

## Rabbi Haim Beliak Tour to Eastern Europe

June 22 – July 8, 2016

(As of 11/11/15)



### Day 1, Wednesday, June 22, 2016: DEPARTURE

- We depart from the United States on our overnight flight to Poland.

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### Day 2, Thursday, June 23, 2016: WELCOME TO POLAND

- We arrive in Warsaw where we are met by our local host and transferred to our hotel.
- Check into our hotel.
- **Welcome dinner** together this evening.

O/N Warsaw

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### Day 3, Friday, June 24, 2016: WARSAW

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- We begin at the only surviving synagogue from WWII in Warsaw, the storied **Nozyk Synagogue**, founded in 1900.
- We continue to the **Warsaw Ghetto**, including the **Gensa Cemetery**, established in 1806, containing the graves of about 250,000 people and known as the largest cemetery in Poland. The cemetery tells the story of Warsaw's Jewish community, from its famous "residents", through its Holocaust mass graves, memorials, to its continued use today.
- Continue to the **Jewish Resistance Bunker at Mila 18**, where the commander of the Warsaw Ghetto uprising, Mordechai Anielwicz, took his life. We see the **Umschlagplatz**, where transfers from the Ghetto took place, and pass by **Janucz Kurchek's famous Orphanage**.
- We welcome Shabbat with members of **Beit Warsawa**, the Progressive Congregation in Warsaw. We enjoy **dinner and hospitality** with members of the congregation as we learn more about the Judaism alive in Poland today.

O/N Warsaw



#### Day 4, Saturday, June 25, 2016: WARSAW

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- Today we visit the **Warsaw Uprising Museum**. Occupying a former tram power station the space is split over several levels, leading visitors through the chronological story of the Uprising. Different halls focus on the many aspects of the Uprising; walk through a replica radio station, or a covert printing press.
- This evening, we enjoy a special **Chopin concert** in a beautiful setting.
- The rest of the evening is yours to discover all the vibrant capital of Poland has to offer.

#### O/N Warsaw

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#### Day 5, Sunday, June 26, 2016: JEWISH WARSAW

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- We spend the entire morning at the newly constructed **POLIN Museum (The Museum of the History of the Polish Jews)**, now opened in the heart of the former Warsaw Ghetto. The museum provides a unique learning environment with a wide range of media, documents and artifacts. We will see the amazing architecture in the main hall and learn from their excellent scholars.
- This afternoon, walk through the completely reconstructed **Old Town**. The **Old Market Square** was leveled and rebuilt brick by brick. We view the Mermaid statue, the legendary protectress of Old Market Square and walk by the **Royal Castle**.



#### O/N Warsaw

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#### Day 6, Monday, June 27, 2016: EXPLORING POLAND

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- Check out of our hotel.
- We return this morning to the **POLIN Museum**, for additional study & exploration.
- This afternoon, we drive to the artist's town of **Kazimierz Dolny**, one of the most beautifully situated small towns in Poland.
- Check into our hotel.

#### O/N Kazimierz Dolny

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## Day 7, Tuesday, June 28, 2016: KAZIMIERZ DOLNY

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- This morning we explore **Kazimierz Dolny**, visiting the synagogue, the castle ruins, and the art galleries.
- We enjoy a meeting with **Severin Ashkenazi**, a local who has been highly instrumental in the re-birth of Progressive Judaism in modern Poland.
- This afternoon we visit the unique **16th century cemetery** where we see sites featured in Steven Spielberg's 'Schindler's List'. Then walk along the narrow streets and feel the atmosphere of this one and only town within a town.

### O/N Kazimierz Dolny



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## Day 8, Wednesday, June 29, 2016: LUBLIN

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- Check out of our hotel.
- This morning we head to **Lublin**, a city that once served as one of the most important centers of Jewish life, commerce, culture and scholarship in Europe. With a tiny Jewish community today, numerous Jewish sites exist around Lublin, formerly known as the “Jerusalem of Poland”. Most of these are centered on the impressive former Jewish quarter, including former Yeshivot, a Jewish Hospital, Bund building, and Jewish streets such as

### Lubartowska Street.

- We enjoy a guided city tour of **Lublin**, including **The Castle, Cathedral** and other historical sites. We view the Medical Academy building which was once one of the largest Yeshivot in the world, known as “**The School of the Sages of Lublin**”.
- This afternoon we visit the **Majdanek Death Camp**, just outside the city. On this terrible spot, more than 350,000 people were killed; including 18,000 Jews from Lublin killed on a single day on November 3, 1943 – the largest single day, single location murder of the entire Holocaust. The camp was located three kilometers from the center of Lublin, and was in operation from autumn 1941 – July 1945. Covering 270 hectares, there were barracks for 25,000 prisoners. Today, a permanent exhibition is housed in the former barracks, and several monuments have been raised to the victims of the camp.
- Check into our hotel.

### O/N Lublin

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## Day 9, Thursday, June 30, 2016: TO KRAKOW

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- Check out of our hotel.
- We depart Lublin for Krakow (approx. 4 hours).
- We stop in **Lancut** enroute to Krakow. Here we visit **Lancut Synagogue** and **Potocki Family Castle** with its unique collection of horse carriages.
- Check into our hotel.
- This evening we enjoy **Krakow Music Festival Activities**.

## O/N Krakow



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## Day 10, Friday, July 1, 2016: KAZIMIEREZ

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- Today we enjoy a guided visit to the **Old Jewish District, Kazimierz**, where we see **the Old Synagogue** (a massive fortress-like building erected in the 15th and 16th Centuries), the **Tempel** and the **Remuh Synagogues**
  - We stop outside the **Plaszow Concentration Camp** where Jews lived and worked and the famous story of “Schindler” took place. The area which held the camp now

consists of sparsely wooded hills and fields with one large memorial marking where the camp once stood. There is an additional small plaque of the Jewish Community located nearby.

- This evening, we meet with **Jonathan Ornstein**, the Executive Director of the Krakow JCC for first-hand insight into the struggles and successes of the growing Jewish community in Krakow.
- We end our day in Krakow and have **Shabbat dinner** together with **members of the local community** at the Galicia Museum.

## O/N Krakow

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### Day 11, Saturday, July 2, 2016: KRAKOW

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- This morning we enjoy a walking city tour including **Wawal Castle, St. Mary's Church, the Renaissance Cloth Hall** and other ancient landmarks.
- This afternoon, we tour the UNESCO World Heritage **Wieliczka Salt Mines**. The Wieliczka Salt Mines are over 700 years old. It is one of the largest and oldest working salt mines in Europe. It is on the UNESCO list of the 12 most priceless monuments of the world. An elevator will descend to the first level of the mine where we will be able to see the 180 foot chapel made out of salt rock and lit with salt-crystal chandeliers. There are many other chambers carved out of a huge block of salt, underground museums and even tennis and volleyball courts.
- This evening we enjoy a special **dinner in the Kazimierz**, including Klezmer music!

### O/N Krakow

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### Day 12, Sunday, July 3, 2016: AUSCHWITZ

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- We travel to **Auschwitz-Birkenau**, the infamous Nazi Concentration Camps where many Jews and others perished in WWII. Here we see the museum and pay tribute to the victims.
- This afternoon we drive to **Kielce**, site of a vicious pogrom in 1946, in which over 40 Jews were killed only 1 year after the end of the Holocaust.
- Check into our hotel.

### O/N Kielce

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### Day 13, Monday, July 4, 2016: KIELCE

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- Check out of our hotel.
- Today we participate in a ceremony marking the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Kielce Pogrom.
- Dinner together this evening before we board our overnight train to **Prague**, the Czech capital, also known as "the City of One Thousand Spires" with its Baroque churches, promenades, parks and ancient city walls.



### O/N Train to Prague





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#### Day 14, Tuesday, July 5, 2016: PRAGUE

- Upon arrival in Prague, where we are met by our local host.
  - We continue to a local restaurant for breakfast..
  - Today we see the 1,000 year-old **Royal Castle of Hradcany**, the largest ancient castle in the world, the **Charles Bridge**, the **Astronomical Clock** and **St. Vitus Cathedral**, the biggest and most important church in the Czech Republic.
  - Meeting with members of **Beit Simcha, Prague**.
- Check into our hotel.
  - Free evening in this magical city.

#### O/N Prague

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#### Day 15, Wednesday, July 6, 2016: TEREZIN

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- Today, we travel to **Terezin**, the former "model" Nazi concentration camp.
- We visit the **Fortress, Jewish Cemetery Museum, the hidden synagogue, the Memorial Monument** and the town itself.
- Return to Prague.
- The rest of the day is at leisure to enjoy this beautiful city on our own.
- Optional Classical Music Concert in one of Prague's impressive concert halls (price and details TBD).

#### O/N Prague

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## Day 16, Thursday, July 7, 2016: JEWISH PRAGUE

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- Today we enjoy a sightseeing tour of Jewish interest sites, with a visit to the Old City to view the **Josefov**, Prague's Jewish Town with its **Old Town Hall**, the **Alt-Neu Synagogue**, the longest continually-used synagogue in Europe and the site of the first Magen David. We continue to **the Pinkas Synagogue**, the **Maisel Synagogue**, named after a Jewish Mayor of Prague, exemplifying the Golden Age of Jewish Prague, the **Jewish Cemetery** and the **State Jewish Museum**.
- Tonight we enjoy a festive **farewell dinner** together.



## O/N Prague

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## Day 17, Friday, July 8, 2016: DEPARTURE

- Breakfast at our hotel.
- Transfer to the airport for our flight back to the United States.

**The Memories Last Forever!**

*\*Itinerary subject to change*

