

ADULT MARCH OF THE LIVING 2025 -- SOUTHERN REGION Tentative Itinerary

Tuesday, April 22--Kazimierz: From our meeting point in the hotel lobby we depart for Krakow's historic Jewish neighborhood, visiting several significant synagogues, the revitalized center now a popular evening destination, and market square. At the Krakow JCC we hear the fascinating account of local Jewish revival from Director Jonathan Ornstein and have a chance to chat with members of the Jewish community. *Walking: stop and go for a few hours and 2-3 miles at leisurely pace.* Overnight at Krakow

Wednesday, April 23--Auschwitz/Birkenau: We embark on our first visit to a death camp and exploration of the incomprehensible apparatus of extermination. Learning details of conditions and actions at the camp, seeing masses of items confiscated from victims and hearing stories of suffering and survival intensify the impact of our encounter here. In the evening, we walk from Podgorze, the Jewish Ghetto area, to the Empty Chairs memorial in Ghetto Heroes Square for a moving private Erev Yom HaShoah program. *Walking: several miles, stop and go, through the camps; 15-20 minutes to ceremony.* Overnight at the Krakow

Thursday, April 24--Yom HaShoah—Labyrinths, March of the Living: En route to Auschwitz for the centerpiece of the MOL experience, we visit Labyrinths, a stunning installation of artworks masterfully evoking the depraved reality of the death camps created by a non-Jewish Polish Auschwitz survivor. Then we join with 15,000 teens and adults from around the world in a demonstration of defiance and triumph against attempts to annihilate us: We walk out of Auschwitz under the infamous Arbeit Macht Frei sign, through the streets of Oswiecim to Birkenau and an emotional ceremony. After, we travel by train to Warsaw, where our luggage is already in our rooms and dinner awaits us. *Walking: 2-3 miles leisurely for the March; 10-15 minutes from train platform to hotel.* Overnight Warsaw

Friday, April 25—Majdanek, Warsaw: At Majdanek death camp we enter the intact barracks, gas chambers and crematoria, and at the memorial of ashes reflect on the unspeakable devastation. On our return to Warsaw we explore the area of the infamous Ghetto including the Umslagplatz, site of Mila 18 (headquarters of the Warsaw Ghetto fighters and burial place of Freedom Fighters leader Mordecai Anliewicz), and the Rapaport Memorial, dedicated on the fifth anniversary of the Warsaw Ghetto uprising. We'll have time to prepare for Shabbat, and optional service attendance at historic Nozyk Synagogue or Progressive Ecs Chaim, followed by dinner and spirited oneg Shabbat at our hotel. *Walking: 2-3 miles through the camp; 1-2 miles visiting Ghetto site; 20 minutes from hotel to Nozyk, three blocks from hotel to Ecs Chaim.* Overnight Warsaw

Saturday, April 26, Shabbat--Warsaw: In the morning, we have the opportunity to participate in services at Ecs Chaim or Nozyk (where Poland's chief Rabbi Shudrich presides and has a special message for the MOL teens). Following lunch at the hotel, we walk to Polin (National Museum of the History of the Jews). The fabulous and creative displays greatly expand our understanding and perspective about the rich and complex 1000 years of Polish-Jewish relations. We share dinner and havdallah back at the hotel, then have the opportunity to explore Warsaw's colorful Old Town. *Walking: approximately 1 mile each way between the hotel and Polin.* Overnight Warsaw

Sunday, April 27—Treblinka, Lupochowo Forest, Tykocin: Traveling north we reach the site of the horrific Treblinka death camp, today a powerful artistic evocation of the loss of 17,000 communities destroyed by the Nazis. There we share a profound experience with our students. In Lupochowo Forest outside the “Fiddler on the Roof” village of Tykocin we pay tribute to the 2000 local Jews marched there and murdered by Einsatzkommando in 1941. In the village itself, we spend time learning about the past and celebrating the survival and vibrance of Jewish life in one of Poland’s best preserved 17th-century synagogues, magnificently restored. Following dinner back at the hotel, we have the opportunity to process and share thoughts about our journey. *Walking: minimal distances at each site, several hours on foot. Overnight Warsaw*

Monday, April 28--Lodz: We depart for Lodz, in whose ghetto the controversial head of the Judenrat delivered his “Give Me Your Children” speech. We have time for lunch and to explore Manufaktura, the mall/entertainment/arts center created out of the ruins of the pioneering textile complex created in the late 1800s by wealthy industrialist Izrael Poznanski. We then visit his grave--said to be the largest of its kind in the world--in the atmospheric and historic Lodz Jewish Cemetery (also resting place of those who died in the ghetto), and Radegast Memorial, where we see one of the cattle cars used to deport 161,000 Jews to Chelmno and Auschwitz. Back in Warsaw we have our last dinner and evening together. *Walking: about an hour stop and go and standing to and in ghetto area, approximately 45-minutes stop and go in cemetery, few blocks at Radegast.*