Ayelet TOURS

THE MEMORIES LAST FOREVER!

Traveling University Jewish Heritage Tour of EASTERN EUROPE



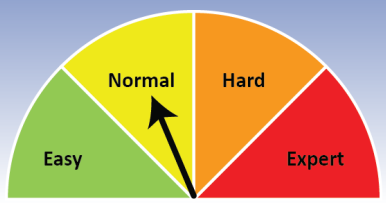
Led by Prof. Stephen Berk
June/July 2025

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

as of 9/24/24

Jewish history in Europe neither begins nor ends with the Holocaust. Together we will explore 1,000 years of Jewish history. We'll confront the horrors of the past, experience the nascent Jewish renewal of the present and discuss the challenges that face a Jewish future in Europe.

Physical Activity Scale



DAY 1

SUNDAY, JUNE 29, 2025
DEPARTURE

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

DAY 2

MONDAY, JUNE 30, 2025
ARRIVAL IN PRAGUE

- We arrive in **Prague**, the Czech capital, also known as "the City of One Thousand Spires," with its Baroque churches, promenades, parks and ancient city walls.
- Transfer on own to our hotel (private transfers available at additional cost).
- This afternoon, we tour Golden Prague, including the **Charles Bridge** and the **Astronomical Clock**.
- We return to our hotel with time to check in and freshen up.
- Tonight, we enjoy an orientation lecture and **welcome dinner** with **Professor Stephen Berk**.

Overnight in Prague (D)

DAY 3

TUESDAY, JULY 1, 2025
JEWISH PRAGUE

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- This morning, we enjoy a **lecture** with Professor Berk, then set out for a visit to the **State Jewish Museum**.
- Next, we set out on a sightseeing tour of Jewish interest sites, with a visit to the Old City to view the **Josefov**, Prague's Jewish town with its **Old Town Hall**, the **Alt-Neu Synagogue**, the **Pinkas Synagogue**, the **Maisel Synagogue**, the **Spanish Synagogue** and the **Jewish Cemetery**.
- We also visit the 1,000-year-old **Hradčany Castle** and **St. Vitus' Cathedral**.
- **ENGAGING ENCOUNTER:** This afternoon, we meet **Rabbi David Maxa**, the first Czech-born rabbi to return to Prague and founder of the local **Congregation Ec Chajim**, Prague's progressive Jewish community, and take inspiration from their dedication and hard work to revitalize Judaism in this great city.
- Enjoy dinner on own this evening.

Overnight in Prague (B)



DAY 4

WEDNESDAY, JULY 2, 2025
TEREZIN

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- Today, we travel to **Terezin**, the former "model" Nazi concentration camp. **Lecture** with Professor Berk before visiting 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 for an evening at leisure and dinner on own.

Overnight in Prague (B)



DAY 5

THURSDAY, JULY 3, 2025
TO BEAUTIFUL BUDAPEST

- Breakfast and check out of our hotel.
- This morning, we transfer to the airport for our short flight to **Budapest**, the capital of Hungary. Situated on the opposite banks of the Danube River, the former cities of Buda and Pest are linked by a series of graceful bridges.
- We enjoy a panoramic bus tour of Budapest, including **Parliament**, the **Royal Palace,** the **Castle Hill area**, **Fishermen's Bastion**, **Coronation Church**, **Hero's Square** and **Gellert Hill**.
- **ENGAGING ENCOUNTER:** We complete our touring today with the students of the **Israeli Kulturalis Intezet (Israel Cultural Institute)**, an organization that aims to present and promote diverse Israeli culture in Hungary by providing educational, entertaining and inspirational programs and services.
- After checking into our hotel, we set out to explore and enjoy dinner on own this evening.

Overnight in Budapest (B)

DAY 6

FRIDAY, JULY 4, 2025
JEWISH BUDAPEST

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- We begin our day with a **lecture** by Professor Stephen Berk.
- This morning, we view the **Raul Wallenberg Memorial Statue** and then visit the **Dohany Synagogue**, the 2nd largest synagogue in Europe, followed by the **Jewish Cemetery and Museum**.
- As the sun begins to set, we join together for **Shabbat services** at the Dohany Synagogue, followed by **Shabbat dinner.**

Overnight in Budapest (B, D)

DAY 7

SATURDAY, JULY 5, 2025
SHABBAT SHALOM!

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- This morning, we invite you to join us for **optional Shabbat services.**
- The afternoon is at leisure to explore this beautiful city at your own pace.
- Enjoy dinner on own this evening.

Overnight in Budapest (B)



DAY 8

SUNDAY, JULY 6, 2025
TO KRAKOW

- Breakfast and check out of our hotel.
- This morning, we depart for **Krakow**, driving through the lovely hills and countryside of Slovakia, past the Tatras and into the Great Plains of Poland. Professor Berk **lectures** on the bus.
- Upon arrival, we check into our hotel with time to refresh.
- This evening, we enjoy **dinner** together with **Jonathan Ornstein**, Executive Director of the **JCC Krakow**, who updates us on the many exciting projects they have undertaken in what is now a growing and flourishing Jewish community in the heart of Galicia.

Overnight in Krakow (B, D)

DAY 9

MONDAY, JULY 7, 2025
AUSCHWITZ-BIRKENAU

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- We begin our day with a **lecture** by Professor Stephen Berk.
- Later this morning, we travel to **Auschwitz-Birkenau**, the infamous Nazi concentration camps where many Jews and others perished in WWII. Here, we see the museum and pay tribute to the victims.
- We return to Krakow and have the remainder of the afternoon to reflect.
- We enjoy **dinner** together this evening at a local restaurant.

Overnight in Krakow (B,D)



DAY 10

TUESDAY, JULY 8, 2025
THE SITES OF KRAKOW

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- We begin our day with a **lecture** by Professor Berk.
- Our morning city tour includes stops at **Wawel Castle, St. Mary's Church**, the **Renaissance Cloth Hall** and other ancient landmarks.
- This afternoon, we enjoy a Jewish heritage tour that includes the **Old Jewish Distrcit of Kazimierz**, where we see the **Old Synagogue** (a massive fortress-like building erected in the 15th an 16th centuries), the **"Tempel"** and the **Remuh Synagogue**.
- We continue to the **Little Museum at the Drug Store** inside the Jewish Ghetto, pass by **Schindler's Factory**, followed by a the site of the **Plaszow Concentration Camp**.
- This evening is at leisure to enjoy dinner on own.

Overnight in Krakow (B)

DAY 11

WEDNESDAY, JULY 9, 2025
WONDERFUL WARSAW

- Breakfast and check out of our hotel.
- Today, we board the **train to Warsaw**.
- Upon arrival, we enjoy a guided visit of the **POLIN Museum (The New Museum of the History of Polish Jews)**. The Hebrew word Polin means either Poland or “rest here” in English and is related to a legend of the arrival of the first Jews in Poland. The museums sits on the former site of the Warsaw Ghetto and features multi-media narrative exhibitions about the vibrant Jewish community that has flourished in Poland for a thousand years.
- Lunch on own at the museum cafe.
- Later, we check into our hotel before we meet with members of **Beit Polska** or **Etz Chaim**, one of the progressive congregations in Warsaw, and learn more about Judaism alive in today’s Poland.
- This evening, we enjoy an elegant **Chopin concert** in an unforgettable setting, followed by dinner on own.

Overnight in Warsaw (B, L)

DAY 12

THURSDAY, JULY 10, 2025
JEWISH WARSAW
PAST AND PRESENT

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- We begin our day with a **lecture** by Professor Stephen Berk.
- We drive through the **Warsaw Zoo**, where we visit the **Zookeeper's House** owned by the couple that saved many Jews during the Holocaust, now memorialized in the movie *"The Zookeeper's Wife"*.
- This afternoon, we participate in a Jewish heritage sightseeing tour encompassing **Nozyk Synagogue** (the only surviving synagogue in Warsaw, founded in 1900), the **Warsaw Ghetto**, the **Jewish Resistance Bunker at Mila 18**, **Stawski Street buildings** (where the SS had their headquarters) and the **Gesia Cemetery** (established in 1806, containing the graves of about 250,000 people and known as the largest cemetery in Poland).
- As our day comes to an end, we delight in a **farewell dinner** as we reminisce and reflect on our journey.

Overnight in Warsaw (B, D)

DAY 13

FRIDAY, JULY 11, 2025
DEPARTURE

- Breakfast and check out of our hotel.
- We transfer to the airport for our flights home, landing later today.

THE MEMORIES LAST FOREVER!

Itinerary subject to change



Ayelet TOURS

THE MEMORIES LAST FOREVER!

Post-Tour to VIENNA

*** During your time in Warsaw prior to the extension, Prof. Berk will present a bonus presentation on Vienna's Jewish History in preparation for your time there (Prof. Berk will not be traveling on the extension).



July 11 - 15, 2025

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as of 9/5/24

Discover the enchanting city of Vienna on a journey filled with cultural exploration, historical insights, and meaningful connections. Experience Shabbat with the local Jewish community, explore iconic landmarks like Schönbrunn Palace and Hofburg, and immerse yourself in the rich musical heritage at Mozarthaus Vienna. Enjoy free time to wander through art museums, savor local cuisine, and optionally attend a classical concert, making this trip an unforgettable blend of tradition, history, and Viennese charm.

DAY 1

FRIDAY, JULY 11, 2025
WELCOME TO VIENNA!

- We depart Warsaw by **flight to Vienna** and are welcomed by an Ayelet Tours representative.
- We join the Progressive community **Or Chadasch**, for a welcome to Vienna and discussion about Judaism in Austria.
- We check into our hotel and enjoy the remainder of the afternoon to relax and become acquainted with the city.
- Tonight, we join together for **Shabbat services and dinner** with members of the community.

Overnight in Vienna (D)

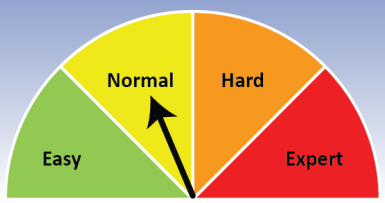
DAY 2

SATURDAY, JULY 12, 2025
SHABBAT IN VIENNA

- Breakfast at our hotel and morning at leisure.
- We enjoy a walking of the center of Vienna at **Hofburg**, the former imperial palace of the Habsburg dynasty, which now serves as the official residence and workplace of the President of Austria.
- Our next stop is the **Mozarthaus Vienna**, which presents the life and work of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, with particular emphasis on his Vienna years, 1781 to 1791.
- We enjoy free time to tour the amazing art museums or for personal exploration.
- This evening, we enjoy discovering Vienna and having dinner on own.
- **Optional:** Attend a classical music concert in a beautiful setting.

Overnight in Vienna (B)

Physical Activity Scale







DAY 3

SUNDAY, JULY 13, 2025
BRATISLAVA

- Breakfast at our hotel and morning at leisure.
- We begin our day with a tour of Vienna's **Jewish interest sites**, including **Judenplatz Holocaust memorial**, the **Jewish Community Center** and the **Jewish Museum at Palais Eskeles** to see **Herzl's bike**.
- We continue to the **Stadttempel Synagogue**, the only synagogue to survive the war, where we have enjoy small **concert** with members of the community.
- The remainder of the afternoon is at leisure to tour the amazing art museums or for personal exploration, followed by dinner on own this evening.
- **Optional:** Attend a classical music concert in a beautiful setting.

Overnight in Vienna (B)



DAY 4

MONDAY, JULY 14, 2025
THE PALACES OF VIENN

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- Our first stop today is at **Schönbrunn Palace**, the Versailles of Vienna. We tour the palace and formal gardens, admiring the Grecian statuary and the "Roman ruins" erected in 1778.
- We enjoy a panoramic tour along the **Ringstrasse**, including views of the **Vienna Opera House** and **Alexaderplatz**.
- Next, we explore the **Naschmarkt** for a taste of some local Viennese food.
- Tonight, we join together for a **festive dinner and song session**.

Overnight in Vienna (B, D)

DAY 5

TUESDAY, JULY 15, 2025
FAREWELL

- Breakfast and check out of our hotel.
- We transfer to the airport for our flight home.

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****Itinerary subject to change***