



## **The Jewish Heritage of Central Europe**

*Exploring the world of Jewish life, literature and learning with Agnon House*

Guides: Dr. David I. Bernstein and R. Jeffrey Saks

**ITINERARY** \* *Subject to change!*

### **Sunday, June 29 (3 Tammuz)**

Evening arrival in Prague (ELAL #2523 from Tel Aviv departs 5:55pm arrives Prague 9:00pm). Light packed dinner upon arrival at hotel.

### **Monday, June 30 (4 Tammuz) / Prague**

We wake up in the enchanting city of Prague and begin our tour at the Old Town Square and Astronomical Clock Tower. We'll be greeted by the Director of Prague's magnificent Jewish Museum, a campus that is a combination of buildings and artifacts — the largest collection of Judaica in the world from one geographic area. Highlights include a number of beautiful synagogues including the Pinkas Shul and the Old Jewish Cemetery of Prague, burial place of Maharal of Prague, Kli Yakar and other notables. Chevra Kadisha building and Klausen Shul (sadly, from the outside only while renovations are being undertaken). Visit the Maharal Statue at the New Town Hall, followed by free time in Old City. On to the Maisel shul and the magnificently restored 19th century Spanish Synagogue (with its adjacent Kafka statue), built on the site of the earliest known shul in Prague. We will visit and (if possible) pray in Europe's oldest functioning synagogue, the Atneushul, built around 1270—according to legend the hiding place of the Golem of Prague. Dinner at Mizlalah Restaurant followed by a short lecture on one of the Prague Cemetery's most remarkable women "residents" and her long and winding path from the 16th century to the library of S.Y. Agnon.

### **Tuesday, July 1 (5 Tammuz) / Prague**

Morning: Prague Castle and the Charles Bridge. We will travel outside of Prague to the village of Lidice, site of the Nazi reprisal for the murder of Reinhard Heydrich, head of the SS Main Security Office and one of the architects of the Final Solution. Visit Terezin (Theresienstadt), the ghetto/transit camp for most of Prague Jewry and for much of the intellectual elite of German Jewry and visit its "Hidden" Synagogue. Terezin was known as the "show camp" for the Nazis when the Red Cross came to visit. Return to Prague for dinner at Mizlalah Restaurant followed by a short lecture on Franz Kafka.

### **Wednesday, July 2 (6 Tammuz) / Prague — Vienna**

Depart Prague for arrival in Vienna hotel followed by a visit the Judenplatz, the center of Jewish life in the medieval period, with its exhibits on the important medieval Jewish community, including the archeological finds of the remains of the synagogue from the Middle Ages. Tour of the Vienna city center. Dinner at Alef-Alef Restaurant with guest speaker Pastor Birgit Berchtold whose church, Wunderwerk Wien, is among the strongest voices in Europe supporting Israel and opposing antisemitism.

### **Thursday, July 3 (7 Tammuz) / Vienna**

Schönbrunn Palace and Gardens, summer residence of the Habsburg monarchy, often compared to Versailles. Jewish Museum of Vienna followed by free time in afternoon with suggested options: Albertina Art Museum, Albertina Modern, Museum of Fine Arts (Kunsthistorisches Museum), Freud Museum, or explore city center. Group dinner at Alef-Alef Restaurant followed by optional evening concert at the Vienna Mozart Orchestra (Musikverein) or free time on the town.

### Friday, July 4 (8 Tammuz) / Vienna — Budapest

Walking tour through Leopoldstadt, the heart of Jewish Vienna of the 19th and early 20th centuries, the home of Theodor Herzl, Sigmund Freud, Joseph Roth, Viktor Frankl, and many others. Travel to Budapest, arriving in time to prepare for Shabbat. Welcome Shabbat together at a local synagogue followed by Shabbat Dinner at the Hanna Restaurant.

### Shabbat, July 5 (Parshat Hukat) / Budapest

Shabbat prayer options at a variety of local Orthodox synagogues or the Dohány Synagogue (Neolog); Shabbat lunch at Carmel Restaurant followed by a short walking tour through heart of Jewish Budapest and return to hotel for well-deserved rest and relax. Toward end of Shabbat we'll walk to Zsilipshul for Mincha and a Shiur, followed by Seuda Shlishit/Dinner, a visit with Zsilip's charming rabbi to hear about his work in Budapest, and some "processing time" until the end of Shabbat and Havdala.

### Sunday, July 6 (10 Tammuz) / Budapest

Ghetto Wall. Tour of the largest synagogue in Europe, the famous Dohány Synagogue, including the Jewish Museum, Garden of Remembrance and cemetery, Hero's Temple, Wallenberg Memorial Garden. Ascend the Buda Castle Hill at the Vienna Gate, see the excavated medieval synagogue, Fisherman's Bastion for a panoramic view of the city. Some free time with suggested options of shopping at the Great Market Hall (Hungary's largest and oldest indoor market), Museum of Fine Arts, Terror House museum, the famous Szechenyi Baths, etc. Rendezvous for dinner at Carmel followed by evening boat ride on the Danube.

### Monday, July 7 (11 Tammuz) / Budapest & Outskirts

We head out of town to the scenic "Bend in the Danube" where we'll visit Esztergom (capital of the Kingdom of Hungary from 10-13th centuries) which had one of the country's oldest Jewish communities, continue to Visegrád Citadel with its breathtaking panoramic view of the Danube and its exhibit of medieval royal jewels and weaponry. We'll end our excursion in the charming village of Szentendre with its lively art scene and plentiful gift shops (and "world's smallest synagogue"). Return to Budapest for dinner at Hanna Restaurant, followed by concluding evening lecture at the hotel.

### Tuesday, July 8 (12 Tammuz)

Depart hotel for a downtown walk of Liberty Square and the Freedom Monument, and the Glass House, where Carl Lutz (the "Schindler" of Budapest) saved the lives of tens of thousands of Jews. Hungary's magnificent Parliament Building. Shoes on the Danube memorial. Visit the Teleki Shul (in Josephtown neighborhood) which is both a time capsule of Budapest Jewry in 1900 and also a model for the once-again flourishing community, where we will meet some of the community members responsible for revival. Return to hotel for a "closing circle" to summarize and reflect on our experiences together, before loading the bus and heading off to our Farewell Dinner at Carmel Restaurant.

We say goodbye to Central Europe – group flight travelers depart on ELAL flight #2368 at 11:35pm, arriving in Tel Aviv on Wednesday, July 9 at 3:40am.

#### HOTELS

**Prague:** Majestic Plaza: <https://www.hotel-majestic.cz/en>

**Vienna:** Hilton Plaza: <https://www.hilton.com/en/hotels/viepwth-hilton-vienna-plaza>

**Budapest:** Hilton Garden Inn Budapest City Centre: <https://www.hilton.com/en/hotels/budccgi-hilton-garden-inn-budapest-city-centre>



[www.agnonhouse.org.il/summer2025](http://www.agnonhouse.org.il/summer2025)