



ITINERARY (Updated: July 5, 2023)

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Day 1 | Monday, July 31 | 13 Av

Depart Ben-Gurion Airport El-Al flight #357 at 6:10 am – arrive Frankfurt at 9:40 am. We begin our tour in Frankfurt as we make our way toward check-in at the hotel around 2pm followed by a chance to rest before heading out for more sightseeing. We will have a casual landing, with a short walk on the "Iron Bridge" over the Main River leading to the Roemer, or Old Town of Frankfurt. Tour of the area followed by some relaxed time strolling/ shopping/ sitting in one of the scenic cafes and then to our hotel. After resting up a bit we will visit two of the old Jewish cemeteries of the city and visit graves of some notable personalities, including Rabbi S. R. Hirsch and members of the Rothschild family. Dinner at the Frankfurt Chabad and an opportunity to hear about contemporary Frankfurt Jewish life.

Day 2 | Tuesday, August 1 | 14 Av

Begin at the new and beautiful Jewish Museum of Frankfurt. Departing for the heart of medieval Ashkenazic Jewry, we will visit Worms and Mainz (which together with Speyer formed what are known as the "Shum" communities, now World Heritage Sites). Visit the Rashi House, site of the most significant biblical commentator's work; the gravesite of the famed R. Meir of Rothenburg, and more. At the Gutenberg Museum we'll understand the world-changing revolution of printing. Return to Frankfurt for dinner and lodging.



Day 3 | Wednesday, August 2 | Tu B'Av

Depart Frankfurt for Friedberg, site of a medieval mikveh dating back to 1260, and then to Erfurt to visit some of the oldest, largest, and best-preserved medieval synagogues. We will then visit Buchenwald to encounter the horrors of Nazi Germany's "Final Solution," one of the first concentration camps established by the Nazis, and the largest within Germany. Arrive in Leipzig for dinner and lodging.

Day 4 | Thursday, August 3 | 16 Av

Tour Leipzig, also one of Agnon's residences during his German sojourn during World War I. Visit the Old Town Square and the warrens of shops that serve as the setting for Agnon's novels. Brody Synagogue (currently in use with a daily minyan), and a memorial to the destroyed Moorish Synagogue. Driving to Potsdam, we will tour the beautiful Sanssouci Palace, summer home of Frederick the Great, King of Prussia. On the grounds



of the complex, the Renaissance Orangery Palace overlooks Italian-style gardens with fountains. From there we push on to Berlin and settle in for the remainder of our voyage.

Day 5 | Friday, August 4 | 17 Av

Waking up in Berlin, we will do a walking tour Jewish Mitte, perhaps the most important Jewish neighborhood in prewar Berlin. We will visit the grave of Moses Mendelssohn, see the school built in his spirit, the Bet Midrash of the Hildesheimer Rabbinical Seminary, the Rosenstrasse Memorial to a unique, non-violent protest against the deportation of Jews by women in March 1943, a brush-making factory that saved Jewish lives, and the home of Regina Jonas, the first woman to be ordained as a rabbi, finishing up at the restored New Synagogue.

We will then move on to the Berlin Wall Museum, an excellent monument and reminder of the city divided during the Cold War. Enjoy a bit of free time before we head to the hotel to prepare for Shabbat.

Day 6 | Shabbat, August 9 | Parashat Ekev

Optional morning services with the local community, followed by Kiddush and lunch and a study session on the giants of German Jewish learning and literature. Following an afternoon rest (well deserved!) we set out on a walking tour of Berlin.



Day 7 | Sunday, August 6 | 19 Av

We will drive to Gruenwald and see the Track 17 memorial to the Jews deported from Berlin "to the East," and visit the pastoral Wannsee mansion where the Final Solution was planned. Visit the Pergamon Museum, which houses one of the most impressive collections of antiquities in the world. Free time for shopping or personal touring in the late afternoon and early evening.

Day 8 | Monday, August 7 | 20 Av,

We will begin our day with a visit the famous Jewish Museum of Berlin, a building with a remarkable design by architect Daniel Libeskind. We will then go to the city center, seeing the Brandenburg Gate, the German Parliament (Reichstag), the “Memorial to the Murdered Jews of Europe,” the memorial to the Roma and Sinti (“Gypsies”), the beautiful Unter den Linden, the Babelplatz Book Burning Monument, and “Checkpoint Charlie” that defined the Cold War border between East and West for decades. A bit of free time to follow before dinner.

Day 9 | Tuesday, August 8 | 21 Av

The Topography of Terror Museum, housed on the site of the former S.S. headquarters in Berlin will be the focus of our morning. Afternoon free time to see other sites (including the many wonderful museums) and shopping. Closing banquet. Depart Berlin El-Al flight #2374 at **9:40 pm** – arrive at Ben-Gurion on Wednesday, August 9 at **2:45 am**.



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