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Presents...

**A DELUXE JEWISH HERITAGE TOUR:
Lithuania and Belarus**



Tour Code	ELIT1107
Tour Start Date	July 11, 2012
Tour End Date	July 19, 2012
Price Land Only	€1,550
Price with flights From Tel Aviv	€1,960
Single Supplement	€280
Pre/Post Hotel Night	€130 twin share €260 per single

Jews have lived in Lithuania/Belarus for over 700 years - in some areas predating even the arrival of Christianity to this part of the world. Their legacy is rich with both Torah and secular scholarship - most Litvaks could speak at least three languages, two of them being Hebrew and a rich, classic Yiddish. Although the Nazis cut a vast swathe through Jewish life here, there is still much to see and experience in this part of the world, and a new, post-Soviet openness has awakened a huge interest in Jewish history and culture.

Meet with members of the Vilnius Yiddish Institute - where Yiddish is being taught as part of the curriculum of the Vilnius University, Lithuania's premier center of higher learning. Travel on to Belarus (once a part of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania), for centuries home to great yeshivas and small shtetls. Vilna, Kovno, Grodno, Minsk, Mir and Slonim - all are basic building blocks of Ashkenazic Jewish heritage.

Day 1: Wednesday, July 11, 2012: Tel Aviv – Riga – Siauliai

Arrive Riga airport; we will have a panoramic tour followed by transfer to Joniskis – an example of a pre-war shtetle in Lithuania to visit the town and synagogues. Continue to Hill of Crosses near Siauliai, a symbol of Lithuanians' resistance against foreign rule, with more than 50,000 crosses.

After checking in at our hotel, we will have a short city tour including Hayim Frenkel's Synagogue, tannery and residence given to the Hebrew school, the former "Trakai" and "Caucasus" ghettos in Siauliai.

Day 2: Thursday, July 12, 2012: Siauliai – Telsiai – Kedainiai – Kaunas

Drive to Telsiai (Telz) to see the former renowned Yeshiva and other sites of the town including a short visit to Kedainiai (Keidan), a citadel of Radziwil family, one of the most powerful nobility in Lithuania and also a town where the Vilna Gaon lived and worked. The buildings of three synagogues have remained in Keidan. Departure for Kaunas (Kovna), the second large city, an interim capital of pre-war Lithuania. En route a stop at the Ninth Forts - death sites of thousands of Jews from Lithuania and other countries. We will visit the museum and have a short memorial ceremony.

After dinner we will walk along the main street, Laisves aleja, boulevard, with its 2-3 storey buildings, restaurants, shops, as they looked before the war.

Day 3: Friday, July 13, 2012: Kaunas – Zezmariai – Vilnius

Full day tour of Kaunas, including Slobodka, a Jewish suburb of Kaunas and ghetto during World War II, the Old Jewish cemetery. The Great Action at Demokrata square. The Holocaust museum. The Synagogue and the Children's Memorial in its courtyard. The house where Leah Goldberg, the prominent Israeli poetess, lived. On the way to Vilnius we stop at Zezmariai (Zhezhmer), where a remarkable Jewish community settled before the war with its surviving wooden Synagogue building. After our tour we'll check in to our hotel and prepare for Shabbat.

Day 4: Shabbat, July 14, 2012: Vilnius

After breakfast and Shabbat services we'll take a walking tour to the old Jewish quarter to see the narrow streets and courtyards of the middle-age Ghetto, the Great Vilna Synagogue and the shulhof, Vilna Gaon - the great Jewish scholar; Vilna - a centre of the struggle between mitnagdim and Hasidim, the famous Jewish sculptor Mordekhai Antokolsk and the world-renowned Strashun library, that numbered over 6000 volumes at the end of the 19th century.

Day 5: Sunday, July 15, 2012: Vilnius – Radin – Grodno

We start the day at Ponar Forest near Vilnius, where more than 100,000 people, mostly Jewish were murdered by the Nazis and visit the Jewish State museum. We return to Vilnius the Jewish cemeteries of Vilna, their past and present; the grave of the Vilna Gaon and of

other prominent Jewish figures. In the afternoon we will pass the border to Belarus and drive to Grodno via Radin where Chafetz Chayim founded the Yeshivah of Radin in 1869. One can see the impressive building of the Synagogue. Visit the Jewish cemetery with the mitzvah of Chafetz Chayim and the memorial for the Jews murdered in the WWII. Arrival in Grodno for overnight.

Day 6: Monday, July 16, 2012: Grodno – Slonim - Brest

Sightseeing of Grodno, once a residence of Great Duke of Lithuania Vytautas. Here in 1389 he issued a "Permit of Residence" that regarded with favour the arrival of Jews into Lithuania. Walking tour in the old part of Grodno, including the medieval castle, the streets of the Jewish quarter before the war, buildings of the various Jewish public institutions, the Great Synagogue of Grodno, the territory of the Jewish Ghetto and the old Jewish cemetery. Continue to Slonim and see the Slonim Synagogue, which survived the Holocaust and is now being carefully restored. Arrive Brest for overnight.

Day 7: Tuesday, July 17, 2012: Brest – Novogrudok – Mir – Minsk

Sightseeing tour of Brest (founded in 1019) which was the center of Jewish communities of Great Lithuanian Principality (14th-17th centuries). The first Belarusian stone synagogue was built there. You will learn the history of Brest Kahal. Visit to the Brest Fortress Memorial, famous for the unparalleled feat of its defenders in World War II. Later on the fortress received the title of Hero-fortress.

Continue to Novogrudok – once the centre of the Great Duchy of Lithuania. The ruins of the ancient castle could be seen up to date. Visit to the area of the Jewish ghetto and the places of the mass murder. Visit the Museum of Adam Mitskevich. Drive to Mir. Here a world-renowned yeshiva that numbered about five hundred students from around the world was established in 1815. One can see in the same area the buildings of the yeshiva and of three synagogues. The old Jewish cemetery in Mir. An impressive memorial erected in memory of the Jewish inhabitants murdered during WWII. Visit to the medieval Dukes' Radziwill castle of Mir built in 1495. Arrive Minsk for overnight.

Day 8: Wednesday, July 18, 2012: Minsk – Khatyn – Volozhyn – Vilnius

After breakfast sightseeing of Minsk. "Yama" – a memorial for the Jews perished in Minsk during the Nazi occupation. The obelisk was built on the exact spot where five thousand Jews were slaughtered. Visit Minsk Synagogue. A walk in the small part of the Old Town the only one survived of the pre-war Minsk. The site of the Minsk ghetto. Examples of Jewish architecture, including a building with an ornate wooden door that still has the imprint of a large mezuzah. Continue to Volozhyn via Khatyn to visit the memorial complex and to learn about Belarus' tragic recent history. Arrive Volozhyn and see the renowned yeshiva established by Rav Hayim Volozhiner, a disciple of the Vilna Gaon in 1803 (it existed until 1942, when the Nazis killed the last sixty-four students). See the Jewish cemetery with the tomb of the great Hayim Volozhiner. Cross the border to Vilnius for overnight.

Day 9: Thursday, July 19, 2012: Vilnius – Panevezys – Riga – Tel Aviv

A morning tour of Panevezys (Ponevezh), including the building of the former world famous Ponevezh Yeshiva, Synagogue, the Jewish ghetto, common grave of the Holocaust victims in

the outskirts of the city. Depart to Riga for sightseeing and lunch followed by transfer to the airport.

Price Includes:

- ✓ 4 * Hotels
- ✓ Entrance fees as per the itinerary
- ✓ Comfortable air conditioned touring coach
- ✓ Kosher half board & lunch packs daily
- ✓ Two Professional experienced English-speaking Eddie's Travel guides
- ✓ Local English-speaking Guide as required

Price does not include:

- ❖ Travel & Health Insurance
- ❖ International Flights
- ❖ Personal expenses
- ❖ Tips for local service providers €95
- ❖ Shows and evening entertainment not included in the itinerary
- ❖ Tip for our Tour Guide (Recommended: €3 per person per day)
- ❖ Miscellaneous expenses such as departure fees, **visas**, security surcharges etc

Important to Know:

- ➔ There may be changes to the order of places visited. We will make every effort to visit every place mentioned in the itinerary.
- ➔ The tour organizers have no control over airline services such as seating, special meal requests, changes in departure times or delays. These remain the sole responsibility of the airline company.

- ➔ **Deposit, Cancellation Fees & Policy:**
- ➔ A \$500 USD Deposit per person must be received at the time of booking in order to confirm your reservation. Payment in full is due 90 days before departure. A minimum number of participants are required to operate tour dates. If a minimum number has not been reached prior to tour departure and the tour is cancelled you will receive a FULL refund.

- ➔ • 90 days before departure bookings are refundable less a \$100 administration fee
- ➔ • 60-90 days prior to departure: \$500 + \$100 per passenger
- ➔ • 30-60 days prior to departure: \$1,000 + \$100 per passenger
- ➔ • Less than 30 working days prior to departure: 100% of total - no refund
- ➔ • We strongly recommend purchasing Travel Insurance.

Price Includes:

- ✓ Domestic flights as per the itinerary
- ✓ 5* Hotels wherever available
- ✓ Entrance fees as per the itinerary
- ✓ Comfortable air conditioned touring coach
- ✓ Kosher half board & lunch packs daily

- ✓ Two Professional experienced English-speaking Eddie's Travel guides
- ✓ Local English-speaking Guide as required

Price Does Not Include:

- ❖ Chinese Visas
- ❖ Travel & Health Insurance
- ❖ Personal expenses
- ❖ Tips for local service providers \$150
- ❖ Shows and evening entertainment not included in the itinerary
- ❖ Tip for Tour Guide (Recommended: \$3 per person per day)
- ❖ Miscellaneous expenses such as departure fees, visas, security surcharges etc.

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Kashrut on Tours

Kosher food is provided to our travelers on all our tours. We work with the local Rabbinat to provide Hashgacha for all local ingredients and fresh meat and poultry. In some cases, we fly in kosher food from Israel and other sources, depending on the destination of the tour. We do not guarantee Pat Israel and Chalav Israel for all destinations.

In many destinations we have our own crockery and cutlery. Where we don't, we provide disposables at the meals. When we cook in Hotel kitchens, we ensure proper Kashering and we use our own kitchenware on kashered and covered surfaces. All this is done under the strict supervision of our trained staff/guides who function as our Mashgichim.

Our travelers enjoy gourmet meals prepared by our team including fresh local fish, fruit, and vegetables. This is an integral part of Jewish travel. We make great efforts to assure that our travelers will experience local foods first-hand, while maintaining stringent observance of Kashrut laws on all occasions.



Rabbi Yisrael Meir Levinger – Head of Kashrut on all Land Tours

Graduate of Yeshivat Kfar Haroeh and Yeshivat Beer Yakov. He served as Chief Rabbi for 22 years in Basle, Switzerland and for 20 years was on the council of Vaad Hakashrut of Europe. He has authored books on Shechita, and many Kashrut topics and is now working on the Encyclopedia of Kashrut. Rav Levinger is the Company Rav and oversees and is responsible for all our operations and logistical methodology to ensure the highest standards of

Kashrut on each tour and each destination worldwide.

Any questions about Kashrut please submit to david@eddiestravel.com and Rav Levinger will respond directly.

Deposit, Cancellation Fees & Policy:

A \$500 USD Deposit per person must be received at the time of booking in order to confirm your reservation. Payment in full is due 90 days before departure. A minimum number of participants are required to operate tour dates. If a minimum number has not been reached prior to tour departure and the tour is cancelled you will receive a FULL refund for the cost of the Tour.

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- 60-90 days prior to departure: \$500 + \$100 per passenger
- 30-60 days prior to departure: \$1,000 + \$100 per passenger
- Less than 30 working days prior to departure: 100% of total - no refund
- We strongly recommend purchasing Travel Insurance.

Flights

If you are joining us for the Land Tour package only (from outside Israel) you can get an obligation free quote for your flights from Shelley@eddiestravel.com

Travel Insurance

Travel insurance encompassing both cancellation and medical insurance is very important and we cannot stress that enough. We strongly recommend that our clients are adequately insured when travelling. It is crucial to purchase the travel insurance within 14 days from the 1st payment that you make for this trip (flights/cruise/tour etc). Your payment is made directly to the insurance company. We highly recommend the 'cancel for any reason' upgrade option. Our preferred policies are Travel Safe (USA & Canadian residents), Travel Select (USA residents) and Global Trip Protection Elite (All other Nationalities).

For an obligation free quote and further details email Yonah insurance@eddiestravel.com

Reservations:

To reserve your space on this tour, please complete the booking form and return it to us by fax +972 2 992 9802 as soon as possible.