S. and Israel based on individual reservations

NOTE: IN UKRAINE, ALL MEALS ARE INCLUDED (prepared breakfasts, sandwich lunches and hot kosher dinners)

- Program dependent on 15 person minimum. Please do not book flights until we have the minimum of 15 participants, probably mid-February, 2019.
- Listed activities and speakers are subject to confirmation.
- Program will be staffed by senior Keshet Israel Tour Educator, Rabbi Jonathan Porath and one additional Keshet senior staff.
- Hotels are for illustrative purposes only. Final hotels will be on a similar or higher level.
- All meals are included in the package price.
- This itinerary is proprietary to Keshet and is intended for the promotion of and to inform those considering joining this Keshet trip. It is not to be transmitted to any other party without prior