

**JOIN US FOR OUR ANNUAL  
TRIP TO POLAND  
FOR NEW DISCOVERIES**

**WARSAW-KRAKOW-WROCLAW: 26 JUNE – 1 JULY 2025**

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שלעזיע

גאליציע

# **SILESIA AND GALICIA OTHER LANDS OF JEWISH MEMORY**

## **JEWISH CULTURE FESTIVAL IN KRAKOW**

**& Exhibition opening at the POLIN Museum in Warsaw**

### **Western/Southern Poland**

**A TRAVEL THROUGH HISTORY OF JEWISH, POLISH  
AND GERMAN CULTURES**

**WARSAWA, OPATÓW, CHMIELNIK, KRAKOW, CZĘSTOCHOWA, KATOWICE, SILESIA  
REGION, OŚWIĘCIM/AUSCHWITZ & WROCLAW**

**Draft Program at a Glance**  
*subject to change, version June 13, 2025*

**Warsaw and Krakow, beautiful  
places and wonderful people**

*June 26th, Thursday*

**Warsaw, the opening of the last part of  
the permanent exhibition in POLIN  
Museum**

*June 27th, Friday*

**Trip to Krakow & Shabbat in Krakow**

*June 28th, Saturday*

**A visit in partly preserved Shtetls &  
Jewish Culture Festival in Krakow**

*June 29th, Sunday*

**Meeting of the Jewish FestivALT  
organizers in Krakow**

**From Galicia to Silesia**

*June 29th, Sunday*

**Trip from Krakow to Wroclaw through  
Silesia: Czestochowa, Będzin,  
Sosnowiec and Katowice; possibility of  
a visit in Auschwitz**

*June 30th, Monday*

**Wroclaw: a thriving city with memory**

*July 1, Tuesday*

**Departure from Wroclaw**

**Return flight**

**July 1, Tuesday, return flight from Wroclaw to Paris Beauvais 13:10 – 15:10  
(Ryanair)**

## WARSAW – THE CITY IN CONSTANT EVOLUTION THROUGH LIVING MEMORY OF ITS JEWISH ROOTS

## WARSAW & POLIN MUSEUM

13:05 Warsaw arrival at Warsaw Chopin airport

14:00 Check in at Warsaw Presidential Hotel & lunch at Lobby bar

16:00 - 16:30 Visit at MI POLIN (מפולין, *From Poland*) – a new museum, a unique space of this kind in the world. The core part of the mini-museum is Mezuzah Trace Archive. For Helena Czernek and Aleksander Prugar, the founders of the Museum, 'Synagogues are traces of communities, mezuzahs are traces of those who were murdered'.



MI POLIN: Mezuzah

### 1945. NOT THE END, NOT THE BEGINNING

### POLIN MUSEUM NEW EXHIBITION

17:00 - 18:00 Welcome by Museum Polin representatives and guided visit with the Curator in the new temporary exhibition.

The Second World War ended in 1945.

It should have been a moment of euphoria, and yet for the Jews who were striving to process the tremendous loss and utter loneliness, it was first and foremost a time of making decisions—What next?

How does one rebuild their life from scratch?

The exhibition opened on 7 March 2025.



Exhibition poster



This gallery is appropriately located at the very heart of the Core Exhibition, in the dramatic central circulation space.

18:00 - 20:00

Official opening of the "BONDS" gallery that will be the last part of the Core exhibition at the Museum of The History of Polish Jews.

A new gallery, Bonds, forms an epilogue to the thousand-year story presented in the seven historical galleries of the Core Exhibition.

This gallery extends the geography of that history to the many places in the world where Polish Jews immigrated, what they took with them, the lives they created in their new homes, their connection to the places their families once called home, and the importance of the legacy of Polish Jews to them today.

20:00 Dinner at the Warsaw Old Town



**KRAKOW &  
KAZIMIERZ**

**10:00 - 12:00 Train trip from Warsaw to Krakow**

*Several Guests arrive directly to Krakow*

**12:00 - 15:00 Guided VIP tour to delve into Cracow Old Town and Jewish district in Krakow.**

**Reception of the VIP passes for whole program of the Jewish Culture Festival.**

**15:00 - 17:00 Visit of the Schindler's Factory**

**18:00 Concert at the Temple Synagogue**

**Light, Love, Life & Family – Kabbalat Shabbat**

Established in the fourteenth century, Kazimierz was Kraków's historic Jewish Quarter. During World War II, its Jewish inhabitants were forcibly relocated to a ghetto in Podgórze. Located within Kraków's Old Town, Kazimierz was an independent city from the fourteenth to the nineteenth century. The heart of Kraków's Jewish Quarter is Szeroka Street, home to three of the seven surviving synagogues in Kazimierz.



**Schindler's Factory**

Originally a factory for producing metal items and enamelware, this factory became the site that indirectly saved the lives of over 1,000 Jews

*Delve into the fascinating history of Kraków, one of Poland's oldest cities, established in the fourth century, and discover how it has evolved over time.*

Archaeological records indicate that the site where Kraków now stands, near Wawel Hill and the Vistula River, has been inhabited since the Stone Age.

Three centuries later, in the ninth century, while Saint Methodius was converting the Slavic population of the region, it is believed that the Vistulans (first inhabitants of the area) had a legendary ruler, Krakus, who is credited with founding Kraków.

**20:00 OFFICIAL SHABBAT DINNER  
with the Jewish Community and Chief Rabbi of Poland Michael  
Schudrich at Stara Zajezdnia restaurant**

**22:00 – Jazz Concert: Frank London`s In the City of God  
Hevre, ul. Meiselsa 18**

# MEANINGFUL JOURNEY : OPATÓW & CHMIELNIK, TWO SHTETLS, ONE SHARED MEMORY UNDERSTANDING GALICIA

DAY 3  
SATURDAY  
JUNE 28

KRAKOW  
& SHTETLS

9:00 -10:00 Breakfast – with FestivALT and Jewish Kultur Lige (network of Jewish artists and young activists)

## 11:00 Opatów

The Jewish community in Opatów was established in the 16th century. The presence of a Jewish population in this town is confirmed as early as 1538. An Inspirational walk through the history of Mayer Kirschenblatt paintings.

## 13:00 Chmielnik



Jews who constituted the vast majority of the Shtetl of Chmielnik. The synagogue in Chmielnik was built around 1750. Two kahal schools, a Talmudic house and a rabbi's apartment were built in the vicinity of the synagogue.

In 2014, the 18th-century synagogue was transformed into a modern, unique facility in the country - the Educational and Museum Center "Świętokrzyski Shtetl".

On the ground floor there are: the main hall with a centrally located glass bimah, a conference room, a multimedia library.

This unique bima – an elevated platform used as an orator's podium for Torah reading during services – the only one in the world made of glass, was designed by Natalia Romik, artist awarded with the Dan David Prize.

Return to Krakow at 16:00 (115 kms from Chmielnik) & free time before the concert & dinner



The Jewish Culture Festival in Kraków is the largest event showcasing contemporary Jewish culture from around the world. In Yiddish, 'Kuzmir' refers to Kazimierz, the name of Kraków's historic Jewish Quarter. The 34th edition of the Jewish Culture Festival will take place from June 25th to June 29th, 2025, and will focus on the spiritual heritage of Kazimierz. Shalom, the renowned closing concert of the festival, attracts an audience of over 15,000 people each year.

18:30 - 23:00 Dinner at the restaurant "Po Krakosku" located close to Shalom at Wolnica Square concert – the main event of the JCF

## SILESIA & AUSCHWITZ

8:00 - 9:30 *Breakfast at Stary Hotel in Krakow & check out with Janusz Makuch (founder of the Jewish Culture Festival) & Robert Gądek (co-director of the JCF).*

10:00 - 11:00 - TRIP TO OSWIECIM / AUSCHWITZ

11:00 - 14:00 – Visit of the city of Oswiecim, of the Auschwitz death and concentration camp, and of the *Zone of Interest* area  
*Guests travelling to Auschwitz will be accompanied by our guide and will join the rest of the trip in the early afternoon*

BĘDZIN

JERUSALEM DE'ZAGLEMBIE

## THROUGH SILESIA TO WROCLAW

### BĘDZIN-SOSNOWIEC-KATOWICE

16:00-18:00 A Jewish Heritage tour with Piotr and Karolina Jakoweńko [founder of Brama Cukiermana foundation] in 3 Towns of Silesia: **Będzin, Sosnowiec and Katowice**. We will visit the Jewish district and Jewish cemetery and unique bunker of Ghetto Fighters.



Until World War II, Będzin had a vibrant Jewish community and was known as 'Yerushalayim de Zagłębie' ('Jerusalem of Zagłębie'). According to the Russian census of 1897, Jews constituted 10,800 out of a total population of 21,200, making up around 51% of the population.

After the War, Silesia became a major center for the repatriation of Poland's Jewish population that had survived Nazi German extermination.

By autumn 1945, 15,000 Jews were living in Lower Silesia, mostly Polish Jews who had returned from territories that were now part of the Soviet Union. This number rose to 70,000 by 1946.

## LATE EVENING ARRIVAL TO WROCŁAW / BRESLAU

Check in at Monopol Hotel

**Dinner at Dinette restaurant, in the pre-war department store Renoma**



# WROCLAW, A CITY OF JEWISH BOURGEOISIE AND INTELLIGENCIA

DAY 5  
MONDAY  
JUNE 30

WROCLAW  
BRESLAU



MONDAY, JUNE 30



10:00-11:00 – Visit at the Wrocław Faculty of Jewish studies and a meeting with researchers (Tadeusz Taube Department of Jewish Studies).

Short visit to the exhibition of Mira Żelechower-Aleksiun works.

11:00-13:00 – Visit of the The baroque University of Wrocław and of **Ostrów Tumski** (*Dominsel*) – the oldest, historic part of Wrocław, which was built on a former island in the Oder.

13:00 – 14:30 – Lunch in Restauracja Lwia Brama in Ostrów Tumski

14:30 – 16:30 – Guided visit at the Jewish historic necropolis with historian R. Wilkoszewska, PhD



The oldest Jewish tombstone found in Wrocław (Breslau) dates back to medieval times. Opened in 1856, the cemetery's eclectic layout features many architectural forms and styles on a monumental scale.

16:30 – 19:00 – We will visit the White Stork Synagogue (*Synagoga pod Białym Bocianem*) and discover the “Treasures of the Jewish Community of Wrocław” exhibition. We will spend some time in the unique district of Wrocław of Four Religions.

In 1290, Wrocław had the second largest Jewish community in East Central Europe, after Prague.

Wrocław, former part of the German Empire, became Polish again in 1945, and one of the “Recovered Territories”. Due to its “in-betweenness”, it was a place where various cultures met, in a spirit of freedom and independence.

After 1989, the city rediscovered and assumed its Jewish heritage, cherished all across the town.

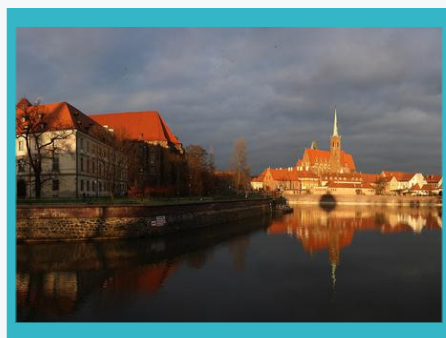
Wrocław is a city of several Nobel Prize laureates (Erwin Schrödinger, Max Born Olga Tokarczuk, Nobel laureate in Literature, author of *The Books of Jacob*, 2021), and of many artists, writers and famous personalities (Erns Cassirer, Peter Lorre, Günther Anders, Edith Stein)

19:30 – 20:30 – OP ENHEIM Gallery, in the former Oppenheim house in Wrocław – meeting with the owner and the local artistic milieu

20:30 - 22:30 – Dinner at the Młoda Polska Restaurant, in presence of Mira Żelechower-Aleksiun (TBC), Edyta Gawron, PhD, Marcin Wodziński, PhD, and Olga Tokarczuk, a writer (TBC)

## Guided tours in Old

Breslau including Jewish  
district with Urban Memory  
Foundation.



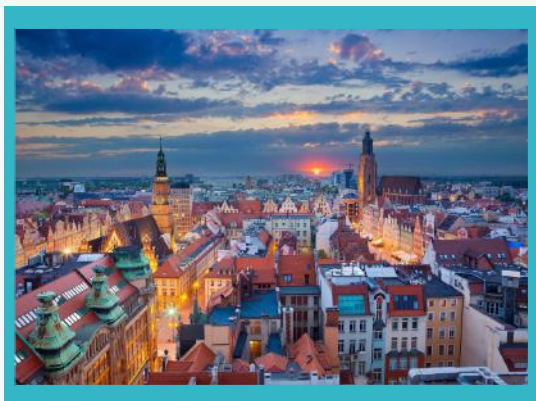
Association Européenne  
du Musée de l'Histoire  
des Juifs de Pologne  
POLIN

2 NIGHTS IN WROCLAW AT MONOPOL HOTEL

# LEAVING WROCLAW

DAY 6  
TUESDAY  
JULY 1

WROCLAW  
BRESLAU



## 7:30 - 10:00 – Breakfast & check out

Last moments in Wroclaw – stroll through the old multicultural Wroclaw with a representative of the thriving local Jewish community

## 11:30-12:30 – Trip towards the Wroclaw Airport

If you can stay in Wroclaw for a bit longer, you might want to visit the following place:

### Wroclaw Museum of Contemporary Art / Muzeum Współczesne Wrocław – MWW

The Wunderland exhibition is a multi-dimensional look at the historical and social phenomenon of Lower Silesia, presenting the region as a complex environment that has undergone numerous transformations, reflecting cultural richness and social diversity. Lower Silesia is a geographical region in which an almost complete exchange of population took place after 1945. As Norman Davies noted, there were no interest groups claiming rights to Wrocław within the new borders of Poland, and it was mainly Stalin's will that decided to move the borders far to the west. Almost eighty years after these events, the question of the identity of the region, which also became home to hundreds of thousands of people who came from Ukraine, remains relevant.

Return flight (recommended)

**RYANAIR Departure from Wroclaw at 13:10, 1 July 2025**

**Arrival : Paris Beauvais at 17:10, 1 July 2025.**

