



Nine Days Mission to **POLAND**

July 20-28, 2009

Tisha B'Av & Shabbos Nachamu
ISRAEL EXTENSION
July 28 – August 4, 2009

For More Information
212-613-8374
PolandMission@OU.org





NINE DAYS MISSION TO POLAND

JULY 20-28, 2009

Group Leaders: Rabbi Steven Weil & Stephen Savitsky
Expert Guide: Rabbi Mordechai Smolarcik

After years of requests from individuals and shuls throughout the Orthodox community, the Orthodox Union will at long last provide an extraordinary life-altering experience for adults in Poland.

Timed to coincide with the Nine Days and NCSY's famed JOLT trip, this deeply meaningful Nine Days Mission promises to reinforce our understanding of churban as we visit sites whose names are burnt into Jewish consciousness and travel through what was once the heartland of Yiddishkeit, Torah scholarship, and a life that is lost. Though adults traveling on this mission will have a travel schedule that is separate and apart from NCSY's JOLT teen trip, an especially memorable and life-affirming Shabbos and Havdalah will be held together with the teens in the Ramoh Shul in Krakow.

Highlights of the mission will include; Krakow, Ger, Lizensk, Lublin, Tiktin, Warsaw, Auschwitz, Belzec, Birkenau, Majdanek, Plashov, Treblinka, the Nozyc Shul, the Ramoh Shul, the Schindler Factory, the first Bais Yaakov school, the famed Yeshivat Chochmei Lublin, and kevarim of the Ramoh, the Netziv, the Chiddushei HaRim, the Sfas Emes, the Tosfos Yom Tov, the Chozeh of Lublin, R' Elimelech of Lizensk, and R' Chaim Brisker.

For an additional fee, participants will have the option of using their last day in Poland to take a day trip to a city within Poland that is personally meaningful. Also, an Israel extension from July 28 - August 4 is available for those wishing to culminate their experience by spending Tisha B'Av and Shabbos Nachamu in Jerusalem.

For more information, kindly call 212-613-8374 or email PolandMission@ou.org.

Nine Days OU Mission to Poland

July 20–28, 2009

**Israel Extension:
July 28–August 4, 2009
(Tisha b'Av is July 30)**

Join Rabbi Steven Weil, *OU Executive Vice President Designate*, and Stephen Savitsky, *OU President*, for a deeply meaningful OU Leadership Mission to Poland during the Nine Days. Towns and sites whose names are burnt into your consciousness will become real as we travel through what was once the heartland of Yiddishkeit, Torah scholarship, and a life that is lost.

Then, add Tisha B'Av and Shabbat Nachamu in Jerusalem to your itinerary and celebrate being in Israel with hundreds of NCSYers from across North America, experiencing the summer of their lives.

**IT'S A JOURNEY YOU'VE ALWAYS MEANT TO TAKE;
IT'S A JOURNEY THAT CAN TRANSFORM YOU.**

AMONG THE PLACES YOU WILL VISIT:

Crakow · Ger · Lizensk · Lublin · Iktin
Warsaw · Auschwitz · Belzec · Birkenau · Majdanek
Plashov · Treblinka · Bais Yaakov HaRishon
Kazimierz Shuls · Nozyc Shul · Ramoh Shul & Cemetery
Schindler Factory · Yeshivat Chochmei Lublin

**Scholar-in-Residence:
Rabbi Mordechai Smolarcik**

For more details concerning this extraordinary program,
please call 212.613.8374 or email PolandMission@OU.org.
5-Star accommodations. Space is limited.

**ORTHODOX
UNION**
Enhancing Jewish Life





NINE DAYS MISSION TO POLAND

Monday, July 20

Depart for Warsaw from New York

Tuesday, July 21

Arrive to Warsaw from New York

Mincha at Nozyc Shul

Remnants of the Warsaw Ghetto Wall

Jewish Warsaw

Overnight Novotel Warsaw Centrum

Wednesday, July 22

Tiktin Shul

Kivrei Kadishim in the Forest

Tiktin Cemetery

Mincha

Treblinka

Overnight Novotel Warsaw Centrum

Thursday, July 23

Ger

Drive to Lublin

Majdanek

Yeshivas Chochmei Lublin

Old Cemetery

Nighttime Walk to Old Jewish Quarter

Overnight Lublianka Grand Hotel

Friday, July 24

Beljitz

Lizensk

Prepare for Shabbos in Krakow

Kabbalos Shabbos at Ramoh Shul

Overnight QUBOS Hotel Krakow

שבת

Shacharis at Ramoh Shul w/JOLT NCSY

Jewish Quarter

Encounter w/Righteous Gentile

Afternoon Tour Wawel Castle

Mincha at Ramoh Shul

Havdalah with teens w/JOLT NCSY

Overnight QUBUS Hotel Krakow

Sunday, July 26

Auschwitz Jewish Center

Auschwitz Muuseum

Birkenau

Overnight QUBUS Hotel Krakow

Monday, July 27

Tour of Jewish Krakow or

Day of Personalized Travel

Overnight QUBUS Hotel Krakow

Tuesday, July 28

Depart for NY from Warsaw

Arrive in NY from Warsaw

Optional Israel Extension**Tuesday, July 28**

Depart for Israel from Krakow

Arrive in Israel from Krakow

Wednesday, July 29 (Erev Tisha B'Av)

Erev Tisha B'Av Kinnos with R'Weil

Thursday, July 30 (Tisha B'Av)**Friday, July 31****Shabbos Nachemu, August 1****Sunday, August 2**

Yom NCSY BBQ & Concert

Monday, August 3**Tuesday, August 4**

Depart for New York from Israel

Arrive to New York from Israel

* Itinerary subject to change. Call 212-613-8374 or send an email to PolandMission@OU.org



**NINE DAYS MISSION TO
POLAND**

JULY 20-28, 2009

TISHA B'AV & SHABBOS NACHAMU

ISRAEL EXTENSION

JULY 28 – AUGUST 4, 2009

INFO PACKET

TRAVEL

Mission to Poland:

New York to Warsaw (9 hour flight)

Depart NY (JFK): Mon., July 20, 10:55 PM, LOT Flight #27
Arrive Warsaw (WAW): Tue., July 21, 1:40 PM

Warsaw to New York (9 hour flight)

Depart Warsaw (WAW): Tue., July 28, 12:30 PM, LOT Flight #6
Arrive in NY (JFK): Tue., July 28, 4:05 PM

Israel Extension:

Krakow to Israel (3 hours, 30 minutes flight)

Depart Krakow (KRK) Tue., July 28, 12:05 AM, LOT Flight #153
Arrive in Israel (TLV): Tue., July 28, 4:35 AM

Israel to New York (12 hours flight)

Depart Israel (TLV): Tue., August 4, 1:00 AM, EL AL Flight #1
Arrive in NY (JFK): Tue., August 4, 5:35 AM

HOTEL INFORMATION

Mission to Poland:

Novotel Warsaw Centrum (Evenings of July 21, 22, 27)

<http://www.novotel.com/gb/hotel-3383-novotel-warszawa-centrum/index.shtml>

Tel (+48) 22/621-0271

Fax (+48) 22/625-0476

Grand Hotel Lublinianka (Evening of July 23)

<http://www.lublinianka.com>

Tel (+48) 81/446-6100

Fax (+48) 81/446-6200

Qubus Hotel Krakow (Evenings of July 24, 25, 26)

<http://www.qubushotel.com>

Tel (+48) 12/374-5100

Fax (+48) 12/374-5200

Israel Extension:

Jerusalem Sheraton Plaza (Evenings of July 28, 29, 30, 31 & Aug 1, 2, 3)

<http://www.starwoodhotels.com/sheraton/property/overview/index.html?propertyID=416>

Tel (+972) 2/629-8666

Fax (+972) 2/623-1667

DEPARTURE:

Paper tickets will not be issued for this mission and you are reminded to pack your passport in your carry-on luggage. Participants are to arrange their own check-in at JFK's Terminal 4 using e-ticket information that will be provided prior to departure. As this is an international flight, it is recommended that you arrive at the airport no less than 3 hours prior to departure. Also, kindly ensure that your luggage is clearly marked with your name and contact information. If you have any difficulties at the airport, please call Claude Hakim, our Field Travel booking agent, at (w) 212-682-2620 or (c) 917-861-1853. Alternatively, please call David Frankel at (c) 917-250-7526.

COST

Poland Only

The total per person cost for the Nine Days Mission to Poland is \$3,899 and this includes deluxe double occupancy hotel accommodations, transfers, meals, comfortable coach buses, guide, touring, and roundtrip coach flights from New York City to Poland and back. The single-person supplement price for a private room in Poland is \$4,299. The land-only cost for the Nine Days Mission to Poland is \$2,699. The land-only cost with single person supplement for a private room in Poland is \$3,099. **Note: Those opting for the land-only option need to arrange their arrival into Warsaw on 7/21 prior to the group flight and their departure from Warsaw or Krakow after the OU group flight. Those traveling on the OU group flight to Israel will leave for the Krakow airport on 7/27 at approximately 8:30 PM. At this same time, those returning to New York on 7/28 will take the train to Warsaw.**

Poland plus Israel Extension

The total per person cost for the combined Nine Days Mission to Poland and Israel Extension is \$5,899 and includes everything listed above in Poland as well as deluxe double-occupancy hotel accommodations, transfers, Shabbos dinner, and Shabbos lunch in Israel. Transportation to and from airport and coach flights from Poland to Israel and from Israel back to New York are also included. The single-person supplement price for a private room in Poland and Israel is \$6,999. The land-only cost for the combined Poland and Israel Mission is \$4,199. The land-only cost with single person supplement for a private room in Poland and Israel is \$5,299. **Note: In addition to arranging for their own 7/28 flight to Israel from Krakow or Warsaw, those opting for the land-only option need to arrange for their arrival into Warsaw on 7/21 prior to the OU group flight and their own departure from Israel at their convenience.**

TZEDAKAH

Mission participants are encouraged to use the occasion of the mission to contribute a tax-deductible gift of tzedakah in support of the Orthodox Union's life-affirming programs and services (NCSY - Jewish teen outreach, Yachad - services for the developmentally-disabled, Our Way – services for the deaf and hard of hearing, and more). Simply fax the attached Contribution Certificate with your completed Application. Be sure to note on the Contribution Certificate if your gift is being made "in memory of" or "in honor of" individual/s and or destroyed communities.

REGISTRATION

The official application deadline is April 1, 2009. Space is limited on this much-anticipated mission and applicants will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis. Should the mission reach capacity prior to the stated deadline, registration will be closed. To register for this mission, an Application, Payment Authorization Form, and Photo Release Form must be faxed to David Frankel at 212-613-0675.

PAYMENT

All mission payments will be made by American Express, Master Card, or VISA. See details on attached Payment Authorization Form.

EXPERT GUIDE

Rabbi Mordechai Smolarcik has been leading trips to Poland for teens and adults for the past 13 years. He has served as a bus captain on the Canadian and South Florida March of the Living Programs, for the past six summers as the Director of NCSY's Jewish Overseas Leadership Training (JOLT) program and has led a Boca Raton Synagogue adult group through the Holocaust and pre-Holocaust Jewish sites of Poland. A past NCSY Regional Director he currently serves as the Rabbi of Boca Raton Synagogue West and is pursuing his doctorate in clinical psychology.

GROUP LEADERS

Rabbi Steven Weil - Set to assume leadership of the Orthodox Union as the incoming Executive Vice President, Rabbi Weil has achieved wide acclaim as the Senior Rabbi at Beth Jacob Congregation in Beverly Hills and as Rabbi of the Young Israel of Oak Park. In his capacity as Group Leader of the OU Mission to Poland, Rabbi Weil will draw on his experience leading numerous groups of adults and adolescents to Eastern Europe. Acclaimed for his award-winning television series on Jewish history, Rabbi Weil has served as a Scholar-In-Residence to multiple communities who have utilized his skills to develop curriculum and programs to convey Jewish history, Halacha, and the Mesorah in a powerful, relevant way.

Stephen J. Savitsky of Hewlett, Long Island, NY, was installed as the Orthodox Union's President at its Biennial National Convention in Jerusalem in November, 2004. Mr. Savitsky had been Chairman of the Board since the previous OU Convention in December, 2002. He was actively involved with the OU for over 15 years and held several positions within the organization. Mr. Savitsky has also held many additional leadership positions in the Jewish community, including President of the *Vaad Hakashrus* of the Five Towns and Far Rockaway; founder and President of the Kew Gardens Hills *Eruv*; President of Congregation *Ansche Chesed* in Hewlett, Long Island, NY; and Chairman of the Board of *Mesivta Ohr Torah*, in Forest Hills, NY. He is a member of the International Board of Governors of the *Mesorah Heritage Foundation*.

TAX DEDUCTIBILITY

Payments made over and above the fair market value of the mission represent a charitable contribution and are tax-deductible. The cost of the mission is not tax-deductible.

PASSPORT AND VISA

You need a signed US Passport valid until 10/29/09 for travel to Poland. Please carry it with you. Do not pack it in your luggage. Consult your local US Passport office if you have any questions about the validity of your passport or if you must renew your current one. No visa is required for this mission. Poland is 6 hours ahead of U.S. Eastern Standard Time.

U.S. CUSTOMS

Contact your local U.S. Customs Office for details.

CLIMATE

The temperature this time year ranges from a high of 73 F to a low of 54 F. The average temp is 64 F.

LUGGAGE

You may bring 2 pieces of checked-in luggage that is not to exceed 50 lbs. each and 62 inches in total dimensions. In addition, you may bring 1 piece of carry on that is not more than 40 lbs. and 40 inches in total dimensions (that is height, length and width). Kindly also bring a small collapsible day bag with you as there will be occasions when our luggage travels separately from the mission bus.

ATTIRE

As this is a mission-on-the-move it is important that your clothing is comfortable. This is especially true for your walking shoes. Nicer clothing should be packed for Shabbat. Additionally, if you would like to bring workout clothes, there are fitness centers available in most of our hotels.

MEALS

In accordance with OU policy, all meals served on this mission will be under the strictest kosher supervision. As this mission is held during the Nine Days and the food served on this mission is brought to Poland from Israel, our menu is somewhat limited. Kindly let us know at least one month prior to departure if we can count on you to make a siyum during the mission and we will supplement our menu with fleishig options. Alternatively, every meal other than those served on Shabbos will be milchig or pareve.

Note: We recommend packing a supply of energy bars or cereal bars to help you get through the day.

ROOMMATES

If you have a preferred roommate who will be joining you on the mission, kindly indicate this on the application. If you are traveling alone and would like to share a room with another participant, we will do our best accommodate your request. However, if we are unsuccessful, you will be subject to the single supplement charge.

HEALTH & MEDICATION

Poland requires no vaccinations to enter the country. Medications and medical care are readily available in Poland. Basic medications are available but quite expensive. For your own convenience, we suggest that you bring adequate pharmaceuticals for your personal use and store them with your carry-on luggage.

THEFT

As with any metropolitan area, one needs to be wary of pick-pockets when traveling throughout Poland. As such, it is our recommendation that participants avoid bringing/wearing expensive jewelry on the mission.

MONEY

Hotels will accept major credit cards and most vendors will accept cash. We encourage you to bring cash, preferably small bills. We do not recommend that you bring travelers checks, as very few vendors will accept them. You may exchange U.S. currency at the hotel.

COMMUNICATIONS

For regular communication, family and friend of participants are advised to call the participant's cell phone or leave a message for the participant at the hotel (see accompanying list).

ELECTRICAL APPLIANCES

The electrical current in Poland is 220 volts, 50 cycles alternating current (AC). An adapter and converter are necessary for American made products. Wall outlets vary. Some accept plugs with two round prongs; other require a plug with one round prong and two slanted ones. Carry a collection of adapters.

ITINERARY

The itinerary is always subject to change. We ask for your flexibility. To maximize your mission experience, and as a measure of courtesy, please do not separate from the group and always board the mission bus at least ten minutes prior to scheduled departures.

ITEMS NOT INCLUDED

Not included in the cost of the program are items of a personal nature such as laundry, bar bills, etc. These personal extras must be paid when CHECKING OUT of the hotel.

RESPONSIBILITY

The Orthodox Union and their representatives, act only as agents for participants making arrangement for hotels, transportation, sightseeing, restaurants, or any other services in connection with your itinerary. However, we do not assume any liability for any damage, loss, accident or delay to person or property because any fault of any services included in the program. The Orthodox Union accepts no responsibility for any damage or delay due to sickness, pilferage, labor disputes, machinery breakdowns, quarantine, government restraints, weather or any other cause beyond its personal control. No carrier shall be responsible for any act, omission or event during the time participants are not on board its own conveyances. In view of statutory or contractual limitations that may apply to personal injury or personal damage losses, the purchase of accident and baggage insurance is strongly recommended. In addition, you may wish to purchase travel insurance protecting you in the event you must change your itinerary and lose the return fare.

CANCELLATION & WITHDRAWAL

Participants who withdraw before April 22, 2009 are entitled to a full refund. Participants who withdraw before May 15, 2009 are entitled to a 50% refund. Participants who withdraw from May 15 - June 15 are entitled to a 25% refund. Participants who withdraw after June 15, 2009 are not entitled to any refund.

PARTICIPATION

The OU reserves the right to limit participation based upon eligibility requirements, space limitations, and other criteria. Prices, programs and dates may vary and are subject to change.

EMERGENCY CONTACT

In the event you need to contact a mission participant during the mission, you may leave a message at the hotel (see above) or contact the David Frankel at the phone number distributed just prior to departure.

QUESTIONS

Contact David Frankel at 917-250-7526. Once the mission departs, all questions should be directed to David at a different phone number to be distributed prior to departure. David will be accompanying the trip.



POLAND MISSION Application

Kindly fax your Application, Payment Authorization Form, Photo Release Form, and Contribution Certificate to our secure OU fax at 212-613-0675.

1) PLEASE RESERVE _____ SPACE/S FOR ME/US ON THE OU NINE DAYS MISSION TO POLAND.

2) CONTACT INFORMATION PARTICIPANT #1

Title Name exactly as it appears on your passport (last, first, middle)

Nationality _____ Male Female Place of Birth _____ Birth date: ___/___/___

Passport # _____ Date & Place of Issue _____ Exp. Date: ___/___/___

Home Address _____ Apt. # _____

City/State/Zip _____

H Ph # () _____ W Ph # () _____ C Ph # () _____

E-mail _____

Firm Name _____ Career _____

3) CONTACT INFORMATION PARTICIPANT #2

Title Name exactly as it appears on your passport (last, first, middle)

Nationality _____ Male Female Place of Birth _____ Birth date: ___/___/___

Passport # _____ Date & Place of Issue _____ Exp. Date: ___/___/___

Home Address _____ Apt. # _____

City/State/Zip _____

H Ph # () _____ W Ph # () _____ C Ph # () _____

E-mail _____

Firm Name _____ Career _____



POLAND MISSION Payment Authorization Form

Dear Mission Participant:

All mission payments will be made by American Express, Master Card, or VISA. When you return this **Payment Authorization Form** with your application materials, you (and Applicant #2) will be registered as mission participant/s and the Orthodox Union will charge your credit card an initial deposit of \$500.00 per person. On March 1, 2009, your card will be charged the amount needed to bring your payment to 50% of the total cost of the mission. On May 1, 2009, your card will be charged the remaining balance.

Please note that your credit card may also be charged for any "extras" (room service, laundry service, telephone calls, or anything not included in the basic cost of the mission itself) which are incurred by you (and Applicant #2) during the Mission.

Further, in the event of an increase in prices charged to the Orthodox Union for the mission by any supplier, the total price for your mission (and Applicant #2's mission) is subject to increase to meet such increased prices. You agree to pay such increased price upon receipt of written notice from the Orthodox Union. In order to maintain the prices stated in this agreement, the Orthodox Union reserves the right within reason to change accommodations, food and beverage arrangements and other components to the mission.

I hereby authorize the Orthodox Union to charge \$500 per person on the credit card listed below for my/our participation on the OU Nine Days Mission to Poland. Furthermore, all subsequent payments on my credit card for my/our participation may be billed to my card as explained above. I understand that these payments are necessary in order to reserve airline seats and hotel accommodations. I further recognize that these are payments for services (i.e., airfare, hotels, etc.) and not charitable contributions.

Signature of Participant #1

Print Name of Participant #1

Date

Credit Card (Check One):

American Express

Visa

MasterCard

Card # _____ Expiration Date _____

Name of Card Holder _____

Home Address _____ Apt. # _____

City/State/Zip _____



POLAND MISSION Photo Release

Release (photos and images)

I hereby grant the permission, without reservation, to the Orthodox Union to take or make and/or have taken or made photographs and/or sound/image/video recordings of me during the mission and/or during events related to the mission and to use and to otherwise describe the same with or without my name or information about me, for promotion of good will, public education, fundraising and/or promotional activities, and other related activities of the Orthodox Union or any of its affiliated or beneficiary agencies, and I waive any right to inspect or approve the photograph(s), sound/image/video recordings or finished version(s) of works, including web site, incorporating the photograph(s) or sound/image/video recordings. No compensation is to be paid to me for the above, and I understand and agree that I am entitled to receive no compensation for the above.

I hereby release the Orthodox Union, each of its officers, trustees, agents, employees, independent contractors, licensees and assignees (including photographers), from all claims that I now have or in the future may have, relating to the above, including but not limited to any photographs, or sound/image/video recordings described above.

I agree that the Orthodox Union will be the sole or joint owner, as applicable, of all tangible and intangible rights in the above mentioned photographs and sound/image/video recordings, with full power of disposition.

I am of full age and competent to sign this release. I agree that this release shall be binding on me, my legal representatives, heirs, and assigns. I have read this release and I fully understand its contents.

Signature

Print Name

Home Address

City/State/Zip

Cell Ph / Home Ph / Work Ph



NINE DAYS MISSION TO POLAND

Contribution Certificate

As a Participant on this Mission, I, _____,
proudly affirm my gift of tzedakah in support of the Orthodox Union of ...

\$1,000 \$1,500 \$1,800 \$3,600 \$5,000 \$7,200 \$10,000

Other _____ *(Please fill in exact amount.)*

Optional: I would like to dedicate this gift ...
In Memory of / In Honor of *(Please circle one.)*

Optional: Please send an acknowledgment of this gift to ...
(Please provide name and address.)

Please charge my gift to: American Express Visa MasterCard

Card # _____ Expiration Date _____

Name of Card Holder _____

Home Address _____ Apt. # _____

City/State/Zip _____

Your gift to the Orthodox Union, over and above the value of attending the mission, represents a tax-deductible contribution. The cost of the mission is not tax-deductible.