



Jewish Journey to Central Europe

An Educational Travel Experience with Hebrew College

May 5 – 15, 2025

As of July 10, 2024 – Subject to Change

Central Europe was the cradle and center of Ashkenazi Jewish civilization until the 13th and 14th centuries. In the wake of the Crusades, the Black Plague and unrelenting Christian persecution, expulsions and massacres, the center of European Jewish life and creativity shifted eastward to Poland. In the 19th and early 20th centuries, as Jews grappled with the new challenges presented by emancipation and freedom, the German speaking Jewish communities evolved new models of Jewish living, laying the groundwork for the development of the Reform, Conservative and Modern Orthodox movements. The Nazis and their allies destroyed the Jewish communities of Austria, Czechoslovakia and Hungary, but their legacies are still alive and relevant in contemporary Jewish life. Together, we will explore and trace the story of Ashkenazi Jewry, using the major centers of Prague, Vienna and Budapest to remember and learn about the past and to better understand the complex nature of our own contemporary Jewish identity, belief and practice.

Sunday May 4

Optional Group Flight: Depart Boston at 6:05 PM on Lufthansa flight #423

Monday May 5 Prague – The Golden City

- Optional Group Flight: 7:23 AM arrival in Frankfurt. Connect to Lufthansa flight #1392 arriving at Prague's **Vaclav Havel Airport** at 9:35 AM. *There will be one group bus transfer to our hotel in Prague's Old City timed to the arrival of the group flight.*
- Check at our hotel in the **historic center of Prague** (from 3:00 PM)
- In the early evening, meet for our **opening session**
- **Walking tour** of the dramatic **Prague Old Town Square** – the historic heart of **Prague**.
- **Dinner Cruise** on the Vltava River
- **Overnight: Grand Hotel Bohemia, Prague**

Tuesday May 6 Traces of the Past

- **Breakfast** at the hotel
- **From Ghetto to Emancipation:** Walking tour of **Josefov**, the Old Jewish Quarter of Prague *including Europe's oldest synagogue - **Alt Neu Shul** – built in the 13th century and seat of the famed 16th century Maharal Rabbi Judah Lowy (and his Golem).*
- Visit the synagogues, cemetery & Judaica of the **Prague Jewish Museum** as we trace the roots of contemporary Jewish identity.
- Lunch on your own
- In the afternoon, we'll explore the **Prague Castle**, a UNESCO World Heritage site, founded around 880. *The Prague Castle is considered to be the largest coherent castle complex in the world.* Our visit will include **St Vitus Cathedral** and the museum at the **Lobkowitz Palace** *for a music-filled visit presenting key events in European history, from the unique perspective of the noble Bohemian Lobkowitz family*
- Dinner and evening on your own
- **Overnight: Grand Hotel Bohemia, Prague**



Wednesday May 7 Memory

- **Breakfast** at the hotel
- Stand in solemn memory at **Terezin**, the Nazi "showcase" Ghetto & Concentration Camp *to which the Jews of Prague were sent by the Germans. Most were murdered at Auschwitz and Treblinka*
- **Packed Lunch**
- Return to Prague - **Walking tour** of Prague including the **Charles Bridge**. *The Charles Bridge in the heart of Prague is lined with 30 statues. Most of the statues are 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.*
- Dinner with members of the local Jewish community
- **Overnight: Grand Hotel Bohemia, Prague**

Thursday May 8 To Vienna

- Breakfast at the hotel
- Pack the bus and depart to **Vienna**; packed lunch en route.
- Upon our arrival in Vienna we'll visit and explore Vienna's **Schonbrunn Palace and Gardens**, former summer residence of the Hapsburg Family
- **Check-in at our hotel in the center of Vienna** near the Ringstrasse and overlooking the beautiful Stadtpark.
- Dinner
- **Classical Music Concert**
- **Overnight: Intercontinental Hotel, Vienna**



Friday May 9 Vienna: Traces of the Jewish Past

- Breakfast at the hotel
- Visit the **Judenplatz Museum** which tells the story of the medieval Jewish community of Vienna
- See Vienna's **Holocaust Memorial** which is the central memorial for Austrian victims of the Holocaust. *It was dedicated in the year 2000 after a prolonged public struggle; consider the implications of the resistance to Holocaust memory and education in Austria*
- Lunch on your own
- Docent tour at the **Vienna Jewish Museum**
- Return to the hotel to prepare for Shabbat
- Kabbalat Shabbat Services at the **Stadttempel Synagogue**, *the only synagogue in Vienna to survive the Shoah*
- Friday night Shabbat dinner at Alef Alef K kosher Restaurant
- **Overnight: Intercontinental Hotel, Vienna**

Shabbat May 10 Shabbat Shalom In Vienna

- Breakfast at the hotel
- **Option for Shabbat morning services at a local synagogue**
- Shabbat Lunch at Alef Alef K kosher Restaurant
- Walking tour in the historic center of Vienna passing the **Hofburg** *former imperial residence, the famous Ringstrasse and the Opera House.*
- Visit "the symbol of Vienna" - **St. Stephen's Cathedral**, the mother church of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Vienna and the seat of the Archbishop of Vienna
- **Havdallah** marking the end of Shabbat
- Dinner on your own
- **Overnight: Intercontinental Hotel, Vienna**



Sunday May 11 Vienna- City of Art

- Breakfast at the hotel
- Visit **Leopoldstadt**, Vienna's historic Jewish neighborhood pre WW II. *Today it is once again the center of the Jewish community in Vienna*
- Guided tour of Vienna's World Famous **Kunsthistorisches Art Museum**
- Lunch
- Guided tour at the **Belvedere Palace & Museum** home to masterpieces by Klimt, Schiele, Funke, Messerschmidt and van Gogh
- Evening and dinner on your own
- **Overnight: Intercontinental Hotel, Vienna**

Monday May 12 To Budapest

- Breakfast at the hotel
- Pack the bus and depart from the hotel to **Budapest**
- Begin our exploration of Budapest at **Castle Hill** on the Buda side of the city from where we will have dramatic views of the city from the **Fisherman's Bastion**



- Packed Lunch
- Overview bus tour of Budapest including **Heroes Square**, a *UN World Heritage Site built in 1896 to commemorate the 1,000th anniversary of the arrival of the Magyar Tribes to the Carpathian Basin.*
- Check-in at our hotel on the Danube River Promenade in **Budapest**; evening and dinner on your own
- **Overnight: Intercontinental Hotel, Budapest**

Tuesday May 13 Jewish Budapest

- Breakfast at the hotel
- **Session with Rabbi Leonard Gordon: The Development of Neolog Judaism**
- Examine the development of contemporary Jewish religious ideologies and movements via the Jewish sites in the area of the **Dohany Synagogue**. We will visit the **Kazinczy Street Orthodox Synagogue, Dohany Street Synagogue, Jewish Museum and Holocaust Memorials**. *The Jewish Museum stands on the site of Theodore Herzl's boyhood home.*
- Lunch on your own
- Take a dip at one of the famed **Hot Spring pools** in the heart of Budapest
- Dinner and evening on your own
- **Overnight: Intercontinental Hotel, Budapest**



Wednesday May 14 Budapest: Remembering the Past – Confronting the Present

- Breakfast at the hotel
- Head to the area of the former International Ghetto where we'll remember **Moshe Krausz**, who together with foreign diplomats **Carl Lutz, Raoul Wallenberg** and others set up safe houses in 1944, thereby saving the lives of over 100,000 Jews. *Examine the role of "Righteous Gentiles" and fellow Jews in saving Jews during the Shoah*
- Stand in solemn memory at the **Shoes on the Danube Memorial** which remembers the Jews who were murdered in late 1944 by the Hungarian fascist Arrow Cross militiamen in Budapest
- Head to the **Great Market Hall** and **Vaci Utca** for lunch and shopping time on your own
- **Meet members of the Jewish community**. *Learn about the challenges that Hungarian Jews face as they confront the reality of Hungarian anti-Semitism past and present.*
- Panoramic **cruise** on the **Danube River**
- **Farewell Dinner and Summary Session**
- **Overnight: Intercontinental Hotel, Budapest**

Thursday May 15

- Breakfast at the hotel (Check-out by 10 AM).
- 6:45 AM - One group bus transfer from the hotel to Budapest's Ferenc Liszt International Airport timed to the departure of the optional group flight SWISS #2251 at 9:40 AM arriving in Zurich at 11:20 AM. Connect to SWISS flight #54 departing 12:55 PM and arriving in Boston at 3:20 PM

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- Listed activities and speakers are subject to confirmation.
 - The trip will be staffed by Me'ah Faculty, a Keshet Tour Educator and local guides in Prague, Vienna & Budapest
 - All underlined meals are included in the package price.



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