

A Jewish Journey to Europe

October 15 - 26, 2017

Led by Rabbi Marc Rudolph

Itinerary Proposal

(As of April 28 - 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 Germany, Czechoslovakia and Hungary, but their legacies are still alive and relevant in contemporary Jewish life. We will explore and trace the story of Ashkenazi Jewry past and present, using the major centers of Berlin, Prague and Budapest to remember and learn about the past and ultimately to better understand the complex nature of our own contemporary Jewish identity, belief and practice.

Sunday October 15

- Departure from USA

Monday October 16 *Traces of the Past*

- Morning/midday arrival in Berlin
- Begin our exploration of Berlin at the dramatic **Berlin Holocaust Memorial**. *Its central location is an indication of the important role that Holocaust memory plays in contemporary Germany.*
- See the **Reichstag** German Parliament Building, **Pariser Platz** and the **Brandenburg Gate**, *the former city gate completed in 1791, used by the Nazis as a symbol, blocked during the Cold War and restored in 2002 as a focal point of the united city.*
- Visit the **Bebelplatz** the infamous site of Nazi book burnings in 1933
- Near where **Check Point Charlie** used to stand, we'll see the remains of the Cold War era **Berlin Wall**.
- Check-in and relax at our hotel
- Group Dinner
- **Overnight:** Leonardo Mitte Hotel, *Berlin*



Tuesday October 17 *Rooted in the Past – Building for the Future*

- Breakfast at the hotel
- Head to the **Oranienburger Strasse Synagogue**. *Known as the "New Synagogue," when constructed in 1866, it was partially burnt on Kristallnacht and almost totally destroyed by Allied bombing. It has been partially renovated.*
- On **Grosse Hamburger Strasse**, once a center of Jewish life, visit *the site of the Jewish cemetery from where Jews were deported to concentration camps*. At the gravesite of **Moses Mendelssohn**, consider his role in helping Jews navigate the complex transition from **Ghetto** life to emancipation.
- Encounter and learn some of the personal stories represented by the "**Stolperstein**" (stumbling blocks) *which depict the last known place of residence of the persons commemorated. Designed to recall the victims of the Nazis, there are over 12,000 Stolperstein in Germany today, the vast majority in memory of Jews*
- Lunch on your own
- On Rosenstrasse, where we will see the site of the Old Synagogue (dedicated in 1714) *and the monument remembering the 1943 protests by non-Jewish women over the arrest of their Jewish husbands*
- Continue to the **Berlin Jewish Museum** for a guided tour.
- Dinner with members of the **Berlin Jewish community**
- **Overnight:** Leonardo Mitte Hotel, *Berlin*



Wednesday October 18 Wannsee and Potsdam

- Breakfast at the hotel.
- Stand in solemn memory at **Track 17** in the **Wilmserford District**, commemorating the over 50,000 Berlin Jews that were deported from **Grunewald Station**.
- Head to suburban **Wannsee** where the secret "Wannsee Conference" was held on January 20, 1942. *The Wannsee Conference brought together senior and mid level officials of the Nazi regime to coordinate and plan the murder of the Jews in Europe: the "Final Solution to the Jewish Question"*
- Packed Lunch
- Continue on to **Potsdam**. It has been said that Berlin without Potsdam is like Paris without Versailles or London without Windsor. *Stroll through the beautiful Gardens of **San Soucci Palace**, see the mock-16th century palace of **Cecilienhof** where the victorious Allies held the **Potsdam Conference** in 1945, the lakeside **Marble Palace** and the **Babelsberg Castle**.*
- Return to Berlin for dinner on your own
- **Concert or other cultural program**
- **Overnight:** Leonardo Mitte Hotel, Berlin

Thursday October 19 Dresden

- Breakfast at the hotel
- Check out of the hotel and depart to **Prague**.
- We'll stop in **Dresden**. *Much of Dresden was destroyed by the massive Allied bombing in 1945. See the magnificent rebuilt **Lutheran Frauenkirche**, & visit the **Old Masters Picture Gallery** at the **Zwinger Palace***
- Lunch on your own
- Continue to **Prague** for check-in at our hotel.
- Evening: Walking tour at the **Old Town Square of Prague** followed by a **dinner cruise** on the Vlatlava River
- **Overnight:** Century Old Town Hotel, Prague



Friday October 20 Prague: *The World That Was*

- 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** - 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 and shopping time on your own
- Tour and taste at the historic **UFleku Brewery**, *founded in 1499 and said to be the oldest brewery in Prague.*
- Return to the hotel to prepare for Shabbat
- Join Liberal Congregation **Bejt Simcha** for **Kabbalat Shabbat** services
- Shabbat Dinner
- **Overnight:** Century Old Town Hotel, Prague



Shabbat October 21 *Shabbat Shalom In Prague*

- Breakfast at the hotel
- Optional Shabbat morning services (Orthodox) at the opulent **Jubilee Synagogue** *built in 1906, and named in honor of the **Silver Jubilee of Emperor Franz Joseph I of Austria***
- Lunch on own (*Kosher Shabbat lunch can be pre-ordered at additional cost*)
- Late afternoon **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...)*
- **Home Hospitality Dinner and Havdallah** with members of the Prague **Masorti Community**. *Learn more about the complex nature of post-Communist era Jewish identity in the Czech Republic.*
- **Overnight:** Century Old Town Hotel, Prague



Sunday October 22 Memory

- Breakfast at the hotel
- Head to **Terezin**, the Nazi showcase Ghetto to which many of the Jews of Prague were sent before being murdered at Auschwitz and elsewhere.
- Packed Lunch
- Return to Prague and visit the **Prague Castle**, a UNESCO World Heritage, founded around 880. *The Prague Castle is considered to be the largest coherent castle complex in the world.*
- At the castle complex, visit **St Vitus Cathedral** and the **Lobkowitz Palace Museum** for a music-filled visit presenting key events in European history, from the unique perspective of the noble Bohemian Lobkowitz family
- Evening and dinner on your own
- **Overnight:** Century Old Town Hotel, Prague

Monday October 23 The Czech Countryside

- Breakfast at the hotel.
- Depart Prague by bus towards Budapest – on the way, we'll stop for a picnic lunch in the natural beauty of the South Moravian **Podyji National Park**
- Arrive in Budapest - Stop at **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 in Budapest followed by dinner on your own
- **Overnight:** Zara Continental Hotel, Budapest



Tuesday October 24 Jewish Budapest

- Breakfast at the hotel
- 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**
- **Meet members of the local Jewish community.** *Learn about the challenges they face as they confront the reality of Hungarian anti-Semitism past and present*
- Lunch on your own
- Head to the famed **Gellert Spa & Baths** hot spring pools in the heart of Budapest.
- Evening and dinner on your own
- **Overnight:** Zara Continental Hotel, Budapest



Wednesday October 25 Remembering the Past – Building the Future

- Breakfast at the hotel
- Head to the area of the International Ghetto where Moshe Krausz 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 the "Righteous Gentile" in saving Jews during the Shoah.*
- Stand in solemn memory at the **Shoes on the Danube Promenade** which remembers the Jews who were murdered in late 1944 by the Hungarian fascist Arrow Cross militiamen in Budapest
- Cross the Danube to **Castle Hill** on the Buda side of the city for dramatic views of the city from the **Fisherman's Bastion**
 - Visit a medieval Jewish chapel
- Continue to the **Great Market Hall and Vaci Utca for lunch and shopping time on your own**
- **Cruise on the Danube River**
- Summary session and Farewell Dinner
- **Overnight:** Zara Continental Hotel, Budapest



Thursday October 26

- Breakfast at the hotel
 - **Departure to Ferenc Liszt International Airport for flights to the USA**
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- Listed activities and speakers are subject to confirmation.
- The trip will be staffed by a Keshet Tour Educator and local guides
- All breakfasts plus underlined meals are included in the package price.
- This itinerary is proprietary to Keshet and is intended for the promotion of and to inform those considering joining this Keshet trip. It is not to be transmitted to any other party without prior authorization from Keshet



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April 28, 2016

\$4,595 ESTIMATED Land Package Price

Per person in double occupancy hotel accommodations
Pricing is based upon a minimum number of trip participants

Plus \$195 tips per person

Tips are for Tour Guides, Bus Drivers, Bell Staff and Waiters at included meals

Option	What is it?	
Single Occupancy	One person per hotel room (<i>limited availability</i>)	Add \$ 975

Deposit & Payment Schedule *Final Schedule to be determined once flights are finalized*

March 1, 2017	Deposit of \$500 per participant (<i>applied to total payment</i>)
May 10, 2017	50% payment due
August 10, 2017	Payment due in full

Refund Schedule For cancellation or non-participation for any reason *Final Schedule to be determined once flights are finalized*

Cancellation after	Refund
March 1, 2017	Full refund of deposit less \$300 per person
May 10, 2017	Full refund less \$ 1,600 per person
August 10, 2017	Full refund less \$ 2,200
September 15, 2017	No Refund

Included Hotel Accommodations

Hotel	Dates	Hotel	Dates
Leonardo Mitte Hotel, Berlin	Oct 16 - 19	Zara Continental Hotel, Budapest	Oct 23 - 26
Old Town Century Hotel, Prague	Oct 19 - 23		
First night of included hotel accommodations	Monday night October 16, 2017 at the Leonardo Mitte Hotel, Berlin		
Conclusion of included hotel accommodations	Thursday morning October 26, 2017 : Check-out from the Zara Continental Hotel, Budapest		

Registration & Trip Deposit Payment Options

- **Online** – Register & pay with MasterCard or Visa online at www.keshetisrael.co.il/forms/keshet-billing
- **Check** – Complete the “hard copy” registration form and mail with a check payable to **Educational Encounters International, Inc.(EEII)** to: **Educational Encounters International, Inc.(EEII), 110 Chestnut Ridge Road, Suite 228, Montvale, N.J. 07645** *Keshet strives to offer fair pricing and therefore does not budget for contingencies resulting from weather or security issues. Itineraries may be altered as a result of these factors. Also, the prices listed reflect rates quoted by hotels and vendors as of April 2016. In the event of devaluation of the US dollar exchange rates, hotels and other vendors may add surcharges; Keshet reserves the right to pass such increases on to trip participants.*

Arrival in/Departure from Europe

Keshet will arrange a group flight option, details of which should become available in December 2016. Trip participants will also have the option of making their own flight arrangements, independent of the group flight arrangements.

ESTIMATED Land Package Price Includes:

- Transfers from and to the airports in Berlin & Budapest for the group flights
- All group transportation in Europe on private chartered buses as per the itinerary
- All hotel accommodations – double occupancy as per the itinerary
- All site admissions and programs as per the itinerary
- Hotel breakfast every morning plus 9 additional included lunches and dinners
- Keshet Tour Educator
- Local European guides
- Educational materials

Not Included in ESTIMATED Land Package Price :

- Airfare
- Medical/Trip Insurance
- Meals on your own
- Laundry service
- Personal charges at hotels and restaurants
- Tips: \$195 per person be brought with you in cash and collected on the first day of the trip

Trip Insurance Keshet urges you to purchase cancellation insurance and supplemental medical coverage (which covers preexisting conditions). We recommend the "**Cancel For Any Reason**" policies which offer the broadest coverage. **Please note that most insurance policies require purchase within 14 days of your date of registration for the trip.** While you are free to purchase insurance from any company of your choice, Keshet has made arrangements with SMS-Travel Insurance Center of Omaha, Nebraska. SMS has over 25 years of experience as worldwide insurance brokers and can help you choose the policy that best meets your needs. **Our contact persons are Yonah Engel & Dani Eisenstock:**

E-mail: info@travelinsuranceisrael.com **USA phone:** [1-888-747-3773](tel:1-888-747-3773) **Mention promo code:** KESHET

Please note: We cannot accept responsibility for any losses or expenses which you or any member of your party may incur as a result of failure to secure adequate insurance coverage.

Please contact **Daniel Ehrlich**, Keshet's Educational Director, with any questions about the trip: danny@keshetisrael.co.il



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