



GERMANY



German Jewish heritage II

From Frankfurt to Berlin

Day 1: Arrival – Frankfurt – Worms (70 kms)

Upon arrival at **Frankfurt airport** meet your local guide who will accompany you throughout. Board the coach for a sightseeing tour of historical and Jewish Frankfurt: Until 1933 Frankfurt had Germany's second largest Jewish community. The city walk features the old town centre (Romerberg), the Cathedral, St. Paul's Church, Judengasse, Dominican Monastery, Goethe-House and the Jewish Museum. Afterwards you drive southward to **Worms**; three overnights. **D**

Day 2: Speyer – Worms (100 kms)

Board the coach for an excursion to **Speyer**. Hardly another city in Europe has such a plethora of important buildings reflecting a millennium of rich Jewish history and tradition as these two cities. **Speyer**: visit the ruins of the **Synagogue** which are the oldest visible remains of a synagogue in Central Europe and the **mikve**, established in 1104. In the Middle Ages the rabbis of Speyer, along with their colleagues from Mainz and Worms were already counted among the religious authorities in all middle Europe. You also visit the **Cathedral**, the biggest historic architectural monument of its time and burial place of the

Salian emperors. It is supposed to be the masterpiece of Romanesque architecture in Germany. You return to **Worms**: The most impressive features of old are the Jewish cemetery '**Holy Sands**', the oldest existing Jewish cemetery in Europe and sepulchre of Rabbi **Meir of Rothenburg**, Rabbi **Nathan ben Isaac**, Rabbi Jacob ben Moses ha Levi, called **MaHaRIL**, Rabbi **Meir ben Isaac** and Elia Loanz, called **Baal Shem**. You proceed to the former **Jewish quarter** with the synagogue, regarded as the oldest existing synagogue in Germany, and its mikve. The Jewish Museum, based in the community's former Dance and Marriage house and today's **Rashi House**, gives the visitor an impression of the history and culture of Jews in Worms. One of the most famous students at the Worms Yeshivot (1055-1065) was Salomo ben Isaak known as **Rashi**. You also visit **St. Peter's Cathedral**, built at the same time as the new synagogue and located on the highest elevation of the inner city. The cathedral is one of the most exquisite examples of Romanesque architecture and was scene of several milestones of European history as the election of Pope Leo IX in 1122, and the Diet of Worms, a historic assembly

that was to change the history of Christianity. **B, D**

Day 3: Heidelberg – Heppenheim (105 kms)

This morning your journey continues, as you travel west, to **Heidelberg**, a gorgeous town on the Neckar River, where romanticism is both past and present. The walking tour includes the Old Town, the famous Stone Bridge over the Neckar River, Heidelberg Castle with the Castle Church, German Apothecary Museum, and the Church of the Holy Ghost. Visit the **House of Martin Buber** in **Heppenheim** where he lived from 1916 until 1938 when he was forced to leave Germany and settled in Jerusalem. Today it houses the International Council of Christians and Jews (ICCJ). Martin Buber was one of the leading Jewish philosophers in Germany. **B, D**

Day 4: Mainz – Rothenburg o.d. Tauber (280 kms)

The greatest Jewish teachers and rabbis of the Middle Ages flocked to the Rhine. Their teachings, dialogues, decisions and influence propelled **Mainz** besides Speyer and Worms into world-wide prominence. Their fame spread, rivaling that of other post-Diaspora cities such as Baghdad. Western European Judaism became centered in

Mainz, breaking free of the Babylonian traditions. The Yeshiva was founded in the 10th century by Rabbi **Gershon ben Jehuda**. You visit besides the **New Synagogue**, re-inaugurated in September 2010, the birthplace of printing, the **Gutenberg Museum**: the evolution of printing is documented, and Gutenberg's first Bible is on display, also the world's tiniest Bible. Johannes Gutenberg is considered to be the most important individual-contributor of the Second Millennium. Then tour **St. Martin's Cathedral**, built in the 8th century and towering in all its might and grandeur the city. Seven king's coronations took place in the course of the centuries in the Mainz cathedral. You also visit **St. Stephen's Church**, famous for its marvelous **Chagall windows**. In the afternoon you transfer to **Rothenburg o.d. Tauber**; two overnights. **B, D**

Day 5: Rothenburg o.d. Tauber

Following breakfast board the coach and drive through the beautiful landscape of Bavaria and along the "**Romantic Road**" to **Rothenburg o.d. Tauber**: Take a glimpse into the middle-ages, into a nearly intact medieval walled-city without a single modern building within. You tour the city to view the Castle Gardens with the **Jewish Memorial Stone**, a memorial of the devastating program of 1298; **Kapellenplatz** with the town's first Jewish quarter; **Judentanzhaus** (Jewish Dancing Hall), Jewish **Community Centre** from 1390 to 1520, destroyed during World War II and faithfully reconstructed in 1953; **Judengasse**, one of Germany's best preserved medieval Jewish quarter, the "**Imperial City Museum**" (Reichsstadtmuseum), housing a small collection of 19th- and 20th-century Judaica with more than two dozen 13th- and 14th-century Jewish tombstones, the **Rathaus**, the **Glockenspiel**, **St. Jakob's Church** famous altar carving by Tilman Riemenschneider. **Rabbi Meir ben Baruch**, also known as 'MaHaRaM', lived in

Rothenburg for more than 40 years and maintained a famous Yeshivah. His memories of the Talmud burning in Paris in 1244 are still alive in his celebrated "*Kina Shaali serufah*", said on Tisha b'Av. Rabbi Meir was the leading authority on Talmud and Jewish law although he did not write one large single work, but many notes, commentaries and expositions which are still of great importance. 1.500 of his responsa have been preserved. Time at leisure. **B, D**

Day 6: Eisenach – Weimar (300 kms)

Following breakfast drive to **Eisenach** to visit the magnificent **Wartburg Castle** and take a tour of the Palas (Great Hall), Art exhibition, the Elisabeth Hallway and the Luther Room where "Junker Jörg" (the Knight George) translated the New Testament into German. Board the coach for **Weimar**: The so called **Bauhaus School** opened in 1919 in Weimar and was closed down by the National Socialists in 1933. The buildings by various Bauhaus professors - like Walter Gropius, Hannes Meyer, Laszlo Moholy-Nagy and Wassily Kandinsky - established the Bauhaus Style, which decisively shaped the architecture of the 20th century not only in Europe but also the cityscape of Tel Aviv. You visit the Bauhaus-University, the Gropius office and "Haus am Horn" (from outside). Weimar is also famous for the so-called **Weimar Classic Period**, when the most important writers and humanists lived and worked in the city: Johann Wolfgang von Goethe and Friedrich Schiller. One overnight. **B, D**

Day 7: Buchenwald-Quedlinburg (120 kms)

In the morning continue to nearby concentration camp **Buchenwald**, the darkest chapter of Weimar's history. You visit the permanent exhibition (closed on Mondays) and the ground. Then proceed to **Quedlinburg**: The **Old Town** with its 1,200 half-timbered houses from six centuries and its medieval

urban profile offer an extraordinary example of a medieval European city and is listed as a world heritage site by UNESCO. The collegiate church, **St. Servatius**, with the graves of the first German King Henry I. and his wife Mathilde together with the recently returned church treasures constitute a Romanesque architectural masterpiece. One overnight. **B, D**

Day 8: Halberstadt – Dessau – Berlin (240 kms)

The topography of **Halberstadt** and many buildings in the city give you an impression of the former huge Jewish community. The sightseeing tour includes the **Klaus Synagogue**, a visit to one of the two Jewish cemeteries, the **Behrend Lehmann Museum** and the place of the destroyed synagogue of the baroque era. Enjoy a coffee break at **Kaffee Hirsch** which stands for five generations of the Jewish merchandiser and industrialist dynasty "Aaron Hirsch & sons". You also visit **St. Stephen and St. Sixtus Cathedral**, one of the most beautiful Gothic churches in Germany. The cathedral has been the spiritual heart of the town and region for more than 1,200 years and houses today the most valuable church treasures worldwide. Onward to the **Garden Kingdom of Dessau-Wörlitz**, an UNESCO World Heritage site, is an outstanding example of the application of the philosophical principles of the Age of the Enlightenment to the design of a landscape that integrates art, education and economy in a harmonious whole. You visit the gardens at **Wörlitz** – the artistic culmination of the Garden Kingdom – on a guided tour through the Castle with gondola tour (if weather permits) through the park. Board the coach for the final destination – **Berlin**, the reunified German capital since 1990. Three overnights. **B, D**

Day 9: Jewish Berlin – Today

You visit the beautifully restored **Synagogue** that was destroyed during the war.

Regina Jonas, the first woman rabbi in the world, found work as a chaplain in various Jewish social institutions in Berlin after her ordination but was refused to preach from the pulpit. Then you continue to the **Place of Remembrance**, memorial to the Murdered Jews of Europe during Nazi-Time in Germany. In the afternoon tour the **Jewish Museum**. **B, D**

Day 10: Jewish Berlin - Yesterday

After breakfast you explore the ancient Jewish life on a walking tour past **Jüdenstraße**, one of the oldest streets in Berlin; **Ephraim Palais**, residential house of Veitel Heine Ephraim, the financier of the Prussian King Friedrich II in the 18th century; **Lessinghaus**, where **Moses Mendelssohn** – one the most important German philosophers - often visited his best friend Gotthold Ephraim Lessing; the first Jewish cemetery of the modern Jewish community, where you will see Mendelsohn's tombstone, and the **Old Synagogue**, destroyed during WW II; in 1943 a several thousand of Jewish men were arrested here for their deportation.

A hundreds of their women and mothers demonstrated for their liberation in front of the Synagogue several days. The Nazis were not used to those encouraged demonstrations and all arrested men were released. The walking tour ends at the **New Synagogue**. Time at leisure. **B, D**

Day 11: Berlin

After breakfast you start your sightseeing tour of Berlin highlighting the **Reichstag** (Parliament), **Brandenburger Tor**, **Potsdamer Platz**, the **Kaiser Wilhelm Memorial Church**, the refurbished city center and **Gendarmenmarkt**, **Alexanderplatz**, the **Memorial to the German Resistance**, the famous boulevard "**Unter den Linden**," the **Berlin Cathedral**, **Checkpoint Charlie**. You continue to the **Museum Island** (UNESCO World Heritage Site): visit either the world-famous **Pergamon Museum** with its many treasures including the Ishtar Gate and the Market Gate of Miletus or the recently reopened **New Museum** which provides a new home for the Egyptian Museum and Papyrus Collection and the Museum of Pre-history and Early History, together with artefacts from the Collection of Classical Antiquities.

In the afternoon you drive to **Potsdam** passing the **Gliencker Bridge** or "Bridge of Spies." It was here that the U.S. and the Soviet Union exchanged captured spies during the Cold War; **Sanssouci Palace**, the summer residence of the Prussian Kings often referred to as the Prussian "Versailles." Spend time, walk through the magnificent gardens and visit the palace. Return to Berlin. **B, D**

Day 12:

Transfer to the airport and flight to **Tel Aviv**. **B**

Programme changes possible for logistical reasons.

SN/16.09.2010/L:\LAND\Pgm\Incoming\MP\englisch\DE_Jewish life_FRA_BER.doc

