

welcome\*

**THE JEWISH FEDERATION  
OF GREATER WASHINGTON**

**WOMEN'S PHILANTHROPY**

**MISSION TO POLAND & ISRAEL**

October 25–November 3, 2019

ברוכים הבאים\*





# ITINERARY

Travel Day: Friday, October 25, 2019

## DEPARTURE

- Depart the US.

Overnight: Flight

Day One: Saturday, October 26, 2019

## ARRIVAL & INTRODUCTION TO KRAKOW

- 4:00 p.m. Gather in the hotel lobby to meet your tour educator **Hillel Meyer**, your local tour guide, **Marcelina Tomza Michalska**, and fellow travelers.
- **1,000 Years of Jewish History:** Orientation dialogue with your tour educator. **Overview** of the group journey, including reviewing the itinerary, group themes, and different narratives. Share group and personal goals.
- Guided evening walk to Krakow's Historical **Market Square**, with its medieval architecture, basilicas, and sculptures. This UNESCO World Heritage Site, once the capital of Poland, was not destroyed during World War II and bears witness to the rich history of the country.
- **Ben Kodesh Lechol: Havdallah** and **welcome dinner** at **Szara Ges**.

Overnight: Sheraton Grand, Krakow

Day Two: Sunday, October 27, 2019

**KRAKOW & ITS JEWISH COMMUNITY**

- **Breakfast** at the hotel.
- Meet with leaders of **The Forum for Dialogue**, a non-profit Polish organization whose mission is to foster Polish-Jewish dialogue, eradicate anti-Semitism and teach tolerance through education.
- Engage with the multifaceted, vibrant story of Jewish life in Krakow with a walk through the old Jewish Quarter of **Kazimierz**, including:
  - The **Altshul**, the oldest synagogue in Poland, which has been transformed into the local Jewish lifecycle museum.
  - The **Rema Synagogue**, the synagogue of **Rabbi Moses Isserles**, the great codifier of Jewish law and pillar around whom the Jewish community was able to grow.
  - The **Rema Cemetery**, where many great rabbinical leaders of Polish Jewry are buried.
  - The **Temple**, once the first “Modern” Orthodox synagogue associated with Liberal Judaism in its earliest days.
  - 10:30 a.m. Visit the **Krakow Jewish Community Center** and participate in a **Mitzvah project** with women from **Kol Isha**.
- Lunch (*not included in package*), en route.

Day Two: Sunday, October 27, 2019

**CONTINUED...**

- Take a guided journey following the Jewish community on their descent from Kazimierz, crossing over the bridge into the Jewish Ghetto of **Podgorze**, including:
  - The **Oskar Schindler Factory Museum**. The museum tells the story of the city of Krakow and its residents under Nazi occupation from 1939 to 1945. It is housed in the administrative building of Oskar Schindler's enamel factory. **Schindler**, a successful businessman, and his wife **Emilie**, managed to provide a safe environment for over 1,000 Jews, and saved them from being sent to Auschwitz. They were later honored with the title of Righteous Among the Nations.
  - The **Krakow Umchlagplatz memorial**, now called **Ghetto Heroes Square**.
  - A view of the **Pharmacy** gateway to the Ghetto. Learn the story about the Polish Righteous Among the Nations pharmacist **Tadeusz Pankiewicz** and his role in saving the Jews of Krakow.
- Return to the hotel.
- Dinner (*not included in package*) and evening at leisure (*several reservations have been made in advance for the group*).

Overnight: Sheraton Grand, Krakow

Day Three: Monday, October 28, 2019

## THE DESTRUCTION OF EUROPEAN JEWRY

- **Breakfast** at the hotel.
- ***In This Place*** – Guided visit through the **Auschwitz–Birkenau Complex**, reflecting on personal stories and texts. Walk through the Auschwitz Museum exhibits, built in the original blocks of the camp, see the original artifacts and footage, and learn about the life and death of the prisoners of this work camp. A short drive will take you to the **Auschwitz II** death camp, better known as **Birkenau**. This camp was barely touched or renovated, allowing you to better understand the last moments of the prisoners of this camp.
- **Boxed lunch**.
- ***How We Remember*** with your tour educator.
- Visit the **Oswiecim Jewish Center and Museum**, capturing the rich life of the Jewish community which was the majority of the city. Through testimonials, artifacts, rare footage, and personal belongings, take a mental picture of the community that held a large variety of Jewish organizations, sports, and youth groups.
- Return to Krakow.
- Private meeting with **Miroslawa Gruszczynska**, a Righteous Gentile, and hear her story of saving Jews during the Holocaust.
- **Dinner** at the **Krakow Jewish Community Center** with **Jonathan Ornstein**, the JCC director.

Overnight: Sheraton Grand, Krakow

## Day Four: Tuesday, October 29, 2019

### FROM KRAKOW TO WARSAW

- **Breakfast** at the hotel, followed by check-out.
- Load luggage onto the luggage truck (*luggage will be transferred to Warsaw separately*).
- Transfer to the Krakow train station.
- Depart Krakow and travel to Warsaw by train.
- **The World That Was:** Guided visit to the Jewish Cemetery of Warsaw on Okopowa Street (also known as the Gensha Cemetery). One of the largest Jewish cemeteries in the world, it is a place to recall the strength of Jewish life in Warsaw. Since 1806, many of the great figures of Polish Jewry, from rabbis to Communists and from scientists to Yiddish writers, were buried here. Badly damaged in World War II and then neglected for many years, Jewish and non-Jewish volunteers have been working since the 1990s to repair the cemetery and trace the names of the many Jews buried here. We'll walk among the earth-laden paths, overgrown thickets, and worn-down tombstones as we talk about the Jews of Warsaw.
- Lunch (*not included in package*) in Warsaw.
- Take a guided journey through the **Warsaw Ghetto**. We will see the **Remnants of the Ghetto Wall** and follow the steps taken by the heroic ghetto fighters at the **Path of Remembrance**. At **Umschlagplatz**, the holding area before transportation to the Treblinka death camp, we'll reflect on the fate of the Jews of the Warsaw Ghetto.

Day Four: Tuesday, October 29, 2019

**CONTINUED...**

- In 2013, JDC and the Jews of Warsaw inaugurated a modern **Jewish Community Center (JCC)** in the Polish capital. Located in one of Warsaw's trendiest neighborhoods, the JCC tells the story of the exciting re-emergence of Jewish life in Poland, and of Jewish youth and adults reclaiming their Jewish identity. Today the JCC serves as the hub of Jewish life designed to strengthen Jewish identity, deepen ties to the Jewish community, and build Jewish leadership through a vast array of Jewish cultural, educational, and community programs. During our visit, we will join some of the young Jews involved at the JCC, bake local desserts to share with families and elderly in the community, and meet an exciting group of local women to discuss their personal experiences dealing with modern day dilemmas as Jewish women living in Poland.
- Check into the hotel.
- **Dinner** at **Momu** restaurant with women leaders of the local Jewish community including **Monika Elliot**, program director of JDC, **Magda Dorosz**, director of Hillel Warsaw, and other activists from the Jewish Community of Poland.

Overnight: Sofitel, Warsaw



Day Five: Wednesday, October 30, 2019

**FROM POLAND TO ISRAEL**

- **Breakfast** at the hotel, followed by check-out.
- Visit the **Nozyk Synagogue**, the last remaining pre-Holocaust synagogue in Warsaw. Meeting with **Rabbi Michael Schudrich**, the Chief Rabbi of Poland, and **Anna Bakula**, board member and CFO of Lauder Morasha School in Warsaw.
- We will commemorate the doomed uprising of 1943 at **Mila 18** and pass by the **Nathan Rapoport Warsaw Ghetto Memorial**.
- Visit the **Museum of the History of Polish Jews** located in the center of what once was the Jewish Ghetto. Explore 1,000 years of rich history of the Polish Jews, beginning with their arrival as merchants, through the medieval ages, until today. This 43,000-square-foot museum includes rare and valuable art, photos, documentation, and footage of what was once the largest Jewish community in the world.
- **Boxed lunch**, en route.
- Transfer to Warsaw International Airport.
- 3:25 p.m. Depart Warsaw on Lot Airlines Flight #155 to Tel Aviv.
- 8:10 p.m. Arrive at Ben Gurion International Airport.
- Transfer to the hotel and check in.

Overnight: Carlton, Tel Aviv

Day Six: Thursday, October 31, 2019

## THE BEAT OF THE CITY

- **Breakfast** at the hotel.
- **To Fly Like A Butterfly:** Hear a live testimony from **Hannah Gofrit** who was born in Poland in 1935. Hannah will share her personal story of surviving the war and her journey to Israel.
- **Dealing with Memory in a Post-Modern World:** Meet **Adi Altschuler** founder of **Zikaron BaSalon**, a project that invites Israelis to commemorate the Holocaust in a personal way, among friends, family, and guests, in private homes.
- **Music, Activism, and a Love of the Land:** Meet with **Achinoam Nini** (known also as **Noa**), one of Israel's leading international singer/songwriters, with over 15 albums to her credit. Noa is Israel's first Goodwill Ambassador for FAO, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN, and an advocate for peace. She will discuss with us her passions for music, peace, and the land of Israel.
- Lunch (*not included in package*), en route.
- **Hope in Hatikva:** Visit the **Hatikva neighborhood**, one of Tel Aviv's lowest socio-economic and ethnically diverse areas. Meet with local young activists, all of whom were raised in Hatikva and participate in the **Bnei Makom** Project (*Bnei Makom is funded directly by Federation*). These "21<sup>st</sup> Century Pioneers" will share stories of how, though opportunities existed for them to live elsewhere, they chose to remain and improve the neighborhood from within. The visit will include a **tasting tour** at Hatikva's open-air market with food (and people) from around the world.
- **Dine Around the Town:** Explore Tel Aviv's vibrant culinary scene with dinner (*not included in package; several reservations have been made in advance for the group*).
- **An Evening of Culture:** Special performance with **Tarbut**, a movement of pioneering young artists who reside and work as Tarbut Communities ("urban Kibbutzim") in weakened towns and cities throughout Israel (*Tarbut is funded directly by Federation*).

Overnight: Carlton, Tel Aviv

## Day Seven: Friday, November 1, 2019

### MOVE, CREATE, AND INSPIRE

- **Breakfast** at the hotel.
- **Out of East Africa:** Meet African women seeking refuge in Tel Aviv and see how they are working toward a brighter future by creating beautiful crocheted products. **Kuchinate** (meaning crochet in Tigrinya) is a collective that celebrates African art and culture while empowering women asylum-seekers, many of whom suffered great hardships while fleeing to Israel. Here we'll:
  - Join women from East Africa for a **traditional coffee-making ceremony** and talk with them about their lives in Israel and the struggles they are seeking to overcome through creativity and collective action.
  - Try our hand at creating East African baskets (or bracelets) during a **craft workshop** led by the women of Kuchinate.
- Stroll down the **Nahalat Binyamin** pedestrian mall, with its bi-weekly craft fair and eateries. Alongside is the colorful Carmel open-air market.
- Meeting at the hotel with **Inbar Oren** of **Yisrael Hofsheet** (Be Free Israel). The Israel Hofsheet grassroots movement strives for an Israeli society that practices cultural and religious pluralism, protects civil rights and upholds the principles of democracy and Zionism (*Yisrael Hofsheet is funded directly by Federation*).
- **Kabbalat Shabbat** services at **Yachad**, one of Tel Aviv's pluralistic synagogues and among the first LGBT-friendly Orthodox communities.
- **Shabbat Dinner with a Purpose:** Gather for **Shabbat dinner** at the hotel together with youth from **IGY** (Israel Gay Youth). IGY works for social change towards a more equal and tolerant society, empowering youth to create a meaningful role for themselves in society and to encourage them to take part in shaping both their local communities and Israeli society as a whole (*IGY is funded directly by Federation*).

Overnight: Carlton, Tel Aviv

## Day Eight: Saturday, November 2, 2019

### SHABBAT IN TEL AVIV

- **Breakfast** at the hotel.
- *(Optional)* **Shul hopping** between various and unique synagogues around Tel Aviv, each one with a different background and denomination.
- Free morning on own in Tel Aviv with an opportunity to:
  - Take in the grand art collection at the Tel Aviv Museum of Art.
  - Walk through the colorful Carmel Market.
  - Meander through the Old City of Jaffa, including Jaffa's famous Flea Market - Shuk Hapishpeshim.
  - Explore the colorful Neve Zedek neighborhood.
  - Crash the waves of the Mediterranean Sea.
  - Walk the Blue Route, with its beautiful coastline and Mediterranean atmosphere - from the Jaffa Ridge in the south to Tel Aviv Port in the north, or the Green Route, passing through Ganei Yehoshua along the Yarkon River.
  - Walk through the trendy Tel Aviv Port.
- Lunch *(not included in package)*.
- **Israel Through a Gender Lens – Women's Leadership and Empowerment:** Meet with **Hamutal Gouri**, former executive director of the **Dafna Fund**, Israel's only women's foundation.
- **Closing conversations** at the hotel.
- Late check-out from the hotel for those with evening departures.
- **Farewell dinner** at **Goshen**, an upscale grill restaurant located on the historic Nahalat Binyamin Street.
- For those departing this evening, transfer to Ben Gurion International Airport and check in for your departure flight to the US, arriving the next day.

Overnight: Flight

## Travel Day: Sunday, November 3, 2019

### RETURN HOME

- Arrive in the US.

# **PARTICIPANTS**

Esther Ain

Wendy Feldman Block

Ari Brickman

Andee Forster

Toby Frank

Jane Gang

Cheryl Ginsburg

Malki Karkowsky

Sheryl Kimerling

Victoria Kimerling

Beth Kramer

Valerie Lederberg

Dina Leener

Lauren Racoosin

Randi Sadugor

Stefanie Sanders Levy

Paula Shoyer

Robin Hettleman Weinberg

Janyse Weisz

Bonnie Youngentob

# **HOTELS**

## **SHERATON GRAND KRAKOW**

7 Powisle Street

Krakow

Tel: 48 12 662 1000

## **SOFITEL WARSAW**

Krolewska 11

Warsaw

Tel: 48 22 657 8011

## **CARLTON**

10 Eliezer Peri Street

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