

George Mason University- Holocaust Course Itinerary- 10 days (May 2016)

Day 1: Meet in Berlin

Arrive in Berlin: Welcome to Berlin, capital city of Germany. Poised at the cutting edge of European culture, this German capital has been transformed since the Berlin Wall fell in 1989. Depending on your arrival time, you may have free time to settle in and explore on your own.

Explore Berlin: Get acquainted with Berlin on a walking tour. Stroll past cafés, restaurants and embassies along Unter den Linden, Berlin's most elegant boulevard. Continue to the imposing Reichstag building, the historical seat of Germany's parliament with a massive glass dome that overlooks the cityscape.

Day 2: Berlin

Sightseeing tour of Berlin: On your tour, visit the Checkpoint Charlie Museum, named after the checkpoint station that once guarded the border between East and West Germany. Here you can see escape cars, hot air balloons and even a submarine—all used in risky border crossings.

Jewish Museum: Explore 2,000 years of German-Jewish history at this museum. With over 9,000 square feet, the Jewish Museum features contemporary art installations, multimedia exhibits and displays.

Day 3: Berlin

Old Jewish Quarter: Take an enlightening tour of the Old Jewish Quarter and see the inspirational history of this resilient community. Devastated during World War II, this center has since undergone a major cultural revitalization and is now a thriving Jewish community in Berlin. Gaze at the domes of the New Synagogue, which was built in 1860 and stands as a symbol of this area's rebirth.

House of the Wannsee Conference: Visit this former meeting place for senior Nazi officials. In 1992, the House of the Wannsee Conference opened its doors to the public as a museum and archival library.

Panel Discussion: Gain insight into life on both sides of the Iron Curtain when you participate in an illuminating panel-led discussion.

Day 4: Warsaw

Travel to Warsaw: Journey by train to Warsaw, Poland's capital city since 1611. With most of the city destroyed in World War II, historical photographs and paintings were used as reference to return the Old City to its original splendor after the war.

Explore Warsaw: See the Gestapo headquarters, where insurgents were taken for questioning, and the Pawiak Prison, where anyone suspected of opposing the Nazis was sent.

Day 5: Warsaw

Jewish Ghetto: The Jewish Ghetto was established in 1940 as a way to isolate the Jewish population from the rest of the city. An attempted uprising in 1943 wrought tremendous devastation here, ultimately leading to the closure of the ghetto. Discover how history played out here on your visit.

Warsaw Ghetto Monument: Visit the monument that commemorates the heroic efforts of the Jewish resistance fighters.

Jewish Institute: Dedicated to the history and culture of Polish Jews, see the largest depository of Jewish-related archival documents, books, journals and art objects.

Day 6: Krakow

Travel to Krakow: Head for Krakow this morning, taking in the Polish countryside along the way.

Explore Krakow: During World War II, Krakow was the only major Polish city to escape devastation, leaving the beautiful architecture of its Old Town intact. On your exploration of this former capital, see

Wawel Cathedral, where Polish kings were crowned and Pope John Paul II once served as archbishop. Stroll through Główny Square, passing beautiful Sukiennice Cloth Hall and the Jagiellonian University.

Day 7: Auschwitz | Birkenau | Krakow

Auschwitz and Birkenau: Take a somber visit to the concentration camps at Auschwitz and Birkenau. Now the site of a memorial museum, you can view a film about the horror of Auschwitz and Hitler's Third Reich here. Before you leave, observe a moment of remembrance for the six million victims of the Holocaust.

Day 8: Prague

Travel to Prague: Make your way to Prague, former capital of the Holy Roman Empire.

Day 9: Prague

Sightseeing tour of Prague: Encounter the legendary beauty of the City of One Hundred Spires. Located on the Vltava River, Prague gracefully balances the classical features of old Europe with a lively, Bohemian spirit. Make your way down the iconic Golden Lane and step inside the magnificent St. Vitus Cathedral in the courtyard of Prague Castle. Cross the Charles Bridge and walk through Market Square, best known for its 15th-century astronomical clock.

Jewish Quarter: Learn about the impact of Nazi occupation as you explore Prague's Jewish Quarter. Over 20,000 people were laid to rest in the Jewish Cemetery's one-block plot. Here you can visit the grave of Rabbi Loew, who created the legend of the monster Golem to protect the city's Jews. Also visit the Jewish Museum, the Old-New Synagogue and pass by the Spanish Synagogue.

Day 10: Program Ends in Prague

Depart for home or continue your travels on your own

Note: This itinerary is subject to change