

# DISCOVER POLAND & THE BALTICS

United Jewish Federation of Utah  
MAY 15-26, 2024



 United Jewish Federation of Utah  
Together, we're building community!

 **kenestours**

# ABOUT THE TOUR

Come on a discovery of three nations, each with an incredibly rich Jewish history that dates back centuries. The Jewish communities of Poland, Latvia, and Lithuania were almost totally annihilated during World War II. Though we must never forget the horrors of the Holocaust and will pay our respects at, and learn about, some of the sites associated with the Shoah on our visit, we must also celebrate, learn, and enjoy in the revival of Jewish life today. This is a real testament to the resilience of the Jewish people.

You will be impressed with the vibrant Jewish communities of these countries, what has been rebuilt, and the beauty in seeing glimpses of a thriving Jewish future.

Price per person (not including international airfare): \$5,695  
Single Room Supplement: \$925

*Note: Participation in this trip requires an additional contribution to the Federation of \$1000 per person, which is beyond one's gift to the annual campaign. These resources will then be directed to support the needs of the Jewish communities we visit.*

# WHO IS KENES?

**Kenes Tours travels to worldwide destinations exploring Jewish Heritage at every turn. Together, we have a team of top-notch professionals and bring decades of connections and know-how in the travel and tourism business.**

**SINCE 1965, Kenes Tours has welcomed to Israel travelers from the Jewish world and beyond to Israel. As recognized leader in the industry, Kenes is a destination management company that offers customized itineraries, logistics management, an attention to details, and superior customer service. We are owned by Issta, a publicly-held Israeli company with financial assets, vision, and a passion for travel.**

**We are respected as a reliable, well-known tourism company in the Jewish world and beyond and have a competitive pricing advantage over other companies vis a vis suppliers and partners around the world.**

UNITED JEWISH FEDERATION OF UTAH

# Your Itinerary

DAY 1 - MAY.15

DEPART THE USA

- **Depart the USA**

**OVERNIGHT: Flight**



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# Your Itinerary

DAY 2 - MAY.16 KRAKÓW

- Arrive in Kraków
- Meet your private guide in your hotel lobby to start the tour.
- Start with a visit to **The Kazimierz Jewish Quarter** which has been the heart of Jewish life in Kraków for 500 years and is now one of the city's most attractive and bohemian areas. Our tour will include: **The Altshul, The Rema Synagogue and Cemetery, and The Tempel Synagogue.**
- We will then cross the bridge from Kazimierz to the site of the **Podgorze ghetto**. This was the tragic path taken in 1941 by thousands of Krakow Jews. Our guided visit will include: **The Umschlagplatz Memorial, The Under the Eagle Pharmacy, and The Oscar Schindler Factory Museum.**
- Dinner in a local restaurant

**OVERNIGHT:** Marriott Autograph Hotel, Kraków



# Your Itinerary

DAY 3 - MAY.17

KRAKÓW

- Breakfast at the hotel
- Depart this morning on a drive to visit the infamous **Auschwitz-Birkenau** complex, the largest of the Nazi concentration and extermination centers and a key location of the Holocaust in all its inhumanity.
- Visit the **Auschwitz Museum**, which contains powerful artifacts and haunting footage of the lives and deaths of prisoners.
- **Auschwitz II death camp**, also known as **Birkenau**. Largely untouched since the war, it provides intimate insights into the tragedy of the Holocaust. We'll reflect here on the personal stories of some of the Jews held and killed here and read accounts from survivors.
- **After Auschwitz:** We will reflect, as individuals and as a group, on what we have experienced.
- Return to Krakow.
- **Dinner and Shabbat services** at the **Galicia Museum**, followed by a dialogue with **Jonathan Ornstein**, the JCC Chief Executive Officer.

**OVERNIGHT:** Marriott Autograph Hotel, Kraków



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# Your Itinerary

DAY 4 - MAY.18 KRAKÓW

- Breakfast at your hotel
- Optional Shabbat services at a local synagogue
- **Shabbat lunch** with the local community (pending availability)
- Enjoy a walking tour of Krakow's lovely **Old Town** where we will visit the **Main Market Square**, **St. Mary's Basilica**, and **Cloth Hall**.
- Visit charming **Wawel Castle**, a stunning Renaissance-style castle that has been the residence of Polish kings and queens for centuries.
- Dinner at a local restaurant

**OVERNIGHT:** Marriott Autograph Hotel, Kraków



# Your Itinerary

DAY 5 - MAY.19

WARSAW

- Breakfast at the hotel
- Depart the hotel and take a train to the capital city of Warsaw.
- Upon arrival in Warsaw we will visit the JCC to join the Jewish community for lunch as a part of project Boker Tov.
- Meet **Karina Sokowloska**, the JDC country director for Poland to gain a better understanding of the Jewish community of today including the geopolitical influence on from the war in Ukraine.
- Visit **Warsaw's lovely Old Town**. We'll walk through the marketplace, once a center of European cultural life and now again a vibrant area of fashionable restaurants and shops, see the medieval walls and the **Warsaw Barbican**, the fortifications that encircled the city.
- Check into the hotel followed by dinner.

**OVERNIGHT: Hotel Bristol, Warsaw**



# Your Itinerary

DAY 6 - MAY.20

WARSAW

- Breakfast at the hotel
- Enjoy a visit to the **Warsaw Ghetto**. Here, we'll see the Remnants of the **Ghetto Wall** and the **Nathan Rapoport Warsaw Ghetto Memorial**, and retrace at the **Path of Remembrance**, the steps taken in 1943 by heroic fighters during the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising.
- Visit the **POLIN Museum** of the History of Polish Jews, located in the center of what once was the Warsaw Ghetto.
- Lunch at the **POLIN Museum** joined by members of the local community.
- Take a guided visit to the **Jewish Cemetery of Warsaw** (Gensha) on Okopowa Street is a chance to mourn what has been lost but also to recall the strength of Jewish life in Warsaw.

**OVERNIGHT: Hotel Bristol, Warsaw**



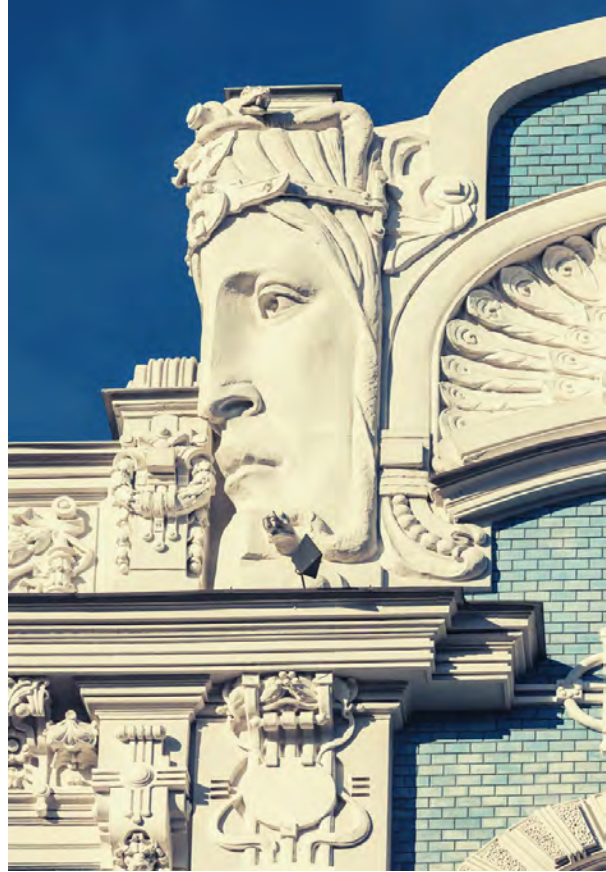
# Your Itinerary

DAY 7 - MAY.21

RIGA

- Breakfast at the hotel followed by checkout.
- Transfer to **Warsaw Chopin Airport** and fly to **Riga, Latvia**.
- Arrival in **Riga**, meet your guide and transfer to your hotel and check in.
- Get to know the city by exploring Riga's lovely **Art Nouveau** district including a visit to the **Art Nouveau Museum** for a greater understanding of the era and its architects. Immerse yourself in the enchanting beauty and unique charm of Latvia's Art Nouveau heritage.
- Tour the **Jewish Community Center** and interact with participants, the welfare center, and more.
- Have **dinner** in a local restaurant with guest speaker, **Moni Beniosev**, JDC's Country Director for an introduction to JDC in the Baltics and to discuss the refugee situation in Poland and Latvia.

**OVERNIGHT: Grand Hotel Kempinski, Riga**



# Your Itinerary

DAY 8 - MAY.22

RIGA

- Breakfast at the hotel
- The tour begins with a visit to the **Pietav Synagogue**, located in the heart of Riga. This synagogue is one of the few surviving Jewish religious buildings in the city and serves as a testament to Riga's once-vibrant Jewish community.
- Stroll through Riga's charming **Old Town**, which is a maze of narrow streets and historic buildings, including medieval churches, picturesque squares, and architectural gems. See the **House of the Blackheads**, **Brīvības iela** boulevard, **Laima Clock**, **The Freedom Monument** (an iconic symbol of Latvia's independence), and **The Burned Synagogue Memorial**.
- Travel outside the city to visit **Rumbula** memorial and the **Salaspils Memorial**, a former Nazi labor camp now a poignant memorial with giant Soviet-style monuments.
- Dinner in a local restaurant.

**OVERNIGHT:** Grand Hotel Kempinski, Riga



# Your Itinerary

DAY 9 - MAY.23

VILNIUS

- Breakfast at your hotel followed by check out
- Early morning tour of the **Kemeri National Park**, one of Latvia's largest and most beautiful national parks. Visit the **Great Kemeri Bog Boardwalk**, which offers stunning views of the surrounding landscape.
- Continue to **Jelgava Palace**, a beautiful Baroque-style palace that was once the residence of the Dukes of Courland.
- Cross over into Lithuania and enjoy a scenic drive to **Siauliai** to visit the **Frenkel Factory**, a unique museum dedicated to the history of Jewish life in Lithuania.

OR

- Visit the **Bauska Castle and Museum**, which is located on the banks of the Musa River. The castle was built in the 15th century and was the residence of the Dukes of Courland.
- Arrive in Vilnius where Jews have lived since the early 14th century and played an essential role in making the city what it is today, at some point Jews made up 40% of the population.
- Check into your hotel.
- Have dinner in a local restaurant with guest **Dovid Katz** – local scholar, author, and educator of Lithuanian Jewry.

**OVERNIGHT:** Grand Hotel Kempinski, Vilnius



# Your Itinerary

DAY 10 - MAY.24

VILNIUS

- Breakfast at your hotel
- Tour the former **Jewish Quarter of Vilnius**. Understand why Vilnius was called Jerusalem of the Baltics.
- Visit the **Vilnius Synagogue**, walk **Mark Antokolski Street**, stop at the **Vilna Gaon's House** (former location of the Great Synagogue), tour the **Tolerance Center**, and see the music school where world famous violinist **Jascha Heifetz** started his music career.
- Visit the famous **ORT School** and the **Tarbut Gimnazia** (now the JCC).
- See the **Benedictine convent** and hear the story of 12 Jewish souls saved by **Lithuanian Righteous Among the Nations**.
- Continue to the **Ponar Forest Memorial**, a solemn reminder of the Holocaust in Lithuania.
- Visit the **Zhezhmariai Synagogue** in **Trakai**, one of the few surviving wooden synagogues in Lithuania and a significant symbol of the country's Jewish heritage.
- **Kabbalat Shabbat** and **Shabbat dinner** with the local community (pending availability).

**OVERNIGHT:** Grand Hotel Kempinski, Vilnius



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# Your Itinerary

DAY 11 - MAY.25

VILNIUS

- Breakfast at your hotel
- Optional shabbat services
- Spend the morning in Vilnius exploring the **Old Town** which is known for its well-preserved medieval architecture and charming cobblestone streets. Visit the **Vilnius Cathedral**, **Gediminas' Tower**, and the **Presidential Palace**.
- The afternoon is free at leisure
- **Farewell dinner** in a local restaurant
- Havdalah

**OVERNIGHT:** Grand Hotel Kempinski, Vilnius



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# Your Itinerary

DAY 12 - MAY.26

- Breakfast and check out of your hotel
- Depart for the US



# Additional Info

## FLIGHTS

While travelers are responsible for their flight arrangements, we are happy to assist you with booking flights. Please get in touch with us directly or feel free to reach out to Janet Walsh of Traveland at 1-203-814-3577 or [specialservices@traveland.net](mailto:specialservices@traveland.net).

## TRAVEL INSURANCE

We strongly suggest acquiring appropriate trip insurance to cover medical events, lost or damaged baggage, trip cancellation, or "Cancel for Any Reason" as needed.

Please copy/paste this link (<https://www.travelinsured.com/agency/?p=KenesTours>) to get your quote today.

For specific questions, contact Travel Insured at 1-800-344-6226, ext. 257 or email Liana at [Liana@traveland.net](mailto:Liana@traveland.net).



# What's Included?

- ACCOMMODATIONS
  - 5 NIGHTS IN POLAND
  - 2 NIGHTS IN RIGA
  - 3 NIGHTS IN VILNIUS
- PORTERAGE AT HOTELS & AIRPORT
- GROUP ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE AIRPORT TRANSFERS
- BREAKFAST BUFFET DAILY
- MEALS
  - POLAND: 4 LUNCH AND 5 DINNERS
  - LATVIA: 2 DINNERS
  - LITHUANIA: 3 DINNERS
- ENTRANCE FEES
- PRIVATELY GUIDED TOURING AND ACTIVITIES WITH AN ENGLISH-SPEAKING, GOVERNMENT-CERTIFIED TOUR EDUCATOR
  - 5 DAYS IN POLAND
  - 2 DAYS IN RIGA
  - 4 DAYS IN VILNIUS
- 11 DAYS OF TRANSPORTATION IN A PRIVATE VEHICLE WITH WATER AND WIFI (AS AVAILABLE)
- 1 KENES FIELD COORDINATOR
- ONE-WAY ECONOMY CLASS AIR FLIGHT FROM WARSAW TO RIGA



# NEXT STEPS

FOR INFORMATION OR TO REGISTER, PLEASE CONTACT:

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801-581-0102



Thank you!

Looking forward to you joining us on this unforgettable journey!