

ADULT MARCH OF THE LIVING SOUTHERN REGION 2026 *Tentative Itinerary*

POLAND

Monday, April 13—Erev Yom HaShoah, Krakow: We start our journey together in Krakow's historic Jewish neighborhood, Kazimierz, visiting significant synagogues and sites in the revitalized center now a popular evening destination. At the Krakow JCC, we hear the fascinating account of local Jewish revival from Director Jonathan Ornstein. Following dinner at our hotel, we participate in a moving private Erev Yom HaShoah program in Podgorze, the area of the ghetto. *Walking: Stop and go for a few hours and 2-3 miles at leisurely pace. Overnight in Krakow*

Tuesday, April 14--Yom HaShoah, March of the Living: En route to Auschwitz for the centerpiece of the MOL experience, we visit Labyrinths, the unique exhibition of haunting artworks evoking the depraved reality of the camp 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: We walk out of Auschwitz under the infamous *Arbeit Macht Frei* sign, through the streets of Oswiecim to Birkenau and an emotional ceremony. We return to Krakow for dinner at the hotel. *Walking: 2-3 miles leisurely for the March, approximately 1 mile back to the bus. Overnight in Krakow*

Wednesday, April 15--Birkenau/Auschwitz: At the death camps 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. We have the opportunity to search the massive *Book of Names* for relatives lost in the Holocaust. Dinner is back at the hotel and the evening free to explore Krakow's gorgeous Old Town. *Walking: Several miles, stop and go, through the camps. Overnight in Krakow*

Thursday, April 16—Dabrowa Tarnowska, Lublin: We travel east and meet our students at Zbylitowska Gora, a forest site of mass graves, for an unforgettable ceremony. In nearby Dabrowa Tarnowska, we visit Jewish sites, including a beautifully restored synagogue now an education center and speak with local leaders active in keeping alive the memory of the town's once-vibrant Jewish community. Visits to Old Town Lublin, the Jewish cemetery and revolutionary yeshiva fill the afternoon. *Walking: A couple miles stop and go in each location; about an hour standing at Zbylitowska Gora. Overnight in Lublin.*

Friday, April 17—Majdanek, Kazimierz Dolny, Warsaw: At Majdanek death camp outside Lublin, we enter intact camp facilities and barracks and at the memorial of ashes reflect on the unspeakable devastation. Once viewed as the most distinctively Jewish town in Poland, Kazimierz Dolny retains its charms, renowned art and remnants of Jewish life. We arrive in Warsaw in time to rest and prepare for Shabbat, with optional service attendance at historic Nozyk Synagogue or Progressive Ecs Chaim, followed by dinner and oneg Shabbat at our hotel. *Walking: 2-3 miles through the camp; an hour on foot in town, 20 minutes from hotel to Nozyk, three blocks from hotel to Ecs Chaim. Overnight in Warsaw*

Saturday, April 18-- Shabbat, Warsaw: In the morning we have options to participate in services at Ecs Chaim or Nozyk (where Poland's chief Rabbi Shudrich presides and has a special message for the MOL teens). Following lunch at the hotel, an eye-opening docent-led tour of Polin Museum changes our perceptions of complex Polish-Jewish history, capped with a talk with one of our community's survivors. Dinner and havdallah take place at the hotel. *Walking: Approximately 2 miles each way between the hotel and Polin, about 2 hours in museum. Overnight in Warsaw*

Sunday, April 19--Warsaw, Treblinka: We explore the area of the Warsaw Ghetto including the Umslagplatz, site of Mila 18 (headquarters of the Warsaw Ghetto fighters and burial place of Freedom Fighters leader Mordecai Anielewicz), and the Rapaport Memorial, dedicated on the fifth anniversary of the Warsaw Ghetto uprising, then cross the Vistula River to visit the house where the Warsaw zookeepers' wife hid Jews from the Nazis. We spend the afternoon 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. There we share a profound experience with our students. After dinner at the hotel we depart for the airport and our overnight flight to Tel Aviv.

Walking: Walking: 1-2 miles on ghetto walk, and several hours on foot. Overnight on plane

ISRAEL

Monday, April 20— Erev Yom Hazikaron, Jerusalem: We arrive early in the morning and transfer to our Jerusalem hotel. After time for rest and a late breakfast, we meet with someone directly affected by the October 7 attack. First Station, the railroad depot turned into a charming dining, shopping and event space offers choices for lunch before our visit to the nearby beautifully conceived Begin Center and immersion in history of the State. After dinner at the hotel we hear the siren ushering in Yom Hazikaron (Memorial Day) and attend an impactful ceremony, like those held in every community in the country, commemorating all the individuals who died defending Israel and in terror attacks. Overnight in Jerusalem

Tuesday, April 21--Yom Hazikaron & Erev Yom Haatzmaut, Re'im, Ein Hashlosa, Jerusalem: We travel south to the memorial at the site of the Nova Music Festival, then visit Ein Hashlosa, the Gaza envelope community our Federation started supporting after October 7, to witness the rebuilding and meet with members of the community over lunch. We return to Jerusalem and have time to rest. As the somber mood of Memorial Day dissolves into the joy of Independence Day, we celebrate over a special dinner, then join Jerusalemites of all ages at the city's exuberant outdoor celebrations marking Israel's 77st birthday. Overnight in Jerusalem

Wednesday April 22--Yom Haatzmaut, Jerusalem area: Following an experience in one of the nature areas on the outskirts of the city and a picnic lunch, we head to the colorful and high-spirited Safra Square celebration with thousands of international students and participate in the Jerusalem March of the Living along the Old City Walls to a ceremony at the Kotel. We return to our hotel through the Old City, then get ready for the MOL Mega Event--lavish barbecue dinner and world-class entertainment extravaganza at Latrun. Overnight in Jerusalem

Thursday, April 23--Jerusalem, Tel Aviv: In the footsteps of ancient Jews who went up to the Temple Mount on the festivals, we will walk the recently opened Pilgrimage Road from Ir David, the City of David archaeology site, then have time for individual exploring and lunch at the bustling, colorful market, Mechaneh Yehuda. Leaving Jerusalem we travel to Tel Aviv and visit Independence Hall, where David Ben Gurion declared the State of Israel, have time to wander or shop, and celebrate over our last dinner together.