



# FROM HOLOCAUST TO **INDEPENDENCE**



## MISSION TO POLAND AND ISRAEL ITINERARY

■ APRIL 24 - MAY 2, 2025

■ Join us for an unforgettable commemorative journey through Jewish history. Bear witness to the atrocities of the Holocaust in a post-October 7th world now grappling with rampant antisemitism. Walk in unison through the gates of Auschwitz and among the ruins of Israeli kibbutzim alongside courageous IDF soldiers responsible for safeguarding Israel's future, culminating in the solemn observance of Yom HaZikaron and the joyful celebration of Yom Ha'atzmaut, offering a profound understanding of Jewish resilience.

*\*The participation of IDF soldiers is subject to change due to the evolving situation in Israel.*

## Thursday, April 24

### Welcome to Poland!

After settling in at the Sheraton Grand Hotel in Kraków, join us for an opening dinner and brief program overview.

#### Overnight Stay:

Sheraton Grand Hotel  
7 Powiśle Street, Kraków  
Phone: +48-12-662-1000

## Friday, April 25

- **Tarnów's Checkered Past.** Explore Tarnów, once home to thousands of Jews exterminated by the Nazis.
- **Lunchtime Unwind.** Decompress over lunch at the Tarnovia Hotel.
- **A Poignant Procession in the Buczyna Forest.** Join FIDF for a poignant procession in the Buczyna Forest, commemorating the countless Jewish children who perished in the Holocaust.
- **Welcome in Shabbat with Rabbi Steven Weil, Chief Executive Officer, FIDF.** Experience an unforgettable Erev Shabbat in Kraków, commencing with a communal candle-lighting ceremony and heartfelt prayers marking millennia of Jewish heritage, culminating in a festive Shabbat dinner.



#### Overnight Stay:

Sheraton Grand Hotel

## Saturday, April 26

- **Leisurely Walk to the Krakow Jewish Quarter.** Enjoy a light bite, preceded by a morning stroll and traditional Jewish prayer. (Optional services will be available at the Sheraton Grand Hotel).
- **Journey Through the Kazimierz Jewish Quarter.** Immerse yourself in the historic Kazimierz Jewish Quarter, where a vibrant Jewish community thrived from the 14th century until its devastating decimation during the Holocaust.
- **Independently Tour the Galicia Jewish Museum.** Introspect over lunch at the Galicia Jewish Museum, honoring the victims of the Holocaust while paying homage to the rich tapestry of Jewish culture in Polish Galicia.

#### Overnight Stay:

Sheraton Grand Hotel

## Sunday, April 27

- **Auschwitz-Birkenau: Reflection, Remembrance, and Resilience.** Confront the harrowing atrocities of the Holocaust at the hallowed grounds of Auschwitz-Birkenau, where the echoes of 1.1 million systematically murdered, precious souls still resonate. Though only ruins remain, these remnants reveal a dark chapter in Jewish history, speaking volumes about the horrors that occurred there. March solemnly through its infamous gate, standing in solidarity with IDF soldiers, defiantly declaring, Am Yisrael Chai—the Jewish Nation Lives!



**Overnight Stay:**  
Sheraton Grand Hotel

## Monday, April 28

### Welcome to Israel!

- **Discover the enduring promise** of the Jewish people, who rose from the ashes of the Holocaust to build the State of Israel. From a beacon of hope to a hub of innovation, immerse yourself in the rich history and vibrant culture that define this remarkable nation.
- Upon arrival in Israel, you will be **greeted by IDF soldiers** in a celebratory welcome ceremony unlike any other, marking a shift in the journey from *Holocaust to Independence*.

- After checking in at the King David Hotel in Jerusalem, join us for dinner featuring locally sourced culinary delights and beverages followed by **a keynote speaker**.

**Overnight Stay:**  
King David Hotel  
23 King David St., Jerusalem  
Phone: +972-2-620-8888

## Tuesday, April 29



**Overnight Stay:**  
King David Hotel

- **Engage With Israel's Guardians.** Visit with an IDF unit. Engage in enthralling exchanges with brave IDF heroes and heroines who stand vigilant in their fight to defend Israel and secure its borders, ensuring the future of Israel, its citizens, and diaspora Jewry. Behind-the-scenes tour and lunch included.
- **Connect with Resilience.** Partake in a meaningful and heartfelt discussion with a bereaved Israeli family whose loved ones made the ultimate sacrifice for the State of Israel.
- **Reflections at the Western Wall: Honoring Israel's Heroes.** Attend Israel's Official State Memorial Day Ceremony alongside dignitaries, IDF officials, and soldiers at the Western Wall.

## Wednesday, April 30

- **A Day to Remember: Memorial Day at Ammunition Hill or Pilot Mountain.** Experience a moving ceremony at the National Memorial for the Reunification of Jerusalem or the Israeli Air Force.
- **Perspectives from the Heart of Israel.** Join us at the Nefesh B'Nefesh offices in Jerusalem for a meaningful dialogue with a guest speaker about the experiences of Lone Soldiers in the IDF.
- **A Private Audience with Leadership.** Be personally addressed by and participate in an exclusive Q&A with President Isaac Herzog.

**Overnight Stay:**  
King David Hotel



- **Happy Independence Day: Part I.** In Judaism, the next day starts the night before. Celebrate with a festive dinner honoring seventy-seven years of Israeli resilience—the enduring miracle that is the State of Israel.

## Thursday, May 1



- **Happy Independence Day: Part II.** Enjoy an uplifting barbecue with an IDF unit while celebrating seventy-seven years of remarkable triumph.
- **Farewell Dinner.** Join us for a heartfelt closing dinner to reflect on and celebrate our collective journey.

**Overnight Stay:**  
King David Hotel

## Friday, May 2

- **Conclusion of our mission.** Check out of hotel.

*\*Itinerary is subject to change.*