

A JOURNEY THROUGH JEWISH HISTORY

Tentative Itinerary

August 22-29, 2021

Sunday, August 22

Depart from the USA.

Monday, August 23

When your flight arrives at Amsterdam's Schiphol Airport you will be met by one of our drivers to transport you to our luxury hotel so that you can relax and freshen up before starting our day.

11:00 We will step out into the exciting streets of one of Europe's hippest cities to share a drink (coffee, tea or even perhaps something stronger) and for an orientation explaining what is planned for the week ahead.

14:00 Following a short lunch, we will depart by coach to see as many of the following sights as we can accommodate before we will undoubtedly need to take a rest. These sights include the amazing Rijksmuseum, The Spanish & Portuguese Synagogue, The Van Gogh Museum, The Anne Frank House, and possibly Rembrandt's House.

18:30 Dinner at a local Kosher Restaurant. For those who still have pent-up energy, a short walk through some more exciting streets of this amazingly "alive" city.

Tuesday, August 24

8:30 Following Tefilla and breakfast, we will depart by coach to Antwerp, Belgium for a tour through the city, stop off at famous Kleinblatt Patisserie for lunch and snacks, and visit the world-famous Antwerp Diamond Exchange. We will then travel on to the Ardennes American Military Cemetery at Neupre, Belgium, for an extraordinary event. It is here that we will not watch history, but participate in it.

14:30 We will join dignitaries, US and Israeli government officials, and descendants of honor, in a historic event replacing the headstones of two American Jewish officers killed in action in WWII, who have mistakenly been buried under Latin Crosses for more than 75 years. We will meet with the family of 2LT Kenneth Robinson, a heavy bomber crew member KIA in August 1943, and 1LT Joseph Sugarman, pilot of a B-17, who was killed on his fifth mission on March 11, 1945.

15:30 Following the ceremony there will be a small reception to meet with relatives of each honored soldier. We will hear from Rabbi Jacob J. Schacter, an historian of intellectual trends in Orthodox Judaism, University Professor of Jewish History and Jewish Thought, and Senior Scholar at the Center for the Jewish Future at Yeshiva University in New York. We will also hear from officials from the American Battle Monuments Commission.

16:30 We will then head off to our hotel in the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg.

19:30 Dinner followed by a discussion reflecting on our day's activities and a review of the action-packed day ahead.

- Wednesday, August 25**
- 8:00** Following Tefilla and breakfast, we will travel by coach to the Lorraine American Military Cemetery at St. Avold in France for another moving ceremony at the American Military Cemetery.
 - 10:30** We will take part in a special event replacing the headstones from a Latin Cross to Jewish Star for 2LT Howard Feldman. 2LT Feldman was the navigator for a B-17 heavy bomber that was destroyed over Pilsen, Czechoslovakia. Tragically, his aircraft was one of the last heavy bombers shot down in the European theater.
 - 11:30** Here, too, following the ceremony there will be a small reception where we will meet with relatives of the soldiers and hear from Rabbi Jacob J. Schacter, as well as officials from the American Battle Monuments Commission.
 - 12:30** We depart for a once-in-a-lifetime guided tour of the Ramstein US Air Force Base and the US Military Medical Center at Landstuhl, Germany. Ramstein is the headquarters for United States Air Forces in Europe – Air Forces Africa and also for NATO Allied Air Command.

The US Military Medical Center at Landstuhl is the only Regional Health Command in the US Army that is fully forward stationed - responsible for all Army medical treatment facilities offering world-class health care, including a Level 1 Trauma center, to Department of Defense beneficiaries and their Families serving in EUCOM, AFRICOM, U.S. Central Command and U.S. Special Operations Command Areas of Responsibility.
 - 16:00** We depart for our hotel in Frankfurt which will serve as our base for the remainder of the trip.
 - 19:30** Dinner and discussion of the day's activities and a look towards tomorrow's deep dive into history.
- Thursday, August 26**
- 9:00** Following Tefilla and breakfast, we will be joined by our good friend and local expert Gabriella Bamberger as we explore three cities and towns renowned for their Jewish history: Spiers, Worms and Mainz. On this inspiring and emotional day of journeying through Jewish history, we will be led by Rabbi Jacob J. Schacter. At each stop we will learn the historical significance of that place and the great people who lived, learned and died there throughout the centuries.
 - 21:30** After having returned to Frankfurt, we will prepare for a late dinner and discussion.
- Friday, August 27**
- 9:00** We will take today a little easier and following Tefilla and breakfast, Gabriella Bamberger will guide us to the major places of Jewish significance in Frankfurt, whose streets have seen Jewish life flourish and develop, Torah study reach new heights, and with the Holocaust whither, before being reborn in our times.
 - 12:00** After lunch, we will be able to break off for individual shopping, or to visit other places of Jewish and /or cultural interest, before preparing for Shabbat.

19:53 After candle lighting, we will join the local community at the Westend Synagogue for Tefilla, and then dinner, with zmirot and Divrei Torah, (and a guest TBA will join us).

Shabbat, August 28

8:30 We will again join the local community and meet some of the members of the Frankfurt Jewish community to daven with them.

15:30 Following lunch and a short rest, Gabriella Bamberger will take us on a walking tour of some places that we have not yet visited, before returning to the hotel for Seudat Shlishit, Mincha and Maariv.

21:00 On Motzaei Shabbat you will be free to choose your own activity (we will provide suggestions), and get ready for our return journeys to our respective homes, preparing tales that we can each tell of the exciting, meaningful and mind-broadening week spent in the company of an eclectic group of co-religionists.

Sunday, August 29

8:00 Tefillah followed by breakfast, before heading out to the airport for your return flights home.