



## ***PRAGUE AND BUDAPEST***

***October 27, 2019- November 3, 2019***

***Sunday, October 27***

***Depart U.S.-overnight flight to Prague***

***Monday, October 28***

***Welcome to Prague***

Arrive Prague. After collecting luggage and clearing customs, we will meet our driver who will then transfer us to our hotel. Check in and enjoy lunch(own account) in the hotel. After lunch, we will meet our guide in the lobby of the hotel where we will begin our tour.

Begin in the Jewish Quarter-Josefov. Our guide will unveil the stories of one of the oldest and most famous Jewish centers in Europe. This walking tour combines a visit to the: Maisel Synagogue as well as the Pinkas Synagogue- memorial to almost 80,000 Czech Jewish victims in WW II. We will see the mystical Old Jewish Cemetery from the 15th century with the prominent Rabbi Loew-creator of Golem, buried there, the Klausen Synagogue with a unique collection of Jewish Customs and Traditions, the Old-New Synagogue-the oldest operating synagogue in Europe and an fascinating Spanish Synagogue built in the incredible Moorish style. We will then discover the 700 year old incredible history of the heart of historical Prague. Our walking tour combines a visit to the



historical Old town Square from the 12th century with the famous Astronomical Clock and Old Town architectural jewels of various styles-from Romanesque and Gothic to Baroque.



Welcome dinner

***Overnight: Intercontinental Hotel***



***Tuesday, October 29***

***Terezin***

After breakfast, we will meet our guide and driver. We will have a profoundly meaningful visit to the three hundred year old garrison town of Theresienstadt/ Terezin , that the Nazis turned into a ghetto/ transit camp for the Jews of Czech republic, Germany and Vienna. 33,000 died here and more than 80,000 were sent eastward to be murdered in Poland. Through the incredible words of its victims, you will explore the ghetto, learn of daily life and struggle in horrific conditions and the constant threat of deportations to the east. You will take pride and inspiration in the fact that the doomed Jews still tried to find hope, spirituality and meaning, even in this hell. Boxed lunch will



be supplied.

Arrive back in Prague and enjoy free time.

Dinner(included)

***Overnight: Intercontinental Hotel***

***Wednesday, October 30***

***Prague***

After breakfast, meet our guide in the lobby of our hotel. By bus, we will drive to Prague Castle where we will spend time exploring the area. Although not a classic castle, this was the original seat of Czech kings — and now, Czech presidents — and is a beautiful complex of palaces, churches, towers and gardens offering splendid views over the city. We will visit the breath taking gothic Saint Vitus Cathedral and then walk down to Mala Strana to explore its beautiful cobblestone streets, courtyards, shops, and perhaps write a message on the John Lennon wall.





***Wednesday, October 30 continued...***

After lunch, we will then cross over the beautiful stone Charles Bridge, the most iconic place in Prague, with sculptures from the 14th century and a tower on each side.



Enjoy free time this afternoon and then we will meet in the lobby of the hotel where we will then depart for a cooking workshop and lecture about Traditional European Jewish food at a Kosher Restaurant.

Dinner at restaurant(included)

***Overnight: Intercontinental Hotel***

***Thursday, October 31***

***Prague to Budapest***

After breakfast and check out, transfer to airport for early morning flight to Budapest. After baggage claim, meet our guide and driver and begin our tour.

The beautiful city of Budapest is considered the most sophisticated of Central European capitals and it is often referred to the “Paris of the East”. Here you will find the third largest community of approximately 100,000 Jews in Europe. Jewish history dates back to Roman times, and Jews have always played an outstanding role in the city’s economic, political and cultural life. Today, Budapest has many fine synagogues, kosher restaurants and Jewish schools.

From the airport we will drive to the Castle District and walk along the medieval city where the first Jews of Buda settled in the 13th century. We will see the small, medieval synagogue in the former Jewish Street and learn about the Jewish life during the Turkish occupation in the 16-17th centuries and get to know how is it possible that in the 21st century there are two Synagogues from the Medieval time still un-excavated. Unbelievable, but true, they are underground in





***Thursday, October 31 continued...***

the Castle District. Next visit, the picturesque Fishermans Bastion and enjoy the great view of the city. Well-known for the wonderful panoramic views it provides of the city of Budapest, the castle-like Fisherman's Bastion was built in 1905, mainly for decorative purposes. Finally, we will learn about the Jewish history and visit the Old-New Synagogue which after 332 years re-opened in Sept 6, 2018!



Free time for lunch on your own.

After lunch, we will continue to explore Budapest. We will drive along the bustling business like Boulevards of Pest. We will see the gorgeous House of Parliament and stop at the Shoes Memorial on the River Bank. This is the memorial created by Gula Pauer and Can Togay on the banks of the Danube River. It honors the Jews who were killed by fascist Arrow Cross militiamen in Budapest during WW II. They were ordered to take off their shoes, and were shot at the edge of the water so that their bodies fell into the river and were carried away. This memorial represents their shoes left behind on the bank. We will continue to drive along the elegant Andrassy Avenue and get to the Heroes Square, the most impressive Square of the city with statues of famous Hungarian personalities.



Check-in the hotel

Dinner(included)

***Overnight: Corinthia Grand Hotel(or similar)***

***Friday, November 1***

After breakfast, we will meet our guide for a walking tour in the old Jewish Quarter. In Budapest the Jewish people lived in the "Jewish Quarter", as opposed to the "Jewish Ghetto" and that buildings and not walls marked the areas perimeter. Only after 1944 when the Nazi's occupied Hungary did the Ghetto come into existence and some walls were built. Our first stop will be the famous Dohany Synagogue.



***Friday, November 1 continued...***

Built in the "Moorish" style, this cathedral-like synagogue is the most well known Jewish site in Budapest. Seating 3,000 people in total, it is the 3rd largest



synagogue in the world, after Belz in Jerusalem and the Fifth Ave. Shul in New York. The Dohany was built for the "Neolog" movement – akin to modern day Conservatism – and has its Bimah at the front of the Shul, alongside a huge organ. The synagogue was actually built before such other impressive Budapest landmarks like the Opera House, which again went to show that Jewish influence and life in Budapest was burgeoning and important well

before the golden age of the Austria – Hungary union and the Hapsberg monarchy.

Within the grounds of the Dohany Synagogue is a mass grave of some 2,000 Jewish souls – all from the time of the Second World War. There is also a fascinating silver weeping willow tree, commissioned by Tony Curtis, the Jewish Hollywood actor, in memory of his parents, and where people can make a donation and inscribe the names of family members lost in the Holocaust.



The Jewish museum is also located within the complex, and has a sad and fascinating exhibition on Hungary during the World War 2. There are features on some of the famous gentiles who saved thousands of Jews, such as Raoul Wallenberg and Carl Lutz.

Next we will visit the Kazinczy Street Orthodox Synagogue, one of the 3 main synagogues in Budapest. It has a beautiful Art Nouveau interior. From there, we will stop at the Rumbach Street synagogue located in Belváros, the inner city of the historical old town of Pest, in the eastern section of Budapest. The synagogue in Rumbach Street was built in 1872 to the design of the Viennese architect Otto Wagner. It served the more conservative members of the Neológ community of Pest.



***Friday, November 1 continued...***

On to the Holocaust Memorial, formerly a synagogue, now a memorial and museum dedicated to the more than 500,000 victims of the Hungarian Holocaust. The



Holocaust Memorial Center is a national institution established by the Government in 1999. In 2002, it decided to construct the building of the Center in Pava Street, outside of the traditional Jewish quarter, further emphasizing its national character. The Holocaust Memorial Center is one of the few institutions in the world, established by the state, that focuses entirely on Holocaust research and education. The modern building is

organically linked to the Pava Street Synagogue, an authentic venue that once used to be the second largest site for Jewish worship in Budapest.

Next, we will visit JCC Balint House. We will learn about the work of the Jewish Cultural Center and get first hand information about present day Jewish life in Hungary.

Our formal touring ends at the Central Market Hall where you will have free time to explore. The Great Market Hall or Central Market Hall is the largest and oldest indoor market in Budapest, Hungary. The idea of building such large market hall arose from the first mayor of Budapest, Károly Kamermayer, and it was his largest investment. He retired in 1896 so when the building was completed, he participated in the opening ceremony as a citizen. It is located at the end of the famous pedestrian shopping



street Váci utca and on the Pest side of the Liberty bridge at Fővám square.

The building was designed and built by Samu Pecz around 1897. The market offers a huge variety of stalls on three floors. The entrance gate has a neogothic touch. A distinctive architectural feature is the roof which was restored to have colorful Zsolnay tiling from Pécs. The area size of the building is 10,000 square meters, which is covered by steel structure. During the World Wars it was completely damaged and then closed for some years. Throughout

the 1990s restoration works brought back the market to its ancient splendor.



***Friday, November 1 continued...***

If you prefer, you can relax in one of the great Thermal Baths of Budapest(pre-arranged).

Kabbalat Shabbat at Dohany/Heroes' Synagogue.

Dinner in a kosher restaurant(included).

***Overnight: Corinthia Grand Hotel(or similar)***

***Saturday, November 2***

***Shabbat and Afternoon Walking Tour***

After breakfast, attend Shabbat services or free time on your own.

Enjoy lunch(included) in a kosher restaurant. After lunch, we will begin our afternoon walking tour of Liberty Square.

Nestled in the heart of Budapest, just three blocks from the waters of the Danube is a scenic square with a turbulent history. Today a visit to Liberty Square is one of the most interesting things to do in Budapest.



Picturesque statues to freedom and liberty are nestled amongst shady walkways and grassy lawns throughout the square. But in the late 1800's this was the scene of some of the most brutal oppression in Budapest history. The mix of scenery and history make this one of the must-see destinations when you visit Budapest. Liberty Square is in Budapest, the capital of Hungary and home to over three million people. Budapest was originally a Celtic settlement with an ancient history. The Hungarians moved in during the ninth century and have had a tumultuous

existence beginning with domination by the Roman Empire and being pillaged by the Mongols and continuing through world wars and Communist revolutions. The plot of land has, obviously, seen all of this, but it only became "Liberty Square" recently.

In 1786, a massive troop barracks was built on the location by the Austrians. The barracks would go on to play a bloody role in the struggle for Hungarian independence from the Hapsburg dynasty. Many Hungarians were imprisoned and executed at the barracks, including a Prime Minister. After the Austria-Hungary Compromise in 1867, plans were made to demolish the barracks which were finally completed in 1897 when room was made for the square.



***Saturday, November 2 continued...***

During the 20th Century, the square was the scene of protest and revolution and war. It became a monument to communist liberation (and is still the home to the last remaining communist statue) as well as a symbol of freedom from communism in the form of a statue of American President Ronald Reagan. The square itself is a part of, and symbolic of, the history of Hungary and Budapest over the last 250 years. Afterward, we will attend a private piano concert in a home of a famous pianist. (Jewish, Holocaust Survivor). Important note: 3rd floor /US 4th floor and no lift.



***Evening:*** Farewell with a beautiful Candlelit Dinner and Cruise with a unique view of the Hungarian capital's historic architecture, illuminated at night.



***Overnight: Corinthia Grand Hotel(or similar)***

***Sunday, November 3***

After breakfast and check out, group transfer to the airport for departure.

