

The Ashkenazi Quartet

WORLDS OF YIDDISHLAND

Looking Back at Jewish Life in
POLAND

Krakow – Warsaw

Attend the Jewish Culture Festival in Krakow



A Journey in Jewish History by Matterhorn Travel – 2012

YIDDISHLAND, OR THE YIDDISH HOMELAND

Although Jews had been present in Eastern Europe since the early centuries of the Christian era, it was only in the 13th century that large waves of Jewish immigrants moved eastward from Western Europe, particularly from the German lands.

In 1792 Catherine the Great, Empress of Russia, created a territory of enforced residence where Jews must live. The region became known as the “Pale of Settlement” and lasted some 125 years until the Russian Revolution of 1917.

The territory stretched from the Baltic Sea to the Black Sea, including western Russia, Belorussia (today’s Belarus), Lithuania, Poland, the Ukraine, Rumania, and eastern Hungary.

In 1792 the Pale encompassed 1.5 million Jews. By 1917 the territory included seven million Jews – 95% of whom were Yiddish speakers. There were more Jews in Poland, three million, than anywhere else in the world except New York City.

More than 75% of American Jews trace their ancestry to the Jews of Yiddishland.

During the first third of the 20th century, Poland was the spiritual center of Yiddishland. In Poland Judaism was not just a religion; it was also a national identity. Unlike the Jews of Germany and the Austro-Hungarian Empire, whose goal was to assimilate into the overall society, the Jews of Poland and other Yiddishland regions kept themselves separate from the Christian community.

YIDDISH AS LANGUAGE

The basic grammar and vocabulary of Yiddish, which is written in the Hebrew alphabet, is Germanic. Yiddish however, is not a dialect of German but a complete language. The term “Yiddish” comes from the German word for Jewish (“Jüdisch.”)

YIDDISHKEIT (“Jewishness” in Yiddish)

Yiddish became more than a language. Its meaning broadened into the term “Yiddishkeit” – to describe a common culture resting on the language, a way of life, a shared experience transcending opinion or ideology.

If Yiddishland embodied the Jews’ oneness with a land or territory, Yiddishkeit expressed their attachment to the rules of life laid down by religion. To immerse oneself in Yiddishkeit was to absorb its commandments, the *mitzvot*, which differentiated a Jew from a non-Jew. Until the First World War, Yiddishkeit meant to live as a Jew among Jews.

Our journey will take us into major parts of pre-war Yiddishland and Yiddishkeit, the home of the largest population of European Jewry.

Although the old Yiddishland no longer exists, our journey within the relics of this bygone community will help us to learn about a major civilization of our ancestors – and perhaps to understand more about ourselves as Jews today.

OUR JOURNEY INCLUDES:

- Round trip transatlantic flights
 - USA to Krakow, Poland
 - Warsaw, Poland to USA
- Eight nights accommodations at five star, deluxe hotels (See list on page 6)
 - Five nights in Krakow
 - Three nights in Warsaw
- Buffet breakfast each day
- Dinner four evenings

TOURS AND VISITS:

- **Krakow, Poland**
Walking tour of the Old Town and University
- **Jewish sites in Krakow**
 1. Remuh Synagogue and Cemetery
 2. Old Synagogue
 3. Tempel Synagogue
 4. Galicia Museum
 5. Former Jewish Ghetto of World War II
 6. Eagle Pharmacy Museum
 7. Oskar Schindler Factory Museum
 8. Remnant of ghetto wall
- Full day excursion to Oswiecim and Auschwitz - Birkenau
Visit Jewish Museum and Education Center at Oswiecim
- Excursion to shtetls near Krakow

- Non-stop train, first class seating, from Krakow to Warsaw

• **Warsaw**

1. City tour of Warsaw
2. Monument of the Warsaw Uprising
3. Chopin concert

• **Jewish sites in Warsaw**

1. Nuzhik Synagogue
2. Jewish Historical Institute
3. Umschlagplatz
4. Mila 18
5. Heroes of the Warsaw Ghetto Monument
6. Jewish Cemetery
7. Remnant of Ghetto wall

SPECIAL FEATURES:

- Five lectures by an experienced historian of Jewish history in Europe. (See page 6 for brief information on historians).
- Four events at the Jewish Cultural Festival in Krakow
- Matterhorn hospitality desk in Krakow
- Touring via deluxe, air conditioned motorcoach with English speaking tour manager.
- Round trip airport transfers
- Hotel portorage

1st Day, July 1

USA – KRAKOW

Fly from your departure city to Krakow, Poland.

2nd Day, July 2

KRAKOW

Arrive Krakow in the afternoon, local time. Upon arrival, we will be met and transferred to our hotel.

Krakow was home to a large Jewish community for nearly 700 years. The Jewish Quarter, Kazmierz, was a separate town with its own market square. Along with Vilnius and Prague, Krakow was among the most important centers of pre-enlightenment Jewish culture and religious life.

Unlike Warsaw, Krakow was not damaged by World War II, so that the city today is a fascinating look back into the Old Europe. Krakow is a must for anyone seeking the European past.

The best way to see Krakow is on foot; we will have walking tours with a local guide.

This afternoon we will walk, with local guide, in the Old Town of Krakow. The Market Square is one of the largest in Europe.

At the Jagiellonian University Museum we will see the first globe in history to include America. The globe dates from 1510.

Dinner is included this evening at a popular restaurant in Krakow.

3rd Day, July 3

KRAKOW – JEWISH CULTURAL FESTIVAL

Our walking tour this morning will cover the Jewish Quarter – three synagogues, the Jewish cemetery, and the Galicia Museum.

REMUH SYNAGOGUE AND CEMETERY – Built in 1558, the Remuh and its cemetery serves the orthodox Jewish community of Krakow.

OLD SYNAGOGUE – Poland's oldest synagogue dating originally from the early 16th century, the building today serves as a museum of Jewish history.

TEMPEL SYNAGOGUE – Built in 1862, the interior is decorated with Moorish woodwork. The synagogue serves the reform Jewish community and is frequently the venue for concerts.

GALICIA MUSEUM – The Museum celebrates the Jewish culture of Polish Galicia (southern and southeastern Poland).

The permanent exhibit of photographs, "Traces of Memory," offers a contemporary look at the Jewish past in Poland, showing relics of Jewish life and culture that can still be seen today. The Museum book shop is among the largest in Poland.

The balance of the day and this evening are free to attend one or more events of the Jewish Culture Festival.

The Jewish Culture Festival in Krakow has been for 20 years the largest Jewish festival in the world. The Festival

LECTURE THEMES DURING OUR JOURNEY

- 2nd Day** The Jews of Eastern Europe: Origins and Development
- 3rd Day** Yiddish: The Language, the Culture, the Heritage
Hasidic Jewry: Origins, Beliefs, Culture
- 5th Day** Hitler, the Nazis, and the War Against the Jews
- 6th Day** Jewish Life in Eastern Europe: The Shtetl
- 7th Day** The Great Divide: The Jews of Eastern Europe / The Jews of Germany and Austria



The bimah door in the Remuh Synagogue, Krakow.

offers more than 200 events – synagogue songs, Klezmer, Hasidic and classical music, lectures and workshops.

Matterhorn will have a hospitality desk at our hotel in Krakow to assist our tour members with reservations for Festival events.

Event schedules for the 2012 Festival will be available in March, 2012.

Dinner is at leisure to sample one of Krakow's restaurants on your own.

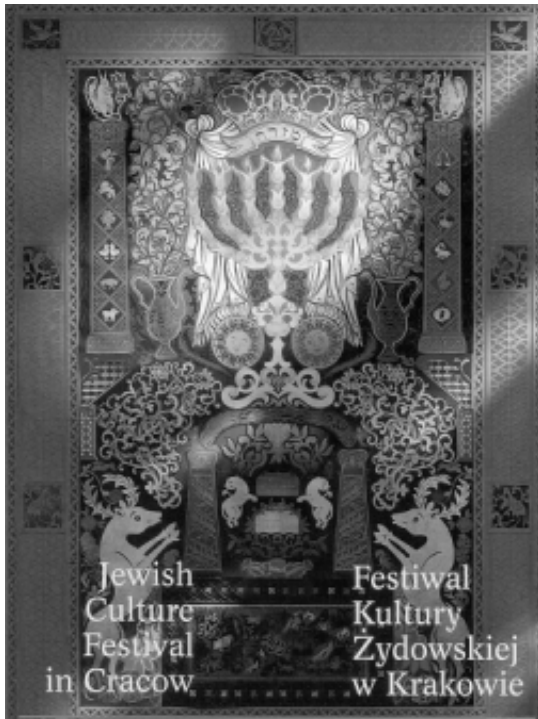
4th Day, July 4

KRAKOW – FORMER GHETTO JEWISH CULTURE FESTIVAL

Whoever saves a single life is as if he had saved an entire universe.

Mishnah, Sanhedrin 4:5

RIGHTEOUS AMONG NATIONS
Oskar Schindler



Poster for the Jewish Cultural Festival in Krakow.

This morning we will cross the Vistula River and visit the former Jewish ghetto of World War II.

In 1939 Krakow had a population of about 250,000, including 60,000 Jews. About 6-7,000 Jews survived the war and holocaust – about 1,100 of them thanks to Oskar Schindler.

We will see the places filmed by Steven Spielberg on location for “Schindler’s List”. We will visit the site of Oskar Schindler’s factory in Krakow.

Next, we will visit the museum of the former Eagle Pharmacy, owned by the only non-Jew permitted by the Nazis to be inside the ghetto. The pharmacy became a meeting place for ghetto Jews. The owner later wrote a book documenting Nazi crimes against Krakow Jews.



Sign of the Oskar Schindler Factory, Krakow.

We will see a remnant of the original ghetto wall built by the Nazis.

This afternoon is at leisure to savor the Old World ambience of Krakow.

You may wish to visit the Royal Castle on Wawel Hill, dating back to the 12th century. The first settlement appeared on Wawel Hill some 5,000 years ago.

Attend one or more events of the Jewish Culture Festival.

Stroll along the Vistula River and among the narrow medieval streets of the Jewish Quarter and Old Town, reflecting upon the triumph and tragedy of this fascinating city of the Old Europe.

Dinner is at leisure to sample one of Krakow’s restaurants on your own.

5th Day, July 5

OSWIECIM, AUSCHWITZ – BIRKENAU

We will have a full day excursion to Auschwitz – Birkenau. Before visiting the camp, we will visit the Jewish Museum and Education Center at Oswiecim (Polish name for Auschwitz.) Jews first came to Oswiecim in the 16th century. Today the Museum and Education Center are affiliated with the Museum of Jewish Heritage in New York City.

Return to Krakow in the late afternoon.

This evening is free to attend one or more events of the Jewish Culture Festival.

Dinner is at leisure to sample one of Krakow’s restaurants on your own.

6th Day, July 6

KRAKOW – JEWISH CULTURE FESTIVAL THE SHTETL: VESTIGES OF THE LITTLE JEWISH TOWN

*Remember the days of old,
Consider the years of ages past.*

Deuteronomy 32:7

Today we will visit the heartland of Yiddish culture – the shtetl.

For centuries, Poland was the focus of Jewish life in Europe. The bedrock of the flourishing Jewish culture was the shtetl—the small town with a large Jewish population in pre-Holocaust Central and Eastern Europe. Primarily, shtetls were in the area of the Pale of Settlement of the Russian Empire.

Shtetl culture is used as a metaphor for the traditional way of life of 19th-century Eastern European Jews. Shtetls are portrayed as pious communities following Orthodox



A typical market in a shtetl where Jews were the majority just before the First World War. Long black silhouettes, a statue, a few trees, a provincial square . . . a lost world.

Judaism, socially stable and unchanging despite outside influence or attacks.

Wooden synagogues were pervasive in Yiddishland. They were unique because, unlike all previous synagogues, they were not built in the architectural style of their region and era, but in a newly evolved and uniquely Jewish style. Wooden synagogues were unusual; they were large, identifiably Jewish buildings – not hidden in courtyards or behind walls, as found in cities such as Vienna and Berlin.

In 1882 Alexander III of Russia banned Jews from rural areas and towns of fewer than 10,000 people. In the 20th century revolutions, civil wars, industrialization, and the Holocaust destroyed traditional shtetl existence.

To this day, traces of Jewish presence can be found in the vicinity of Krakow. Our excursion will highlight little towns whose appearance has hardly changed—places where the synagogues, the cemeteries, and the characteristic old architecture still stand.

This evening we will have dinner with klezmer music in the Jewish Quarter of Krakow.

Klezmer began in medieval Europe as the music of the Eastern European Jews. By the 19th century, it had become a developed musical style, taking its inspiration not only from the synagogue, but also from the non-Jewish culture that surrounded it.



Marc Chagall, The Fiddler, 1912–13.

Violinists featured prominently at births, marriages, and deaths in traditional Jewish communities, and so became an embodiment of the cycle of life. This is a fiddler on a roof, a symbol of the unstable position of Jews in society.

The title of the musical "Fiddler on the Roof" was inspired by this painting.

7th Day, July 7

KRAKOW – WARSAW

This morning we will travel via non-stop train, first class, to Warsaw.

Upon arrival in Warsaw, we will be met and transferred to our hotel.

This afternoon our Warsaw guide will give us a panorama tour of the Polish Capital.

After an early dinner this evening, we will be treated to a concert of music by Chopin.



Chopin concert at Royal Lazienki Park.

8th Day, July 8

WARSAW

In 1939 there were 375,000 Jews in Warsaw – about 30% of the city's population. The Jewish population of Poland was about three million. But, Jews comprised 56% of physicians in Poland and 43% of teachers. During the first third of the 20th century, Poland was the spiritual center of Ashkenazi Jewry.

More than half of the Jews in the world today have roots in Poland.

Today we will visit, with a local guide, the sites of Jewish heritage in Warsaw.



Warsaw: The Old Town Market Square circa 1912.



The Old Town Market Square in 1945.



The Old Town Market Square in 1996.

NUZHNIK SYNAGOGUE – The only remaining pre-Holocaust synagogue in Warsaw

JEWISH HISTORICAL INSTITUTE – Covering ten centuries of Jewish history and culture in Poland, the Institute has a poignant exhibit of the Warsaw Ghetto.

UMSCHLAGPLATZ – The Nazi assembly point for Jews to be transported to Treblinka

MILA 18 – Among the last of the bunkers overrun by the Nazis during the Ghetto uprising. The uprising, led by Mordechai Anielewicz, was depicted by author Leon Uris in his book *Mila 18*.

MONUMENT TO THE HEROES OF THE WARSAW GHETTO – Honors the Jewish resistance fighters. Nearby is the construction site of the future Jewish Museum to be completed in 2012.

JEWISH CEMETERY – Established in 1806, the cemetery holds more than 200,000 graves and is among the largest Jewish Cemeteries in Europe. The size, design and text on the gravestones give insight into the sociology of the Jews of Warsaw.

GHETTO WALL REMNANT – We will see a remnant of the original Ghetto wall.

MONUMENT OF THE WARSAW UPRISING – Honors the largest and longest (August 1 to October 2, 1944) civilian uprising against the Nazis during World War II.

Dinner is at leisure to sample one of Warsaw's restaurants on your own.

9th Day, July 9

WARSAW

This morning we will meet with a journalist from *Madrasz*, a Jewish monthly of current events, opinion, and essays, to learn about Jewish culture in Poland today, Jewish identity, and other topics of Jewish interest in today's Poland.

More than 70% of American Jews trace their ancestry to the Jews of Poland.

Persons wishing to trace their Polish ancestry can visit the Jewish Genealogy and Family Heritage Center at the

Jewish Historical Institute. The Center offers consultations, research, and guidance to those wanting to explore their family ancestry in Poland.

This afternoon is at leisure to browse and shop in the Old Town of Warsaw. The Historical Museum on the Market Square is well worth a visit.

Our farewell dinner with music will be at a popular restaurant in Warsaw.

10th Day, July 10

WARSAW – USA

This morning we will be transferred to Warsaw Airport to begin our return journey to the U.S. Arrive back in the U.S. in the afternoon.

Historians' Brief Biographical Sketches

Dr. Edyta Gawron – Dr. Gawron is Assistant Professor in the Department of Jewish Studies and Director of the Center of Jewish History and Culture at the Jagiellonian University of Krakow. She teaches the history of Polish Jews in the 20th century, the history of contemporary Israel and the Diaspora, as well as Holocaust Studies. She is a member of the Polish Academy of Arts and Sciences – Committee on the History and Culture of the Jews. Dr. Gawron was a research fellow at Yad Vashem International Institute for Holocaust Research.

Dr. Michal Galas - Associate Professor at the Department of Jewish Studies at the Jagiellonian University of Krakow, Michal Galas teaches the history of Judaism, and the history of the Jews in Poland, Eastern Europe, and the United States. He is the author and editor of studies that have been published in Polish, English and German; he has received fellowships in Poland and other countries. Prof. Galas is co-editor of the recent volume of *POLIN: A Journal of Polish-Jewish Studies*.

Other historians may also participate.

Organizations are welcome to bring their own historian.

Ashkenazi Defined

Ashkenazi Jews are those Jews descended from the medieval Jewish communities of the Rhineland in the west of Germany. *Ashkenaz* is the medieval Hebrew name for the region which in modern times encompasses Germany and the German speaking borderland area. Thus, *Ashkenazi* (Ashkenazim, Hebrew plural) or *Ashkenazi Jews* are literally “German Jews.”

Many Ashkenazi Jews migrated, largely eastward, forming communities in non-German speaking areas, including Poland, Lithuania, Russia, and Eastern Europe between the 10th and 19th centuries. They took with them and diversified Yiddish, a Germanic Jewish language among Ashkenazi Jews.

Although in the 11th century Ashkenazi Jews comprised only about three percent of the world’s Jewish population, by 1931 they accounted for (at their peak) about 92% of world Jewry. Today, Ashkenazi Jews make up about 80% of Jews world wide. Most Jewish communities with extended histories in Europe are Ashkenazim, except those in the Mediterranean region.

The majority of the Jews who migrated from Europe to other continents in the past two centuries are Ashkenazim, particularly Eastern Ashkenazim. This is especially true in the United States, where six million of the seven million American Jews – the largest Jewish population in the world – are Ashkenazi. They represent the largest single concentration of Ashkenazim in the world.

In an ethnic context the definition of an Ashkenazi Jew broadened; such a Jew became one whose ancestry can be traced to the Jews of Central and Eastern Europe.

Hotels

Krakow	Sheraton
Warsaw	Sheraton

Prices Per Person, Double Occupancy

From the East	From the Mid-Atlantic	From Chicago and the Mid-West	From the Carolinas	From Atlanta	From Florida	From Texas	From the West	From the Pacific Coast
Boston New York Newark	Washington Philadelphia	Chicago Detroit	Charlotte	Atlanta	Miami Orlando	Dallas/ Ft. Worth Houston	Denver Phoenix	Los Angeles San Francisco Portland/Seattle
\$6295	\$6395	\$6445	\$6445	\$6595	\$6595	\$6595	\$6645	\$6695

Single Room Supplement \$695. Triple Room Reduction \$20 per person. Add \$292 U.S. and foreign airport and security taxes.

Land Only Price: \$4895 per person, double occupancy.

Dates 2012	
Depart USA July 1	Return July 10



Left to right: Vonnie Block, Kathy McCary, Ken Block, JoAnn West

Our holiday is operated by Matterhorn Travel.

Established in 1966, Matterhorn Travel has carried over 50,000 passengers to Europe. Matterhorn officers have a combined experience of 104 years with the company.

Please note the all-inclusive nature of our trip. There are no hidden optional costs. We include all features for a complete holiday – breakfasts, dinners four evenings, and a comprehensive itinerary.

RESERVATION FORM

Deposit \$400 per person, payable to Matterhorn Travel

Mail to: Matterhorn Travel
3419 Hidden River View
Annapolis, MD 21403

For inquiries, phone
 (410) 224-2230 or 800-638-9150
 Fax (410) 266-3868
 E-mail: holidays@matterhorntravel.com
 www.matterhorntravel.com



MATTERHORN TRAVEL
 Established 1966

45 years of successful group holidays

Amount enclosed \$ _____ to cover _____ persons from _____
 (Departure City) (Departure Date)

Name _____
 Last (Please print as it appears on Passport) First Initial

Name _____
 Last (Please print as it appears on Passport) First Initial

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone (____) _____ Business Phone (____) _____ Email _____

Charge my VISA or MasterCard #



Expiration Date _____
 (Signature as it appears on Credit Card)

WORLDS OF YIDDISHLAND - 2012

Transatlantic Flights Via



TERMS AND CONDITIONS

DEPOSITS AND FINAL PAYMENTS— An initial deposit of \$400 per person must be sent with the reservation(s).

Final payment is due two months before departure.

RESPONSIBILITY— These tours are under the operation and management of Matterhorn Travel Service, Inc., 3419 Hidden River View, Annapolis, Maryland 21403. The Tour Operator shall be responsible for supplying the services and accommodations as outlined in this brochure, except to the extent that such services and accommodations cannot be supplied due to delays or other causes beyond its control, in which case the operator will use its best efforts to supply comparable services and accommodations. The Tour Operator reserves the right at its discretion to change the sequence or alter any part of the itinerary or hotel accommodations, without prior notice for any reason; but in the event of substantial reduction in the services rendered, a proportionate refund will be made to tour participants upon written request to the Tour Operator. If there is a major change in the itinerary, participants will be notified before departure and offered an opportunity to cancel with full refund.

In the absence of negligence by the Tour Operator, the Tour Operator accepts no responsibility for losses or additional expenses due to delays or changes in air or other services, sickness, weather strikes, or other causes. All such losses or expenses will be borne by the passenger. The tour member waives any claim against the Tour Operator for any damage to or loss of property or injury or death of persons due to any act of negligence of any hotels, or any other persons rendering any of the services or accommodations included in the ground portion of the itinerary. The Tour Operator shall not be responsible for any delays, substitution of equipment or any act of omission whatsoever by the carrier, its agents, servants and employees, and tour member hereby waives any claim arising therefrom. Tour participants agree that the Tour Operator has no responsibility or liability of any nature whatsoever for loss, damage or injury to property or person resulting from air transportation. The air carrier provides insurance for the protection of passengers and performance within the provisions of its tariffs. The Tour Operator reserves the right to decline, accept or remove any tour member as a participant of these tours at any time. If any tour member is removed from the tour, a proportionate refund for unused services will be made.

CANCELLATIONS/REFUNDS— Refunds cannot be made to any passenger who does not complete the tour. In the event of cancellation by the Tour Operator, Tour Operator's liability shall be limited to a refund of all payments made by the tour participants to Tour Operator.

All cancellations and requests for refunds must be submitted in writing to the Tour Operator. If cancellation in writing is received by the Tour Operator more than two months before tour departure, an administration charge of \$90 per person will be retained. For cancellations received within two months of departure, the following cancellation charges apply:

- Two months to one month before departure: 30% of the tour price.
- One month to one week before departure: 60% of the tour price.
- Less than one week before departure: No refund

INSURANCE— Trip accident, health and baggage insurance is recommended.

Cancellation insurance is also available and is particularly recommended.
 Details will be furnished upon request.

BAGGAGE— One suitcase per person (50 pounds) may be taken on the trip. The liability of the carrier for loss or damage to personal baggage shall be limited to the actual value of such baggage but not more than approximately \$9.07 per pound in the case of checked baggage and approximately \$400 per person in the case of unchecked baggage or other property. (Domestic-actual value not to exceed \$500.)

AIRPORT TRANSFERS are provided only for passengers arriving and departing Europe via flights reserved by the Tour Operator. Passengers using different flights are responsible for their own airport transfers.

SPECIAL NOTE— Prices quoted are based on air fares, taxes, European supplier costs, and rates of foreign currency as of September 15, 2011. Prices are subject to change prior to departure. Participants will be notified in writing at least two months before departure if there is any increase in tour price required by such cost increases. There is no credit for unused services. Forwarding of participants' deposit(s) indicates acceptance of these terms and conditions.

THE AIRLINES participating on this tour are not responsible for any act, omission, or event during the time the passengers are not on board their airplanes or conveyances. The issuance of the passage contract by the airline concerned shall constitute the sole contract between the airline and the purchaser of this tour and/or the passengers. In addition to the participating airlines, the services of any IATA and ARC carrier may be used in connection with these tours.

This program is valid from May 1 to October 31, 2012.