

**KRAKOW**

Beautiful Krakow, the royal capital of Poland till the 17th century, was placed on the UNESCO list of world heritage sites in 1978. The city's Jewish district, Kazimierz, holds Central Europe's most important complex of Jewish historical monuments.

For 700 years, Krakow formed the center of Jewish culture for the region of Galicia, where the largest concentration of Jewish communities had spread over centuries. Krakow was one of the rare Polish cities to survive World War II with its architecture intact, including a magnificent array of synagogues, cheders, Jewish prayer houses and cemeteries. Today, a wellspring of Jewish creative energy is drawing people back to this unique district. During our time in Krakow, we will experience:

**Jewish Culture Festival**

The annual summer Festival is the high point of Poland's cultural resurgence. Founded in 1988, the Festival attracts 20,000 people each year to performances of traditional and avant garde Jewish music, theater, art and literature and celebrations of religious and secular learning.

**Cantors Assembly Performances**

Performances by 100 of the world's greatest living cantors will be heard in venues throughout the country, including the majestic Opera House in Warsaw. Their national tour pays tribute to the most enduring cantorial music, which was created in Poland over several centuries.

**Sister-Cities Celebration: Krakow and San Francisco**

We will witness the formal signing ceremony between these two vibrant cities, which will establish an important partnership and long-lasting collaborations.

**July 4th Festivities at the U. S. Consulate in Krakow**

Experience the glories of Independence Day in a country where "independence" has a special relevance. Add your voice to the Cantors Assembly as they perform songs of George Gershwin and other great American musical composers.

**WARSAW**

Until 1942, Warsaw was home to the largest Jewish community in Europe and the world capital of Yiddish culture. By the war's end, the nation's capital was almost totally destroyed, leaving few Jewish survivors and virtually no monuments testifying to the city's rich Jewish heritage.

In 1989, an active Jewish community emerged, as thousands of Poles of Jewish origin—the children and grandchildren of Holocaust survivors—flocked to Jewish institutions and set up new ones. We will have an exceptional opportunity to appreciate this significant cultural renewal. During our time in Warsaw we will visit:

**Museum of the History of Polish Jews on the site of the 1943 Ghetto Uprising**

This new cornerstone Jewish museum will be on a par with Yad Vashem and the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum, but will go beyond these to encompass 1,000 years of Jewish civilization in Poland. The Museum will illuminate for the entire world the light that the Holocaust failed to extinguish.

**Warsaw Jewish Cemetery**

This 200-year-old landmark, and the largest Jewish cemetery in Europe, sprawls across 83 acres. It contains 250,000 graves and an estimated 200,000 tombstones. From Y.L. Peretz to Ida Kaminska, many of our most celebrated writers, actors and anti-Nazi resistance fighters are buried here, conveying the richness of our history for future generations.

**Jewish Genealogy Learning Center and the Ringelblum Archives at the Jewish Historical Institute**

This is the first archive in the world to begin documentation of the Holocaust at the end of World War II. We will meet with the dedicated genealogists and archivists who are now making it possible for Jews the world over to trace their family histories.

