



**Oak Park Temple
B'nai Abraham Zion**

A Jewish Journey to Europe

Poland & Czechia March 27 – April 3, 2027

Led by Rabbi Max Weiss

and

Keshet Educational Director Danny Ehrlich

Itinerary as of August 2– Subject to Change

We have much to learn about Jewish survival and resilience from the story of the Jews of Poland and the Czech Lands. For over 1,000 years, Jewish life and creativity flourished in these areas – which often served as a safe haven for Jews, despite the ongoing presence of anti-Semitism. We will visit **Krakow** and **Prague** which were once major centers of Jewish life. We will stand in solemn memory at the sites of Auschwitz and Terezin. We will learn about the past with its many challenges and accomplishments and meet members of today's Jewish communities who, against all odds, are taking part in the reawakening of Jewish life in Central and Eastern Europe

Shabbat March 27

- Arrive **Krakow**; check in at hotel from 4:00 PM (*There will be one group bus transfer from Jana Pawla Krakow Airport to the hotel timed to the flight arrival time of most of the group*)

- Evening: Tour of **Krakow's** beautifully restored **Old Town Square** and **Opening Dinner**

Overnight: Holiday Inn City Center, Krakow

Sunday March 28

- Breakfast at the hotel

- Opening session

- Explore what had been the **Krakow Ghetto** during the German occupation of Krakow, including a section of the Ghetto Wall and Zgody Square from where most of Krakow's Jews were sent to be murdered. *See the **Schindler Factory Gates**.*

- At the **Kazimierz Old Jewish Quarter**, we will learn about the Jewish community in Krakow over the centuries, visiting the Ramah Synagogue and Cemetery and the Tempel Synagogues. *Prior to the Shoah, there were about 60,000 Jews in Krakow who made up 25% of the city's population.*

- Lunch and shopping time on your own in Kazimierz

- Guided walking tour at the **Wawel Royal Castle**, once the residence of the **Kings of Poland** and today the symbol of Polish statehood and one of the Poland's premier art museums.

- Program and dinner at the **Krakow JCC**. *Learn about the resurgence of Jewish life in Krakow and the challenges facing today's Jewish community.*

Overnight: Holiday Inn City Center, Krakow

Monday March 29

- Breakfast at the hotel

- Pack bus and depart to the **Auschwitz-Birkenau Polish State Museum**

- Start at the site of the **Auschwitz I Concentration Camp**. *Visit the barracks, museum exhibits and gas chamber.*

- Lunch

- Continue to the site of the **Auschwitz II Birkenau Death Camp** where over 1,000,000 Jews were murdered.

- Continue to **Ostrava, Czechia** for dinner, processing session and overnight at our hotel.

Overnight: Mercure Hotel, Ostrava Ostrava



Tuesday March 30

- Breakfast at the hotel

- Pack bus and depart to the **Ostrava Holocaust Memorial**. *The nearly 10,000 Jews of Ostrava were the third largest Jewish community in Czechoslovakia before the Shoah.*

- Explore the beautiful Czech countryside in the **Moravian Karst** region.

- Packed lunch en route

- Continue to **Prague** for check-in and dinner at our hotel

Overnight: Grand Majestic Hotel, Prague

Wednesday March 31

- Breakfast at the hotel
- Session
- **From Ghetto to Emancipation.** Explore **Josefov**, the Old Jewish Quarter of Prague including Europe's oldest synagogue - **Alt Neu Shul** - seat of the famed 16th century Maharal (Rabbi Judah Lowy) and his Golem.
- Visit the Synagogues and Old Jewish Cemetery which make up the **Prague Jewish Museum**
- Lunch on your own
- Guided walking tour at the **Old Town Square** and the **Charles Bridge**. *The Charles Bridge is lined with 30 statues dating mostly from 1706 – 1714. Of special interest is the crucifixion sculpture with the Hebrew inscription ... קדוש, קדוש, קדוש (Holy, holy, holy...)*
- Tour and taste at the historic **UFleku Brewery**, founded in 1499 and said to be the oldest brewery in **Prague**.
- Evening and dinner on your own

Overnight: Grand Majestic Hotel, Prague



Thursday April 1

- Breakfast at the hotel
- Visit the **Prague Castle** including **St Vitus Cathedral**. The castle complex is a UNESCO World Heritage Site, founded around 880 CE and is considered to be the largest coherent castle complex in the world.
- Lunch and shopping time on your own
- At the **Museum of Communism**, learn about how Soviet domination shaped post war Czechoslovakia.
- **Cruise** with drinks on the Vltava River
- Dinner on your own
- **Classical music concert** at the magnificent **Spanish Synagogue**

Overnight: Grand Majestic Hotel, Prague



Friday April 2

- Breakfast at the hotel
- Stand in solemn memory at **Terezin**, site of the Nazi "showcase" Ghetto to which many of the Jews of Prague were sent before being murdered at Auschwitz and elsewhere.
- Afternoon: Return to Prague for lunch and shopping time on your own
- Evening: Join the **Ec Chajim Progressive Community** for Kabbalat Shabbat services followed by Shabbat dinner at the Old Jewish Town Hall.

Overnight: Grand Majestic Hotel, Prague

Shabbat April 3

- Breakfast at the hotel
- Depart to Prague Vaclav Havel Airport for flights to USA (There will be one group bus transfer from the hotel to the airport timed to the flight departure time of most of the group)

Listed activities and speakers are subject to availability and confirmation. The trip will be staffed by a Keshet Tour Educator and local tour guides. All underlined meals are included in the package price.



Keshet Educational Journeys
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