



'We are 900 Frenchmen...': Inscription by Jewish Prisoners at Ninth Fort, Kaunas

Jewish Heritage Journey to Lithuania

Thursday, 2nd June – Monday, 6th June 2016

Led by Rabbi Frank Dabba Smith and specialist guide Chaim Bargman

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Ninth Fort, Kaunas

Itinerary in Brief

Thursday, 2nd June: Early morning departure from Luton Airport at 7.25 on flight WIZZ AIR W6 8122 to Kaunas, arriving at 12.10. We'll transfer to the centrally located Best Western Santaka Hotel where we will stay for four nights.

After lunch, our afternoon tour of Kaunas will include visiting the site of the Kovno Ghetto and the historic but infamous 'Ninth Fort', site of a spectacular escape by Jews in 1943. We'll also have a panoramic view of Kaunas from an observation point.

Dinner at the very respected *Medziotoju Uzeiga* ('Hunter's Restaurant').

Friday, 3rd June:

Visiting the Karaite Kenesa and lunch in community restaurant, *Senoji Kibinine*

Enjoying the Lake Trakai scenery and exploring the historic wooden castle. On our way back to Kaunas, visiting sites of WW2 partisan encampments in the Rudnicki Forest. Erev Shabbat dinner in Kaunas.



The Ark in the Karaites Temple ('Kenesa', Trakai)

Saturday, 4th June:

In Kaunas, we will first visit the home of Chiune Sugihara, the Japanese consul and Holocaust rescuer, who gave visas to thousands of Jews against the policy of his government.

For those most interested in Jewish history and heritage, an exploration of one of the oldest towns in Lithuania, Kedainiai, with its restored synagogue. Nearby, in Josvainiai, a pilgrimage to the grave of Rabbi Shmuel Levinson, the site of a Jewish quarter and Shoah memorial.

An alternative, for those wishing to learn more about the occupations, crafts and traditions of rural Lithuania, is to wander around the vast outdoors Ethnographic Museum in Rumsiskes (http://www.llbm.lt/eng/about_us/). This museum is located near an area of lagoons and forests and we can offer advice to those interested in further exploring this scenery.

Finally, in Kaunas, those who are sufficiently 'intrigued' may also make an optional visit to the Atomic Bunker Museum with its displays of KGB-era spying equipment.



Traces of the 'Colonial Gescheft', Vilnius Ghetto

Sunday, 5th June:

On the way to Vilnius, we'll visit the Ziezmariai wooden synagogue.

Vilnius ('Vilna') was known as the 'Jerusalem of the North' due to the presence of renowned Jewish Talmudic scholars, including the revered 'Vilna Gaon'. We'll walk through the area of the ghetto, featuring many historical traces. We'll also visit the Panerai Genocide Memorial and, as an alternative for those preferring something 'lighter', there is the Palace of the Grand Dukes of Lithuania. Dinner in Vilnius.



Ohel Yaakov Choral Synagogue, Kaunas

Monday, 6th June:

Visiting the Ohel Yaakov Choral Synagogue with its extraordinarily beautiful interior and, then, a bit of morning free time to stroll and to have an early lunch in Kaunas.

Return flight Ryan Air FR 2747 departs Kaunas at 15.00 and arrives at London-Gatwick at 15.55

Practical Details

The estimated cost of this trip for adults is £260 (double accommodation) with a single supplement of £60. This fee includes: all overnight accommodation and all breakfasts at the hotel; entrance fees and guides; coach travel; and tips. **The flight costs are not included and tickets need to be booked directly and full on-line booking instructions will be provided.** Not included are lunches, dinners and snacks but meal expenses are lower than in London. A deposit of £100 per adult should be sent in with the booking form and the deadline for all remaining payments is 15th May 2016. Once the places are filled, a waiting list will be started. The price of the tour is based on exchange rates of 15th March 2016 (£1= €1.28 approx.) and a major deterioration of the value of the GBP may require a supplement. All participants are responsible for providing for their own travel/health insurance cover and passport (plus visa, if applicable).

We will meet a few weeks prior to the journey for an orientation session and there will be the opportunity for participants to meet each other, to receive relevant reading material and photographic tips as well as to raise any questions or concerns. We can also make arrangements regarding sharing journeys to and from Luton and Gatwick airports.



Chaim Bargman, Our 'Moreh Derech'



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Booking Form

Please complete this form and enclose together with a GBP-cheque for the deposit, payable to 'Mosaic Liberal Synagogue'. The form should then be posted to:
Mosaic Liberal Synagogue Administrator, 39 Bessborough Road, Harrow, Middlesex, HA1 3BS

Name/s:

Address:

Home and mobile telephone numbers:

Email:

Details of your travel/health insurance (or to be advised):

Any special dietary / health concerns, e.g.: vegetarian food or limited walking so we can offer appropriate alternatives.

My deposit cheque for £ is enclosed.

Signature/s:

Date: