



Interfaith Pilgrimage to Auschwitz

25th March 2019 - 28th March 2019

Single occupancy £385.00

Shared occupancy £340.00

(price inclusive of flights, accommodation, tours and breakfast)

An Interfaith Pilgrimage to Auschwitz in March 2019 led by the Dean of Manchester and organised with the support of the Faith Network for Manchester. We will take up to thirty people representing our different faith communities to visit Poland and especially the City of Krakow and to experience first-hand the pain of those who lost their lives in the terrible deaths of mostly Jews at Auschwitz. This will be a time of experiential learning for us as we seek to promote diversity and respect for life through the work of the Challenging Hate Forum (CHF) that meets regularly at Manchester Cathedral.

The CHF has earned a good reputation as an interfaith organisation that brings people together to celebrate our diversity, build community cohesion and to educate and raise awareness about hate crimes in our city. The tragedy of Auschwitz was a massive experience of hate crimes and the growing phenomenon of anti-Semitism and Islamophobia reminds us that the menace of hate crimes needs constant tackling.

Pilgrimage Itinerary

Monday 25 March 2019

- 11.15 Meet at Manchester Airport (*Terminal 1, Check-in Hall B*)
- 13.15 Flight LS949 departs from Manchester
- 16.40 Arrive in Krakow, John Paul II International (*flight duration 2h35m*)
 - Transfer to hotel (by bus)
- 18.00 Check-in to hotel – Pergamin Old Town Apartments
- 18.45 Walk to central square or Jewish quarter (Kazimierz)
 - Choose restaurant(s) for meal
 - Time to wander or brief discussion together

Tuesday 26 March 2019

- 8.00 Breakfast
- 9.00 Meet guide – introduction to the day
 - In order to keep proper chronology the tour starts in the morning in Krakow visiting the former Krakow Ghetto territory, Schindler's Factory and former terrains of the Plaszow Camp.
 - From Krakow to Auschwitz-Birkenau: the 1hour and 15 minute journey is a perfect occasion for an introduction into the camp structure and German occupation of Poland. On the way we drive past Auschwitz III - Monowitz - IG Farben complex, which introduces the topic of sub-camps.
- 12.00 We start to visit Auschwitz after the morning crowds of tourists. We will visit Auschwitz I Camp with its exhibitions, which help to grasp the camp's history and prisoners' life reality. Parts of the guided tour are based on testimonies of the survivors. After at least 2 hours (up to 4 hours - dependent on our needs) we will take a little break to rest (this time can be used for coffee or lunch).
- 14.30 Visit to Auschwitz II - Birkenau. On the way from Auschwitz to Birkenau we will visit the Altejudenrampe (Old Jewish Unloading Platform) with two cattle rail cars which commemorate the place. In Birkenau will we spend at least 1.5 hours on the guided tour (up to 4 hours if we need).
- 17.30 Drive back to the hotel in Krakow with optional visit to the only remaining synagogue in Oswiecim/Auschwitz.
- 19.15 Out to find restaurant(s) for dinner

Wednesday 27 March 2019

- 8.00 Breakfast
- 9.00 Group time for reflection and feelings about the previous day and being together

Wednesday 27 March 2019 (continued):

10.15 Options include:

1) Sightseeing of Krakow - Old Town - visiting the prime pearls of the city's architecture and history

- *Royal Route with its churches from 11th to 18th century;*
- *the Market Square and the Cloth Hall building;*
- *Jagiellonian University established in 1364, Collegium Maius and Novum (site of the first Jewish community in Krakow);*
- *Wawel Castle - two royal courtyards and the Cathedral.*

2) Sightseeing Casimir / Kazimierz - Jewish District

Kazimierz has the most magnificent collection of Jewish heritage sites in Poland and Europe:

- *Remuh Synagogue from 16th century - the place of study and teaching of Rabbi Moses Isserles (Remuh); admission: 5 PLN per person*
- *Remuh Cemetery with graves of Nathan Spira, Joel Sirkes (BaCh) and Yom Tov Heller;*
- *Old Synagogue from 15th century - the oldest one in Europe;*
- *Szeroka Street with Esther Rubinstein house;*
- *Kupa Synagogue from 17th century;*
- *Temple Synagogue from 19th century (reformed);*
- *Sites connected with filming the film Schindler's List.*

3) Wieliczka Salt Mine Tour - UNESCO site

One of the biggest Polish tourist attractions, the oldest Salt Mine in Europe, inscribed in UNESCO's 1st World List of Cultural and Natural Heritage (admission - 64 PLN per person, approx. 21 USD). The visiting of the 20 historic chambers, reaching 327 m deep, connected by 2 kilometres of passages lasts approximately 2 hours, 15 minutes. The Mine is visited in groups with a guide - we will find an English speaking guided tour. Temperature in the Mine is around 14° C (57° F) so remember to take a jacket with you. At the beginning you need to walk 378 steps down to start the tour. Fortunately on the way back, you will take an elevator.

We also hope to arrange meetings with one or two key religious leaders in Krakow. The details will be arranged as we identify who we can meet with and when available.

Thursday 28 March 2019

8.00 Breakfast

9.00 Time for a walk or some time for reflection together

10.15 Check out of hotel and transfer to John Paul II International Airport

11.10 Arrive at Krakow airport

13.10 Jet2.com – Flight LS950 departs from Krakow (*John Paul II International Airport*)

14.55 Arrive at Manchester Airport (*flight duration 2h 45m*)