

ADULT MARCH OF THE LIVING 2024 -- SOUTHERN REGION (BOCA RATON) **SAMPLE** Itinerary

Thursday, May 2—Krakow: Our program begins mid-afternoon, as we depart from our hotel for Krakow's historic Jewish neighborhood, Kazimierz. In and around the revitalized center (now a popular evening destination) we visit significant synagogues, a celebrated cemetery, and an unusual memorial before returning to the hotel for dinner in the company of other adult MOL delegations. *Walking: Stop and go for a few hours, 2-3 miles at leisurely pace. Overnight at Krakow*

Friday, May 3—Dabrowa Tarnowska, Zbylitowska Góra: Via luxury bus we travel to Dabrowa Tarnowska, site of "a pearl of Hasidic architecture", the magnificent restored synagogue (now a regional museum and cultural center), and other examples of traditional Polish architecture. Around a mass grave in the haunting setting of a nearby forest we meet with students from our region for an unforgettable ceremony. We arrive back in Krakow in time to prepare for Shabbat and go by bus to Tempel, the restored lavishly decorated synagogue, for Kabbalat Shabbat. Traditional Shabbat dinner awaits us at the end of our easy walk back to the hotel. *Walking: 1-1.5 hours intermittent in Dabrowa Tarnowska, 10-15 minutes walking into and out of the forest, 45 – 60 minutes standing; 20-minute walk from Tempel to hotel. Overnight at Krakow*

Saturday, May 4 -- The morning is spent enjoying leisure time or participating in Shabbat services before lunch at the Krakow JCC. We'll hear inspiring stories from members of Krakow's Jewish community, along with dynamic director Jonathan Ornstein's fascinating account of local Jewish revival and assistance to Ukrainian refugees. In Podgorze, the ghetto area a short walk away, we stand in the plaza amidst the Empty Chairs Memorial and hear the story of a Boca Raton survivor from that location. After dinner and havdallah at the hotel, there's time to explore Krakow's storybook Old Town. *Walking: Hotel to Tempel or JCC .5 mile; JCC to ghetto area .75 a mile; ghetto to hotel 1 mile. Overnight at Krakow*

Sunday, May 5—Erev Yom Hashoah, Birkenau/Auschwitz: At the death camp, we explore the incomprehensible apparatus of extermination. Learning details of conditions and actions perpetrated, seeing masses of items confiscated from victims and hearing stories of suffering and survival intensify the impact of our encounter. Following dinner at the hotel, we participate in a moving Erev Yom HaShoah program. *Walking: Several miles, stop and go, through the camps. Overnight at Krakow*

Monday, May 6, Yom HaShoah--March of the Living: Just before the centerpiece of the MOL experience, we visit Labyrinths, a unique installation of artworks masterfully evoking the depraved reality of the death camps created by a non-Jewish Polish Auschwitz survivor. Then we join with thousands of teens and adults from around the world in a demonstration of defiance and triumph against the attempt to annihilate us: We walk out of Auschwitz under the infamous Arbeit Macht Frei sign, through the streets of Oswiecim to Birkenau and an emotional ceremony. At the conclusion we travel by train to Warsaw, where dinner awaits us. *Walking: .5 hour on foot for exhibition; 2-3 miles leisurely for the March; approximately 1 mile back to the bus; 10-15 minutes from train platform to hotel. Overnight Warsaw*

Tuesday, May 7--Warsaw: We explore the area of the Warsaw Ghetto including the Umslagplatz (gathering place for deportation), site of Mila 18 (headquarters of the Warsaw Ghetto fighters and burial place of Freedom Fighters leader Mordecai Anliewicz), and the Rapaport Memorial, dedicated on the fifth anniversary of the Warsaw Ghetto uprising. Directly opposite we enter Polin (National Museum of the History of the Jews), where fabulous and creative displays greatly expand our understanding and perspective about the rich and complex 1,000 years of Polish-Jewish relations. At the Okopowa Cemetery, one of Europe's largest Jewish burial sites, we visit the graves of notables and Nazi victims, then bus a short distance to the Warsaw Zoo, where Jews were hidden as depicted in the 2017 film *The Zookeeper's Wife*. *Walking: Approximately 1 mile each way between the hotel and Ghetto area, 1-2 miles visiting Ghetto sites. Overnight Warsaw*

Wednesday, May 8—Bialystok, Treblinka: We travel north to Bialystok, once a predominantly Jewish city where we see a partially preserved historic neighborhood, remaining synagogue building, and other sites

connected to institutions, artists, activists, politicians, scientists and Righteous Among the Nations along the Jewish Heritage Trail. Later we share a profound experience with our students at the location of the horrific Treblinka death camp, today a powerful artistic evocation of the loss of 17,000 communities destroyed by the Nazis. After dinner at the hotel, we have the option to visit Warsaw's Old Town. *Walking: Leisurely stop and go for 1-1.5 hours in Bialystok, 10-15 minutes into and out of Treblinka and about 1.5 hours walking and standing at the site. Overnight Warsaw*

Thursday, May 9--Majdanek: At Majdanek death camp we enter the intact barracks and crematoria, and at the memorial of ashes reflect on the unspeakable devastation. In Lublin at what is now Hotel Ilan we see the synagogue of Chachmai Lublin, the revolutionary yeshiva established at that site by the visionary Rabbi Meir Shapiro, member of Poland's parliament and initiator of the *daf yomi* (page a day) Talmud study. Our time in Poland comes to an end as we head to Warsaw's Chopin Airport. *Walking: 2-3 miles through the camp.*