

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

Sign Up

שלזיה
גאליציה

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

WARSZAWA, 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'.

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.



MI POLIN: Mezuzah



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

MEANINFUL 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



A contemporary Glass Bima at the Synagogue in Chmielnik
(construction: 1633-1634)

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



Shalom – the final concert of the JCF

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

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

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.

BĘDZIN
JERUSALEM DE'ZAGLEMBIE



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

WROCŁAW, A CITY OF JEWISH BOURGEOISIE AND INTELLIGENCIA

WROCŁAW
BRESLAU



MONDAY, JUNE 30



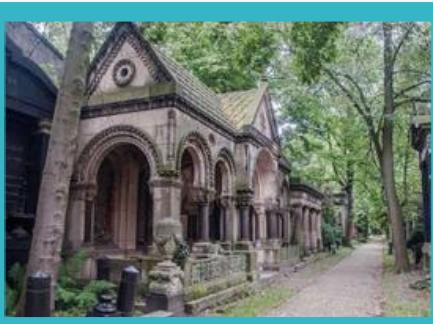
10:00-11:00 – Visit at the Wrocław Faculty of Jewish studies and a meeting with researchers (Tadeusz Taube Department of Jewish Studies).

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)



WROCŁAW
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.

